



First Missionary Baptist Church General Missionary Society History



"Go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

256-852-4318/Fax 256-852-5975

E-mail: firstbaptist@fmbc.org

Website: www.fmbc.org

"A teaching church is a strong church and First Missionary Baptist Church is growing stronger"

General Missionary Society History

The Missionary Society is the oldest organization of the First Missionary Baptist Church, which originated while the church was on Steele Street during the pastorate of the Reverend C. N. Perry. His wife, Sister Perry, organized what was then called a Mission Board with Sister Mary Turner as president. Among the other members were Sisters Sylvia McDonald, Octavia Jones, and Sarah Outlaw. When Sister Turner left the city, the organization experienced a period of inactivity. However, in 1931, during the pastorate of Reverend A. J. James, the organization became active again. After reorganization, the officers of the group included Sister F. L. Swoope, president; Sister Roberta Eldridge, vice president; Sister Sarah Outlaw, secretary; Sister Kate Hunter, treasurer; and Sister Lina Lowe, chaplain.

In 1941, when Reverend Oscar Tucker became pastor, Sister Sarah Outlaw was elected as president of the organization. Sometime between 1941 and 1949, Reverend Tucker organized the Society into the following departments: the Sunbeam Band, the Red Circle, Crusaders, the Y.W.A. and the Matrons. At this time many members worked hard with the youth, encouraging bible study, and promoting the development of talents, and leadership potential.

After continued activity during the pastorates of the Reverends Matthews and Drew, the Missionary Society grew extensively under the pastorate of the Reverend H. P. Snodgrass (1949 - 1973). During the early 1950's, the organization, continuing under the leadership of Sister Sara Outlaw, was divided into circles, only two at first? the Northwest Circle with Sister Katie Powers as president and the East Circle with Sister Mae B. Teague as president. In 1957 when Sister Outlaw's health failed and she had to move to Nashville, Sister Swoope returned to the presidency.

Sister Swoope expanded the circle plan so that members would not have to travel so far to meetings. The following circles were organized: The Northeast circle; the Northwest circle; the Southeast circle; the Matrons; and the H. P. Snodgrass circle. The youth organizations included the Baptist Young Women, the Junior and Senior Red Circles, the Sunbeam Band, and the Crusaders. In 1978, Sister Rosetta James followed Sister Swoope as president of the Missionary Society. Under her leadership the organization continued to be active in carrying out its mission objectives.

Today, the *General Missionary Society* is composed of four circles and the Brotherhood Organization. The circles include Dayspring, Circles 1, 2, & 3 (these replaced the Northeast, Northwest, and Southeast circles respectively). The *General Missionary Society* strives to be an essential growing ministry of the church. First Missionary Baptist Church locations, clockwise from top left: Old House on West Clinton Street; Steele Street Church location; Church Street location (Downtown Huntsville); current Blue Spring Road location.



General Missionary Society Ministries & Meeting Times

- **Brotherhood Organization:**

- Open to All Adult Men; Meeting Time: Every 1st Friday at 6:00pm
- **History:**
 - First Missionary Baptist Brotherhood Organization was organized on November 12, 1952, under the administration of the late Reverend H. P. Snodgrass. The Brotherhood Organization was formed as an outgrowth of a need for a greater level of fellowship, service, and participation in church related activities by the men of the church.
 - The Brotherhood organization presently consists of all the men of the church. They are a part of the *General Missionary Society*, and they meet on the first Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall. These meetings begin with Bible Study, followed by a business meeting and fellowship meal.
 - The Brotherhood organization also offers the men of the church a forum to present ideas and proposal that they feel will be beneficial to either the church or community. The Brotherhood organization has had a host of outstanding professional facilitators who presented topic of concerns to the men of the church in modern day era.
- **On-Going Projects:**
 - Assist in building homes with Habitat for Humanity Program, Madison County
 - Team with Emergency Home Repair Program

