

June 2021

Greetings, Beloved Church Family!

It's official! We are fifty-nine years old!!!! Happy Church Anniversary! To God be the glory!!!

Since 1962 the favor of the Lord has rested upon the church first known as Riverside First Baptist Church. Throughout these nearly six decades, we have sought to shine the light of Jesus Christ through worship, evangelism, study and service. We have done our best (with the help of the Lord) to make a difference in the Third Ward of Houston and everywhere our witness would take us. As we celebrate this year's anniversary, we pray the Lord is pleased with our efforts to honor Him and bless His people.

We must thank God for the tireless service of our beloved Founder, Pastor William Alexander Lawson. For 42 years he served as pastor of our church, ensuring the progress of what began as a vision, but quickly blossomed into a blessing for countless individuals within and without the greater Houston area. To God be the glory for the work and witness of our Founding Pastor Emeritus!

Next, we pause to celebrate the memory of our Founding First Lady, Mrs. Audrey Ann Hoffman Lawson, without whom our church would not be nearly what it is. We thank God for the phenomenal partnership she shared with Pastor Lawson and the indelible impressions she made on our church's life. Along with the Lawsons and their family came Charter Members, who to this day, continue to maintain their support of and faithfulness to our church family. Thank you for being the amazing people that you are and for ensuring the progress of our congregation for the entirety of these 59 years.

We praise God for the dedicated leadership of our clergy, deacons, deaconesses and trustees. Throughout these years God has blessed our congregation with gifted and committed leaders who have served the Lord (and His people) with gladness! Couple those leaders with all of our ministry leaders, servants and an excellent church staff, and you are blessed with the Wheeler Avenue that we all know and love! Thank you, ladies and gentlemen!

Now, to the most phenomenal congregation any pastor could ever hope for—Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church membership, I thank God for you! I am grateful that you make my job so easy because of your willingness to run with the vision God has given me for our great church family! On June 1st I celebrated 23 years as a member of the leadership of our congregation. After 6 years as associate pastor, and now nearly 17 blissful years as pastor, I stand in awe of how God has blessed me to serve a church that always leaves me saying, "WOW!" Thank you for being such a magnificent community of believers!

As we make our way toward the celebration of six decades in the service of the Lord, we pause this month to bless the Lord for blessing us and using us and favoring us during these 59 years of building the Kingdom of God through Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Third Ward, Houston, Texas!

It's official! We are fifty-nine years old!!!! Happy Church Anniversary! To God be the glory!!!

With abundant joy,

M.D. Cosby