

RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
155TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017



THE REVEREND BURDELL V. HILL, SPEAKER
THE REVEREND MELVIN MACK, PASTOR





Reverend Melvin Mack

This year's church anniversary theme – "Growing in Unity, Faith, and Love" – brought back to my memory a quote I once read by Swami Niramalananda. This sage of India traditions said that "our modern society is engaged in polishing and decorating the cage in which man is kept imprisoned." I wonder if the reason we cannot practice what the theme preaches is because we really are busy "polishing and decorating the cage."

This theme has the essential ingredients of the Christian religion: unity, faith, and love. The simplicity of our theme, however, will never become simplistic, because so many within the church are not excited about growing as the "body of Christ. In Ephesians 4:1-16, the Apostle Paul talks about "unity and maturity in the body of Christ." But, what is the point if we are not committed to growing and building up the "body of Christ?" He clearly states the basis of GOD'S plan for the church. "Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God," Paul says, "and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (verse 13). He was keenly aware that not everyone in the "body" is interested in growing up, maturing.

You know, the many things we do are merely programs proudly listed in bulletins and on webpages. But, are the conditions resulting from what we call "ministry" really congenial to "Growing in Unity, Faith, and Love?" Is there genuine, spiritual growth in the LORD? Or, are we merely romanticizing an immaturity that is preventing us from "attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ?"

Eugene H. Peterson, in his theological analysis of Ephesians 4, ponders the particulars involved in growing in Christ. "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (verses 14-16).

At the conclusion of our church anniversary observance, what matters is that we have a better congregation of members striving to put our energy and effort into contributing to GOD's plan for Rafting Creek Baptist Church and its advancement. To do this we must use our theme as a guide to the recovery of authentic "Growing in Unity, Faith, and Love." I want to thank the committee for selecting this year's theme and extend my sincere appreciation to all of our members and friends for your support and financial blessings.

Happy Church Anniversary, Rafting Creek Baptist Church! May the LORD GOD bless you real good.

Melvin Mack

Guest SPEAKER



Reverend Burdell V. Hill

***Burdell Hill** is the son of Bernice S. Hill and the late Seymour J. Hill Sr. He is the 4th of 5 children given to them as a gift from God.*

***Burdell** is a graduate of Sumter High School--Sumter, South Carolina and furthered his studies at Troy State University, and St. Leo University where he has earned his BA degree and MBA with a concentration in Health Care Services. He also did studies with The Santee Baptist Association and with the Christian Life School of Theology as he tried to follow the word of God in "studying to show thyself approved."*

He is a member of the Rafting Creek Baptist Church of Rembert, South Carolina where he served as an Usher, President of the Youth Department, Ordained Deacon, Associate Minister and member of several choirs, as his faith in God and his desire to do the work of the Lord grew.

*Presently he is the Pastor of Emancipation Missionary Baptist Church in St. Matthews, SC. These things are minor to him, **Burdell** is most especially proud of just being a "child of God".*

155th Anniversary Chair Greetings



Willie Mae Thompson

To Rev. Melvin Mack, Officers, Members, Family, Friends, Visitors, My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Good Morning/Afternoon! As the Chairperson of Rafting Creek's 155th Church Anniversary it is an honor and a great pleasure to greet and welcome you... individually and collectively, to this celebration and worship service.

Today is a special day in so many ways. First and foremost, 155 years is a formidable and magnification milestone. We feel exceptionally blessed and fortunate that you came to worship with us. I extend an extra special word of welcome to all of you who have travelled far and wide to be with us today – we literally appreciate you going the “extra mile”. Speaking of miles, Rafting Creek, her members past and present have all come a long way together. That is why we chose “Growing Together in Unity, Faith and Love” as our theme. It is incumbent of us to be obedient to God and the Scriptures as we dwell together in UNITY, have FAITH the size of a mustard seed and to LOVE one another as Christ LOVES us!

Some of you have been around and an integral part of our Rafting Creek Family for a long time, while others of you may have only become a part of the family recently. Notwithstanding, we are without a doubt, especially grateful that we are all here today sharing in this special occasion...our 155th Church Anniversary!

Do not let unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:29-32, NIV).

Our hope is that you will enjoy the day with us, and that we will strengthen the ties of faith, love and unity as we worship and fellowship together. May we all take the opportunity to re-affirm and confirm how blessed we are to be alive and able to be with each other, next to each other and a part of each other's lives. Long may our friendship, fellowship and membership continue.

