

## ***Crusaders Baptist Church History (1980-present)***

### **1980**

- **September** - 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.
- **September 21-** first Sunday service was held. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Richard Christian of First Baptist Church of Highbridge, Laurel, MD.
- **October 3-** first prayer service was held at 8:00 p.m. 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.
- **October 5** - 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.
- **October 12-** first Usher Board was formed. The Usher Board with only six members was chaired by Sister Lillie Harris.

### **1981**

- **February 22-** Sister Sadie Eatman was named "Mother" of ECBM. The first hymnal books were donated to ECBM by Sister Alexander of Congregational Methodist Church, Seat Pleasant, Maryland.
- **September 18** - ECBM celebrated its first anniversary. The week-long celebration ended on September 25, 1981.

### **1982**

- **February** - Rev. Harris started a building fund drive. Each member contributed \$10.00 to kick-off the rally.
- **April 23** - The Articles of Incorporation was filed with the Recorder of Deeds in Washington, DC to legally establish ECBM as a corporation. The name of the church became Crusaders Baptist Mission (CBM).

- **June 6** - CBM held its first Men's Day service; the first Women's Day service was held on **July 11.1**

## 1984

- **February 12** - Rev. Harris was called to his resting place. The last sermon he preached 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 CBM membership declined.

## 1989

- **1989** - CBM called on the leadership of Rev. Robert L. Wilson, Jr., son of Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Washington, DC. Rev. Wilson immediately became Pastor of the church. The church consisted of three members. 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 over the church Administrative Affairs.

## 1990

- **January** - Rev. Jordan accepted the position. The church's ministry then consisted of Rev. Robert L. Wilson, Jr., Pastor, Rev. Jack Baxter and Rev. Alton W. Jordan. 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 performing the 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.
- **December 1990** - Rev. Robert L. Wilson, Jr., decided to step down for personal reasons after leading CBM to a congregation of five members.

## 1991

- **January 1991** - Rev. Alton W. Jordan was voted in as Pastor by a majority of CBM members. Pastor Jordan's installation service was held in April 20, 1991, which began with a week-long fellowship with visiting ministers and choirs. All proceeds from the

event went towards the building fund. The program and installation service were videotaped. 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.

## 1992

**January 26-** 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 Studies. He also selected the Church Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Secretary, Church History Chairperson and Youth Director. The Usher Board was reformed. He bought pulpit furniture, office and church furniture, including: a 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.

## 1996

- **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.
- **June 9** - Rev. Alton W. Jordan received his *Master of Divinity* from Andersonville Baptist Seminary.
- **November** - Minister Sandra Buckhalter joined the Crusaders Baptist Church Family.

## 1997

- **March 20** - 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.
- **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.

- **October 12** - Ezra Dickens was ordained as a deacon.

## **1998**

**February 28**- Minister Sandra Buckhalter was ordained as a Reverend under Mutual Baptist Missionary Association at Solomon's Temple Church of God.

## **1999**

- **1999** - Pastor's theme was "We're Going to Shine in 99". We did shine.
- **January** - 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.
- **March** - CBC started a New Membership Class to teach new members about the Bible and how to study it.
- **April 10** - Minister Russell Wooten was ordained and appointed as the Pastor of Faith Tabernacle Church in Vincent, Ohio.
- **April 18** - Brother James A. Smith and Brother John L Humes were ordained as deacons.
- **May 23** - Pastor Jordan and Rev. Wilson received their *Doctor of Philosophy* in Christian Education (Ph.D.) degrees from Faith Bible College and Seminary. The commencement exercise was held at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.
- **June** - Rev. Robert Wilson accepted the call to start his own church and Rev. Sandra Buckhalter went 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.
- **July 11** - Sister Ruby Starkey preached her initial sermon and on July 18, 1999, Brother Jevon Billups preached his initial sermon. Both were licensed.

## 2000

- **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 and his wife taught a "Relationship" seminar.
- **November 5** - Brother Lavin Summers was ordained as a deacon; he now serves under another ministry.

## 2001

- **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.
- **September 23-** CBC's official move in date was. Dedication services were held on October 31 and November 1.

## 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 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.**

## 2003

- Rev. Arlene Chambers headed CBC Women's Ministry as the overseer. She started the women's ministry bible and book studies, which were held the last Friday of the month. Also, to continue to build strong leaders from 2002, Pastor Jordan held the

Christian Education Director responsible for preparing agendas, scheduling, and leadership meetings every 5th Friday in the month. He also implemented a new election process to vote in new leaders every 2 years instead of every year.

- **November 30** - Crusaders Baptist Church Ordained Bro. David Shelton as a deacon.