- Serve with Meals on Wheels
- Collaborate with "Serving the City as One"
- Unite with CASA Assistance (Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound)
- Iron Chef Competitions



Monthly Fellowship & Prayer

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Serving Christ
Serving People

FMBC BROTHERHOOD PROJECT
Habitat FOR HUMANITY

**SATURDAY
JULY 27TH**

**WE WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH AT
8:00AM AND THEN PROCEED TO
THE PROJECT SITE.**

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
3509 BLUE SPRING ROAD, NW
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35810



8/24/2024 FMBC's Annual Picnic

- **Circle 1:**

- Open to All Adult Women Meeting; Time: Tuesday after 1st Sunday at 6:00pm
- **History:**
 - In 1969 under the pastorate of Reverend H. P. Snodgrass and the leadership of Sister Francis Swoope, the Missionary Society was divided into four circles representing the four directions: North, South, East, and West. The North circle became known as Circle 1. When Circle 1 was formed there were four members there. Sisters Thelma Fuqua, Georgia McCloud, Rose Blackburn, and Dorothy Bowen. Sister Thelma Fuqua was elected chairperson and faithfully served until 1991.
 - Sister Eleanor Batts was elected chairperson in 1991 and served for two years. Sister Mozell Roper, who assumed office in 1991, served until January of 1993. Over the past 24 years, Circle 1 has grown from 4 to 75 members. This growth is credited to a sincere spirit of love and concern for the good of all. The circle meets on Tuesdays following the first and third Sundays at 7:00 p.m.
 - Circle #1's theme is "Serving One Another". This theme is demonstrated in the various mission activities in which the members engage in throughout the year. It's current activities are 1) quarterly home visits to homebound circle members and members of the general church congregation, 2) providing Easter eggs to patients at two local nursing home, 3) providing lunch (once a year) for the people served by the Aquarius Club of Huntsville, 4) Thanksgiving fruit basket for sick and shut-in circle members, 5) Christmas stockings for needy children

(sponsored by Christmas Charities), and 6) the Unity Breakfast (the idea for this fellowship was conceived by Sister Bessie Jones and was hosted in her home). On a continuous basis the circle responds to the needs of not only its members but the general church congregation.

○ **On-Going Projects:**

- Regular home visits to homebound circle members and members of the general church congregation
- Provide Easter eggs to patients at two local nursing homes.
- Lunch preparation for Aquarius Club
- Thanksgiving fruit baskets for sick and shut-in circle members
- Angel Tree
- Support Alabama Non-Violent Offenders through donations of resources and time.
- Meals On Wheels-July and August 2024
- Financial donations to Selma University Fundraiser (2024)
- Financial donations to Julius Richard Scruggs Child Development Center and Academy (JRSCDCA) memorial fund (2024).
- CHIIP Support to James I. Dawson Elementary School (August-December 2024)



Katie Byrd & Priscilla Montgomery
ANVO Donations 2024



Alabama Non-Violent Offenders Donations and Support (9/21/22)
Benice Massey, Brenda Carodine, Recipient.



(11/1/22)
Brenda Carodine, Recipients

- **Circle 2:**

- Open to All Adult Women; Meeting Time: 1st Monday at 6:00pm
- **History:**
 - Circle 2 was organized in the early sixties by Sister Frances Swoope under the pastorate of Reverend H. P. Snodgrass. The first chairperson was Mrs. Flauzell Binford. During this time the circle met at the members' home every Monday and the lessons were taken from the book entitled, "The Worker". Some of the projects during this time included visiting the sick and shut-in (homes, hospitals, and nursing homes); and providing care packages, fresh fruits, and pastries for nursing home patients. Meals on Wheels were also provided to shut-ins as a project of the circle. A yearly Friendship Tea was held to provide funds for various projects.
 - Today the circle consists of a diversified group of 57 women-young, married, single, and retired. One of the many projects of the circle is the Downtown Rescue Mission. Each quarter of the year, the members provide soap, shampoo, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other toiletries as well as sheets, towels and blankets for the mission.
 - Since the organization of Circle 2, there have been six chairpersons including the present one. The circle now meets on the first and third Monday of each at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church.

