

Rehoboth Baptist Church

Reverend Curtis L. Staley, Pastor



156th Church Anniversary

November 14-15, 2020

"Relentless for Christ"

St. Matthew 16:24-25

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A Brief History of Rehoboth Baptist Church 1864 - 2020

*And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it **Rehoboth**; and he said, for now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.*

Genesis 26:22 (KJV)

Rehoboth Baptist Church, has a long and rich history in the District of Columbia. Rehoboth is one of the oldest Black Baptist Churches, founded in 1864. The church name is Bible based and is found in Genesis 26:22. The word, *Rehoboth*, means plenty good room.

A group of former slaves, who migrated into the city from nearby areas in the 1860s, knew they wanted to serve the Lord. They had been worshipping at the Second Baptist Church NW, and perhaps wanted to be nearer to their homes in the SE and SW sections of the city. So, the budding (first meetings) of this, the Rehoboth Baptist Church, began at Sister Hannah Johnson's home some 153 years ago. These Christian believers continued to meet, having prayer and praise services. During this period, it was not uncommon for white citizens to gather the children for reading lessons. So, Mr. J.D. Blackford gathered the neighborhood children and Sister Hannah had Bible study.

Following the Civil War, General Oliver O. Howard, U.S. Army, perhaps influenced by his friend Mr. Blackford, was made aware of the group's struggles and efforts and he secured the old Army barracks on First Street (between N and O Streets SW), as a place of worship for them. In 1867, General Howard was instrumental in the founding of the Howard Normal and Theological Institute for Education of Preachers and Teachers; later named Howard University. Often referred to as *The Christian General*, he served as the President of Howard University from 1869 until 1874.

It is with great determination that these pioneer Christians continued. They moved from the barracks to a church building, which they erected on the same grounds (as the barracks), in 1870. Around the same time, the first ordained pastor, Reverend Henry Baylor, was called, and Rehoboth was now recognized as a church.



From The Pastor's Pen

Greetings Rehoboth Family and Friends:

Our theme for 2020, "Relentless for Christ," has certainly proven to be appropriate for a year that has been filled with pandemics, politics and protests. Our faith has been tested repeatedly as we've locked down, worn masks and continued to wash and/or sanitize our hands more times than we can remember, all to remain safe and to help flatten the Coronavirus curve in our communities. Sadly, some who started this year out with us will not complete it as the twin pandemics of the Coronavirus and racial injustice continue to plague our community in disproportionate numbers. Thank God for His Word, His Providence and His Power!

God's Word has been and continues to be our foundation - it is the basis for what we believe, it is our weapon against temptation and it is what equips and prepares us to do God's will in the earth. Without His Word and the promises contained therein our faith would waver and our hope would fail. But thank God He remembers that we are but dust and in His wise providence He carefully and personally orchestrates the events of our lives according to His predetermined plan, all for His glory and our benefit.

Rehoboth, we have been kept by the power of God. Whether feast or famine, calm or storm God has and continues to show Himself mighty. We too must show ourselves mighty as we continue to deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Him! Like Paul, we must continue in the good fight, finish our course and keep the faith if we are to receive a crown of righteousness. Rehoboth now is not the time to abandon our faith or our mission, now is the time to be Relentless for Christ!

Be blessed!

Pastor Staley



Words of Gratitude

To God be the glory for the marvelous things He has done!!

Thank you Rehoboth for allowing me to serve as your Church Anniversary Chair for the past two years. It has been my pleasure and honor to have had the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I did not take my role lightly. You put your trust in me to get the job done and to the glory of God and the help of all of you even during a pandemic, we can count it all joy that the 155th and 156th church anniversaries were successful.

To the 157th church anniversary chair/co-chair, I pass the torch! I know you will lead and further expand on what has been done before you to have a successful anniversary celebration also. I extend an olive branch to you that should you need my help, I am here for you. I don't know whose arm Deacon Luckey has twisted to pick up the torch and run with it for the next two years but I'm sure whoever it is, they are more than capable of successfully handling this awesome role.

Thank you everyone for your participation. Without you this would not have been possible. When called upon, each of you readily accepted the invitation to help. That is the biggest blessing a chairperson can ever ask or hope for, the willingness of others. **"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."** Luke 10:2

Thank you and God bless!!!

