

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

(New Hope's history through the years is long and storied – too much for printing this issue and is available upon request by contacting the church clerk)

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church was organized in February, 1950 by Rev. J.G. Washington and a few members who had left Greater St. John Baptist Church on Cass Street. The organizational meetings took place at the home of Sister Rozelia F. Williams. Her home was located in the Ybor City district of Tampa. It was at one of these meetings that the name "New Hope", suggested by Sister Rozelia Davis, was chosen. Everyone approved of the name because it spelled out the very thing they were searching for. From that day forward they put their trust in God and began believing that there was New Hope under the leadership of Rev. J. G. Washington. Services were also held at the Pallbearers Hall, the home of Brother Goins, and the Lily White Temple. While worshipping in these locations, funds were raised toward the construction of the edifice (Sister Rozelia Davis gave the first \$25) which was eventually built in Ybor City, corner of Fourth Avenue and Eleventh Street.

The founders of the church: Rev. J.G. Washington, Brothers Will Anthony, Ira Bruton, Quitman Burch, John Collins, Will Collins, William Ellison Jr., Joe Foster, Hubert Goins, Bernard Lafayette Jr, Robert Torrance, Frank Walker, and Oscar Williams. Sisters Cora Anderson, Ella Anthony, Nancy Barnwell, Frankie Baten, Minnie Blue, Lessie Burch, Inez Bush, Rosalie Collins, Gertrude Dawkins, Bertha Edwards, Melvina Ellison, Mother Ferguson, Tansy Goins, Thelma Goins, Cora King, Mary Lane, Ammie R. Levatte, Annie Matthews, Hattie Moses, Geraldine Mungin, Rosa Lee Murray, Lillie Rice, Allee Robinson, Clemmie Robinson, Julia Robinson, Mary Robinson, Edna Samuels, Essie Walker, Gladys D. Washington, Cola Williams, Gussie Williams, Jessie Williams, Mae Bell Williams, Rozelia F. Williams, Rosa Lee Wilson and Rosa Lee Wright.

PASTORAL HISTORY OF NEW HOPE

February, 1950, the early church was pastored by **Rev. J. G. Washington** who served for ten months. Sister Rosa Lee Wright was church secretary. Contributions were approximately one hundred dollars per month.

Rev. C. Fluker was called to pastor the church in 1951. His tenure lasted almost a year while services were still being held at the Pallbearer's Hall. The few in number put on a 60-day rally and raised \$1094.51.

July, 1952, **Rev. John Willis**, from Tallavast, Florida was called to be the leader of the church. Rev. Willis had acknowledged his calling to preach in early 1950. He was ordained to preach by Rev. R. D. Dawson, and he began preaching in June, 1950. Rev. John Willis officially retired December 31, 1986 after thirty-four and a half years as pastor of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

Rev. Bernard Barrymore Dinkins of Leesburg officially accepted the position as pastor of New Hope on July 17, 1987. June 4, 1989, Pastor Bernard Dinkins resigned from the position as pastor of New Hope M. B. Church after serving twenty-three months.

On December 18, 1989, a special meeting of the congregation was called by the search committee to officially select a pastor. **Rev. John L. Giles** was selected as New Hope's pastor. Rev. John Giles resigned April 17, 1994 after serving four years and ten weeks.

August 10, 1995, after the congregation voted in favor of **Rev. T. W. Jenkins**, the position was offered to him. Deacon Levi Moore notified Rev. Jenkins and he accepted the call to lead New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Jenkins was ordained and licensed to preach the Gospel at Chapel Grove M. B. Church, Okolona, MS in 1975. Rev. Dr. T. W. Jenkins formally announced his retirement on October 4, 2015 during morning service with an effective date of September 30, 2015 after 20 years of faithful service.

November 5, 2016, **Rev. Larry J. Mouton, Jr.** confirmed his acceptance of the Offer of Appointment as New Hope's full-time pastor-elect with commencement date of December 1, 2016. On Friday, **January 25, 2019**, the church voted to dismiss Pastor Mouton after 2 years, 2 mos. of tenure.

DEACONSHIP HISTORY OF NEW HOPE M. B. CHURCH

1952 July, at that time, there were approximately 35 dedicated members: two deacons, **Oscar Williams**, chairman and **Robert Torrance** and two trustees, Hubert Goins, chairman and Will Anthony.

1953 March, dedication services for the new facility were held in March, 1953. Rev. Willis ordained three deacons: **Quitman Burch**, **Wesley Floyd** and **Ira Bruton**.

1954 -1963, over these years Rev. Willis ordained deacons **Arthur Graham**, **Bernard Lafayette**, and **Eddie B. Norman**. Deacons from other churches whose ordinations were accepted: Deacons **Steve Williams**, **Cleveland Hill**, **Ira Jones**, **J. J. Jones**, **Edward Kilpatrick**, and **Nathaniel Bunts**.

