

Pastors



Samuel Duncan Jr.

Interim Pastor 2020 -

Bishop Samuel Duncan Jr of SW3 Jurisdiction oversees Greater Fountain. He is a man with a God-given mission to minister to the whole man; spirit, soul and body. Striving for excellence, he is setting new standards and raising the bar for ministry. Like Joseph, he has a God given dream, in which he strives to see God's vision for His church unfold in this very hour.



Roderic Strozier

Pastor Designate 2023-2023

Elder Strozier served the as Pastor Designate at the current location of 530 W. Stadium Blvd. He is Married to Lani Strozier and together they have five children and two Grandchildren.



Samuel L Peppers

Pastor Emeritus 1995 - 2020

Elder Peppers Starting serving 411 Fountain in 1980's where he was married to Missionary Ruth Rowry Peppers and purchased the church on 530 W. Stadium Blvd. after the death of Ruth he later married Mother Earlie Strozier.



B.T. Rimson

Pastor 1943 - 1995

Elder B.T. Rimson took over High St. COGIC after his brother. He starting serving on High St. until they purchase 411 Fountain. He pastored two churches Fountain in Ann Arbor and Jackson COGIC in Jackson, Michigan. Elder Rimson was married to Corrine until she passed away and later married Alvan Rimson.



R.L. Ford



William Rimson
Pastor



1928
Elder Montgomery

Church History

church history continue

In June 1956 Elder Rimson married Alvan M. Haywood, a member of High Street Church of God in Christ and He remained faithful with his wife by his side. They worked untiringly to enhance what God had provided. Finally, the vision became a reality and in October 1962 the church purchased the property at 411 Fountain Street, the church was then incorporated with the State of Michigan and the name changed from High Street Church of God in Christ to Fountain Church of God in Christ.

The membership flourished and grew. Persons who were pillars of the beginning of Fountain were Senior Deacons, William Scruggs, Rufus Taylor, Charles Hooks, Elders, J.D. James, Lattimore Haywood, George Jackson, Church Mothers, Josie Anderson, Sallie Jackson, Alice Torres, Luella Reed, Susie Scruggs, Mabel McKinney, Grace Jackson, Ruth Walker, Nannie Mae Fly. Sisters, Alvan Rimson, Ethel McGinnes, Louise Haywood, and Callie Marshall who decided since Pastor Rimson was yet riding the bus that she would raise funds for the down payment of the Pastor's first car. This was done and the car was purchased for Pastor Rimson. We cherish the memory of these persons today.

In January 1995, our 2nd church mother, Annie Rowry was called home after a lengthy illness. Mother Mary Lee Scruggs was then appointed Church Mother. In March 1995 our beloved Pastor Elder Booker T. Rimson was called home to be the Lord. Our loss was felt throughout the State of Michigan and the National Church of God in Christ. On April 27, 1995, Elder Samuel L. Peppers (one of Elder Rimson's son in the gospel), was appointed Pastor of Fountain Church of God in Christ by administrative assistants Fred Cunningham and George Bennett who oversaw SW Michigan 3rd Jurisdiction at the time. He was officially installed by Bishop Marvin C. Pryor in December 1995.

Pastor Peppers continued the vision of "Dad Rimson" for a larger edifice and in May 1996, our present Church was purchased here at 530 W. Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor, MI. Mother Malinda Caruthers began the push for the yet larger edifice and the Push was on. We purchased the Church of God at 530 W. Stadium Blvd., one block from the Big House of the University of Michigan Stadium. We held our first service in our present edifice on Sunday, September 6, 1998, and Phase I of our remodeling was completed in October of 1998.



GREATER FOUNTAIN



GREATER FOUNTAIN

Church History



GREATER FOUNTAIN

Fountain Church of God in Christ
1928-2016

In 1928 Elder Kissentiner, Overseer of the Church of God In Christ sent Elder Montgomery and his wife to Ann Arbor, MI to start a work here. Shortly after arriving Elder Montgomery was arrested and put in jail for preaching the Word of God. When he left, there were but a few saints and they would hold service in their homes, often going to the church in Ypsilanti to worship. Then one day the Lord blessed the Church Mother Johnson to rent a little store located at 616 High Street at the intersection of Fuller, State and Depot Streets. She lived in a small room in back and held service in the front. In trying to get started she would beg for a chair or a rug here and there and she would haul it in her little wagon to the church.

Later Elder Willie Rimson was sent to Ann Arbor, and he labored here for a while and during that time, he acquired a piano and more chairs for the Church. After he left a number of pastors came but they would soon leave when they saw there were but a few saints. At one time, a Bishop of another denomination came from New York and asked them to change the name of the church and become a member of another denomination, but the little congregation refused to do so.

Eventually Elder Robert L. Ford was sent to Ann Arbor. He worked days as a cook and preached the gospel at nights and the idea came to him to remodel the back room into a kitchen and serve food to raise money for the Church. Soon after, he started a Building Fund. At the time of Elder Ford's resignation, the church had an increased amount in the treasure and acquired property on Fourth Avenue.

In 1943 we were blessed when Overseer Cleveland Landis Anderson sent Elder Booker T. Rimson, Sr. to Ann Arbor as pastor. He worked days in Detroit and rode the Greyhound bus to Ann Arbor at night to hold worship service. At the time his wife, Corrine Jones Rimson was very ill, but in light of that fact, Pastor Rimson continued in steadfast service to his little congregation. Soon the membership increased and under his leadership the church was able to purchase: the building at 616 High Street, and the storefront was remodeled into a church.

