

**ROLL CALL OF PASTORS  
AT  
CANAAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

1. Rev. Will Frazier.....	1866
2. Rev. Stephens.....	1882
3. Rev. L. Cobb.....	1890
4. Rev. O.B. Brown.....	1893
5. Rev. F.J. Rutland.....	1906
6. Rev. R.M. Lane.....	1929
7. Rev. B.C. Clinton.....	1945
8. Rev. Stanley M. Jacobs, Sr.....	1983
9. Rev. Isaac Brantley.....	1996
10. Rev. Wayne D. Faison.....	1997
11. Rev. Nathan M. Sommons.....	2002

## A CONCISE HISTORY OF CANAAN

Canaan Baptist Church was organized in 1866 in a brush arbor with logs rolled together for seats. The first pastor was Rev. Will Frazier. A log building was erected in 1867 during the administration of Rev. Frazier. Sis. Pender Floyd was the first member of this church to be baptized. Bro. Weary Scarver was a deacon and Sis. Jennie Behn was mother of the church. Under these great leaders, the church began its growth.

In 1882, Rev. Stephens was called to pastor. In 1883, one acre of land was purchased from Mr. J.C. Mathews. Under the leadership of Rev. Stephens, a small box house was built on the land where the church now stands. For eight years the church moved on to success.

In 1890, Rev. L. Cobb was called as pastor. Bro. Joe Porter and Bro. Sam Green were deacons at the time, and Sis. Nancy Rackard was mother of the church. There were no building during Rev. Cobb's administration.

In 1893, Rev. O.B. Brown was called as pastor. Sis. Maggie Martin served as secretary and Sis. Eliza Martin as mother of the church. Under the leadership of Rev. O.B. Brown, a larger building was erected in 1895. Sis. Rachel Floyd was mother of the church and Bro. Dan Jenkins was clerk. The following were deacons at that time: Bro. Holloway Smith, Bro. R. Ellis, and Bro. Jerry Carter. Bro. Charlie Mason was the first licensed preacher in this church. Bro. Richard Behn was added to the Board of Deacons. Bro. J.L. Behn was elected Superintendent of the Sunday School. He was also director of the choir. With these great leaders the church began to take on new life.

The year 1906 witnessed the call of another great leader, Rev. F.J. Rutland, who served for 23 years. At this time Bro. George Washington, Bro. H.J. Thomas, Bro. Jeff Mason, and Bro. Z.M. May were chosen deacons. Sis. Bertha Carter and Sis. Georgia Ann Ellis served as mother of the church and Bro. F.E. Oats was clerk.

During Rev. Rutland's administration, two churches were built. Another acre of land was purchased from Mr. & Mrs. C.H. Gray, which gave the amount of two acres. Rev. H.J. Thomas and Bro. Ben Kennedy were called to preach. Before Rev. Thomas was called to preach, he served as deacon and Sunday school superintendent for many years. Afterwards, Bro. Henry Scarver was elected deacon and superintendent and served for many years in this capacity. The Sunday school was the banner school for a number of years under Bro. Scarver's administration. Some of the teachers were: Bro. Eddie Tyson, Bro. W.M. Graham, and Bro. F.E. Oats. Bro. Samuel Oats served as clerk. Bro. S.R. Brown was elected deacon under the leadership of Rev. Rutland, who was a leading pastor and leader in the association and state work. He was president of the Sunday School Convention for 14 years. Death ended his leadership in 1929.

The same year another great leader was called, Rev. R.M. Lane. He began serving in 1929, and much good work was accomplished through his efforts. Under Rev. Lane's leadership the following were deacons: Bro. S.R. Brown, Bro. Z.M. May, Bro. Ben Herring, and Bro. G.W. Washington. Added to the list of deacons later were: Bro. E. Washington, Bro. Miller Floyd, Rev. Samuel Evans, Bro. J.S. Thomas, and Bro. B. Redman. Bro. Weary Mason and Bro. Sam Evans were licensed by Rev. Lane to preach the gospel. Bro. E.C. Thomas and Sis. L.C. Bain Hart served as clerk during these years. Sis. Josephine Ellis and Sis. L.C. Thomas served as

## A CONCISE HISTORY OF CANAAN (Cont.)

mother of the church. Bro. E. Washington served as Superintendent of the Sunday School for many years.

