

HISTORY OF NORTHSIDE NEW ERA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The story of the beginning of *Northside New Era Baptist Church* dramatically shows what resulted when two great organized bodies of baptized believers combined their forces to form a more perfect union and a more efficient channel through which God's Word may be perpetuated.

The *Northside Baptist Church* was organized in the year 1934 under the guiding hand of Rev. Broadus A. Hogan. The church which was located at the corner of 30th and Ethel Streets, made rapid growth numerically and spiritually under the pastorate of Rev. Hogan. In the year 1936 in the month of June, the property of 30th and Ethel Streets was purchased by the Northside Baptist Church. The transaction was completed by Rev. James T. Crable and the following named Trustees: Eugene Rhea, Sr., John Gilmore, and Arthur Jefferson.

In the year 1942 the Rev. S. C. Richards accepted the call to the pastorate of the church. During this administration, substantial improvements in the building were noted. Among them were included the installation of new floors, a new heating plant and new lighting fixtures. A continued increase in the member was also shown.

The *New Era Baptist Church* was organized March 16, 1939, in the home of Mr. And Mrs. Roscoe Morten, 816 Camp Street, with forty members present. The church was organized by Rev. Ira Hinden of Chicago, Illinois. Those present during the organization included: Rev. A. Batts, Rev. David Venerable, and Rev. C. H. Bell.

In a special meeting on March 24, 1941, the officers of the *New Era Baptist Church* called an Ordination Council for the purpose of ordaining Brother N. E. Vincent into the ministry. Rev. Vincent was elected assistant pastor of the *New Era Baptist Church* by unanimous vote on January 21, 1942.

In 1945 the *Northside Baptist Church* extended an invitation to the *New Era Baptist Church* to combine the two churches. The members of both organizations prayerfully serve the requirements of the community and that they could render more efficient service in the spreading of God's Word.

On November 30, 1945, the *New Era Baptist Church* and the *Northside Baptist Church* were united into one body. The name became *Northside New Era Baptist Church*. Rev. Marshall A. Talley was elected pastor of the united body and Rev.

N. E. Vincent was elected as assistant pastor. The first worship service of the *Northside New Era Baptist Church* was held in the *Northside Baptist Church* building on the second Sunday in December, 1945. This meeting was a glorious occasion. On this day, the Lord's Supper was observed, the members ate the bread and drank the cup and offered thanks to God for Christian fellowship.

On March 1, 1946, the members burnt the mortgage of the original *Northside Baptist Church* building at 30th and Ethel Streets. Senator Robert L. Brokenburr, the attorney for the merging groups was present at the mortgage-burning. The properties of the two congregations became the ownership, according to law, of both groups in the merger.

In the year 1950, Dr. Marshall A. Talley resigned from the pastorate and the Rev. N. E. Vincent was elected as his successor. Under the direction of Rev. Vincent, the plans for the new building were brought to full flower. The structure was to be built at a cost of approximately \$90,000, not including the furnishing and furniture. While the building program was under way, the congregation held services in the basement portion of the building. The plans provided that the basement would be completely remodeled to be equipped with Sunday School classrooms, modern washrooms, a fully equipped nursery and a complete storeroom designed to offer clothing and food to the needy.

On April 10, 1953, grateful and proud members of the *Northside New Era Missionary Baptist Church*, marched into this beautiful edifice. The mortgage-burning ceremony was conducted by Rev. Clyde Woods and Rev. Charles Rogers on November 15, 1965. How thankful they were that the great God Almighty had seen fit to bless their efforts and His goodness had sustained their faith and strengthened their will to continue ever onward.

Rev. Robert L. Coleman of Owensboro, KY., served as Pastor of *Northside New Era Missionary Baptist Church* from October 22, 1978 until October 16, 1988.

The spiritual leadership became the responsibility of the Board of Deacons in October, 1988, under the direction of the Chairman, Bro. Robert Littlejohn. He was ably assisted and supported by the ministry of Rev. Clyde Woods and the Deacons. The Board of Deacons along with the Pastor Search Committee, regularly supplied our pulpit with visiting Ministers. During this period, Rev. I. L. Kontar was appointed "Interim Pastor" for 3 months and our present Pastor also brought a message on several Sundays. *Northside New Era* continued to be blessed both spiritually and financially, and the harmony among the church family

was a joy to behold. The sincere dedication of the Sanctuary Choir, under the direction of Sister Anna Johnson, enhanced the many messages brought to this congregation. The Sunday School, Missionary Groups, Bible Classes and other spiritual groups all contributed to the stability of our church. The Board of Trustees under the Chairmanship of Bro. Irvin Garrett, kept the faith and maintained the standards of a solvent church. The Usher Board, under the leadership of Sis. Gussie Cooperwood, continued its dedication to the hospitality and warmth of service to all who entered our door. The great Shepherd, our Lord and Savior, Lord Jesus Christ, kept watch over His flock here at *Northside New Era*; until He was ready to send us a disciple, an under-shepherd, one who would teach and preach His gospel and tend to His flock.