I greet and welcome you with unity, faith and love to this anniversary at Rafting Creek Baptist where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ is Lord of us all.



Brief Historical Overview of The Founder The Reverend Theodore Diggs

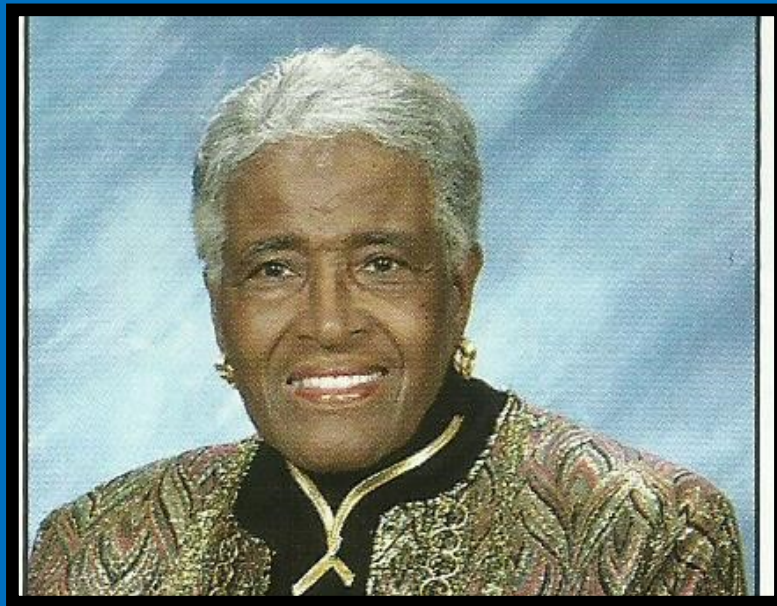
The Reverend Theodore Diggs, the son of Alexander Diggs and Ellen Bracey, was born in 1835 in the Sumter District; he married Manava Lindsay in 1853. They had four sons: R.H., Theo B. Jr., A.C., and William C. Diggs; twenty grandchildren; four sisters, Mrs. Lottie Townes, Mrs. Geneva Young, Mrs. Helena Hunt, and Miss Willie Annie Diggs. After the war, the Reverend Theodore Diggs was the first Negro teacher in Sumter County. In 1864, he was converted and—like Paul—began preaching the Gospel. He organized what is now known as Rafting Creek Baptist Church and was its honorable pastor for 62 years (until his death on August 9, 1928).

Among the founders were the Reverend Theodore Diggs, Adam Dinkins, Collin Alston, and Robert Chestnut. From the beginning with 25 members, the church flourished under Reverend Diggs's leadership. The Sunday School grew, and many new members were baptized.

Land purchases were made over the years, and church buildings were constructed and renovated. The original place of worship was a "bush arbor," which was used until 1871. A "large" church was erected during 1890 and later destroyed by high water. The next church building, with a steeple and the capacity to hold 300 parishioners, was built across the road and opened for worship during 1930. Our current building was completed in 1952, with later additions of the office wing and the fellowship hall. During earlier years, Rafting Creek Baptist Church was known as the *City Church* by the side of the road.

Brother Billy Cohens was the first superintendent of the Sunday School. Others included Sister Carolina Mayrant Wright, Brother Robert Mayrant, Sister Queen Osborne, Brother James Diggs, Brother J. L. Clarkson, Brother Harrison Mayrant, Dr. Beatrice G. Sanders, Brother Frank McLeod, Brother Hampton Gardner, Sr., and Dr. Ora M. Spann and Minister Carol Sanders. In addition to other ministries being formed, Vacation Bible School was organized and directed for many years by Dr. Marion W. McLester. Vacation Bible School continued to grow under the leadership of Dr. Ora M. Spann and Sister Maggie G. Osborne, as well as Sister Myra Wright and Sister Jean Gardner, our present directors.

