



# *Goodwin* *Memorial Baptist Church*

## **CHURCH PROFILE**

Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church (“GMBC”) was organized in 1929 by a group of dedicated Christians in the greater Harrisburg area. It was originally established as the Union Baptist Church. The first church services were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jackson at 633 Broad Street in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania with twenty-one charter members.

From the time GMBC was first chartered, GMBC has served the Greater Harrisburg area and surrounding communities nurturing the spiritual needs of its members and community residents. The worship services are structured to minister to a broad range of individuals and families. GMBC seeks not only to provide assistance to those who are members, but to serve those in need, to those who are saved and those who are lost. Our goal is to bless those in need and to advance the mission as Christ commanded in the Holy Scriptures.

### **Mission Statement**

We are a congregation of baptized disciples in the body of Christ committed to obeying and fulfilling the Great Commission and the works of Jesus Christ. Under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, God has called us to do this in our community and the world until Christ returns.

### **Vision Statement**

Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church seeks to become an inviting, cross-cultural church that is dynamic in worshipping God with its multiple meaningful ministries that fulfill the needs of the community and beyond.

## **Brief History**

GMBC has been blessed with a legacy of spiritually strong pastors who have made significant contributions to the spiritual growth of the church and in service to the community.

Rev. William T. Sneed (1929-1930) was called as the first pastor. Under his pastorate, land was purchased at Cowden and Broad Streets.

Rev. William Wanamaker was called in 1930 and served until his death in the same year.

Rev. James F. Goodwin was called as the third Pastor and served from 1930 until 1946. The property at Cowden and Broad Streets was paid for under Rev. Goodwin's administration.

In June 1946, after the death of Rev. Goodwin, the Union Baptist Church, having a deep emotional and spiritual attachment to him, voted unanimously to have the Church name changed to Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church.

Rev. R. L. Adams was called in 1947. On June 20, 1947, the Church was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Rev. B. L. Warren was called in 1948. A building fund was established as the church took on the task of building a sanctuary. While construction of the foundation and basement was underway, services were held at Rev. Clark's Church on Cameron Street and Rev. Matthew Bank's Church at Carrant and Broad Streets.

Upon completion of the basement, Goodwin moved back home and held Sunday school, worship services and Wednesday night prayer meetings; many people in the Harrisburg area referred to it as the "Underground Church." The membership was between fifty and seventy-five. In 1954, the church moved upstairs to the Sanctuary.

Rev. Lenworth S. Morrison was called in March 1955 as the sixth Pastor of Goodwin. Our Church membership was approximately one hundred and twenty-five. Early in his administration the mortgage was paid in full.

In the latter part of 1959, the Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority purchased the property at Cowden and Broad Streets. April 1962, the building at 332-34 Kelker

Street was purchased and became our next church home. A rear extension and a Baptistery were built.

In 1965, the cornerstone was laid, and the membership was approximately two hundred.

On June 27, 1976, GMBC began to broadcast our worship services to WHP Radio listeners. In 1976, a new church building was purchased at 2447 Green Street Harrisburg Pennsylvania. On December 18, 1977, GMBC moved into our present home. A broadcast system was installed which enabled our church to reach out through a telephone ministry.

After our move to Green Street, our congregation grew to over four hundred members. On July 9, 1979, less than two years after occupancy in our new church home, the mortgage was paid in full.

Rev. Morrison became ill, and Reverends Donrico Colden and Melvin Baber were called to assist the pastor. Rev. Irvin Kittrell was called as Interim Pastor.

On May 26, 1991, Rev. Rosendo A. Watson was called as our Pastor.

Rev. Alfred E. Smith was called as our pastor December 4, 1994. GMBC continued to grow with the help of Almighty God and the visionary leadership of Rev. Smith. Rev. Smith's vision and mission for Goodwin was for Goodwin to be a church "blessed to be a blessing." This became our theme.

Our congregation purchased the Eastern Star Building, located at 2430 N. 3rd Street, for future expansion of our services to our membership and our outreach to the community. The building was purchased in July 1998 and dedicated on December 19, 1999, as the Goodwin Family Life Center. The mortgage was paid in full December 2003.

After serving as Interim Pastor, Reverend Dr. James D. Jackson was installed as our Pastor on November 15, 2008, and continues to serve.

GMBC continues to strive to be a beacon of light for the community and those in need.

