

## Our History

Written by Administrator

Friday, 10 June 2011 09:49 - Last Updated Thursday, 30 March 2017 11:46

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Pastor John D. Ogletree, led by the Holy Spirit organized First Metropolitan Church in November 1986. There were 13 founding members: Evelyn Ogletree, Don and Ruth Caggins, Jewel Collins, Dorothy Hodge, Walter and Drunnel Jackson, John and Carol Lewis, Frank and Bennie Ogletree, Beverly Trawick and Paulette Westbrook. Reverend John D. Ogletree Jr. was the founding Pastor.

After holding the first services in Frank's ABC Academy, the Congregation moved to a leased space at Desota Villa Shopping Center at 6305 Antoine.

Two years later, the church facility on 2 acres of land was purchased at 5249 Dow Road near Hollister and Highway 290 for \$205,000. Major improvements took place on our property.

A Steering Committee for "Vision 2000" was formed to lead the congregation in planning for the future of the church. Members were invited to work as a team, sharing their best mutual judgment, visions, and prayers to advance the work and mission.

Dr. Herman Norman of Stewardship Designs was engaged to lead the church in a capital fund raising campaign. Over \$544,000 was pledged for three years, over and above tithes and offerings to "Bold Faith for a Big Vision." 25.2 acres of land was purchased for \$252,000 along Beltway 8 in Northwest Houston.

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The property at 5429 Dow Road was sold to Living Word Church. We moved to a temporary location, 5314 Bingle, ("The Location Before THE LOCATION").

Construction commenced on the Beltway. Dr. Norman was brought in for a second capital campaign. Loans were secured to commence the \$1.4 million development of the beltway property.

The Entrance and Dedication of the Family Life Center was held on June 28, 1998. Pastor Earl Abel of the Palestine Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO preached the entrance service. Rev. Bill Wooten joined the staff as Associate Pastor of Christian Development. The Infant Development Center and Academy commenced to service the community. A Multi-Dimensional Recreation Ministry was added offering basketball, Tae Kwon Do and dance.

By 2000, the purchase of Redemption Ranch in Tomball for church retreats, meetings and other events was completed. Rev. Johnny Ogletree, III joined the staff as Associate Pastor of Community Life. The Vineyard Bookstore was opened. Two new ministries began: Empowered Resource Management and Business Services.

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A full blast effort was launched for our television ministry "Face to Face" to get the message out about First Met.

Our Redemption Community Development Corporation (RCDC) partnered with Harris County to build a community center.

In May of 2004, we began our sanctuary Capital Campaign "Taking Stake in the Future - For God, For Others, For Eternity" (Exodus35:4-9)

2011 and 2012 mark the celebration of 25 years of ministry under our dynamic leaders, Pastors John and Evelyn Ogletree. We look forward to what God has planned for the next decades and beyond.□

## **History Timeline**

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### **1986**

First Metropolitan officially organized under the direction of Dr. M.A. Nimmo of Bethel Institutional Baptist Church. There were 13 founding members: Evelyn Ogletree, Don and Ruth Caggins, Jewel Collins, Dorothy Hodge, Walter and Drunnel Jackson, John and Carol Lewis, Frank and Bennie Ogletree, Beverly Trawick and Paulette Westbrook. Reverend John D. Ogletree Jr. was the founding Pastor.

### **1987**

The Congregation moved from Frank's ABC Academy to a lease space at Desota Villa Shopping Center at 6305 Antoine.

### **1988**

The church facility of 2 acres land was purchased at 5249 Dow Road near Hollister and Highway 290 for \$205,000.

### **1989**

This year saw the development and strengthening of numerous ministries: Cordial Company; Family Ministry; Brotherhood; Prayer Ministry; Sunday School; New Members; Newsletter; Library; Ushers; Mission; Deaconess; Praise: Media; S.W.A.T. and Youth Ministries.

### **1990**

The ministries and mission of the church was organized in the following areas: Administration;

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Christian Education; Worship Outreach; and Fellowship. The First Annual Leadership retreat was held at Forest Glenn.

### **1991**

Major improvements took place on our property. The parking area was paved, the Education Building was remodeled and playground equipment was purchased for the youth. Criteria for leadership was established.

### **1992**

A Steering Committee for "Vision 2000" was formed to lead the congregation in planning for the future of the church. Members were invited to work as a team, sharing their best mutual judgement, visions, and prayers to advance the work and mission.

### **1993**

A Mission Statement and Vision Statement were established. For the second consecutive year the Annual Leadership Retreat was held at De Largo Conference Center at Lake Conroe.

### **1994**

Dr. Herman Norman of Stewardship Designs was engaged to lead the church in a capital fund raising campaign. Over \$544,000 was pledged for three years, over and above tithes and offerings to "Bold Faith for A Big Vision". 25.2 acres of land was purchased for \$252,000. along Beltway 8 in Northwest Houston.

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### **1995**

The Christian Women's Fellowship and Senior Year Adult Fellowship (now known as the Mature Adult Fellowship) were formed.

