

A CENTURY OF FAITH AND SERVICE

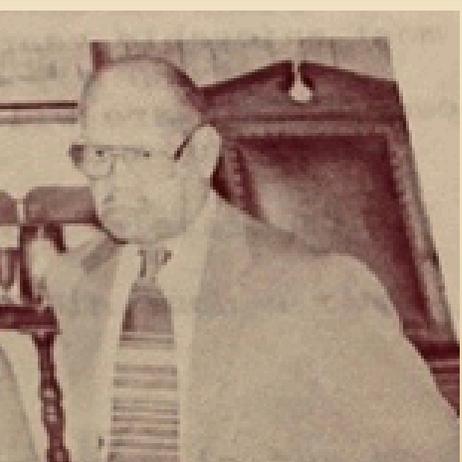
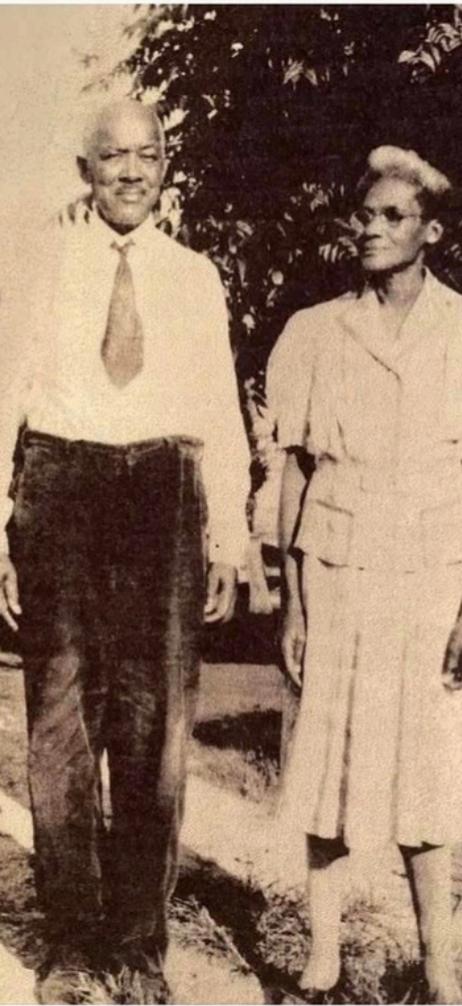
MT. CALVARY

Centennial Year

BAPTIST CHURCH



A Journey of Redemption, Restoration, and Becoming



A CENTURY OF FAITH & SERVICE

Sunday March 8, 2026 | 10:00 AM | Rev. Paula Alexander, Executive Pastor Presiding

PROCESSIONAL
"Magnify the Lord"
Liturgical Dance Ministry

CALL TO WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE
Hebrews 13:16

INVOCATION/ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LIGHTING OF MEMORIAL CANDLES

Keris McSwain-Briscoe
Sharina Byers
Joyce Pressley
Barbara Mintz
Talmadge Cline

"These candles are lit in memory of all who have gone before us, but are forever present in our hearts".

GREETINGS

Rev. Dr. M. Lamont Littlejohn Jr. Servant Pastor/Teacher

SELECTION

"For The Rest Of My Days"
Voices of Calvary Mass Choir
Summer Jamerson, Guest Psalmist

STATEMENT of PURPOSE & WELCOME

Tanesha Robertson

VIDEO PRESENTATION

"Mt. Calvary - Built Upon A Rock"

GREETINGS

The Honorable Nate Evans President, Gardner-Webb University
The Honorable Andrew Hopper Councilman, City of Shelby
The Honorable Douglas Bridges Commissioner, Cleveland County

SELECTION

"They Got The Word"
Voices of Calvary Mass Choir

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

SERMONIC SELECTION

MESSAGE
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Page
Senior Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church
Durham, NC

ALTAR CALL

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

CLOSING REMARKS
Rev. Dr. M. Lamont Littlejohn

BENEDICTION

Everyone is invited to a reception in the multi-purpose room following the service.

MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TIMELINE

1926

REV. C. S. JACKSON
1st Pastor elected in
April 1926.

1927

REV. A. M. MEANS
2nd Pastor elected in
February 1927.

1927

REV. C. A. WEAVER
3rd Pastor elected in Winter 1927.
He served as the spiritual leader in
1928 when the "little white church
on the hill" was built.

