

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

Our church was first called the Welcome Baptist Church, then Harrison Avenue Baptist Church, and eventually became Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. Our incorporation with the State of Missouri is as Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church.

Through our research, we have found information which reports that Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1880. Several historical documents, including the African American Heritage Guide of St. Louis; Discovering African Americans; and the History of Kirkwood reveal our early existence. It is also reported that members of Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church helped the First Baptist Church of Elmwood Park to organize in 1900.

The earliest recorded history that we have begins in 1908 and was put together by the late Sis. Mamie Briggs. After receiving the history baton from Sis. Briggs, the late Sis. Rose Mary Clark instituted a “year in review” as a way of updating our history. The year in review of our history is now put together by Sis. Geneva Powell.

Our Beginning

The “Welcome Baptist Church” was founded in 1908 by Rev. Samuel Tyler who was a long time resident of Kirkwood. The name was later changed to Harrison Avenue Baptist Church. The Berean District Association Executive Board met here. At that time, Pastor Tyler and his family resided here on Harrison Avenue a few houses from the church. He will long be remembered for his strength and encouragement in establishing this church, which still stands as a monument to God.

It has been said that some of the first to be baptized were Mrs. Elmer Bryant Dupree, Mrs. Effie Bryant, Mrs. Mollie Tyler, and Brother Hudgens who later became a Deacon.

The History of St. Louis County by William L. Thomas published in 1911 notes Harrison Avenue Baptist Church was a “colored” church in Kirkwood located at Harrison and Clinton. It also documents that Rev. Tyler was the Pastor in 1911. Pastors who were called and became shepherds of this flock after Rev. Tyler were Rev. Billups, Rev. Shields, Rev. W. Monroe, Rev. Leon Hannon, Rev. J.T. Smith, Rev. Samuel W. Jones, Rev. Daniel Jones, Rev. Covington, Rev. Louis Sykes, Rev. Bailey, Rev. Littles, Rev. Fred Wilson, Rev. Robert Johnson, Rev. Clarence L. Wells, Rev. James F. Cobb, and our present Pastor, Rev. Jeffery G. Croft.

The Blue Book, published by the Metropolitan Church Federation of St. Louis in 1926, lists Rev. F. E. Bailey as Pastor. The 1931-1932 edition lists Rev. Leon Hannon as Pastor.

On December 23, 1912, the land at 355 South Harrison Avenue where our existing structure stands was purchased from Samuel and Mollie Tyler by Harrison Avenue Baptist Church for the sum of \$1,700.00. Frank Standard, Edward Quisenberry, John Ewing, and Eli McDonald were Trustees.

Rev. William F. Bailey, who’s wife, Mrs. Ella Bailey was the blood sister of our own Sis. Mamie Briggs served Harrison Avenue for 24 years. Sis. Bailey was responsible for our first Annual Women’s Day program.

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Rev. Bailey was called to a church in California and Rev. Daniel Jones was our next Pastor, followed by Rev. Louis Sykes and Rev. Littles. Shortly after Rev. Littles became our Pastor, he resigned to accept a call to another church. We were then without a pastor.

At this time, there were three Baptist churches serving our community; First African Baptist (also known as Rose Hill Baptist), Second Baptist, and Harrison Avenue. The late Rev. Harris, who at this time was the Pastor at Rose Hill Baptist Church, thought it a good idea to have one church instead of three. After many meetings and discussions, the consolidation was set in motion, thus in 1929 forming Unity Baptist Church; but Harrison Avenue chose to remain a separate body. This took a large number of our members. About five of our older mothers stayed on.

Several ministers served for short periods of time, until in approximately 1942, when Rev. Fred Wilson became our minister. During his stewardship of approximately 14 years, many new members were added to the roll. Rev. Wilson resigned when his health began to fail following a serious operation. He was followed by Rev. Robert Johnson in 1956, who was called from labor to his reward on January 8, 1957. His time with the church was short, but the fruit of his labor was abundant. We were once again sheep without a shepherd. We were wandering from the fold. We had one pulpit guest after another. We were very sad indeed, but believed God would always send someone to lead us.

We had our own Rev. Abraham Byrd who was the Pastor of another church, but as a loyal member of this church he stepped in to help us. His advice to us was, "Get on your knees and ask God to send a pastor and we would not go wrong."

Rev. Clarence L. Wells

God sent Rev. Clarence L. Wells and he accepted our call in April, 1957. He came to us with his loyal wife, Sis. Alleda Ward Wells, who was an excellent musician. A new piano was purchased in 1957.

The stationery with correspondence dated 1960 revealed the following officers:

Deacons:	Bro. Enoch Bryant, Bro. Earl McCrary, Sr. and Bro. Ben Webster
Clerk:	Sis. Leona McCrary
Corr. Secretary:	Sis. Alfreida Cannon
Trustees:	Bro. Stanton Smart, Bro. Earl McCrary Sr., Bro. Joseph Moss, Bro. Lawrence Nall, Bro. Louis Hinds, Bro. Theora Miller, Bro. George Summerhill, and Bro. Charles Byrd.

We were reinstated in the Berean District Association of which we were proud. We were also represented at the National and State Congress of Christian Education as well as the National Baptist Convention.

With Pastor Wells as our shepherd, many souls were added to God's work by baptism and restoration.

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With the help of Deacons Earl McCrary, Enoch Bryant, John Carr, and Samuel Clark, Trustees Joseph Moss and Stanton Smart, and a loyal membership, Pastor Wells brought new life and many improvements to the church. The physical structure was improved. The Sunday School was greatly increased in numbers and interest. For many summers, we enjoyed a well organized Vacation Bible School under the leadership of Sis. Emma Stanley.

The land adjacent to the church at 353 S. Harrison was donated to us in September, 1975 by Mrs. Janet Smallwood in memory of her parents, Bro. James and Sis. Frankie Campbell. In December, 1975, a telephone was installed. Memorial windows for Sis. Alfrieda Cannon and her mother, Sis. Emma Stanley, were added.

Bro. Samuel Clark was added to the Benevolent Committee. Any expenditure over \$100 had to be approved by the church body.

In the years 1977-78, under the guidance of Pastor Wells, based on the scripture Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you", we were able to complete the renovation of the church. This included a baptizing pool, purchasing new pews with book racks from the National Chair and Furniture Co. for \$3,164.40, and a parking lot adjacent to the church.

Rev. C. L. Wells served as pastor for 20 years and 11 months. The Lord called him from labor to reward on March 8, 1979. He will always be remembered.

Reverend James F. Cobb

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Rev. James F. Cobb was called as our pastor. He and his wife, Sis. Anna L. Cobb came to us in May, 1979. Under Pastor Cobb, more of our members became affiliated with our Berean District work, attended State and National Congress of Christian Education meetings, and the National Baptist Convention. Souls were added by Christian experience and by baptism. Pastor Cobb reinstated Bible study and prayer meetings, which were enjoyed by all who attended.

The first business meeting under Pastor Cobb was held December 9, 1979. Business meetings were held after morning service. The auxiliaries reporting at this time were Sunday School, Senior Choir, Willing Workers, Women's Missionary Union, Baptist Training Union, Pastor's Aid, Junior and Senior Ushers, Youth Choir, Young Adult WMU, Benevolent, and Building Fund. The building fund balance was \$2,450.59 and the balance in the General Fund was \$3,212.61.

Under his ministry, we purchased a new organ at a price of \$5,706.84. The sanctuary was enhanced by a beautiful paramount set on the communion table with matching scarves on the pulpit.

The Year of 1980

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Our Pastor's wife, Sis. Anna L. Cobb became our Director of Christian Education. One of her first projects was to organize the young women. Shortly after coming to us, Sis. Cobb became ill, but attended service whenever she could. In February, 1980, she passed on to her reward. The Anna L. Cobb Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of the late Sis. Anna L. Cobb, whose dedicated service will always be remembered. Sis. Mamie Ross, Chairman and Sis. Marcella Newton, Co-Chairman were quite successful in this effort, assisting the young people who were attending college.

Pastor Cobb appointed Sis. Dorothy Aitch to the publicity committee.

The Year of 1981

Many improvements to our facility were done. The steps in the rear were completed. The Officers, Bro. Stanton Smart, Sis. Wyoma Smart, Sis. Alfreida Cannon, Sis. Marcella Newton, The Willing Workers, and other members worked hard to provide a study for our pastor. The upstairs was remodeled at a cost of \$1,098. A new PA system was installed. The church became insured with a policy valued at \$60,000.

At the December 13, 1981 business meeting there was talk of an extension of the church building.

The Year of 1982

The Theme for the year was "Keep God First In Our Lives".

Vacation Bible School took on new life, with a tremendous increase in attendance. The young adults under the guidance of our Superintendent, Sis. Ruby Carr was very faithful in this effort. Our school hours were changed from 9 am - 12 noon to evenings 6:30 - 8:30 pm. For some time, Sis. Sharron White and Sis. Geneva Powell worked with Sis. Carr in providing interesting new literature for the classes. Pastor Cobb invited interesting lecturers and adult teachers for our adults who attended. Rev. Calvin Jones and his wife, Sis. Lavonne Jones served in this capacity for many years.

Improvements of placing carpeting in the sanctuary and dining room areas along with linoleum in the kitchen and restroom floors were spearheaded by Sis. Rosemary Clark and Sis. Sharron White. This was completed at a cost of \$2,916. A room air conditioner was also purchased for the sanctuary.

The Year of 1983

Sidewalks in the front and side of the building were laid and the steeple was closed. The front of the church was painted, the parking lot was paved and a storage shed was purchased.

Bro. Herschel Newton was appointed to the Trustee Board. Sis. Dorothy Clark became head of the food committee to give food to needy people every month. This was possibly under the Willing Workers.

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Business meetings began to be held quarterly. At the June business meeting, Bro. Stanton Smart stated that funds should be set aside with the intention of building a new church building.

The Year of 1984

Second Sunday was designated Pledge Sunday. Sis. Geneva Powell was Pledge President and Sis. Irene Farrar was the Recorder.

Bro. Joseph Moss became a Deacon. Sis. Wyoma Smart, Sis. Marcella Newton and Sis. Rose Clark became members of the Trustee Board. Sis. Alfreida Cannon was the Church Clerk, Sis. Aquilla Eady was the Assistant Clerk, and Sis. Alfreida Lipscomb was the third clerk. Bro. Melvin White became an Altar Person. The Scholarship Committee consisted of Sis. Wyoma Smart, Sis. Marcella Newton, Sis. Mamie Ross, Sis. Kathy Harris and Sis. Alice Davis.

The Year of 1985

Sis. Mamie Briggs, Sis. Aquilla Eady and Sis. Lena Brandon were appointed as Deaconess to assist with devotion. Sis. Wyoma Smart became Chairman of the Trustee Board.

The Year of 1986

Our Officers were as follows:

Deacon:	Bro. Joseph Moss
Trustees:	Sis. Wyoma Smart, Bro. Oscar Harris, Bro. Joseph Moss, Sis. Marcella Newton, Sis. Rosemary Clark, Bro. Theora Miller
Deaconess:	Sis. Ruby Carr, Sis. Dorothy Clark, Sis. Wyoma Smart, Sis. Mamie Briggs, Sis. Aquilla Eady, Mother Lena Brannon
Presidents:	Bro. Oscar Harris, Usher Board Sis. Dorothy Clark, Willing Workers Sis. Alfreida Cannon, Senior Choir Sis. Rose Clark, Youth and Young Adult Choir Sis. Alleda Wells, WMU Sis. Mamie Briggs, Pastor's Aid
Sunday School:	Sis. Ruby Carr, Superintendent
Church Clerk:	Sis. Alfreida Cannon
Pastor's Aid:	Sis. Mamie Briggs, Sis. Wyoma Smart and Sis. Alice Davis

The Trustees spending limit without church approval was increased to \$200.

The Year of 1987

Bibles began to be given to new members. The church directory was instituted.

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Bro. James Sheets became a Trustee. A Budget Committee was set up with Sis. Dianne Nickerson (Chairperson), Sis. Ronnie Cobb and Sis. Dorothy Sheets. The Benevolent Committee consisted of Sis. Lillian Parker, Bro. Joseph Moss, Sis. Gladys Moss and Pastor Cobb.

Ceiling fans were placed in the sanctuary and central air conditioning was installed.

The Year of 1988

Bro. Melvin White was appointed by our Pastor as a Trustee. Bro. White took a great interest in seeing to the needs of the church and in taking care of necessary repairs. The Junior Matrons began with Sis. Teresa Lang as the president. The Kitchen Committee consisted of Sis. Dorothy Aitch, Sis. Frances Weber and Sis. Wyoma Smart. Sis. Sharron White was added to the budget committee.

Weekly Bible study was started. Business meetings were changed from Sunday to Thursday nights. We placed \$5,000 in a certificate of deposit.

A complete new kitchen was installed with much praise and gratitude to the Kitchen Remodeling Committee, Bro. James Sheets, Sis. Dorothy Sheets and Sis. Alfreida Lipscomb. The kitchen was remodeled at a cost of \$5,310. Financial assistance for this came from a loyal friend of Sis. Alfreida Cannon, Ms. Florence Freymouth. A new furnace was purchased. A new microphone was purchased for the piano. Lighting was added to the sign in front of the church at a cost of \$295.

HAMBC adopted a room at the Berean House, a homeless shelter owned and operated by the Berean Missionary Baptist District Association. Additionally, a \$50 monthly donation was sent to Berean House. Beginning June 19, 1988, the third Sunday was designated as Berean House pledge Sunday.

Bro. Jeffery Croft announced his call to the ministry on the second Sunday in August, 1988. He preached his first sermon and received his license on the fourth Sunday in August. Pastor Cobb asked Rev. Croft to bring the message on every second Sunday. This allowed Rev. Croft to gain continued experience as a preacher. Soon after, his wife, Sis. Roslyn Croft became a member of our church.

Pastor David Rice, Sr. and Holy Trinity Missionary Baptist Church held their dedication services and baptisms at Harrison Avenue on October 9, 10, 11, 13th.

The Year of 1989

Our pastor's salary was increased by 100%. We paid Pastor Cobb's total expenses to attend the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

In March, our Sunday School class time was lengthened. Class would last until 10 am allowing at least 45 minutes for the study of the lesson.

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Pastor Cobb instituted pledges for the purchase of a new roof. In September of this year the roof was replaced by Reger Roofing. A new thermostat with clock and timer was installed.

As of June, 1989 our Benevolent Committee consisted of Bro. Joseph Moss, Sis. Gladys Moss, Bro. Oscar Harris, Sis. Ruby Carr and Sis. Lillian Parker. The position of financial secretary was established with Sis. Roslyn Croft and Sis. Sharron White working together in the position. Sis. Alfreida Cannon resigned from position of church clerk after serving many years. Sis. Kathy Harris became church clerk; Sis. Sandra Crenshaw became announcing clerk. Sis. Alleda Wells resigned from being the church organist. An Organist Search Committee was established consisting of Sis. Sandra Crenshaw, Sis. Sharron White, Bro. Gregory Carr, and Sis. Ruby Carr.

A voucher system for reimbursements was established.

The Year of 1990

In 1990, the youth group Harrison Avenue Youth (H.A.Y.) was formed. Pastor Cobb appointed Sis. Dianne Nickerson to serve as the Director. Bro. James Sheets resigned from the Trustee Board.

Four baptisms were performed, Bro. Richard Schoenbauer, Bro. Kenneth Schoenbauer, Bro. Quincy Austin, and Sis. Dena Roberts.

The Year of 1991

We received third place in attendance for the 1990-91 year, at the Berean District Congress of Christian Education sessions and classes held on the second Monday night at Galilee Baptist Church.

A copy machine was purchased for the office. New tables were purchased for the dining area.

On the third Sunday in April, 1991 with his family, church family and many friends present, Rev. Croft was ordained under the pastorate of Rev. Cobb. Bro. Gregory Carr announced his call to the ministry on July 21, 1991. He preached his first sermon and received his license on August 11, 1991.

In September, our Outreach Ministry began with Sis. Roslyn Croft serving as the Outreach Coordinator. She involved the membership in sending cards and care packages to our members out of town, sending cards to visitors inviting them to attend Sunday School and worship again, and inviting neighborhood families to join us in our Vacation Bible School.

Our acknowledgment of visitors was moved up as a part of the announcement period at the suggestion of Sis. Sandra Crenshaw.

On December 12, 1991, at our quarterly business meeting, Rev. Cobb announced his resignation as our Pastor effective December 31, 1991 due to his poor health. A banquet in recognition of his service to HAMBC was held at the Top of the Sevens Restaurant in Clayton.

During our New Year's Eve Watch Night service, Bro. Robert Austin united with our church.

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Reverend Jeffery G. Croft

The Year of 1992

Acting upon Pastor Cobb's recommendation, Rev. Jeffery Croft was voted by the members to serve as our Interim Pastor with Rev. Greg Carr assisting him until we called a Pastor. At this time, Sis. Roslyn Croft resigned from the position of Financial Secretary.

Our church fared well and progress continued under the guidance of Rev. Jeffery Croft and our governing Board of Trustees, who were Sis. Wyoma Smart, Sis. Rose Clark, Bro. Oscar Harris, Bro. Melvin White, and Sis. Marcella Newton. At this time, Bro. Oscar Harris became the Chairperson. A pulpit committee comprised of Deacon Joseph Moss, Trustees Bro. Oscar Harris and Sis. Rose Clark, Sunday School Superintendent, Sis. Ruby Carr and member Bro. Alvin Miller began the difficult task of reviewing the applicants desiring to be pastor of our church.

Members began receiving copies of Business Meeting minutes beginning in January.

For the first time, our Choir and Usher Annual Days were combined. This service was very successful. This had been a suggestion of Usher President Sis. Lillian Parker and Sis. Geneva Powell in our September, 1991 quarterly meeting.