In 1945, Rev. B.C. Clinton was elected pastor. He has brought the church on to success during these years of his administration. The oldest member of this church is now Bro. Charlie Thomas.

In the year of 1947, the pastor and members of this church saw the need of building a dining room to be used for serving meals when needed. They put forth special effort to do this project. They bought stones and necessary materials to do the job. The pastor and members volunteered their service free to the church until they completed the job.

In 1955, the wooden structure was torn down and the present stone building began. The Lord was with us and wonderfully blessed us during the time we were working on this building that we now occupy. On April 29, 1956, we were able to dedicate this building through the efforts of our pastor, Rev. B.C. Clinton, and the untiring members who worked so faithfully and diligently on this effort. During the building process, no special assessment was made. Each member gave according to his own free will and the drive was a success. Now serving as mother of the church is Sis. Ada Floyd.

Since 1866, this spot has been sacred and dedicated to worship and service. It is a blessing to be a part of this organization and feel proud of the heritage. During all of these years, only seven pastors have served this church and this is considered an appreciable record. Sis. L.C. Thomas and Sis. Ida Scarver served as mother of the church.

From April 24 – 29, 1956, the members had the **Dedication of Canaan Baptist Church**. This building with its Annex covers a ground space of 3,480 square feet. It has rooms for each department, office study, ushers, choirs, gallery, rest rooms, kitchen, and dining room. The theme was: *“And when the Temple was finished, the Children of Israel dedicated this house of God with Joy”* ~ Ezra 6:16. On Tuesday night, April 24, 1956, 8:00 pm, it was Deacons and Officers Night. The sermon was by Rev. S. Evans. On Wednesday night, April 25, 1956, 8:00 pm, Calvary Baptist Church was in charge, sermon was by Rev. F. Redmon. On Thursday night, April 26, 1956, 8:00 pm, St. Paul M.E. was in charge. Sermon was by Rev. Jones. On Friday night, 8:00 pm, April 27, 1956, New Bethel Baptist Church was in charge. Sermon was by Rev. J.E. McCrary. On Saturday night, April 28, 1956, 8:00 pm, it was Junior Night sponsored by Miss Daisy M. Colyer and Alfonso Thomas. On Sunday morning, April 29, 1956, 10:00 am, the Superintendent was in charge of Sunday School. At 11:00 am, Shiloh Baptist Church from Archer, FL was in charge of the service and the sermon was by Rev. E.D. Robinson. On Sunday afternoon, April 29, 1956, 3:00 pm, Galilee Baptist Church Choir, from Hawthorne, FL performed three selections. Rev. W.M. Mason and congregation from Miami, FL was in charge of the service. Sermon was by Rev. W.M. Mason. On Sunday night, April 29, 1956, 8:00 pm, song service was by Oak Grove Baptist Church, Ft. McCoy, FL. The sermon was by Rev. C.L. Dennison, Gainesville, FL.

In 1959, our Bible on the pulpit stand was donated by Sis. Pauline Douglas whose father, Bro. Henry Clark was one of the founders of this church.

## A CONCISE HISTORY OF CANAAN (Cont.)

In 1962, the following brothers were ordained deacons: Bro. C.A. Thomas, Bro. V.J. Colyer, and Bro. H.J. Colyer. The following ministers were ordained for pastorage under the leadership of Rev. B.C. Clinton: Rev. Frank Redman and the late Rev. S. Evans.

For about 100 years many people have been worshipping under the organization named **Canaan Missionary Baptist Church**. We feel that our forefathers who have passed on to the great beyond left us an organization of which we feel very proud.

From April 29 – May 8, 1966, the church celebrated their **100th Anniversary**. On Friday night, April 29, 1966, 8:00 pm, service was conducted by the pastor and members of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, and Dea. V.J. Colyer was the Sponsor. On Tuesday night, May 3, 1966, 8:00 pm, service was conducted by Rev. C.P. Brown and congregation of Hopewell Baptist Church and Bro. John W. Ellis was the Sponsor. On Wednesday night, May 4, 1966, 8:00 pm, service was conducted by Rev. U.L. Ulmer and members of Zion Bethel Baptist Church, and Dea. S. Oats was the Sponsor. On Thursday night, May 5, 1966, 8:00 pm, service was conducted by Rev. Thomas McCloud and congregation from New Bethel Baptist Church, and Bro. E. Clayton Thomas was the Sponsor. On Friday night, May 6, 1966, 8:00 pm, service was conducted Rev. F. Redman and congregation from Calvary Baptist Church and Dea. B. Redman was the Sponsor. On Sunday morning, May 8, 1966, 10:00 am, Sunday School was conducted by Bro. S. Oats. At 11:00 am, service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. B.C. Clinton. Guest choir was Galilee Baptist Church from Hawthorne, FL. At 3:00 pm, the sermon was by Rev. J.H. Phillips, and Dea. H.J. Colyer was the Sponsor. At 5:00 pm, Baptist Training Union (B.T.U.) and a Mother's Day Program was held. At 6:30 pm, Pastor Clinton was in charge of the service. Guest choir was Oak Grove Baptist Church, from Ft. McCoy, FL.

