

- ❖ First generator was installed to power electricity and lighting in the Sanctuary by brother *Lawrence H. Mason in 1934.
- ❖ Women's Day, Men's Day and Youth Day became annual events (1946-1955).
- ❖ The Chesterfield County Deacons Union was founded by *I. W. Surley in 1955.
- ❖ Children's Choir was organized in 1955 under the leadership of Hortense Lewis, also served as pianist.
- ❖ The Senior Ushers Board was organized under the leadership of *Fitzhugh Lee.
- ❖ The Pastor's Aide Society was organized in March 1956.
- ❖ Worship Service convened every Sunday under the pastorate of *A.L. Thomas in 1966.
- ❖ The Junior and Youth Usher Boards were organized 1966 under the leadership of Claiborne Edwards.
- ❖ *William R. Relaford served as Director of Music for many years.
- ❖ The Evangelistic Committee was organized under the leadership of Raymond Harris and *A.C Alexander Mason.
- ❖ Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast began under the leadership of *Goldie Parham, *Erner Gilliam, *Namoï Patrom and *Bertha Goode.
- ❖ The Men's Choir was organized under the leadership of *Joseph Simmons in 1973.
- ❖ Our Library, chaired by Erna G. Robinson was organized to stock the in 1970.
- ❖ The Gospel Male Chorus was reorganized by *Minister Curtis Mason in 1977.
- ❖ Our Memorial Meal Committee was organized by Arletha Gilliam, Mozelle Mason and *Lois Coleman-Ellis in 1987.
- ❖ Youth Ministry, Senior Ministry and Laymen's League was organized in 1990.
- ❖ Annual Family and Friends Day was first celebrated in July 1990.
- ❖ Our Flower Committee was organized in 1990.
- ❖ Sweet Hour of Prayer was founded in March 1991 (held each Friday 11:00 am).
- ❖ Women's Fellowship Ministry organized in 1991.
- ❖ Plays were performed under the various directorships prior to be formally

*Deceased

**Former Deacon

organized as the Drama in 1996.

- ❖ Minister Marvoin Gilliam, Jr. first Youth Pastor 2009-2012.
- ❖ Anton Britt appointed Youth Pastor in 2013.
- ❖ Janet Wynn appointed Executive Minister 2013.



A Commitment from Our Historian

As Chair of the History Committee, it is my commitment and the commitment of the History Committee to assure that all church records are being researched to provide a thorough and complete history, including officers, past and present. The History Committee welcomes information to update the records appropriately. We are asking all members of UBBC and the Community at large to provide additional materials. The information can be given to the committee in the form of obituaries, programs, pictures, articles and documents that you consider appropriate for archiving. We will make copies and return all original documents if desired. The Committee is focusing on the 130th Church Anniversary with the publication of a comprehensive history of our Beloved Union Branch Baptist Church. In the coming months forms will be made available in the Narthex to assist in updating our Church History. Please see any member of the History Committee.

Yours In His Service,

*Erna Gilliam-Robinson, **Historian***

Committee Members

Deacon Alcenier Edwards

Deacon Linda Hopkins

Sister Edith Trent



Celebrating 128th Church Anniversary Condensed History

Established 1890



Reverend Kenneth E. Rioland, Jr., Pastor

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Chesterfield, Virginia 23838

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Scripture

Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past.

Deuteronomy 32:7, KJV

The Early Years the forefathers worshiped in the balcony of Gill Grove Baptist Church. Soon after the Civil War negroes were declared free men and women. The two communities of Union Grove and Union Branch organized in a Bush Arbor on Church Road, now known as South Chesterfield, Virginia. Due to growth and distance to travel for worship, a congregation of believers branched from Union Grove Baptist Church, thus on November 23, 1890, **Union Branch Baptist Church** was established. Reverend George Smith became the first pastor of Union Branch Baptist Church. Reverend Smith pastored Union Grove Baptist Church on First and Third Sundays and pastored Union Branch Baptist Church on the Second and Fourth Sundays.

Chartered Deacons were: *Joseph Branch, *Charles Brown, *Augustus Gilliam, *Robert Haskins and *Charles Mason.

Chartered Trustee: *Martin Edwards.

First Mother of Union Branch Baptist Church: *Louisiana Gilliam-Edwards.

Between 1890 and 2015, the Church prospered under the leadership of **Fourteen Pastors** including Reverend *George Smith (1891-1891) who was the first, Reverends *W. B. Carrington(1891-1914); *A. H. Gallop (1915-1922); *W. B. Carrington (1922-1924); *Jack Willis (1924-1930); *A.S. Thomas (1930-1934); *Willie L. Smith (1934-1942); *Earl Redfield Knox(Interim Pastor (1943-1944); *K.L. Brazil (1946-1955); *L.S. Covington (1955-1966); *Alonzo L. Thomas, Jr. (1966-1970); *Isaac James (1973-1988); David L. Chapman (1989-2006); Gregory L. Howard (2007-2013); Kenneth E. Rioland, Sr., (2014-Present).

Between 1897and 1966, the **Deacons Ministry** served under pastoral leadership of Union Branch Baptist Church. *Benjamin H. Surley (1897); Winfield Bud Brown, Rufus L. Edwards, William Thomas Mason, and Irvin W. Surley (1915-1922); *James T. Haskins, Ernest Brown (1922-1924); Walter Brown, John T. Gilliam, and Samuel Hudgins (1924-1930); *Walter Brown, *John T. Gilliam and *Samuel Hudgins (1924-1930); * Welton T. Mason and *Ernest L. Surley (1934-1943); *Copeland Branch (1946-1955); *Randolph Brown, *George H. Lewis and *Vandy B. Mason (1955-1966).