On June 11, 1992, the Pulpit Committee presented Rev. Jeffery Croft to the membership as the candidate for Pastorship. Assisting the members of Harrison Avenue with the voting procedures were Berean District Moderator Rev. Adrian F. Jones and Vice Moderator Rev. Edward Chapple. By the end of the evening, we had a new Pastor, Rev. Jeffery G. Croft. The installation service followed on July 19, 1992 with a spirit filled service. We were honored to have Rev. Croft's father, Pastor Willie Croft and his choirs from Union Grove M.B. Church of Forest, Mississippi and Mt. Carmel M.B. Church of Morton, Mississippi join us in the service. Our former Pastor, Rev. James F. Cobb was the Minister in Charge, Rev. Gregory Carr Associate Minister at Harrison Avenue and Rev. Kenneth Lee read the scriptures, Rev. Willie L. Croft brought the message, Rev. M.R. Lemons of Pilgrim M. B. Church of East St. Louis, Illinois gave the Charge to the Pastor, Rev. Donald Thompson of Glendale Memorial Baptist Church gave the Charge to the Church and Rev. Calvin Jones of Union Baptist Church gave the Installation Prayer. In his 2nd Annual Address in July 1992, Berean District Moderator Rev. Dr. Adrian F. Jones mentioned our calling Rev. Croft as Pastor.

Sis. Marcella Newton spearheaded an effort to provide our Pastor with a ministerial robe. The effort was such a success our pastor was able to purchase two robes, one traditional black robe and a beautiful white one for our first Sunday services.

The first business meeting with Rev. Croft as our pastor was held September 10, 1992. The heads of auxiliaries at this time were:

Sunday School: Sis. Ruby Carr, Superintendent; Bro. Louis Hinds, Asst. Superintendent
Teachers: Sis. Geneva Powell, Sis. Nancy Schoenbauer, Bro. Darrell Carr and
Bro. Joseph Moss

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- Ushers: Sis. Geneva Powell, Acting President
- Pastor's Aid: Sis. Mamie Briggs, President; Sis. Wyoma Smart, Vice-President; and
Sis. Alice Davis, Secretary
- WMU: Sis. LaVerne Harris, President
- Choirs: Sis. Ruby Carr, Sr. Choir President; Sis. Kathy Harris, Gospel Chorus President;
Sis. Rose Clark, Youth Director; Sis. Sharron White, Music Department Director; and
Bro. David McCrary, Organist
- H.A.Y Sis. Dianne Nickerson, Director and Sis. Jeanette Austin, Assistant Director
- Benevolent: No president at this time

A new disciple's class was held with Rev. Abraham Byrd as the instructor. As a part of Outreach, we worked in conjunction with "Operation Bright Light" by sending boxes of necessary items to the victims of Hurricane Andrew in Florida and Louisiana in September, 1992.

In December, 1992, the music department was enhanced with the combining of the Youth Choir, Gospel Chorus, and the Senior Choir to form a mass choir under the direction of Sis. Sharron White and Bro. David McCrary, who joined us as our organist this year. The Organist Search Committee was disbanded. The Sunbeam Choir continues to lend their voices to our services.

Sis. Marcella Newton became the President of the Usher Board. Rev. Abraham Byrd became the Parliamentarian. Sis. Dianne Nickerson resigned from the position of Youth Director. Sis. Geneva Powell resigned from the Usher Board, including the position of Jr. Usher Director. Sis. Sandra Crenshaw resigned from the position of Announcing Clerk. Sis. Roslyn Croft was reinstated as the Financial Secretary in charge of reporting and Sis. Sharron White was Financial Secretary in charge of disbursements. In September of 1992, the Budget Committee was formed with Bro. Oscar Harris as the Chairperson. The other committee members were Sis. Sharron White, Sis. Roslyn Croft, Sis. Diana Harris and Bro. David McCrary.

At our quarterly business meeting in December, 1992, Pastor Croft posed the question to the membership about building a new church. Permission was given to the Pastor at this meeting to form a Building Committee. This committee was later named the Land Acquisition Committee and consisted primarily of Pastor Croft and Sis. Dianne Nickerson.

Eight souls were added to or reunited with our church, Sis. Nicole White, Bro. Jerry Inman, Bro. Sterling Thompson, Sis. Stacey Thompson, Sis. Mary Thompson, Bro. James Austin, Bro. Titus Moore, and Bro. John Carr, Sr.

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Our Mission and Outreach on behalf of Kirk Care began a food distribution project. Each Saturday, from May through September, produce items from the Kirkwood Farmer's Market were distributed free of charge. This project allowed us to provide food items to those in need in our community. In June, we participated for the first time in the Meacham Park Homecoming Parade. We had over 30 participants all proudly wearing our new red t-shirts while carrying our banner and signs. Our t-shirts displayed our Pastor's slogan, "The Lord Is Blessing Us - Right Now!!" Fliers were passed out inviting parade goers to our services and food distribution.

Our Pastor's 1st Anniversary was celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in July. His brother, Rev. Shawn Croft, Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Chunky, Mississippi was the speaker.

In September, 1993, Sis. Mamie Ross' name was added to become the Anna L. Cobb/Mamie Ross Memorial Scholarship Fund. The committee consisted of Sis. Marcella Newton, Sis. Dorine Miller and Sis. Gloria Nickerson.

Also in September of 1993, we traveled by Jim Wright & Sons charter bus to Jackson and Morton, Mississippi to attend the closing service of a week-long revival at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church.

A second telephone line was installed in the pastor's study. Bro. James Austin and Pastor Croft made repairs to the baptismal pool. This included repainting and repairing the steps. The inside swinging doors to the sanctuary were replaced.

Night Sunday School and the Harvest Home banquet were held for the last time.

Bro. Joseph Moss resigned from the position of Custodian. Bro. Melvin White bid on and was selected for the position.

Our average Sunday morning worship attendance for 1993 was 35 people. We received five new members, Bro. David McCrary, Bro. Charles Kennedy, Sis. Leslie Jones, Bro. Melvin Petty, and Sis. Adrian Drummond; the latter two were candidates for baptism.

The Year of 1994

Our Pastor announced our theme for the year to be "Continued Growth". This year we received twelve new members. Sis. Sandra Adams, Sis. Jerilyn Carr, Sis. Joy Smith, and Sis. Patsy McCrary were received on Christian Experience and eight baptisms were performed - Bro. John Carr, Jr., Sis. Jasmine Harris, Sis. Kelly Schoenbauer, Sis. Karmen Parker, Sis. Michelle Smith, Sis. Lydia Washington, Bro. Trevor Thompson, and Bro. Charles Crenshaw were candidates for baptism. This increased our membership to 71 people. Although the Lord blessed us to grow, He also called home two of our members, Bro. David McCrary and Sis. LaVerne Harris.

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In preparation for efforts for a new building, Pastor Croft instituted a new pledge program. Pastor Croft asked each member to give an additional \$25 per month. This would add \$54,000 to our building fund in just three years.

Pastor Clifton Graham, First Baptist Church of Valley Park, was the speaker for our Spring Revival.

In June of 1994, Deacon Joseph Moss and Sis. Gladys Moss moved to Kansas City, Missouri after 54 year of service at HAMBC. We were at this time without any Deacons. After attending Deacon Training classes with Rev. Adrian Jones, Bro. Darryl Carr, Bro. John Carr Sr., and Bro. Oscar Harris became Deacons as a part of our 1994 Church Anniversary service.

At the June quarterly business meeting the membership adopted the statement, "You Don't Have to Dress Up to Come to Harrison Avenue". This was done in order to make others feel comfortable coming to our church and to take the emphasis off of what you wear and place it more on what's in your heart.

Sis. Rose Clark became the Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. Sis. Tiffany White became the Announcing Clerk. A Church Historian committee was established consisting of Sis. Geneva Powell, Sis. Rose Clark, Sis. Nancy Schoenbauer and Sis. Ruby Carr.

Pastor Calvin Jones, Union Baptist Church of St. Louis was the speaker for our Pastor's 2nd Anniversary.

The retainer wall on the north side of the parking lot was repaired. Additional pew holders were installed and filled with new Bibles and hymnals.

In September, 1994, the landowner verbally agreed to sell the land behind the church to us.

Our average Sunday morning worship attendance for 1994 was 48 people.

The Year of 1995

This year we were blessed with four new members, Sis. Kim Ratliff, Sis. Amanda Parks, Bro. Martin Drummond, and Sis. Rayna Wilson. The latter three were candidates for baptism. The Lord also took from us this year our dear Bro. Louis Hinds, who throughout the years provided us with much wisdom and knowledge.

Because of our Pastor's belief in tithing, he instituted a program where we would give 10% of its intake back to the community thus beginning HAMBC's 10% fund. The distribution of these funds is handled by the Benevolent Committee, but other items such as donations to other churches and guest speakers are also distributed from this fund.

Bro. Darrell Carr accepted his call into the ministry. He speaks as the Lord guides and directs him.

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As a part of our Outreach Ministry, we began our tape ministry. Cassette tapes of our services could be obtained from Sis. Kim Ratliff and given to the sick and shut-in or purchased for your own personal library. In late 1995 a tract ministry was started with Sis. Sandra Adams serving as chairperson.

Harrison Avenue's Outreach Ministry, with Sis. Roslyn Croft as the coordinator sponsored a Witnessing Seminar with very good attendance. Pastor Eugene Wright, Olive Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was the instructor. Our Mission President, Sis. Dorothy Clark and Outreach Coordinator, Sis. Roslyn Croft also kept us informed of the needs of Kirk Care. Sis. Dorothy Clark is a member of the Kirk Care Board of Directors and Sis. Roslyn Croft serves on the Executive Board.

We again participated in the Meacham Park Homecoming Parade in 1995. We also shared a booth with the Mosley/Clayton Family and used the moment to sign up candidates for our Vacation Bible School. This effort was lead by Sis. Rose Clark, who spearheaded our VBS, which took on new life this year and was a huge success. A pictorial review of our 1995 VBS was made.

God continued to bless Harrison Avenue. As the praises went up, his bountiful blessings came down. We thank God for an inspired leader. Our leader boldly states that he walks and talks with the Father. Pastor Jeffery G. Croft, celebrated his 3rd Anniversary as leader of this flock on July 9, 1995. Pastor Mack R. Lemons, Pilgrim Baptist Church, East St. Louis, Illinois was the speaker for this service.

As a part of the historical committee Sis. Rose Clark and Sis. Geneva Powell, in September, 1995 presented three wall plaques to serve as a memorial for all of our deceased members. The names listed were Rev. J.F. Bailey, Rev. Ben Christopher, Rev. Covington, Rev. E.D. Eady, Rev. Leon Hannah, Rev. Robert Johnson, Rev. Daniel Jones, Rev. S.W. Jones, Rev. Littles, Rev. W. Monroe, Rev. De Shields, Rev. J.T. Smith, Rev. Sykes, Rev. Samuel Tyler, Rev. C. L. Wells, Rev. Fred Wilson, Rev. and Mrs. David Willis, Earl Aitch, Lottie Aitch, Ella Bailey, Sudie Bibbs, Jessie Boon, Mary Boon, Nora Boon, , Leona Brannon, Carie Brock, America Bryant, Effie Bryant, Enoch Bryant, Josephine Caldwell, Alfrieda Cannon, Deacon John Carr, Deacon Samuel Clark, Samuel Clark Jr., Anna L. Cobb, Methel Coleman, Susie Dabney, Mary Drayton, Betty Dyess, Carolyn Fields, Charity Fields, Iris Frame, LaVerne Harris, Robert Hearon, Mr. & Mrs. Hervey, Louis Hinds, Bro. Hudgens, Eddie Jenkins, Myrtle Jenkins, Mary Johnson, Sue Johnson, Lucy Matthews, Maggie Mayo, Sis. McCalster, Hattie McClain, David McCrary, Earl McCrary, Earl McCrary Jr., Leona McCrary, Lula McCrary, Thearo Miller, Bette Ming, Hanna Morrow, Fannie Moss, Lawrence Nall, Viola Nall, Hershel Newton, Charlotte People, Betty Perry, Birdella Roberts, Agnes Rodgers, Mamie Ross, Stanton Smart, Fannie Spears, Sophia Spears, Emma Stanley, Sadie Sutfield, Georgia Turner, Molly Tyler, Leo Webber, Deacon and Mrs. Williams, Louise Bell Woods, Nan Woods, Ruby Yancy, and Mamie Zampier,

Our business meeting dates were changed from the Thursday before the second Sunday to the Thursday before the third Sunday. Our bank accounts were switched from United Missouri Bank to Commerce Bank.

Our theme has become "We've Come This Far By Faith - Catch On To The Vision - Faith!" Our Pastor had a vision of a new sanctuary. Sis. Wyoma Smart resigned from the Trustee Board. Our remaining Trustees were Bro. Oscar Harris, Sis. Rose Clark, Sis. Marcella Newton and Bro. Melvin White (also

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Treasurer). Sis. Dianne Nickerson resigned from the Baptismal Committee and the soon to be disbanded Land Acquisition Committee.

After receiving authority from the church body the Pastor, Land Acquisition Committee, and Trustees proceeded to purchase property, primarily located behind us, 24,314± square feet as the first step in our building project. The property was deeded to us on October 31, 1995 at a price of \$24,000. To God be the Glory!! A loan was taken with Commerce Bank in the amount of \$11,000 in order to establish credit with the bank. The other \$13,000 was taken from the building fund. On December 12, 1995, we purchased the property at 351 S. Harrison from St. Louis County for \$1.00. With this completed, the Land Acquisition Committee was disbanded and a new Building Committee was formed. The Building Committee consisted of Pastor Croft, Bro. Oscar Harris, Bro. John Carr, Bro. Alvin Miller, and Sis. Sharron White.

In November, the window on the north side of the dining room was broken and our church was burglarized. We were blessed that the only thing taken were the pennies collected by our youth on Sunday mornings.

Two memorial gifts were dedicated at our Church Anniversary Service. A new framed church covenant was placed in the sanctuary. This covenant was donated as a memorial gift from the family of Sis. LaVerne Harris who passed away in November of 1994 after serving as our WMU President, Willing Workers President and a member of the Benevolent Committee. A musical keyboard was donated in memory of Bro. David McCrary, who had grown up at Harrison Avenue, returned as our Organist in 1992 and reunited as a member in 1993.

The Year of 1996

We were blessed to see three of our members, Sis. Annette Bridges, Bro. Rodney Carr, and Bro. Robert Carr return to us rededicating their lives to the work of the Lord!

During the summer of 1996, God called the following faithful and dedicated members home to eternal rest: Sis. Mamie Briggs, Usher, President of Pastor's Aid for over 30 years, Historian and member since 1924 - 72 years; Sis. Alfreida Cannon, Choir Member, Church Clerk and member since 1924 - 72 years; Sis. Ruby Carr, Choir Member, Sunday School Superintendent, Benevolent Committee, member since 1959 - 37 years, and very active member of Berean District; Sis. Rose Clark, Trustee, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Youth and Sunbeam Choir Director; Choir Member, Vacation Bible School Coordinator, and Historical committee; and Bro. Charles Jackson who had worshipped with us and had expressed an interest in being united with our church. All of these, our beloved sisters and brother in Christ will be greatly missed by our family. Their names have been placed on our wall plaques.

The scholarship fund grew so that we were able to reach out beyond Harrison Avenue to help a student, Greg Drummond, with college expenses along with our own Sis. Tiffany White and Sis. Dena Roberts. We put a lot of emphasis on education here. Sis. Diana Harris organized a back-to-school breakfast for our youth. We enjoyed good food, issued school supplies and helpful information, then

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Bro. Alvin Miller gave a “pep” talk. He talked about choosing friends carefully, the importance of extra-curricular activities and most of all, doing the best you can to make good grades.

Vacation Bible School was held jointly with Unity Baptist Church. Staff was chosen from both church bodies. It was such a success that this partnership was tried again the next year at Harrison Avenue.

Several members including our Pastor are members of the Berean District Choir. Our Pastor also serves on the Berean House Board of Directors and is Assistant Recording Secretary of the District. We also faithfully support the Berean District Ushers and WMU. Monthly contributions are made to the Berean House where we also celebrated Christmas including singing carols, playing games and taking presents to the residents. Other community organizations we support are EduCare and Hope Unlimited.

Pastor Croft celebrated his 4th Anniversary on July 14th. A very successful musical service was held on Friday, July 12th. Rev. James Webb, Assistant Pastor of Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church, Alton, Illinois was the Sunday morning speaker and Pastor Wendell Bonner, First Baptist Church of Webster Groves along with his choir set our souls on fire in the afternoon.

Bro. Rodney Carr became our new Sunday School Superintendent. He has been very enthusiastic and brought many ideas to our Sunday School Department. Presently he is in training to become a Deacon. We prayed that God will strengthen and bless him in all of his endeavors.

A new kitchen committee was formed with Sis. Sandra Adams, Sis. Cathy Jones and Sis. Dorothy Clark as chairperson.

We continually prayed here at Harrison Avenue as we catch onto the “vision and our future.”

The Year of 1997

Our family grew both by baptism and Christian experience. New members are: by baptism-Bro. Kristofer Harris, Sis. Mary Drummond, Bro. Joshua Drummond, Sis. Kyla Croft, Bro. Rodney John Marshall Carr, by Christian experience-Sis. Sherry Cannon and Sis. Michelle Chapman. Sherry came in and immediately started working diligently. She became our Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. Several of our new members were youth. We prayed for all of our new members but especially for our youth. We prayed that those of us who are before them would set good examples for them to follow and help them in their Christian growth.

Through our research, this year we found information which reports that Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1880. Although early records were not kept, several historical documents, including the African American Heritage Guide of St. Louis; Discovering African Americans; and the History of Kirkwood reveal our early existence.