- In exemplifying mission in action, circle 2 lovingly extends a helping hand to make life a little more meaningful for others. Love was not put in your heart to stay, for is not love until you give it away. "....Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40b
- **On-Going Projects:**
 - Downtown Rescue Mission Service Projects
 - Preparing Aquarius Club lunches
 - Supporting Grandparents Program of Brookshire Healthcare Facility
 - Angel Tree
 - Visiting sick and shut in
 - Gathering toiletries for the needy
 - Adopted Rolling Hills Elementary School
 - Contribute to Northeast District 5K Run
 - Support Grandparents Day Program at JRSCDCA



Donation of Educational Floor Rug to Rolling Hills Elementary School (2023)

- **Circle 3:**

- Open to All Adult Women; Meeting Time: 3rd Tuesday at 6:00pm
- **History:**
 - In 1941, when the Missionary Society of First Missionary Baptist Church was first organized, Mission Circles were divided into geographic regions within the city; Northwest, Northeast and Southeast. Today, Circle 3 represents what was originally described as the Southeast Circle.
 - Circle 3 is a group of dedicated women who meet the third Tuesday of each month. It was organized over 30 years ago. Circle 3 participated in various activities that are sponsored by the General Missionary Society. The circle has adopted a family with eight boys ranging in age from 7 years to 16 years of age. We fellowship with the family no less than twice a year in the form of a picnic or a night of fun and games at the church. School supplies are provided each school year for the boys. And invitation is extended to the family when the church has its annual revival and Vacation Bible School. Other activities that the circle is involved in are, 1) stuffing envelopes for the mustard Seed Ministry once a month, 2) Visit local nursing home and sick or shut-in members each month.
 - Circle 3 aim is to become like Christ and to lead others to become like Christ. This is accomplished through studying His word, through fellowship with the saint and through prayer. Thus, producing a sacrificial involvement whereby life is lived in the role of a servant.

○ **On-Going Projects:**

- The circle adopted a family with eight boys ranging in age from 7 years to 16 years of age. Fellowship with the family was in the form of a picnic twice a year on church grounds; School supplies were provided each year.
- Circle 3 members gathered monthly for many years to stuff envelopes for the Mustard Seed Ministry
 - Circle 3 has adopted two nursing facilities. We visit each facility on holidays to sing and fellowship with residents.
 - Friend's House
 - Haven for Greater Living
- We have assisted a classroom in need at Dawson Elementary School and have provided uniforms for students, as well as school supplies.
- Angel Tree
- Provide transportation for doctor appointments
- Assist with in-home chores, when needed.
- CHIIP Support to James I. Dawson Elementary School (August-December 2024)



- **Day Spring Circle:**

- Open to All Adult Women; Meeting Time: 3rd Tuesday at 12:00pm
- **History:**
 - Dayspring Missionary Circle was organized around 1995 when the need for a day-time missionary circle arose. It had been surveyed that a percentage of church members preferred not to travel or drive in the evening, yet still maintained a desire to be a part of a missionary circle. An interest group meeting was called by Sister Lelia Gray, who served as Dayspring's founder and first president. Also, in attendance at the interest group meeting was Mrs. Dorothy Gurley, who served as the group's first Bible Leader. Early officers included Mrs. Willie Belle Alexander, who served as secretary treasurer, and Mrs. Denise Swain took an early leadership role, as well.
 - Since the mid 1990s Denise Brown Swain has served as president and Bible Leader and Lillie Winston has served as vice-president. Other treasurers have included Eloine Carroll and Mary Jeter.
 - Dayspring remains small in size but big in heart. The circle supports the Joint Mission in its Aquarius Club projects and its Meadow Hills Christmas project. Additionally, Dayspring spreads a greeting card ministry quarterly.
 - At that time, Dayspring Missionary Circle met at 1:00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays adjacent to the vestibule.