Carrie Coleman, Chair, RBC Church Anniversary



Reverend Felita D. Boykins, M.Div.

Reverend Felita D. Boykins, a native of Washington, DC is the eldest daughter of Cynthia Felton and the late Hilton C. Felton, Jr. Her early education began in private and parochial schools in the DC Metropolitan and Maryland vicinity, graduating from Elizabeth Seton High School, Bladensburg, Maryland in May 1983. Rev. Boykins attended Norfolk State University receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mass Communications in May 1987. Further matriculating at Virginia Bible University, Norfolk, VA earning a Master of Divinity degree in June 2002.

Rev. Boykins accepted the Lord as her personal savior at an early age and was baptized at Beulah Baptist Church in the Deanwood section of NE, DC by the late pastor Rev. Dr. Moses L. Jackson on April 9, 1975. She was introduced to Rehoboth Baptist Church in 1982 by her late brother Hilton, who as a younger teen became organist for the Young Adult choir and Palmerlites. She would then become his personal chauffeur and participate in the life of RBC until leaving for college. After graduation from college she decided to gain residence in Norfolk, VA and united with the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of the late Bishop I. Joseph Williams. After her marriage in 1995, Felita joined her husband in attending his home church, First Baptist Church, Mahan Street, Suffolk, VA under the late pastor Rev. Dr. Isaac E. Williams, and was licensed as a minister of the gospel in September 2001. There she served as an associate minister until Dr. Williams retirement in December 2001. Doing her continued interim service at Mahan Street, Rev. Boykins was asked to serve as Youth Pastor at First Baptist Church, West Munden, Chesapeake, VA by the late Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. John Ashby, Sr. in 2002. Rev. Felita was recommended by the late Rev. Dr. Ashby and ordained in 2002 by the Old Dominion General Missionary Baptist Association.

She served as an Associate Minister at New Central Baptist Church, Norfolk, VA since 2004 under the late Rev. Dr. Bernard Branch and currently serves under Pastor Rev. Yvon M. Hardy, M.Div.

Rev. Boykins is a former radio announcer for several radio stations in the Virginia Hampton Roads area including Willis Broadcasting which was founded by the late Bishop L. E. Willis. Additionally, she was employed by the City of Norfolk Board of Elections Office as an Elections Assistant and Chief/Assistant Chief for 11 years. Rev. Boykins continues to serve as a Chief/Assistant Chief for all elections administered by the City of Chesapeake Virginia Registrars Office. She has been employed as a contract Educational Test Scorer with NCS Pearson Scoring since 2015.

Rev. Boykins is married to Deacon Darryl A. Boykins and from this union, one son, Isaiah. Her favorite scripture is " If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the fruit of the land" Isaiah 1:19 KJV. Thusly, testifying that "When the Praises of God go up. The blessings come down."

To God be all the Glory!

156th Church Anniversary Banquet

Order of Service

Saturday, November 14, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Toast Master	Brother Earl Mitchell
Introduction of Toast Master	Sister Jean Mitchell
Scripture	Miss Titiana Wells
Prayer	Deacon Steven Pritchard
Welcome and Congratulatory Remarks	Sister Delores Henderson
Soloist	Deaconess Mattie Thurston
Presentation of Guest Pastor	Missionary Cynthia Felton
Soloist	Deaconess Marjanette Feagan
The Preached Word	Reverend Felita D. Boykins Associate Minister, New Central Baptist Church Norfolk, Virginia
Invitation to Christian Discipleship	
Special Presentations	Pastor Curtis L. Staley
Remarks	Deacon Clarence Luckey, Jr., Chairman, Board of Deacons Trustee Joseph McPherson, Chairman, Board of Trustees
Closing Remarks	
Benediction	Pastor Curtis L. Staley

Year 2020

The Church and Community Face Many Challenges

Each year, our Pastor, The Reverend Curtis L. Staley, chooses a theme for the church family to focus on. This year our theme is **“Relentless for Christ,”** taken from St. Matthew 16:24-25. We have truly had to live relentless for Christ during this year of 2020.