1929-1941

- REV. J. N. MOSS, 4TH PASTOR
- REV. T. H. ROGERS, 5TH PASTOR
- REV. JAMES DAWKINS, 6TH PASTOR

These three pastors faithfully shepherded the Mt. Calvary congregation from 1929 to 1941. While limited historical records remain from their tenure, it is notable that they actively evangelized in the surrounding communities and helped grow the congregation to 78 members.

1941 - 1954

REV. JOHN ARTHUR WHITE
7th Pastor Served from 1941 to 1954. During his leadership, the Baptist Training Union (BTU), Vacation Bible School, and Junior Church were organized. Rev. White also planned the first Institute of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association (EMBA), which was hosted at Mt. Calvary. In the 1950s, the church completed its first major renovation, adding a basement, kitchen, and additional classrooms.

1954-1967

- REV. JOHN H. WHITE, 8TH PASTOR
- REV. B. M. PARKER, 9TH PASTOR
- REV. W. GRADY BOYCE, 10TH PASTOR
- REV. R. E. DEVOE, 11TH PASTOR

These four pastors faithfully shepherded Mt. Calvary Baptist Church from 1954 - 1967 during which time the membership continued to increase. Weekly prayer meetings, revival services and testimonial services were added. The Missionary Department, Sunday School and music ministries flourished.

1967-2002

REV. DR. SAMUEL A. RAPER
12th pastor, Served from 1967 to 2002, becoming the longest-serving pastor in church history (35 years). Under his leadership, the "little white church" was replaced in 1972, and the Carolina Avenue campus was rebuilt in three phases. At his retirement, Mt. Calvary was debt-free, with 245 adults and 315 children, and had contributed more than \$300,000 to foreign and domestic missions.

2003-PRESENT

REV. DR. M. LAMONT LITTLEJOHN JR.
13th Pastor Serving from 2003 to the present. Elected at age 26, Pastor Littlejohn became the youngest pastor in church history and is currently the second longest-serving. His ministry continues to shape and write the ongoing story of Mt. Calvary.

MT. CALVARY

A JOURNEY OF REDEMPTION, RESTORATION, AND BECOMING

BEYOND FAMILIAR

Celebrating a Century of Faith and Service

Before there was a building, there was fear. Before there was a congregation, there was flight. Before there was worship, there was survival.

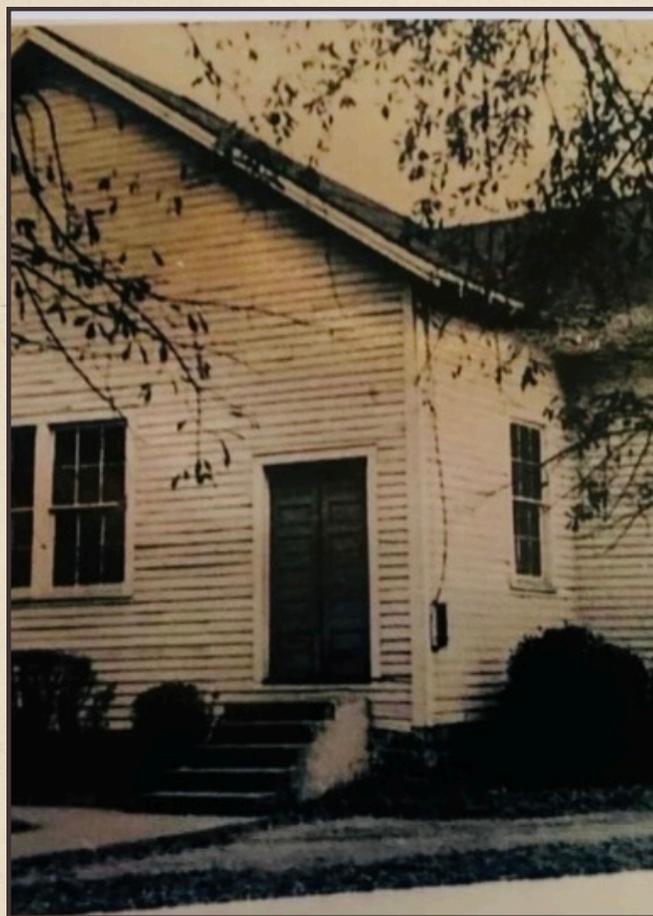
In the mid-1920s, a close-knit circle of families and friends made a decision that would change generations. Forced to flee Greene County, Georgia, under the shadow of racial terror and the violent reach of the Ku Klux Klan, they left behind everything familiar—homes, livelihoods, memories—and carried with them only what could not be stolen: their faith, their kinship, and their belief that God was still leading them somewhere safe.