The history that we have in existence at the present time was prepared by the late Sis. Mamie Briggs and has been updated as the years went by. Therefore, we are trying to keep accurate records so that in years to come we will be able to look back and see our heritage.

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We continue our support of the Berean House, EduCare and Hope Unlimited. We added Kirk Care to our list of organizations we support financially. Our benevolent committee has had a very busy year reaching out to those who need our assistance both in our immediate community and beyond. We do indeed put the “missionary” part of our name in action.

Bro. Alvin Miller joined Bro. Rodney Carr in Deacon training.

A set of drums was purchased which greatly enhanced our choir’s music ministry during service. Bro. Charles Crenshaw became our master of the drums.

A three-day revival was held in April. That was enough time for our guest speakers, Rev. Rozel White, Olivet Missionary Baptist Church; Rev. Michael Lewis, New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church and Rev. Charles Williams, Pilgrim Baptist Church East St. Louis to “revive” us and they did an awesome job.

Sis. Sandra Adams continued to do a great job as chairperson of our tract ministry. We continued our outreach food distribution project on Saturday evenings with produce items from the Kirkwood Farmer’s Market. This took place from May to September at 5:30 p.m.

Another Sunday School class, the Nursery class, was added and was taught by Sis. Lillian Parker.

Our annual Fellowship Tea was held at the Kirkwood Community Center. Some of our youth portrayed some of the senior members; they did a beautiful job. Sis. Eady was recognized both by Harrison Avenue and her family. Our newly formed Youth Choir’s first performance, under the direction of Sis. Sandra Crenshaw and Sis. Karmen Parker, was also a success at the tea.

We again participated in the Meacham Park Homecoming Parade. This year we really got into the “parade” spirit by entering a float along with walkers who carried our banner. Since we were planning to build a new church, it seemed appropriate to have a float with a church on it. Bro. James Austin was our float coordinator. Several of our youth participated in the preparation of the float. We won a first place trophy from the Homecoming Committee for our entry. We also received a trophy for our support. Wearing our t-shirts that have our Pastor’s slogan, “The Lord is Blessing Us Right Now” on them, we passed out 300 tracts to bystanders. After the parade, the Sunday School Department sponsored a booth selling barbeque dinners. This was the beginning of our fundraising for our building fund. Some of the funds were also designated for a gift to our Pastor on his anniversary from the Sunday School Department. This venture was so successful, our Pastor asked the committee to plan one for the Kirkwood Green Tree Festival, September 6 and 7. This was also a success. The Ways & Means Committee was formed with Sis. Geneva Powell as chairperson. Many ideas were presented and implemented as time went on. Sis. Dorothy Clark’s idea of asking for a donation from friends as they signed a sheet presented to them was a great success also.

Our Pastor celebrated his 5th anniversary in July, 1997. Rev. Harold Coleman, St. Matthew’s C.M.E. Church brought the message in the morning service and Pastor Cornelius Osby, First Baptist Church of Robertson was the speaker in the afternoon accompanied by his male chorus.

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Our youth attended the Western Regional Youth Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They came back and reported what they had learned. All seemed to enjoy this trip and learned a lot that will help them be better young Christians. They attended a youth encampment in August at Camp Palestine in Chilhowie, Missouri. They also made reports from this trip. Both of these ventures were a great learning experience for them as they grew in their Christianity.

In August, our annual outing was held at Kirkwood Park. A good time was had by all who attended. Joint Vacation Bible School was held again with Unity Baptist Church. The average attendance was 80. The highest recorded total on one night was 104. This endeavor was truly blessed.

Our building committee did a great job with our building plans. Our vision is getting closer and closer to becoming reality. The Kirkwood Planning and Zoning Commission approved our submitted building plans. We also had to appear before the Board of Adjustment who allowed the needed adjustment and unanimously approved the plans also.

The speaker for our church anniversary was our new friend Pastor Cedric Jones, First Missionary Baptist Church of Valley Park.

Year in Review 1997 – 1998

This was the first year our history was presented as a year in review at our church anniversary service in September. It was prepared and presented by Sis. Geneva Powell. Going forward the history will provide activities beginning with the anniversary through to the next year.

Our Benevolent Committee continued reaching out to those who needed our assistance both in our immediate community and beyond. We continued support of the Berean House, Kirk Care, EduCare, Hope Unlimited, several Berean District Auxiliaries and Western Baptist Bible College. Club 44, Youth in Action, Missouri Special Olympics, Missouri Lupus Foundation and SPROG also received donations in the past year.

The Outreach Ministry, distributed “Welcome Bags” to our new neighbors at the newly opened Rose Hill House, one of Kirkwood’s Senior Citizen Housing facilities. We also continued the food distribution with produce from the Kirkwood Farmer’s Market, which is on Saturday evening from May through September. In October, 1997, we received an award for service rendered from Kirk Care at their banquet.

Instead of an afternoon service commemorating our church anniversary, a banquet was held at Grace Episcopal Church. Our chairpersons, Sis. Roslyn Croft and Sis. Marcella Newton really did a beautiful job with the food, decorations and program. A good time was had by all! The proceeds from this banquet enabled us to make the final payment on the land we were purchasing behind the present building. Our loan was paid in full on November 17, 1997. This was considerably ahead of schedule.

Storyteller, Loretta Washington, brought us a bit of African American heritage at our fellowship tea. Sis. Karmen Parker, chairperson, did a wonderful job putting the presentation together. Some of our

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children participated in the Black Children's Choir during the Black History presentation at the Kirkwood Historical Society.

Pastor Croft asked us to pray for the building of our new sanctuary. Prayer meetings were scheduled for the first Thursday night. After the first one, the Spirit led him to schedule meeting for every Thursday night followed by Bible study.

The Ways & Means Committee sponsored projects to help bring in additional funds for our building plans. Before Easter, Sis. Mabel Roberts presented us a project of selling cross pins made out of a nail, symbolizing the cross on Calvary. Sis. Diane Carr was the chairperson of a successful flea market. We received matching funds for donations put into the wishing well at the Sappington Farmer's Market. We participated in the Kirkwood Green Tree Festival, September 12th and 13th, with a food booth and a raffle which was a great success. A beautiful afghan was donated by Sis. Dorothy Clark for the raffle.

Once again we had a food booth at the Meacham Park Homecoming. This was sponsored jointly between the Sunday School and the Ways & Means Committee. Our float featured a Calvary scene with Bro. Kristofer Harris as Jesus hanging on the cross, with Bro. Rodney Carr and Bro. Kolin Bernard as the two thieves that hung with him. We received a trophy for our support.

Bro. Alvin Miller and Bro. Rodney Carr were ordained as Deacons. They joined our other Deacons, Bro. Oscar Harris and Bro. John Carr. They were assigned members to keep in contact with to further assist our Pastor in taking care of his flock.

Our Sunday School grew tremendously, both in members and in spirit. All classes grew stronger in the Word and gained knowledge and strength through our studies.

Many souls were added to our Harrisonian family in 1998 . Candidates for baptism were: Bro. Michael Aitch, Sis. Area Drummond, Sis. Jasmine Hicks, Sis. Sharon McMiller, along with her children Bro. Jevon, Bro. Myles, and Bro. Joshua Clayton, Sis. Lori Jenkins, Bro. Erell Johnson, Sis. Sajuana Evans, Bro. Dominic Johnson, Bro. Ronnell Thomas, Sis. Eureka Harris and Bro. Keith Ragland. Those coming under Christian experience included: Sis. Della Barnes, Sis. Diane Carr, Bro. Joseph Gordon, Sis. Tabitha Johnson, Sis. Ronda Smith, Sis. Roxane Wright and Sis. Dominique Wright. Bro. Jerry Inman rededicated his life and was baptized.

God saw fit to call some of our family to reap their heavenly reward. Sis. Dorothy Aitch, usher and member of our kitchen committee; Sis. Gladys Moss, Sunday School teacher and choir member, and Sis. Arquilla Eady, choir member. Each one remained faithful in their various positions until their health failed. One of our associate members, Bro. Harold Davis, was also called to his reward.

Our Pastor celebrated his 6th anniversary. Pastor Adrian Jones, Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church brought the message along with a musical message rendered by his choir.

Our Mission Youth attended the Western Regional Youth Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A teen youth group was started by Pastor and Sis. Croft as a breakfast meeting in their home for high

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schoolers. It was so successful; they began having evening meetings and outings. This was a chance for the youth to get together and talk about life issues among their peers.

Vacation Bible School was held jointly again with Unity Baptist Church at Unity.

An outing was held on the parking lot as a kick-off for the next phase of our building plans. We adopted a slogan: "We Pray, We Build". A pledge form was given to each member to make a five year commitment toward our building fund to assist us in borrowing money from a financial institution.

Deacon Oscar Harris donated a 120 x 150 parcel of land (349 McCullough) which was adjacent to the property purchased in 1995. Our land has been surveyed and placed in one parcel. We began removing the trees and brush.

Year in Review 1998 – 1999

We cleared the land in the rear and moved forward putting our vision into the reality of the new building rendering hanging on the wall. Many projects were implemented this past year to add monies to our building fund. We participated in the Kirkwood Jamboree for the first time this year and again in the Kirkwood Green Tree Festival for two days. The Meacham Park Homecoming has become an annual event. We had the picture of our future building on a truck in the parade. A booth was a joint venture again between the Sunday School and Ways & Means Committee. Other events were Olive Chapel's bazaar, bowling project, penny drive, ongoing sale of "Faces of Eternity" t-shirts, a turn-in of old cellular phones and proceeds from our annual Fellowship Tea were designated for the building fund. All these projects were very successful.

Sis. Diane Carr became Chairperson of Ways & Means Committee. Sis. Sharron White and Sis. Diana Harris assisted her.

Bro. Quincy Austin joined Deacon Oscar Harris and Deacon Alvin Miller as a group leader of some of the young men in the Mission Youth Group.

The Outreach Ministry distributed survival bags to Youth in Action and Berean House. On Saturday evenings, May through September, we still did the food distribution for Kirk Care with produce from Kirkwood Farmer's Market.

Some of our youth participated again in the Black Children's Choir during the Kirkwood Historical Society's Black History presentation.

At the close of our Family and Friends service, each person present was given a balloon to release into the air that had our church information in it.

Our three-day revival was a great success again. Our speakers were: Pastor Linden Bowie, Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis; Pastor Cedric Jones, First Missionary Baptist Church of Valley Park; and Bro. Donald Douglas of Family Worship Center of Granite City, Illinois.

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We became a member of the Kirkwood Chamber of Commerce.

Our Pastor celebrated his 7th anniversary. The Berean District Choir (of which he was a member) rendered a beautiful musical on Friday night. The Sunday morning speaker was Pastor Shawn Croft (brother of Pastor Croft), Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and Bartholomew Baptist Church of Newton, Mississippi. The afternoon speaker was Pastor Sammie Jones, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of St. Louis.

Several position/officer changes were made: Church Clerk, Sis. Diane Carr; Financial Secretary – Disbursements, Kathy Harris; Financial Secretary – Reporting, Karmen Parker; Announcing Clerk, Nancy Schoenbauer; H.A.Y. Coordinator, Kirsten Bolten; Kitchen Coordinator, Thelma and Robert Austin; and Groundskeeper, Jerry Inman.

Vacation Bible School was held jointly with Unity at Unity, with participation by First Missionary Baptist Church of Valley Park.

Several members held offices in the Berean District. Pastor Croft was the Assistant Recording Secretary for the District. He was also on the Board of Directors of Berean House Christian Care Center. Sis. Kathy Harris was Treasurer for the Congress of Christian Education for the past four years. She then became the Correspondence Secretary and was also Financial Secretary for the WMU Auxiliary. Bro. Ryan Crenshaw was Song Leader for the Young People's Department of the WMU until, July, 1999. Deacon Rodney Carr held the office of Third Vice President of the Congress of Christian Education for the past two years. In July 1999, Sis. Jasmine Harris became Recording Secretary of the Baptist Youth Fellowship under the Congress of Christian Education.

Sis. Geneva Powell replaced Sis. Dorothy Clark on the Kirk Care Board of Directors. Through our Benevolent Committee, we continued our community pledges, our support to the Berean District Auxiliaries and our assistance to those in need.

We were able to help several graduating students from our Anna L. Cobb/Mamie Ross Scholarship fund. They were: Quincy Austin, Bruce Burgett, Andrea Hall, Kenneth Schoenbauer and Richard Schoenbauer.

God called our dearly beloved former Pastor, Rev. James F. Cobb to his heavenly reward.

God blessed our family with several new members in 1999: by baptism-Bro. Ryan Crenshaw; by Christian experience- Sis. Kirsten Austin-Bolten, Sis. Karen Cannon, Bro. Thomas Hardy, Bro. Scotty Jones, Sis. Romona Miller, and Bro. Alfred Glen.

Year in Review 1999 – 2000

Our Church Anniversary was celebrated as an old-fashioned tent meeting out on the parking lot. We sent invitations to several who had supported us over the years in our building fund efforts. Rev.

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Cornell Phillips of St. Luke Memorial Missionary Baptist Church fed us with the Word of God after dinner.

Sis. Relda Owens-Mathews, Mercy Seat Missionary Baptist Church, gave us powerful words of thought for Women's Day. Sis. Kathy Harris was chairperson for the women and Deacon Alvin Miller for the men. After a successful annual Mission Day service, attendees enjoyed a very delightful, appetizing salad luncheon. Sis. Diane White did a beautiful job as narrator of our annual Christmas candlelight service, which included mass choir, youth choir and guest soloists.

Our Mission Youth, youth choir members and the Black History Children's Choir sang Christmas carols at the Manor Grove Nursing Home, bringing cheer to the residents there. Our Youth Choir members also participated in the Black History presentation of the Kirkwood Historical Society at Mudd's Grove.

There were position/officer changes this past year. Sis. Kathy Harris replaced Sis. Diane Carr as Church Clerk and Sis. Romona Miller was appointed as Financial Secretary – Reporting. Deacon Alvin Miller joined the Trustee Board.

Through our Outreach Ministry, we continued our food distribution of produce from the Kirkwood Farmer's Market for Kirk Care on Saturday evening May through September. This past year we were blessed again with the assistance of several members of Olive Chapel A.M.E. Church. Sis. Sandra Crenshaw was our market coordinator this year.

New member blessings in the year 2000 were Sis. Vickie Parham by baptism and Sis. Barbara Smallwood as a candidate for baptism.

Sis. Sharron White, Pastor Croft and several of our members accompanied our Mission Youth to Toledo, Ohio for the Youth Conference. It was reported that the conference was a very high spirited experience.

Our building plans reached construction phase, which meant we were preparing our ground for construction. The building committee introduced a "church-o-meter", which was in the vestibule. After each increment of \$2,000 was reached in our building funds through special donations, we filled in a portion in red. Also the building committee and the consultant decided that our project should be done in phases. Phase 1 will be the sanctuary with incomplete basement, Phase 2 completion of the basement, and Phase 3 the construction of the educational wing and offices.

In 2000, our Pastor Croft celebrated his 8th anniversary. Rev. Oliver Henderson, Lite of Jericho was the morning speaker and Pastor Merriman Boyd, Korninea Baptist Church was the speaker in the afternoon.

We were very proud of our graduates, Sis. Jasmine Harris, Bro. Keith Ragland, and Sis. Tavanna Croft. A token was presented to them by our Anna L. Cobb/Mamie Ross Scholarship Committee.

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God saw fit to call our dear "Uncle Joe Gordon" home for his reward. Although he was only with us a short time, he touched many lives.

Our Sunday School, led by our Superintendent Deacon Rodney Carr, participated again in the Meacham Park Homecoming with a food booth which was a joint effort with the Ways & Means Committee. We also had a food booth at the Kirkwood Jamboree, South County Fair and the Greentree Festival. A children's game booth was added this time at Greentree. Bro. Robert Austin has become our official "chef" at our food booths. Our Sunday School Superintendent thought that instead of interrupting the bond that developed between our students and teachers, we would try a different approach to our class structure. Instead of promotion, our Sunday School students were moved to a higher level of literature and remained with their same teacher. So far this has worked out great.

Harrison Avenue continued to be very active and supportive in the Berean District. We also continued to support EduCare, Western Baptist Bible College and the Berean House.

Vacation Bible School was held jointly with Unity Baptist Church at Unity. Steven Newton provided refreshments again this year. We did not have an outing this year.

A new sound system was installed which really enhances our services.

Year in Review 2000 – 2001

On our 120th Church Anniversary, our souls were blessed with a very inspiring message from Pastor Abraham Byrd, shepherd of the Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church of Alton, Illinois and a member of HAMBC. The choir rendered several soul stirring selections.

Deacon John Carr announced his call to the Ministry. He preached his first sermon and received his license on October 8, 2000. He brings the word each second Sunday and is a great help to our Pastor as needed.

Our Thanksgiving and Christmas Services continued to be spirit-filled and uplifting.

Our annual Christmas Candlelight Service was greatly enhanced by our narrator, Minister Sabrina West, New Beginning Ministries.

The Antioch Baptist Church Puppet Ministry blessed us with a superb performance at our Annual Fellowship Tea held at the American Legion Post on Clay Avenue in Kirkwood. This group of young people used puppets to praise God in gospel song. The Diamonds in the Rough made their debut at this service. We thank God for them praising God in dance. They are part of Harrison Avenue. Sis. Lydia Washington is the coordinator and Sis. Roslyn Croft is the sponsor.

The Youth enjoyed a very nice Easter egg hunt at the home of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Romona Miller. Minister Carl Hudson, Associate Minister of First Baptist Church of Chesterfield, brought us a wonderful message for Family and Friends Day.

