



“THE” METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

110TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Commemorative Devotional E-Book

*A Celebration of a Legacy Built
on Faith and Love*

SUBMITTED BY

**PASTOR’S PARTNERS
MINISTRY**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Rev. Lamont A. Hobbs, Pastor

Dedication

With heartfelt gratitude, this devotional is dedicated to the members and families of Metropolitan Baptist Church — past and present — whose faith, prayers, and commitment to God's work continue to inspire and sustain us. May every word encourage your walk with the Lord and remind you of His unfailing love.



Tribute to Trailblazers

We pause to honor the trailblazers of faith — the pastors, leaders, and faithful members who paved the way with courage, sacrifice, and steadfast devotion. Truly, we stand on your shoulders. Because of your labor and love, we now celebrate 110 years of God's faithfulness. May this devotional be both a remembrance of your legacy and a charge to future generations to keep pressing forward in faith.

Pastor's Partners Ministry

The Pastor's Partners Ministry of Metropolitan Baptist Church is comprised of ministers providing spiritual, physical and resource support to the Pastor for the enhancement of our congregation and community. Our purpose is to serve Pastor and People first with Love, Diligence, Fortitude and Faithfulness. If you are in need of prayer, encouragement, or spiritual support, we invite you to contact us — we are here to walk with you in faith and love.



Rev. Leon Giles
Rev.giles62@gmail.com



Rev. Dr. DeJuan M. Branch
dmbrx09@yahoo.com



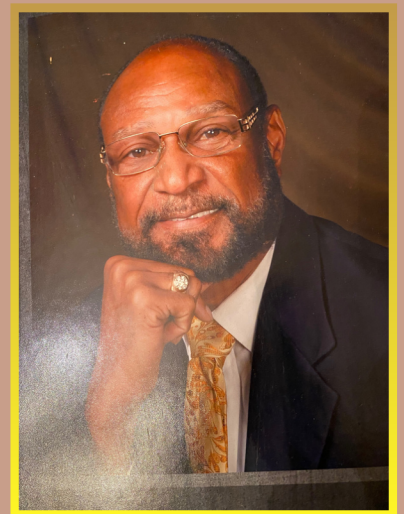
Rev. Charlotte Bynum
charykesbynum@yahoo.com



Rev. David C. Chase
dcchase45@gmail.com



Rev. Sherry Wright
sherrywright1965@gmail.com



Rev. Dr. Silas H. Christian
schrisphd@aol.com



Rev. Betty Hill
bhill5952@gmail.com



Rev. Emily Kilgore Branch
ekbranch@gmail.com



Rev. Diane White
42derrick@gmail.com

“The” Metropolitan Baptist Church

110th Anniversary

“A Celebration of a Legacy Built on Faith and Love” 1915-2025

One hundred and ten years! What a milestone for this great church! Biblically, the number 110 relates to themes of perseverance and faith, often marking significant milestones and the fulfillment of divine promises. So, as we celebrate the past we reflect on God’s grace in leading us through a century of faith, love and a dedication to His mission. Each step of our journey has been a testament to God’s faithfulness and to the men and women who served in faith to make our church what it is today. Now, we have the joy of celebrating our history while looking forward to a new chapter, one that calls us to unity, commitment, and hope for the future.

Looking Back at a Legacy Built on Faith and Love

Looking back, our church’s early members set a foundation that has been solid for generations. With passion and dedication, they built this church not only as a place of worship but as a home where people could grow in Christ and serve one another. They understood that their faithfulness would impact countless lives beyond their own time.

Proverbs 22:28 says, “Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.” While we thrive and grow, we’re rooted in a legacy established by those who came before us.

Their commitment to God’s Word, to prayer, faith, and sharing the Gospel still guides our mission today. We celebrate their sacrifices, which created a lasting legacy that continues to bear fruit in our community as we walk out our faith.

Looking Forward to the Future with Faith

As we celebrate, we're reminded of Paul's words in Philippians 3:13-14: "...forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Each anniversary is not only a look back but also a commitment to press forward, knowing that God is calling us to new opportunities and ministries we never imagined.

Our church's future holds countless possibilities, and it's our privilege to pray and dream about what God will do. We must ask ourselves: How can we bring the hope of Christ to a new generation? How can we be more intentional in our outreach and discipleship? God is always doing something new, and with open hearts, we can step forward in faith, boldness, and confidence that He will continue to lead us in ministry and growth.