That “somewhere” became Shelby, North Carolina. What they found was not ease, but possibility. On February 8, 1926, inside the humble home of Rev. W. W. Price, a preliminary meeting took place—not simply to discuss worship, but to imagine stability, dignity, and spiritual covering for a displaced people.

They spoke of structure. They spoke of responsibility. They spoke of care for one another. And quietly, without fanfare, they spoke hope into existence.

Less than a month later, on March 3, 1926, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church was officially organized in the Orange Street home of Fess (F. E.) and Flora Taylor Young. With Rev. G. E. Hogue of the Gold Hill Association presiding, the church was born—not in grandeur, but in courage.

The founding members came forward by letter and by lived faith: Washington Akridge, Aaron Harris, W. M. Matthis, Eddie Price, and Fess Young; Janie Matthis, Lizzie Moon, Martin Mumford, Lillie Price, Lucy Spear, Rosa Mae Spear, Thomas Spear, Fannie Williams, Ada Young, and Flora Young. Their names mark more than a roster—they mark a resolve to plant something enduring in unfamiliar soil.



Worship followed wherever doors would open. Services were held in the Young family home, then rotated among Durham Chapel Methodist Church, Wilson Street Presbyterian Church, and Roberts Tabernacle CME Church. Six dollars a month secured space, but faith supplied permanence. Every sermon preached in borrowed walls echoed the same truth: we are building toward something of our own.

"We are building toward something of our own."

MT. CALVARY

A JOURNEY OF REDEMPTION, RESTORATION, AND BECOMING

BEYOND FAMILIAR

Celebrating a Century of Faith and Service

Leadership came swiftly. On April 12, 1926, Rev. C. S. Jackson was elected as Mt. Calvary's first pastor. Though pastoral transitions followed—Rev. A. M. Means serving briefly in early 1927—the congregation pressed forward, undeterred.

By the fall of 1927, faith took physical form. Land at 422 Carolina Avenue was purchased for \$2,000. With a \$50 contribution from Shelby businessman J. L. Suttle and \$200 sacrificially gathered from the members themselves, Mt. Calvary claimed ground—ground that would hold prayers, tears, baptisms, and praise for decades to come.

The Men of Calvary drew the plans by hand: a one-level structure that would house a sanctuary, a pastor's study, an office, a choir room, and two bathrooms. It was practical. It was modest. It was enough

In February 1928, the building was completed—later lovingly remembered as “the little white church on the hill.” And on the third Sunday in March, a sacred procession took place. Led by Rev. C. A. Weaver and faithful ushers Mable Moss, Sylvia Barrow, Rosa Mae Spear, and Ada Young, the congregation walked from Roberts Tabernacle CME Church to their new home on Carolina Avenue. Former pastor Rev. A. M. Means preached the dedication service, sealing the moment with reverence and gratitude.

They entered the building carrying a debt of \$3,741.00—but also carrying something far greater: proof that what began in fear had matured into faith, and what was once temporary had become rooted. Mt. Calvary was no longer wandering. It had arrived—ready to grow, ready to serve, and ready to move beyond familiar. Arrival did not mean rest. Rooted ground still requires tending.

“It had arrived—ready to grow, ready to serve, and ready to move beyond familiar.”



As the decades unfolded, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church continued to embody what it had always been called to be—a place where faith met responsibility, where worship extended beyond the sanctuary, and where the needs of the people shaped the mission of the church. Leadership evolved, ministries expanded, and the church's witness deepened. Mt. Calvary became not only a place of Sunday gathering, but a constant presence in the daily lives of its members and the surrounding Shelby community. Prayer meetings, revival services, missionary work, and music ministries flourished, reinforcing the church's role as both spiritual anchor and community advocate.

MT. CALVARY

A JOURNEY OF REDEMPTION, RESTORATION, AND BECOMING

BEYOND FAMILIAR

Celebrating a Century of Faith and Service

The sanctuary walls echoed with sermons that spoke to survival and salvation, justice and joy. Choirs lifted voices shaped by both struggle and hope. Ushers welcomed generations with dignity. Missionaries served faithfully—feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, and ensuring that no one was forgotten.

