**Brief History of Now Faith Community Baptist Church**

**In 1918** a family gathered with the hunger and desire to come together to worship the Lord. A church was formed. Mr. Jasper Perry donated the land, and the members devoted their labor, time, food, and monies for the construction of a plank edifice. This structure afforded them their church and their school.

**1940s–1950s**

There was an increase in membership during the 1940s, and the existing church was renovated and converted from plank to brick. Preaching at the time was only held once a month on second Sunday, but it was later changed to second and third Sundays. Church conferences took place on Saturday only. The first piano and church pews were purchased from Bethany Baptist Church in 1947, a church with whom we still fellowship today. Also, during this time period, the choir stand, Deacons’ room, and choir dressing room were constructed. Interior improvements were made in 1959. Mr. Henry Perry donated land for a church cemetery. Members could now be buried in the church cemetery instead of being laid to rest elsewhere.

**1968**

The third renovation of the church began in 1968. This included completion of inside bathrooms and installation of a water fountain.

**1978**

The fourth renovation of the edifice occurred in 1978. Improvements included the corridor of the sanctuary, annexation of the Fellowship Hall, installation of the public-address system, and a cement platform. This renovation involved the addition of 21 square feet to the building.

**1980s**

The 1980s brought more changes in the physical, as well as spiritual. A new public-address system was installed, repair of the corridor occurred, and additional elements were added to the air-conditioning system. Emphasis was placed on tithing, the A. F. Mass Choir was established, and the Sunday Youth Period was begun. The Constitution and By-laws were compiled in 1987.

**1990s**

More progress occurred in the 1990s. The “Jesus Cares” food ministry was established, a Fall Festival took place on October 31, and Youth and Family Night was scheduled. Safety rails, stained-glass windows, and a new church sign were installed.

Throughout the years, the church had grown, evolved, and continued to be transformed. We obtained our first full-time pastor, the church office functions were computerized, a second van was purchased to implement a van ministry, and a new piano was secured. Three acres of land were purchased and paid for behind the present edifice.

Now Faith Community Baptist Church became incorporated in 1999. In addition, a tape ministry was begun, the kitchen equipment was updated, the sanctuary was painted, and the furnishings were stained and reupholstered.

**2003**

A new chapter in the life of Now Faith began when we installed our 9th and former Pastor, Rev. Daniel Robert Blackmond. Under his leadership, the Constitution and By-laws were restructured, and new ministries were implemented.

In this year, David Page was ordained as a Deacon.

**2004**

In 2004 Now Faith continued to establish new and exciting programs for the youth, as well as the seniors. The Seniors Ministry sponsored its first annual Senior Citizens Banquet. The 1st Prayer Retreat was held in Asheville, NC. Pastor Blackmond continued to restructure and redefine the leadership roles within the church.

**2005**

The year 2005 ushered in the addition of two Associate Ministers: Rev. Lenard Bratcher and Rev. Shelia Nwaebiem. Now Faith established a 501(c)(3) organization, the Now Faith Community Development Center, to become more involved in the Knightdale community.

**2006**

In 2006 the nonprofit status of the church and the Now Faith Community Development Center, Inc. were finalized by the federal government, and the first Board of Directors of the CDC was appointed.

**2007**

In 2007 a new Youth Bible Study (AWANA) program was begun; it was designed to teach Scripture memorization and was based on a reward system. The Now Faith Community Development Center was awarded several grants designed to increase awareness of diabetes and to continue to finance the Back-to-School Rally.

**2008**

The year 2008 brought the ordination of Ted Bledsoe Sr. as a Deacon, and Rev. Shelia Nwaebiem and Rev. Stefanie Saunders were ordained.

**2009**

In 2009 we licensed two new Ministers: Christopher Bunn and Tracy Womack. Homecoming 2009 was a special day for Now Faith. On this day, we broke ground on a new facility, our Multi-Purpose Building. This early-morning event was attended by church members, as well as family and community leaders, after which we proceeded into the sanctuary for our 91st Homecoming Service.

**2010**

In May 2010, we dedicated the Multi-Purpose Building with a ceremony and cookout event for the church and community. Also, during this year, Deacon Charles Ferrell became chairman of the Deacons Ministry. In addition, Sis. Doris McLean Bates and Bro. Robert Williams were voted in as Trustees that December.

**2011**

During this year, the church installed a wheelchair-accessible ramp leading into the dining hall.

**2012**

The Scholarship Foundation was established in 2012. Also, the church had trees removed from around the side and back of the building and installed a fence and gate.

**2013**

For this year, the church redid the floors in the choir loft and pulpit area, as well as flooring in the hallway between the offices and the church sanctuary. In addition, the church ordained Rev. Christopher Bunn, Rev. Gloria Williams, and Rev. Tracy Womack. Bro. Calvin Robertson also was voted in as a Trustee.

**2014**

In January 2014 Mother Queen Tyler officially retired from the Kitchen Ministry after many years of service. And the church completed some renovations and improvements to the men’s and women’s restrooms in the Old Building.

**2016**

Effective April 30, 2016, Rev. Daniel R. Blackmond resigned his position as Pastor of Now Faith. In the interim of operating without a Pastor, church officers and the congregation are leaning on God’s guidance until He sees fit to send whoever He assigns to lead the church into another era. The Minister of Music, Lydia Salett Dudley, resigned her position effective June 19, 2016.

**2017**

The Food Truck was added to the Now Faith Ministries. In the spring of 2017, a new Pastor was elected to lead the flock at Now Faith. **The Rev. Eric Brinkley** was chosen and installed as our Pastor.

As we look back over time, we are grateful to still have some of the original laborers with us who paved the way at this edifice which include Sis. Louise Smiley, Sis. Algie Jones, Sis. Lillie Perry and Bro. June Dunn. We are grateful!

**2018**

During 2018 church ministries continue their work to glorify the Lord. Under the leadership of our new Minister of Music, Mr. Willie Vick, the **Music Ministry** has continued to flourish, a*nd we are uplifted through songs rendered*. In addition to continuing to serve members of the congregation during times of need, the **Hospitality Ministry** had its first church program in August of this year. Members of the **Ushers’ Ministry** represented us well at the annual --- Banquet, and our own, Sis. Sigrid who is (position) was a presenter at this gathering. Our **Deacons and Trustee** ministries worked together to initiate needed repairs on the roof of the church and other areas. Our **Youth Department** along with the church body contributed financially toward the needs of our college students. Our assistant pastor, Rev. Christopher Bunn, continues his **Rest Home Ministry**, bringing the Word to those with health challenges. Our **Kitchen Ministry** has served in various capacities not only by preparing delicious meals that satisfy grieving families but also b*y helping to create a beautiful \_\_ when the church family and friends celebrated the birthday of First Lady Tamika Brinkle*y. The **Dream Coats Ministry** continues to flourish as it provides needed food and clothing and a meal on the third Saturday of each month at our Multi-Purpose Building to members of the community. Amidst these activities, our Pastor Rev. Erick Brinkley, is leading, praying, preaching and inspiring the entire church family to continue to work diligently to fulfill the vision of those of the church founders and that is to be like a beacon on the hill that draws lost souls to Christ.

We acknowledge the loss of two of our early Church warriors who have gone to be with the Lord: Sis. Algie Jones, Sis. Louise Smiley and Sis. Marvie Privette. We thank God that He is still preserving the lives of Sis. Lillie Perry, Bro. Billy (June) Dunn, Jr and Mother Queen Tyler.

We are Now Faith Community Baptist Church. **A Church That Lives by F.A.I.T.H!**