Committed to Unity in Christ

In a world often divided, the church is called to be a beacon of unity. Paul's words in Ephesians 4:3 urge us to be "diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Our unity is to be one of our greatest testimonies to the world—a body of believers who come from different backgrounds, experiences, and walks of life, but who are united by a shared love for Christ and a common purpose.

Unity doesn't mean we will always agree on every detail, but it does mean we commit to love one another, support one another, and work together for the sake of the Gospel. We are called to be one in heart, purpose, vision, and mission. As we step into this new season, may we strive to be a church that stands united, reaching out to one another and building one another up in love.

Celebrating and Moving Forward Together

This 110th anniversary is more than a date on a calendar—it's a celebration of a community rooted in God's Word, bound by His love, and devoted to His mission. Together, let us honor those who have gone before us, embrace the future He has prepared, and recommit ourselves to unity as one body.

Let's join our hearts in gratitude, our hands in service, and our voices in praise, looking forward to all that God has in store for us as a church. With faith, hope and love, we are ready to enter this next chapter—together.

Happy 110th Anniversary Church Family!

**Yours in Christ,
Rev. Sherry Wright
Pastor's Partners Chairperson**

**“Now faith is confidence
in what we hope for and
assurance about what
we do not see.”**

Hebrews 11:1



Lord, We Thank You for Your Faithfulness Over the Years...

Rev. Leon Giles

Through every season, God's hand has never failed us. His mercies are new each morning, and His promises stand firm. As we look back with gratitude, we are reminded that the same God who carried us before will guide us forward. Great is His faithfulness!

"For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations" (Psalm 100:5).

The same God who has been faithful in our past is the same God who holds our present and secures our future.

God is faithful: yesterday, today, and forevermore.



One Step at a Time: Living by the Light of God's Word

Rev. David C. Chase

One of my favorite scriptures that set me on a mission to studying and knowing God's word when I was a young Christian adult was Psalms 119:105 – Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light on my path.

As a young Christian, I struggled with being assured of my salvation when I sinned. I desperately wanted to please God, but I kept falling short of the Word and continued to question if my salvation was real. I would pray and ask God, if I am saved why do I keep sinning...daily, and how do I stop?

Then, one church service I heard Ps. 119:105 preached about in a sermon. The preacher spoke about how the word of God will provide you with guidance for daily living. That was the answer I was looking for! I had to get a thorough understanding of this scripture so that I could get what the preacher said was possible through this verse.

Researching Jewish culture, I found that travelers carried small, oil-based lamps to light the ground immediately in front of them. This allowed them to see only one step in front of them at a time, protecting them from stumbling over rocks, hazards or dangers that they could not see.



It resonated with me that knowing God's word would help me to see the immediate (daily) hazards and dangers (sin) as I walk through this dark, wicked and confusing world. The more I read, and the more I studied, the more the Light of the World (Jesus) helped me to recognize the temptations that led me to sin. I would read in the Bible about the things I struggled with, and believe it as I tell you, as if the word of God came to life, I would shortly be faced with those very temptations. Since I had such a desire to love and please Him, it was simply a matter of choosing NOT to do the things I used to do. And, progressively, I chose NOT to do! This leads to another favorite set of scriptures, Romans 12:1-2. But, that's for another day.

Now, don't get me wrong. I still sin. But daily, I stumble less than the day before and I know my salvation is secure in Jesus.



My Cup Runneth Over

Rev. Diane White

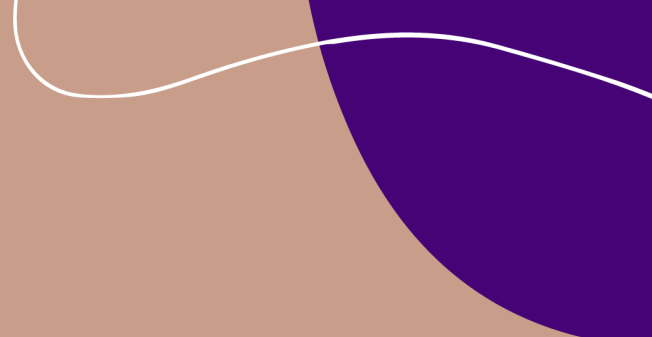
“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:5-6

The blessings of overflow can be likened to be like the signature of God. There are times in our lives when we know that certain blessings feel as if they were dropped down from heaven upon us, even before the thought is finished, God has already opened up the windows of heaven and poured out a blessing that we can hardly receive.