○ **On-Going Projects:**

- Purchasing a goat for a village in Africa
- Reading projects at local schools
- Nursing Home Activity Sponsor:
 - Hosting fun-filled auctions enabling residents to bid for toiletries, including a real auctioneer.
- Hosting Christmas Party for Meadow Hills Initiative
- Hosting Bible Sessions at the home of sick and shut in
- Preparing lunches for Aquarius Club
- Angel Tree
- Toiletries donated to Manna House (2024)
- Downtown Rescue Mission Thanksgiving Food Drive (2024)
- CHIIP Support to James I. Dawson Elementary School (August-December 2024)



Christmas Fellowship 2023
Louise Wyche (Front Row)

Mary Cotton, Edwinda Crum, Marchetta Fontaine, Sarah Drake, Pamela Patton



Regular Monthly Dayspring Circle Meeting
Diane Ford, Marchetta Fontaine, Tanya Thomas, Ada Wyatt,
Patricia Pope, Pamela Patton, Barbara Blackburn, Mary Cotton, Sarah Drake

- **Youth Mission**

- Meets on Wednesdays at 6:30pm, in January, April, July, and October.
- **Purpose:**
 - The Youth Missions Ministry combines systematic biblical instruction with practical opportunities for young people to engage in outreach and acts of service on behalf of the local community and congregation.
- **On-Going Projects:**
 - African American Heritage Curriculum
 - Remembering the Past Workshop and Panel Discussion about the Civil Rights Movement, featuring Reverend Earla Lockhart & Deacon Gilliam Carpenter
 - SWAG: (Someone Who Adores God) Worship Wednesdays
 - Cozy Drive (collecting hats, gloves & scarves for the needy)
 - Back to Bible Basics
 - Bible Bowl
 - Bible Jeopardy



*Youth Mission
attending State
Convention in
Selma, Alabama*



*Youth Mission & Youth Advisors
attending National Congress of
Christian Education in Dallas,
Texas*



A Brief History of Former Missionary Circles (No Longer Meeting):

Matron:

The Matron circle was organized at First Baptist in 1951 during the pastorate of the Reverend H. P. Snodgrass. Sister Sarah B. Outlaw was president of the Missionary Society, at the time and Sister Eva B. Burns served as the first president of the Matron Circle. Sister Ninell Gurley was the first secretary and Sister Julia Toney served as the first advisor to the group. During the first year of the organization over 20 people became members.

Today the circle has over 45 members and function to carry out the following objectives: To train women in 1) systematic Bible Study, 2) daily prayer, 3) mission responsibilities, and 4) Christian service.

Since 1951, the Matrons have served the church and Huntsville community in many ways. Mission project ranging from giving gifts to the elderly at nursing home, working with pre-teens and teens in building self-esteem, witnessing to the unsaved, and assisting the General Missionary Society with projects-continue to be the focal point of the circle. Regular meetings of the circle are twice a month at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday at the church.

Snodgrass-Parker:

The Snodgrass-Parker circle was organized by Sister Mary B. Parker. This circle was established in 1974 to encourage women and men, who were not part of any other mission circle to become active in the mission activities. The circle is named after Reverend H. P. Snodgrass and Sister M. B. Parker, the circle's first president. The circle retained the tradition of meeting in the home and serving a meal prior to the meeting.

The circle is small and meets on the third Tuesday of every month, at the home of one of the circle members. Activities of the circle include leading an evening worship service annually and participating in joint mission activities.

It welcomes any member of the church who is prayerfully considering a circle to grow in the Words of God.

The circle is no longer an active missionary circle of First Missionary Baptist Church.

Disciples for Christ:

Disciples for Christ is one of the newest missionary circles here at First Baptist. Since its inception in July 1991, it has grown larger in number and stronger in faith. The circle typically attracts women between the ages of 25 and 40, but openly invites and welcomes all who have a genuine desire for fellowship.

