

History of Calvary Grove Baptist Church

In 1946, at Sam's Crossing in Decatur, Georgia, The Calvary Grove Baptist Church was born. It was built by Mr. Guy Rutland, and given to the community for any denomination to freely use. The church remained on the Decatur site for 12 years until the Marta Rapid Transit System Expansion purchased the property.

Looking for a new location, Mr. Guy Rutland's son (Mr. Calvin T. Rutland) bought the property in Scottdale, Georgia, the current location where Calvary Grove Baptist Church now stands. The land was purchased on August 1, 1967. Calvary Grove Baptist Church is **growing strong**, and still proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rev. E. D. Connell was called, being the first Pastor of Calvary Grove Baptist Church. Other Pastors of Calvary Grove Baptist Church are as stated: Rev. E. L. Bussie, Rev. Chiles, Rev. Hill, Rev. Johnny Jones, Rev. H.C. Scales, Rev. Giles, Rev. Jackson, Rev. W. M. Britton, Sr. (Longest Tenure), Rev. D. L. Surrey, Sr. and the current Pastor Rev. Kenneth L. Morris.

The Assistant Pastors who have served Calvary Grove Baptist Church are as stated: Rev. Moss, Rev. D.L. Surrey, Sr., Rev. A.C. Smith, and Rev. James Durden. The current serving Ministerial Associates are as stated: Rev. Willie Oliver, Elder J.T. Jackson, Evangelist Vanessa Broughton and Evangelist Margaret Sterling.

Deacon A. D. Foster organized the first Calvary Grove Baptist Church Sunday school in 1989. He served as the Superintendent of the Sunday school and Chairman of the Deacon Board until 1992. Deacon A.D. Foster was assisted by the First Lady Emma L. Britton.

She served as a Sunday school teacher and a loyal supporter of the Sunday school. Deacon Preston Reid is the current Superintendent.

Other Deacons who have served at Calvary Grove Baptist are as stated: Deacon Fake, Deacon Frank Johnson, Deacon Roger Preston, Deacon Joe Brown, Deacon Binder, Deacon Sam Ray, Deacon A. D. Foster, Deacon Jesse Luke, Deacon J.T. Jackson, Deacon Clarence slaughter, Deacon Charles Harris and Deacon Rabor.

The current Deacon Ministry consists of: Chairman Deacon Willie Kelly, Vice-Chairman Deacon Floyd Smith, Secretary Deacon Preston Reid, Deacon Daniel Woods and Deacon Anthony Smith.

Sister Marie Gober serves as the Church Treasurer. Sister Jeanette Smith serves as Chair of the Church Board. Sister Chrys McKay serves as the president of the Usher Board.

Mother Pearl Johnson & Mother Ceaster Schoates helped to organize the first Calvary Grove Baptist Church Usher Board. Mother Schoates served Calvary Grove faithful until her demise. Mother Pearl Johnson continues to serve as an advisory to the Usher Board. She is also the longest serving Mother. She serves with Mother Essie F. Luttery, Mother Lena Fuller and Mother Geneva Lundie-Huff.

Calvary Grove Baptist Church is, and will forever remain, a COMMUNITY CHURCH. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, Calvary Grove Baptist Church embraces, with love and compassionate, whosoever will come. It is the current congregants' responsibility to pass on the legacy, and strengthen the tradition of Calvary Grove Baptist Church.

Let's find meaning in the words of a song that was prophetically penned by Mr. Albert A. Goodson: "We've come this far by Faith. Leaning on the Lord! He never failed me yet. Oh, can't turn around! We've come this far by Faith."