In Memory of
Dr. Margaret W. Davis



90 PLUS BLESSED BY GOD



Juanita Edwards

99 years old



Edmonia Wade

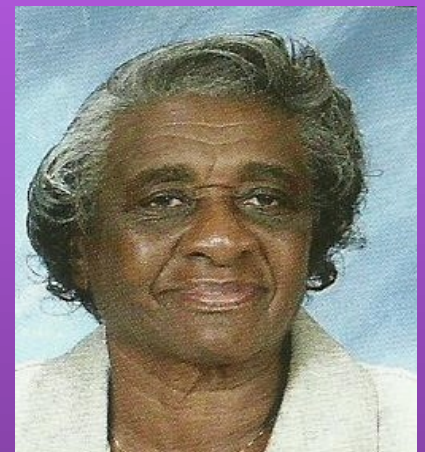
100 years old

Janet Grant

94 years old



Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.



**Be grateful for
today and never
take anything for
granted. Life
is a blessing.**

LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM



Charles Dais, Sr.

90 years old

Litany of Praise
Ephesians 4:7 & 11-17

- LEADER:** But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
- CHURCH:** And He gave some, apostles, some prophets, and some evangelist, and some pastors and teachers;
- LEADER:** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;
- CHURCH:** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:
- LEADER:** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
- CHURCH:** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
- ALL:** This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.

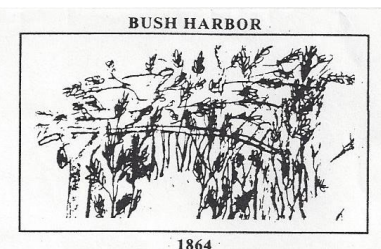
Historical Highlights

The church started around Swift Creek in Boykin, South Carolina, by a group of dedicated people with the love of God in their hearts, who were worshipping in the up-stairs quarters of a white church.

In 1864 the group stepped out on their own after devotion one Sunday morning, leaving Swift Creek led by Pastor Theodore Diggs in a 4-5 mile march south on what is now Highway 261 until they found a suitable place for a church.

In order to make the start, they had to cross this creek to get the material they needed. First a raft was made in order to go to and fro bringing the logs that were needed for seats, and the material for the structure.

Since they were by a creek, and used a raft as a mean of getting across, they named their newly built bush harbor, Rafting Creek.



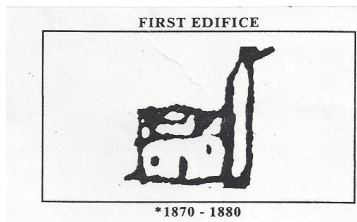
BUSH HARBOR

1864

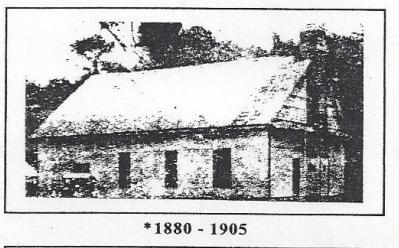
Historical Highlights

Reverend Theodore Diggs 1864—1925

- Membership 25
- New edifice commonly called “the City Church’ by the side of the road.



- Land 1 Acre July 1, 1864 from William Crawford Sanders Ellerby and George W. Brown
- Cemetery space purchased June 9, 1891 from Heirs of John M. and Theresa James



Reverend J. R. Reed 1925—1937

- Land 1.27 6/11/1929 Mrs. Marion W. McLester
- The new church building worth \$700.00

155th Church Anniversary

Theme: “Growing in Unity, Faith and Love”

Reverend Melvin Mack, Presiding

Worship Through Gathering

Devotional Service	Praise Team/ Male Choir
Announcements	Sister Desiree McMillan
Introduction of Theme	Deacon Bland Wade
Acknowledgment Visitors	Sister Annette Dinkins

Worship Through Invitation

Call to Worship	Reverend Melvin Mack
Invocation	Reverend Melvin Mack
Chant	“Spirit of the Living God”
Hymn of Praise	“Marvelous Things “

Worship Through Praise

Ministry of Music	Youth Choir
Prayer of Meditation/Intercessory	Deacon William Sanders
Choral Response	“He is Lord”
Ministry of Music	Inspirational Choir

Growing In Unity, Faith and Love

Worship Through Giving

Offertory Statement & Prayer

Special Anniversary Offering \$155.00

Offertory Chant “All Things Come of Thee”

Worship Through Teaching

Youth Moment

The Litany Reverend John F. Kennedy

Introduction of Speaker Sister Kathy A. English

Ministry of Music Inspirational Choir

The Written Word Proclaimed

The Reverend Burdell V. Hill, Pastor

Emancipation Missionary Baptist Church

St. Matthews, South Carolina

Worship Through Saying “Yes”

Hymn of Invitation “Jesus Is All The World To Me”

Call to Discipleship

Worship Through Departing

Remarks Sister Willie Mae Thompson

Reverend Melvin Mack

Communion Services

Scripture Reading

Prayer Deacon Hampton Gardner, Sr.

