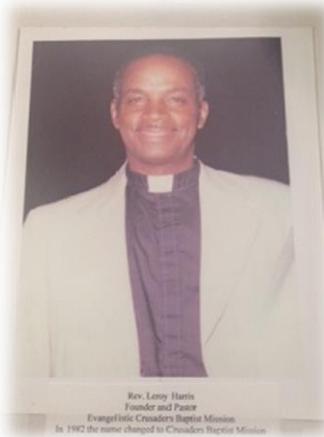


## *Crusaders Baptist Church History (September 1980-Present)*

### *Rev. Leroy Harris (1980-1984)*



In September 1980, Evangelistic Crusaders Baptist Mission (ECBM)--now called Crusaders Baptist Church--was founded by Rev. Leroy Harris. The church was located at 4202 Edson Place, N.E. Washington, D.C.

On September 21, the first Sunday service was held. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Richard Christian of First Baptist Church of Highbridge located in Laurel, MD. The first prayer service was held on October 3, and the first members joined on the same date. The first elected officers were:

- Leroy Harris, Pastor;
- Sister Wilda Davis, Secretary;
- Sister Iris Owens, Treasurer;
- Sister Irene Noland, Financial Secretary; and
- Sisters Lillie Harris, Sadie Eatman and Irene Noland, Trustees.

On October 5, the first Holy Communion was served and the first Sunday School was held. It was established that Holy Communion would be held the first Sunday of each month. On October 12, the first Usher Board was formed. The Usher Board was chaired by Sister Lillie Harris with six active members.

On Sunday, February 22, 1981, Sister Sadie Eatman was named "Mother" of ECBM. The first hymnal books were donated to ECBM by Sister Alexander of Congregational Methodist Church, located in Seat Pleasant, MD.

On September 18, ECBM celebrated its first anniversary. The week-long celebration ended on September 25.

In February 1982, Rev. Harris started a building fund drive. Each member contributed \$10.00 to kick-off the rally.

On April 23, The Articles of Incorporation was filed with the Recorder of Deeds in Washington, DC to legally establish ECBM as a corporation. At that time, the name of the church was changed to Crusaders Baptist Mission (CBM).

On June 6, the CBM held its first Men's Day service. The first Women's Day service was held on July 11.

On Sunday, February 12, 1984, Rev. Harris was called to his resting place. His final sermon was from Philippians 4:13--"I can do all things through Christ which

strengthens me." After the death of Rev. Harris, there was a pause in the ministry. There were two ministers who assisted with the ministry from 1984-1988; during this period the membership declined.

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### *Rev. Robert L. Wilson, Jr. (1989-1990)*

In 1989, CBM called on the leadership of Rev. Robert L. Wilson, Jr.--son of Mount Sinai Baptist Church in Washington, DC. Rev. Wilson was immediately installed as the Pastor of the church. At this time, the church the church membership was three. Shortly after Pastor Wilson's arrival, he called on Rev. Alton W. Jordan--son of New Image Community Baptist Church--to serve as Assistant Pastor for the church administrative affairs. In January 1990, Rev. Jordan accepted the position. At that time, the church's ministerial staff including the following:

Rev. Robert L. Wilson, Jr., Pastor,

Rev. Jack Baxter

Rev. Alton W. Jordan, Church Administrator

Sisters Marian Harris, Hazel McKay and Kelly Harris held a celebration in their honor.

Through the grace of God, the three ministers began their mission to establish various church programs. They began by establishing prayer meeting, Bible Study,

evening services, and making administrative changes. While these changes were occurring, Rev. Jack Baxter was called back to Enon Baptist Church to assist his Pastor. Rev. Wilson and Rev. Jordan continued to carry out the plans. The plans included developing church bulletins, reforming Sunday School, establishing a clothing ministry, and buying telecommunication telephone) service.

In December 1990, Rev. Robert L. Wilson, Jr. decided to step down for personal reasons after leading CBM to a congregation of five members.