1967 June, June 2, 1967, Deacon **Huey Mungin's** ordination as deacon from another church was accepted.

1970 December, during this business meeting, December 4, 1970, Deacon **Josh Hamilton's** ordination was accepted, and he was added to the Deacon Board.

1971 March, during business meeting held March 5, 1971, the church accepted Brother **Frank Kelly's** previous church ordination as deacon.

1975 October, Sunday, October 12, 1975, Brothers **Levi Moore**, and **James Coleman** were ordained as deacons during the ordination ceremony by Rev. E. Gordon, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Wilder Ave., Tampa.

1976 October, the 3rd Sunday, October 17, 1976, Brother **Willie James Poole** was ordained as deacon during an ordination service that afternoon.

1982 January 24, 1982, ordination services were held to ordain as deacons Brothers **Oscar young**, **Arthur Akins**, **Richard Mungin**, **William Ellison, Jr.** and **Lenton Douglas, Sr.** June 1982, during regular business meeting, June 4, 1982, Rev. Willis recommended, and the church agreed to place Brother **Robert Lawson** on the Deacon Board.

1984 August 31, 1984, Rev. Willis stated that a deacon was needed immediately due to Deacon Willie Poole's request to be relieved of duties for one year. With the nomination of Brother Jimmie Jenkins to take over Deacon Poole's ward #12, Brother **Jimmie Jenkins'** deacon ordination was accepted from another church.

1986 December, on December 28, 1986, ordination services were held for the following men to be ordained as deacons: Brothers **Levester Jones, James Padgett, Ron Peterson** and **Stanley Smith**.

1996 March, March 10, 1996, the following men were ordained as deacons: Brothers **Ron Gardner, Otto Strickland Sr.,** and **L. James Lamb**.

2002 July, on July 28, 2002, ordination services for deacons were held for Brothers **Garry Ganey, Reginald Washington** and **Larry Williams**.

2009 January, Brothers **Ernest Brown, Larry Jordan, James Thompson, and Jerry Williams** were ordained as deacons January 18, 2009.

2012 July, ordination service for brothers **Anthony Cleveland** and **Anthony Long** to become deacons were held July 22, 2012.

2015 January, Brothers **Ian Reed** and **Timothy Walker** Ordination Service for deacon was held on January 11, 2015.

BUILDING/RENOVATION HISTORY OF NEW HOPE

With the growing fellowship, a larger building was secured which was located on Fifth Avenue in Ybor City. With the rapid growth of the membership, it prompted the pastor, officers and members to purchase land to build a church, which land was purchased in Ybor City, the corner of Fourth Avenue and Eleventh Street. **In September, 1952, a new facility was constructed.** Dedication services for the new facility were held in March, 1953.

Urban Renewal, the federal program designed to rebuild deteriorated areas of America's cities, claimed the 4th Avenue church property after approximately eleven years of existence. The property was sold for \$33,000. This created the need for the church to find another home. **November of 1964, the church purchased the property at 3005 East Ellicott Street. The church was purchased for \$48,000.**

During a special business meeting held January 6, 1968, the church agreed to have the ceiling renovated in the church.

November 7, 1971, the church agreed for Brother Eddie Norman and his workers to replace the roof of the dining room the following week.

On March 2, 1973, a Building Committee was formed to prepare plans for the building of the Education Building. The committee members were Brother Levi Moore, Deacon Eddie Norman, Brother W. E. Adams, and Deacon Bernard Lafayette Sr., with Rev. Willis as advisor.

During business meeting August 31, 1973, the pastor requested the building committee to prepare a dual plan which would include the building of the new church and education building.

The Building Committee reported the approximate cost of \$275,000 for the new church and education building. Brother W. E. Adams, Chairman of the Building Committee, reported that the city had agreed to the variance - 5 feet on Ellicott and 5 feet on 30th Street.

December 2, 1977, it was reported at the business meeting that the architect wouldn't have the building plans ready until the first of the year. The plans would be needed to present to the bank for the loan.

March 5, 1978, Brother W. E. Adams reported that the blueprints had been received and are complete and they are ready to negotiate a loan. Estimated time to complete building per architect was 180 working days, permitting no unusual circumstances such as material shortage or severe weather.

June 2, 1978, Brother Adams reported that the next week the loan contract will be signed to begin construction on the new building. Loan payments will be approximately \$2000 per month to commence upon receipt of the keys to the building.

June 18, 1978, the first church service was held at Williams Elementary School. Church services and all activities of the church were held at the Williams Elementary School located at 4302 East Ellicott Street until the new edifice was completed.

July, 1978, this church was the dream of the pastor, Rev. John Willis. The building costs \$350,000. The church was financially prepared to pay a substantial down payment of \$125,000, which necessitated the need for a mortgage of \$225,000.