On April 24, 1990, Rev. Clarence C. Moore, of Second Baptist Church, Kokomo, Indiana, was called to the Pastorate of Northside New Era Missionary Baptist Church. He preached his first sermon on August 29, 1990 as our Pastor and was installed on October 23, 1990. Pastor Moore and his family brought to us, more love, more strength and more faith in the great God, who had so far sustained us. Pastor Moore's love for the sinner, as well as the saved is visible to all. His joy in spreading the gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ is contagious.

During Pastor Moore's tenure the *Northside New Era Baptist Church* has seen tremendous growth. Spiritually, materially and financially, we have truly been blessed. Our church grew during the first decade of his dynamic and God inspired leadership from 60 to over 800 during the 90's. A new Church Van and 24 passenger bus; over 10 properties were purchased by the church to enhance our parking and there were many other improvements too numerous to mention to further our Christian mission.

On April 23, 1995, the *Northside New Era Church* family celebrated their golden Anniversary. Fifty (50) years of dedicated services was awarded to our Bridge Builders. Sis. Gussie Cooperwood, Bro. William Davenport, Sis. Luvenia Dunlap, Sis. Geneva Grundy, Sis. Anna Sims, Sis. Josephine Squires, Sis. Pirlen Tisdul and Sis. Norean Williams. Activities were planned and carried out all years long celebrating and thanking God for his continued blessing. This day also marked a great milestone for our growing church. We had our ground breaking ceremony as we commenced Phase II of our church renovation.

On June 30, 1996, the *Northside New Era Church* family held a ribbon-cutting service for the completion of Phase II of our rebuilding program. Pastor Moore led this glorious and Holy Spirit-filled Celebration with the assistance of Deacon

Robert Littlejohn, Chairman of Deacons, and Sis. Luvenia Dunlap, Chairperson of Trustees, Aquild Peerboy of Blackburn Architectural Firm, Attorney Pequita Buis of Buis and Associates Law Office and other dignitaries from around the city were on hand to celebrate this glorious occasion.

During this historic celebration, we dedicated , to the glory of God, our new elevator addition, new windows, new doors, new restrooms, new steeple, new church sign, and other improvements to our beautiful worship center. We also dedicated our renovated fellowship hall in memory of one of the church's great former pastors, the late Rev. N. E. Vincent. The Steppers for Christ Drill Team performed their new dynamic routine and our guest soloist, Cheryl Clark blessed our souls as she sang, "*To God Be the Glory*". Pastor Moore preached a sermon from the subject "Look What God Did!", Psalm 127:1. The festivities were concluded with a fellowship meal in the lower auditorium. The completion of Phase II marks another significant milestone for our growing church family.

On March 16, 1997, the Lord blessed our church again with a historic milestone. The membership voted unanimously to have Pastor Clarence C. Moore who had served the last seven years as a part-time pastor, to be fully installed as a full-time under-shepherd of this growing flock. Since this glorious faith move, the Lord has blessed our church with undeniable and unprecedented church growth. The decade of the nineties will go down in our history as one of the greatest periods of growth experienced to date in the life of our church.

Under the continued dynamic leadership of Pastor Moore our growing church started the new century (2000 A.D.) with an incredible "*Millennium tour*". Three bus loads of church members journeyed through Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee to the red hills of North Carolina to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and fellowship with churches in our First Lady, Sister Hope Moore and Pastor Moore's hometowns, Roxboro and Winston-Salem respectively. The tour was a great success. The new millennium has brought us a "*new era*" of unparalleled growth. The church under Pastor Moore and the shared leadership of Raymond Carter, Chairman of our Deacon Ministry, James Davis, Chairman of our Trustee Ministry, the newly formed Leadership team, our devoted staff and volunteers has reached even greater heights. We have purchased over 15 new properties, including the old Bosma property across the street for future expansion. In April of 2007 the church broke ground for a new (22,000 sq. ft.) Education and Administration center with over 19 classrooms, new offices, Youth and children rooms, Daycare nursery, coffee shop and flexible ministry spaces. With a membership approaching 1,500 we continue to grow. God has truly blessed our

efforts. We believe “*never-the-less*” that the best is yet to come! Stay tuned for our exciting dedication services to be held May 2008 through October of 2008.

To God be the Glory!