Friendship
BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO

HISTORY

1897-1914 In March of 1897, Reverend Knight and Reverend Coleman organized the Friendship Baptist Church with the assistance of their families and the following individuals: John Rodgers, Margaret Russell, Josie Arnell and George Bently. The first meeting place was located at Lake and Sangamon Streets. Reverend Harry W. Knight was elected to serve as pastor. Reverend Knight resigned in June, 1909 and the Church called the Reverend Sandy S. Matthews from Tennessee. The church, then located at Lake and Ann Streets, had a membership of 300. Property was purchased at 218 North Ada Street for $15,000.00 and we moved into our new home on the Second Sunday in May, 1911. Reverend Matthews passed on December 12, 1914.

1915-1935 In 1915, the Reverend Lucillious L. Drane, also from Tennessee, was called as pastor and served for 14 years. During his pastorate, our membership increased to 900. Many of the members owned and operated their own businesses. There was also a complete Junior Church, a baseball team and a bus was purchased for the Sunday School. Pastor Drane died on May 14, 1929 after 14 fruitful years and Friendship became known as one of the leading Churches on the Westside of Chicago.

In 1929, Friendship then called Reverend S. S. Jones of Oklahoma as pastor. This was during the Great Depression and our membership declined spiritually, financially and numerically and after serving for six years under these trying conditions, Reverend Jones resigned in 1935.

1935-1955 In the Fall of 1935, the Reverend E. L. Twine, of Mississippi became pastor. Our active membership had dwindled to 300, but after a few years under his leadership, we regained our rightful place as a leading church. Friendship moved to 1958 West Washington in 1943 and after ten years of faithful leadership, Reverend Twine departed this life on July 19, 1945.

In 1946 Reverend Joseph Rufus Davis was called to pastor Friendship. During his nine years pastorate, approximately 1,000 members were added to our congregation. Reverend Davis resigned as pastor in February 1955.

1955-2006 In the Fall of 1955, Friendship called the **Reverend Shelvin Jerome Hall** of Texas to be our next pastor. Under his visionary and insightful leadership, the following were initiated: Sunday Night Services, a Unit System to track Membership, the Hall's Ensemble, the E. L. Twine Club, Release Time School, Usher Ministry Number Two, Youth Ushers, Baptist Youth Fellowship, the Young Married Couples Club, Boy Scouts, the Young Adult Choir and our Church slogan which was, "We Are The Church With The Neighborly Spirit."

Our doors have been opened to many civic and religious organizations: The National Parent-Teachers Association, The Urban League, NAACP, Bishop College Choir, Baptist General State Congress of Christian Education, Ministers Conference, Civil Rights Movement; the West Side Federation, and the Tri-Faith Employment Agency. Outstanding ministers and Civil Rights leaders also were welcome at Friendship, including: The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., The Reverend Dr. Ralph Abernathy, and The Reverend Dr. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

Due to rapid membership growth, in 1962, Friendship purchased property at 3411 West Douglas Boulevard for the sum of $60,000. The mortgage was paid off in three years and eight months instead of the allotted five years.

Under Dr. Hall's leadership, the following were organized: seven departments; Education, Worship, Fellowship, Youth, Evangelism, Service, and Children, the Ann Miller Leadership School, Vacation Bible School, and the publication of the Diamond Jubilee History Book in 1972.

Five Deacons were ordained on December 3, 1975: Woody L. Collins, Percy Fultz, Mario I. McManus, J. B. Bates and Elvin J. Simpson. Several new Auxiliaries were organized in 1975: the Youth Nurses, the Explorers and the Young Christian Women's League.

In July **1981**, Friendship purchased land at Laramie Avenue and Jackson Boulevard. Then on July 19, 1981, we broke ground for a new edifice. On Easter Sunday Morning, April 3, 1983, we began our Dedication Services. The official Ribbon Cutting Services was performed in July, 1983.

On July 19, 1987 A Mortgage Burning Ceremony was held in our new Sanctuary. On the same day, the members of Friendship, stood in awe as the first Black Mayor of the City of Chicago, Harold Washington, unveiled the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bell Tower. This magnificent structure symbolized our dreams of hope for tomorrow.

In 1997, Friendship celebrated its Centennial. The church purchased a new organ and piano. In addition, several areas of the Church were redecorated and remodeled. The Centennial Celebration culminated on July 13, 1997 with a parade from our humble beginnings at Lake and Sangamon, continued through the various neighborhoods in which Friendship had been located and ended at our present location; 5200 West Jackson Boulevard. We were joined by many friends and well-wishers.

During our Centennial year the following men were ordained as Deacons: Jerry Wilson, James Lucas, Sterling Grandberry, Joseph Jackson and John Wilson.

On November 12, 2006, Rev. Shelvin J. Hall delivered his final sermon, "The Unfinished Song." After fifty-one years of faithful service, Rev. Hall retired as the pastor of Friendship.

On November 19, 2006, Friendship Baptist Church welcomed its new Pastor, Rev. Reginald E. Bachus. His inaugural sermon was entitled, "Waiting On The Next Move of God." Rev. Reginald E. Bachus, the former pastor of First Regular Baptist Church in Lawrence, Kansas, is the son of Dr. C. L. Bachus, Pastor of New Zion Baptist Church of Kansas City, Kansas and the 2nd Vice President of the National Baptist Convention, Pastor Bachus is the 8th Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church. Friendship remains prayerful and hopeful as we begin this new journey.

2007-Present On Sunday, March 11, 2007, the formal Pastoral Installation Service for Rev. Reginald E. Bachus was held. Our special guests were St. Andrews Baptist Church and Mount Zion Baptist Church from Kansas City, Kansas. Rev. Reginald L. Bachus, son of Pastor Bachus, delivered the 8am worship sermon. Dr. C.L. Bachus, father of Pastor Bachus, preached 11am worship service. Dr. Selwyn Q. Bachus, brother of Pastor Bachus, preached the official installation worship service.

Dr. Bachus developed vision and mission statements for Friendship Baptist Church.

> **Vision Statement**: To be a spiritually empowered church and people, through knowledge of and obedience to God's Word.
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> **Mission Statement**: The Friendship Baptist Church of Chicago is a congregation of Baptized Believers who strive to meet the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as recorded in St. Matthew 28:19-20 by: Exalting the Savior through meaningful worship and Godly living; Equipping the Saints through the teaching of God's word; Entreating the Lord through prayer; and Evangelizing the Lost through fellowship and ministry.

Since becoming Pastor, Dr. Bachus has implemented the following: 40-hour Leadership Development Certification Series, Foundations of Faith Training, In-Take Counselors, In-Touch Ministry, Grief Ministry, Worship on Wednesdays (WOW), Health and Wellness Ministry, The Power of the Penny Mortgage Reduction, Women of Faith Ministry, and a Community Meal Program.

Understanding the importance and need for modern technology, Dr. Bachus completely updated the audio and visual components of our ministry. Our sanctuary is equipped with state-of-the-art sound system, video cameras and projectors. As a result, we are able to live-stream our weekly Bible Study and Worship Services.

As we celebrate our History and Preserve Our Legacy, we thank God for all he has done and continues to do in the life of the Friendship Baptist Church of Chicago.