The newly built edifice was occupied on June 10, 1979. The furniture in the education Building, dining hall, nurseries and offices were paid for when the new church doors opened. The opening ceremony included a march by the congregation, led by spiritual leader, Rev. John Willis, from the temporary home of New Hope, Williams Elementary School, to the new church. Along the way, songs of praise and thanksgiving could be heard flowing from the crowd. During the service of dedication, Sister Hazel Hargrove read the church history. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. C. H. Bolden, Moderator of the Mt. Pilgrim's Baptist Association.

Rev. Willis stated during the November 30, 1984 business meeting that a blueprint was being drawn for the addition of ten rooms. Three bids were sought in which one was from Brother Jimmie Wright. **The contractor chosen for the building project, the addition of the ten rooms, was Malphus and Sons.**

The Trustee Board recommended that the following companies bids be accepted: Wright Construction Co. for painting the education building, hallway, secretary's office, finance room nursery for the sum of \$2762; Rudolph Painting and Decorating for the church auditorium, vestibule, and men's restroom for \$1886; Michael G. Young Construction for repairing the front of the dining room. He proposed to furnish material and labor to remove the fixed glass and install masonry and new fixed glass for \$1451. It was also agreed to have the big dining room window enclosed.

The trustees reported during the business meeting on December 4, 1987, that the parsonage had a few pieces of furniture to be sold and the parsonage would be sold for \$45,000. Recommendation was made to dedicate the Education Room in honor of the late Rev. John Willis and that a scholarship fund be established in his name.

October 26, 1999, **Rev. T. W. Jenkins casted the vision he received from our Lord for a Christian Life Center (CLC) to the New Hope congregation.** An excerpt from his message "Vision" of the Christian Life Center, "It is the vision of a place where the hurting, the depressed, the frustrated, and the confused can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance and encouragement. It is the vision of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with thousands of residents of Hillsborough

surrounding counties and I stand before you today and state in confident assurance that these dreams will become reality. Why, because God inspired them."

Additional pew bible and hymnal bookracks were being built in September, 2000, "additional" being used because some racks were replaced earlier this year to the aging pews.

March 1, 2002, New Hope was advised that Phase I of the CLC building project was completed. This included obtaining floor plans, preliminary design documents, proposed schedule, and program estimates.

Activities began in January, 2005 with the expediting of the on-order baptismal pool (placed on order in December, 2004). The pool installation was completed on February 7, 2005 with all necessary adjustments done by February 15, 2005.

New Hope was incorporated as New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Hillsborough County Inc. September 27, 2005.

In 2005 and 2007 the New Hope Trustee Ministry commissioned a review of the church's finances, expenses and cash flow for a twelve-month period. After much prayer and discussion, the Trustee Ministry made several recommendations to the Deacon Ministry and Rev. Jenkins. In July, 2007, the building activities went "on hold."

The sanctuary renovation project with the installation of new pews, carpet, flooring, and pulpit furnishing was completed April 28, 2007 by Commonwealth Church Seating of Virginia (Church Design Inc.) and Szold Modern Floors, Tampa.

The church monument (sign) was finally and totally completed in early August, 2007.

May 30, 2008, the trustees reported having received cost estimates on replacing current toilets with a different type - using FlushMate a system used in the hotel industry which uses less water and a more efficient flush. Should experience fewer problems with leaks and running toilets. Estimated cost for 14 units installed is \$6984.39.

The Trustee Ministry reengaged activities for the Christian Life Center construction in January, 2011. Rev. Jenkins appointed Deacon Stanley Smith, Chairman, Building Committee.

The contract to construct the Christian Life Center was awarded to Ronald Morricks, President, Morricks Construction, Inc. The CLC building operating account was activated on November 29, 2011 with the transfer of \$756,409.82 for the startup amount.

Construction of the CLC was completed, the building inspector conducted a final inspection and the CLC passed the final inspection. A Certificate of Occupancy was issued on May 30, 2012.

The Christian Life Center Dedication celebration weekend event took place from June 8 to June 10, 2012 and was well attended and included community and dignitaries from the City of Tampa. A commemorative souvenir book was created by Sisters Belinda S. Lawson and Vanderlyn Davis to mark this momentous occasion. The new building, 12500 square footage at the construction cost of \$1,500,000 (no mortgage was necessary), now houses three offices, conference room, five

classrooms, baptismal pool, a large kitchen with pantry, cafe/meeting room, a stage, audio/visual systems, storage rooms, men and women restrooms with lounge areas, lockers and showers and the capacity of 350 for banquet or auditorium style seating.

Service of Dedication Program began at 12:30 pm with the processional from the main edifice to the Christian Life Center while singing "We've Come This Far By Faith." Rev. Jenkins received the keys from the builder and opened the CLC's doors. Moderator Rev. Dr. Alex Harper, Sr. led the service of dedication for the CLC. The presentation of the Certificate of Dedication was made, and Deacon Gardner made the presentation of the Cornerstone Plaque to the pastor.