Due to a viral pandemic known as Covid-19, Rehoboth’s first virtual church worship service was held on Sunday, March 22, 2020. However, we were not defeated. Pastor Staley immediately initiated worship services using a telephone conference service that same date. We are now in our eighth month of virtual worship, praise, Bible Studies (Sunday School /Tuesday Night / Noonday Wednesday) and fellowship. The pandemic has not stopped the Rehoboth family from giving God all the Praise and the Glory He so richly deserves.

Since March to the present time, the Coronavirus (COVID-19), has reeked havoc in our lives one way or another. Reflecting on our last Sunday of worship service in the church, most of us remember the lack of hugging, shaking hands, touching or any personal contact or embrace. Fist bumping, elbow touching, arms crossings (symbolizing a hug) is not what we, as Christians usually do. For the safety of parishioners, this precaution was necessary however, this did not stop us from exemplifying love toward one another for we know that love comes from God and we are God’s children who continue to be relentless for Christ.

The Coronavirus pandemic has taken over 224,000 lives in the United States. The Center for Disease Control (CDC), states the main cause of the deaths reported are from respiratory failure due to pneumonia and multi-organ failure. Government officials, doctors, nurses “Our First Responders” never imagined COVID-19 would arrive in the United States of America. By March 31, 2020 the Coronavirus nationwide affect began to shift economics in travel, school systems and Church communities. “Hot spots,” in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia, “Stay home,” and masks wearing were ordered as mandatory regulations.

Rehoboth Baptist Church and the Child Development Center has been directly impacted by the Coronavirus therefore, a complete transition from normal operating procedures was required at the Church building site. We could have closed our doors and decided to just ride the pandemic out until more information from the government was available. However, at Rehoboth Baptist Church we place **“GOD First”** in our plans and pray for guidance as He directs our paths. Through our leadership and trust the Church congregation has jointly adopted the use of leading technologies such as website links, conference calls and Facebook to establish virtual Church meetings, Bible Study, Sunday School, Worship Service and Communion Service from our homes. Serving GOD in our individual homes enabled Church people to become technology savvy. This is a true blessing to the message and in keeping GOD’s promises! We have adopted the passage of scripture from **Joshua 24:15**, which states ... **“but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

But GOD! Rehoboth Baptist Church recently opened its doors to conduct Sunday morning Worship Service with limited seating. We are not completely transitioned from the Coronavirus yet but through continued prayer and trust in the Lord we will get over to the other side as the Bible manifests.

Members of the Outreach Program, led by Minister Serena Muse, don’t mind going out in the community giving out masks, food and preaching the gospel to people. On Thursday, October 22, 2020, the Outreach Ministry went to the park located at the intersection of Malcolm X Avenue and MLK Avenue SE to deliver lunch. Many were thankful for the generous outpouring of love.

Our college students are all doing well. On campus, we have eleven students, seven are seniors. At home, we have three students attending virtually. Pastor Staley has a conference call every fourth Sunday with students who call in.

*We invite you to join us as we do as the Scriptures says, **“O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together.”** Psalm 34:3.*

RBC Historical Committee

Order of Service

Sunday, November 15, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Worship Leader - Sister Mary O.J. Staton

Musical Prelude

Call to Worship

Doxology

Scripture

Deaconess Claudine Pace

Diaconate Prayer

Deacon Joshua Brunson

Musical Selection

Welcome and Congratulatory Remarks

Trustee Stewart McKinney

Announcements

Pastoral Remarks

Altar Call

Sermonic Selection

The Preached Word

Invitation to Discipleship

Closing Remarks

Benediction

Pastor Curtis L. Staley

156th Church Anniversary Committee

Sister Carrie Coleman, Chair

Historical Committee

Sister Merion Kane, Chair
Sister Phyllis Benjamin
Reverend Eraine Farmer
Deaconess Marjanette Feagan
Deaconess Michelle Goodman
Sister Delores Henderson
Sister Carrie Coleman
Sister Liz Harris-Brown
Sister Phyllis Kane

Program Committee

Sister Kim Scranage
Sister Liz Harris-Brown

Finance

Sister Phyllis Benjamin, Chair
Trustee Sedonia Johnson

RBC Office Manager and Custodial Staff

Sister Constance R. Black
Brother Wesley Glover
Brother John Leake



**Thank you to all who
participated in this
Anniversary Celebration!!**