

1867

1954

Eighty - seventh Church Anniversary

1952

Second Pastor's Anniversary

1954



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

MAIN STREET

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

Theme: "Facing the Future With Faith"

September 22 - 27, 1954

REVEREND PETER G. CRAWFORD, Pastor

CHURCH HISTORY – 1867-1954

The organization of the First Baptist Church of Lexington, Virginia, was the bringing to life, of a beautiful dream, charged with prayer, hope, faith and an all consuming desire to carry out the very commandments of God Himself. And today, we find ourselves reflecting on the days before the Civil War period. In all sections of the South, there were some slaves who were granted a few more privileges than others. This was true in Lexington: hence some of the early slaves, living in Baptist homes, found themselves visiting the Baptist Church. These Churches were of course, owned and supported by the masters of the slaves. So great was the need of the Negro for a church and so all consuming was his desire to learn more of Him who loved slave and master alike . . . that the masters knew that this was a desire that burned so fervently in the breast of the slaves that it could not be suppressed. As a result the White Baptist Church organized a slave branch of the church, which was under the strict supervision of the parent Church. The parent Church, therefore took full advantage of its authority and planned and selected, most carefully, the scripture readings and other proceedings of the slave branch. One of the most popular texts selected was, "Servants be obedient to your masters at all times". But the slave, Child of God, that he was, recognized the true fact that, God alone was the only master to whom he must pledge allegiance with his soul, a soul apart from the work worn body, that must be forever free to soar to heights unknown in search of the supreme Master, the true Friend, the everlasting God. Loyal to his master, yes, but loyal, true, and in constant search of He who would some day cause him to "lay down his heavy load."

During these days the Church was located in the same building as the parsonage, however it grew to such heights that a larger building was needed in which to house these stalwart servants of God. The late Dr. David Humbles gave the first \$25.00 toward the building of a larger edifice. Those courageous souls who joined in the crusade for this cause were: David Humbles, Richard Orsborne, Robert Price, Harvey Harper, Jeff Shields, Hugh Harvey, Joe Edmonson, Phillip Pryor, and Lyburn Downing

These men after completing their days' work in each walk of life, would gather at the "Church" and proceed with the digging of the foundation . . . without the help of electric lights and tired though they were; the burning desire to have their church, spurred them to work with a strength, that only God Himself could supply. And the women of the Church were ever by their sides, to hold the lanterns as they worked and offer unlimited encouragement. There was Jane McNutt, Fannie Payne, Cuteeea Pryor and many others. There were fervent prayers to be heard as they seemed to mingle with the ring of the hammer of Dick Jones, the Carpenter . . . prayers and song, and ring of the hammer that seemed to echo and sound to heaven itself.

This body of worshipers were known as the Black Baptist, because they were determined to serve God in their way. And so in 1867, the Negro members, excepting one woman, were granted letters of dismission to organize a church of their own, which took effect September 22, 1867, as the Lexington African Baptist Church.

We have come a long way, from worshipping in the church of the masters, worshipping in a tiny structure, yes even serving our God in an old tobacco house, made of logs with dirt floor, humble, though courageous the group pushed onward, ever onward, and we can with just pride and gratitude say that it was truly, "Four score and seven years ago", that our fathers planned wiser than they realized when they persisted in the face of every imaginable obstacle to bring into a reality the ever illusive dream.

Our is a great heritage, our is a great challenge; let us be grateful for this noble heritage and accept the challenge. "Let us face the future with Faith."

*Taken from, History of Rockbridge County. Page 178.

We are most grateful to Mr. William Orsborne, oldest member of the church and to Mrs. Jessie Woodley, Church Clerk for our source of information, used above.

The following pastors have served with distinction:

Rev. Milton Smith	1867-1872
Rev. G. E. Elliot	1872-1875
Rev. T. T. Jackson	1875-1880
Rev. S. B. Howard	1880-1885
Rev. W. M. Troy	1885-1886
Rev. J. L. Barksdale	1886-1889
Rev. W. M. Moss	1889-1893
Rev. W. I. Johnson	1893-1902

The corner stone of the present building was laid during Rev. Johnson's pastorate.