On December 2, 2016, the deacons reported the repair of approximately six (6) pews in the sanctuary that were of poor quality and had started deteriorating because of substandard manufactured construction and poor support of only one-half inch plywood.

The trustees reported during the March 2, 2018 business meeting that the renovations to the restrooms in the foyer of the sanctuary and the Willis Education Building had been completed. The church's new marquee had been placed and now functioning.

On January 30, 2019, the HVAC project and the Air Conditioning (A/C) Committee selected Bay Area Heating and Cooling, Inc. to replace the church's HVAC system. The job was completed on February 21, 2019. The project cost was \$43028.82.

Sanctuary Roof Replacement - Tampa Roofing completed replacing the damaged shingles on the sanctuary roof (warranty through 2032) on March 30, 2021- invoiced in the amount of \$68015.25 (owner discount in the amount of \$11985) paid to Tampa Roofing Company, Inc.

Townsley Construction completed installation of the Lightning Rod System on the sanctuary roof on March 30, 2021 - invoiced in the amount of \$4000 (discount in the amount of \$600). During the replacement of the shingles on the classroom building and former dining hall during the month of April, Tampa Roofing Company, Inc. removed the lightning rods previously installed by Townsley Construction on the roof of the Willis Assembly Hall and former dining hall. Located a company called Lightning Defense to refasten and seal the Lightning Rods System in August, 2021 restoring the warranty - invoiced in the amount of \$3200.

It was reported by the trustees at the annual business meeting on December 17, 2021 that Tampa Roofing completed replacing the shingles on the Willis Assembly Hall building and former dining hall roofs for \$48000; instituted a contract agreement with Tampa Roofing Company, Inc. (0% financing for 24 months) at \$2000 per month. The remainder of the balance can be paid off early at the request of the church.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION HISTORY OF NEW HOPE

At the August 30, 1968 business meeting, it was recommended that the three houses on church property be demolished to create a parking lot. Tenant-occupied homes would be vacated by October 1, 1968. The tenants were immediately notified by the trustees.

May 30, 1969, it was agreed during the business meeting, since the lot across the street had become clear for purchase to purchase it with cash at \$2300 plus cost.

The parsonage was paid off in 1969 and the outstanding balance of the present mortgage was \$263.92, and it was agreed to pay it off as soon as possible.

The church voted to install a cooling unit in the parsonage during business meeting June 4, 1971.

During the business meeting March 3, 1972, it was reported that the lot across the street had become available for purchase. It was agreed to purchase the lot in cash, \$2300 plus cost.

During that meeting June 1, 1973, it was approved to have the parking lot marked off first and then have the fence installed around the lot. Also approved at that meeting that the parsonage be refurbished at the pastor's discretion.

November, 1973, lighting was installed in the parking lot opposite the church.

December 2, 1983, during this business meeting it was recommended by the Deacon Board to change the present lighting in the parking lot at the northwest corner of 30th St. and E. Louisiana to a better and brighter light.

On November 30, 1984, arrangements were made to purchase two lots from Brother Curly Chester.

An agreement was reached April 4, 1986 to purchase the Davis properties, lots 6 and 7 for \$13,000.

In March, 1991, the church gave the Trustee Board, in conjunction with Brother Eugene Ravenel of the Real Estate Committee, the authority to purchase various properties surrounding the church: 3007 E. Ellicott St., 3008 E. Louisiana St., 3012 E. Louisiana St., 3016 E. Louisiana St., and 4906 N. 30th St., not to exceed the amount of \$138,000.

A new church parsonage was purchased in Brandon, Florida, a suburban community outside the city limits of Tampa. The dedication was held September 21, 1996.

It was reported during business meeting March 4, 1999 that Deacons Bunts and Norman have made the paved west Louisiana and 30th Streets parking lot more secure by installing additional poles and a gate to ensure that vehicles can only enter and exit on 30th Street.

On August 29, 2003, it was reported the south parking lot resurfacing was completed.

In February, 2005 new outside lighting was installed in the current outside building receptacles to improve perimeter lighting. First fixture is already installed on the east side of the educational building (over to side double doors) over the handicapped parking area. The rest of the lighting fixtures will be replaced during the month of March.

September 3, 2005 the major share of fencing on the west side of 30th Street had been completed. A petition to close the alley (west side of 30th Street) had been filed with the city. We are waiting for an appearance before the City Council. West Fence Company commenced taking down old fences (on the east side of 30th Street) on September 2, 2005 and will replace them with new fencing starting Tuesday, September 6, 2005. A 6' cement wall will be constructed on our north and northeast boundaries (plus 6' of alley - Ordinance 97-114) on the church's property line.

December 15, 2005, the Tampa City Council approved the church's request to close the alley on the church property on the west side of 30th Street. With this approval, the church acquired 6ft of the alley and will be fenced in accordingly.

All chain link fences were completed in early March, 2006.