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Dynamic speakers for our revival were: Minister Gregory Carr of First Baptist Church of Webster Groves; Pastor Cedric Jones, First Missionary Baptist Church of Valley Park; and Minister Quincy Hamilton, Eastern Star Baptist Church of St. Louis.

We again participated in the Meacham Park Homecoming parade and had a food booth as part of the homecoming activities.

Our Pastor celebrated his 9th anniversary as our spiritual leader. Rev. John Carr brought the word in the morning and Pastor Abraham Byrd and his choir from Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church of Alton, Illinois uplifted our souls in the afternoon.

The outing was held on the grounds in the rear of our sanctuary this year. Attendance was good and everyone had a great time with good food and games.

Congratulations to our graduates; they received a token from our Anna L. Cobb/Mamie Ross Scholarship Committee - Sis. Kelly Schoenbauer and Sis. Adrian Drummond.

Harrison Avenue and Unity Baptist Church shared Vacation Bible School for another year. There was staff from both Churches. Attendance and participation was excellent.

The Ways & Means Committee, led by Sis. Diane Carr, participated in several activities to benefit our building fund. A very successful flea market was held in October. We had a food booth and our youth worked very hard at the game booth at the Kirkwood Greentree Festival. We participated in the Famous Barr Charity Day on August 10th. Deacon Alvin Miller organized projects for the building fund. Two Shop 'til you Drop shopping trips to Osage Beach Mall and a golf tournament at Paradise Valley Golf Course.

Sis. Sherry Cannon assumed the office of President of the Ushers whose membership was increased by two new members - Sis. Kesha Simpson and Bro. Quincy Austin.

The Outreach Auxiliary, along with Olive Chapel A.M.E. Church, continued the food distribution for Kirk Care. Items distributed were produce from the Farmer's Market as well as paper items, personal product and baby items. Harrison Avenue was very active and financially supportive of the Berean District and its Auxiliaries. We continued to support EduCare, Hope Unlimited, Kirk Care and SPROG.

Our new members in 2001 were Sis. Mattie Burns, Sis. Shanesha Burns, Bro. Chester Johnson and Sis. LaKesha Simpson as a candidate for baptism.

Called from labor to reward were faithful and dedicated members: Sis. Frances Weber, chairperson of the Kitchen Committee. Sis Weber always made sure our dinners were in order; Deacon Joseph Moss, Choir Member, Deacon, Trustee and Sunday School teacher. We will always remember his many, soul stirring solos. Through the years, he shared much wisdom and knowledge; Former Member Sis. Renee Hall, choir member, WMU and HAY; and Associate Members, Bro. Michael Nickerson and Sis. Virginia Williams.

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Year in Review 2001-2002

Pastor Miki Merritt and the New Cote Brilliante Church of God rendered a very inspiring service for our Church Anniversary.

Our theme for our Annual Mission Day was “The Motivation for Stewardship”. Several speakers shared these motivators with us: Love – Sis. Alcurtis Franks, WMU President Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church; Witnessing – Pastor Croft, HAMBC; Cooperation – Sis. Anne Gordon, First Baptist Church of Meacham Park; and Pearls of Wisdom and Visitation – Sis. Esther Allen, President Berean District WMU, Greater Leonard M.B. Church. Service was followed by a delicious salad luncheon.

Our annual Christmas Candlelight service was the best ever. Our Music Director, Sis. Sharron White, continues to bring us great ideas to enhance this service. Our Mission Youth, along with Outreach, WMU and Diamonds in the Rough rendered a beautiful, inspiring service for the seniors at the Rose Hill House.

Our beloved Sis. Barbara Smallwood was called home in January, 2002. We will certainly miss her presence and her beautiful smile.

In spite of a terrible ice and snow storm, attendance was good at our annual Fellowship Tea. Our own Diamonds in the Rough performed and we were blessed to have CeCe, Tavy and Cuddles sing for us. These three young ladies were truly great.

The Ways & Means Committee held fundraisers. A fish fry and flea market was held in October. This was so successful another fish fry was held in June. Deacon Alvin Miller organized a second golf tournament and shopping trip to Osage Beach Mall. Our annual participation in the Greentree Festival was a huge success again. Our game booth was such a success we considered having two booths for games the next year.

Some of our youth participated in the Kirkwood Children’s Choir in the Kirkwood Historical Society’s presentation of a Musical Salute to Black History at Grace Episcopal Church during Black History Month. Congratulations to Bro. Kolin Bernard, Sis. Kyla Croft, Sis. Myia Croft, and Bro. Deanthony White for a job well done.

Diamonds in the Rough joined the Olive Chapel youth praise dancers in a youth celebration at the Rose Hill House.

Sis. Alice Wilson, President of the Galilee Missionary Baptist Church Usher and Health Unit brought us encouraging words at our Annual Usher Day Service. Our friends from First Missionary Baptist Church of Valley Park along with Pastor Cedric Jones shared songs and a wonderful inspiring message for our Annual Family and Friends Day.

Sis. Diane Carr joined the Sunday School teaching staff as teacher of the Primary Class. She is doing a great job. We held Sunday School Promotion Day on Sunday, September 8, 2002. Four students

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were promoted from the Junior Class to the Intermediate Class: Rodney John Marshall Carr, Kristofer Harris, Scotty Jones, and Reginald Sanders; to Juniors from Primary: Isaiah Burns, Gabriel Burns, Reba Hamilton.

Harrison Avenue participated again in the Meacham Park Homecoming Parade. Our Diamonds in the Rough performed on the stage following the parade.

Youth Sunday was re-instituted on the second Sunday each month. A men's chorus was formed and they bring us music on the 5th Sunday.

Bro. Robert Pace and Pastor Croft brightened our sanctuary with a "face lift" which not only brightened up the physical atmosphere but also lifted the spirit of our members. Our new pictorial of The Last Supper presented to us by Sis. Roxane Wright looked great hanging on our new white walls. Sis. Wright drew and painted this herself.

Joint Vacation Bible School was again held with Unity Baptist Church this year. Refreshments were provided again by Steven Newton. Minister Greg Carr gave a talk and Diamonds in the Rough performed. During the week, Pastor Chapple introduced the idea to the adult class that Harrison Avenue and Unity should become one church.

Congratulations to our graduate, Bro. Charles Crenshaw.

Our Kirk Care food distribution continued to be successful. Since the market began to open on Sunday, the pickup was changed to Sunday at 4:30 pm. Our youth took an active part in this activity this year.

Pastor Ralph Irving and the Greater Leonard Missionary Baptist Church choir helped us celebrate our Pastor's 10th Anniversary.

We withdrew our submission for approval to the Kirkwood Planning and Zoning Commission. When we feel we have a more comfortable amount in the bank and with the necessary loan amount, we will start over with our building project. The architect has completed our building plans. We still have some work to do before applying for a building permit. We are very proud of what has been done so far. Our motto: "We've Come This Far By Faith. Catch On To The Vision – Faith." We will not lose sight of our vision. We will keep our heads up, be prayerful, stay encouraged and increase our efforts. We will go forward with new and different ideas to reach our goal. We will keep the faith. A new Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church will rise!

Bro. Deanthony White became a Harrisonian by baptism in 2002. Sis. Joe Ann Gardner, Sis. Felicia McCurdy, Sis. Dorothy Ann Taylor, and Sis. Tiffany Brown joined us by Christian experience.

Year in Review 2002-2003

In the hearts and minds of Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church members, God is truly worthy to be praised. We have had another blessed year. We began with our 122nd Church Anniversary.

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Bro. James Webb, Assistant Pastor of Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church delivered a powerful message for us.

Our theme for the Annual WMU service was "Watch What You Say". Sis. Varry Henderson, Lite of Jericho Missionary Baptist Church really gave us food for thought on this subject. We then fed our bodies with a very good luncheon.

Sis. Diane White, Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church spoke to us about the "Marvelous, Victorious, Wondrous Women of God" in our Annual Women's Day Service. In the afternoon, Deacon William Foster, Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church spoke on "Inspiring Men to Serve the Lord."

Our church body joined Unity Baptist Church for their Harvest Homecoming Celebration. The Music Department under the direction of Sis. Sharron White presented a magnificent celebration of Christmas entitled "He is Awesome" as we kicked off the Christmas Season. The performance itself was also awesome. The male chorus continues to provide music for worship service on fifth Sundays. All men, young and old, participate and we are truly blessed on these Sundays.

Our youth continued to provide music for service each second Sunday morning followed by a fellowship time, which includes games, movies and lunch. Their meetings are held on alternate Wednesday evenings. They also participated in an overnight "lock-in" held here. The Diamonds in the Rough continue inspiring praise dances on numerous occasions. We are very proud of all of our youth and ask that you pray for their continued growth in their Christian life as well as for their mentors and leaders.

Our family was blessed with several new members during 2003, by baptism Sis. Reba Hamilton, Bro. Albert Parker, Sis. Myia Croft; by Christian experience, Bro. Carl Jones, Sis. Michelle Jones, and Sis. Tonesha Parker, Sis. Kaddie King, Bro. Jordan Jones.

As part of Kirkwood's 150th historical celebration, Harrison Avenue was recognized with a proclamation signed on February 2, 2003 from the City of Kirkwood in appreciation of prayers, support, counsel and encouragement provided the leaders of Kirkwood. A beautiful service was presented by the Music Departments of Harrison Avenue and Unity on Palm Sunday featuring soloists and musicians from both churches. Pastor Jeffery Croft served as narrator of the service.

Our youth are very talented and we see growth in all of them. A special service was rendered by our youth on Mother's Day. Each of our youth wrote a statement about what their life would be like without their mothers. Kyla Croft and Victoria Sanders incorporated their statements into a skit entitled "Without Our Mothers", a radio news broadcast and each of our youth portrayed a character.

On Sunday evenings from May to September our Outreach Ministry continued the distribution of produce from Kirkwood Farmer's Market plus paper and personal items along with members of Olive Chapel A.M.E. Church.

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Unity Baptist Church body joined us for our Family and Friends Day services. Bro. Edward Chapple brought the message. Vacation Bible School was held jointly with Unity for three days the first week in August. Unity served as the main location with some classes being held at Harrison Avenue.

We participated jointly with Unity Baptist Church in the Meacham Park Homecoming Parade. Our float depicted Jesus meeting the woman at the well. Jesus was portrayed by Deanthony White and Ariel Miller portrayed the woman. Names, addresses and service information of both churches was put on cards and bottles of water along with scripture from John 4. These were passed out to parade watchers along the parade route. These items were also given out at a game booth set up in Meacham Park. Kyla Croft was chosen Junior Miss Meacham Park Homecoming Queen.

In June, our Youth and other Harrisonians traveled to the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee and then on to Forest, Mississippi where Pastor Croft and the choir rendered service at Union Grove Baptist Church where his father, Rev. Willie Croft, had been the Pastor for 42 years before retiring.

Pastor Clifton Graham and choir from Canaan Galilee Missionary Baptist Church of Illinois were our special guests to help us celebrate our Pastor's 11th Anniversary. We asked that God continue to guide our shepherd as he began another year as our Pastor.

Congratulations to all of our graduates – Bro. Ryan Crenshaw and Bro. Michael Aitch from Kirkwood High School; Bro. Kristopher Harris from North Middle School; and Bro. Scotty Jones from Nipher Middle School.

We are also proud of our youth attending college: Bro. Charles Crenshaw, Talladega College – Talladega, Alabama; Sis. Kelly Schoenbauer, Crowder College – Joplin, Missouri; Bro. Quincy Austin and Bro. Kenneth Schoenbauer, St. Louis Community College at Meramec; Sis. Adrian Drummond, University of Missouri – Columbia, Missouri; and Bro. Michael Aitch, Missouri Baptist College.

Year in Review 2003-2004

God continued blessing our congregation. Are we still holding on? Yes, we are still keeping on, going about our Father's business. Because of God's grace and mercy, we had another blessed year. We began with our celebration of 123 years of service. Our theme was, "Past, Present and Future". Our speaker was Rev. Isadore Maney.

We moved along to our annual Mission Day service with Sis. Annie Tucker, Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist Church as our speaker, who fed us spiritually followed by a great lunch. Sis. Clarine Croft, our Pastor's mother, Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Chunky, Mississippi, brought us a dynamic message on "Women of God: Oh, How We Love Jesus" for our annual Women's Day service. Bro. Alvin Miller brought us "Get on the Bus". This message was inspired by his father who had told him on several occasions to get on the bus for various trips. He compared this to Jonah and Moses running from what God wanted them to do and told us "just get on the bus and do what God tells us to do.

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As always, we had a blessed Thanksgiving service. In December for the annual candlelight service, the mass choir, under the direction of Sis. Sharron White, said "Let's Just Praise the Lord" and praise Him we did. They get better and better year after year. There are several new members, some of them soloists, which really strengthens our music ministry. Sis. Tiffany Adkins works with our youth/young adult choir, who brings us music on 2nd Sundays and the youth enjoy a fellowship period after service. A special blessing is our men's choir who sing on 5th Sundays.

Our Praise Dancers, Diamonds in the Rough, are also growing in membership and spiritually with Sis. Roslyn Croft serving as the sponsor and Sis. Jasmine Harris as the coordinator.. They come to us on 2nd Sundays. This group was established in 2001. They performed at our annual Fellowship Tea, Creve Coeur Manor Senior Nursing Care Facility, Auxiliary Day here at Harrison Avenue and a Back to School Rally at People United for Christ Church for the City of St. Louis students.

Some of our youth and adult members traveled with Club 44 to the Festival of Lights at Our Lady of the Snow in Belleville, Illinois and downtown St. Louis. Our Deacons were in charge of a very enjoyable Watch Night Service on New Year's Eve.

As part of our building expansion plans, the church body voted to and purchased the property next door at 347 S. Harrison Avenue. We use the building as an annex for meetings and events. Youth Sunday School classes and youth fellowship are held there and the Fellowship tea was held there.

Several computers were acquired by Bro. Carl Jones and installed at the annex. Chairperson Diane Carr did a wonderful job organizing the annual Fellowship Tea and chose "Use Your Talents for the Lord" as the theme. The Tea was held in our annex. The Diamonds in the Rough and Spirited Hand Ministry performed. This has been an annual event since 1958 and is usually held in February.

A dynamic service, "The Last Sayings of Christ", was presented on Palm Sunday by the music department. It was a great success and well attended.

Bro. Carl Jones was appointed Sunday School Superintendent. He continues doing a great job. Sis. Tiffany Adkins was appointed Financial Secretary. We are blessed to have more young adults participating in the business of the church.

We participated again in the Meacham Park Homecoming Parade. We have been a part of this event since 1993. We had a float and along the way, some members passed out bottles of water labeled with our church information and a scripture.

In June, several members accompanied Pastor Croft to Newton, Mississippi to celebrate the pastoral anniversary of his brother Rev. Shawn Croft. Pastor Oliver Lemmie and his congregation from First Baptist Church of Meacham Park helped us honor our Pastor on his 12th Anniversary.

On Saturday, July 10th, we observed our first Auxiliary Day outing. It was set up to recruit members to participate in at least one segment of our church, as Pastor Croft says, "there is something here for everyone to do." Everyone had a good time and the outcome was successful.

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Instead of Vacation Bible School, we held a youth summit, coordinated by Superintendent Carl Jones. The theme was "Free Truth versus Buying a Lie." There were classes for all ages. Sis. Diane Carr taught the preschoolers, Bro. Alvin Miller the middle school group, Bro. Carl Jones the high school group, and Pastor Croft, the adults. Sis. Roslyn Croft taught the young mothers. The focus was on real life issues. According to Superintendent Jones, "It was very successful".

Our graduates this year were Sis. Lydia Washington and Bro. Melvin Petty, both from Webster Groves High School. Lydia attended Harris Stowe and Melvin attended St. Louis Community College at Meramec.

Our Mission Youth, under the leadership of Sis. Sharron White continued their growth. Our Tape Ministry was started up again. Bro. Quincy Austin worked with this. Tapes of the services were made available for \$2.00 or free if for a sick or shut-in.

Bro. Oscar Harris donated our new sound system and recording equipment, which really helped to enhance our services. Pastor and Sis. Croft purchased a van to be used for a mobile ministry as part of the Outreach Auxiliary.

HAMBC handed over the Kirk Care food distribution to Olive Chapel A.M.E. Church. Our Monday evening Bible study continued to grow in numbers and spiritually. New hymnals and Bibles were purchased and placed in the pews for use by the congregation.

Rev. John Carr, Associate Minister, brought us the Word on 2nd Sundays and whenever he could in the absence of our Pastor. He was very helpful to our Pastor.

Sis. Dorothy Clark and Sis. Marcella Newton traveled to the National Baptist Convention in New Orleans this year to vote for a new convention president.

Many members attended a tax seminar held jointly with Kirkwood Church of God. We were given a lot of valuable information that will help us be in compliance with tax laws.

We have dynamic puppet ministry coordinated by Bro. Carl and Sis. Michele Jones – Spirited Hands Puppet Ministry. Many of our youth and some outside youth participate in this ministry. They had a very full, exciting year. Some of their performances were Omega Psi Phi Conclave, Greater Leonard Missionary Baptist Church Vacation Bible School kickoff, Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church Auxiliary Day, HAMBC Youth Summit, annual Fellowship Tea, Creve Coeur Manor Senior Nursing Care Facility, Back to School Rally at First Baptist Church of Webster Groves, St. John's A.M.E. Christmas Service, Christmas Service for the Men and Women's Club of the Monsanto YMCA, Vacation Bible School at Memorial Baptist Church, Delmar Gardens of Creve Coeur, Valentine's Day at United Methodist Church of Gray Summit, Franklin County Community Involvement Association service at the Ramada Inn, 82nd Church Anniversary at Union Baptist Church of Chesterfield and the Back to School Rally at People United for Christ Church of City of St. Louis students. This is not only outreach but also mission as each performance has a spiritual message.