Something that man cannot get the credit for. When God intervenes in a manner such as that, it is obvious and it gives undeniable proof that God alone deserves all the glory, honor and praise that is due unto Him alone. This is when we can lift our hands towards heaven and tell God thank you for all of His many wonderful blessings.

God is not like man, His overflow is the display of His splendor and a showcase of how wide His love is for you and I. God wants us to live in the overflow. These blessings will begin to run up and overtake us.

When we walk in the overflow of God and the will of God, it will be easy for others to see that God is at work in our lives. God will meet every need in our lives according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.



His love has no limit.

His grace has no measure.

His power has no boundary known unto men.

For out of His infinite riches, in Jesus, He gives and gives and keeps on giving and giving, over and over again.

Just remember that you don't have to worry. God will supply all of your needs and you can lay down and sleep in peace, and remember that you don't have to live in lack, but your cup will overflow. Amen.



Embracing God's New Work: Moving Beyond the Past

Rev. Charlotte Bynum

Scriptural Foundation: Isaiah 43:18-19, 18 *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*

Does it seem like the past just keeps coming back to your mind over and over? Maybe someone from your past keeps reminding you of all the things you used to do, the things you try so hard to forget. Do you ponder over the things or the people you lost, wondering if your life would be different if you got that job, that luxury car, that money and even that boo, even though they were not for you? Today God wants you to stop living in the past because your past is blocking your future blessings! If you want to be blessed holistically, this passage is a message of hope and renewal from God, encouraging people to let go of past hardships and trust that He is creating something new and transformative in their lives.

God wants you to forget about all that and stop dwelling on it as Proverbs 3:5-6 states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Keep watching for the new things, change your mindset, let go of past hurts or triumphs and focus on God's present work in you. Know that God not only restores but renews you in your good times, your tough times, and your uncertain times.

Do you recognize the new things God is doing in your life? Isaiah 43:18-19 provides timeless lessons. It encourages leaving past failures behind for emotional and spiritual healing. The question "do you not perceive it?" prompts believers to recognize God's work in new ways. The verses also inspire embracing new opportunities and trusting in God's ability to provide a way forward in challenging circumstances. It is a powerful message of hope and a call to embrace the future, as God promises to bring about a "new thing," even when the present seems like a hopeless "wilderness" or "wasteland".

God is working in ways you cannot see, and he is able to make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert for you. God urges His people to not dwell on past traumas, failures, or even past triumphs, and events whether they were good or bad. But to look forward to His new work.

Let Go of the Past because God is actively bringing about something fresh and extraordinary in the lives of those who trust Him. Don't get lost trying to figure everything out. Put God first in everything you do, and when you take that next step, He will make sure you are on the right path. You can trust Him!



**“And now these three
remain: faith, hope and
love. But the greatest of
these is love.”**

1 Corinthians 13:13

110 Years of Faith and Love



Pardon the Mess: God's Still Working on Me

Rev. Dr. DeJuan M. Branch

Key Scripture

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV): "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

The Blueprint Is Already Drawn

Before construction begins, architects create detailed plans. In the same way, God has already designed the blueprint of your life. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us, 'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.' Even when life feels uncertain, remember: the Master Architect has already laid out the design, and every season has purpose. Psalm 139:16 teaches that every day of our lives was written in His book before one of them came to be. You are not random—you are designed.

Construction Zones Are Messy but Necessary

Anyone who has driven through road construction knows it's noisy, inconvenient, and often longer than expected. Yet, the mess is necessary for improvement. The same is true in our spiritual lives. God sometimes tears down old habits, attitudes, and even relationships that cannot support the weight of our calling. Hebrews 12:11 says, 'No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.' Don't mistake the dust in your life for destruction—it's proof that God is building something new.

The Builder Never Abandons the Project

One of the saddest sights is an unfinished building project, left to rot because someone walked away. But God is not like man. He never abandons what He starts. Philippians 1:6 assures us that the same God who started the good work in you will carry it to completion. You may be in the foundation stage, or still waiting for finishing touches, but you are not forgotten. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us: 'For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.' You are God's ongoing masterpiece.

Conclusion

When people see you in progress and don't understand why you're not 'finished' yet, tell them with confidence: "Pardon the mess—I'm under construction." You may not look like the final product now, but God is working. Stay encouraged with the ABCs of construction faith:

- A — Acknowledge God's hand at work in your life daily.
- B — Believe His promises even when you don't see progress.
- C — Continue walking by faith, knowing He will finish what He started.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You that we are Your workmanship. Thank You for beginning a good work in us and promising to complete it. Help us to trust Your blueprint, endure the mess, and rest in Your faithfulness. Strengthen us to walk by faith as You shape us into Your masterpiece. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God Is Still God, Even in Darkness

Rev. Sherry Wright

Devotional Passage: Lamentations 3:21-25

“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.”