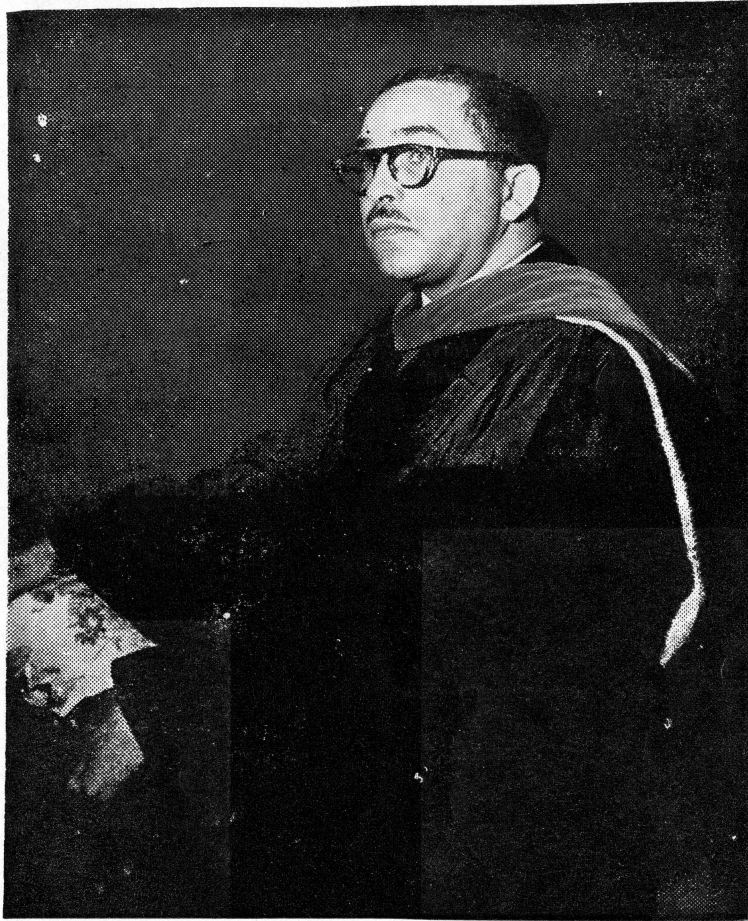
The mortgage was liquidated during the pastorate of Rev. P. S. Lewis, 1902-1906.

Rev. J. W. Lucas	1906-1906
Rev. J. Carruthers	1907-1908
Rev. J. W. Tynes	1909-1912
Rev. J. A. Brinkley	1912-1915
Rev. S. A. Thurston	1915-1920
Rev. N. J. L. Gonsalves	1920-1927
Rev. P. W. Cook	1927-1930
Rev. J. W. Goodgame	1930-1937
Rev. C. O. Mitchell	1937-1947
Rev. E. L. Green	1947-1952
Rev. Peter G. Crawford	1952-

Our present organ was installed during the administration of Rev. S. A. Thurston. The lot on the corner of Main and Henry Streets was purchased during the administration of Rev. P. W. Cook.

(Please turn to page 9)

The Pastor



REV. PETER G. CRAWFORD, B. D., D. D., MINISTER
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

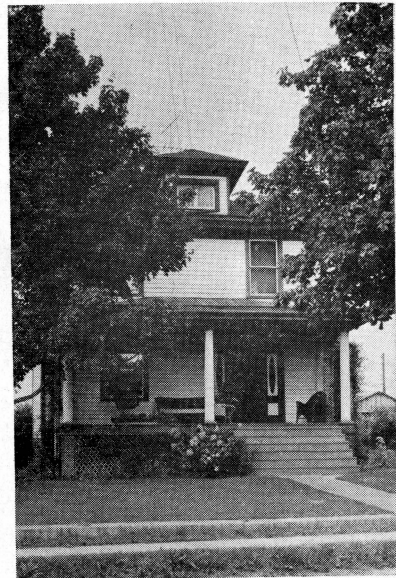
Rev. Crawford is a product of Wilberforce University and Payne Seminary. He has studied in other schools improving and broadening his knowledge of the work of the Kingdom of God. The brightest page in his twenty years of Christian service is the saving of the Georgia Baptist College, where he served as its president; lifting its standard by having its work accredited, and raising \$125,000 for its operation.