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Our Ways & Means Committee was dissolved as our Pastor decided we would not do any more fundraisers, but would rely on our tithes and offerings to continue our building plans. So our tithing box was implemented again.

New Harrisonians during 2004 were: by baptism – Sis. Leslie Harris, Sis. Lorraine Bracken, Sis. Ashley Harris, Sis. Javon Ramey, Sis. Raschelle Holden and Sis. Danielle Powell-Branch; by Christian experience –Bro. Larry Taylor, Sis. Doris Taylor, Sis. Jacquelyn Van Alstyne and Sis. Carla Jones. We thank God that they not only made the choice to be a part of God's family but chose Harrison Avenue as their home.

We are thankful for all of your prayers and support. As we began another year of service, our vision was still clear. We were led according to God's will and the wisdom to let Him be in control.

Year in Review – 2004 – 2005

Our Anniversary theme in 2004 was "Unless the Lord Build a House". We certainly were looking to the hills for our help to build our new sanctuary because our help comes from the Lord.

On Women's Day, we were asked "Christian Women, What Road Are You Traveling? Are You Headed In The Right Direction?" Sis. Donna Roddy, Edgemont Church of God, Edgemont, Illinois brought the message giving us the information we needed to continue on or get on the right road and go in the right direction. The Men's Day theme was "Inspiring Men to Serve the Lord." Elder Ferrell Roddy, Edgemont Church God delivered an inspiring message, "Here I Am Lord, Send Me".

In place of our annual Mission Day service, the mission auxiliary along with other HAMBC members participated in the walk for autism in support of our own, Joerell Walker. The members continue home visits and also visits to nursing homes. This auxiliary sponsored a special showing of the movie, "The Passion of the Christ."

A united Thanksgiving service with community churches was held at Douglas Memorial Church of God in Christ. Pastor Oliver Lemmie, First Baptist Church of Meacham Park was the speaker.

Our music ministry presented, "He is the Glory" for our annual candlelight Service. They did an outstanding job! The Mass Choir and Youth Choir participated in the Olive Chapel A.M.E. Church Christmas service. Our Youth Choir continues to render music on 2nd Sunday mornings followed by a fellowship period. They participated in the Celebration of Excellence held at the Kirkwood train station as part of Black History Month presentations of the Kirkwood Historical Society. The male chorus continues to provide the music for worship each 5th Sunday. All groups are growing in membership as well as spiritually. The mass choir purchased new grey and blue robes which complement our new sanctuary colors.

Watch Night Service, which occurs on New Year's Eve was a great success. The fellowship tea was held at Union Baptist Church in Chesterfield. A great time was had by all. Pastor Miguel Brinkley of Kirkwood Church of God brought a dynamic message for Family and Friends Day. Pastor Shawn Croft,

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Bartholomew Missionary Baptist Church and Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in Newton, Mississippi revived us during our annual revival.

We participated again in the Meacham Park Homecoming Parade which we have participated in since 1993. Our Spirited Hands Puppet Ministry was set up on a trailer and performed as the parade went along. We won the first place trophy for best float.

Our Pastor is one of the members of a new organization, ABC that was formed in the community. This is the Affiliation of Black Churches in Kirkwood. The committee was formed to unify and strengthen our community especially reaching out to our youth. A tent service was held sponsored by this group at the corner of Milwaukee and Attucks in Meacham Park. A mass community choir made up of members from each participating church filled the neighborhood with joyous spirited songs. The speakers were: Pastor January Keifer, Olive Chapel A.M.E. Church; Pastor Miguel Brinkley, Kirkwood Church of God; Pastor Harry Jones, Men & Women of Faith; Pastor Marvin Aldridge, St. Matthews C.M.E. Church; Minister Logan, First Baptist Church of Meacham Park; Sis. Maxine Jones, Douglas Memorial Church of God in Christ, and our Pastor Jeffery Croft, Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. The offering was given to Kirk Care, a local organization who helps those in need. They also sponsored a community event – a “3 on 3” basketball tournament.

Precious Pearls, a newly formed group here at Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church whose members are the young adult ladies aged 20 and up was started. They held their first meeting in April. They introduce and welcome our visitors each Sunday morning presenting them with a welcome bag. Sis. Juanita Jones was President and Sis. Roslyn Croft was the sponsor.

Members and friends enjoyed a great trip to Six Flags in June coordinated by Bro. Cornell Newburn. Bro. Newburn also coordinated a bowling outing at Tropicana Bowling Center. It was boys/men versus girls/women. I believe the male bowlers won, but the women bowlers were looking forward to redemption the next year. Bro. Newburn also coordinated/sponsored the male group Boys to Men. He was one of our new members but worked very hard before he became a member.

Pony rides were available for the youth during our annual outing. There was also great music, games and good food which included fish fried by our Pastor. Bro. Rodney Carr furnished the very delicious funnel cakes and other members contributed side dishes..

Pastor Calvin Jones, Union Baptist Church of St. Louis, helped us celebrate our Pastor's 13th anniversary. Sis. Croft presented Pastor Croft with a plaque with the names of our new members under his pastorate. The total at that time was 93. Praise God! Some are still here, others have left, but we thank God they made the choice to accept Christ in their lives here.

Eight (8) of our youth attended Kids Across America Camp (KAA) July 28th through August 4th in Golden, Missouri. KAA is a Christian Sports camp attended by youth from across the country. They had Bible study, prayer and fun activities but the focus was on Jesus Christ. Bro. Carl Jones accompanied the youth to camp.

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Our Spirited Hands Puppet Ministry had a very full year again. They participated at the fellowship tea, a back to school rally at Holy Temple in St. Louis, First Baptist Church of Webster Groves, youth day at Jerusalem Church of God in Christ in St. Louis, Meacham Park Homecoming Parade, Watch Night Service, Newton Memorial United Methodist Church of Booneville, Missouri, and at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church where gifts were presented to children of incarcerated mothers. They are to be commended for their work spreading the joy of the Lord to others.

Our Praise Dancers, Diamonds in the Rough participated in the Celebration of Excellence held at the Kirkwood train Station as part of Black History Month presentations of the Kirkwood Historical Society, St. Matthew's C.M.E. youth night, each 2nd Sunday here at Harrison Avenue, our Church Anniversary Service, Pastor's Anniversary, Revival and Women's Day Service.

Gone to receive their heavenly reward this year were: Pastor Abraham Byrd, Sis. Dorothy Byrd, and Bro. Charles Kennedy. All will be greatly missed, but remembered with love.

Joining our Harrison Avenue family during 2005 were: by Baptism – Sis. Juanita Jones, Sis. Shelia Johnson, Sis. Cheryl Cox and Bro. Corey Dixon; by Christian experience – Sis. Felicia Eberhardt, Sis. Dorothy R. Taylor, Sis. Vickey Cross, Bro. Anthony Cross, Sis. Leona Yancy, Bro. Cornell Newburn, Sis. Sheila Lowery, Bro. Jonathan Lowery, Sis. Wanda Seals. Our babies that were blessed – Trenay Adkins and Treasure Ruffin.

We had a clothing drive in January. The clothing was donated by members and given to anyone who came by in need of them. This was very successful and another one was being planned. Clothing was also collected and donations received for Hurricane Katrina victims. We coordinated this effort with New Cote Brilliante Church of God. Our youth participated in this activity by helping the adults sort, fold and load the trailer.

Renovations this year included the new carpet in the sanctuary, gray paint added to walls to enhance the new carpet, and the pews were reupholstered by Sis. Mabel Robert and Bro. Larry Taylor. The carpet in the rear was replaced with tile and new rear doors including a door to the parking lot were installed.

Year in Review 2005 – 2006

When the praises go up the blessings come down. God continued to bestow blessings on us as we serve the Lord and win souls for Christ.

The theme for our 125th Church Anniversary was "125 Years Praising the Lord and scripture: Psalms 34:1-3. Our speaker was Rev. M.R. Lemons, Pilgrim Baptist Church, East St. Louis, Illinois. Rev. Robert Johnson, First Baptist Church of Robertson, was the speaker for Men's Day and Sis. Sonya Stiles was the speaker for the Women's Day Service.

Our Annual Fellowship Tea was held at the annex. A history of the tea was read. This event has been on our yearly calendar since 1958. Bro. Quincy Austin performed Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's "I

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Have a Dream" speech. An auxiliary day was held to recruit members to participate in at least one segment of our Church. Monday night youth Bible study was established. Adult Bible study was already in place.

Sis. Romona Miller became our representative on the Kirk Care Board of Directors. Sis. Diane Carr was designated as purchasing agent for all necessary supplies to be purchased from Sam's. Sis. Jacquelyn Van Alstyne was the Sunday School teacher for the 8th grade through high school students. Bro. Carl Jones teaches the young adults. Bro. Cornell Newburn joined the usher board. Bro. Stan Holt not only became a member of Harrison Avenue by Christian experience but added another deacon to our roster.

The Benevolent Committee continues to assist where needed with florals, dinners, utility payments, donations to scholarships, ABC, Kids Across America and Kirk Care. The Spirited Hands Christian Puppet Ministry were very busy again. They had performances at St. Matthew's C.M.E. Church, Gray Summit Methodist Church, Compton Heights Baptist Church and St. Luke Memorial Missionary Baptist Church.

Pastor Eric Hayes, Old Community Missionary Baptist Church, along with his male chorus helped us celebrate family and friends day. Elder Harry Jones, Men and Women of Faith, was the speaker for our Pastor's 14th anniversary.

We applied for and received approval from the Internal Revenue Service for status of non-profit tax exemption 501(c)(3). We also requested and received approval for our 2005 taxes from the Board of Equalization.

Pastor and Sis. Croft participated in the Woman 2 Woman, Man 2 Man conference sponsored by the Edgemont Church of God. We received a "participation trophy" for being a part of the Meacham Park Homecoming parade. We have been a part of this celebration since 1993.

The Affiliation of Black Church (ABC) sponsored "Prayer in the Park". This organization and this particular project is about building Christians and building community. A "College Bound" program has been started on Tuesday evening to assist students in the college entrance process. This program was especially designed to help our young men to stay in school, be successful, graduate and move on to college. Sis. Kirsten Bolten and Bro. Carl Jones coordinate this program.

Our graduates in 2006 included Sis. Romona Miller from Webster University, Sis. Tiffany White-Adkins from Sanford Brown, Bro. Quincy Austin from Missouri College, Bro. Corey Dixon from Webster Groves High School, and Bro. Jordan Jones from Kirkwood High School.

Our business meetings were changed to quarterly in January, April, July and October on the 3rd Sunday after morning service.

Our new members for 2006 were Sis. Renee Peeples, Bro. Obie Peeples, Bro. Ross Peeples, Sis. Laquisha Robinson, Sis. Tammy Robinson, Sis. Jasmine Robinson, Sis. Marie Sykes, Sis. Kristen Frazier,

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and Sis. Keyonna Dale. On August 20, 2006 our Pastor baptized young men from the community who had accepted Christ while attending KAA - Dionte Bryant, Joe Jernigan, Anton Shelley, Anthony Smith, Gregory Hayes, Stephan Stovall, Lester Smith.

Year in Review 2006 - 2007

We thank God for 127 years we have been teaching JESUS. Many souls saved, minds changed, hearts fixed and lives turned around.

Our year began with a dynamic Church Anniversary. Rev. Merrimon Boyd, Associate Minister, Lite of Jericho Missionary Baptist Church was our speaker. Special recognition was given to our new members.

Sis. Diane White of Without Walls Christian Center spoke to us about "Women of Faith, Moving Through The Storm" for our Annual Women's Day Service. She gave us words of encouragement for help in dealing with the storms that occur in our lives. Elder Ferrell Roddy, Pastor of Edgemont Church of God encouraged us to have more Christian unity during the Men's Day Service.

"The Night That Christ Was Born" was presented by our dynamic mass choir under the direction of Sis. Sharron White at our annual candlelight service. What a wonderful reminder of why we celebrate Christmas! A very nice Watch Night Service was held on New Year's Eve, which included fun and worship, a time to be thankful for the blessings of the old year and a look forward to the new year.

The Annual Fellowship Tea was again a great success, both in service and attendance. This has been a part of our calendar since 1958. Elder Harry Jones, Men and Women of Faith Ministries, spoke to us about "Being a Friend at All Times" for Family and Friends Day. Our outing/auxiliary day was again well attended. There was great fun and food.

Rev. Felix Gibson, Associate Minister at Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was the speaker in the morning and Pastor Henry Crump and choir from Olivet Missionary Baptist Church was present in the afternoon as we celebrated our Pastor's 15th Anniversary.

The Precious Pearls sponsored a game night in May for the youth, which was very nice. They also sponsored a Silver and Gold event, which gave the youth and older members an opportunity to get to know each other better. A book club was started in August with six (6) participants attending the first meeting. Fun was had by all along with lively discussion. They met on the 3rd Friday of each month.

When praises go up, blessing come down! Sis. Sharron White and the music department presented the first of many praise and worship services. What a blessing we received! Bro. Cornell Newburn coordinated a trip with members and friends to the Sikeston Mall and Lambert's Restaurant. We also joined with St. Matthew's C. M.E. Church for an awesome trip to Eureka Springs, Arkansas to see the Passion Play and take the Holy Land Tour.

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Pastor and Sis. Croft were appointed assistants to Rev. Dr. Linden Bowie who is the Executive Secretary of the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Missouri.

The Diamonds in the Rough had a great year. Several exciting things happened. Imani Walker and Josephine Davis joined the group. Long white robes and gloves were purchased for the girls to dance in. They are accented beautifully by the gold robes that Imani and Josephine (the youngest members of the group) wear. The Lord blessed them with a choreographer, Miss Maury Byrd. She has helped develop new dances and enhance old ones. She was truly a blessing to the group.

Our Spirited Hands Christian Puppet Ministry continued their work. They had three Black History performances: Segal Elementary School, First Baptist Church of Kinloch and Ethel Hedgman Lyle Academy. They also had a bereavement performance at St. Matthew Catholic Church.

We have a very involved commitment to education here at HAMBC. We worked with a GED tutoring program on Tuesday evenings. We were also active in the College Bound program held at our annex. They had five students, two seniors and three juniors. Both seniors graduated from Kirkwood High School. One attended State Fair Junior College in Fulton, Missouri and the other attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. At this time, five students have come through College Bound and all were still enrolled at the colleges they started at and keeping up their grades.

Our graduates: Bro. Kristofer Harris and Bro. Scott Jones, both from Kirkwood High School. Kris attended St. Louis Community College at Meramec and Scott, Kentucky Western University.

Bro. Larry Taylor became a trustee and also was appointed as contact for facility services/property management.

Our new members by Christian experience for 2007 were Bro. Anthony Adkins Sr., Sis. Christy Dale, Sis. Lakeysha Shortridge. Candidates for baptism for 2007 were Sis. Jasmine Edwards and Sis. Kyrá Duncan

Our beloved James Austin was called home to receive his reward. He always had a sparkle in his eyes and a smile on his face. He willingly helped whenever needed. He will be greatly missed but remembered in love.

Sis. Marie Sykes became the teacher of the middle school aged students Sunday School class. A new young adult class was formed.

Pastor Croft started a "Bring Your Report Card Campaign". Our youth bring in their report cards, no matter what grades they made. He encourages them to improve any low grades either by working harder or seeking help. Students receive McDonald's gift certificates as a reward for bringing them in.

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Year in Review 2007-2008

Our year 2007-2008 began with a dynamic Church Anniversary. The theme was "The Church That's Built on the Rock". Pastor Duane Bedford, Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church, brought an inspiring message "Being Able to Worship in the Midst of It All", letting us know that when praises go up, blessings come down.

Rev. Clarence Duvall, Pastor Emeritus, Fifth Baptist Missionary Baptist Church, was the speaker for our annual Men's Day service and Sis. Geraldine Smotherson, Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, spoke in the afternoon Women's Day service on "Preparing the Next Generation" (Titus 2:3,4). Both speakers were very inspiring.

A very spiritual Thanksgiving service was held Thanksgiving Day. Many were in attendance to express their gratitude to God for so many blessings. Once again, we had a blessed, spiritual service for our candlelight service on the first Saturday in December. Our theme was "Praise and Worship at Christmas". Our guest musician was Sis. Demetria Johnson. Watch night service was held New Years Eve jointly with First Baptist Church of Webster Groves where Pastor Croft was one of the speakers.

Sis. Geneva Powell was the chairperson of our 50th annual fellowship tea held at the Kirkwood Community Center. She is one of a few members who were here when it began. The theme was "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine". Sis. Croft highlighted the program with an awesome video presentation of pictures from past tea events. It brought back lots of good memories.

The music department presented "The Seven Last Sayings of Christ" on Good Friday and Easter sunrise service was celebrated jointly with Old Community Baptist Church.

A very spiritual uplifting Family and Friends Day service was held as a tent service with our friends from Kirkwood United Methodist Church as our special guests. The theme was "Brothers and Sisters United in Christ". Highlights of the afternoon were music performed together by our mass choir and the Kirkwood United Methodist jubilee band and a duet "Oh Happy Day" by Pastor Croft and Pastor Bennett. Refreshments were served after the service and many new relationships were formed. It was a great ending for family and friends day!

As part of our outreach, Bro. Alvin Miller and our youth participated in the Meacham Park homecoming parade. We have included this event on our calendar for over 15 years.

A banquet was held at the Kirkwood Community Center to commemorate our pastor's 16th anniversary. Attendance, food and the program were great. Several ministers extended greetings and the anniversary message was brought to us by Pastor Darrell Johnson, Greater Progressive Missionary Baptist Church. The anniversary was concluded on Sunday morning with Minister Antonio Floyd asking us "What Does God Want to Deliver You From?" (but more personally giving us the challenge of asking ourselves ("What Does God Want to Deliver Me From?").

