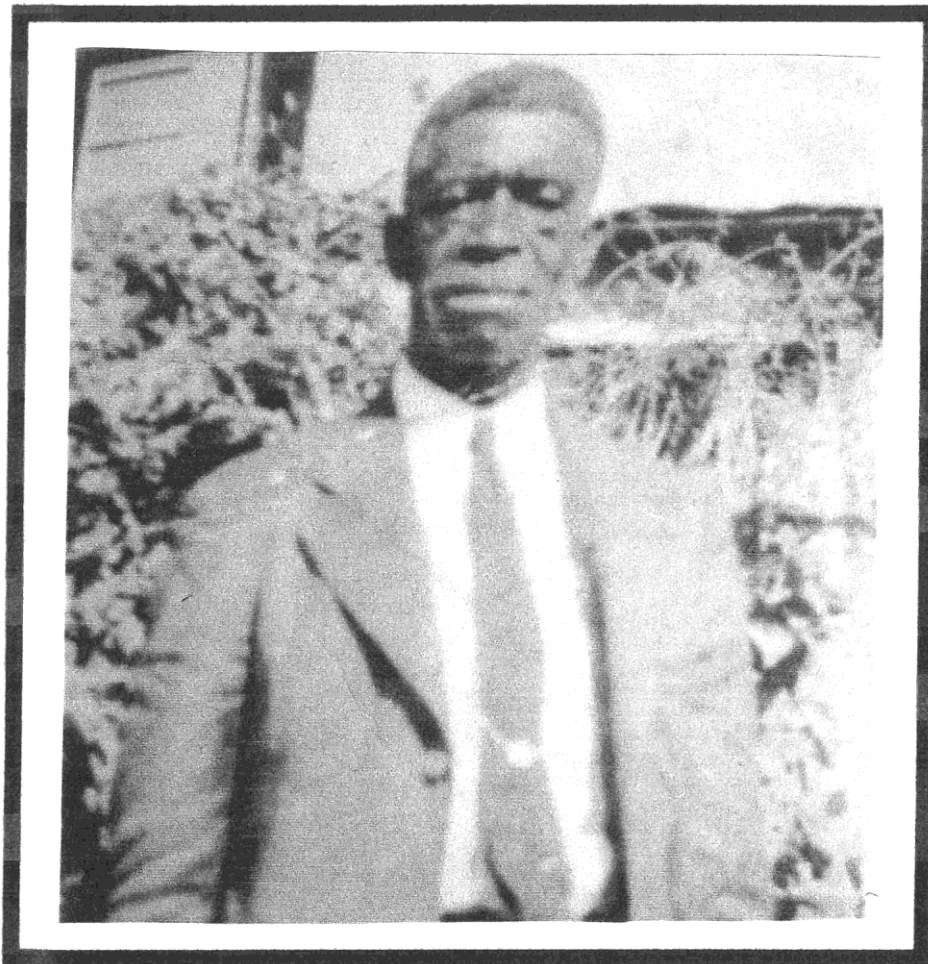


# West Hill Baptist Church Pastoral History: 1923 to 2019

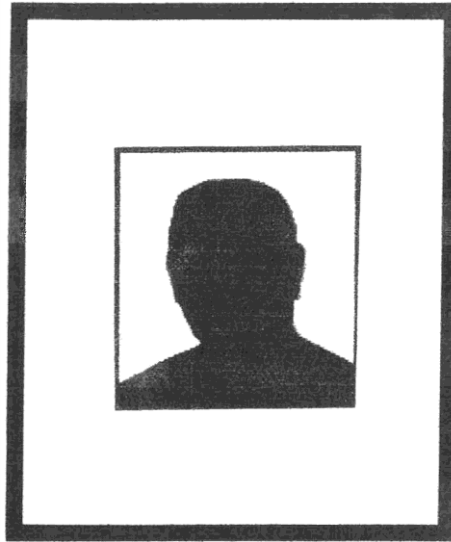


*“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” (Jeremiah 3: 15)*



**Reverend Peter B. Winn**

Reverend Peter B. Winn was elected as the pastor in the early 1920's and served as the church's moderator beginning April 21, 1923. Reverend Winn's salary began with a range of 25 to 50 cents each fourth Sunday. During Reverend Winn's tenure at West Hill, he was a regular representative at the association meeting, supported the "Red Cross" and the "League," and the membership grew as new people joined the church. The members worked with Pastor Winn to collect monetary donations for several years. The men were asked to give \$2.50 and sisters were expected to donate \$1.25 during the Grand Rally held the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in May 1924 in addition to the monthly donations for the pastor's salary. Mary Jennings gave a \$4.50 donation from the "Willing Workers" club to help with the church building project.