### *Rev. Alton W. Jordan (1991-Present)*



In January 1991, Rev. Alton W. Jordan was elected pastor by a majority of CBM members. Pastor Jordan's installation service was held in April 20, which began with a week-long fellowship with visiting ministers and choirs. All proceeds from the event went towards the building fund. The programs were video-taped as well as the installation service. Shortly thereafter, Pastor Jordan began his mission.

Pastor Jordan began by modifying the By Laws of the church and legally changing the church's name to Crusaders Baptist Church (CBC). Pastor Jordan established the first Deacon Board. On January 26, 1992, Russell Wooten was ordained as CBC's first deacon; Mary Daniels was the first deaconess. Rev. Jordan held the first Monday and Wednesday night Bible Study. He also selected the Church Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Secretary, Church History Chairperson, Youth Director, and the Usher Board was reformed. He bought pulpit furniture, office and church furniture including: piano, drum set, video camera equipment, and copy machine. He also formed a Youth, Male, and Adult Choir. Pastor Jordan established various programs and committees such as the Youth Scholarship Fund and church picnic.

In 1996, the following major events took place:

- On February 5, Pastor Jordan was selected as Pastor of the week. This week-long recognition program was sponsored by radio station WYCB with radio announcer Winston Chaney. It was a fun-filled week for Pastor Jordan. After Pastor Jordan's on-air commentary, many old and new friends visited CBC to wish him well.
- On June 9, Rev. Jordan received his Master of Divinity from Andersonville Baptist Seminary.

- In November, Minister Sandra Buckhalter joined the Crusaders Baptist Church Family.

On March 20, 1997, Deacon Russell Wooten preached his initial sermon. Rev. Larry Powell-- who had been with Crusaders for several years--was called to Free Hope Baptist to serve as Assistant Pastor. Pastor Jordan became Senior Pastor to Crusaders Baptist Church and Faith Tabernacle Church in Vincent, Ohio. On June 21, Rev. Jordan received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Andersonville Baptist Seminary in the Nation's Capital. The inaugural commencement exercise was held at St. Mary's Baptist Church. On October 12, Ezra Dickens was ordained as a deacon.

On February 28, 1998, Minister Sandra Buckhalter was ordained as a Reverend under Mutual Baptist Missionary Association at Solomons's Temple Church of God.

In 1999, the Pastor's theme was "We're Going to Shine in 99". We did shine! In January 1999, Crusaders Baptist Church licensed its first daughter, Angela Young, who has started her own church and now serves under another ministry. Minister Buckhalter was appointed to head the Women's Ministry at CBC. In March, CBC started a new membership class to teach new members about the Bible, and how to study it. On April 10, 1999, Minister Russell Wooten was ordained and appointed as the Pastor of Faith Tabernacle Church in Vincent, Ohio. On April 18, Brother James A. Smith, and Brother John L Humes were ordained as deacons. On May 23, Pastor Jordan and Rev. Wilson received their Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Education (PhD) degrees from Faith Bible College and Seminary. The commencement exercise was held at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. In June 1999, Rev. Robert Wilson accepted the call to start his own church and Rev. Sandra Buckhalter left with him to become the assistant pastor. Pastor Jordan was invited to preach at Rightly Divided Word of Truth Church for the installation of Rev. Dr. Robert Wilson. On July 11, Sister Ruby Starkey preached her initial sermon, and on July 18, Brother Jevon Billups preached his initial sermon--both were licensed.

In 2000, Pastor Jordan reorganized all the auxiliaries in the church into three major categories. They were: Men, Women, and Youth Ministries. This reorganization was implemented to include everyone in God's ministry work at CBC. In April, Pastor Jordan and his wife taught a relationship seminar. On November 5, Brother Lavin Summers was ordained as a deacon; he now serves under another ministry.