In 1979, the following deacons were ordained: Bro. Willie Chandler, Bro. Carl Craddock, Bro. E. Clayton Thomas, and Bro. Eugene C. Thomas.

In 1980, Mrs. O.G. Johnson donated nearly an acre of land to the church which was to be used for improvements.

In April 1983, Rev. B.C. Clinton passed away to the great beyond.

In September 1983, Rev. Stanley M. Jacobs, Sr., was called as pastor and installed in October 1983.

Rev. Jacobs's coming to Canaan brought about many changes. We moved from a two Sunday a month service to a full time service. The church constitution was revised and a budget was set up for the church to operate by instead of dues. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study were revised to be held on Monday nights weekly. These services added spiritual growth for everyone.

Another new feature was the Spring Revival, also instituted by our pastor. Members were able to re-dedicate their lives to Christ.

Dual Day has replaced Men and Women Day. These services have given the members the opportunity to use their talents.

## A CONCISE HISTORY OF CANAAN (Cont.)

The church now has four choirs: Children's Choir, Young Adult Choir, Adult Choir, and the Mass Choir.

Vacation Bible School has taken new life under the leadership of Sis. Maxine Chandler and her staff. Classes were provided for the adults as well as the children.

Bro. Eric Rice was ordained a deacon in April 1984.

In 1986, Children's Church was started under the direction of Sis. Maxine Chandler and Sis. Rose Rice.

In April 1988, Bro. George Evans and Bro. Ogean Blunt was ordained as deacons.

In September 1988, Rev. Arthur Chandler was called to pastor the Greater Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Wildwood, FL.

In 1989, the Annex building was torn down to make way for a new building to house a dining room and classrooms, which we hope, by the grace of God will be in the very near future.

The children are now memorizing Bible verses, beginning with a different letter every third Sunday -- an idea of Sis. Rose Rice.

The Starlight/Sunshine Band under Sis. Lenora Tyson direction has "Adopted Grandparents" at the University Nursing Home in which Sis. Bessie Tyson has been a patient since 1984.

Rev. Jacobs presented the church with a theme for the year, "*We Shall Lead By Example*," and because of this inspiration from God there has been much spiritual growth in the membership.

Rev. Kenneth Barriner joined the church by church letter and serves as an Associate Minister under Rev. Jacobs.

Sis. Ollie Lazier is the oldest member of the church. She was 101 years old this past March.

Sis. Fanny Floyd started "Canaan's Helping Hands," a ministry that would take Sis. Floyd and others to clean for disabled or elderly members.

Sis. Lottie Bea Redmon is now mother of the church. Sis. Beatrice Davis is the assistant mother.

Prayer/testimony service is being held on the 5th Sunday -- an idea by Sis. Pauline Simmons.

Bro. Calvin & Sis. Lenora Tyson donated a van to the church to be used for transporting children to and from Sunday School or on trips.

Under Rev. Jacob's leadership, numerous ministries were started at Canaan: Brotherhood Ministry, Bus Ministry, Canaan Christian Women, Children's Church, Christ Teens, Couples

## A CONCISE HISTORY OF CANAAN (Cont.)

Ministry, Drama Ministry, Family and Financial Planning, Helping Hands, Kingdom News Newsletter, Mad Dads, Planning Council, Prison Ministry, Senior Citizens, Singles Ministry, and Substance Abuse Ministry.

Rev. Willie Driver served as an assistant to the pastor.

Sis. Fanny Floyd was called to be an evangelist.

Min. Raymond Whyte and family joined the church and served as an assistant to the pastor. In January 1995 he was ordained.