*Deceased

**Former Deacon

Between 1967 and 2016, the **Deacons Ministry** served under pastoral leadership of Union Branch Baptist Church. *Quinton Edwards, *Melvin Branch, *A.C. Alexander Mason, Raymond Harris(1967); Claiborne C. Edwards, Sr., (1983); *Winston B. Gilliam (1987); Bernard Surley, Ernest Trent(1992); *Eugene D. Gilliam, *Phillip Boisseau, Madison Hopkins, John Jones Jr., Allen L. Payton (1995); Randy Brown, James A. Evans, Sr., Ricardo E. Rochelle, D. McCoy Parker (2004); Linda Hopkins, Joyce R. Mason, Modessa Payton, Julia Gilliam, Carlene Boisseau, Alcenier Edwards, Phyllis Jones, Larry Murphy (2008); Arletha B. Gilliam , Charry E. Brown, Andre Artis, Geraldine Hammond, Phillip Hammond, Marsha Rochelle, Edward Littlejohn, Samuel Surley (2010); Paul Jennifer , Stanley Marshall (2012); Lisa R. Hill, Alfred “AJ” Hill, Jason Evans, Donald Lee, Mary K. Marshall, Stacey Mitchell, Melvin Mitchell, Troy W. Lewis, **Alvin Thornhill (2013).

Between 1955 and 2008, the **Deaconess Ministry** served under pastoral leadership of Union Branch Baptist Church. *Mozell Branch, *Mattie Brown, *Alice Edwards, *Isabelle Fisher, *Viola Hudgins, *Dora Mason, *Hortense Lewis, *Lucille Lewis, *Catherine Mason, *Matilda Vaughan-Brown, *Naomi Patrom, *Ethel Simmons, *Magnolia Stephenson, *Martha Brown *Clara Surley, *Beatrice Gilliam, *Mehetta Surley, Louise Brown, *Dora Trent, *Madeline Gill-Jones, Alice Turner, Otelia Brown, Rebecca Branch, Wanda Hill, Mozelle Mason.

Between 1948 and 1955, two sons were licensed into the **Gospel Ministry**, *Rufus Edwards and *McCoy Lewis.

Between 1970 and 2017, several sons and daughters were licensed and or ordained into the **Gospel Ministry**, *Joseph A. Simmons (1973); *Curtis N. Mason (1975); Melvin L. Gilliam (1986); Kenneth Mattox(1984); and Solomon Hill, Sr.; Wanda Hill; Marvin L. Gilliam Sr., Beverly Chapman(1991), Marcus Leggett (2001); Terrance Deans (2002); Alonzo Williams (2003); Marvin L. Gilliam, Jr., (2003); Jonathan Chapman (2004); Janet Wynn, Theresa H. Mason (2008); Keith “KJ” Granderson (2011); Paulette Rainey, Vater C. Colbert, Jr., (2017).

Other Associates Ministers that have served **Pass and Present:** H Lewis Callis, Mary Hatcher, Albert Wilmot, Yvette Griffin, Monica Dodd, Sandy Dodd, Antoine Britt, Walter D. Parker, Douglas Chiles, Cynthia J. Rioland, Kenneth Massey.

Between 1966 and 1995 the **Trustee Ministry** under pastoral leadership of Union Branch Baptist Church. *Leonard Edwards, *Howard Lewis, *Randolph Brown, *Quinton Edwards, *Joseph Branch, *Melvin Branch, *Lois Coleman-Ellis, Claiborne Edwards, Sr., Lee C. Mason, *Ernest Surley, *Ethel B. Simmons; James Evans, Sr., *Winston B. Gilliam, Roosevelt Lewis (1982); Moses E. Evans (1986); *Walter Brown (1991); *Phillip Boisseau; Lorraine Henderson-Moore, Charlotte Bell, (1994).

Between 1995 and 2016 the **Trustee Ministry** under pastoral leadership of Union Branch Baptist Church. *James Lewis, Randy Brown, Robert L. Cordell 1995); Alonzo Williams (2001); Andre Artis, Vanessa Mason, Edward Edler, Alice Whitlow, Melvin Simmons, (2004); Charry Brown, Gwen W. McCorvey, Timothy Lewis, Troy Lewis, Shirley Barksdale, Robert Hill, Lessie Oliver-Clark, (2008); Darnell Richardson, Carolyn Branch, (2015). Stanley Lee serves as Security and Maintenance. William Moore serves as Church Sexton.

Further research is being conducted in the following areas and will be reported on a yearly basis: Church Clerks, Treasurer, Financial Secretaries, Financial Record Holders, Superintendents of Sunday School, Auditor, Janitorial, Secretaries of Sunday School, Sunday School Teachers, Scholarship, Communications, Music Ministry, Nursery Ministry, Health Care, Children’s Church, Marriage Ministry and others not named in this document.

Did you know that—

- ❖ Our first building for worship was erected and dedicated in 1890.
- ❖ Our Missionary Ministry was organized in April 1927.
- ❖ Our outside baptismal pool was erected and dedicated in 1930.
- ❖ *Mary E. Haskins organized the District Rural Convention June 1930.
- ❖ First Gospel Choir organized under the direction of *Marie Smith in 1934.