In July 2001, CBC purchased its first church building at 800 I Street, N.E., Washington, D. C. God has continued to bless us during our Christian journey. Some said that we would not make it but we are still here because of God and the song that our Pastor sings, *Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus*. We held our first official service in September because we rented back to Solid Rock for a few months. On September 23, CBC officially moved into its new edifice; dedication services were held on October 31 and November 1.

In 2002, Pastor focused on beautifying God's house. There were many days devoted to renovation work. Thanks to God who grants us strength to endure, the

work was completed. Our newly painted sanctuary, fellowship hall, Pastor's Study, Trustee's Office, kitchen, and the new conference and sound rooms were all completed. CBC also held its first leadership training.

As the church grew, Pastor Jordan wanted to build stronger leaders. He shared his vision of "making disciples," and the church mission: To love, save, and nurture souls.

In 2003, Rev. Arlene Chambers became the overseer for the CBC Women's Ministry. She started the women's ministry Bible and book studies, which is held the last Friday of the month. To continue building strong leaders, Pastor Jordan tasked the Christian Education Director with the responsibility of preparing agendas, scheduling, and leadership meetings every fifth Friday in the month. He also implemented a new election process to elect new leaders every two years instead of each year. On November 30, Crusaders Baptist Church ordained Bro. David Shelton as a deacon.

In 2004, the food ministry was expanded to include the SHARE program. Sister Kimberly Woods coordinated this program, and training was conducted on February 21 at the SHARE warehouse. The first food distribution was held in February. On Saturday, April 1, Crusaders Baptist Church ordained its second son, Minister Jevon Billups. Rev. Billups was the Minister of Music, Youth Minister, and a teacher. Under his leadership, the Youth Department developed the church's current logo. The church is currently implementing its new logo in places throughout the ministry. Also during this year, Rev. Billups served as an interim Pastor at Holy Comforter Baptist Church. Bro. Brian Johnson became a deacon-in-training on August 8.

In October 2005, the Christian Education Ministry planned a one-day leadership training, which was held at the Holiday Inn. Dr. Frederic R. Fralic, PhD., of the ETC Group Ltd of Virginia, was the instructor. Also, under this ministry two teachers were added--Sis. Brenda Harrison (Sunday School teacher for the pre-teen and teenagers), and Sis. Sherri Parker (teacher of the younger children).

In 2006, the Nurses Unit was re-established under Pamela Bond. The Seniors Ministry was established under Brenda Harrison. The first kick-off luncheon meeting was held at the Golden Corral in Arundel Mills on April 8. The Scholarship Fund was re-established by Chairperson, Monica Holmes. The Singles Ministry was established under the leadership of Rev. Arlene Chambers. The first kick-off meeting was cancelled in February due to inclement weather conditions. Honorary Deaconess Mary Daniels was appointed Mother of the Church on Mother's Day. During this year, new items for the church building were added. They include: stained glass windows, air conditioning unit; ceiling fans, cushioned pews, and chairs for the choir stand. We also purchased updated video and technology equipment to record church services and project songs and scriptures on a large screen for congregation participation. The operators of this equipment at that time were: Sis. Krystal Billups, Bro. Reginald Dancy, and Sis. Sabrina Redfield. The 2006 church theme was *Jesus is it for 2006*. Praise God for another ordained Deacon! Deacon Brian Johnson was ordained on September 18.

In February 2007, Pastor Dr. Alton W. Jordan retired from the Department of the Interior after 37 years of service. Although retired, he still managed to receive inquiries from former employees for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) guidance. It was nice to have a pastor who could give guidance and counseling to people who were facing problems on their jobs. Once retired, Pastor focused his energy on improving CBC's ministry work. We had two new members join, Bros. James Williams and Marvin Blount--both joined the technology ministry. They received special training, which included recording services on DVDS. This help improve the way the technology ministry operates. Also during this year, CBC purchased a new fence to accentuate the beauty of God's House. Bro. Keenan Martin--one of the musicians in the church--took on the role as lead musician for all choirs.