– Lamentations 3:21

Where do you find hope when it feels like you are walking in darkness? Here we have the writer of Lamentations, Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet, finding himself heartbroken, miserable, and in distress. Everything he had loved, cared about, and trusted in was gone. His beloved city of Jerusalem was in ruins. The people no longer had a place to worship God. They were suffering badly. Jeremiah felt like God had left them altogether. He was on the verge of losing hope.

Right in the middle of a bad situation, Jeremiah does an amazing thing that we can do also. We can recall in our minds all that God has done for us in the past like Jeremiah did. As the song says, “If He did it before, He can do it again, same God right now – same God back then.” Even in devastation Jeremiah finds hope, he remembers that God’s mercies are new every morning and that He offers continuous strength to those who seek and wait on Him. Although Jeremiah and his people had lost everything, he still knew that God’s love and compassion would remain the same. And, that it would be a daily reminder of His love and faithfulness they could always count on. Like Jeremiah, let us hold to our hope and wait on the Lord to do His work.

The same God that was there for Jeremiah is the same God that is here for us today. The Bible tells us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is still the God of love, of hope, of understanding, of loyalty, of grace, and of mercy. His mercies are new every day and His grace is endless. Every new day God offers us another chance to right the wrong and start anew. Lamentation 3 reminds us that we too can find hope and strength by holding on the promises of God and His unchanging nature in the midst of life's storms. For we serve a loving and faithful God.

God's faithfulness to us can be summed up in this song:

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father.

There is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changes not, thy compassion, they fail not;

As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness,

Great is thy faithfulness,

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided;

Great is thy faithfulness,

Lord unto me.

Author, Thomas O. Chisholm



Prayer

Father God, thank You for Your great love towards us. Your mercies are new every day. Thank You for being faithful to us. Please help us to trust Your timing and wait for You to work in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Trading Our Worries for Worship

Rev. Emily K. Branch

Worry has become a common part of life. The world teaches us to be anxious about what we eat, drink, or wear, yet Jesus reminds us to focus on God's Kingdom instead. While worry drains us, worship restores us.

Psalm 43:5 declares: "Why am I so discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!"

This scripture gives us the answer to our dilemma: when discouragement tries to overwhelm us, hope and praise lift us back into God's presence. Worship shifts our focus from problems to the Problem-Solver.

As we celebrate 110 years of service, we are reminded that our church family has been built on this very truth. Through wars, pandemics, economic challenges, and seasons of uncertainty, we have learned to trade our worries for worship and to put our hope in God. His faithfulness across generations gives us confidence that He will sustain us in the future.

3 Ways to Trade Our Worries for Worship

1. Put Our Hope in God

God's faithfulness in the past assures us He will provide for our future. Our 110-year history as a church is a testament of his faithfulness and his righteous hand guiding us.

2. Put a Praise on It

Worship is not a one-time event but a lifestyle. Scripture reminds us to continually offer a sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15). For every worry, there is something greater to praise God for.

3. Put Some Things to Rest

Jesus invites us in Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Prayer

Lord, we thank You for 110 years of faithfulness to Metropolitan Baptist Church. Thank You for teaching us to trade our worries for worship. As we celebrate, let us continue to choose faith over fear, worship over worry, and hope over despair.

You are the same God who carried us through every trial and you are the same God who is carrying us into a future filled with promise. We trust you and put it all in your hands. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



When Winter Gives Way to Spring: Finding God in Life's Seasons

Rev. Betty Hill

Life, much like the natural world around us, moves in seasons. Just as the earth revolves around the sun and ushers in winter, spring, summer, and fall, so our spiritual journeys revolve around the Son of God, bringing times of joy, waiting, hardship, and renewal. The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Winter is often used as a metaphor for adversity or spiritual desolation. In nature, winter is a time when growth is hidden. Fields lie fallow, trees stand bare, and life seems to pause under the weight of frost and snow. Likewise, our personal winters can be seasons of silence, waiting, or even despair. We may feel frozen in place, longing for progress, yet finding ourselves simply sliding across the ice of circumstances we cannot control.