Bro. Obie Peoples joined our junior ushers. Sis. Gloria Nickerson was appointed as a trustee.

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Our praise dancers, Diamonds in the Rough, performed at the St. Matthew WMU banquet, the Berean District Youth Extravaganza, the Fellowship Tea and the pastor's anniversary banquet. They praise God in dance most second Sunday services. They used actions with a musical background to spread the good news and interpret songs through dance.

Our Precious Pearls continue extending a welcome to our visitors on Sunday morning. They did an awesome job serving as hostesses for the fellowship tea and also as chairpersons of family and friends day.

Three of our young men, Bro. Deanthony White, Bro. Obie Peebles and Bro. Ross Peebles participated in KAA this year, which is a Christian youth camp that has Bible study, prayer and fun but the focus is on Christ. They were accompanied by Bro. Carl Jones.

Pastor Croft and Bro. Carl Jones are board members of a newly formed organization here in Kirkwood - Community for Understanding and Healing (commonly referred to a CFUH). This organization was formed after the shooting at Kirkwood City Hall and conducts dialogue sessions open to the public to possibly help hasten the healing process of our community. Several of our members attended these sessions and found them to be helpful and realized that there really was a disconnect between the races in Kirkwood.

Several of our friends joined us on two shopping trips to the Sikeston Outlet Mall organized by Bro. Cornell Newburn. Of course, we had a great meal at Lamberts – home of the throwed rolls.

God saw fit to call our dear Sis. Dorine Miller to receive her heavenly reward. She was a member here for 63 years, since 1945 when she came to Kirkwood from Pittsburg, Texas. During this time, she served as WMU secretary and a faithful member of the choir. Her beautiful, melodious voice singing praises to God will be greatly missed by our Harrison Avenue family.

Our benevolent committee continues support of Kirk Care, a community food and financial assistance organization. We also support SPROG, a non-profit youth organization that provides educational, cultural and recreational activities for children 5-15 and job training and employment opportunities for community youth. We also support the Beck Foundation. Donations were made to the following organizations in memory of the victims of the shooting at Kirkwood City Hall: Juvenile Diabetes, Backstoppers, SPROG, Kirkwood Library, Thornton Scholarship Fund, Engineers Without Borders, Kirk Care and the Beck Foundation. Several donations were given to young people involved in special endeavors. Shop and Save gift cards are given to those in need of assistance with food.

Our family continued to grow in 2008. New members by Christian experience were Bro. Antonio Floyd, Sis. Ghia Duncan, Sis. Charlotte Holt, Bro. Joshua Willis. Bro. Tommy Floyd and Bro. Anthony Adkins Jr. (A.J.) became members by baptism.

Bro. Antonio Floyd announced his call to the ministry. He preached his first sermon and received his license on Sunday, May 20, 2008. He is a great help to our Pastor and brings us an inspiring message on 3rd Sunday morning. We prayed for him as he embarked on this journey and also pray for our Pastor as he guides him in his training.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

Our graduates this year: Sis. Carla Jones and Sis. Aria Drummond from Kirkwood High School and Bro. Rodney J.M. Carr from Webster Groves High School. Aria attended school in California, Carla attended St. Louis Community College at Meramec and Rodney attended Central Missouri State University. Congratulations to all and let's keep them in our prayers.

Pastor Croft and several members of our choir participated in the 7th annual Kirkwood Stock musical along with the jubilee band and singers from Kirkwood United Methodist Church. The service was dedicated in memory of our former mayor Mike Swoboda. This year the program was also a part of our community healing and bringing Christians here in Kirkwood closer together.

We are very proud to have a children's choir again and they, along with our youth choir continue to be a very important part of our music ministry, who are on the move ministering through song. This year we also began having Children's Church for our little ones. This effort is overseen by Sis. Ghia Duncan and Sis. Angela Walker.

Year in Review 2008 – 2009

Our 2008 Church Anniversary theme was "128 Years of Weathering the Storms". Minister Darian Jones, Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church brought the word to us. Women's Day 2008 was held during the morning service. Our theme was "Women – Growing Together in Christ." The Women's Day message was brought to us by Sis. Darlene Tobias, Greater Leonard Missionary Baptist Church. The afternoon Men's Day theme was "God's Men at Work." Pastor Eric Hayes, Old Community Baptist Church brought us the Men's Day message.

We have developed a very close relationship with Kirkwood Baptist Church. We joined them in October 2008 and October 2009 for their Mission Project – Hands on Kirkwood. In addition to those who helped with the community projects, our choir was featured in concert with the Community Gospel Choir on Saturday afternoon. Our Pastor was the speaker as we worshipped with them on Sunday morning.

Our review includes an awesome Candlelight Service. Our music department continues blessing us with a wonderful service to begin the Christmas Season. Sis. Demetria Johnson was our guest musician again. Our theme: "Praise and Worship II at Christmas Time." For the 2nd year, Watch Night service was held New Years Eve jointly with First Baptist Church of Webster Groves where Pastor Croft was one of the speakers.

After numerous repairs and assessment, it became apparent that our current edifice was in disrepair and it was essential that we build. In 2009, the Pastor and congregation began to again focus on efforts to build a new church structure.

In March, 2009 the City of Kirkwood Planning and Zoning unanimously approved our plans to tear down the existing structure and re-build in the same location. We accepted a building proposal for our project from JC Custom Homes.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

Pastor Jerry Hodges, Truelight Missionary Baptist Church delivered the message for our Pastor's 17th Anniversary in 2009.

Our graduates for 2009 were Sis. Kyla Croft and Sis. Cheryl Cox both of Webster Groves High School. Cheryl attended St. Louis Community College at Meramec and Kyla was off to Jackson State University in Jackson Mississippi.

Our new Harrisonians for 2009 by Christian experience were Bro. Matthew Causey, Sis. Avis Causey. Bro. Allen Eberhart Jr., Bro. Allen Eberhart Sr., Bro. Jeremy Jones, Sis. Marcella Taylor, Bro. Johnny Thomas; by baptism Sis. Amber Hamilton, Sis. Diamond Hamilton, Sis. Imani Walker, and Bro. Lamar Moye. Sis. Nicole White rededicated her life to Christ and came back to us.

We have two new ushers, Sis. Avis Causey and Sis. Myia Croft. Sis. Renee Peebles remains as President and Sis. Causey is Vice President.

Year in Review 2009 - 2010

Our programs and worship services include Sunday School, Sunday Worship, Monday Bible study, Wednesday Youth Meeting, Saturday Bible study, Choir, Youth Choir, Ushers, Benevolent Committee, Boys-to-Men Group, Women's Mission Group and Precious Pearls.

In addition to our programs and services, our Pastor and members are an active and viable part of the Kirkwood community. Pastor Croft serves on the Board for Community for Understanding and Hope (formerly Community for Understanding and Healing), the Shepherd's Center, and participates in the Kirkwood Chaplain's Program and Kirkwood Ministerial Alliance.

We have been active with the Berean Missionary Baptist District Association and Missionary Baptist State Convention of Missouri. Sis. Kathy Harris serves as Executive Secretary for the State Congress of Christian Education and Sis. Roslyn Croft serves as the J.E. Fiddmont Scholarship Chairperson for the Berean District Ministers Wives and Widows. Pastor and Sister Croft continue to served as Assistant Secretary to Rev. Linden Bowie.

Our Benevolent contributions include donations to Western Bible College, Club 44, Beck Foundation, Berean District Youth, plants and food for funerals, flowers for sick, assistance with utility payments, scholarship funds, guest speakers and other churches. We were also able to assist Sis. Claudia Fowler and Sis. Brenda Elliott-Lee (both from Berean District and State of Missouri WMU) with funds for their mission trip to Africa. Several members supported the Kirkwood Ministerial Alliance and helped to prepare meals for Haiti at Glendale Presbyterian Church. This aid was needed after a devastating earthquake there.

For the 3rd year our Pastor was one of the speakers thus we celebrated our Watch Night service New Years Eve jointly in a community service held at First Baptist Church of Webster Groves.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

In January, 2010, Pastor Croft preached at the Kirkwood Ministerial Alliance Service of Prayer for Unity held at Kirkwood Baptist Church. Minister Antonio Floyd was also a participant. A number of our members supported Sis. Croft at the Berean District Ministers' Wives and Widows Annual Prayer Breakfast in March, 2010. This is to benefit the J.E. Fiddmont Scholarship. Sis. Croft is the scholarship chairperson, thus chairman of the event.

Our faithful member, Sis. Mabel Roberts was called to receive her heavenly reward in 2010. She served as an Usher, Chairman of the Kitchen Committee, regularly attended Bible study, and was in charge of decorations for our events and services.

Our new Harrisonians for 2010 by Christian experience were Dana Hill and Theresa Fuller; by baptism Arrione Taylor (Desi) and Tonye Fuller. Jonathan Lowery rededicated his life to Christ. Our Deacons-in-Training are Bro. Johnny Thomas, Bro. Jeremy Jones and Bro. Carl Jones, Jr.

Through his participation in the Kirkwood Ministerial Alliance, our Pastor has also become friends with Pastor Ed Plant of Geyer Road Baptist Church. Pastor Croft was the speaker for one of their evening services. We are appreciative to Pastor Plant and the members of Geyer Road for sharing their facilities with us for multiple baptisms, funeral service, and our 2010 Candlelight Service.

We continue to worship with Kirkwood Baptist. In June, 2010, our Pastor preached at their morning worship and in August Harrison Avenue held service at Kirkwood Baptist with Kirkwood Baptist's ministry intern Robert Jackson bringing the message.

Our Trustee Board worked tirelessly to secure financing for our building project. The tough downturn in the nation's economy made this a difficult task. On March 7, 2010, we temporarily moved our Sunday morning worship to the Rose Hill House, a senior living facility located just a few blocks away. This move was made at the recommendation of the Trustees. Our office was moved into the annex. Bible study and auxiliary meetings are held in the annex.

Romans 8:25 reads – "But we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." Like some other churches there have been times we have had doubt and discouragement but a still small voice said, "take courage – the Lord will make a way somehow". And so He has. Proverbs 3:5-6 reads, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path."

In June, 2010 our Pastor presented a funding proposal request to Eagle Bank, a locally owned bank. We are thankful to our friends at Kirkwood Baptist Church for connecting our Pastor with this institution. As God would have it, our initial contact at Eagle Bank was Mr. Jim Hall who had been the President of Pioneer Bank and worked with us when we purchased the annex. The Lord blessed him and his colleagues to again find favor with HAMBC.

Rev. Curtis Laster, our Pastor's son-in-law from Chunky, Mississippi, brought the message for our Pastor's 18th Anniversary. A cake and punch reception was held immediately following morning worship at the Rose Hill House.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

On September 12, 2010, a meeting of the membership was held after service. It was announced that Eagle Bank had approved our loan. It was unanimously approved for our trustees to move forward with the loan and the building of our new church.

We thank God for His goodness down through the years – allowing us to stand for 130 years – saving souls, changing minds, fixing hearts and turning lives around and definitely teaching Jesus! On September 26, 2010, we celebrated our 130th Anniversary. It was celebrated as a casual Sunday and Bro. Cornell Newburn and Minister Floyd coordinated an afternoon of food and fellowship at the annex. That same evening our choir participated in Kirkwood United Methodist's Kirkwood Stock, a musical event held this time on their church parking lot.

On October 1, 2010, our Trustees, Sis. Gloria Nickerson (Chairperson), Bro. Rodney Carr, Bro. Oscar Harris, Bro. Carl Jones, Bro. Cornell Newburn, and Bro. Melvin White closed on the loan for our new building. On Tuesday afternoon, October 5, 2010 our old building was torn down. Many members, family, friends and community members joined us. This historic event in our history was featured on the front page of the October 22, 2010 issue of the Webster-Kirkwood Times.

Many are saddened by the thought of our building being torn down but remember the building is not the church – the building houses the church body. The ground breaking for our building was held that Friday, October 8, 2010. The event featured refreshments, members wearing yellow hard hats with the slogan, "We Pray, We Build", words from our Pastor, prayer by Pastor Scott Stearman, Kirkwood Baptist and the turning over of dirt by our Pastor, Dawn Videmschek of JC Custom Homes, Bro. Anthony Adkins Jr. (representing the young members), and Sis. Wyoma Smart (representing our long-time members). The event concluded with the releasing of balloons.

Isaiah 40:31 reads, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount upon wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint." We waited and trusted and prayed! The warriors who were strong building blocks for the foundation of this church are looking down on us to continue on as a beacon of light shining brightly to lead those who are lost and seeking the right path to God. Prayerfully as we enter the building of a new sanctuary we will have renewed strength and grow as committed Christians and Disciples for Christ.

In preparation for the dedication services, our Pastor formed a committee of all auxiliary heads to plan the celebration of the completion of our new building. The first meeting was held, November 7, 2010. The committee included the Sis. Kathy Harris (Mission), Sis. Renee Peoples (Ushers), Sis. Jackie Van Alstyne (Precious Pearls), Sis. Roslyn Croft (Benevolent), Sis. Geneva Powell (History Committee), Bro. Carl Jones (Sunday School), Sis. Joe Ann Gardner (Pastor's Aid) and Sis. Sharron White (Music and Youth).

Beginning February, 2011 – Our Super Sunday

OUR NEW BUILDING

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

On Sunday morning, February 6, 2011, our Pastor led 130 of our members and friends as we marched into our new building singing “We’ve Come This Far By Faith”. That morning, our scripture was what we used the entire year, Psalms 100 – specifically verse 4 – Enter Into His Gates with Thanksgiving and Into His Courts with Praise and my subject was Great Is Our God.

Our Dedication Committee made up of Auxiliary heads did a wonderful job pulling together our three days of dedication services. The afternoon of February 6th, we were joined by over 200 guests. We were blessed to have Dr. Wendell Bonner of First Baptist Church of Webster Groves as our speaker. He brought the word from 2 Chronicles 7:12-14 and asked us, “If we were down with O.P.P. – Obedience, Praise and Power?” On Monday evening with 113 in attendance, we were joined by Pastor Ed Plant of Geyer Road Baptist Church who gave special remarks and Pastor Scott Stearman of Kirkwood Baptist talked about “An Uncontainable God” using Acts Chapter 8. On our final night of dedication we had 128 in attendance, our Berean District Family, including all District Auxiliary Presidents came and supported us. Our Moderator, Dr. Carlton Caldwell preached to us from Nehemiah 4:6 and talked to us about “Having a Mind to do the Lord’s Work.

Our Building Demolition was a front page story of The Webster-Kirkwood Times and although not front page, they featured our dedication. In addition, in April they published a letter written on our behalf by Rodney J.M. Carr thanking the community for their support of our Church.

We thank God for blessing us with our new building. Our kitchen is dedicated in Memory of Sis. Mabel Roberts who served as Chairman of our Kitchen Committee until God called her. Our piano was dedicated in the honor of Sis. Alice Davis. She was able to witness our building demolition, but God called her home before she was able to worship in our new sanctuary. We now have a beautiful sanctuary, fellowship area, media area upstairs, Pastor’s study, classrooms, library area, and five bathrooms in our Church.

Work soon began to beautify our grounds and we’ve continued to work on getting our Annex in good shape both upstairs and down. We made one large room upstairs in the annex and downstairs we’ve added drain tile, walls and shelving. These changes now allow us to all sit down and fellowship together in the same space.

We have made a commitment to share what God has given us with our community.

Bro. Jeremy Jones has been able to bless youngsters in our community by providing weekly tutoring sessions.

Our Pastor, Sis. Mattie McCrary, and Sis. Geneva Powell have been working hard with the Shepherd’s Center of Kirkwood/Webster. Through their efforts, our facility is the home of the Shepherd’s Center – Harrison Avenue Adventures in Learning program. This is a ministry for seniors in our community.

OUR DISCIPLESHIP

We are thankful to have been able to hold our regular annual events and even added some new activities to our calendar.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

We began S.E.E.D.S. Bible Study (Spiritual Elements Essential for Discipleship) and have completed Series One – Discipleship and new Life and Series Two – Discipleship and Life Choices. We are now in Series Three – Discipleship and Family Life. It is a study series that helps us to do self examination and deals with life's everyday issues. If you have any questions about it, I suggest you speak to one of our regular attendees. If you haven't attended, we invite you to join us on Monday evening from 6 PM to 7 PM.

On March 20th, we had a potluck fellowship in the annex. In May and August, our ladies had "lunch and a movie" outings. Sis. Jackie VanAlstyne was the chairperson for our Family and Friends Day May 22, 2011. The theme was Forgiven and Forgiving – Mathew 6:15. The speaker was Minister Donnell Alexander of Trinity Mt. Carmel and special music was provided by Rev. Bartlett Wilkerson and Baptist Church of the Holy Communion.

The Pastor's Aid Committee put together an excellent celebration for the Pastor's 19th Anniversary. Our new generation of Diamonds in the Rough, Imani, Mavis and Treasure made their debut. Minister Floyd spoke in the morning and Pastor Kory Ellis and the Nazarene Baptist Church family were our special guests for the afternoon.

The Sunday School held Vacation Bible School on July 21st – July 23rd. The next week, many of our young people joined Bro. Carl Jones and Sis. Angela Walker at Kids Across America.

On the 4th Sunday in September, Bro. Newburn and Min. Floyd put together our Church outing. It was a day of food and fun on our grounds immediately following morning worship.