In 2008, Sis. Elsie Jordan began her training to become a deaconess. All leaders were required to attend a joint leadership training program held at Pilgrim Baptist Church. Also during this year, Rev. Jordan began adding to CBC's current ministries. He saw a need to begin a Nursery Ministry for members who wanted to serve in the ministries but found it difficult because they had small children. On April 13, the nursery was opened for newborns and children to four years-of-age. The president of this ministry is Sis. Evelyn Jordan—other members include Sis. Risa Billups, Shanika Billups, Pamela Bond, Shanai Harrison, Brenda Harrison, Denie Holmes, and Andrea Sellers. The other new ministry added to the roster was the computer training ministry headed by Bro. Reginald Dancy and Sis. Denie Holmes; and a cooking class taught by Sis. Mary Black. These ministries were established to provide guidance and enhancement of the computer skills and cooking skills of current members. CBC also developed a "Welcome to CBC" pamphlet to provide information to guests about the different ministries in the church.

In 2009, Joy Hall established Crusaders' social communication network by creating Crusaders' first Facebook page. She was also named the Pastor's scheduler and coordinator for the church's calendar of events. Sis. Trinita Coefield was named the Church Historian. Also during this year, our pastor joined the Missionary Baptist Ministers Conference of Washington, DC and Vicinity, which holds weekly meetings on Monday. Evangelist Kathleen Coefield reinstated her membership at CBC in February, and preached her first sermon in July. Deacon Brian Johnson temporarily served as Chairman of the Deacon board until Deacon John Humes resumed his position as Chairman on June 14. The Scholarship Committee presented two members with awards in June. In December, Pastor Jordan learned of his African descent during Crusaders' Annual African Heritage Program.

In 2010, Crusaders introduced Bros. Marvin Blount and James Williams as Deacons-in-training, and Sis. Brenda Harrison as Deaconess-in-training. We thank God for the spirit of our youth; Shanika Billups and Aaron Thorne, III joined the church technology team to run the video and computer equipment during morning services, and Delonte Lipscombe used his talent by designing "God is love" in small stones in the flowerbed. We thank God for all of our youth's participation in each ministry. Bro. Timothy Coefield, Sr., preached his initial sermon on May 30, and

was licensed as a minister the following Sunday. On June 5, the Women's Ministry participated in its first annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer race for the cure 5K (3.1 mile) walk.

The participants were:

- Sis. Risa Billups (Trustee);
- Sis. Lanae Billups (usher and choir member);
- Sis. Shanika Billups (technology team member);
- Sis. Pamela Bond (Nurse);
- Rev. Mary Chambers (sleep-in);
- Deaconess Darlene Dickens;
- Sis. Joy Hall (Technology team member, scheduler, and coordinator for church events);
- Sis. Vaniah Hall (singer and praise dancer);
- Sis. ShaNai Hairston (praise dancer and choir member);
- Sis. Gardenia (Denie) Holmes (President of Women's Ministry, Technology team member and other duties assigned by the Pastor);
- Sis. Cannie Johnson (Treasurer of Women's Ministry);
- Sis. Jojo Johnson (choir member);
- First Lady Lavern Jordan (Christian Education Director, Teacher, and choir member);
- Sis. Edythia Lancaster\* (Chairperson of Pastor's Anniversary committee and Homegoing Coordinator);
- Sis. Denise Marrow;
- Sis. Sheri Parker (Youth Choir Director and Teacher);
- Sis. Bonita Robertson (Vice President of Women's Ministry and Trustee);
- Sis. Andrea Sellers (Youth Director);
- Sis. Angela Stevenson (Youth teacher and usher);
- Sis. Carla Williams (choir member); and
- Sis. Kimberly Woods (Chairperson of Share Food Program and other duties as assigned by Pastor).

\*Ten-year Survivor

In May, the CBC scholarship committee presented one of its youth with a scholarship; the theme was "Our Dreams Are Our Destiny."

