

The Calvary Chronicle

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First Calvary Baptist Church
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Hold Fast to Faith

A Celebration of Pastor Fredrick Amos Davis and Mrs. Judith Davis

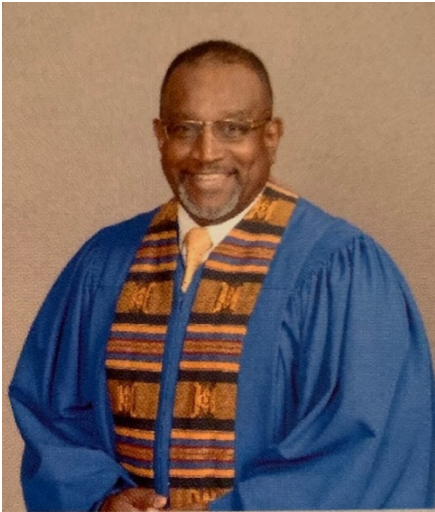


11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. **13** For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." **14** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? **15** And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

Pastor, Teacher, Father, Friend

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" **Romans 10:11-15 NKJV**

Pastor's Desk Message



Well First Calvary can you believe it...it has been 31 years. 31 years of our being together as a Church Family, as people and Pastor. With God's guidance and God's Provisions we've made it through. I can hardly believe or wrap my head around the years gone by, the lives touched, the worship, the praise, the sermons, the teachings, the events....and the food....that I have been blessed to experience with First Calvary over 31 years. It has been amazing....you have all been amazing.... my family is amazing (especially my wife)... the First Calvary leadership has been amazing.... the First Calvary Staff has been amazing....this Church congregation is amazing...

this community is amazing... And, most importantly, GOD IS AMAZING! To God be the Glory

So, here we are in a special edition of the Calvary Chronicle. When I shared this vision for this publication many years ago, I was seeking to have a way for the congregation to stay informed on what was going on within the walls of First Calvary....and sometimes outside the walls. This newsletter has provided that venue and I have been so pleased with the work that has been done over the years by the past and current Chronicle Staff. Hopefully, you will get a copy to keep and will hold on to this bit of history.

Wouldn't be a Calvary Chronicle if I didn't tell you about what's going on in Ministry, right? Well, it has been A LOT....let me tell you! We have a new Pastor-Elect, y'all! Marc A. Lavarin is here and he is already preaching, teaching, learning, loving, and LISTENING. He and Minister Barbara are such a welcomed blessing to the First Calvary family. I am blessed to help him become acclimated to life at First Calvary and the Durham Community. We celebrate my 31 years in August....and we celebrate his Installation in November.... Oh My Lord, WHAT A TIME!! Also coming for our Church is Christian Education Month in September, along with the return of the Biblical Institute. We are still here....we are still a growing, loving, learning Church...and we are still AN EXCITING CHURCH EXCITED ABOUT ITS MISSION.

Thank you, First Calvary Baptist Church, for the love, support, prayers, and encouragement that you have given to Pastor Davis, Mrs. Davis, Fredrick II, Jordan, John, Josephine, Kristel, Fredrick III, Lincoln, Carson, Kane, and Ellington over the course of the past 31 years! Words cannot fully express my gratitude to this Church and Community. I will forever have First Calvary in my heart. So not until December 31, 2022, will I transition out as Pastor.... but until then...

Yours in that Blessed Hope,

Pastor Fredrick A. Davis



Blessings, Congratulations, and Well Wishes from FCBC Congregants



Pastor and Mrs. Davis: you have served us with humility, sincerity, compassion, faithfulness and love. Continued blessings as God leads you in your life's journey. We'll miss and love you. **Stanford, Hortense, Mark, Toy Jones**

May God bless both of you in your future endeavors. Thanks for your leadership and guidance. **Minister William and Deborah Booth**

It is my prayer that God will always supply everything you need. I continue to be blessed by your spirit and the way you allow God to use you. Be forever blessed. **Evelyn A. Adams**

Pastor and Mrs. Davis: It has been a pleasure to be under your leadership at First Calvary. May God continue to bless you and your family. **Brenda Powers**

Thank you for: Prayers during illness. Being at the hospital early in the morning. Your teaching...The laughter...Loving me when it wasn't easy. Thank you for being my friend!!!! **Sandi Burton**

Devoted to giving so much, God only knows all the souls you touched. Be Proud of the work you have done and the difference you have made. Happy Retirement! **Ralph, Donna, Tarleashia & Nikkia Mack**

Best wishes Pastor and Mrs. Davis! Thank you for your faithful years of service to the ministry at First Calvary where I came to know you. Love, **Beverly E. Spruill**