**Reverend Johnnie Fowlkes**

In 1909, the Reverend Johnnie Fowlkes was elected as the first pastor by the officers and members of the West Hill Baptist Church. With the assistance of Reverend Freeman Jennings, Reverend Fowlkes taught the word of God to the members. According to the church documents dated May 4, 1918, W. A. Davis served as moderator, Anderson Davis was clerk, and Charley Kelly was elected as treasurer. From time to time, Mrs. Pallais M. Davis served as a temporary church secretary. In August of 1918, the members decided to add 12 feet to the south side of the school/church building. On October 5, 1918, the members decided to change the deed from West Hill Sabbath School to West Hill Church and Sabbath School. There are no recorded church minutes between November of 1918 and March of 1923. However, according to court records, the property title deeded to the trustees of the West Hill Sabbath School was changed to West Hill Church and Sabbath School on February 8, 1919.



**Reverend Joseph E. Taylor**

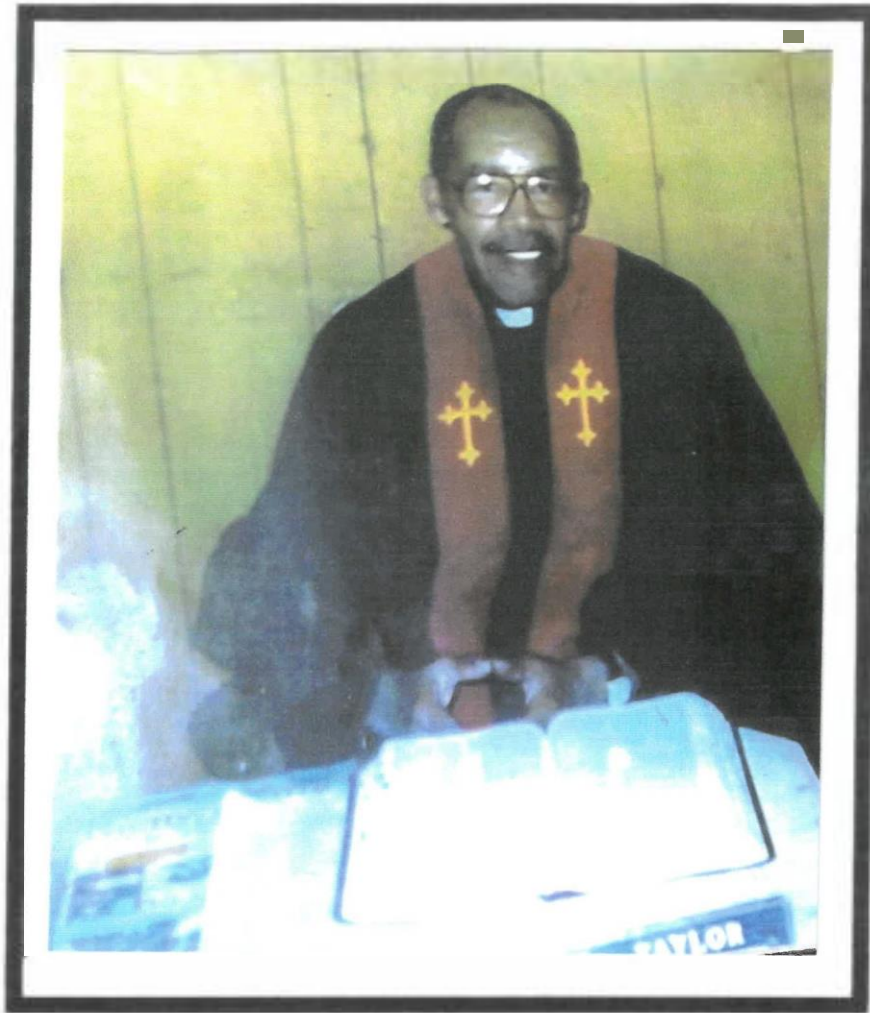
On September 24, 1961, Reverend Joseph E. Taylor was requested to be the speaker at West Hill for the rest of 1961. The members of church realizing the need for continued spiritual leadership elected the Reverend Joseph E. Taylor as the new pastor on January 27, 1962. Sunday school was scheduled at 11 o'clock each fourth Sunday. Reverend Taylor was very supportive of members conducting a program each month beginning with the missionary, Baptist Training Union (B.T.U.), usher board and Sunday school. The Sunday school was in charge of the Easter program on Friday night, April 20, 1962. Permission was granted for the first time for the missionaries to conduct the Mother's Day program in May of 1962. A water pitcher, dipper and pail were purchased so the pastor and members would have water to drink when needed.