## **2004**

- **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.
- **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 sign. Rev. Billups served as an interim Pastor at Holy Comforter Baptist Church
- **August 8** -The church is currently implementing its new logo in places throughout the ministry. Also during this year, Bro. Brian Johnson became a deacon in training.

## **2005**

- **2005** - Christian Education Ministry planned one-day Leadership training at the Holiday Inn in October 2005. Dr. Frederic R. Fralic, PhD. of the ETC Group Ltd of Virginia was the Instructor. Also, under this ministry two teachers were added. They are Sis. Brenda Harrison, Sunday school teacher for the pre-teen and teenagers and Sis. Sherri Parker teacher of the younger children.

## **2006**

- The church theme for **2006** was: Jesus is it for 2006. Deacon Brian Johnson was ordained on **September 18, 2006**.
- **2006** - Nurses Unit was re-established under Pamela Bond and the Senior's Ministry was established under Brenda Harrison. The first kick-off luncheon meeting was held at the Golden Corral in Arundel Mills, Saturday, April 8, 2006.
- Scholarship Fund was re-established by Chairperson, Monica Holmes and 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, **May 14, 2006**.
- Church Building renovations included: New stained-glass windows, new air conditioners, new ceiling fans, cushioned pews and new chairs for the choir stand. Church Technology included updated video and technology equipment to record church services and post songs and scriptures for the congregation participation. The operators of this equipment at that time were: Krystal Billups, Reginald Dancy and Sabrina Redfield.

## 2007

- **February 2007**- our pastor, Dr. Alton W. Jordan retired from the Department of the Interior after working 37 years. Although retired, he still managed to receive inquiries from former employees for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) guidance. It was nice to have a pastor that 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, James Williams and Marvin Blount. Both joined the technology ministry. They received special training which helped improve the way the technology ministry operates, to include recording services using DVD's. Also during this year, CBC purchased a new fence to accentuate the beauty of God's House. Keenan Martin, one of the musicians in the church, took on the role as lead musician to all the choirs.

## 2008

- **2008** - We had one of our members, 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. During this year, Rev. Jordan began adding to CBC's current ministries. He saw a need to start a Nursery Ministry for members who wanted to serve in ministries, but found it difficult because they had small children. The nursery was opened on April 13, 2008, for newborns and children up to 4 years of age. The president of this ministry is Sis. Evelyn Jordan whose helpers include Sisters Risa Billups, Shanika Billups, Pamela Bond, Shanai Harrison, Brenda Harrison, Denie Holmes, and Andrea Sellers. The other new ministry added was our computer training ministry headed by Bro. Reginald Dancy and Sis. Denie Holmes and a cooking class

taught by Sister 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.

## 2009

- **2009** - Joy Hall established Crusaders social communication network by creating Crusaders first Facebook page. She was also named to be the Pastor’s scheduler and coordinator for the church’s calendar of events. Sister 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 every 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 of the Deacon Board on June 14th. The Scholarship Committee presented two members with awards in June.
- **December 2009** - Pastor Jordan learned of his African descent during Crusaders’ Annual African Heritage Program.

## 2010

- **2010** - Crusaders announced Brother Marvin Blount and James Williams as Deacons in training and Sister Brenda Harrison as Deaconess in training.
- We thank God for the spirit of our youth; two (Shanika Billups and Aaron Thorne, III) joined the church technology team to run the video and computer equipment during morning services and one, Delonte Lipscomb used his talent by designing a “God is love” in the flowerbed using small stones. We thank God for all our youth’s participation in each ministry.
- Brother Timothy Coefield, Sr. preached his initial sermon on May 30th and was licensed as a minister the following Sunday.
- **June 5** - the Women’s Ministry participated in its first annual Susan G. Komen Breast



Cancer race for the cure 5K (or 3.1 mile) walk. The participants included: Risa Billups (Trustee); Lanae Billups (usher and choir member);

- Shanika Billups (technology team member); Pamela Bond (Nurse); Rev. Mary Chambers; Deaconess Darlene Dickens;
- Joy Hall (Technology team member, scheduler, and coordinator for church events); Vaniah Hall (singer and praise dancer); ShaNai Hairston (praise dancer and choir member); Gardenia (Denie) Holmes (President of Women's Ministry, Technology team member and other duties assigned by the Pastor); Cannie Johnson (Treasurer of Women's Ministry); Jojo Johnson (choir member); First Lady Lavern Jordan (Christian Education Director, Teacher, and choir member); Edythia Lancaster (10 year survival)(Chairperson of Pastor's Anniversary committee and Homegoing Coordinator); Denise Marrow; Sheri Parker (Youth Choir Director and Teacher); Bonita Robertson (Vice President of Women's Ministry and Trustee); Andrea Sellers (Youth Director); Angela Stevenson (Youth teacher and usher); Carla Williams (choir member); and Kimberly Woods (Chairperson of Share Food Program and other duties as assigned by Pastor).
- The CBC scholarship committee presented one of its youth members with a scholarship in the month of May. The theme was "Our Dreams Are Our Destiny".
- Before the end of 2010, Crusaders Baptist Church renovated the Women's bathroom with the talent of its church members - Bro. Harris Sellers and Bro. Donald Smith.