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: I am grateful for you and First Calvary. At the young age of 93, joining First Calvary was the best decision I've made yet. **Bro. Irvin White and Family**

Thank you for allowing us to see Almighty God actively at work in and through you, we are forever grateful to see your strength and joy in the Lord. **Bevelena Davis**

To my forever Pastor and First Lady! Thank you for your leadership in our community and caring about your seniors. I will always be your "dancing partner". Love, **Louise Jones**

So glad that our paths crossed. May God continue to cover you both and your entire family with His awesome mercy and incredible grace. Peace and Blessings

Mary Collins Morris

Congratulations on your retirement, Pastor & Mrs. Davis. It has been a pleasure to worship over the last 22yrs under your awesome leadership! Forever love, **The**

Robinson Family!

Pastor Davis: May God reward you richly for caring for His sheep at First Calvary Baptist Church. Wishing you well as you embark on the next chapter of your life.

Mary Vickers

Pastor & Mrs. Davis! I love you dearly. You made me feel at home and cared for from the moment I stepped into First Calvary back in 2015. You are always in my heart. **Courtney Ramsey.**

Hello Pastor. We want to wish you a blessed, enjoyable retirement. We love you and your family. Thank you for being a blessing to FCBC and the Durham Community. **Joy Young and Family**

Thank you Pastor Davis and family for 30 plus year of your time , talents and treasure to First Calvary Baptist Church and the surrounding neighborhood.

Peace and Blessings, **Audrey Mitchell**

Peace, love and abundant blessings to you as you enter this new season in your life. May your latter be greater than your former! Love y'all, **Ava Alston Brownlee**

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: Thank you for the years of faithfully sharing God's love. May God continue to bless you with a wonderful retirement. Best Wishes, **Gus & Torie Forte**

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement. Thank you both for your leadership, patience, commitment, friendship, laughter, and love. May GOD continue to shower both of you. Congratulations and Love,

Debra Taylor



Pastor Davis: I want to express my sincere appreciation to you for your years of service to First Calvary Baptist Church. God bless you in your future endeavors.

Sharon (Potter) Moore

Pastor & Mrs. Judy: Thank you for serving as Shepherds over this church body, and for caring, sharing & serving as HIS hands and heart for 31 years! With a thankful heart to God for you both! Love, **Natashia Privette**

For your Leadership with our congregation, how you Cared for others and Prayed when there was misfortune, it's time to enjoy the next chapter of your life.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert White

Thank you for your unselfish dedication to First Calvary Baptist Church and the Westend community over the years. I pray that the rest of your days are the Best of your days. Congratulations! **Patrilla Carson**

Best wishes on your well-deserved retirement. We thank God for your being a true blessing to our family, the families of First Calvary Baptist Church, and the West End & Durham communities. **Kevin and Margaret Young**

Thank you for all the love and prayers you have given to the Knight family over the years. May God continue to bless your beautiful & humble spirit. We Love you. **Sylvia, Fahim, Khayree & Fahsyrah Knight**

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: Thank you for 31 years of leadership, prayers, sermons and the love you have shown to us and to FCBC. God's Blessings, **Mike & Cora Butler**



Pastor & Mrs. Davis: Thank you for your devoted and committed answer to Serve our Lord and First Calvary Baptist Church. May God continue to richly Bless your spiritual journey. **Deacon Reginald and Deaconess Marjorie Lipscomb**

Thank you for sharing your journey with us. You will always be remembered and missed in our journeys. With much love, **Diamond & Valaria Brown**

Thank you for always welcoming us as your members. Godspeed, **Shawna & Taylor McKinnon**

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: The entire Reddrick family would like to thank you for being such a special part of our family! Love,
Ursula Reddrick & family.

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: Thank you soooo much for your faithful and dedicated service to FCBC for 31 years!! I have been blessed that I got to be a part of your journey!! **Jewel Merritt Johnson**



We met when John and Kayla were in 2nd grade. Coming to FCBC, we knew we found a pastor & a friend. Together we shared key life events. Enjoy retirement!
The Barhams

Pastor Davis and family: Paige and I will never forget the warmth and love you given to us. Your kindness will never be forgotten. **Patricia Montana**

Happy retirement! Thank you, Pastor Davis and First Lady Davis, for your faithful devotion and dedication these past 31 years. We have been continually blessed by your Pastoring and words of wisdom! **Pamela & Lenae' Frazier**

Pastor Davis: It has been a true Blessing to be under your leadership at FCBC. Through God and your leadership I have been blessed. Blessings to Mrs. Judy Davis and the entire family. **Barbara Algood**