Bro. Leroy Chandler and Bro. Gerald Colyer were ordained as deacons. Dea. Gerald Colyer was later called to the ministry and licensed.

Bro. Robert Floyd and Bro. Warren Lewis were ordained as deacons.

Following the death of Sis. Lottie Bea Redmon, Sis. Beatrice Davis became the mother of the church.

Savings Bonds were given to the children to encourage good grades and good behavior. This was done every 9 weeks.

The church purchased 18 acres of land and a house to use as a parsonage.

The church became incorporated and is now called **Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.**

In February 1995, Rev. Stanley Jacobs left and we were without a pastor until May 1996 when we called Rev. Isaac Brantley. He served six months.

We were again pastorless until we called Rev. Wayne Faison to serve as interim pastor in March 1997. Rev. Faison was installed as pastor on September 28, 1997. Since his calling, we have again started having Bible Study and Prayer Meeting on Wednesday nights.

Deacon Eugene Thomas, 95 years old, is now the oldest member of the church and Sis. Beatrice Davis is mother of the church.

God has had Pastor Faison in full force with ideas for the future of Canaan. He has been blessed to work on his doctorate and due to that we have implemented a Family Oriented Sunday School (F.O.S.S.) called Quality Time geared toward bringing the families closer together. The study is broken into four 12-week sessions.

A Board of Directors was established to govern the church administration to improve and promote better communication within the church.

Our goal for 1999 is to tithe 10% more than we did in 1998, and the church to tithe 10% to a mission.

## A CONCISE HISTORY OF CANAAN (Cont.)

On April 19, 1999, the pastor (Rev. Wayne Waison), church administrator (Bro. George Smith), and the clerk (Sis. Cynthia Davis) met and closed on a sale of the property to the county for the community park. Bro. George Smith and Bro. Demetris Wilson, Sr., have worked untiringly for almost a year and a half with the park committee to bring this to a reality. We thank God for giving them the strength to continue on, and we pray that this park will be an asset to the community and a glory to God.

God is still in the blessing business and in the weekly Church in Training (formerly called Prayer Meeting and Bible Study), we have been praying with a purpose, and God has been answering almost immediately. We pray that we will take the church motto and apply it, "*Moving Forward One Step At A Time.*"

The church has applied for and has joined the Marion Baptist Association, which will have us dually aligned with the Florida Baptist Association and the Southern Baptist Association.

After thought and consideration, it was decided that the parsonage be used as a community center. As part of our Black History observances, on February 20, 2000, the parsonage was dedicated as the Thomas Community Center, in honor of Dea. Eugene Thomas and Bro. E.C. Thomas.

Sis. Sarah Thomas presented copies of a mini-autobiography of Dea. Eugene Thomas' life which had been printed by Bro. Lorenzo Thomas. Sis. Beverly Jamerson published a beautiful newsletter in honor of this occasion. The Thomas Center is primarily used for the Board of Directors meetings, workshops, as well as other community activities. We look forward to many, many more events.

Children's Church and the Youth participated and placed second in the Bible Bowl held at New St. Johns Baptist Church in Ocala in November 2000.

We initiated a "10-5-2" Stewardship Plan of giving for financial and time management.

Board of Directors members went from a one-year term to a two-year term.

Family Oriented Sunday School (F.O.S.S.) was written and printed by Rev. Wayne D. Faison.

The theme for 2001 is, "*201 in 2001.*"

Sis. Lillie Mae Mixon began the "Adopt A Highway" ministry and the Clean-up Ministry for the Thomas Center.

Diakonos Leadership Training began January 2001, for active, inactive, and prospective deacons..

Preliminary plans and blueprints were completed for the new worship center.

Distribution of the Kingdom News newsletter now includes the Flemington community.

## A CONCISE HISTORY OF CANAAN (Cont.)

Rev. Faison completed his doctorate degree in April 2001 and is now Dr. Wayne D. Faison.

In May 2001, the congregation approved the loan agreement with Am South Bank for the construction of a new worship center.

In May 2001, the congregation approved the following members be set aside as deacons/deaconess: Bro. Mehogany Brewer, Bro George Smith (Alma), and Bro. Demetris Wilson Sr. (Bernice). On November 25, 2001, they were ordained as deacons/deaconess.

In October 2001, Rev. Wayne Faison submitted his resignation as pastor effective November 1, 2001, in order to accept a position in Richmond, Virginia.