It was reported by the trustees during the June 9, 2006 business meeting that the repaving of all the church's parking lots and subsequent upgrading to perimeter areas has been completed with additional handicapped parking and sign designations.

It was reported on September 1, 2006 that the concrete wall bordering the church eastside property is near completion - The stucco will cure for 3 weeks and then be painted - West Fences will be connecting the wall to the existing fences in 2 weeks.

New Hope purchased property at 3009 E. Ellicott Street, January 13, 2009, which is east of the church on Ellicott Street. This property will be used in conjunction with the Christian Life Center.

The church placed a bid to purchase the property located at 5003 N. 30th Street from Fannie Mae. The bid was accepted for the amount of \$21500, closed December 20, 2011. Placing bids to grade and sod property for membership parking.

The church property at 5003 N. 30th Street parking lot expansion project is complete with the installation of dirt to level property, Bahia sod, fence installation along property line for a total of \$2265. The ministry coordinated with Tampa City Public Works to construct a driveway and apron from the street. The property is available for use by church members.

TECO installed two light utility poles behind the CLC in December, 2012.

May, 2014, the trustees purchased and installed a 12X30 shed (over-sized trailer) east of the CLC building to meet the storage needs of the church. August 15, 2014, installation of insulation and air conditioning in the shed was completed.

TECO completed installation of one light utility pole in the north side parking lot across the street from the church on July 8, 2014.

Completed installation of commercial grade tan PVC privacy fence (240X6 ft) for \$6281.19 from West Florida Fence to enhance church parsonage property located at 815 Bluegrass Lane in the city of Brandon, FL located in Hillsborough County. The property is appraised at \$185,000.on June 27, 2014.

A 30th Street fence entry gate was installed on February 13, 2017.

At the June 2, 2017 business meeting it was reported that Watkins and Sons was awarded the paving contract at a cost of \$6320. The price included resealing and restriping all 3 asphalt parking lots, the drive-thru, painting car-stops, and restriping handicap designations.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY OF NEW HOPE

The Junior Church was organized to serve on 4th and 5th Sundays. The pastor spoke on its organization during business meeting June 2, 1967. There were 20 active members. Junior Church

leaders were Ira Bernard Bruton and Stanley Smith; Junior Deacons were Richard Mungin, Jerome Laster, Eddie Roger Norman, Jessie Parker, and Robert Owens; Secretary/Clerk was Gloria Kilpatrick and Assistant was Joe Ellen Smith.

The Number One and Number Two choirs were combined to form the Adult Choir in the business meeting June 1, 1973. They sang together First Sunday, June 3, 1973. The Gospel Chorus was organized, and their first president was Richard Mungin.

A Membership Committee was formed October 7, 1973 to teach those who joined that "once saved, always saved, safe and protected." This was done by presenting and explaining scriptures which teach that once saved you can never be lost; and to familiarize members with the church covenant. Rev. John Willis was the teacher, Deacon Bernard Lafayette, Sr., chairman, Sister Mamie Floyd, secretary; committee members were Sister Essie Pearsell, Sister Margaret Graham, Deacon Eddie B. Norman, Sister Elouise Siplin, Deacon Oscar Williams, and Deacon Nathaniel Bunts. Each person joining New Hope is required to meet with the committee twice before becoming a member.

Deacon Bernard Lafayette was appointed chairman of the newly formed Interview Committee. The committee was to screen all members making applications to the church before being accepted as members. Upon acceptance, new members were to take a course in Training Union, "Your Life and Your Church," to acquaint them with their responsibilities and duties of the church.

December 5, 1975, the Nurses Guild was added as an auxiliary to the church. The purpose of the guild was to administer first aid until professional help arrived.

The Education Board also presented its recommendations on the qualifications for students to receive financial aid from the church: (1) a member in good standing, (2) a high school graduate, (3) enrolled and attending a tuition/fee-based institution (such as a junior college, four-year institution, graduate program, or a trade/vocation school where a fee is charged).

February 27, 1987, the recommendation by the Junior and Senior Women Missionary Societies to establish a clothes closet at the church was adopted.

The church approved to join and implement the Food Bank Mission on June 5, 1987, headed by Deacon Ron Peterson. The food came from the Providence Food Bank; they provided the food for non-profit institutions. The food would be distributed once monthly, and volunteers were needed. The Food Bank first service dated August 22, 1987, served 23 families who received 750 lbs. of food.

The Beautification Committee was appointed with chairperson Sister Claudette Akins and members: Sisters Margaret Pratt, Maxine Claude, Belinda Lawson, Juanita Young, Mary Douglas, and Barbara Harvey on June 3, 1988. Pastor Dinkins stated that he would like for live flowers placed in the church during special occasions and afterward taken to the sick and shut-ins or a nursing home.

March 2, 1990, a special Finance Committee was formed which consisted of the following members: Ron Peterson, Eugene Ravenel, Stan Smith, Levester Jones, Nathaniel Bunts, and Levi Moore for the purpose of seeking and obtaining maximum return on the church's investments, and to monitor continuously.