His work is mentioned in another place in this bulletin. It should be added, that he is a man conscious of his holy task. He belongs to every class and condition, all because he has given himself without reserve to Christ, and to the preaching of His gospel.



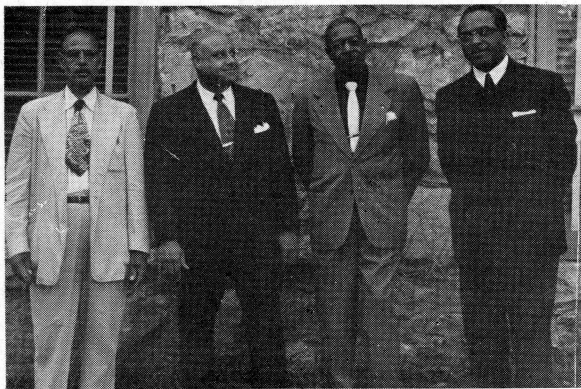
Anniversary Committee

Reading from left to right, bottom row: Mrs. Louise Osborne, Mrs. Jessie Woodley, the Pastor, Mrs. Mable Alexander, Secretary, Mrs. Alice Moore. Top row: Mrs. Edna Lyle, Mrs. Sarah Colbert, Mr. William Washington, Mrs. Marie Kenney, Mr. Fal Jones, Mrs. Peter G. Crawford, Mrs. Susie Barbour, Mr. Edwin T. Walker.



The Parsonage

Located - 212 Massie Street



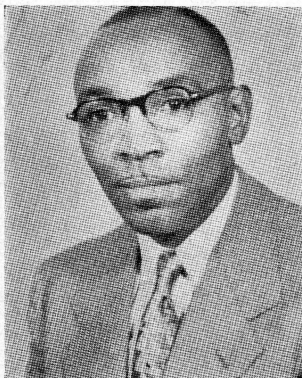
Committee On Advertisement

Reading from left to right: Messrs. Edwin T. Walker, Sr., Chairman Trustee Board; Fal Jones, Chairman Trustee Board; William Washington, Peter G. Crawford, Pastor.



The Pastor and His Wife

REV. AND MRS. PETER G. CRAWFORD
 Mrs. Fannie Dezon Crawford is a product of South Carolina State College, and Atlanta University. She is a certified Girl Scout Leader, ex-teacher in the Lexington High School, and has given her stenographic skill to the Church, without remuneration, and has by personal touch led many young people to Christ.



Greetings

from

MR. U. B. BRODNEAUX,

Principal

Lylburn Downing High School
 Lexington, Va.

Theme: "Facing the Future with Faith"

PROGRAM--

Wednesday, September 22nd, 8 P. M.—The Rev. Joseph Stone, B.D. S.T.M., Minister Trinity Church, Lexington, will preach the opening sermon. The combined choirs of the Randolph St. Methodist Church and First Baptist Senior and Junior Choirs will sing. Deacon Frank Woodley, Master Ceremonies.

Thursday night, September 23rd, 8 P. M.—Dr. Francis P. Gaines, President of Washington and Lee University, will deliver principal address. Mayor Paul Holstine will extend official greetings. Music will be presented by the choirs of First Baptist Church. Mrs. Harry Kenney, Mistress of Ceremonies.

Friday night, September 24th—The Baptist Teenage Fellowship will present a two act drama: "Cross Roads" - Under direction Mesdames Peter G. Crawford, Ashby Alexander, Hannah Williams.

Sunday, September 26th, 11 A. M.—Services will again be presented over the Radio Station WREL. Music by the choirs, and the pastor preaching.

Sunday, September 26th, 3:30 P. M.—The Rev. Enos H. Glaspie, pastor Shiloh Baptist Church, Salem, Va., will preach. The history of the Church will be read, and the choirs will sing.