Mt. Calvary learned how to grow without losing its soul. As the world changed, so did the ministry. New programs emerged to meet real needs—education initiatives, food and clothing outreach, youth development, senior support, and wellness ministries that recognized the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. Each addition reflected a consistent truth—the church did not exist for itself alone. When global challenges arose, Mt. Calvary responded with courage and care. During seasons of uncertainty, the church leaned into innovation while remaining

grounded in tradition. Worship adapted. Communication expanded. Community partnerships strengthened. Faith proved flexible without becoming fragile. What began as survival in the 1920s matured into stewardship in the present day. Mt. Calvary became a church willing to examine itself, refine its systems, and prepare for the future—updating governance, strengthening financial accountability, expanding leadership opportunities, and opening doors wider than ever before. Milestones were marked not simply as achievements, but as evidence of obedience and growth. The journey was never about buildings alone. It was always about becoming.

Becoming a church that heals. Becoming a church that listens. Becoming a church that reaches beyond what is comfortable into what is necessary. From a borrowed room to a permanent home. From displacement to purpose. From tradition to transformation.

“Mt. Calvary Baptist Church continues to live into its calling—redeemed by faith, restored through service, and still becoming... beyond familiar.”



THE MINISTRY OF TODAY: FAITH IN ACTION

Today, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church continues to live out its calling through a wide and intentional network of ministries designed to serve every season of life. What began as survival has matured into service—organized, compassionate, and responsive to the needs of a diverse and growing community.

The heart of care is seen through Compassion Caregivers, offering presence, prayer, and practical support during times of illness, loss, and transition. This spirit of hospitality extends through Welcome/Care, ensuring that every person who enters Mt. Calvary is seen, embraced, and connected.

Worship and creativity remain central to the church's identity. Through Music and Creative Arts, Mt. Calvary continues a rich tradition of praise—using voice, movement, media, and expression to glorify God and engage all generations. The Media Ministry expands that reach beyond the sanctuary, connecting worshippers near and far through technology and digital communication.

Spiritual growth is cultivated intentionally through Faith Formations (Small Groups), creating spaces for discipleship, study, and meaningful connection. Intercessory Prayer anchors the church in spiritual discipline, standing in the gap for individuals, families, and the wider community. Mt. Calvary invests deeply in generational ministry. G1-Students nurture faith among children and youth, while Young Adults (The WELL) provides a space for emerging leaders to grow spiritually, relationally, and purposefully. Couples, Men, and Women ministries offer tailored opportunities for fellowship, accountability, and shared growth across life stages.

Service beyond the sanctuary remains a defining mark. Jireh (Food) addresses food insecurity with dignity and consistency. Transportation ensures access to worship and essential services, while Seniors on the Move honors wisdom, mobility, and continued engagement for older adults. Veteran Affairs recognizes and supports those who have served, and Wellness ministries affirm the importance of physical, mental, and emotional health.

The call to outreach continues through RISE Evangelism, carrying the message of hope into neighborhoods and lives, while Security ministries provide safety and stewardship for all who gather.

Together, these ministries reflect more than activity—they reflect alignment. Each one is a response to the same call that brought displaced people together nearly a century ago: to care for one another, to worship faithfully, and to move forward with purpose.

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church is not simply maintaining ministry. It is living its mission—every day, in every way, beyond familiar.



Dear Family, Friends and Honored Guests,

With grateful hearts and joyful spirits, we celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of our beloved Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, marking 100 years of faithfulness, service, and unwavering commitment to God and community.

For a full century, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church has stood as a beacon of hope in Shelby, North Carolina. Our story is one written by sacrifice, perseverance, and prayer. We stand today on the broad shoulders of the saints who came before us—men and women who trusted God, labored faithfully, and laid a firm foundation upon which we now build. Their resilience, and obedience continue to shape who we are and guide where we are going.

Throughout the years, this church has been more than a place of worship. Mt. Calvary has been a refuge in times of trouble, a training ground for discipleship, and a catalyst for change within our community. Through mission work, outreach initiatives, and intentional community engagement, we have sought to live out the Gospel beyond the church walls—feeding the hungry, uplifting the discouraged, mentoring the young, and advocating for justice and compassion.

As we reflect on our past, we also celebrate the work being done in the present. God has allowed us to grow, to adapt, and to respond to the needs of a changing world while remaining anchored in sound doctrine and deep faith. Our commitment has never been to comfort alone, but to calling. We remain dedicated to living beyond familiar—following God's vision, stretching our faith, embracing innovation, and boldly stepping into new opportunities for ministry and mission.

This Centennial celebration is not just about honoring history; it is about resetting purpose. With God's help, we look ahead with expectation, determined to continue impacting lives, strengthening families, and serving our community with love and integrity for generations to come.

