

1873

History of

2023

## Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

*“And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)”*

All great moments of God in this world have had strange beginnings. Yet no two are exactly alike, but most come from the same source if they are to succeed. So it was that Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, a little wooden building, was first located on the corner of Reynolds and Monck Streets in Brunswick, Georgia, and was organized by a few Christian pioneers who were formally affiliated with First African Baptist Church of this city.

Reverend Frank Harris, Brother Judge Delany, Brother David Long, Brother Archie Findley, Reverend W. F. Shefton, Brother Alfred Dennison, Brother Harry White, Brother Richard Tells, Brother John Berry, Brother Moses Brown, Brother William Ford, Sister Matilda Monroe, Sister Emma Monroe, Sister Patti Findley and Sister Julia Ford worked diligently for the purpose of bringing about the present amalgamation.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1873, the Reverend Frank Harris proposed organization of a Church and Brother David Long suggested the name “Shiloh”.

The pastor and members left the temporary place of worship at Reynolds and Monck Streets, purchased an old building and moved it first to the corner of Reynolds and Gloucester Streets, at the cost of \$70.00. Shortly thereafter, the building was moved to the site of the present edifice. The first minister was Reverend Frank Harris, who served faithfully for six months. Subsequently, the following persons served with distinctions: Reverend Mark Sweetie, Reverend A. Johnson, Reverend Q. Jenkins and the Reverend H. Abes.

Under the leadership of the Reverend Abes, in 1880, a frame building was started on the present site but later destroyed by a storm.

In 1884, Reverend Scranton Roberts was called to the pastorate of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and a brick building was erected. Because of the love and admiration for him by his congregation and members of the community, he was affectionately referred to as “Father Roberts”. Ministers that served later were Reverend C. H. Young, Reverend S. A. Baker, Reverend J. H. Shavers, Reverend E. J. Dyson, Reverend L. L. Scott, Reverend Julius James, Reverend W. R. Lovelace and Reverend H. W. Scruggs.





In 1964, God sent us a dynamic spirit-filled leader in the person of Reverend E. C. Tillman Sr., a strong dedicated servant of God from Florida. Under his leadership more than 900 persons have joined the church. In 1977, the old shacks south of the Church were purchased and torn down to make a parking lot. The property north of the Church and around the corner were purchased. The Church was renovated which included central air conditioning and heat, wall to wall carpet, a unique sound system, and new pews. Other improvements were done to make worship more meaningful.

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In 1964, an Educational Building was built consisting of seven classrooms. A Fellowship Hall, a nursery, and a kitchen were also part of the Church renovations. In 1981, the Old Nick's Grocery store was purchased and later renovated and became the pastor's study and office. Located in our Activities Building are the Rotunda, the Deacon Leo Moore Sr. Library, a dining area, and another kitchen. The Activities Building and Pastor's Office and Study were dedicated in 1982.

In 1988, the James E. Stephens Conference Room was added and dedicated. In 1991, the church underwent renovations to enlarge the choir stand in the main sanctuary and extended the pulpit. A new piano was also purchased. Since that time many other repairs and improvements have been made. Two mini buses and the property next to the edifice were purchased to provide a much needed secure parking lot.

In 1998, construction was started on a new sanctuary. The Church family was very remorseful when the sanctuary was demolished, but today we give praise to God and are reminded of what Nehemiah said, "So Build We The Wall."

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2000 the first service was held in the new sanctuary, which was the Homegoing celebration of Sister Edith. H. Moore. This was followed on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2000 with the Dedication Services for our new sanctuary. After many months of prayer and hard work God allowed the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Family to march into the new sanctuary. This was an event that will always remain in our hearts and minds.



We were saddened with the Homegoing of our beloved Pastor, Reverend Dr. Eugene Ceasar Tillman Sr. on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. He was truly a servant of God faithfully serving on the battlefield for the Lord. He spent his entire life pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. His memory and Christian dedication will forever be cherished by all who knew him.



On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, God sent us our current leader, Reverend Todd A. Rhodes Sr. Reverend Rhodes and his faithful and committed wife, Barbara accepted the call for which God had predestined and prepared him. With God's divine guidance, Reverend Rhodes has continued the foundation of stewardship begun so many years before. Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, because it does not yet appear what we shall become.

For One Hundred and forty Years, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church has retained her high standard of excellence. Today, Shiloh stands as one of the foremost Christian Churches in the Zion Association. We are steadily growing with the Lord's blessings.

Honesty is the watchword and duty to God and Man is her highest aim. Its purpose throughout the years has been to scale the loftiest heights of human aspiration, as well as to measure the deepest depths of human needs. Supported by these Christian principles, Shiloh's future, as in the past, is fully assured. Shiloh will forever stand as a signboard upon life's highway, always pointing humankind to the "Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world."

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In January of 2013, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church was proud to announce that our new sanctuary had been **PAID IN FULL**. In this same year the church started its first phase of renovations. We now have new tables and chairs in the Finance Room as well as our church rotunda. Dea. Bernard Francis and a team of energetic men, with hard work and dedication, sought out to complete a list of task to beautify our home (Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church). This task included:

new fencing around our parking lot area, fire alarm system upgrade, new carpet in the sanctuary, and new air conditioning in the church rotunda.

As the renovations continued, in 2014 the list grew bigger of things accomplished. We upgraded our insurance for the property as well as purchased new tables and chairs for our Finance Room and Rotunda. We purchased a new sound system for the sanctuary and have a new lighting system in the kitchen/rotunda. We were able to purchase a new roof spreading from the Education Building down to the church office. Summer of 2014 the church purchased a 15-passenger van and a carport. In 2015 we completed the remodeling of our restrooms in the dining hall and completed painting. As the world continues to grow in technology, and as a growing congregation in different parts of the world, we launched our very own website. Our website was up and running by 2017 ( [www.shilohbga.org](http://www.shilohbga.org) ). This way our many members and friends that were away due to work or other obligations could still be a part of the ministry through tithes and offering as well as keeping up with our many church functions and activities. It also gave them away to hear the

morning message. As we closed out phase I of renovations, our biggest project was started in July of 2018. Our kitchen was getting completely remodeled, with new paint, flooring, and appliances. We are proud our kitchen was completed and dedicated on September 16, 2018. In July of 2019 we started phase II of our renovations starting with the reconditioning of our Sky Lighting in our Rotunda. In August of 2019 we were able to complete two tasks on our agenda; we upgraded the lighting in the E. C. Tillman Fellowship Hall and our classrooms and the purchase of a new air conditioning unit in the dining hall.



In 2020, due to the global pandemic we launched our Media Ministry. This ministry allowed us to worship via different media outlets, while we were not able to physically worship in person in the sanctuary. We Thank God as His word was able to still go forth every Sunday morning and every Wednesday with Bible Enrichment outside of our Church Home (Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church).

God has truly been blessing us in all that we do to and for our home (Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church), we ask God to keep us as we continue the upkeep of our worship place.

AS FOR ME  
AND MY HOUSE,  
WE WILL SERVE  
*the*  
*Lord*

A decorative flourish consisting of a horizontal line with symmetrical, swirling scrollwork on both ends.