In April 2002 Rev. Nathan Sommons was sent to Canaan to serve as Interim Pastor from the Second Bethlehem Baptist Association, until a pastor was called.

Through much prayer, the congregation called Rev. Nathan Sommons to be the 11th pastor of Canaan during its 136 years of existence. On August 4, 2002, Rev. Sommons were presented the keys to the church by the deacons.

On Saturday, August 10, 2002, the Flemington Community Park was officially dedicated. In attendance were county administrators, county commissioners, PELLAC, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Chamber of Commerce, Marion County Sheriff Department, Marion County Fire Rescue, members from Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, neighboring churches, and an outpouring support of members from the Flemington community. Ms. Glenda Johnson Davis spoke about growing up in the house that is now called the Thomas Center. She also stated that she saw potential for the property when she sold it to Canaan Baptist Church.

On Sunday, September 15, 2002, Rev. Sommons was installed as pastor of Canaan.

Church in Training has gone back to the name of Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. Family Oriented Sunday School (F.O.S.S.) has gone back to being called Sunday School.

In 2004, Pastor Sommons started the Canaanite of the Month. It gave members an opportunity to speak a word from on high and also provided them an opportunity to speak in public.

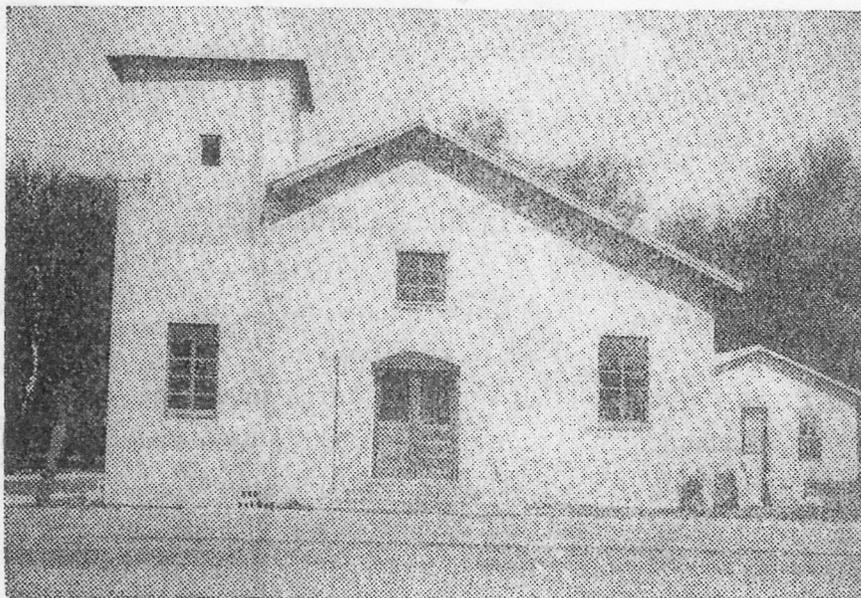
On Sunday, March 14, 2004, Sis. Thelma Evans was ordained a deaconess.

Rev. Nathan M. Sommons graduated from the United Theological Seminary and Bible College in Monroe, LA, on Saturday, May 22, 2004. He received a Master's degree in Theology.

In 2009, it was decided to go back to having separate Women's Day and Men's Day programs instead of Dual Day.

In 2009, four joint workshops were held with New St. Paul Church. They were ❶ Membership Workshop, ❷ Deacons and Deaconess Workshop on March 4, 2009, ❸ Choirs and Ushers Workshop on March 11, 2009, and ❹ Trustees Workshop.

**DEDICATION**  
**OF**  
**Canaan Baptist Church**



This Building with its Annex covers a ground space of 3480 square feet. It has rooms for each Department, Office Study, Ushers, Choir, Gallery, Rest Rooms, Kitchen and Dining Room.

