

# *Journey of Harvest*

## **Harvest Fellowship Community Church Church History**

The Journey of Harvest Fellowship Community Church began from a small community Bible Study group that met in the Hampton Inn conference room in 2003 with Ricky L. Tillis as the teacher. With much prayer Pastor Tillis and wife, Angela surrendered to the Lord's will on January 19, 2004 to plant a church after seven years. The first Sunday in March of 2004 the church held its first church service in Motel 6 conference room with a total of twelve people present. A check in the amount of \$ 300.00 was given from one of the church's Prayer Partners (it was given in the name of God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit). This was the beginning of the work for laying the foundation with biblical and practical preaching and teaching in order to equip the people of God with the word of God for the glory of God. A strong emphasis on family, fellowship, and prayer can still be heard to this present day.

By the Providence of God the same week Harvest began meeting as a church family. Pastor and Mrs. Tillis attended a Church Planting seminar held at the seminary from which Pastor Tillis graduated. There he was asked by one of his former professors, Jeff Lowman to make contact with Pastor Bill Whitward in Gadsden who became instrumental along with some others in the relocation of this body of believers in Jesus Christ.

God, through His divine will, already had a place of worship designated, the former Eastside Presbyterian Church Building. Five months later on August 3, 2004, Harvest Church moved to its present location and on August 4, 2004 the first order of business was prayer for one hour, and this service still continues on Wednesday night. The church's Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Alabama on September 3, 2004, establishing Harvest Fellowship Community Church as an official, non-profit religious entity. In April 2005 Harvest began its Mission Support Plan, financially supporting four local Community Support Organizations.

In May 2005 the church adopted its Constitution and By-Laws ensuring things may be done decently and in order. In July 2005 the church hosted its first Missionary from Uganda, Africa known to us as Pastor Sam. We celebrated our First Church Anniversary with the Harvest Community Church, PCA Birmingham, AL, Pastor Michael Jones with the theme: Emphasizing the Grace of God.

In March of 2006 the No Longer Bound Radio Broadcast Ministry was launched on WJBX AM 930, each Thursday night in order to impact more lives with the Gospel beyond the walls of Harvest. In September an After-School tutoring ministry began in order to address the needs of our community children. Also in 2006 steps were made to particularize the uniqueness of our church with our adherence to the teaching contained

in the Philadelphia Confession of Faith. In December 2006 Trenton Garmon was hired as the church's part-time Administrative Assistant.

On February 9, 2007 Harvest Church launched its first website at [www.hfcchurch.org](http://www.hfcchurch.org). The first Sunday in March we celebrated our Third Church Anniversary which also began a *"Four Night Fellowship of the Community."* The guest speaker each night was Pastor Larry Cockrell of Household of Faith Church, PCA Birmingham, AL. In June 2007 the Eastside Auto Sales gave a fifteen passage van to the Church.

On May 18, 2008 was the appointment of our first Church Lay Elder, Richard Carter. But in December 2009 due to personal reasons he was no longer able to serve in this role. In January 2009 was the adoption of a new church motto: ***"Because Life is Better in Community ~ Where No One Stands Alone."*** This motto reflects our biblical purpose as well as exemplifies our covenant mission.

In January 2010 our church partnered with the East Gadsden Baptist Church in a monthly Community Feeding Outreach where the Gospel was shared along with a meal. Other church ministries continue to press forward such as Bible Study Fellowship, Youth Fellowship, the Youth Summer Camp, the Open Hands Clothing Ministry, and The Titus 2 Ministry. We celebrated our Sixth Church Anniversary with the Christian Fellowship Bible Church Anniston, AL, Pastor Anthony Cook with the theme: Because Life is Better in Community.

In January/February 2011 the men of the church undertook the renovating of the Sanctuary with new carpet and the rearranging of the pews. We celebrated our Seventh Church Anniversary once again with the Christian Fellowship Bible Church Anniston, AL, Pastor Anthony Cook with the theme: Faith, Hope, and Grace in the New Year.

The year 2012 brought many new challenges for the church and its members, but God still proved Himself FAITHFUL. In January 2012 the music ministry saw the addition of live drums being added by the *"little drummer boy,"* Joseph Tillis. New committed persons were added to the Praise Expression team, and Ben Parker was added to the church staff as the business leader. We celebrated our Eighth Church Anniversary with the Thankful Baptist Church Piedmont, AL, Pastor Charlie Parker with the theme: Celebrating the Lord for His Favor Psalms 90:16-17.

Here at Harvest, our desire is to hold forth the truth of God's word as well as to be a relational community from various walks of life whose purpose is to live for God's glory and serve Him. We believe that God has provided a place where the hurting, the depressed, the confused and frustrated can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, encouragement and guidance.

It is the vision of this church to build bridges of hope and tear down walls of despair, also to equip the saints for service through preaching, teaching and prayer, in order to make a significant and sustainable difference in the lives of those whom God has sent from our communities and cities.

**Psalm 115:1** *“Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.”*