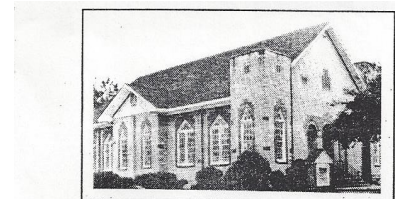
Closing Hymn Choirs / Congregation

Blessing/Benediction Reverend Burdell V. Hill

Historical Highlights

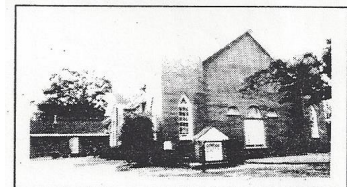
**Reverend B. Johnson
1937—1939**

**Reverend B. F. Weston
1939—1952**



1927 - 1952

- Land 1/2 Acre from the estate of Thomas B. Wright
- New Sanctuary
- Missionary Society formed



1952 - 1982

**Reverend C. H. Bolger
Pastored — 2 years**

**Dr. James S. Hall
Pastored— 3 years**

- Attendance increased
- New Deacons installed
- Trustee Board organized
- YWA organized
- Educational Board organized
- Church painted
- Bulletin Board Built
- New pews
- New pulpit furniture
- Water installed

Historical Highlights

Reverend J. H. Peters Pastored—3 years

Purchase organ
New restrooms
Front walk paved
Windows stained

Reverend B. D. Lewis 1962—1968

- Church mortgage liquidated
- Interior painted
- Windows repaired
- Floors carpeted

Reverend Marvin McAllister

Reverend Dawkins, Assistant

Reverend N. R. Harrison Pastored 2 years

Stationed church
Financial drive for Educational wing

Reverend Herman Smalls Acting Pastor

Reverend W. J. McIlwain Pastored—6 years

- Completed renovation
- Central heat and air
- Church bus
- 1 Acre donated Dr. W. M. McLester
- Blessed 2 sons in the ministry

SICK AND SHUT IN



**NAMES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN WEB
VERSION OF THE PROGRAM**

FAITH

*is not believing that God can
it is knowing that He will.*

Anniversary Committees

STEERING COMMITTEE 155TH ANNIVERSARY

The Reverend Melvin Mack, Ex-Officio
Sister Willie Mae Thompson, Chairperson
Deacon Bland Wade, Vice Chairperson

Reverend Lillian S. Reynolds
Deacon William Sanders
Sister Desiree McMillan
Sister Jacqueline Dinkins
Sister Cynthia Ransom
Trustee Dianne W. Herrington
Minister Carol Sander
Sister Louise Bradford

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Trustee Dianne Herrington, Chair
Sister Kathy Sanders
Sister Kathy English
Sister Myra Wright
Trustee Hampton Gardner, Jr.
Deacon Wallace Dinkins

KITCHEN MINISTRY

Sister Jacqueline Dinkins
Sister Alma Alston
Sister Lucille Workman
Brother David Bradford
Brother John Perry

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE DECORATIONS COMMITTEE

Deacon William Sanders, Chair
Brother Teddie Osborne
Trustee Dianne Herrington
Brother Braylon Jasper
Trustee Hampton Gardner, Jr.
Sister, Cynthia Ransom, Chair
Sister Glamor Pringle
Sister Evelyn Majors
Minister Javon Wesley
Brother Kejuan Joe

SENIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Reverend Lillian S. Reynolds, Chair
Sister Peggy Sanders
Sister Betty Powell
Minister Carol Sanders
Sister Carrie Mitchell

FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY / FUNDRAISER COMMITTEE

Sister Desiree McMillan, Chair
Sister Kathy English
Sister Kathy Sanders
Trustee Jeannet Towles-Mickens
Sister Jean Marie Butler-Moore
Brother Terrance English
Deacon Jimmie Brooks
Brother John Perry
Sister Nancy Dinkins
Brother JaShon Brooks
Sister Keisha Joe
Sister Willie Mae Thompson
Sister Alta Sanders
Sister Gloria Thompson
Deacon William Sanders
Brother Tracey Joe
Sister Jean Alston
Sister India Daniels

