

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
HILLSBOROUGH, NORTH CAROLINA  
EST 1853**

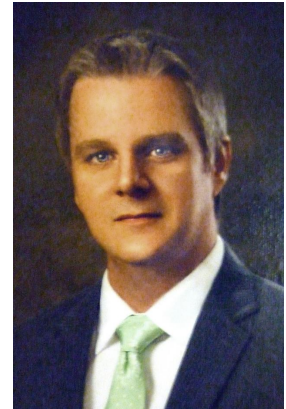
# **FORMER MINISTERS 2000's**

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First Baptist Church Hillsborough  
North Carolina  
August 2025**

## Dr. Randall David Carter

Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 2003-2019

Dr. Randall (Randy) D. Carter was called as minister in August 2003 just prior to the church's 150th anniversary celebration held November 15-16, 2003. At the time of his call, he was serving as pastor of Grassy Creek Baptist Church located in Bullock, NC. During his fifteen years as pastor, Carter helped the church strengthen and expand its outreach ministries to meet the needs of socially disadvantaged families living in Hillsborough and surrounding communities. Mission trips helped build a church in Venezuela, connect with believers and outreach in Belize and Mauritania, meet the physical and spiritual needs of refugees in Lebanon, and assist those recovering from the aftermaths of hurricanes and other related disasters. In 2011, a Hispanic congregation began holding weekly worship and Bible study meetings at the church.



In response to membership growth, the church instituted two Sunday morning worship services and launched a successful capital building campaign to renovate existing facilities, to provide more space for children and youth programs and provide greater accessibility to the sanctuary, administrative offices and educational space. The sanctuary was modernized to allow for a blend of traditional and contemporary worship. With Carter's guidance the church developed a mission statement to remind the congregation that the church's purpose and focus was to:

GLORIFY God through worship  
GROW in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ through discipleship  
GO and GIVE our lives away in missions and ministry through a living testimony  
As a family of believers, we also GATHER together to celebrate our common faith in Jesus.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Carter taught and mentored ministerial students enrolled at Duke University and Campbell University. He served on key committees of the Yates Baptist Association and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina.



THE CARTER FAMILY - 2018

Valarie, Olivia, Rebecca, Justin, Avery, Wesley, Randy, Jemma and Jeremy

Carter was born on October 3, 1972, in Austin, Texas and grew up in Austin and Houston. He graduated from East Texas Baptist University in 1995 with a double major in Spanish and Religion. Just prior to graduation, he married Rebecca Westerman in December 1994. They moved in the summer of 1994 to northern California so that Carter could attend Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in San Francisco. While in seminary, Carter served as a campus minister with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at San Francisco State University. He completed his Master of Divinity

degree in 1998, walking across the stage three days after the birth of his first son, Wesley. A few weeks later, the family left California for North Carolina and Duke University.

Carter completed his Th.M. (Master of Theology) at Duke's Divinity School in 2001. In October 1998, he accepted the call to Grassy Creek Baptist Church in northern Granville County. Jeremy and Avery soon joined the Carter family in 2000 and 2003, respectively. During his time as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hillsborough, the family grew to include four adopted children: Oliva, Justin, Valarie and Jemma. In 2008, Carter began doctoral work at Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC and in May 2011 received his Doctor of Ministry Degree. In 2009, the Carter's purchased a house on the outskirts of Hillsborough. He was the first minister to do so.

Carter submitted his letter of resignation in January to become effective on Sunday February 17, 2019. In the letter he wrote, "It is with immeasurable gratitude for these past 15 years and 5 months, and with a heart that at this moment is both heavy with grief and beating with anticipation that I tender my resignation as pastor of First Baptist Church of Hillsborough. I have accepted the call to become senior pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Raleigh." He continued, "I hope that I have loved you with at least a measure of the love you consistently gave to me. I hope even more that together we have followed Jesus Christ, seeking His kingdom above all for the sake of this church and the sake of Hillsborough, Orange County, and the world. Jesus has always been Lord of this church and will forever continue to be."

He was senior pastor of New Hope Baptist Church until 2022, when he left to become the senior pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Durham, NC. He serves there currently.