Some winters are harsher than others. Just as certain regions endure bitter storms while others only feel a light chill, some of us endure winters of deep grief, illness, or loss, while others may face shorter trials. It is easy to compare our hardships with those around us, wondering, "Why is my winter colder than theirs?" Yet even in the coldest nights, God remains present.

Preparation is key. In physical winter, we protect ourselves with coats, gloves, and scarves. Spiritually, we clothe ourselves in faith, prayer, and the promises of God. Proverbs 31:21 paints the picture of a woman who is not afraid of the snow, for her household is clothed in scarlet. She is ready, not because winter will not come, but because she trusts in God's provision.

The good news is this: winter does not last forever. Song of Songs 2:11-12 declares, “See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come.” Beneath the frozen ground, seeds are preparing to sprout. What looks dormant is not dead—God is working in hidden places. Our winters are temporary. They prepare the soil of our hearts for the spring of renewal and joy.

Winter also teaches us valuable lessons. It is a time to pause, reflect, and remember God’s past provision. It is a time to slow down and allow God’s quiet work to strengthen our roots. Just as snow nourishes the earth for future harvest (Isaiah 55:10), the cold seasons of our lives build faith and resilience we will need in the days ahead.

If you find yourself in a winter season today, know this: God has not abandoned you. He is your shelter in the storm, your warmth in the cold, and your hope in the silence. And when spring breaks forth, you will see blossoms of new life and hear songs of joy once again. As Psalm 30:5 reminds us, “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”

Winter will pass. Spring is on the way. Trust the God of every season.

Reflection Questions

1. What “winter” season are you experiencing right now—spiritually, emotionally, or physically?
2. How has God sustained you through past winters in your life?
3. What spiritual clothing (faith, prayer, scripture) do you need to “put on” to prepare for life’s winters?
4. Where do you see small signs of “spring” beginning to emerge in your life?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that no season lasts forever. Even in the winters of my life, you are near strengthening me, providing for me, and preparing me for renewal. Help me to trust You in the cold and to rejoice when spring arrives. Teach me to see Your hand at work in every season and let my heart always sing of Your faithfulness. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

The Master Teacher: Lessons from Jesus on Education

Rev. Silas H. Christian III, PhD

Proverbs 1:7 reminds us that "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." True education, as illuminated in Scripture, starts with a deep, reverential respect for God. While the word "education" may not explicitly appear in every English translation of the Bible, the concept of learning, acquiring knowledge, and developing wisdom is central. This process begins within the family, with parents guiding their children. Jesus, Our Master Teacher

The Gospels consistently portray Jesus as a teacher. He proclaimed and instructed, often referred to as "Teacher" or "Rabbi" by His contemporaries. His teachings weren't merely theoretical; they were transformative, leading people to a new relationship with God—the "kingdom of God."

What made Jesus the "Master Teacher"?

- **Divine Authority:** Unlike other teachers who cited external sources, Jesus spoke with inherent authority, declaring, "You have heard this, but I tell you..." (Matthew 5:22).
- **Relatable Storytelling:** Jesus used parables, like the Prodigal Son, to convey profound truths in memorable ways.
- **Shocking Statements:** He employed hyperbole and exaggeration to capture attention and emphasize His points, even if not meant to be taken literally (e.g., Matthew 5:29–30).

- **Memorable Sayings:** Jesus crafted poetic and catchy phrases that were easy for His listeners to remember, such as the Golden Rule (Luke 6:31).
- **Thought-Provoking Questions:** Instead of always providing answers, Jesus often asked questions to lead His listeners to their own conclusions (e.g., Matthew 22:20-21).
- **Visual Illustrations:** He used object lessons, like washing His disciples' feet, to demonstrate servant leadership (John 13:3-17).
- **Experiential Learning:** Jesus didn't just teach; He sent His disciples out to apply His instructions, understanding that experience deepens faith (Luke 9:1-6, 10).
- **Practiced What He Preached:** The ultimate example of integrity, Jesus lived out His teachings. He prayed often, dined with sinners, and walked His talk even to the cross (Luke 5:16, Matthew 9:10-12).

Learning from God's Word

The Bible itself is a foundational source for learning. "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

As followers of Christ, we are called to learn from Jesus, our Master Teacher. His methods provide a blueprint for effective communication, spiritual growth, and a life lived in accordance with God's will.

Closing Thought

Let us strive to be students of His Word and emulate His characteristics as we seek to grow in knowledge and wisdom.



**“Now unto Him who is able to do
exceedingly abundantly above all
that we ask or think...”
Ephesians 3:20–21**

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