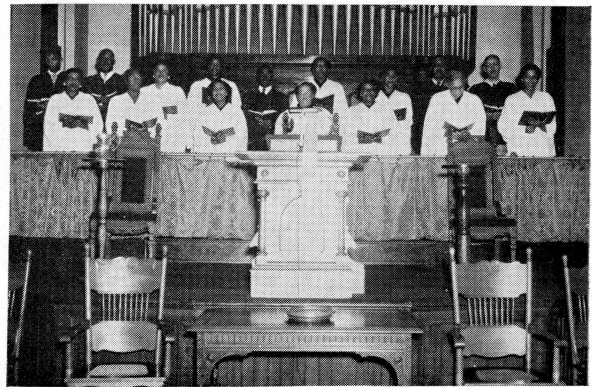
Monday night, September 27th—Anniversary Banquet in Lecture Room. Mesdames Jessie Woodley, Alice Moore, Edna Lyle are in charge. Toastmasters: Messrs. William Washington and Mr. U. B. Broadneaux.

This is the combined celebration of First Baptists, "Four Score and Seven" years, and the second year of the Rev. Peter G. Crawford as pastor.



Junior Usher Board

First row, left to right: Misses: Brenda Woodley, Hortense Baker, Lillian Evans and Carole Morrison. Second row, left to right: Mrs. Reid Colbert, Directress, William Hoffman, David Madison and Reid Colbert.



Senior Choir

Reading from left to right: Mrs. Louise Orsborne (Organist), Mrs. Edna Lyle, Mrs. H. Kenney, Mrs. Lucy Lindsay, Mrs. Alice Walker (President), Mrs. Hannah Williams, Mrs. Virginia Carter, Mrs. T. Mack. Second row: Mr. Warner Mack, Mr. Sinclair McGuffen, Mrs. Alice Moore, Mr. Edlowe Morrison, Mrs. Jessie Woodler (Church Clerk), Mrs. Susie Barbour, Mr. Wm. Mack and Mr. E. T. Walker.



Helen Gooch Missionary Society

Seated, left to right: Mrs. Edna Lyle and Mrs. Robert Price. Standing, left to right: Miss Frances Chandler, Mrs. Jannie Johnson, Miss Estelle Washington, Mrs. Elizabeth Madison, Rev. Peter G. Crawford (Pastor), Mrs. Mabel Alexander (President), Mrs. F. Jones, Mrs. H. Kenney and Mrs. Susie Barbour.



Deacons and Trustees of First Baptist Church

Reading from left to right, First row: Bros. W. C. Lyle, A. Alexander. Second row: J. M. Wood, Sr., F. Jones, F. Woodley (chairman, Deacon Board). Third row: E. T. Walker, Sr. (Chairman Trustee Board), R. Price, H. Kenney and C. M. Wood.



B. T. U. Leaders

Seated, left to right, Miss Veronica Morrison, Mrs. Hannah Williams, Mrs. Alma Nicholas (Leader), Mrs. Omega Morrison and Miss Marion Walker. Standing left to right: Bernard Nicholas and Howard Nicholas.



Peter G. Crawford Foundation

Seated, left to right: Mrs. Ida White, Mrs. Laura Borgus and Mrs. Marie Baker. Standing, left to right: Mrs. Carrie Johnson, Miss Margaret White, Mrs. Kizzie McQueen, Mrs. M. Bowyer and Mrs. Mabel Alexander. The President, Mrs. Amelia Wood, not shown.



Sunday School Group

Standing in back row, center: Mrs. Mabel Alexander (Supt.) Extreme right, back, Rev. Peter G. Crawford, Pastor; of his right Deacon Frank Woodley, teacher. Seated on steps, Mrs. Marie Kenney, teacher. Standing center row, extreme left, Mrs. T. Wooldridge, teacher. Standing extreme left front, Miss Marion Walker, teacher.