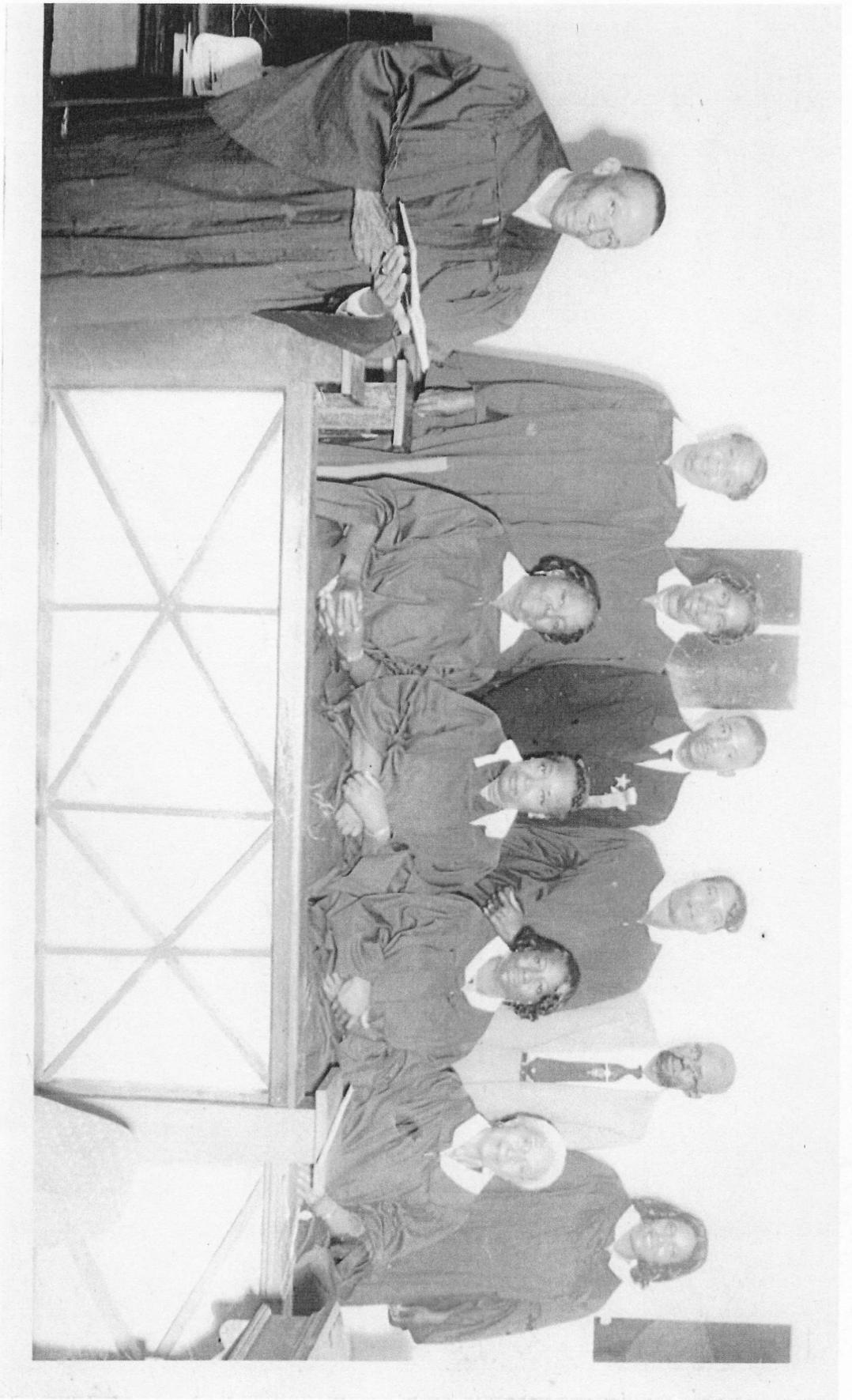
**Flemington, Florida**

**April 24 - 29, 1956**

**Rev B. C. Clinton, Pastor**

**THEME: "And when the Temple was finished the Children of Israel dedicated this house of God with joy." Ezra 6:16.**

... PRINTED BY THE FLORIDA WATCHMAN - OCALA, FLA. ...