Before the end of 2010, Crusaders Baptist Church was able to renovate the Women's bathroom with the talent of its church members - Bro. Harris Sellers and Bro. Donald Smith.

In 2011, Deacon Brian Johnson was appointed as Crusaders Baptist Church Superintendent of Bible Studies. This position was recommended by the Christian Education Director to encourage teachers to maintain attendance records, to ensure that each teacher presents quarterly lessons plans, and to monitor and report to the pastor the Bible Study attendance of leaders, officers, and members. All Bible Study classes, age ranges, teachers, and substitute teachers were identified to the superintendent. There are a total of five Sunday School classes, and five Bible

Study classes, which include Youth, New Members, Men's Monday Night, Wednesday Night--includes Pre-Teen and Teen, and Women's Friday Night. The five classes do not include the nursery and Youth Saturday short Bible Study. All leaders and officers are expected to attend one or combinations of these Bible Study classes to maintain their positions. Also during this year, Crusaders Baptist Church welcomed Rev. Danny Lou Allen as a new member and associate minister/Pastor's armor bearer. There were two deaconess-in-training, who are now official deaconess. They are Sis. Brenda Harrison and Sis. Evelyn Jordan. Lastly, Crusaders Baptist church was able to renovate its kitchen because of the donations and sacrifices made by Sis. Brenda Harrison, Sis. Denie Holmes, Sis. Joyce Rainy, and other members who have made small donations, including the pastor. Again, we thank Bro. Harris Sellers for his talents and skills in the kitchen renovation project.

The church also recognizes the talent of Sis. Joy Hall, who keeps the church up-to-date in its social technology, by updating the church's website with current materials, including the church calendar.

The women's ministry walked again for the second year in support of breast cancer survivors and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Crusaders Baptist Church has a new church Historian, Sis. Kimberly Woods. The church congratulates Sister Woods for taking on this responsibility.

In 2012, we are continuing to expand as a church! On October 3, for the first time in Crusaders' history, we had our first family of seven to be baptized together! God is continuing to bless in the house! Sis. Shantie Morgan-Freeman and her six boys were baptized. As pastor so affectionately commented, "they remind me of a mother and her little ducklings!" On October 14, the church celebrated another monumental occasion. After a period of training and mentoring from the other deacons in the church, Bros. James Williams and Marvin Blount were ordained as deacons.

In 2013, as we entered the New Year, our Deacon Board wanted to work on some enhancements around the church. One of these upgrades included the purchase of new baptismal robes. Bro. Armstrong, one of the new member's at this time, was one of the first to be baptized in the new robes--God continued to show us favor. The church continued its enhancements through the reconstruction of the roof. After much prayer and dedication from several church members and friends, we were able to raise the money needed to complete the roof repair.

In 2014-2015, Crusaders has continued to grow and embark on new things! In 2014, we held our very first Valentine's Day Dinner! It was truly a success as various couples in the church joined together for an evening of eloquence. In November 2014, we also held our very first Veteran's Day Program to commemorate those members who served in the Armed Forces. Each person was presented with a plaque as a token of thanks for their time and sacrifice to our

country. We were also blessed again to have our scholarship committee present a scholarship to another youth! Toward the end of 2014 through 2015, we began to focus our efforts on enhancements in the technological areas of the church. We are currently making updates to our website to expand our reach and encourage those who may be interested in visiting the church; the website will also be an additional resource for providing important information to members. Another recent enhancement in the technological area included the purchase of a security system to increase the safety of the church and its members.

Pastor Jordan will continue to work towards his vision to: 1) expand and renovate the church building; 2) provide an interchange education program with community schools; 3) start a yearly vacation bible school; 4) establish a drug and alcohol abuse program; 5) provide greater support to an outreach program in Africa--currently San Kofa; and 6) open a Family Life Center in the near future.

*Submitted by: Kimberly Woods, Church Historian*