### **1996**

A portable building was added to the Dow Road property to give additional space for classrooms and fellowship. Day Spring Resources, Inc. was engaged to help with the design and construction of the Family Life center.

### **1997**

The property at 5249 Dow Road was sold to Living Word Church. The church moved to its temporary location, 5314 Bingle, ("The Location Before THE LOCATION."). Construction commenced on the Beltway. Dr. Norman was brought in for a second capital campaign. Loans were secured to commence the \$1.4 million development of the beltway property.

### **1998**

The Entrance and Dedication of the Family Life Center was held on June 28, 1998. Pastor Earl Abel of the Palestine Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO preached the entrance service. Rev. Bill Wooten joins the staff as Associate Pastor of Christian Development. The Infant Development Center and Academy commenced service to the community.

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### **2000**

The purchase of Redemption Ranch was completed. Two new ministries began: Empowered/Resource Management and Business Service. Harvest Outreach was initiated targeting the unchurched, untaught and unsaved with a goal to add 750 members.

### **2001**

We revised our vision and mission statements to become a "strategic community of faith". A full blast effort was launched for our television ministry to get the message out about First Met.

### **2002**

Our Redemption Community Development Corporation (RCDC) partnered with Harris County to purchase 16 acres of land to build a community center in 2004.

### **2003**

The Television Ministry Face-to-Face was aired on Tuesday, May 4 on Time Warner Cable Ch 17 and CableVision Ch 68. It is now shown on Sunday at 5:00 pm on Fox channel.

Pastor Ogletree was elected as Trustee for the School Board of the Cy-Fair Independent School District (CFISD) on May 2003 and re-elected for a second term on May 6, 2006.

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### **2004**

We began our Taking Stake in the Future for God, For Others, For Eternity building campaign for the new sanctuary.

### **2005**

We broke ground for the new sanctuary on June 26, 2005.

On August 20, 2005 we took Family Fest to the city of Houston. It was held at Sam Houston Park. We fed and gave supplies to over 2,000 people.

### **2006**

Amended Bylaws so that our governance will better reflect biblical standards of leadership with the usage of Elders which will support present day ministry.

Rev. Thomas Bradley, Rev. Quincy Harvey, Rev. Bill Wooten and Michael Murphy and Rev. Johnny Ogletree were ordained as Elders.



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Moved forward to become a 21st century church in technology with an interactive website, an innovative site that included streaming of our worship service.

Recasted the vision for our men's ministry renamed the "First Men".

### **2007**

The Great Day of Giving welcomed recording artist Vicki Yohe.

The Solid Rock Children's Ministry coordinated the children's activities at the annual African American Baptist Fellowship Conference held in Lubbock, Texas.

Celebrated Pastor O's and Family 20th year service anniversary in November held at the Hilton Westchase with Special Guest, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

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Pastor Ogletree was asked to serve as moderator of the Union Baptist Association. The association has over 600 churches as a part of it.

First Lady Ogletree was asked to do a special mother's day program on Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN).

Pastor Ogletree was re-elected to the CFISD School Board and served as Secretary.

### **2008**

Young Adult Ministry was formed under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Ogletree.

Hangin' with Heroes ("a mentoring program for boys that attend Cook Middle School) was formed.

### **2009**

Rev. Joseph Ogletree was ordained as Elder.

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First Metropolitan Preparatory Academy was formed. Its mission is to help adults obtain a high school diploma.

Redemption Community Development Corporation received funding to build a playground on the Greens Road Property. The playground and park renovation were completed in September of 2009.

### **2010**

Rev. Louis Robinson was ordained as Elder.

Pastor John Ogletree Jr., Judge Bob Newey and Susan Nichols of Mission Cy-Fair met with the vision to invite other churches in Cy-Fair to join the event. They named the event Cy-Fair Family Fest and agreed to continue with the theme: to Equip, Encourage, and Empower families. Judy Newey of Newey Images developed the logo which depicts the vision.

There were 10 churches and one ministry that partnered to host the event. Attendees enjoyed live entertainment, family activities, unique exhibits, vendor displays and interactive games. Family Fest hosted health screenings and educational seminars aimed at empowering families with resources to prosper and stay healthy during challenging times.

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3,000 people were equipped, empowered and encouraged! We truly have a lot to be thankful for as we look at some of the blessings God has bestowed on this event! 400 prayer requests; 10 churches; 5 sponsors, 96 vendors, 16 workshops, 37 blood donors, 40 flu shots; and 100 helmets distributed.

Hosted the Vision Nehemiah Hip Hop Conference (how to minister to the Hip Hop Generation) - May 22, 2010

Year-End Celebration reached over 900 in attendance featuring Sunday's Best Finalist Tawanna Tarvin.

### **2011**

Installation of Leaders was held on January 28 during 10:45 am worship service.

On Sunday, February 6, The You Belong Food Pantry received a donation of \$4,270 from Cook Middle School.

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Live CD Recording and Concert was held on February 19 featuring Min. Drew Shaw

24th Church Anniversary was held on February 27 with Guest Pastor Wm Dwight McKissic.