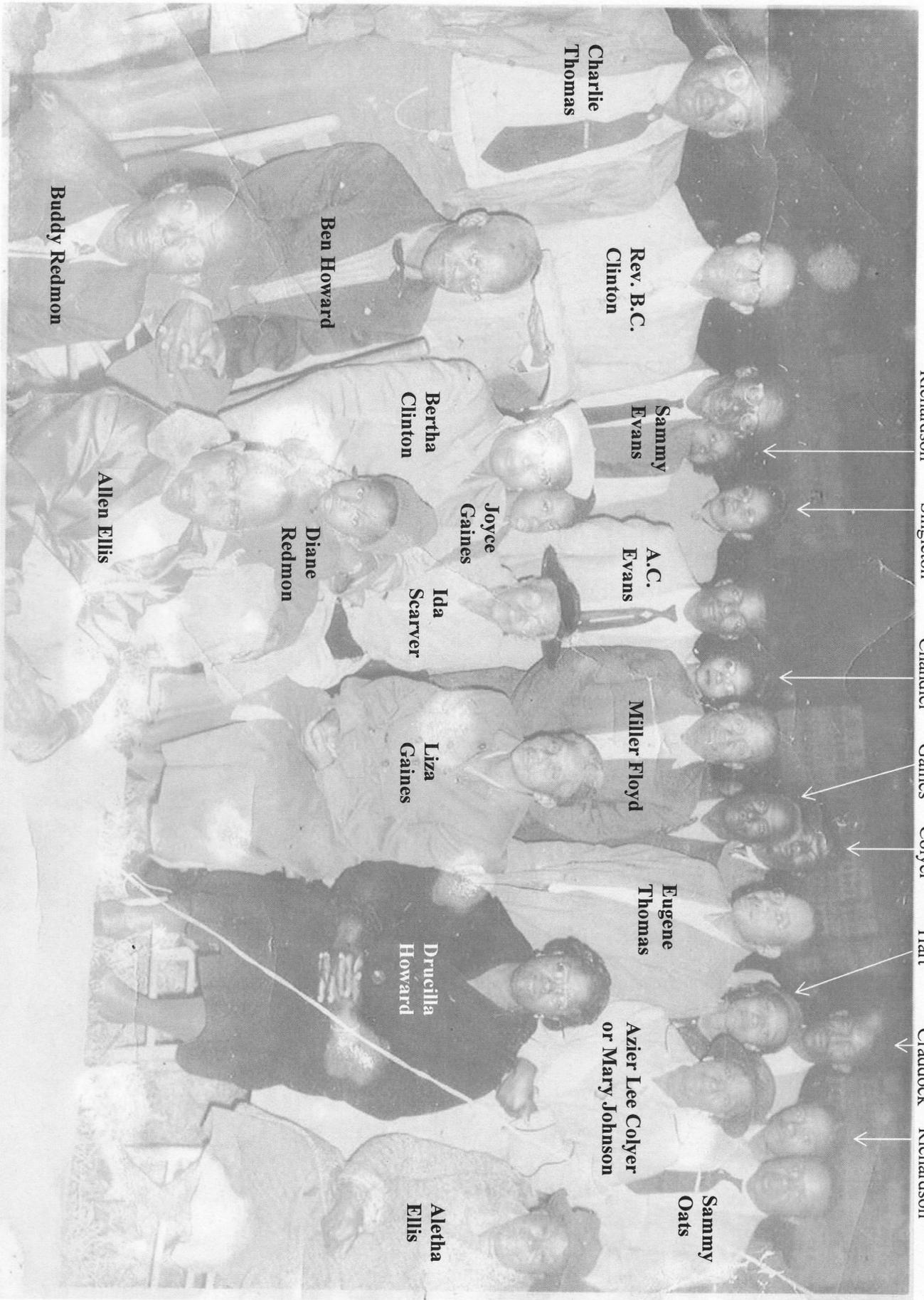


**Canaan's choir under Rev. B.C. Clinton administration**

{Far left, Rev. B.C. Clinton}

{1st row -- seated, L-R, Drucilla Howard, Bertha Clinton, Alberta Craddock, Ida Scarver}

{2nd row -- standing, L-R, Hannah Evans, Susie Thomas, Mac Richardson, Lottie B. Redmon, Leon Jenkins, Lula Mae McGill}



Jessie Lee Richardson  
 Easter Singleton  
 Idella Chandler  
 Van Ganes  
 Henry Colyer  
 Lucinda Hart  
 Bob Craddock  
 Mac Richardson

Charlie Thomas

Rev. B.C. Clinton

Sammy Evans

A.C. Evans

Miller Floyd

Eugene Thomas

Azier Lee Colyer or Mary Johnson

Sammy Oats

Ben Howard

Bertha Clinton

Joyce Gaines

Ida Scarver

Liza Gaines

Drucilla Howard

Aletha Ellis

Diane Redmon

Allen Ellis

Buddy Redmon

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Canaan Missionary Baptist Church (1955)