On July 21, 1962, the ushers were installed as follows: Napoleon Jackson, vice president; Rosa Lee Ghee, secretary; and members Carolyn Callahan and Hazel Jackson.

On September 22, 1962, Horace Callahan, Waverly Callahan and Curtis Jackson, Jr. were received as members of West Hill. Rosa Lee Ghee requested a letter to be dismissed from the West Hill Baptist Church.

In 1963, Reverend Joseph Taylor, Pastor; and church officers were re-elected as follows: Lile Callahan, secretary, Versie Taylor, assistant secretary; Richard Taylor, treasurer; Earnest Hardy, sexton. Also during the year of 1963, a Children's Day program was sponsored by the Baptist Training Union (B.T.U) on the second Sunday in June under the leadership of Versie Taylor; Henry Jackson cleaned around the out-buildings with his tractor; church meetings to be held every three months with a call meeting if needed; Robert Hazelwood and Leroy Hazelwood were given the right hand of fellowship to become ushers; Martha Hardy, Lile Callahan, Versie Taylor, Frank Jennings and Henry Jackson were, appointed as program committee with Martha Hardy as chairman; ana a workshop was conducted by the missionaries.

The pastor and officers were re-elected for the year of 1964. During this year, church members extended a lot of thanks and appreciation to Pastor Taylor for his service to the members; a new heater was purchased and installed; Christmas gift taken to Reverend Peter 8. Wynn by Richard Taylor; and Warren Crowder gave a report about the junior choir.



**Reverend Anthony J. Taylor.**

The Reverend Anthony Taylor was elected as pastor-elect of the West Hill Baptist Church on December 5, 1982 and began his tenure as pastor on January 1, 1983. In 1983, Reverend Taylor served as church moderator; Charles Lee, Jr. was appointed to work with Deacon Frank Jennings regarding the church treasure; Pastor Taylor suggested that members join with another church for Vacation Bible classes; changes were made on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (order of service) bulletin on January; members began to collect a mission offering for the sick in the community; a monetary raise given Darlene Carter as the pianist; \$25 donation to the Red Cross; a church building plan to construct classrooms and a fellowship

hall was presented and approved with modifications, but construction did not begin until 1984.

Homecoming services were officially changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in July at 12 Noon. Eddie Robertson and Charles Lee were responsible for getting and setting up the tables and chairs on the church lawn for the dinner on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in July of 1983.

