MESSIAS TEMPLE CHURCH

CELEBRATING A FAITHFUL JOURNEY

85th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

75th PASTORAL BIRTHDAY
A LIFE OF PURPOSE AND KINGDOM IMPACT

35th PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY
HONORING FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP



Bishop Harry and First Lady Mary Grayson

THEME:

GOD KEEPS HIS *Promises*

YESTERDAY • TODAY • ALWAYS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026



10:30 AM
SPEAKER
PRESIDING PRELATE BISHOP
WILL THORNTON

4:00 PM
SPEAKER
PRESIDING PRELATE BISHOP
LAMBERT W. GATES, SR.



200 HARRIET STREET, YPSILANTI, MI 48197

PROGRAM

BISHOP HARRY S. GRAYSON

A JOURNEY OF FAITH & SERVICE

1967 | In the Beginning...

Bishop Grayson's walk with God began at Messias Temple Church in 1967 and has continued to this day with many elevations along the way; not many have that testimony! However, his testimony in his home church has sustained a lifelong love among its' members, old and new of his sacrificial service to "feed the flock of God'.

When Elder Grayson received the Holy Ghost in the summer of 1967, God put a fire in him that has not been quenched. He was avid about his relationship with God and started attending every service the church had, eager to learn about this God he knew very little about. He attended Missionary services, Youth services, Bible classes, and traveled all over the state, to state and regional services. He was known to be faithful in whatever he did.

As a young man he served his church in every capacity he could as Janitor, Head Waiter, Missionary, choir member, Young Minister's Chairman, Youth Department Chairman, Boy's Sunday School teacher, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Drummer, Baptizer and Associate Minister.

1970 | COUNCIL SERVICE

As a teenager, he became the Northern District Council's first Sergeant at Arms/State Youth Coordinator. He served with excellence for 20 years, until June 1990.

1973 | FAMILY

In May 1973, he married Mary. Their family grew to include son Evan Joshua; twin daughters Maya Britney (husband JeeMell Green) and Shari Whitney; and grandchildren Olivia Madison and Hunter William.

1974–1985 | CALLING & CAREER

Following mechanical engineering studies at Washtenaw Community College and the University of Michigan, he worked as a refrigeration and heating engineer at U-M and founded Grayson Heating and Cooling, serving Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. In 1974, he shared his call to ministry with Pastor Elder Jesse Ross.

1978 | MINISTERIAL LICENSE

Licensed June 6, 1978 to preach, baptize, and assist in ministry, he served as the church's official baptizer and supported many auxiliaries. He ministered at Maxey Boys' Home and Milan Federal Prison and completed Aenon College coursework under Evangelist Helen Glenn.

1985 | INTERIM PASTOR

Still, his faithfulness was being seen by God and man. In the year 1985, District Elder Henderson Alston saw faithfulness in Elder Grayson and at his retirement, Elder Alston asked Elder Grayson to be the interim pastor of Bethany Apostolic Church of Romulus (God's City of Refuge of the Apostolic Faith). Which Elder Grayson with much prayer and council from his own pastor, consented to go to Romulus, but he had this word from God, "go and be prepared to leave at any time." After serving 9 months as the interim pastor, he was released and came back home to Messias Temple Church where he continued to serve as an Associate Minister.

1991–1992 | THE PASTORATE

In September 1991, an overwhelming majority selected Elder Grayson as pastor of Messias Temple Church under District Elder William Abney's direction. On January 25, 1992, Diocesan Bishop Willie Burrell installed him with prayer and the laying on of hands. His young family and spiritual family entered a new season together.

1992–1993 | GROWTH & FREEDOM

Under his leadership, attendance grew from about 100 to more than 750, with expanding choirs, Sunday School, youth programs, outreach, and radio and television ministries. A year after becoming pastor of Messias Temple Church, the Lord placed it on his heart to leave his 20-year career as a mechanical engineer at the University of Michigan and devote himself full-time to the pastorate.

He launched "We Care We Share," a vital food and clothing ministry of Bishop Grayson and Messias Temple Church, recognized by the City of Ypsilanti as Washtenaw County's premier food program. In 2026, through a partnership with Food Gatherers, a local food bank, the ministry feeds more than 500 people each month and provides clothing for people experiencing homelessness and families facing economic hardship. Its annual budget exceeds $350,000 in food, grants, and household products. Each week, the community receives food and clothing, and ministerial staff offer prayer for those who request it. Through this outreach, many souls have been saved and have joined the ministry.

BISHOP HARRY S. GRAYSON

A JOURNEY OF FAITH & SERVICE

1993 | Mortgage Burning

A $600,000 mortgage was retired in six months, celebrated at a mortgage-burning service on October 16, 1993.

1995 | ORDINATION & MISSIONS

Ordained June 30, 1995, he answered an invitation to preach in Cairo, Egypt, and also ministered in Harare, Zimbabwe. His international outreach included support for a church sanctuary and the early development of a medical clinic named in his honor.

1996 | BIBLICAL EDUCATION

Aenon Bible College established a satellite program at Messias Temple Church, grounding many students in biblical principles and Apostolic doctrine.

1999 | DISTRICT ELDER

At the March Council in 1999, he was elevated to District Elder.

2011 | SUFFRAGAN BISHOP

On March 25, 2011, he was elevated to Suffragan Bishop, celebrated by Lady Mary, children Evan, Maya and Shari, and the Messias Temple family. Throughout transitions, he remained steadfast in prayer, biblical teaching, the name of Jesus, baptism and the Holy Ghost.