After the church purchased the building, there were several apartments that was rented out to the saints. In the meantime, Elder Rimson's wife was called home to be with the Lord in April 1949 and he was left to raise three (3) children alone. God blessed Pastor Rimson and the congregation to continue through many difficulties and trails including the prolonged sickness of his wife Corrine Jones Rimson. Yet he remained steadfast with his vision of a larger edifice.

Church History

church history continued

Pastor Peppers, a man fervent in prayer and God's Word, soft-spoken and full of Power and love for the people of God continued leading this church. He and his beloved wife, Sister Ruth M. Peppers, they worked side by side building the kingdom before her she was called home to be the Lord in November of 2004. During that time, Members have called home to be with the Lord, namely our beloved first lady, Missionary Ruth Peppers, Elder Jim B. Fly, Deacon Lois Hickonbottom, Mother Lula Hickonbottom, Mother Alice Hall. Mother Mary Lee Scruggs, Mother Malinda Carouthers. Mother Mavis Turner, and Mother Muse Dora Bingham, we fondly remember these pioneers and pillars of our congregation for their dedication, hard work, and spiritual insight for the saints of Fountain to have a new edifice. Their works do live on and will praise them in the gates.

We have and are currently experiencing spiritual and natural growth through the constant and fervent prayers of our Pastor and the Prayer Warriors of Fountain. Our Pastor was elevated to District Superintendent of Headquarters District and Administrative Assistant to Bishop Marvin C. Pryor of Southwest Michigan 3rd Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and our congregation has grown by leaps and bounds.

In 2006, our Beloved Pastor Samuel Peppers was blessed to marry Mother Earlie M. Strozier on June 17, 2006, she served as our Supervisor of the Women's Department of Southwest Michigan 3rd Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and is a highly anointed woman of God. Her anointed presence was an enjoyable asset to this ministry, and we are thanking God for our first lady and the joy she has brought to our Pastor and the Ministry.

In 2015, with greater vision before our pastor, our church reincorporated as Greater Fountain Church of God in Christ. "Greater Outreach, Greater Love, Greater Ministry, and Greater Vision!!!

We are a "Witnessing Church with a Vision."

This part of the history compiled by the Late Mable McKinney-Ellis, Missionary Janet Kirkland, and Evangelist Rose Marie Rimson-Brown - January 2007 - update April 2016.



Church History

church history continue

Greater Fountain Church of God in Church 2016-2023

Fast-forward to 2019, Pastor Samuel L. Peppers appointed Missionary Janet Kirkland as Church Mother. And again, beloved pillars of our Church have been called home to be with the Lord. Mother Lizzie Mae Peppers Watkins (Pastor Peppers' Mother). Our illustrious First Lady Supervisor Earlie Mae Strozier Peppers. Mother Cynthia Scott, Mother Idella Fry Humphrey, Church Mother Gladys Jones, and our beloved Evangelist Rose Marie Rimson Brown. Psalms 116:15 says, Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints Psalms 116:15. We will remember their dedication to the service of the kingdom.

In February 2020, during a respite period in Pastor Peppers life, Bishop Samuel Duncan became Interim Pastor of Greater Fountain after a meeting was held announcing that Pastor Samuel Peppers would be Pastor Emeritus with full rights and a more formal celebration would come, Bishop Duncan has been interim Pastor for almost three years, and during this time, he has been a light to Greater Fountain during our time of healing and the Lord has continued to bless Greater Fountain. On December 30, 2022, Bishop Samuel Duncan Jr. named Elder Roderic Strozier as Pastor Designate of Greater Fountain where he served until 2023.

The current leadership as of 2023 is Bishop Samuel Duncan, Jr. as Pastor; Elder Steve Hickenbottom and Elder Darius Cobb; Minister Marcus Dixson, Chairman of the Deacon Board: Deacon Darnell Kirkland, Men's Department President: Deacon Marvin Robinson; Church Secretary: Sister Shonda Dixson; and our Church Mother and Women's Department President: Mother Janet Kirkland.

2020-2024 Term Trustees

Evangelist Ethel Franklin - Chair, Elder Steve Hickenbottom - Co-Chair, Deacon Darnell Kirkland, Sister Melissa Robinson, Sister Ella Williams, Newest Members Sister Latisha Peters and Brother Larry Gordon

"Join us, we are going somewhere!"

Humbly submitted Mother Janet Kirkland and Evangelist Ethel Franklin May 2023.





GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

June 25, 2023

Greater Fountain Church of God in Christ
530 W Stadium Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Dear Friends,

It is an honor as governor of Michigan to congratulate the Greater Fountain Church of God in Christ on 95 years of service to their community. May this special occasion celebrate the church's pastor and compassionate members who have demonstrated a strong devotion to faith and dedication to serving others through the word of God.

Greater Fountain Church of God in Christ has provided many services to its members, including worship, teachings, and guiding words. A leading example of compassion, the church also provides their local community with the resources they need to thrive. The church and its members have gone above and beyond through their service to others.

Over the past 95 years, the church has served as a place to connect countless people to their faith, valuable resources, and opportunities to serve their community. I am grateful for the members' tireless efforts to bring hope, support, and a greater sense of community to those around them and I have no doubt that they will continue to leave a positive impact.

Again, on behalf of the State of Michigan, I would like to congratulate the Greater Fountain Church of God in Christ on its 95th anniversary. I send my best wishes for their continued success in every endeavor.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan