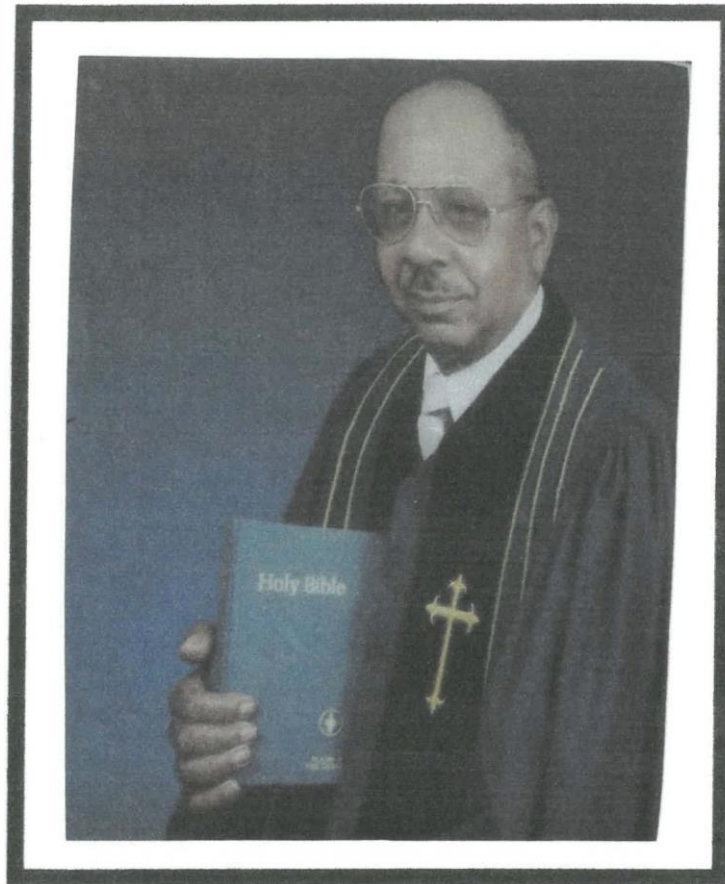
On August 28, 1983, Rondale "Randy" Crowder, Keith Callahan, Kevin Callahan, and Tammi K. Lee were baptized at New Grove Baptist Church and given the right hand of fellowship to become members of the West Hill Baptist Church.

On December 17, 1983, Reverend A. J. Taylor suggested that members should always remember Reverend Joseph Taylor's widow; therefore, the members decided to support Reverend Joseph Taylor's wife with an annual monetary gift following his death; choir robes were to be purchased by the church and to become the property of the church, not individuals; Public Announcement (P.A.) system installed by the usher board.

On March 10, 1984, Pastor A. J. Taylor spoke to the members about the necessity of implementing by-laws and constitution, and he would assist in developing a draft document on May 5, 1984. Geraldine Callahan was given the right hand of fellowship to become a member of the West Hill Baptist Church. Eddie Robertson requested that his van be dedicated to the work of the Lord. In June of 1984, the homecoming service was changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in August of 1984 at 12 Noon; high school graduates: Wanda Lee, Bobby Byrd and Joyce Jackson were given a monetary gift of \$10 each; and Roger T. Jackson was approved as pianist for the West Hill Baptist Church. A monetary donation was given to Roger Tyree Jackson to assist with funding his college education. It was decided that the Homecoming service would be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in June 1985 at 12 Noon.

On December 15, 1984, a resignation letter was received and accepted by members from Reverend A. J. Taylor; therefore, Reverend Allen was contacted to minister on fourth Sundays. Reverend Anthony J. Taylor, during the short period of one year, touched the hearts of the members with love and warmth openly displayed by him.