Generally, the circle convenes on second and fourth Friday nights at 7:00 p.m., and is blessed through prayer, fellowship, and studying the word of God. Additionally, members are blessed weekly through the institution of a telephone prayer chain, where petitions are made known and lifted in one accord. Answering the true call of missionaries, the circle is actively involved in several community-oriented service projects.

Adopting as a theme, "Women God Can Use", the circle is constantly growing stronger in its effort to "... press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The Disciple for Christ is most assuredly a circle that's on the move for Christ!!!!

Active during the mid-1990s, Disciples for Christ served to attract young women to the Mission Ministry.

The circle is no longer an active Missionary Circle at First Missionary Baptist Church.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY LEADERSHIP

Jesus said, "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." John 4:38 (NKJV).

Jesus said, "I am sending you to harvest crops in fields where others have done all the hard work" John 4:38 (Contemporary English Version).

PRESIDENTS OF GENERAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY

- Sister Mary Turner
- Sister F. L. Swoope 1931-1941,1957-1977
- Sister Sara Outlaw 1941-1957
- Sister Rosetta James 1978-1992
- Sister Lelia Gray 1993-1996
- Sister Rosetta Williams 1997-2002
- Sister Ann Davis 2003-2004
- Sister Pearl Watson 2006-2010
- Sister Mary Posey 2011-2013
- Sister Carol Woods 2014-2017
- Minister Cynthia Carter 2018-2019
- Sister Phyllis McMillian 2020-2023
- Sister Mary Ann Flowers 2024-

YOUTH MISSION CHAIRPERSONS

- Sister Marjorie Campbell
- Sister Dorothy Gurley
- Sister Virginia Gilchrist
- Minister Priscilla Montgomery
- Deacon Willie Littlepage
- Sister Gladys Ayokanmbi
- Brother Davian Matthews
- Sister Carol Woods
- Sister LaDonna McCann & Deacon Melvin McCann
- Deaconess Marlene McElroy



MISSIONARY SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT

CONVENTIONS

- Alabama State Missionary Baptist Women
- Auxiliary Convention
- Northeast District State Convention
- Muscle Shoals Association Northwest
- National Baptist Convention, USA Inc.
- Youth convention at Alabama State Convention

MISSION PROJECTS

- Preparing Aquarius Club Lunches
- Serving the City as One
- Meals on Wheels
- Meadow Hills Initiative
- Adopted families
- Stuffed envelopes for the Mustard Seed Ministry
- Nursing homes Visits
- Keenage Day Senior Mission
- Prayer Breakfast
- National Day of Prayer
- Baptist Women World Day of Prayer
- Angel Tree



Explaining the Missionary Colors:

- **White:** The white symbolizes and reflects the holiness of God and signifies peace, purity, and the Holy Spirit.
- **Gold or Yellow:** Signifies sunshine, grace, and the riches of God's blessing, security, brightness energy & life.
- **Red:** Signifies the blood of Jesus which was shed on Calvary for the remission of sin. It also signifies His great love and His eternal care.
- **Blue:** Royal Blue is symbolic of the world and God's word and His eternal truth and love
- **Purple:** Signifies majesty
- **Male Department**-----White shirts, tie and dark trousers.

**First Missionary Baptist Church
General Missionary Society Circles
Schedule for Packing Bags for the
Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Pack
(CHIPP) Program For Dawson Elementary School
August 16, 2024 thru December 20, 2024**

This is the schedule for the year. To accommodate each circle, Circle No. 2 will pack bags on the 3rd Friday and Circle No. 3 will pack bags on the 2nd Friday. Circle No. 1 and Day Spring Circles will be the same as stated earlier.