It has been a pleasure having you as my Pastor. Your determination to make this community a better placed influenced me to do my part in helping others. Enjoy retirement! **Wilhelmenia Thornton**

Thank you Both for allowing Myself, (Jan) Jasmine & Brian Ray become members of an elite and blessed spirit filled church. May God continue to bless you both.
Jan Johnson (Ray)

Congratulations, Pastor and Mrs. Davis. Well wishes and loving care to you and your family with God's Blessings, Grace, Mercy, and Love. **Rochelle Jackson and Family - Maisha and Jason; Ellen and Travis; and Jai-Fanon**

Pastor Davis: Mike and I are wishing you the best retirement you can imagine! You are so deserving. You have been a blessing to FCBC and we love you. **Michael and Sandra Lawson**



For the JOY shared and the pain endured as our Shepherd and Pastor's wife -- Thank you! May God's next journey bring you unspeakable joy and fulfillment.

Fleechia Holloway

Thank you, Pastor & Mrs. Davis for your selfless years of sacrifice and obedience to the call of God on your life. Blessings on Blessings, **Zandra Turner & Elijah Suggs**

Those we love will never go away, their work and memory will always be with FCBC. May God continue to Bless you as you embark on your new journey called retirement. **Charles, Willie, & Jaylen Stanfield**

Thank you Pastor Davis. May the LORD keep you and your Family Blessed.
Vernon Bell

Pastor and Mrs. Davis: it has been a blessing and an honor having you there to preach, teach and uplift me and my family. Love you both! Enjoy your retirement to the fullest. **Sherry Burwell**

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: It's been an honor to have known you and love you. You've been around to baptize my children, attended their graduations, and during illnesses. Thank you. Much love, **Darrell, LaConya, Jamie, Joshua & Janiyah Thorpe**

Congratulations on your retirement. I believe the Lord sent you and Mrs. Davis, and He used you to accomplish work only you could have done. You've made a difference in the lives of MANY people. Lots of Love, **Sister Betty Borden**

Thank you Pastor and Mrs. Davis for warmly welcoming us into the FCBC family and for your support throughout the years. Praying that God will continue to bless your next chapter. **Sherman and Folami Cook**

Pastor & Mrs Judi: Thank you for the years of commitment to First Calvary. Happy Retirement and enjoy the next chapter. **LaTonya Jones**

Pastor Davis and Lady Davis: Thank you for your support for the last 20 years as a member of FCBC, "God Be Knowing"! Love, **Kendra Adams**

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: For your devotion, dedication, and hard work, both of you deserve the best retirement ever. Enjoy this new journey of your lives. **Rosa Nolen and Family**

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: Thank you for your years of service & being a blessing to our family. All the best, **Aaron and Natasha Jeffries**

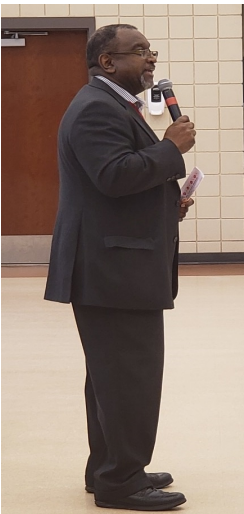
Pastor Davis: The Cozart/Clement family would like to thank you & your wife Judy for all your guidance & prayers throughout the years during our time of bereavement & illness. **Laverne Cozart Clement & Family**

Thank you for all you have done and sacrificed for FCBC and broader Durham Community over many years. May the Good Shepherd continue to lead, guide, and protect you and your family. **Stephanie Jones**

Pastor Fredrick & Mrs. Judith Davis: Hope you both enjoy your retirement. In the lives of so many you will always be remembered. Pastor Davis you have been an amazing pastor. Congratulations. **Margaret Leatherberry**

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: Thank you for being our pastor for 31 years and allowing us to be a part of your family. We have shared a lot of great memories. **Calvin D. Squires**

Pastor & Mrs. Judy Davis: we thank you for your genuine love and support to our family. May you be blessed during your retirement and beyond. Love **Moses and Monica Davenport and family.**



Jayden and I will always be grateful to you and Mrs. Davis for loving, caring and praying for us. You all will FOREVER have a special place in our hearts. Love, **KuTena and Jayden Williams**

Pastor & Mrs. Davis: You have been a part of our lives since 1997. Thank you for blessing us with spiritual guidance, hope, and encouragement. Love, **Darryll and Cynthia Gadson and Family**

Pastor & Mrs: I love you guys so much. Thank you for all that you have done for me and my family and for First Calvary. Don't forget to stop by the food truck! **Sharon Vann**