To every member, past and present; to every leader, servant, and supporter—thank you for being part of this sacred journey. May the legacy of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church continue to shine as a testament to God's faithfulness for the next 100 years and we continue to live beyond familiar every day and in every way.

By His Grace,

M. Lamont Littlejohn, Jr.

Reverend Doctor M. Lamont Littlejohn, Jr.
Servant Pastor/Teacher



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR**

March 7, 2026

Rev. Dr. M. Lamont Littlejohn, Jr.
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
422 Carolina Avenue
Shelby, NC 28150

Dear Pastor Littlejohn,

I am pleased to congratulate Mt. Calvary Baptist Church on its 100th anniversary! For a century, your church has blessed so many with its faith, love, and commitment.

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church has served as a beacon of service, fellowship, and hope for generations of congregants. Under your visionary leadership, Mt. Calvary continues to be a guiding light for North Carolina. Thank you for your service to your church, the Shelby community, and the people of our state.

Again, congratulations on this milestone anniversary. Dedicated faith communities like yours are vital to creating a safer, stronger North Carolina where all people can thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Stein".

Josh Stein
Governor



**PROCLAMATION
CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF
MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church was organized on March 3, 1926 in the Orange Street home of Fess and Flora Young when a small group of family and friends gathered to worship and address the ongoing needs of the community; and,

WHEREAS, local businessman J. L. Suttle donated a down payment of \$50.00 so the church members could purchase land at 422 Carolina Avenue from Mal Spangler to build a permanent facility; and,

WHEREAS, the first structure which was referred to as "the little white church on the hill" was completed in February 1928 and the first worship service was held in March 1928; and,

WHEREAS, the congregation continuously grew by evangelizing to residents of surrounding neighborhoods, cities and towns and focused on Christian development, service, missions and financial stability; and,

WHEREAS, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church expanded their influence from a local community church to a global platform not only through monetary gifts but through action; and,

WHEREAS, for 10 years, the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church led the state and nation by giving over \$300,000.00 to mission causes both foreign and domestic; and,

WHEREAS, examples of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church missions are land purchases in Haiti, transitional housing for ex-offenders, partnerships to address food shortages, reading fundamentals, education, health screening and summer camps; and,

WHEREAS, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church has become a multi-cultural, multi-dimensional, multi-campus ministry that embraces the original vision of our local community and our global community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, O. Stanhope Anthony, III, Mayor of the City of Shelby, North Carolina do hereby celebrate and congratulate Mt. Calvary Baptist Church on their 100th anniversary on March 3, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Shelby, North Carolina to be affixed this 3rd day of March, 2026.

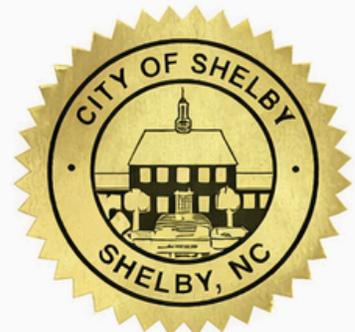


O. Stanhope Anthony, III
Mayor

ATTEST:



Carol Williams, NCCMC
City Clerk







Proclamation

04-2026

Proclamation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Whereas, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Shelby, NC was organized on March 3, 1926 in the Orange Street home of Fess and Flora Young; and

Whereas, the congregation purchased land at 422 Carolina Avenue from Mal Spangler to build a permanent facility; and

Whereas, local businessman (J. L. Suttle) donated \$50.00 to the congregation for down payment on the land; and

Whereas, the first structure known as "the little white church on the hill" was completed in February 1928 and first worship service was held in March 1928; and

Whereas, the congregation continuously grew by evangelizing to residents of surrounding neighborhoods, cities and towns; and

Whereas, the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church focused on Christian development, service, missions and financial stability; and

Whereas, the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church expanded their influence from a local community to global platform not only through monetary gifts but action; and

Whereas, for 10 years, the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church led the state and nation by giving over \$300,000.00 to mission causes both foreign and domestic; and

Whereas, the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church consistently encourages its members to "build one relationship at a time" while "living beyond familiar every day and in every way"; and

Whereas, land purchases in Haiti, transitional housing for ex-offenders, partnerships to address food shortages, reading fundamentals, education, health screening and summer camps provide well rounded support; and

Whereas, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church has two campuses, one on Carolina Avenue and another on Northside Drive in the Robertsdale Community to expand its ongoing commitment to mission, service and community engagement; and

