



CHURCH HISTORY

In 1876 a small group of believers who were touched by God, saw the need for a place to worship in the Scotts Crossing community, in Northwest Atlanta.

Responding to the call, the people organized a church. W.J. Scott, a black businessman who lived in the area donated nearly two acres of land at 1817 Hollywood Road. Many people were surprised at Mr. Scott's generosity, considering the fact that he was not a Christian at that time.

Owners of the nearby Whitter Mill, which manufactured cotton, yarn, twine and cord, provided the small congregation with the needed lumber. Volunteer laborers of the community gave freely of their time to build the edifice. It was one big room with a few windows and a potbellied stove in the middle of the floor. Once the building was complete a few months later, the members gathered to decide upon a name. They called their new place of worship the Springfield Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Scott, who previously was ordained as a minister, began serving as Pastor to this small group of people and served faithfully until his death in 1929. In subsequent years, several men called by God from the community, served the small congregation. The list included the Rev. W. W. Watson, the Rev. D. K. Gordon, and the Rev. W. H. Dixon. In 1947, the Rev. S. Randolph was called to serve as pastor; he and his wife Mrs. Donnie Randolph were faithful in their commitment to God and the church. They retired in 1976.

During the 29 years that Rev. and Mrs. Randolph served the members of Springfield, the church grew in both spirit and number. The old church structure was totally remodeled during his tenure. Central air and heating were installed and the church purchased a new organ and piano.

In October 1976, Rev. Randolph, having grown physically tired from his labor, retired as Pastor, and served as Pastor Emeritus until his death in June 1982. Upon his retirement, he and Sister Randolph were honored for their years of hard work and faithful service; they were toasted at a lavish banquet. Members fondly remember Rev. Randolph, mostly for his profound teachings from the Holy Scriptures, and his genuine love and understanding of people.

On September 26, 1976, the Springfield family extended a call for a new minister. After hearing from several candidates, they chose a fiery-tongued, young seminary student named Arthur Carson, Jr. Already an ordained Baptist Minister, the Orlando, Florida native was attending the Interdenominational Theological Center of Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta. On October 10, 1976, he accepted Springfield's call, and officially became Pastor on November 7, 1976. In the early 80's, the Springfield Family, under Rev. Carson's leadership, and following a vision given him by God, began making plans to build a new place of worship in the Scott's Crossing Community. A committee was formed to find out what property was available in this area. Later, Springfield members decided to meet with Mr. S. H. Hudson to negotiate a purchase price for the property. At the time twenty-eight acres were available. In 1984, the church agreed to purchase ten of the twenty-eight acres. Five were brought with a cash payment of \$75,000. In November 1985, before the last five acres could be paid off, Mr. Hudson donated the remainder of the land. The building program moved forward, and on Sunday, December 3, 1989 the Springfield family marched into its new edifice.

Under the leadership of Dr. Carson and his wife Minister Antoinette Carson, Springfield's continued growth can be seen spiritually and numerically. They strongly urge us to seek to win others to the Lord, to diligently study the Bible, to have a deep, meaningful prayer life, and to engage in a ministry of caring for each other. These components will contribute to even more growth as the members reach out into the community to make Christ known.