*Compiled by Reginald Carter, Historian, FBC Hillsborough; portrait photographs by Kent Murraray Studios, 2001. Family Photograph provided by Randy Carter.*

*Last Updated: March 23, 2024*



### **Dr. Matthew Riggsbee**

Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 2021- 2024

The pastor search committee called a church conference on March 28, 2021, "for the purpose of voting for Dr. Riggsbee for Senior Pastor." The conference was conducted using Zoom Communication Software because the church was closed due to COVID-19. A drive through process was used to collect ballots following Riggsbee's trial sermon using Zoom. At another Zoom conference meeting held that afternoon, the pastor search committee reported that "Dr. Matt Riggsbee had accepted the call to serve as Senior Pastor beginning the week of April 25<sup>th</sup> with first sermon May 2, 2021."<sup>1</sup> In an email sent to the church on March 30, 2021, he wrote "We are ecstatic to be moving to Hillsborough to join you in the Lord's work at FBC. We know God is up to something and we are honored and humbled to get to journey



alongside you and your families as we explore what the mission and ministry of Jesus will look like in the weeks and months to come, post-pandemic.”<sup>2</sup>

In 2021 the church installed a video system in the sanctuary to broadcast sermons live and to save them on You Tube. On Founder’s Day, members assembled on the front lawn of the church for a note burning ceremony. The church-wide gathering was not only a celebration of paying off a significant loan but having completed the feat ahead of schedule. TV sets with internet connections were installed in each classroom and an invitation was sent to Marc and Kim Wyatt to use the church Annex (old parsonage) for “Welcome House Hillsborough.”<sup>1</sup>

In 2022, the church renovated two classrooms on the ground level into “Community Grounds” as a coffee-social gathering and small meeting area. In March, the diaconate decided that the church would return to pre-pandemic events, “while watching levels and responding accordingly.” The congregation had not met in person for almost two years. Members were eager to participate in social events, such as attending a baseball game, participating in a fall retreat trip to Ashville, hosting a trunk-or-treat community event and celebrating Founder’ Day with a covered-dished meal. In December the church voted to continue being an Encourager Church for the Lebanon ministry of Chaouki and Maha Boulos.<sup>3</sup>

In 2023, a FBC Connections Team was appointed by deacons to assess the health of the church and develop strategies and methods to help revitalize the church as we move forward. Time was spent in prayer, reading and exploring the attributes of a “revived church.” To improve communication, transparency and efficiency, the deacons formed servant leadership teams. The church’s outreach ministries continued unabated, and a renewed spirit of unity saw a steady increase in attendance and membership.<sup>4</sup>

In May 2024, the church formally decided to submit a letter of disaffiliation to the North Carolina State Southern Baptist Convention in response to an upcoming vote restricting the roles of pastor or deacon in local churches to men only. Due to fewer members after Covid, deacons were reduced from 16 to 12 and their term shortened from 4 to 3 years.



On October 6, 2024, Dr. Riggsbee notified the church of his decision to accept a position at the First Baptist Church of Southern Pines, NC. In his letter, he expressed appreciation for his time serving alongside members of the church.

Dr. Riggsbee was born on April 9, 1983, and spent his formative years in Apex, NC. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Religion (2007) and a Master of Divinity (2011) from Campbell University and Campbell University Divinity School, Buies Creek, NC. As an undergraduate, he completed a one-year student internship at Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC (2007-2008). He served as Youth Minister at Baptist Gove Church, Fuquay-Varnia, NC (2008-2011), Associate Pastor of Family Ministry at Flat Springs Baptist Church, Sandford, NC (2011-2015) and Senior Pastor, Jersey Baptist Church, Lexington, NC (2016-2021).<sup>5</sup>

He was ordained on March 6, 2011, at Baptist Grove Church, Fuquay-Varina. This is also where he met his future wife, Lauren Senter. At the time, she was enrolled in North Carolina State University, later graduating with a degree in elementary education and teaching fourth grade. They have two daughters, Lillian and Penelope. The family enjoy outside activities, traveling and following and attending sports events.<sup>5</sup>

**References:**

1. Compiled 2021 Church Minutes. First Baptist Church Hillsborough. FBC Hillsborough Digital Archives.
2. Riggsbee to Church Office. Correspondence. March 30, 2021. FBC Hillsborough Digital Archives.
3. Compiled 2022 Church Minutes. First Baptist Church Hillsborough. FBC Hillsborough Digital Archives.
4. Compiled 2023 Church Minutes. First Baptist Church Hillsborough. FBC Hillsborough Digital Archives.
5. Riggsbee, Matthew. Curriculum Vitae, 2021.

*Biography compiled by Reginald Carter, Church Historian/Last updated August 19, 2025. (Photographs courtesy of Dr. Matthew Riggsbee)*