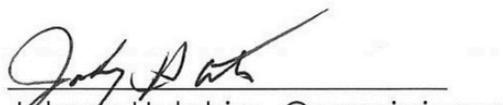
Whereas, a small group of family and friends initially organized the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in a family home to have a place to worship and address the ongoing needs of the community; it has become a multi-cultural, multi-dimensional, multi campus ministry that embraces the original vision of our local community but now also includes the global community;

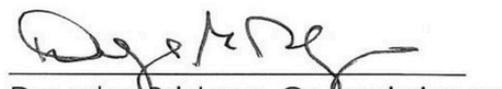
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on this joyous occasion, we honor Mt. Calvary Baptist Church for 100 years of faithful ministry, celebrate its rich history, give thanks for its lasting impact and pray for many more years of growth, service, and blessings to come.

Adopted this the 3rd Day of February 2026.


Kevin Gordon, Chairman


Deb Hardin, Vice-Chairman


Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner


Douglas Bridges, Commissioner


Tony Berry, Commissioner







Proclamation of Congratulations and Commendation

MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 100 YEARS OF KINGDOM MINISTRY

Whereas the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Shelby, North Carolina was organized on March 3, 1926; and

Whereas, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church has walked in covenant partnership with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association (EMBA) for ninety-six years of its 100 years of ministry; and

Whereas the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association bears witness that the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church has faithfully supported the vision, mission, fellowship and unity of churches throughout the association; and

Whereas the very first Institute of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association was planned and held in the year of 1941 at the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church led by its pastor, Rev. John Arthur White; and

Whereas for almost a century, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church has contributed to the spiritual growth of its congregation, development of ministry leaders and the communal strength of the association; and

Whereas for a combined total of 58 years of its history, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church has been shepherded by only two spiritual leaders--Rev. Dr. Samuel A. Raper (35 years) until 2002 and its current pastor, Rev. Dr. M. Lamont Littlejohn Jr. (23 years); and

Whereas through Dr. Samuel A. Raper's leadership and his biblical teaching on operating a church through tithes and offerings, the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association purchased land for the construction of an association owned facility intended to provide space to conduct meetings, special programs and encourage fellowship among member churches; and

Whereas under Dr. M. Lamont Littlejohn Jr. (who previously served as the 2nd Vice Moderator, 4th Vice Moderator and chairperson of the annual Institute), the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church invested a lead gift of \$30,000 and partnered with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association to endow the Reverend Dr. Samuel A. Raper scholarship at Gardner-Webb University; and

Whereas the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association commends the pastors, officers, members and generations of disciples who have built, sustained and advanced this great church; and



Proclamation of Congratulations and Commendation

MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 100 YEARS OF KINGDOM MINISTRY

Whereas we, the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association (EMBA), give thanks to God for 100 years of ministry in which Mt. Calvary Baptist Church has championed education, Christian service and community success; and

Therefore, Be it resolved that on the celebration of your centennial, we reaffirm our love, respect and prayers to you Dr. Littlejohn and the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church congregation. We will continue to honor the legacy of a shared faith that will forever bind us together in Christian love and service.

Now, Therefore, Be It Further Resolved That on the occasion of your Centennial Celebration, the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, comprised of 42 churches, having served for more than 136 years stands in full support of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and joyfully celebrates this historic milestone.

We, the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Clark Sr.; Vice Moderators Rev. John McDonald, Dr. Mary Hall, Rev. Dwight Rutledge, and Rev. Randy Thurman; along with the Association's leadership and entire body of believers, extend our heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Dr. M. Lamont Littlejohn Jr. and the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church congregation.

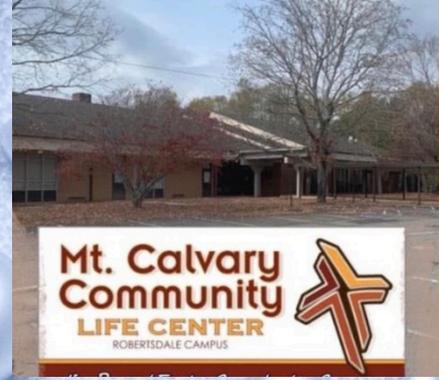
We reaffirm our love, respect, and continued prayers as we honor the legacy of shared faith that binds us together in Christian love and service for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Melvin L. Clark Sr.

Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Clark Sr., Moderator
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association (EMBA ONE)















BEYOND FAMILIAR