Thank you for shepherding the flock at this branch of Zion with humble leadership and a deep love of the Lord. You have blessed us in so many ways. **Carter & DeLois Cue**

Pastor Davis: Thank you for being who God called you to be, and for being the blessing that you have been to my family. With love, **Ms. Wanda B. Cooper**

Happy RETIREMENT and Congratulations! Thank you for your 31 years of dedication and service. It is time for you and Mrs. Davis to relax! God bless you both. Peace and Blessings, **Hilary Fearington**

Pastor & Mrs. Judi: Thank you for the many prayers, love and covering you have always provided my family. May God continue blessing your legacy. Love, **Lacky Adkins, Jaylen & Cameron Barnes**

Best wishes, Pastor and Mrs. Davis, on your next chapter! Thank you for your leadership and kindness. KoKo, Skye, and I wish you all the best! We love you! **Toni McIntosh**

Pastor Davis: You continue to be a blessing to FCBC, the West End Community, and the city of Durham. Relax and enjoy your family and retirement. God bless you! **Marie Shaw Simmons**

Pastor Davis: Thank you for your excellent leadership for 31 years. We are all better disciples. We will continue to pray for your good health and loving spirit. Love, **James and Mary Sumpter**

Pastor Fredrick A. Davis:

WELL! What a 16+ year journey this has been....and will continue to be. Thank you for allowing God to lead you to hire me 16 years ago. I thank God for our relationship prior to my employment, and for the strengthened bond we have formed as I have worked for you and First Calvary. Thank you for the support you have given my family and for your belief in me. May God continue to bless you, Mrs. Judi, and the entire family. It has been a pleasure and quite an adventure to serve you, your family, and your Church. I will always be your "Creative Liaison". To God Be the Glory! "Y.K.I.L.Y., right?" Be Encouraged.... Be Safe...Be Well. Love, **Dennise Lindsay**



Reflections from the Pew: the Ministry of Pastor Fredrick A. Davis

By: Sis. Elnora Shields

One of the greatest differences that I have noticed about First Calvary since Pastor Davis has been here is the increased opportunities for children to be included in the life of the church. They are recognized for their achievements both inside and outside of the church. They are highly respected and not seen as the church of tomorrow, but as an essential part of the church of today. Some of the ministries developed for children under Pastor Davis' tenure include Children's Church, MLK Youth Lock-in, an increased emphasis on the nursery, Children's Bible Study, dance and mime.

When Pastor Davis came onboard here, I was hoping that as the new pastor he would have pastoral care as a priority. Pastor Davis has more than delivered on this. He is always accessible and available when there are needs or concerns in the lives of members of the church or community. His care and concern reached beyond the walls of the church as he travels out of town to attend the funerals of relatives of members. He opens up the church to families seeking a place to funeralize their loved ones. He is genuinely empathetic. I have often seen him shed a tear when death or other tragedies come into the lives of others.

The male Summit has had a significant impact on the culture of FCBC. Its existence is an indication that the church views the leadership and the participation of the male population an important component of who we are. In the past, in most Baptist churches, women ran the show. Today at First Calvary, men are expected to work alongside the women. men are observed serving in areas where they were not serving in before and contributing exponentially. First Calvary has become a church where everyone has a part to play, is expected to play that part, and is given the opportunity to do so.



Reflections: A Conversation with Pastor Fredrick Amos Davis

By: Dr. Toni McIntosh

Q: As a retiring pastor, what will you miss the most about the day-to-day responsibilities?

A: Pastoral care, counseling, and visitation.

Q: What will you miss the least about the day-to-day responsibilities?

A: Administration

Q: Do you have a bucket-list of things you want to do now that you have retired? If so, what are the top three things on your list and what do you plan to tackle first?

A: (1) Finding a time and place to take a vacation. Going out of the country, and I have to get my passport renewed. (2) I pretty much have a confirmation that I'm going to run for county commissioner in 2024. And just see how that goes. (3) Try to find major funding for the Westend Community Foundation Inc. to enhance and strengthen the facility.

Q: Knowing what you know now about pastoring a church, what is the most important piece of advice you would offer a young you?

A: Pastor, take more care of yourself and family. Keep an emphasis of honesty to the people in every aspect, in leadership, finances...just stay honest with the people.

Q: Other than the Holy Bible, has any other book influenced your life and ministry?

A: Several books in terms of church leadership. All of the leadership books written by my late classmate, Dr. George McCalep: *Huddle in the House*, *Sin in the House*. *Faith Raising vs Fund Raising* was a key book in helping me understand the finances of the church. John Maxwell - leadership. I used to totally engage, but I haven't lately, in the Howard Thurman writings. I used to be a work-study person in the Howard Thurman Institute, years ago at the ITC, so in my storage I've got old Howard Thurman tapes. *Jesus and the Disinherited*, and then the audio conversations that I get from my wife of the books that she reads.

