

Friendship Baptist Church History

Friendship Baptist Church was founded in **1915** with the goal of fulfilling the Great Commission through evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship.

Early Years and Growth

- **Rev. G. W. Boyd** (1915-1918): The founding pastor. The church began in the 1500 block of 12th Street, moving to a tent at 14th and Vine, and finally to **17th and Tracy**. By Rev. Boyd's death in 1918, the church had established its Sunday School, Young People's Department, and several boards/choirs.
- **Rev. S. C. Doyle** (1918-1941): Elected the second Pastor. During his tenure, the church moved from 17th and Tracy to a tent at 14th and Lydia, and then to **1024 E. Truman Road**. Membership and auxiliaries grew, and Rev. Doyle became known for his generosity to the sick and less fortunate.
- **Rev. E. J. Johnson** (1941-1944): Served a brief one-and-a-half-year term. Known as an outstanding preacher, he led the church to become **debt-free**.

Long-Term Development and Expansion

- **Rev. Isaiah Hilkih Henderson, Jr.** (1944-1983): Served as the fourth Pastor for 39 years. Under his leadership, the church moved from Truman Road to **43rd and Montgall**, where the mortgage was paid off in just two years. Growth continued with new programs (scouting, library, athletics), and the construction of **Friendship Village Apartments**. Rev. Henderson died in September 1983.
- **Rev. Clifford E. McLain** (1985-1992): Became the fifth Pastor. The church purchased 36 acres and built a new \$4.1 million facility, moving into the current location at **3530 Chelsea Drive** on October 7, 1989. The church experienced significant spiritual and numerical growth.
- **Dr. Manuel L. Dillingham** (1993-2001): Elected the sixth Pastor. The church completed the **kitchen and gymnasium** under his leadership.

Current Era

- **Rev. James Allen Terrance Jr.** (2003-Present): Elected the seventh Pastor in January 2003. Key milestones under his leadership include **burning the mortgage in May 2004**, various facility renovations and updates, and the enhancement of community ministries, including the Hope Ministry and increased financial support for scholarships and youth employment.

Friendship Baptist Church celebrates over **108 years** of service and continues to grow spiritually, numerically, and financially as it works to fulfill the Great Commission.