

# New Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church History

The church was founded June 18, 1919, located in the Brightsville community. According to the deed the first church was purchased at the cost of two hundred dollars along with 6.8 acres of land. The land was purchase by J. A. Usher which had been taken from J.T. Bright, the Trustees at this time was William Moore, John Pate, Henry Davis, Robert Gainey and James York. As the Lord continued to bless the church and His people doing the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's, many faithful members served in different capacities: Deacons were Slip Quick, Willie Graham, Lee Johnson and Martin Quick. Mothers were Minnie Lyles, Blossie Bright, Margaret Johnson, Beulah Graham, Alberta Bethea, Connie Pegues, Ella Lyles and Mary Lee Green.

This was a glorious time for God's people to worship him until a bad storm hit in the early fifties in which the church was destroyed. The Lord again heard the prayers of the saints when they cried out unto Him as they prayed for a place to worship him. The Lord blessed New Hill church family again to be able to get the second church, which was old Brightsville school building where many of our foreparents were educated. Marlboro County School District sold this building and 2.64 acres of land to the New Hill church family for only \$5.00 and this was truly a blessing from God. This building was facing the west side from where the building now is facing. The land was staked off on the ditch bank of Bright and Bullard line. This business transaction took place December 11, 1953 at 2:45 p.m.

Trustees at this time were Mack Williams, Robert Williams, Louis Whitfield, W.C. Graham, Jr. and Wilson Spears.

During this time, many can remember warming from the pop belly stove and gathering up wood for the fire. As the years pass by, the Lord continued to bless as the church family decided to join the Cape Fear and Southwestern Free Will Baptist Conference located in Sanford, North Carolina. At this time, Reverend Wade was the Moderator of the conference. The church was no longer being called New Hill Baptist, but, New Hill Free Will Baptist. After worshipping over more than two decades in this building, the vision came to build a new sanctuary as the power of the saints was answered by God

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and it came to pass. In the year of 1975 the New Hill church family built a new block church where it presently stands

Deacons at this time were, Chairman Wilson Spears, James Bright, James Graham, John Grady, Melvin Teal, Sr. and J.W. Quick. Trustees at the time were Robert Williams, Chairman; Annie Louise Simmons, President of the Missionary Board and Senior Choir; Mamie McLeod, President of the Usher Board; Margaret Wilson, President of the Young Adult Choir; Betty Gandy, YPCL President; Elouise Bright, Sunday School Superintendent; Ronnie Williams, Adult Teacher; Annie Ruth Moore, Junior Teacher; Tammy Simmons, Tots; Neil Johnakin and Johnny Green were musicians.

Pastors who served in the past were Rev. McLain, Rev. T.T. Platt, Rev. G.D. Yearning, Rev. McCoy, Rev. L.K. Prince, Rev. Glisper, Rev. Mack Brutus, Rev. Raymond McLeod, Rev. Newkirk and Bishop C.S. Artis.

Bishop C.S. Artis served 25 years as pastor, the longest serving pastor since the birth of New Hill up until November, 2008. Under Bishop Artis administration, we accomplish many things. A bathroom was added to the Pastor's Study. The sanctuary was extended with a steeper installed and restrooms were placed at the entrance of the church. Also a corner stone was engraved into the front right side of the church acknowledging the history and pillars of the church. During Bishop Artis tenure, half panel window was installed with a baptizing pool. Pool area included male and female dressing room with an extended storage area. A recreational shed area was placed in the rear of the church yard. The church installed a new heating /cooling system and replaced windows with stained-glass windows. We also purchased a church van. Under Bishop Artis leadership two members became Pastors: Elder Glen Bright Sr. Pastor of Beautiful Zion Free Will Baptist Church, Laurel Hill North Carolina and Dr. Margaret Wilson, Pastor of Harnett Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, North Carolina. In January, 2009, Dr. Johnnie A. Bruton became the interim pastor for 3 months and in July, 2009 Dr. Bruton became the pastor of New Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church under the leadership

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and spiritual guidance of Dr. Bruton, God continued to move mightily in the lives of his people. New Hill continued to grow spiritually and numerically. As the church body continued to pray and fellowship one with another, God continued to manifest his presence in which souls are being saved, delivered and regenerated by his Holy Spirit. As God continued to lead and instruct Dr. Bruton, it was brought before the congregation to move from 1st and 3rd worship Sundays to having 1st, 2nd, and 3rd worship Sundays in which second Sunday would be youth Sunday. In January 2010, New Hill began having three worship services a month. God continued to bless the church to meet the needs of people spiritually, physically, mentally and psychologically. New Hill adopted bylaws to assist in the structure of the ministry. In January, 2011 the church body voted unanimously to become incorporated and implemented a community Food Ministry. The men of New Hill came together and renovated what was a storage room and turned it into New Hill's Food Ministry. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held after Sunday morning worship where the New Hill members and visitors gathered around the pantry for prayer, purpose and thanks to God for opening another door for us not only to be a blessing within the church but within the community as well. The New Hill church family chose the 3rd Thursday out of each month to have a short service at Dundee Rest Home, where there is prayer, singing and the word of God is shared. The church continues to move by the power and inspiration of God as it broadcast every Sunday morning on WEWO 1460 AM radio in Laurinburg, North Carolina, where it is aired throughout several counties including Marlboro County. God has birth a Men Ministry, a ministry that minister to men through a prayer breakfast every 4th Saturday of each month, a Women's Ministry, Hospitality Ministry, Outreach Ministry and other ministries have been adopted by God's direction through the pastor and members of New Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church, Inc., to serve the church as well as the community to the glory of God. In January 2013, the majority of New Hill was led by God's anointing to start having worship on the fourth Sunday, that Sunday also being a Sunday that the men of the church would lead the entire service. God has proven Himself to be faithful in this season.

In May of 2015, Elder Frederick Canty was elected as Pastor of the New Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church. He is truly a man of God. To God be the glory.

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