June, 1990, the church accepted that through the Education Board, a John Willis Educational Scholarship Fund be developed.

The Education Board sought the consent of the church in November, 1990 to develop a Tutorial Program for students of all ages in various subject areas. The program is in conjunction with the Center of Excellence.

September, 1990, the Deacon Board requested a financial audit of the church's finances after several differences between the bank and the church records. March 1, 1991, the CPA Report on the church's financial setup was accepted. Twelve members were chosen to serve on the Finance Committee. Sister Essie Thompson was selected to install the new comprehensive financial statement for the church. It was recommended by the Deacon Board that the current Finance Committee members: Deacons Cleveland Hill, Oscar Williams, and William Ellison, be presented with a letter of accommodation, a plaque, and \$250 each for past years of service in the finance room.

The Share Program became a permanent ministry of the church in March, 1991.

A committee was formed by the Deacon Board on May 31, 1991, for the purpose of improving the current Needy Fund. Members that formed this committee: Deacons James Coleman, Nathaniel Bunts, Lenton Douglas, Robert Lawson, Stan Smith, and Art Akins. The newly formed Research and Action Committee would coordinate Needy Fund activities for members requesting financial assistance over \$75, members: Deacon James Coleman, Brothers Tony Noble and Michael Strickland, Sisters Sylvia Padgett, and Burnice Rollins.

On May 31, 1991, Sister Dorine Norman was approved to serve as Program Coordinator for all programs sponsored by the church, such as Easter, Christmas, etc.

During the Business Meeting November 22, 1991, the deacons Recommended that an Intermediate Women Auxiliary be formed at New Hope for women ages 36-53. The Education Board reported the reactivation of the Children Mission by Sister Pamela Hamilton February, 1992. There will be two groups: Sunshine Band for girls ages 4 -12 which will meet first Saturday each month. The second group will meet every Mission night with Sister Joyce Davis and Brother Larry Williams.

New Hope sponsored missionaries to the Caribbean Island country of Jamaica from August 1-8, 1998. Missionaries were Deborah and Lauren Barnes.

December, 1999, Ministries of Evangelism, Education, and Youth were established. New ministries included Greeters, Health Care, Couples, Singles, Tutorial and Building Committee. Many committees and missions exist for the spiritual good and welfare of the church and community. The membership grew to 1500. The paid staff includes seven musicians, an Administrative Assistant, Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary, Church Clerk and Assistant Clerk. Custodial operations and lawn care are provided by contractual services. Five active choirs exist. The Deacon Board has nineteen members. The Trustee Board has nine members. New Hope began its first Summer Day Camp June 4, 2001, and ran for eight weeks. Sister Marilyn Mungin was the camp's director. The registration fee was \$250. A scholarship fund of \$2500 was set up for members and nonmembers children to attend the camp.

During the business meeting February 28, 2003, the recommendation that BTU be changed to Discipleship Training was adopted.

"The Lamp" first began as a monthly publication of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church back in January, 1999, under the guidance of Rev. T. W. Jenkins with co-editors Sisters Marva Weatherspoon

and Belinda Lawson. The first issue of New Hope's official newsletter, "The Lamp" with the theme for 2005 Illuminating the Vision, was released to the membership in June, 2005. Prior to 2005, Sister Barbara J. Ragin had been serving as the annual "Roving Reporter" for the Vacation Bible School Newsletter (2003) under the leadership of Sisters Linda Padgett and Dorine Norman. Pastor Jenkins expressed his pleasure with the way she had created Vacation Bible School newsletters and asked if she would use her skills to create a church newsletter. He named it "The Lamp," with Sister Ragin as editor and Sister Belinda Lawson assisted her with page set-up, graphics, and pictures.

The new website for the church was launched on July 20, 2010 and a demonstration was provided to the church during the Tuesday bible study session.

December 27, 2015, the first issue of the New Hope M. B. Church Newsletter was distributed to the congregation. Editor in Chief is Deacon Ron Peterson and Sister Belinda Lawson, Design Layout.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, livestreaming services were activated on March 24, 2020 and are up and ready. New Hope members will access the church's website (newhopetampa.org) and click on the menu. Online giving access is also on the website. Streaming services were activated on Sunday, March 29, 2020 through Facebook, and YouTube.

EQUIPMENT HISTORY WITH UPDATES/MODERNIZATION

February 27, 1970, it was reported during the business meeting that the first Amplifier System was installed in the church in January, 1970 at a cost of \$789.50, paid in full.

The church voted to install a cooling unit in the parsonage during business meeting June 4, 1971.

The church's first bus was purchased and at the business meeting November 30, 1973, a list of members needing transportation to and from church was requested from the deacons and the bus would be put in operation 10 to 15 days later.