The bags will be packed at 9:30 a.m. each Friday at the church, upstairs in Room 207. As soon as the bags are packed and other items are stored, 2 or 3 workers will deliver these bags to Dawson Elementary School.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Our next quarterly meeting will be on the third Monday, September 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

2024 CHIPP Packing Schedule

Month	Day	Date	Designated Circle	Notes
August	16	3 rd Friday	Circle #2	
August	23	4 th Friday	Day Spring	
August	30	5 th Friday	2 Persons per Circle	
September	6	1 st Friday	Circle #1	
September	13	2 nd Friday	Circle #3	
September	20	3 rd Friday	Circle #2	
September	27	4 th Friday	Day Spring	
October	4	1 st Friday	Circle #1	
October	11	2 nd Thursday	Circle #3	Friday, October 11, is a Student Holiday.
October	18	3 rd Friday	Circle #2	
October	25	4 th Friday	Day Spring	
November	1	1 st Friday	Circle #1	
November	8	2 nd Friday	Circle #3	
November	15	3 rd Friday	Circle #2	
November	22	4 th Friday	Day Spring	
November	29	5 th Friday		Thanksgiving Holidays
December	6	1 st Friday	Circle #1	
December	13	2 nd Friday	Circle #3	
December	20	3 rd Friday	Circle #2	End of the last day of the semester.



CHIPP Volunteers, Circle #2 (9/20/24)
(Sharon Adams, Mary Ann Flowers, Olenia Walker, Cynthia Squire, Lelia Gray, Martha Roberts, Marsha Flakes Pope)



CHIPP Volunteers, Circle #2 (9/20/24)
(Marsha Flakes Pope, Lelia Gray, Martha Roberts, Sharon Adams, Olenia Walker, Mary Ann Flower)

Photo Gallery



**General Missionary Society Annual Day
6/24/24**



**General Missionary Society Donation to JRSCDCA
(Martha Roberts, Priscilla Montgomery, Doris Carter, Mary Ann Flowers,
Jacqueline "Jackie" Frost, and Nancy Matthews)**

**General Missionary Society's
Inaugural Annual Luncheon
6/23/24**



Rev. Dr. Don Darius Butler standing



**Deborah Colley, Sarah Drake, Patricia Benson, Mary Cotton,
Brenda Carodine, Sharon Adams, Yolanda Edwards
Doris Carter, standing**



**Multiple Tables and Members
Martha Roberts, walking**



**Jacqueline "Jackie" Frost, Christine Dubose, Mildred Henderson,
Leadrester Granger, Marsha Hughes, Rita Finch, Cheryl Davis,
Priscilla Montgomery**




**General Missionary Society Social Committee (2024)
Marilyn Moore, Mary Ann Flowers (GMS Coordinator), Edwina Crum,
Bertha Porter, Doris Carter, Pamela Owens**



Multiple Tables and Members



**Circle #1, Alabama Non-Violent Offender's
(ANVO) Project (2024)
Priscilla Montgomery, Katie Byrd**



FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
*Bring God
Every Day*

FMBC BROTHERHOOD PROJECT

Habitat FOR HUMANITY

**SATURDAY
JULY 27TH**

**WE WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH AT
8:00AM AND THEN PROCEED TO
THE PROJECT SITE.**

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
3509 BLUE SPRING ROAD, NW
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35810

The Brotherhood Organization's Project
July 27, 2024

General Missionary Society



**General Missionary Society
FMBC's 2022 Pictorial Directory**



**Alabama Non-Violent Offenders Donations and Support (9/21/22)
Benice Massey, Brenda Carodine, Recipient**



(11/1/22)
Brenda Carodine, Recipients



8/24/24 FMBC's Annual Picnic
Brotherhood Oranzigation Leading in the Cooking



CHIPP Volunteers, Circle #2 (9/20/24)
(Sharon Adams, Mary Ann Flowers, Olenia Walker, Cynthia Squire, Lelia Gray, Martha Roberts, Marsha Flakes Pope)



CHIPP Volunteers, Circle #2 (9/20/24)
(Marsha Flakes Pope, Lelia Gray, Martha Roberts, Sharon Adams, Olenia Walker, Mary Ann Flower)