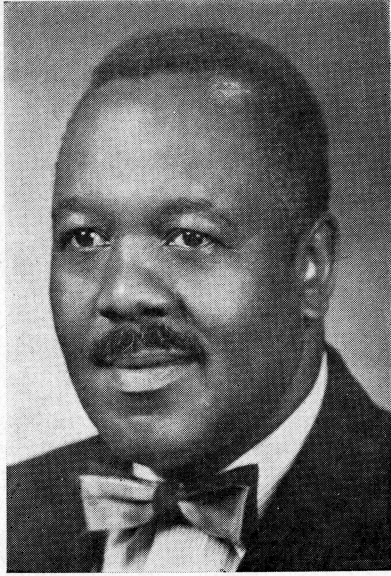
Senior Usher Board

First row, left to right: Mr. Blue Eagle Wooldridge, Miss Marion Walker, Mrs. Lucy Lindsay, Mrs. Augusta Wallace, and Mrs. Willie Price. Second row, left to right: Mr. Joseph Scott, Mrs. Elizabeth Madison, president, Mr. Fal Jones, Mrs. Alice Moore and Mrs. Omega Morrison. Third row, left of right: Mr. James Johnson, Mr. Jimmie Lyle, and Mr. Felix Walker.



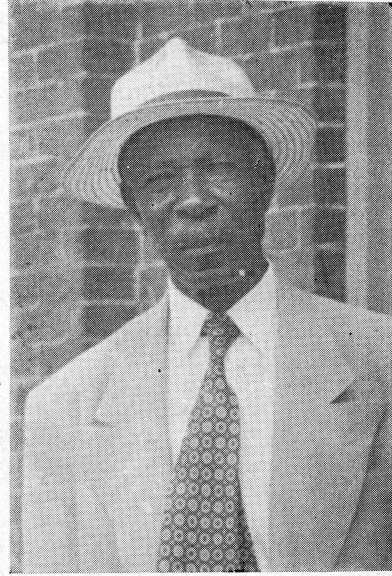
Baptist Teenage Fellowship

First row, left to right: Rev. Peter G. Crawford, Pastor and Co-organizer, Mr. Joe Louis Henderson, Miss Veronica Morris, Miss Brenda Woodley, Mr. Reid Colbert and Mr. Joseph Merchant, Jr. Second row, left to right: Mrs. Peter G. Crawford, Co-organizer and Directress, Miss Jackie Shaw, Miss Marion Walker, Miss Mary Mildred Howard, Miss Cynthia Jones, Miss Margo Merchant, and Miss Dian Howard. Third row, left to right: Miss Lillian Lawson and Mr. Blue Eagle Wooldridge, Co-leaders, Mr. J. T. Dock, and Mr. John Alexander.



DR. A. W. PLEASANTS, JR.

Dr. Pleasants is a member of First Baptist Church and serves on the Trustee Board. He is the first Negro to serve on the Staff of Jackson Memorial Hospital, the first Negro to run for town Council.



MR. MATTHEW W. ORSBORNE

Oldest member of Church. Teacher of Sr. Class in Sunday School, has served on Trustee Board, Deacon Board and Choir. Is a member of the Past Eighty Club.



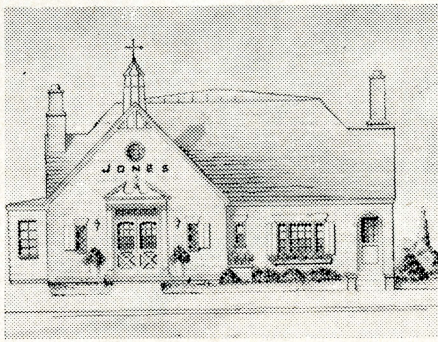
Junior Choir

Front row, left to right: Mrs. Alice Moore, Directress, Anita Bowyer, Ann Alexander, Melvin Morrison and Daphine Turner. Second row, left to right: William Hoffman, Reid Colbert, David Madison III, Veronica Morrison, and Carole J. Morrison. Third row, left to right: Brenda Woodley, Hortense Baker, Patricia Gooch and Lillian Evans.



