

History of Men's Ministry

On April 1, 1979, the Men's Ministry (originally named the Men's Department) was organized in a meeting called by our Late Pastor Emeritus, Reverend Dr. Henry S. Moore. The sole purpose of the group was to develop and promote Christian love among all members. Those present agreed with our Pastor and his assessment of our need to form such a group and we were organized.

Since the inception of the Men's Ministry there have been six presidents: Brother Audry Bennett, Deacon Arthur Stroud, Brother Joe Williams, Deacon William Crudup, Deacon McLloyd Mansfield and our current President, Brother Carl Linton.

The Men's Ministry of Central Baptist Church of Camp Springs has overcome many difficulties. There were many times when the Men's Ministry almost ceased to exist due to lack of support from our men, in general. However, with the support of a faithful few, and the encouragement from our Presidents, Pastor Emeritus Dr. Henry S. Moore, Pastor John H. Parker, and Pastor Lincoln M. Burruss, Jr., we continue to claim the victory over Satan and all of his forces.

In 1989, Pastor John H. Parker asked the Men's Ministry to host our first church picnic. It was a grand success! This day has become an annual event for the church. Other activities included: an Annual Prayer Breakfast for the church family, monthly Men's Discipleship Training titled "Iron Sharpening Iron," monthly staff meeting, Annual Men's Retreat, Adopt-A-School Program, Mentoring Program for at risk youth, Men's Conference with former Washington Redskins Hall of Famer, Darrell Green as a guest speaker, security during church activities, Annual Men's Day Service, assisting our church custodian in the upkeep and maintenance of the church, participating in the Annual Community Day event and assisting other ministries in the church with their ongoing activities.

In May 1993, the Men's Ministry held its first Men's Retreat at Curly Oaks Retreat Center, and we sincerely enjoyed the Lord through prayer, praise, teaching and other Christian activities; it was a glorious fellowship. During the retreat, and under the direction of Pastor John H. Parker, it was decided the title, 'Men's Department' should be changed to 'Men's Ministry' to accurately convey to the men of Central what our primary function should be: "To minister to and teach the men of Central Baptist Church how to be a Godly man, bold and upright in their homes, communities and at church."

We must, as Christian men of Central Baptist Church of Camp Springs, realize the Lord is continuously blessing us, and he wants us to continue to grow spiritually and become "true leaders" in the church and in our communities. Through prayer, faith and action, we can meet God's challenge to adhere to his word and walk in his marvelous light.

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 fellowshiping 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!

Our most recent retreat was held in October 2012 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 Mary Cole, President
Deaconess Elaine Hendking, Vice-President
Sister Darlene Carter, Executive Assistant
Sister Carol Harrington, 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.