Historical Highlights

Reverend Larry Jasper
Acting Pastor

- Reverend D. E. Franklin**
1980—1985
- Completion of Church fellowship hall

Reverend R. E. Bennett
Acting Pastor

Reverend Dr. Charles H. Davis
1985 –2005

- Complete church renovation (present structure)
- Six sons and four daughters in the ministry
 - Burdell Hill
 - James Williams
 - Frank Williams
 - Willie Bellamy
 - Henry Boyd
 - John F. Kennedy
 - Lillian S. Reynolds
 - Sharon Boyd
 - Carol Sanders
 - LaKeanlya McNeil
- Air/Heating units replaced



Reverend Burdell V. Hill
Acting Pastor
2005

Rafting Creek Baptist Officers

Historical Highlights

Reverend Melvin Mack 2005 - Present

- Built storage building
- \$250,000 Renovation Project
- Replace roof/ceilings
- Windows replaced
- Interior Doors replaced
- Kitchen sink replaced
- Pews repaired
- Purchase tables and chairs
- Steeple refurbished
- Updated heating and air
- Paid off 5 year loan in 3 years

- New Cemetery plotted and designed
- Purchase new ice machine
- Installed security cameras
- New microphone system
- Installed Sprinkler system for beautification project
- Purchase keyboard, drums
- Added to the Ministry:
A son, Javon Wesley and daughter, Claytonka Boyd
- Windows refurbished
- Updated heating and air unit
- Replaced windows/doors in Fellowship hall
- Church steeple refurbished
- Installed television monitors in sanctuary/ fellowship hall
- Updated light system in Fellowship Hall
- Purchased storage facility
- Paved Walkway
- Updated church security alarm system
- Replaced handicap handrails
- Historical marquee refurbished

Implemented:

- Funeral / Cemetery Guidelines
- Sunday School Institute
- Faith Fund
- Traffic control Police Officer for funerals
- Public Relations Committee
- Church Website / Church Newsletter
- Greeters Ministry
- Angel Tree Ministry

MINISTERIAL TEAM

The Reverend Melvin Mack, Pastor

Reverend Lillian S. Reynolds
Reverend Henry Boyd
Minister Carol Sanders
Minister Claytonka Boyd

Reverend Sharyn Boyd
Reverend John F. Kennedy
Minister Lakeanya McNeil
Minister Javon Wesley

DEACONS MINISTRY

Deacon William Sanders, Chairperson

Deacon John Singleton, Vice Chair

Deacon Hampton Gardner, Sr. Superintendent, Emeritus

Deacon Johnnie Dinkins
Deacon Wallace Dinkins
Deacon Bland Wade
Deacon Robert Dinkins

Deacon Jimmy Nichelson
Deacon Bobby Spann, Sr.
Deacon Jimmie Brooks
Deacon Harvey Brooks

TRUSTEE MINISTRY

Trustee Robert L. Dinkins, Chairperson

Trustee Willie Sanders, Vice Chair

Trustee Eula Osborne, Acting - Treasurer

Trustee Lloyd Daniels
Trustee Linnie Singleton
Trustee Hampton Gardner, Jr.
Trustee Dianne W. Herrington
Trustee Jeannet Towles-Mickens
Trustee Theodore Collier
In Training John Perry

Trustee Wallace Sanders
Trustee Christine Lawson
Trustee Joseph Spann
Trustee Edgar Sanders, Jr.
Trustee Ernestine Nixon
In Training James Collier

Church Clerk

Sister Peggy Sanders

Assistant Clerk

Sister Desiree McMillan

Church Treasurer

Acting Eula Osborne

Musicians

The Reverend John F. Kennedy
Trustee Wallace Sanders

Sunday School Superintendent

Minister Carol Sanders

Assistant Superintendent

Deacon Johnnie Dinkins

Custodian

Sister Mary Kershaw



Sunday School Staff

Minister Carol Sanders, *Superintendent*

Deacon Johnnie Dinkins, *Assistant Superintendent*

Sister Myra Wright, *Secretary*

—MEN'S BIBLE CLASS—

Deacon William Sanders
Deacon Bland Wade
Deacon Wallace Dinkins

—ADULT BIBLE CLASS No. 1 —

Minister Carol Sanders
Sister Kathy L. Sanders

—CLASS No. 2—

Sister Thelma Laborn
Trustee Dianne W. Herrington

Reverend Lillian S. Reynolds
(Floater)