## 2011

- **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 of the church. All bible study classes, range of ages, teachers and substitute teachers were identified to the Superintendent. There is a total of five (Sunday School (includes one youth class), New Members, Men's Monday Night, Regular Wednesday Night, including Pre-Teen and Teen Wednesday, and Women's Friday Night) different bible study classes that

members can attend. The five classes do not include the nursery and Youth Saturday short bible studies. All leaders and officers are expected to attend one or combinations of these bible studies 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. Both Sis Brenda Harrison and Sis. Evelyn Jordan officially became deaconesses. Lastly, Crusaders Baptist church renovated 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 updates 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.

## 2012

- **2012** - We are continuing to expand as a church! On October 3, 2012, for the first time in Crusaders' history, we had our first family of 7 to all be baptized together! God is continuing to bless in the house! Ms. Shantie Morgan-Freeman, along with, her 6 boys were baptized. As Pastor so affectionately commented "they remind me of a mother and her little ducklings"!
- **October 14, 2012** - the church celebrated another monumental occasion. After a period of training and mentoring from the other deacons in the church, both Bro. James Williams and Bro. Marvin Blount were ordained as deacons.

## 2013

- **2013** -As we entered the new year, our Deacon Board wanted to work on some enhancements around the church. One of these upgrades was the purchase of new baptismal robes. Bro. Armstrong, one of the new members, 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 a new roof! After much prayer and dedication from several church members and friends, we raised the monies needed to complete the roof repair.

## 2014

- **2014** - We held our very first Valentine's Day Dinner! Truly a success as various couples in the church joined together for an evening of eloquence.
- **November** - 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 to have our scholarship committee present a scholarship to another one of the church youth!

## 2015

- **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 source for providing valuable 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.
- **March 2015** – We continued to transition and make upgrades to the church's website. We added updated graphics/videos and even the PayPal feature which allows members and guests to make donations on-line if they choose. We also solicited professional help in the various upgrades and maintenance of our website.
- **June 29** – *Apostle Nehemiah Rhinehart*, Solid Rock Full Gospel Baptist Church Ministries passed.
- **Apostle Rhinehart** played a significant role in Crusaders' history because God used him

in 2001 to bless us with our 1st official church building at our current location.

- **September 27** – In his normal fashion, God layed it on Pastor Jordan’s heart for Crusaders to go outside of its “church walls” and go to one of the nursing home facilities of one of the church’s originating members to have a “mini” church service for her and all of the people at the facility. What a time, what a time! The choir and praise dancers accompanied Pastor and we ended service by distributing gift bags with small tokens of love to them.
- **September 20** - Crusaders celebrated its church anniversary and Pastor’s anniversary!

## 2016

- **January 2016** – As Crusaders has continued to grow, with our location being in the Capitol Hill area, we began to experience a decrease in parking availability, especially during the winter months. As God would have it, Pastor was able to work out an agreement with Gallaudet University which would allow church members to park in their garage for free on Sundays.
- **May** - We had two nights of a dynamic revival service which we themed, ***“Keeping Our Spiritual Fires Burning”***.
- **September 11** – Crusaders celebrated its church anniversary and Pastor’s anniversary!
- **November 17** – Truly a spirit of giving felt during this time. Following the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, which hit several areas in North Carolina, Crusaders banded together to purchase and collect a multitude of items needed for many in the south who had lost their homes.

## 2017

- **April 29, 2017** – Wonderful leadership training presentation arranged by the Christian Education Director (Sis. Lavern Jordan). The theme was ***“Our Individual Roles in Re-Tooling Our Community.”***
- **May 2017** – We did it again! As the summer months were beginning to approach, our air conditioners stopped working! We needed three new units for the church. Crusaders banded together & we could purchase all three units!

- **June 13** - We truly saw God's hand at work during this time. Our Pastor went in for hip replacement surgery during just about the mid-portion of June. He was up and walking the same day of his surgery, released from the hospital the following day and was back in church attending his first Sunday service on July 8, 2017. God is awesome!
- **July 2017** – Sade Morgan, one of Crusaders praise dancers had an awesome opportunity to attend dance training in Albuquerque, New Mexico! She ended up receiving a full scholarship to attend another session next year! We congratulate her on this wonderful achievement!
- **September 24** - Crusaders celebrated its church anniversary and Pastor's anniversary!