## **Global and Local Outreach Programs**

Over the years, GMBC has a legacy of leadership among churches and has made significant contributions in education, missions, children ministries, and community outreach. Listed below are some of the outreach programs GMBC has participated in:

### Foreign Missions

- Provided financial assistance to Haiti
- Provided school supplies to Kaiyaba School in Kenya
- Donated funds to dig wells for clean, fresh water in Kenya
- Provided funds to support education in Sierra Leone

### African American Ministerial Alliance of Steelton and Vicinity

- Lenten Worship Services
- Thanksgiving Service Worship Service

### Annual Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner

### GMBC Merry Christmas Carolers

### Interfaith Forum Harmony Walk

### Interfaith Vigil In solidarity with the Asian Community

### Partnership with State Representative and City of Harrisburg Police

- Path to the Cross March & Peace Rally
- Stop the Violence
- Chaplain for the City of Harrisburg police

### English As a Second Language

### Fresh Express/St. Paul's Episcopal/Church/Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church/Hamilton Health Center COVID-19 Testing and Food Distribution

### Host Mayor's Interfaith Counsel

### Polling place for elections

### Emergency shelter agreement with Polyclinic Hospital

### Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Epsilon Sigma Omega Chapter Partnership

- Energy Forum for the community

- Heart health programs

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Partnership

- St. Barnabas Summer program
- Provided meals

Hosted Harrisburg Summer feeding program

In addition to these programs, GMBC sponsors drives to collect and donate school supplies, socks, underwear, coats, gloves, and book bags for boys and girls. During the winter season, GMBC collects and distributes blankets and winter coats for the homeless.

### **Affiliations**

National Baptist Association

Pennsylvania State Baptist State Convention, Inc.

Central Baptist Association of Pennsylvania, Inc.

African American Ministerial Alliance of Steelton and Vicinity

Interdenominational Ministers' Conference

The Inter-Religious Forum of Greater Harrisburg

Harmony Walk

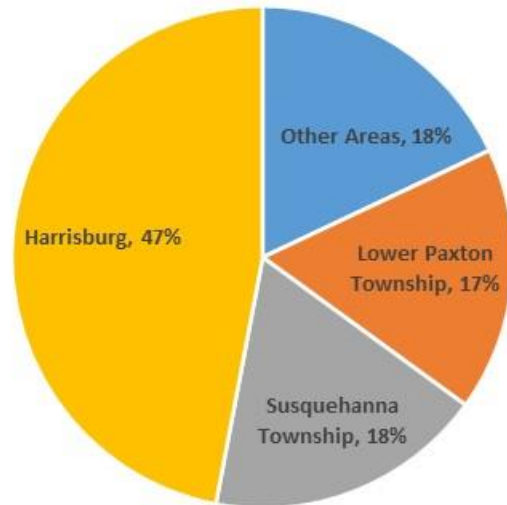
### **Pastoral Leadership Chronology**

Rev. William T. Sneed (1929-1930); Rev. William Wanamaker (1930); Rev. James F. Goodwin (1930-1946); Reverends Hiram Askew and Will Talley served as supply Pastors (1946-1947); Rev. B.L. Warren (1948-1954); Rev. Lenworth S. Morrison (1955-1989); Reverends Donrico Colden, Melvin Baber and Irvin Kittrell (Interim Pastors until 1991); Rev. Rosendo A. Watson (1991-1993); Rev. Irvin Kittrell (Interim Pastor 1993-1994); Rev. Alfred E. Smith (1994-2008); Rev. Dr. James D. Jackson (2008-to present).

### **Congregational Demographics**

GMBC's membership is comprised of residents of the Harrisburg metropolitan area and neighboring suburban townships. (See Community Profile)

### GMBC Membership Demographics



The table below provides a breakdown of the geographic areas of GMBC’s current congregation.

<b>City/Township</b>	<b>Percentage of Members</b>
Fairview	0.3
Hampton	0.3
East Pennsboro	0.6
West Hanover	0.6
Other	7
Upper Allen	1
Silver Springs	1.2
Lower Swatara	1.9
Swatara	5.1
Lower Paxton	17
Susquehanna	18
Harrisburg City	47

## **Ministries**

Audio Visual Ministry  
Blessings Book Club  
Care, Comfort and Bereavement Ministry  
Children's Church  
Christian Education Ministry  
Clergy Ministry  
Civic and Community Concerns Ministry  
Conference Call Bible Study Ministry  
Christians Ready, Equipped and Willing (C.R.E.W. Young Adults)  
Culinary Arts Ministry  
Deacon Ministry  
Deaconess Ministry  
Drama Ministry  
Electronic Media Ministry  
Evangelism Ministry  
Health and Wellness Ministry  
Hospitality Ministry  
Laymen Ministry  
Marriage Enrichment Ministry  
Mime Ministry  
Missionary Ministry  
Music Ministry  
New Harvest Ministry  
Noon Day Prayer Ministry  
Nurses Ministry  
Nursery Ministry  
Recovery and Support / Prison Aftercare Ministry (RASPA)  
Royal Blessings Liturgical Dance (Youth/Young Adult)  
Saints-In-Motion Liturgical Dance (Youth)  
Scholarship Committee  
Security Ministry  
Senior Citizens Ministry  
Teen Church  
Transportation Ministry  
Trustee Ministry  
Ushers Ministry  
Vessels of Worship (Adult Praise Liturgical Dance) Ministry  
Women's Fellowship Ministry  
Warriors of Worship Liturgical Dance  
Youth/Teen/Young Adult Ministries