2012 | CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Under Pastor Grayson's vision, the church purchased new cameras, audio equipment, and a video mixer to launch worldwide live streaming. Today, Sunday services reach viewers in more than 35 countries, with many supporting the ministry through monthly financial gifts.

2016 | EXPANDING LEADERSHIP

He became Vice Chairman of the Northern District Council and served on the International Missions Board of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. His ministry also extended to civic service in Ypsilanti.

2018 | EPISCOPAL ELEVATION

Reelected NDC Vice Chairman in June, he was elevated at the PAW Annual Convention in Atlanta by Presiding Bishop Charles Ellis to Bishop of the 60th Episcopal Diocese of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa. His work there continued to flourish.

2026 | THE BLESSINGS, MIRACLES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Bishop Willie Burrell preached it on his INSTALLATION DAY in 1992 and it still stands today in 2026, "LOOK WHAT GOD HATH WROUGHT!"

"THANK YOU" Pastor, because you have shown us that through "sickness and pain, through sunshine and rain, through 'near' death experiences" God is with you and in you, as our example of God's miraculous, sustaining love to HIS PEOPLE!

For the past 35 years you have been diligent in serving Messias Temple Church. You have not waivered from teaching the One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism message, and that Jesus is Lord and Savior to all who believe. You have not left the gospel that Baptism in Jesus name and the infilling of the Holy Ghost is the fulfillment of the 'New Birth 'experience. You still teach and show by example that a holy life can be lived by those whose faith is in the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Your preaching is continuously illuminating our minds.

We celebrate the God in you and the Legacy of Christlike Godliness you have shown Messias Temple Church and this community for these past 35 years!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR THE THINGS "HE" HAS DONE……



MESSIAS TEMPLE CHURCH

OUR STORY

Our History Through the Years

A Legacy of Faith, Leadership & Service

85th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
1941 – 2026

Late 1930s

The Vision & Beginning

Elder John T. Elders and Sister Laura Elders of Detroit MI came to Ypsilanti to start a church. "A white church on a corner in Ypsilanti" is what Sister Laura Elders is quoted as saying she saw in a vision.

Prayer Meetings

A small group of believers started having prayer meetings, standing on the corner of Monroe and Hawkins in Ypsilanti MI (in a wooded area Sister Elders named "Messias Grove"). They were later invited to have prayer meetings in the home of Bro. Edgar and Sister Le-na Barfield.

The Early Workers

Faithful saints came with Elder and Sister Elders to start the work, such as Bro. & Sister Edgar (Lena) Barfield and daughter, Gladys; Sister Powell; Bro. & Sister James Naylor; Bro. Curtis Naylor; Bro. and Sister Ludie; Bro. James Frierson (Sis. Marjorie Franklin's dad).

Carrying the Faith

Later faithful members such as, Bro. Moses Bass; Bro. Sylvester and Sister Hattie Smith; Bro. John and Sister Betty Barfield; Bro. Douglas and Sister Marjorie Franklin; Sister Lois Holman; Bro. Chambers; Bro. John and Sister Margaret Cannon; Bro. and Sister Henry; Sis. Anna Belle Arnold; these all embraced and carried on the 'faith of the saints.'

1940

Messias Temple Church Number One was formed.

JUNE 1941

The church at 565 Monroe Street, Ypsilanti, MI was recognized as an organization.

1945

The church building was completed (and, of course, they painted the outside "white").

JUNE 3, 1946

The church was dedicated by Bishop Samuel N. Hancock, and John T. Elders was ordained as Pastor, with his wife Sister Laura Elders by his side.

MAR. 2, 1949

Pastor John Elders left his earthly home at the age of 66. Elder John T. Elders was pastor for 9 years, from 1941 to 1949.

APR. 1949 – OCT. 1, 1974



Sister Laura Elders took the mantle as Pastor. In the early 1970's Pastor Laura Elders Bass now married, saw a great revival of new converts. Much of the time she was confined to her house and a wheelchair but was still on fire for God. On October 1, 1974, Pastor Laura retired. Two years later she passed on October 6, 1976. She pastored for 25 years, from April 1949 to October 1, 1974.



MAY 28, 1975 – JUNE 7, 1991

A faithful servant to Pastor Laura Elders-Bass, Elder Jesse Ross was elected Pastor on May 25,1975. Under his leadership, the church membership continued to grow, and the need for a larger Church was put into the heart of the Deacon board and the Pastor. In 1984, the Messias Temple Church family members, along with friends and community leaders, marched from 565 Monroe to 200 Harriet Street (current church edifice). Elder Ross was pastor for 16 years, from May 28, 1975 to June 7, 1991.

SEPT. 1991 – JAN. 25, 1992



In September 1991, Elder Harry S. Grayson was elected by an overwhelming vote by the members, under the direction of Bishop William Abney to be the next and fourth Pastor of Messias Temple Church. On January 25, 1992, the installation service was filled with anticipation as the members anxiously awaited the mantle to be pased Elder Harry S. Grayson. Bishop Willie Burrell preached a dynamic sermon, "Raise it, Raise it"



Sunday Morning Scriptures

Old Testament - 1 King 8:56-60

56 Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

57 The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us:

58 That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.

59 And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the Lord, be nigh unto the Lord our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require:

60 That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else.

New Testament - Hebrews 10:19-23

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)


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presents
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