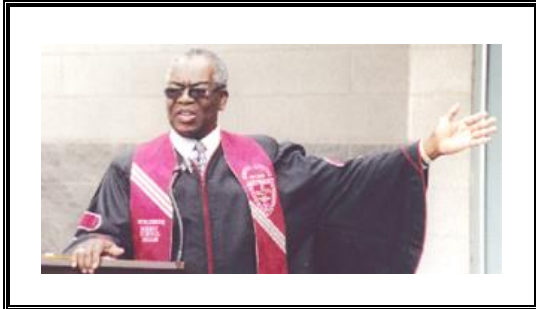


The Official History
of
Fountain Of Hope
African Methodist Episcopal Church



“An underground explosion of the waters of eternal life for a thirsty world”

The Official History
of
Fountain Of Hope African Methodist Episcopal Church



Reverend Dr. A. Lee Henderson
Founding Pastor

They Made It Happen



Dr. Howard S. Gloyd
Presiding Elder

Fountain Of Hope African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was organized in 2002 by a group of believers spearheaded by William Dean Ishman. These believers felt very strongly that there should be an African Methodist Episcopal Church in Henderson, Nevada. The first exploratory meeting to form an AME church was held at the home of William Dean and Diane Ishman on October 5, 2002.

An earlier attempt to start a church in Henderson, Nevada had been made in 1996; however, Reverend Dr. Howard S. Gloyd, Presiding Elder of the Los Angeles/San Diego/Las Vegas (LA/SD/LV) District, which is a part of the larger Fifth District, did not approve the first request to establish a church in Henderson because he felt it just was not the right time.

In 2002, after determining a new church could be supported in the Henderson area, Dr. Gloyd appointed Reverend Dr. A. Lee Henderson to be the founding pastor. The Reverend Dr. A. Lee Henderson suggested that the new church be named "Fountain Of Hope" and that "An underground explosion of the waters of eternal life for a thirsty world" be the theme. The name and theme were voted on and approved by the members in attendance and thus Fountain Of Hope African Methodist Episcopal Church was officially established at the second exploratory meeting as a church in the LA/SD/LV District. Two planning meetings were held in-addition to the exploratory meetings.

The main goal of the founding members was to build or purchase a building in Henderson, Nevada. The twenty-three (23) founding members of Fountain Of Hope AME Church were: Angenette Bridgeforth, Reverend James Gibson, Vanessa Gibson, Presiding Elder Reverend Dr. Howard S. Gloyd, Janet Gloyd, Reverend Dr. A. Lee Henderson, Bobbye J. Henderson, Diane Ishman, William Dean Ishman, Carlotta James, Dorsey Jones, Fredda Jones, Lasurer Leverette, Arthur Martin, Evelyn Martin, Geneva McGlothen, Tommy McGlothen, Steve Parks, M. L. Ransaw, Marilyn Ransaw, Alicia Shipp, Betty Shipp and Joseph Shipp.

Others attending the exploratory meetings were: Reverend Spencer F. Barrett, Lawrence Terry, Delores and Harry Jackson from First AME Church; Reverend Emanuel Wasson, III, Reverend Cynthia Pitts, Gilbert Pitts, Reverend Jackie Black, and Betty Smith from Holy Trinity AME Church. All were instrumental in helping to establish Fountain Of Hope AME Church.

The first church service was held at the Cowan School Building, 5300 East Russell Road, Las Vegas, Nevada on November 3, 2002. During that service, eighteen (18) people joined the church. Many of those members are still active in the church today. Fountain Of Hope AME Church quickly grew from a small group of worshipers to over 100 members. While the congregation attended services at the Cowan School, Sister Flora Walker graciously donated office space at 2475 Chandler Avenue, Suite 4, Las Vegas, Nevada for the church to conduct its business.

In the spring of 2003, members of Fountain Of Hope AME Church purchased a building very near the city of Henderson, Nevada located at 2955 East Russell Road & McLeod Drive, in Las Vegas, Nevada. This purchase was made possible by Arthur and Evelyn Martin who signed for the loan to purchase the building. On January 21, 2004, The Right Reverend John R. Bryant, Presiding Bishop of the Fifth District, came for a site visit and presided over the dedication of Fountain Of Hope African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The building needed renovating before the congregation could move in and hold church services. Therefore, it was used for the church office and activities such as meetings and gatherings other than worship services. The worship services continued to be held at Cowan School from November 3, 2002 until June 30, 2005.

The aforementioned accomplishments were made under the leadership of Reverend Dr. A. Lee Henderson, Founding Pastor, Retired General Officer and Senior Pastor; The Reverend Jewel B. Dewitty, Retired Presiding Elder and Administrative Assistant; and Reverend James Gibson, Associate Minister.

On Sunday, July 3, 2005, almost three years after the founding members had their initial exploratory meeting on October 5, 2002, the congregation (numbering over 150) moved into their own church building. That was a glorious day!

At that time, Fountain Of Hope AME Church's outstanding servants in Christ were: The Reverend Steven Shepard, Sr., Senior Pastor; The Reverend Dr. A. Lee Henderson, Founding Pastor, Retired General Officer and Assistant Pastor; The Reverend Jewel B. Dewitty, Retired Presiding Elder and Assistant Pastor; and Reverend James Gibson, Associate Minister.

At the 2006 Annual Southern California Conference, of the Fifth District, The Right Reverend John R. Bryant, Presiding Bishop, appointed Reverend Willie L. Adams as Senior Pastor of Fountain Of Hope AME Church.

Reverend Adams preached his first sermon at Fountain Of Hope AME Church on Sunday, November 12, 2006. Reverend Adams had been a minister for more than twenty (20) years prior to this appointment. His supporting ministerial staff included Reverend James Gibson, Associate

Minister; Reverend Wendell Mann; Sister Joann Walker, Evangelist; and Brother Kendric Berry, Licentiate.