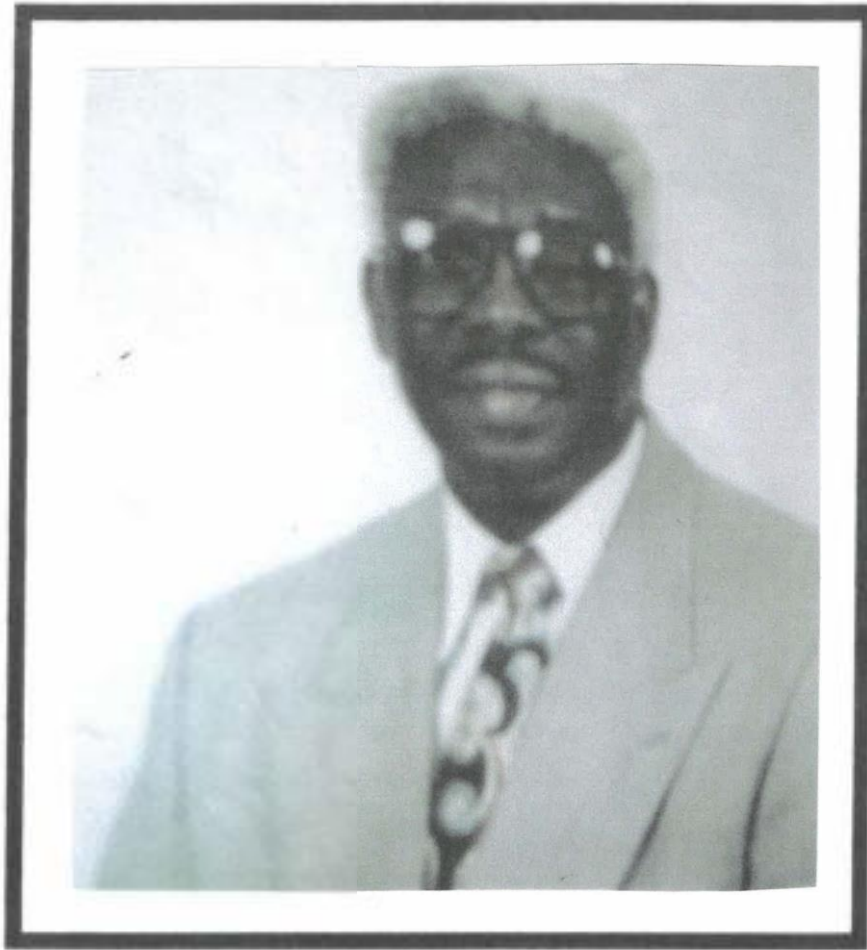


**Reverend Thomas J. Jordan**

On December 14, 1985, Reverend Thomas Jefferson Jordan was accepted as pastor elect, and officially elected as pastor on January 25, 1986. Under the guidance of Reverend Jordan, the LORD also blessed the church with a strong spiritual leader, an outstanding youth membership, and faithful members who were skilled and able to assist in the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

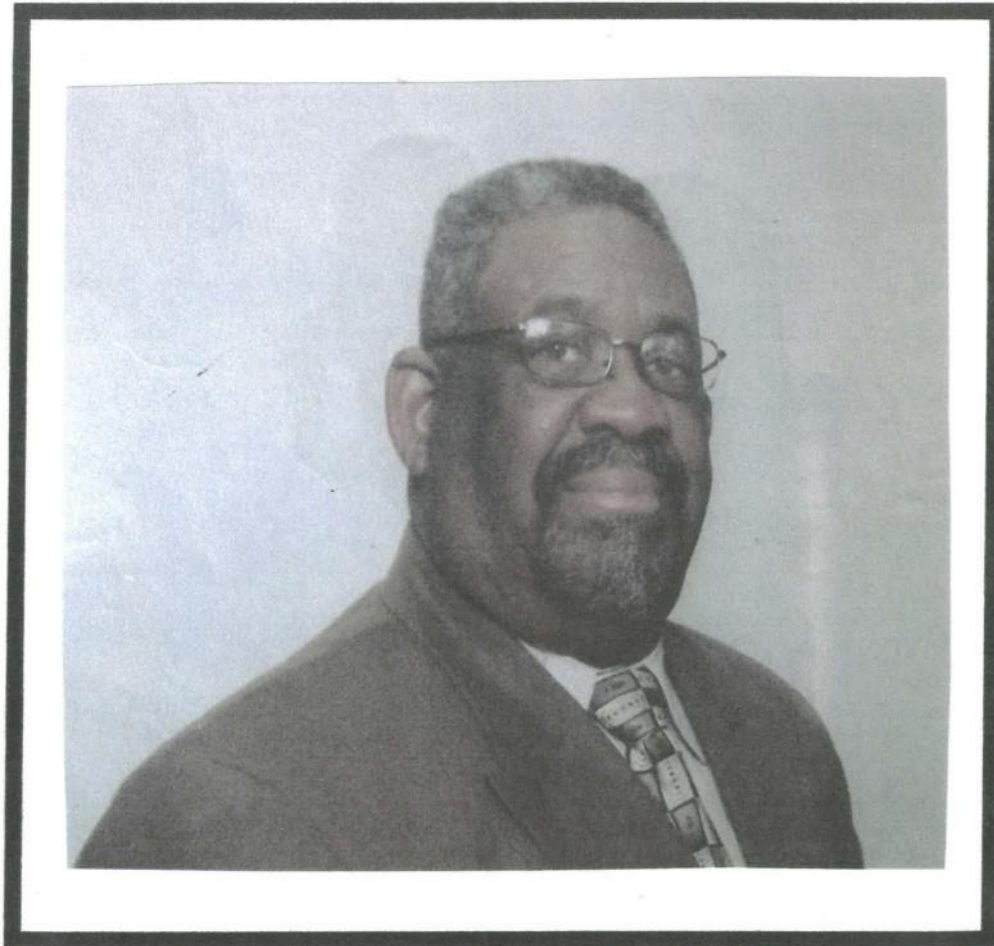
In the mid to late 80's, the officers were re-elected for the year of 1986 and 1987 as follows: Martha B. Hardy Smith, clerk; Marjorie Crowder, assistant clerk; Charles Lee, treasurer and chairman of trustees; Alvoid Crowder, Chairman of the Deacons; Thelma Craig; correspondence secretary and member of the program committee; Jessie Craig, sexton; and Thelma Craig would maintain record/file of the church membership; and Mrs. Wilkins was approved to assist the pianist when needed. On March 22, 1986, Alvoid Crowder, Charles Lee, John W. Callahan, Sr., Eddie A. Robertson, Sr., and Vernon Hardy became church trustees.

A minister's robe was purchased and presented to Reverend Jordan during his installation service on May 4, 1986; and high school graduates: Dwight Crowder, Lisa Lee, and Karen Jackson received a monetary gift of \$10 each. It was decided that members would bring their monetary offerings to the table on June 21, 1986; On September 27, 1986, it was decided to start 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday-service at 11:45 AM to give an opportunity for "Tots" and members of the junior choir to sing during prayer service; church anniversary committee as follows: John Callahan, Jessie Craig and Marjorie Crowder; Charles Lee, Jessie Craig, and John Callahan ordained as deacons on December 14, 1986, 4:00PM; Letter to receive Walter Lee and Doris Belinda Craig as members on September 28, 1986; and the names of Martha Smith and Viola Robertson were withdrawn as deaconess at their request on March 6, 1987.



**Reverend Arthur E. Coardes, Jr.**

On December 20, 1997 Reverend Arthur E. Coardes, Jr. was approved as pastor-elect, and on May 17, 1998 he was officially installed as the pastor of the West Hill Baptist Church. During Reverend Coardes' tenure, changes and improvements were made such as changes to the usher board and missionary pre-thanksgiving annual programs; installation of name markers for grave site purchased by each family and church paid for Frank Jennings' marker.



**Reverend Lewis Reginald Hurt, Sr.**

Reverend L. Reginald Hurt, Sr. was chosen as pastor-elect on December 21, 2002 and officially installed as the pastor of West Hill on April 6, 2003. The initial blessing associated with the new pastor was the fact that not only did West Hill get Pastor Reginald Hurt, but also his wife, Reverend Eva B. Hurt, as the church's "First Lady."

During Reverend Hurt's tenure as pastor, the members of West Hill were involved in the activities as follows: \$25 donation to Stacy Craig for piano lesson to become pianist for youth choir; Eddie A. Robertson donated a 5-piece drum set; van purchased from Eddie A. Robertson; Jessie & Thelma Craig were instructor at the Usher Board Training class, Keysville Center, on October 18, 2003; PA (public announcement) system installed; suggestion of other members of the church to teach Bible study class and a workshop to help the children in school; trustees to address water problems in the church basement; idea to develop an outreach ministry in the year of 2004;

Jessie Craig volunteered to reorganize the youth department; 1<sup>st</sup>

church quarterly newsletter published by Shirley Lee on September 27, 2003; Reverend Irene Allen was guest preacher during the youth service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in October; Reverend P. Kippy Lundy was guest preacher for Fall (youth) revival on October 27 - 29, 2003; Jamie Craig becomes drummer for the youth service; church budget established beginning in year of 2004; On December 20, 2003, Transportation (van drivers) members appointed: Jessie Craig, Walter L. Craig; Otelia Lee, Thelma and Jessie Craig in charge of vehicle maintenance; Sunrise service scheduled for April 11, 2004 at 6 A.M.; new carpet and pews for church, choir and deacon's stand installed; Pastor Hurt appointed several members to present a topic during the Bible study class; and Willette Jones Hazelwood (New Grove) and Cordelia Holmes (Guildfield R. Z. U. A) joined the West Hill Baptist Church in the year of 2003 through Christian experience.