**History of Women’s Ministry**

During early 1979, Pastor Henry S. Moore sensed and emphasized the necessity to organize a women’s auxiliary for Central Baptist Church. He envisioned the auxiliary would encourage and help women to become better acquainted through fellowshipping and serving together in the mighty name of Jesus the Christ. Pastor Moore further envisioned that through strengthened bonds, women would begin to empower each other through practical teaching of the Word of God, which is essential to becoming the woman God created us to be.

In April 1979, the first Women’s Department meeting was held. It was determined in this meeting that the women would meet every second Saturday of each month at 11:30a.m., and Women’s Annual Day would be held the 3rd Sunday in May. We currently celebrate Women’s Annual Day the 4th Sunday in March.

Deaconess Geneva B. Williams was the first elected President. She served faithfully and passionately for 22 years as a gifted and anointed leader. Her inspiring leadership facilitated the spiritual growth of the women at Central and with our fellowship churches. Some of the others elected leaders were the late Sister Virginia Gilmore, Vice-President; Sister Diane Harvey (Parker), Recording Secretary; and the late Sister Jane Bennett, Treasurer. In addition, during President Williams’ tenure, Deaconess Gloria Haywood and Minister Shirley R. DuPree served as Vice-President.

In 1994, Reverend John H. Parker, recommended the name Women’s Department be changed to ‘Women’s Ministry’ to cover a broader perspective of outreach programs. Some of our outreach programs have included:

* *Women in the Bible;*
* *How to Study the Bible;*

# *Spousal Abuse;*

* *Family Prayer Breakfast;*
* *A Woman After God’s Heart;*
* *Health Fairs;*
* *Women’s conferences/retreats;*
* *Mothers and Daughters Breakfast;*
* *Numerous fellowships, workshops and seminars; and*
* *Numerous outings organized by the Women’s Ministry, Progressive National Convention, train ride to New York and a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii*

In January 2001, Sister Mary Cole was elected and installed as President and Deaconess Elaine Hendking, Vice-President. In addition, Pastor Parker appointed Reverend Miranda Williams to serve as the Minister-to-Women. She served with honor, excitement, and faithfully for ten years. Under her spiritual leadership and teaching of the Word, we were all blessed by God.

Sister Cole and Deaconess Hendking began their leadership roles shortly after the turn of a new century; a time when women began experiencing a new set of issues such as affordable housing and access to healthcare, care-giving responsibilities, domestic violence, retirement income insufficiency, substance abuse, emotional and spiritual abuse, demanding careers, tedious and stressful commutes, divorce, and single parent households. An alarming number of health issues were on the rise, including AIDS among our African-American women. Accordingly, the Women’s Ministry increased their focus on the vision to meet the 21st century needs of the women.

In October 2006, we celebrated our 9th Women’s Conference at the new Camp Springs, Maryland location with Keynote speakers Minister Cee-Cee Michaela, Michaela Ministries – Atlanta, GA - better known for her role on the television program “Girl Friends”. Other guest speakers at the Women’s Conference included Dr. Lonise Bias, Lynn Bias Ministries, (Largo, Maryland) and Rev. Dr. Thelma Chambers-Young, Past Vice-President, Progressive National Baptist Convention Women’s Department (Oklahoma City, OK), and several other Pastors and Ministers of God. We had a blessed time in the Lord!

In October 2012, our retreat was held in historic Williamsburg, VA at the Crowne Plaza Convention Center. Our women were blessed by the presence of the Lord and a renewed spirit!

The Women’s Ministry of Central Baptist Church of Camp Springs is committed to equipping women to know God and to glorify Him in our home, church, community and the world. We exist to extend the transforming presence of Jesus Christ to women in all life seasons. We are committed to their growth through prayer, Bible study, and discipleship. Our church will be blessed more by the involvement of these gifted women.

Current Officers

Sister Karena Dobbs, President

Deaconess Carol Harrington, Vice-President

Sister Darlene Carter, Executive Assistant

Vacant, Women’s Ministry Fellowship Coordinator

Sister Scarlett Johnson, Financial /Recording Secretary

Sister Dorothy Moody, Hospitality Coordinator

Sister Lillian Dillard, Health Coordinator

Sister LaShawn VanHorne, Events Coordinator

As the Ministry continues to grow in love and discipleship, we credit all of our accomplishments to Jesus the Christ.