Our annual Men and Women's day returned on October 23rd with the women, chaired by Jasmine Harris in the morning and Men, chaired by Charles Crenshaw in the afternoon. The Women's theme was "Encouraging Women Through Wisdom" – Proverbs 4:9 and Sis. Relda Owens-Mathews, member of Mercy Seat Baptist Church and newly elected President of the State Congress of Christian Education was our speaker. Our ladies all wore fine crowns upon their heads as they adorned a beautiful array of hats.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

The men's theme was "Reward – Award." Awards were presented to our Pastor, Melvin White, Deacon Oscar Harris and Rev. Kory Ellis. Rev. Nick Grice and the choir of Mt. Hebron Baptist Church were our guest. Using Psalm 38:23-24, he spoke on "A Good Man is Hard to Find" and surprised us all with his Superman analogy.

The first Saturday in December, our Music Ministry presented the Praise Experience II a musical concert for our Annual Candlelight Service. Bro. Lamar Fitzgerald was the guest pianist.

The best blessing of all are those who have made a commitment to Christ. We've had eight (8) baptisms, Rashaan Thomas, Minister Antonio Floyd, Treasure Ruffin, Mavis Causey, Christopher Causey, Kamaria Duncan, Keisha Thomas and William Thomas. Two who rededicated their lives, Charles Crenshaw and Marie Sykes; by Christian Experience, Estelle Oliver and Linda Thomas Johnson; and returning member Patsy Green.

The Year 2012

Our Theme for the year was the Fellowship of the Believers taken from the scripture Acts 2:42-47. On Sunday morning, February 5, 2012, we celebrated our 2nd Super Sunday. We were celebrating one year in our new building. Pastor Croft spoke to us from Psalms 105 – Oh Give Thanks Unto the Lord and told us to "Tell Somebody".

Our theme for the Church Anniversary service that afternoon was When We All Get to Heaven. We were joined by Rev. Linden Bowie and Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist Church. Sis. Croft was the program chairperson and Co-Chairs Charles Crenshaw and Avis Causey presented our year in review. Bro. Crenshaw presented The Past Year – Our New Building and Sis. Causey presented The Past Year – Our Discipleship.

Also in February, Our Women's Mission Auxiliary put together our Annual Fellowship Tea. The event was held at the Webster Hills United Methodist Church Family Life Center which is also home to the Shepherd's Center. Magician Gary Walker was our special guest.

In March, several of our members took advantage of an opportunity for additional Christian Education by attending the Berean District Leadership Training School. The school was held March 19th through 23rd at West Side Baptist Church.

Sis. Jackie VanAlstyne was the chairperson for our Family and Friends Day May 20, 2012. The theme was "Family and Friends Together on One Accord". The scripture for the day was Matthew 18:19 - 20. Our guests were Pastor Byron Crawford and the Good News Baptist Church Family.

In June, we celebrated one year in our newest location - our website. Thanks to our Media Ministry, you can find us at www.hambc.org, and on facebook at Harrison Ave. M.B. Church. You can even email us at hambc@att.net.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

Kyla and Myia Croft worked with Sis. Joe Ann Gardner and Sis. Mattie McCrary (our Pastor's Aid Committee) to put together an excellent celebration weekend for our Pastor's 20th Anniversary. On Friday evening, the Choir, "As One" from Chunky Mississippi did a concert. The choir is led by Pastor Croft's sister and many choir members are from his family. On Saturday, our kitchen committee organized a great fish fry for us and our guest from Mississippi. On Sunday morning, Minister Young brought the message. On Sunday afternoon, our Pastor's brother, Rev. Shawn Croft of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in Newton Mississippi was our guest speaker and he spoke to us about being "Unstoppable".

On July 22nd, the Lord blessed with an addition to our Ministry Team as Ryan Crenshaw announced his call to the Ministry. He preached his first sermon and received his Preacher's License on August 19th. His subject was "If You Take It In, It Will Do You Good" and he used the scriptures 1 John 2:24-25 and Proverbs 22:6. Besides our members, many family and friends came to support him. Ministers coming to give Minister Crenshaw their support were Min. Michael Byrd of Empowerment Temple, Min. Glenn Hayes of Old Community Baptist Church, Rev. Mack R. Lemons (Ryan's great Uncle), Min. Edward Spiller of Unity Baptist Church, Min. Ethel Stewart (Ryan's great Aunt), and of course our own Pastor Croft, Min. Antonio Floyd and Min. John Young II. Our Associate Ministers preach on the 3rd and 5th Sundays.

On September 22nd, Bro. Newburn and Min. Floyd put together our Church outing. It was a day of food and fun at the annex. The following day on the 23rd, our Ushers held their first Annual Day in a number of years. Usher President Sis. Hill and the Ushers selected the theme "My God is Awesome". Minister Edward Spiller spoke to us on "Serving the Lord with Gladness". Words of encouragement for our Ushers were also given by Berean District Usher President Tyrone Jones and State Convention Supervisor Dorothy Young.

Bro. Oscar Harris and Sis. Jasmine Harris were our chairman for Men and Women's day which held on October 28th. The men had the morning with our Male Chorus singing and Minister Crenshaw bringing the message. The Women's theme was "Women of Faith" and Sis. Jo Crump of Olivet Missionary Baptist Church was the speaker.

The first Saturday in December, our Music Ministry presented "Go Tell It On The Mountain", a musical concert for our Annual Candlelight Service. Sis. Karen Mosley and Sis. Demetria Johnson were the guest pianist.

On Sunday, December 16th, we held our Annual Business Meeting with auxiliaries reporting their 2012 activities and plans for 2013. In addition, we reviewed our 2012 and adopted our 2013 budget.

On December 30th, Bro. Carl Jones and Bro. Johnny Thomas were installed as Deacons of Harrison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. In addition, Deacon Oscar Harris was recognized as Deacon Emeritus and Deacon Rodney Carr received a Certificate of Appreciation. In Pastor Croft's absence, our Associate Ministers stepped in for this joyous occasion for our congregation.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

We continued our commitment to our community. The Shepherd's Center – Harrison Avenue Adventures in Learning program celebrated its first anniversary. Sis. Powell was named Volunteer of the Year by the Shepherd's Center for her work with this ministry. In addition to Adventures in Learning, several informational sessions were presented to the community by the Alzheimer's Association.

Our Church was again a partner in Hands On Kirkwood – a day of Mission work in collaboration with many Kirkwood Churches including Kirkwood Baptist, St. Louis Community College and volunteers from the community. Service projects included the Green Tree Parade, Visits to Senior Residence buildings, Winter Clothing Collection and Give Away, Clean up at Father Dickson Cemetery, Door to Door Collections, Activity day at Kirkwood House.

Our Boys to Men group participated in the building of the National Baptist Convention Habitat for Humanity House. They also volunteered for the Lindbergh School District's Sunday Night Lights, an event to help children with cancer.

We are thankful to bless our community through our giving. We made donations to the Alzheimer's Association, Church Women United, Falls Creek Church Camp, Kirk Care, Kirkwood High School Karla Parker Scholarship, The Shepherd's Center, Western Baptist Bible College, Youth In Action and blessed numerous churches and families throughout the year and for Christmas.

We were blessed with the addition of a new ministry within our Church. Sis. Sandy Adams, Sis. Diane Carr and Sis. Patsy Green make up our new Nurses Unit. They are available to help anyone requiring medical attention. On the 2nd Sunday of each month, they provide blood pressure screenings.

Our Bible Study meets on Monday evenings. We continued the S.E.E.D.S. Bible Study (Spiritual Elements Essential for Discipleship). In addition to completing Series One – Discipleship and new Life and Series Two – Discipleship and Life Choices in 2011, during 2012, we completed Series Three – Discipleship and Family Life, Series Four – Discipleship and Spiritual Gifts, and Series Five – Discipleship and Church Life. . It is a study series that helps us to do self examination and deals with life's everyday issues. If you have any questions about it, I suggest you speak to one of our regular attendees.

If you haven't attended, I invite you to join us on Monday evening at our new time from 7 to 8 PM.

Beginning the 1st Sunday in January, changes were made to our Sunday morning routine. Our Kitchen Committee began providing breakfast at 9 AM and Sunday School now begins at 9:45 AM. Minister Young became the Sunday School Superintendent. Our Sunday School has classes for all ages. All members are encouraged to come and study God's Word.

We are thankful that God has blessed us to be a beacon of light in our Community for 133 years. It is our hope that not just on our Super Sunday, but each and every day, we can continue to prove just how Awesome our God is!

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

The Year 2013

Our Theme for the year was The Body taken from the scripture 1 Corinthians 12.

Through the efforts of our kitchen committee, our Sunday School added a fellowship breakfast to our Sunday morning schedule. The meal was a blessing to Sunday School attendees each Sunday morning at 9 AM. Our men would lend a hand and coordinate the breakfast on the 4th Sunday of each month. Sunday School would begin at 9:45 with classes for all ages.

On Sunday morning, February 3, 2013, we celebrated our 133rd Church Anniversary and 3rd Super Sunday celebrating two years in our new building. Our theme was "Our God is Awesome" and Pastor Croft brought the message. Bro. Carnell Newburn and Sis. Roslyn Croft were the co-chairs. Sis. Tiffany Adkins presented our year 2012 in review.

Minister John Young was the coordinator for our Black History Program which was held on February 24th. Minister Ryan Crenshaw was the Master of Ceremonies and introduced us to each of our special guests. Each one was actually our own members of all ages dressed up and portraying various characters from history.

On March 2nd, our 55th Annual Fellowship Tea was held at Kirkwood Baptist Church. The theme was "Using Your Gifts To Serve" and Sis. Geneva Powell, Sis. Sandra Adams and Sis. Kathleen Miller were the co-chairs.

Sis. Nicole White was the chairperson for our Family and Friends Day on May 19th. The theme was "Family and Friends That Worship and Pray Together, Stay Together". The scripture for the day was James 5:16. Our musical guests were Sis. Barbara Wolfe and Friends from Galilee Central Missionary Baptist Church of East St. Louis and our Speaker was Elder Michael Byrd of Empowerment Christian Church of Hanley Hills.

In June, we said goodbye to one of the members of our Ministerial Team - Minister John Young II. We wished him well as he got married and moved away. We are blessed to hear the word from our Associate Minister Antonio Floyd on 3rd Sundays and Minister Ryan Crenshaw on 5th Sundays.

Sis. Jackie Van Alstyne and Deacon Johnny Thomas put together the celebration for our Pastor's 21st Anniversary on July 14th. The theme was "On the Battlefield for the Lord" and the scripture was Ephesians 6:11. On Sunday morning, Minister Floyd brought the message. On Sunday afternoon, Rev. Gary Anderson, recently retired Pastor of Mount Esther Missionary Baptist Church and the Mount Esther family were our guests. The choir did a musical dedication to the Pastor, the Youth presented 21 Things about him and a special tribute to our Pastor was done by Bro. Anthony Adkins. Sis. Tiffany Adkins also did a tribute to our Pastor's Wife.

On September 15th, our Ushers celebrated their Annual Day. Rev. Curtis Shelton and the Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church Family were our guests.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

On Sunday, September 29th, Bro. Newburn put together our Church outing. The day was deemed a “Casual Sunday”. It was a day of food and fun on our Church grounds immediately following morning worship.

On November 17th, a group of us went on an outing to Latta-Watta Creek in Fairview Heights for dinner. While we were in worship, a storm came through. We witnessed the remnants of it and damaged caused by it as we made our way. We thank God for being our protector! We had a great time together and enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship with each other.

The first Saturday in December, our Music Ministry presented “Shake the Foundation Giving Every Praise to our God”, a musical concert for our Annual Candlelight Service. Sis. Demetria Johnson was our guest pianist and Sis. Rita Byrd was the guest director.

The best blessing of all this past year were those who committed their lives to Christ. We had four (4) baptisms – Trenay Adkins, Tiarra Adkins, Nicholas Rolfi, and Menishia Holden and Sis. Karen Mosley joined us by Christian Experience. In July, we also provided recognition for all and baptized some of the young people who dedicated their lives to Christ during Kids Across America Camp.

On Sunday, December 15th, we held our Annual Business Meeting. We reviewed our 2013 expenses and adopted our 2014 budget. In addition, auxiliaries reporting their 2013 activities and plans for 2014. Some of the highlights were:

Boys to Men had two outings as a group – to the Missouri History Museum and to the Science Center to view the movie Jerusalem. Our younger girls joined our praise dancers – Diamonds in the Rough. The group has now grown to eight. Besides our own services, they also participated at Baptist Church of Holy Communion’s Church Anniversary. In addition to preparing our Sunday morning breakfast, our Kitchen committee served dinner for Pastor’s Anniversary. Sis. Karen Mosley joined our Music Ministry and is the musician for our Male Chorus which sings on the last Sunday of each month. Bro. Carnell Newburn began coordinating our Outreach efforts. This year, we were blessed to have Tiarra Adkins join our Youth Ushers in service on 3rd Sunday. Our youth meet on alternating Wednesdays and focus on what it means to be a Christian. Our nurse ministry began providing blood sugar screenings in addition to blood pressure checks on 2nd Sundays.

We continued our commitment to our community. Boys to Men participated again in Lindbergh High School’s Sunday Night Lights – an event providing fun to children with cancer. Our mission auxiliary coordinated a shoe collection drive for the “Water for Shoes” ministry and hosted Church Women United. Our music auxiliary collects non-perishable items for Kirk Care at the Candlelight Service.

Our Church was again a partner in Hands On Kirkwood – a day of Mission work in collaboration with many Kirkwood Churches including Kirkwood Baptist, St. Louis Community College and volunteers from the community. Service projects included the Green Tree Parade, Winter Car Check, Winter Clothing Collection and Give Away, Clean up at Father Dickson Cemetery, Door to Door Collections, and activity day at Kirkwood House.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

We are thankful to bless our community through our giving. We made donations to the Alzheimer's Association, Hope Unlimited, Keep Watching 50, Meacham Park Homecoming Committee, The Shepherd's Center, Western Baptist Bible College, and blessed numerous churches and families throughout the year.

The Shepherd's Center – Harrison Avenue Adventures in Learning program for seniors throughout the community 55 years or older completed their second year. They meet on Tuesday mornings in six week sessions that have very informative speakers along with chair yoga and then six week sessions of just chair yoga. They plan field trips during the summer break and also had several field trips this fall. Occasionally, they have an afternoon movie. Two from our Church are on the Board of Director's of Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood – Pastor Croft and Sis. Geneva Powell. They, along with Sis. Patricia Green and Sis. Mattie McCrary are members of a congregational committee made up of members from local churches. In addition, Sis. McCrary and Sis. Powell are drivers for the medial transportation ministry and Sis. Green serves as an office volunteer.

Our Bible Study meets on Monday evenings. We continued the S.E.E.D.S. Bible Study (Spiritual Elements Essential for Discipleship). In addition to completing Series One – Discipleship and new Life and Series Two – Discipleship and Life Choices in 2011, during 2012, we completed Series Three – Discipleship and Family Life, Series Four – Discipleship and Spiritual Gifts, and Series Five – Discipleship and Church Life, during 2013, we completed Series Six – Discipleship and Personal Stewardship, Series Seven – Discipleship and Physical Health, and began Series Eight – Discipleship and Society. It is a study series that helps us to do self examination and deals with life's everyday issues. In addition, we have monthly birthday fellowships and discuss various topics to assist us in our personal growth.

We are thankful that God has blessed us to be a beacon of light in our Community for 134 years. It is our hope that not just on our Super Sunday, but each and every day, we can continue to be a beacon of light in our community!

The Year 2014

Our Theme for the year was the three T's – Time, Talent and Tithes encouraging all members to focus on the giving of their three T's to God.

On Sunday morning, February 2, 2014, we celebrated our 134th Church Anniversary and 4th Super Sunday celebrating three years in our new building. Our theme was "Upon This Rock". Sis. Marie Sykes was the Chairperson.

Minister Antonio Floyd was the coordinator for our Black History Program on February 23rd. We were each encouraged to portray local people or members of our family who had made historical contributions.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

On March 1st, our 56th Annual Fellowship Tea was held at Kirkwood Baptist Church. The theme was “Tempered Faith – Trust in God, Not the Law”. The Spirited Hands Christian Puppet Ministry gave a performance focusing on our local history. Sis. Geneva Powell was the chairperson and Deacon Johnny Thomas and Minister Tony Floyd were the co-chairs.

Sis. Kathy Harris was the chairperson for our Family and Friends Day on May 18th. The theme was “Building Faith, Family and Friends” and the scripture for the day was John 15:12-19. Our musical guest was Sis. Serena Rowan of Northern Baptist Church and our Speaker was Sis. Alcurtis Franks of Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

In June, Sis. Sandra Crenshaw and Sis. Croft organized a trip for us. We traveled by Holiday Bus Tours to Meridian, Mississippi to celebrate the Anniversary of Pastor Croft’s brother, Rev. Shawn Croft. He was celebrating his 20th Anniversary as Pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church in Newton, Mississippi. A highlight of our trip was the tour of our Pastor’s hometown of Chunky, Mississippi. We got to travel down Point Wanita Lake Road to see for ourselves the Chunky River and Possum Creek that we’ve heard so much about. On our way home, we sported our new Church t-shirt with the slogan, “Break Every Chain.” It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun.

Min. Ryan Crenshaw planned the celebration for our Pastor’s 22nd Anniversary on July 14th. The theme was “Break The Chains” and the scripture was Isaiah 52:2. On Sunday morning, Minister Crenshaw brought the message. On Sunday afternoon, Pastor Willie Ray Clark and family from the Mount Sinai Baptist Church along with guest soloist Casandra Hall of Meridian, Mississippi were our guests. Along with each auxiliary making a presentation to our Pastor, a special tribute to our Pastor was done by Bro. Matt Causey and his wife Sis. Avis Causey did a tribute to our Pastor’s Wife.

On September 14th, our Ushers celebrated their Annual Day. The theme was “We Will Not Be Moved.” Rev. Jimi Gwynn and his wife Gail of the Hope of Glory Christian Assembly were our guests. She ministered in song and he shared the Word with us about our Ushers being Harrison Avenue’s Hospitality Sanctuary Engineers.

On Sunday, September 28th, Bro. Newburn put together our Church outing. It was a day of food and fun on our Church grounds immediately following morning worship.

We celebrated Men and Women’s Day on October 26th. Sis. Jasmine Harris and Sis. Jackie Van Alstyne chaired our Women’s Day in the Morning Service. First Lady Minister Elizabeth Smith of the True Vine Missionary Baptist Church spoke to us on the Theme “Women Serving God” with Proverbs 31:20-31 as the scripture. That afternoon, Bro. Charles Crenshaw and Bro. Carnell Newburn chaired our Men’s Day Service. Rev. Robert Stevenson, former Pastor of the Rose Hill Baptist Church spoke to us on “My God Sees the Man Not His Color” from 1 Samuel 16:7. Special music was provided by Justin “Justified” Peters.

The first Saturday in December, our Music Ministry presented “Here is our Praise”, a musical concert for our Annual Candlelight Service. Sis. Demetria Johnson was our guest pianist and Sis. Rita Byrd was the guest director.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

In addition, we held our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Day services.

The best blessing of all this past year were those who committed their lives to Christ. We had five (5) baptisms – Jasmine Cawley, Raven Crenshaw, Avery Thomas, Justyce Wilkins and Thelma Williams; two who came by Christian Experience, Kimberly Beal and LaDonne Frison-Floyd; Nicole White by Restoration and Jayden Robinson is also a candidate for baptism.

In November, our beloved Deacon Oscar Harris passed away. Bro. Harris served us faithfully as Deacon, Trustee, Media and Sound guru for many years. He always had an encouraging word, advice and was a wonderful mentor and role model. We will miss him dearly!

We ended the year with a reception to say goodbye to Deacon Johnny and Sis. Rashaan Thomas and their family as they would be leaving soon relocating to the Washington DC area.

On Sunday, December 21st, we held our Annual Business Meeting. We reviewed our 2014 expenses and adopted our 2014 budget. In addition, auxiliaries reporting their 2014 activities and plans for 2015. Some of the highlights were:

Sunday School continues to be a vital part of our Christian Education. Classes are held each Sunday morning at 9:30 AM with classes for five age groups. There are currently five teachers and three substitutes. Minister Tony Floyd will be the Superintendent for the coming year.

Our Bible Study meets on Monday evenings. We continued the S.E.E.D.S. Bible Study (Spiritual Elements Essential for Discipleship) studying Series Eight – Discipleship and Society. The series was especially timely with the events of Ferguson which affected our society so much this past year.

Bro. Anthony Adkins joined Min. Antonio Floyd as a leader of Boys to Men. They, along with our Pastor and Deacons organized an overnight fishing trip to Industry, Illinois. The group had a wonderful time and created a picture display of their outing.

Kyla Croft became the leader of our praise dancers – Diamonds in the Rough. The group blessed us with performances including at our Family & Friends Day and Pastor's Anniversary. Our Kitchen Committee served at the Fellowship Tea, Pastor's Anniversary, Funeral Repasts, and helped with the Church Outing and Bible Study Birthday Dinners. In the coming year, the lead will transition from Sis. Sandra Crenshaw to Sis. Jackie Van Alstyne and dawn the new name of the HAMBC Culinary Staff.

Bro. Anthony Adkins Jr. joined our Media Ministry Team of Sis. Rashaan Thomas, Bro. Nicholas Rolfi, and Sis. Sandra Crenshaw. They recorded and produced each of our services which allowed them to fill a record number of orders for service DVDs. This year, we were blessed to have Bro. Avery Thomas join the Ushers in service. Our youth meet on alternating Wednesdays and focus on what it means to be a Christian. Our nurse ministry continues to provide blood sugar screenings in addition to blood pressure checks on 2nd Sundays.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

We continued our commitment to our community. Our music auxiliary collected non-perishable items at the Candlelight Service to assist Old Community Baptist Church with their Community Holiday Food Basket efforts.

Our Church was again a partner in Hands On Kirkwood – a day of Mission work in collaboration with many Kirkwood Churches including Kirkwood Baptist, St. Louis Community College and volunteers from the community. Service projects included the Green Tree Parade, Winter Car Check, Winter Clothing Collection and Give Away, Clean up at Father Dickson Cemetery, Door to Door Collections, and activity day at Kirkwood House.

We also continued our partnership with The Shepherd's Center as the Harrison Avenue Adventures in Learning program completed its third year. Sis. Mattie McCrary was recognized at the Volunteer luncheon for driving the most clients to the doctor as a part of the Shepherd's Center Medical Transportation Ministry.

We are thankful to bless our community through our giving. We made donations to the J. E. Fiddmont Scholarship, Keep Watching 50, Kirkwood Black History Committee, Kirkwood High School Karla Parker Scholarship, Mom's of Meacham, The Shepherd's Center, and blessed numerous churches and families throughout the year.

We had a great year of continued fellowship with other Churches including First Baptist Church of Webster Groves, Mt. Pleasant, Nazarene Baptist Church, Old Community, St. Mathew, and Unity Baptist Church. Because of our relationship with Unity, our Pastor, Sis. Croft, Deacon Rodney Carr and Deacon Carl Jones assisted Rev. Gary Anderson of Berean District with the election of their new Pastor, Rev. Edward Spiller. We continue to be a supportive member of the Berean Missionary Baptist District Association and were blessed to host to the Berean District Baptist Youth Fellowship.

We are thankful that God has blessed us as a congregation for 135 years. It is our hope that not just on our Super Sunday, but each and every day, we can continue to be a beacon of light in our community!

The Year 2015

We continued our Theme of the three T's – Time, Talent and Tithes encouraging all members to focus on the giving of their three T's to God.

On Sunday morning, February 1, 2015, we celebrated our 135th Church Anniversary and 5th Super Sunday celebrating four years in our new building. Our theme was "It's Action Time". A highlight of the service was Sandra Crenshaw and Carnell Newburn sharing what our Church means to them.

We combined our Black History Program with our Fellowship Tea on February 23rd. We were each encouraged to portray local people or members of our family who had made historical contributions.

HISTORY OF HARRISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Updated January 2018

On March 7th, our 57th Annual Fellowship Tea was held at Kirkwood Baptist Church and was combined with our Black History Program. Our young people participated with The Spirited Hands Christian Puppet Ministry and several historical icons shared the day with us – Kenny Washington portrayed by Christopher Causey, Judge Michael Calvin portrayed by Karen Mosley, Wilma Rudolph portrayed by LaDonne Floyd, Rosa Parks portrayed by Nicole White, and John Lewis portrayed by Min. Antonio Floyd.

We celebrated our Family and Friends Day on May 17th. The theme was “The Tune and Praise of Family and Friends”. We were blessed with the special music of Raven Crenshaw and Treasure Ruffin singing “Take Me to the King” and Minister Donna Roddy singing “In Times Like These”. Rev. Kory Ellis of Nazarene Baptist Church was our speaker.

On July 12th we celebrated Pastor Croft’s 23rd Anniversary. Special presentations were done by the Diamonds in the Rough, Jjustice Wilkins and Deacon Carl Jones did a tribute to our Pastor. Rev. Cornelius Osby and the First Missionary Baptist Church of Robertson were our special guest.

On August 30th, our Ushers celebrated their Annual Day. Minister Floyd brought the message in line with the theme “Doing God’s Work by Serving Others.” The Ushers made a special presentation to Mother Dorothy Clark for her faithful and long-standing service to Harrison Avenue’s Usher Ministry.

On Sunday, September 27th, we had a day of food and fun with our Church outing.

We celebrated Men and Women’s Day on October 25th. Pastor Croft was the speaker for the Men in the morning Service. Minister Bertha Franks of First Baptist Church of Webster Groves was the speaker for the Women in the afternoon. The theme was “Designed for a Purpose.”

The first Saturday in December, our Music Ministry presented a spirit filled musical concert for our Annual Candlelight Service.

In addition, we held our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Day services.

In March, our dear Marcella Taylor passed away. Her beautiful smile and willing heart are certainly missed by our congregation.

We were blessed this year to have Avery Henderson and Ronnesha Green come to us by Christian Experience.

On Sunday, December 20th, we held our Annual Business Meeting. We reviewed our 2015 expenses and adopted our 2016 budget. In addition, auxiliaries reporting their 2015 activities and plans for 2016. Some of the highlights were:

We thank God for blessing us to celebrate five years in our new building. It is our prayer that each one who enters in will leave a better witness for Christ and encourage others to accept them as their Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ.

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Updated January 2018

Sunday School continues to be a vital part of our Christian Education. Classes are held each Sunday morning at 9:30 AM. Our Bible Study meets on Monday evenings. Last week, we completed the final series of the S.E.E.D.S. Bible Study (Spiritual Elements Essential for Discipleship). We began this Study in 2011 studying Series Eight – Discipleship and Society. The series was especially timely with the events of Ferguson which affected our society so much this past year.

Bro. Anthony Adkins joined Min. Antonio Floyd as a leader of Boys to Men. They, along with our Pastor and Deacons organized an overnight fishing trip to Industry, Illinois. The group had a wonderful time and created a picture display of their outing.

Kyla Croft became the leader of our praise dancers – Diamonds in the Rough. The group blessed us with performances including at our Family & Friends Day and Pastor's Anniversary. Our Kitchen Committee served at the Fellowship Tea, Pastor's Anniversary, Funeral Repasts, and helped with the Church Outing and Bible Study Birthday Dinners. In the coming year, the lead will transition from Sis. Sandra Crenshaw to Sis. Jackie Van Alstyne and dawn the new name of the HAMBC Culinary Staff.

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We continued our commitment to our community. Our music auxiliary collected non-perishable items at the Candlelight Service to assist Old Community Baptist Church with their Community Holiday Food Basket efforts.

Our Church was again a partner in Hands On Kirkwood – a day of Mission work in collaboration with many Kirkwood Churches including Kirkwood Baptist, St. Louis Community College and volunteers from the community. Service projects included the Green Tree Parade, Winter Car Check, Winter Clothing Collection and Give Away, Clean up at Father Dickson Cemetery, Door to Door Collections, and activity day at Kirkwood House.

We also continued our partnership with The Shepherd's Center as the Harrison Avenue Adventures in Learning program completed its third year. Sis. Mattie McCrary was recognized at the Volunteer luncheon for driving the most clients to the doctor as a part of the Shepherd's Center Medical Transportation Ministry.

We are thankful to bless our community through our giving. We made donations to the J. E. Fiddmont Scholarship, Keep Watching 50, Kirkwood Black History Committee, Kirkwood High School Karla Parker Scholarship, Mom's of Meacham, The Shepherd's Center, and blessed numerous churches and families throughout the year.

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We had a great year of continued fellowship with other Churches including First Baptist Church of Webster Groves, Mt. Pleasant, Nazarene Baptist Church, Old Community, St. Mathew, and Unity Baptist Church. Because of our relationship with Unity, our Pastor, Sis. Croft, Deacon Rodney Carr and Deacon Carl Jones assisted Rev. Gary Anderson of Berean District with the election of their new Pastor, Rev. Edward Spiller. We continue to be a supportive member of the Berean Missionary Baptist District Association and were blessed to host to the Berean District Baptist Youth Fellowship.

We are thankful that God has blessed us as a congregation for 135 years. It is our hope that not just on our Super Sunday, but each and every day, we can continue to be a beacon of light in our community!

The Year 2017

We continued our Theme of the three T's – Time, Talent and Tithes encouraging all members to focus on the giving of their three T's to God.

On Sunday morning, February 5, 2017, we celebrated our 137th Church Anniversary and 7th Super Sunday celebrating six years in our new building. Our own Roslyn Croft was our speaker for the morning.

Our 59th Annual Fellowship Tea was held at the Kirkwood Community Center on Saturday, February 25th. Our special guests were members of the St. Louis Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club who shared significant history of their club, St. Louis and our culture as a whole.

On May 21st we celebrated our Family and Friend's Day was celebrated during morning worship. Minister Floyd brought the message. A special segment entitled "This is Your Life" was presented by Renee Hill on her father, Frances Hill and Nicholas Rolfi shared a story of his life.

July was a special month as we celebrated our Pastor's 25th Anniversary. The activities began on Saturday, July 1st with the ladies of our church hosting a luncheon in honor of Sister Croft. The next Saturday, July 8th we held a banquet in Pastor Croft's honor at The Hive 44 Banquet Center in Fenton. The evening included a special tribute slide presentation and corresponding reading telling about his life. Min. Floyd brought the message Sunday morning, July 9th. The celebration concluded that afternoon with Pastor Wendell Bonner and the First Baptist Church of Webster Groves were our special guest. To commemorate the anniversary, each family received a souvenir booklet of the presentation about Pastor Croft along with the family photos taken in June and listing of members coming to HAMBC over the past 25 years.

On August 20th, our Ushers celebrated their Annual Day. President of the Missionary Baptist State Convention Ushers and Nurses, Carol Johnson was the speaker.

On Sunday, September 17th, we had a day of food and fun with our Church outing.

Our Church was again a partner in Hands On Kirkwood held each year the 1st Saturday in October. For the first time, instead of us going to Kirkwood Baptist for Sunday worship, they came to us. We

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had a wonderful service and lunch on our back lawn. The Lord smiled upon us and provided a bright sunny day. Pastor Matt and Pastor Jeff shared a joint message on race in our community. The offering collected was donated to Hope Unlimited.

We celebrated Men and Women's Day on October 22nd. Pastor Croft was the speaker for the men during morning service and our former member, Minister Juanita Jones was the speaker for the women in the afternoon.

The first Saturday in December, our Music Ministry presented "He's Worthy To Be Praised" for our Annual Candlelight Service. It was an evening which included our Choir, Male Chorus and Youth praising God through song and Diamonds in the Rough praising through dance. Our musicians for the evening were: Sharron White, Karen Mosley, and Myia Croft; Drummers: Charles Crenshaw and AJ Adkins; and Angela Walker was the Narrator. Attendees and our congregation brought non-perishable food items which were donated to Kirk Care.

The Ordination Service for Minister Antonio Floyd was held the afternoon of December 17th. We are proud of his accomplishment and are thankful for his faithfulness and dedication to God and Harrison Avenue since he began preaching in 2008.

This year, the Lord called three of our members home – Mornett Aitch, Avery Thomas and Dorothy Taylor. They will certainly be missed by our congregation.

While the Lord took those three from us, he blessed us to have Karla Hill and Keisha Windham come to us by Christian Experience and Christopher Sharp by Baptism. We are glad to have them as a part of our Church family.

In 2017, several of our members heeded the Pastor's call for us to receive training to better equip ourselves for the ministry.

- Berean District Ushers
- National Congress of Christian Education - LaDonne Floyd and Karen Mosley participated in months of rehearsals and sang with the Congress choir in the opening musical.
- National Congress of Christian Education Classes – Pastor Croft
- State Congress of Christian Education Classes – Rodney Carr, Avis Causey, Pastor Jeff Croft, Kyla Croft, Myia Croft, Roslyn Croft, and Minister Antonio Floyd

On Sunday, December 17th, we also held our Annual Business Meeting. We reviewed our 2017 expenses and adopted our 2018 budget. In addition, auxiliaries reporting their 2017 activities and plans for 2018. Some of the highlights were:

Sunday School continues to be a vital part of our Christian Education. Classes are held each Sunday morning at 9:30 AM. Our Sunday School team includes – Superintendent and teacher Rev. Antonio Floyd, Assistant Superintendent and teacher Carl Jones, teachers Diane Carr, LaDonne Floyd, substitute teachers, Marie Sykes, Kyla Croft and Rodney Carr. Our Sunday School provided several opportunities for fellowship with Sunday breakfast and the Junior Class hosted Pizza and Movie night.

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Boys to Men participated in several activities. A weekend retreat organized by our Deacons has become an annual event.

Our Youth Department took on new life under the leadership of Kyla and Myia Croft. Second Sunday as Youth Sunday has been reinstated with the Youth handling most aspects of the service including Devotion and all music sporting their "Straight Out of HAMBC" t-shirts. Their rendition of Amazing Grace gives us great energy as we prepare to hear The Word. In addition to their regular meetings of Bible Study and Choir Rehearsal, they have special activities.

The Diamonds in the Rough have grown to have 10 young ladies who bless us in praise dance during Youth Sunday and special services. Treasure Ruffin is the President, Kamaria Duncan – Vice President, and Kyla Croft serves as the adult supervisor.

Our Kitchen Committee, under the leadership of Sandy Adams, prepared or assisted with the Fellowship Tea, Pastor's Anniversary, Funeral Repasts, Church Outing, lunch between Business Meeting and Ordination along with preparing lunches for a week of Sprog's summer program.

We also continued our partnership with The Shepherd's Center as the Harrison Avenue Adventures in Learning program completed its 5th year. Harrison Avenue again marched proudly and represented well in the Meacham Park Homecoming Parade and the Green Tree Festival Parade.

We are thankful to bless our community through our giving. We made donations to the Elliot Chapel Church Collaboration, Hands On Kirkwood, Hope Unlimited, J. E. Fiddmont Scholarship, Kirk Care, National Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Fund, SPROG, Western Baptist Bible College and Youth In Action, and blessed numerous churches and families throughout the year.

We had a great year of continued fellowship with other Churches including First Baptist Church of Webster Groves, Mt. Olive, Nazarene Baptist Church, Old Community, Olive Chapel, St. Mathew, and Unity Baptist Church. We continue to be a supportive member of the Berean Missionary Baptist District Association and the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Missouri where Pastor Croft serves as Executive Secretary.

We are thankful that God has blessed us as a congregation for 137 years. It is our hope that not just on our Super Sunday, but each and every day, we can continue to be a beacon of light in our community!