Q: Do you plan to continue to preach in retirement?

A: I'm sure I'll be extended invitations. As a matter of fact, I've turned down another three more this week because I didn't want to do anything until after December. I did make a commitment to one of our sons of the church, Gary Brown, so I'll be preaching his 10th Pastoral Appreciation service, but other than that I have not committed to anything until after December. I've already been offered, even back in January, when that interview with WTVD aired, a church in Timberlake, NC, asked me to come be their interim pastor. I said no, I'm still on the payroll at First Calvary :-). I'll probably preach some, but not much. Maybe probably more out of town than in-town. Next August, I've got to go to Mobile, AL to preach for a friend, so I already have some lined up for next year.

Toni: I would imagine after a lengthy career, you'd need a break.

Pastor Davis: it's been a great time not having to prepare for Bible Study, and of course, I was a part of Sunday School preparation for the Couples Class, and then sermon preparation, but it was comfortable for me because I had a discipline pattern of when I knew I had to start and finish. And then you all helped in Video, for Hilary on Wednesdays and you on Thursdays.

Q: What would you characterize as your biggest accomplishment as a pastor?

A: Moving the church beyond the walls of the church by establishing the nonprofit organization, at the time called Calvary Ministries of the Westend Community, which is now the Westend Community Foundation, Inc. and going through the process of the nonprofit having gained ownership of the property for \$25 of the facility and the success of campaigning in the 1996 bond referendum for the 6.4 million dollars for the renovation of the Community Family Life and Recreation Center. That's major. In the height of the recession, we built this church. We started in 2008, and in January, 2010 we were in here!

Q: What do you see as your greatest failure as a pastor?

A: Not being strong enough in administration. Developing some type of initiative for better volunteers. We didn't have that, and we still don't have that. It might not be a failure of mine...but I see it as mine. What I always wanted to guard against from my first church pastoring was making sure there was an atmosphere of being welcome to do ministry in the church...welcome to be a part of the church.

Q: What will you miss the most about pastoring and preaching at FCBC?

A: Interacting with the people.

Q: Do you plan to affiliate with another church, or keep your membership/discipleship at FCBC?

A: The interesting thing...technically, I don't have membership here. By being the pastor, I became a part but I didn't technically join First Calvary. My family did. Right now, we are praying on where we go but it looks like I'll still be here. I'm still with the American Baptist Churches of the South. I serve as the minister to the American Baptist USA, so I have to be a part of an American Baptist Church wherever I go.

Q: What advice or words of wisdom would you like to leave to the congregants of FCBC?

A: Keep loving God and keep being an exciting church excited about its mission. And make the missional effort continuing to be about evangelism, enhancing, and empowering the people and discipleship. Discipleship is still the key. Dr. Forbes brought that here. He said it's not about membership; not about maintenance...it's about discipleship.

Q: What are Abraham Asaad's plans now that you are retiring?

A: I have plans of going into the studio pretty soon. Don't know quite yet when. Still working on studio time.

Q: Is there anything you want to specifically say to the Calvary Chronicle Staff?

A: Thank you for your commitment and your service in keeping the congregation edified.





Pastor and Mrs. Davis:

Best wishes on your next chapter in life! Keep us posted on those bucket list items! Be blessed in retirement!

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Sis. Mary Vickers

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Pastor Fredrick A. Davis

Sis. Dennise Lindsay

Sis. Elnora Shields

*Are you a writer? Do you aspire to the likes of Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, or Nikki Giovanni?

*Are you a regular “shutterbug” who enjoys taking pictures?

Are you an up-and-coming Gordon Parks, Lorna Simpson, Carrie Mae Weems, or John H. White?

*Do you have a talent for editing?

*Do you have an eye for proofreading?



*Are you a wiz at graphic design, or possess a talent for visual presentations?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, the Calvary Chronicle is in need of your talents! Please contact the Calvary Chronicle via email at calvarynews@firstcalvary.org if interested in joining the staff!



**Continue to join us
for worship each
Sunday at 9:30am
in person, via the
church website,
YouTube, and
Facebook page!**

The mission of the Calvary Chronicle ministry is to promote communication among the members, disciples, and friends of FCBC in the spirit of Christian Love.

If you are interested in joining the Calvary Chronicle staff, please contact Dr. Toni McIntosh at calvarynews@firstcalvary.org or (919)341-4645. Thank you!