February 28, 1975, at the regular business meeting, the church voted to purchase the playground equipment (basketball and volleyball sets) and have them installed by Florida Playground Steel Co., 4701 50th Street.

At the November 30, 1979 business meeting, the recommendation from the Nursing Guild to purchase a wheelchair at the price of \$75 was approved.

February 29, 1980, the Deacon Board recommended, and the church agreed to purchase robes for the Gospel Chorus and Choir #3 for \$5387.20.

June 5, 1981, at the recommendation of the Deacon Board, the church agreed to purchase a burglar alarm system from Honeywell and, also the purchase of a 16 mm projector.

During the business meeting December 4, 1981, the church added an additional burglar alarm system for the air conditioning unit for \$725.

During the March 4, 1983 business meeting, the deacons recommended that additional hymnals (75) and gospel pearls (50) be purchased for the church.

The church voted in favor of purchasing a new sound system at the maximum cost of \$3702.45 instead of repairing the old system in the business meeting on December 5, 1986.

Video equipment was purchased for the BTU in June, 1987.

The computer committee, Rev. Ray Thomas, chairman, recommended the purchase of a computer. The trustees reported during the business meeting on December 4, 1987 the new computer system was implemented. An instructor, Mrs. Blake was hired to train the church secretary and clerk in computer operations.

The church purchased the new Yamaha piano at \$6900 March, 1991, and the present security system was changed from Honeywell to ADT.

New hymn books and bibles had been purchased and placed in the sanctuary for service on April 5, 1992.

The Deacon Board recommended, and the church approved on December 4, 1992, that new robes be bought for the #3 Choir at an approximate cost of \$8000 - to be negotiated.

September 25, 1994, the Deacon Board reported to the congregation of having \$27,000 in the budget for the purchase of a much-needed van for the handicapped but would need \$5000 more to make the purchase. Deacon Norman, Chairman of the Deacon Board, asked for a vote in favor of adding the \$5000, the majority were in favor.

The Adult Choir wore their new robes for the first time for the morning service on February 4, 1996.

September, 2000, additional pew bible and hymnal bookracks were being built, "additional" being used because some racks were replaced earlier this year to the aging pews.

Work began to create a network between the administrative assistant and the financial secretary computers. The results will give New Hope only one membership database, with each office updating specific information. This should be completed by mid-October.

During the June 1, 2001 regular business meeting, the Deacon Board recommended, and the church approved the purchase of a phone messaging system to contact and notify the congregation about activities and events, etc. occurring at the church, at the cost of approximately \$400.

At the June 1, 2001 regular business meeting, the Trustee Board recommended, and the church approved the two handicap accessible fountains at the cost of \$780 installed in the front entrance foyer by Brother Ron Collins who volunteered his expert installation skills with the assistance of Deacons Strickland and Gardner.

At the business meeting August 31, 2001, the Trustee Board reported that a temporary church name sign has been erected at a cost of \$300 and replaced the compressor for the A/C in the Willis Education building at a cost of \$3500.

The Trustee Board reported during the November 30, 2001 business meeting the purchase of a commercial refrigerator at the discounted cost of \$3561 from Beltram Food Service by Deacon Moore and Sister Rosa Douglas. Also purchased another handheld microphone.

During the regular business meeting November 29, 2002, the church approved the purchase of two personal computers, two monitors, a printer, scanner, related items and installation costs for \$4200. One to replace the current personal computer in the administrative secretary's office and one for the WEB Page Committee and church clerks to use.

February 28, 2003, at the Church Business Meeting the Deacon Board reported that Baptismal Gowns were made by sisters Julia Brown, Irma Hudson, Helen Rogers, Juanita Young, Denise Russ, and Wanda Russ.

During the May 30, 2003 business meeting, the church was informed that a new washer and dryer had been purchased.

Twenty (20) dining tables and one hundred (100) chairs were purchased for the dining and fellowship halls. Some of the old worn tables and chairs will be discarded. Old tables and chairs that are in salvageable condition will be donated to some other church or needy organization.

A word processor and a fireproof file cabinet for recording church business and storing church records was purchased in June, 2004.

In June, 2005 the new Shelby software system (with new server) have been installed. Church membership files have been inputted (less about 5%). Training commenced on May 13, 2005 for the church secretary and May 14, 2005 for the financial secretary. Next training date is scheduled for June 25, 2005. All church financial records should be converted to the new system by that date. A new office printer with scanning and faxing capability and a laptop for the pastor were purchased and installed. Along with these purchases, a new refrigerator was purchased for the kitchen to replace the burned-out unit.

An additional 52 dining room chairs were ordered and received to accommodate the increased numbers of members and guests (particularly for funeral repast). The Finance Room has been streamlined with new shelving added and an additional fire-safe file cabinet, computer and counting tables to eliminate the sweatshop feel and appearance for all who work in this small area.