—CLASS No. 3 —

Sister Myra Wright

—CLASS No. 4 —

Desiree McMillan
Sister Thelma LaBorn
Trustee Dianne W. Herrington

—CLASS No. 5—

Sister Bonnett Nash
Sister Jacqueline Dinkins

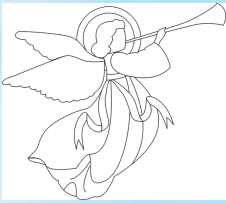
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Sister Myra Wright
Sister Jean Gardner

Active Church Ministries

Audio/Media
Brotherhood Ministry
Deacons Ministry
Trustee Ministry
Greeters
Mime/Praise Dancers
Nurse's Ministry
Praise Team
Sunday Church School
Usher's Ministry
Young Women's Auxiliary
Public Relations Ministry

Black History Observance
Inspirational Choir
Youth Choir
Fellowship & Outreach
Male Choir
Ministers/Deacons Spouse
Pastor's Aide
Senior Missionary
Youth Council
Veteran's Ministry
Historical Committee
Youth Moment



Deceased Members

Dr. Margaret W. Davis

Sister Bernice Butler

Sister Pamela Millhouse

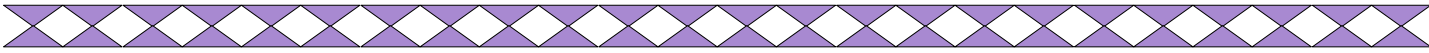
Sister Betty Robinson

Sister Nancy Sanders

Brother Wayne Sanders

You will always be in my heart

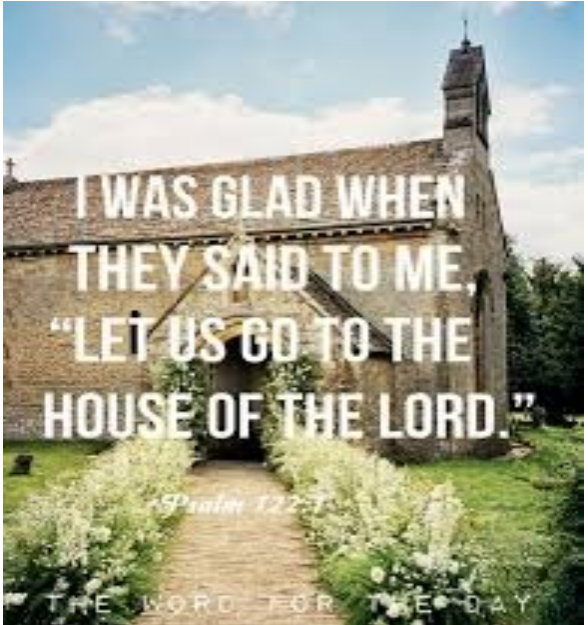
Because in there you will never depart!



YOUR CHURCH ADDRESS
IS NOT AN ACCIDENT. GOD
PLACED YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR
COMMUNITY FOR A REASON.



SCHLAPPY
CHURCH
TRUST 2019



I WAS GLAD WHEN
THEY SAID TO ME,
“LET US GO TO THE
HOUSE OF THE LORD.”

Psalm 122:1


THE WORD FOR THE DAY

“CHURCH
IS WHO WE ARE
NOT WHERE WE GO”

@JARRIDWILSON
www.jarridwilson.com



WE WILL NEVER
CHANGE THE WORLD
BY GOING TO CHURCH.
WE WILL ONLY
CHANGE THE WORLD
BY BEING THE CHURCH.



“A PRAYERFUL
CHURCH
IS A POWERFUL
CHURCH...”


— CHARLES SPURGEON

Sermon Quotes



A church garden

three rows of squash

- 
1. squash indifference.
 2. squash criticism.
 3. squash gossip.

four rows of turnips

1. Turn up for meetings.
2. Turn up with a smile.
3. Turn up with a visitor.
4. Turn up with your Bible.

five rows of lettuce

1. let us love one another deeply.
2. let us welcome strangers sincerely.
3. let us be faithful to duty for love of God.
4. let us worship God.
5. let us be generous.

Rafting Creek Baptist Church

(803) 432-5411

3860 Hwy 261 North

P. O. Box 87

Rembert, SC 29128



"Growing As A Church With A Redemptive Purpose"