Reverend Dr. A. Lee Henderson went from labor to rest on Sunday, March 30, 2008. His funeral was held at Grant AME Church in Los Angeles, California. A Memorial Service was held in Las Vegas at the church he founded, Fountain Of Hope AME Church on Saturday, April 12, 2008. Mourners were asked to donate to the church's building fund in lieu of flowers. Subsequent to that request, a special fund was established and affectionately named the A. Lee Henderson Memorial Building Fund.

In 2008, the General Conference of the AME Church assigned T. Larry Kirkland, as Presiding Bishop of the Fifth District which includes fifteen Western Interior and Costal States, Alaska and India.

Presiding Elder Reverend Dr. Howard Gloyd, the only Presiding Elder to serve Fountain Of Hope AME Church, passed away May 27, 2009. As mentioned earlier, he had a major role in the establishment of Fountain Of Hope AME Church. He was also a founding member.

At the 2009 Annual Southern California Conference, of the Fifth District, The Right Reverend T. Larry Kirkland, Presiding Bishop, appointed Reverend Janet Lenore Swift as Senior Pastor of Fountain Of Hope AME Church.

Also, at the 2009 Annual Southern California Conference, Bishop T. Larry Kirkland appointed Reverend Roosevelt Lindsey, Jr. as Presiding Elder of the Los Angeles/San Diego/Las Vegas District, which includes Fountain Of Hope AME Church.

Reverend Janet Lenore Swift was very ill during most of her appointment at Fountain Of Hope AME Church and passed away September 17, 2010.

At the 2010 Annual Southern California Conference, Bishop T. Larry Kirkland appointed Reverend Harvey L. Vaughn III as Senior Pastor of Fountain Of Hope AME Church.

In 2011, Reverend Vaughn observed that the membership really wanted to enlarge the sanctuary of the church. He researched prior plans for enlarging the present sanctuary and with the approval of the congregation appointed an Expansion/Building Committee to develop and execute a workable plan for the completion of the project.

On April 12, 2013, the dream became a reality when the congregation moved from their temporary location into the beautifully enlarged sanctuary that was transformed from a ranch styled house.

In 2014, under the leadership of Reverend Vaughn, a Van was acquired for the church. In September 2015, a second van was acquired.

In 2015, also under the leadership of Reverend Vaughn, the Stephen Ministry was added to the church to feed the hungry.

At the 2015 Annual Southern California Conference, of the Fifth District, The Right Reverend T. Larry Kirkland, Presiding Bishop, appointed Reverend Gregory Keith McLeod as Senior Pastor of Fountain Of Hope AME Church.

Presently, November 11, 2017, our outstanding servants in Christ at Fountain Of Hope AME Church are: Reverend Gregory Keith McLeod, Senior Pastor, Reverend Shermella Garrett, Retired Presiding Elder, Elder Wendell Mann, Affiliate Minister, Reverend Pamela Tucker, Itinerant Deacon, Reverend Derrick Hall, Itinerant Elder, Reverend James Gibson, Local Elder and Evangelist Janet Gloyd.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacquelyn Sweetner Caffey, Historian

Approved: Spring 2003
Amended: November 4, 2007
Amended: November 2, 2008
Amended: November 8, 2009
Amended: November 7, 2010
Amended: November 2, 2011
Amended: November 2, 2012
Amended: April 27, 2014
Amended: November 2, 2014
Amended: November 2, 2015
Amended: April 7, 2016
Amended: November 12, 2017

*Fountain Of Hope African Methodist Episcopal Church
The Friendliest Church in the Valley
Church Color: Burgundy*

✠ IN LOVING MEMORY ✠

Revelation 7:15

Therefore, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tent over them.

Deceased: Members and Affiliates

Mrs. Barbara Joanne Anderson

Mr. James O. Bibbs

Mrs. Willie Essie Bland

**Mr. Arthur Bolden*

Mrs. Lillian Brewster

Mrs. Evelyn M. Bringier

Mr. Samuel Bringier

Mrs. Jessie Brisette

Ms. Ruth Burlison

Ms. Lena Calhoun

Mrs. Susan Chapman

Mrs. Suzan Chatims

Mr. Ronald Coats

Mrs. Betty DeBerry

**Rev. John DeVeaux*

Mrs. Ophelia Evans

Mr. Garland Gillard

Dr. Howard Gloyd

**Mrs. Lula Harris*

Dr. Alfred Lee Henderson

Mr. John Jacob Hill, Sr.

Mrs. Vinita Holland

**Mrs. Janet Horsley*

Mr. Willie James

Mrs. Mary Virginia Lawson

Mrs. Florence Mann

Mrs. Lorretta Mitchell

Mrs. Bernice McLachlin

Mrs. Geneva McGlothen

Mr. Tommy McGlothen

**Mr. Harold Osorio, Jr.*

Mrs. Charleen Patterson

Mrs. Olga Pettis

Mr. Lawrence Russell

**Mrs. Rebecca Jean Scott*

Mr. Joseph Shipp

Mr. Rufus Smith

Mrs. Sandra Smith

Mrs. Elizabeth Swann

Reverend Janet Lenore Swift

**Mr. Robert Thomas*

Reverend Joann Walker

Ms. Celia Marie Waldron

Mrs. JoAnne Warthen

Mrs. Gwendolyn Sweetner Watley

Dr. Alma Wedlow

Mrs. Willa White

Mrs. Rose Williams

Mrs. Audrey Woods

Mr. Wilbur Wright

Sisters and brothers, you will always remain in our hearts.

**Passed After The 2016 Anniversary Celebration*