It was reported during the September 1, 2006 business meeting that the teaching enhancement, which the pastor requested for the main edifice, with a retractable screen and mounted computer-controlled projector for installation in the sanctuary has been completed and operational - A laptop computer and DVD player was purchased to work in conjunction with the unit for teaching, videos, and lectures. The church approved laptop computer for the Church clerk has been purchased and delivered.

March, 2007, we replaced the noisy commercial refrigerator/freezer that was broken and in need of major repairs with a commercial freezer and a commercial full refrigerator.

July, 2007 purchased two (2) new copiers for church use: the Ricoh 3500 color copier/printer and the Canon desktop.

The purchase of One Call Now phone tree calling service was reported by the deacons June 5, 2009. This service will permit electronic calls in mass, and/or by sub-groups and the service can be discontinued at any time.

On December 4, 2009, the trustees reported that a 42" television was mounted in the dining hall. An enhancement to the Audio/Visual (A/V) ministry was approved to add two (2) monitors located near the front of the church for viewing by the pulpit and choir on June 4, 2010 and a third smaller monitor would be located in the foyer. Additionally, a desktop computer would be purchased for use by the A/V Ministry.

Spent \$7400 on October 13, 2012 to purchase musical instruments (electronic piano, Hammond organ, Leslie speaker, drums, and associated equipment) for the CLC.

The trustees reported during the March 1, 2013 business meeting that the new 2013 Ford Econoline 350 (15 passenger) van was purchased at the price of \$35,570.45. The 1989 church van was sold for \$1000 to Ridge Manor of Florida. The 1996 Church van was painted and detailed with the church logo for \$1700 by Gil Paint & Body Shop.

At the Annual Church Conference on December 13, 2013, it was reported that an upgrade was made to the church's improperly functioning and antiquated audio equipment for \$50186. Also, the church's telephones were up and operational with new telephones installed in church's main building and CLC by Sleems Consulting. Verizon telephones and equipment returned for refund.

Completed installation of CLC entrance surveillance system project for \$5539 on August 12, 2014. The system includes eleven (11) high resolution infra-red day/night, motion security cameras. Plan to protect the surveillance system by installing a separate circuit breaker.

Completed the task of updating and replacing bibles and hymn books in the sanctuary and in the CLC in May, 2015.

Completed installation and stocking of two vending machines (Seaga Large Mechanical Combination Vending Machine with Changer that will have food/snacks and beverages) in the amount of \$2898 each, with both systems fully operational on June 1, 2015 with one housed in the CLC and the other in the church's dining room. All items cost \$1 each.

The outdated church server hardware purchased on July 20, 2009 was replaced on August 19, 2015; connected the new server hardware and installed Windows 2012 and Shelby Financial software.

On December 2, 2016, the trustees reported that they have rekeyed all eighteen exterior door lock entry access points of the church and CLC. The church does have an accurate list of members with keys.

The freezer in the CLC was replaced in February, 2017 with a new unit (Everest DBF1-D) at a cost of \$2475 and the printer in the Finance Office was replaced with a new printer (HP OfficeJet Pro 8710) at a cost of \$292.82.

The church IP System and Frontier Communication's porting of our phone lines were completed on March 10, 2017.

Two new computers were purchased to replace the two older refurbished computers with (2) new Dell Inspiron All in One computers as reported at the business meeting June 2, 2017. Both new units cost \$2179.

It was reported during the business meeting March 2, 2018 that the laser projection system and screens were installed.

Three computers, in the pastor, clerk and secretary's office were replaced and upgraded to Windows Ten, and all applications necessary for church operation were installed as reported at the March 31, 2019 business meeting.

Two new phone lines installed and completed during August, 2019 in the upgrading of Wi-Fi that allows internet to the CLC. Frontier assigned the church five static IP addresses. Installed three new phones. These are for the kitchen, accounting room, and a wireless phone for the Church Secretary and Church Clerk to carry when moving between buildings.

On January 18, 2021, the trustees purchased a 2012 E350 XLT Hi-top Handicap Ford van for \$19388 from Shumate Truck Center of Tampa, Florida. On February 5, 2021, sold the Hi-top Handicap 1993 Dodge Van to Brother Timothy Langston for \$900.

ADT commercial installation and upgrade of the security camera system for church and CLC was completed on March 29, 2021. Monitors for desks of church secretary and church clerks were ordered and installed as part of the security system and are fully operational. Invoice received in the amount of \$7328 was paid on April 12, 2021.

Postal Base Vision A5 Automatic Mailing Machines - Replaced and updated to the A5 Automatic postal mailing machines in the finance office and clerk office on November 24, 2021.

On March 31, 2022, started repairs and the replacement of defective audio-visual equipment in the sanctuary and CLC. With the services of IT Consultant, Mr. Lee Fuller to facilitate the repairs. On September 23, 2022, IT Consultant (Mr. Lee Fuller) completed the Media A/V Upgrades Project for \$7550 as estimated.