Women's Club

Front row, left to right: Mesdames Salada Beale, Elizabeth Madison, President, Bessie Lyle, Hannah Williams. Back row, left to right: Mesdames Nannie Davis, Estelle Jones, Jannie Johnson, Carrie Green, Mabel Alexander, Omega Morrison, Alice Wright and Rev. Peter G. Crawford, the Pastor.



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Ladies' Auxiliary

Reading from left to right, first row: Mrs. Wm. Washington, Mrs. H. Kenney (President), Mrs. Wm. Orsborne, Mrs. C. M. Wood. Second row: Mrs. J. Woodley, Mrs. M. Alexander, Mrs. H. B. McGuffen, Mrs. Laura Borgus, Mrs. Carrie Green, Mrs. Carrie Johnson, and Mrs. Nellie Lewis.



Another Part of the Sunday School

Bottom row, left to right: Mrs. Edna Lyle, Miss Estell Washington, and pupils. Top row, left to right: Mr. M. W. Osborne, Mrs. Fannie D. Crawford, Rev. Peter G. Crawford, Mrs. Elizabeth Madison, Mr. Blue Eagle Wollridge, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Ashby Alexander, Superintendent.

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CHURCH HISTORY

(From page 2)

The interior of our main auditorium was decorated and new carpet installed during the pastorate of Rev. C. O. Mitchell.

The Basement of the Church was converted into individual class rooms, under the pastorate of Rev. E. L. Green.

During the present administration of the Rev. Peter G. Crawford, a new heating plant has been installed, a new roof has been put on the church, art glass windows have been repaired, interior of the parsonage renovated, an electric drinking fountain installed, and several minor repairs made. Seventy one members have been added to our church, and the gospel is being preached.



I Pause

The sun has just cast its first glorious rays of light upon the tree tops. As I stand before my window in solemn reverie, I pause for a moment to build my theme for the new life.

What shall I wish for this day? Nothing that shall bring pain or privation to my fellows, but those few priceless things that will reflect a light of radiant splendor upon those who know me.

As I face the eastern sky, I promise myself that I will be contented today, for I realize that tomorrow will never come. I am living only this hour. I will not grieve if shadows cast themselves on my pathway, nor will I lose faith; I know that a cloud cannot cast a shadow unless the sun is shining beyond.

I will try by words and deeds to show a fuller appreciation of all the good that comes my way. I will try to understand more fully the gift of giving; and, as I give, my heart will beat with a new and greater joy.

I will not repeat my promise to drop my evil thoughts and ways; I will leave the words unspoken, but do them. I will do kind things for my friend while he is with me; and if I can do no more, I will say a kind word about him when he is away.

And most of all, I will be faithful to my trust; and if peace of mind be my only reward, I will ask no more.

Seven Reasons Why We Support Our Church

THE CHURCH—

Provides the place, leadership and fellowship for worship of God, the creator of heaven and earth.

THE CHURCH—

Is the protector of our communities, property being more valuable, human life safer and virtue less in danger where Christian institutions exist. Her house of worship and work is a witness to God every day in the year, a symbol of all that is good, a call to all that is holy.

THE CHURCH—

Is the conserver of the values of the past, the creator of ideals in the present, and the torchbearer of tomorrow's progress.

THE CHURCH—

Is the great mother of children, consecrating them by baptism, educating them in her homes and schools, training them for service, preparing them to meet temptation; and, should they wander or fall by the way, the church is ever receiving them in forgiving and restoring grace.

THE CHURCH—

Sends a steady stream of consecrated men and women into every avenue of life, making our schools religious, promoting civic reforms, carrying Christian ethics into economics, thus helping on the answer to her prayer, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth."

THE CHURCH—

Through its ministers and members is continually carrying on a ministry of consolidation to the aged, the sick, the sorrowful, the tempted, the lonely, and the troubled—a service that never can be tabulated in reports nor paid for in gold—without which life for multitudes would be empty of meaning and hopelessly forlorn.

THE CHURCH—

Proclaims the everlasting gospel of Christ's redeeming love and ever seeks to evangelize the neighborhood and the world.



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