



First Trinity Church Of God In Christ  
800 South Catalpa Street  
Pine Bluff, AR 71603  
[www.firsttrinitycogic.com](http://www.firsttrinitycogic.com)

52<sup>nd</sup>  
*Homecoming Celebration*  
FIRST TRINITY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

2021

**“CELEBRATING THE PAST WHILE MOVING  
FORWARD WITH THE GRACE OF GOD”**

Philippians 3:14, Isaiah 43:18-19



**Sunday, February 28, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.**

**(IN-PERSON OR ONLINE)  
CDC GUIDELINES WILL BE FOLLOWED**

*Guest Speaker*

**BISHOP MICHAEL JONES  
ARKANSAS THIRD JURISDICTION PRELATE**

**ELDER AARON WITHERS, PASTOR**





February 28, 2021  
.THE OFFICE OF PASTOR AARON WITHERS

## First Trinity Church Of God In Christ

800 South Catalpa Street, Pine Bluff, AR 71603 •Website:www.firsttrinitycogic.com  
Phone Number: 870-534-2873 •

Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus Christ.

We are tremendously grateful to share in our 52nd Annual Homecoming Celebration. First Trinity is renowned and respected throughout the country and around the world for its domestic and global impact. Countless souls have been transformed for the better, because of our commitment to bringing the Kingdom to our community.

First Trinity is a beacon of hope and continues to stand amidst turbulent times. We are currently in a Global Pandemic and we have been challenged to conceptualize church in a different way. We are adapting to new norms, new leadership, and new ideas. This is a pivotal point in the life of our ministry and the focus should remain Christ-centered. We should have a goal in mind and be determined to reach forward.

Like Paul stated in Philippians 3:12-14:

*“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also, I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

In 2021, we launched our “First Trinity Forward” initiative. The objective is Faith, Focus, and Fellowship. Our faith should increase and go upwardly, because we look to Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith. We should focus inwardly and examine our devotion to God. Lastly, we should fellowship outwardly, enriching and empowering those around us. Indeed, the foundation at First Trinity is sure and its heritage and legacy is rich and long lasting. We must continue to build upon this strong foundation. With the help of God and the continued support of our membership, we will embrace the past and evolve into the future with forward momentum.

Honored to Serve,

Pastor Aaron Withers

## Necrology

*“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Ethel Acre  
Margie Anderson  
Alberta Armour  
Josephine Avery  
Martha Barnes  
Foster Battles, Sr.  
Mildred Battles  
Vanesta Battles  
Pearlie Mae Bearden  
Climmie Bishop  
Davola Bishop  
James Bishop  
Sam Bishop  
Rosie Biddle  
Alberta Blackwell  
Nehemiah Blackwell  
Levert Blunt, Sr.  
Mildred Blunt  
A.D. Borton  
Wilma Borton  
Rosie Bornsalter  
Sister Kay Brown  
Square Buckner  
Eyraslene Burrell  
James Burrell  
Ella Cannon  
Telesha Cannon  
Jessie Carter  
Kimberly Clark  
Margie Clark  
Willie Clayborn  
Katherine Clemmon  
Annie Cobb  
Benjamin Cobb  
Erma Cook  
Mamie Conner  
Joyce Crowder  
Tennessee Crowder  
Brenda Cuba  
Sydney Cuba  
Mildred Dade  
Hannah Ruth Davis  
Tommy Davis, Sr.  
Taylor Dunbar  
Naomi Edwards  
Pinkie Farver  
Marilyn Ford  
Christine Franklin  
Doris Gibson  
Ola Gibson

John T. Gilmore  
Stuart C. Gilmore  
Bessie Green  
Gertrude Green  
Helen Green  
Carrie Kendrick  
W.H. Kendrick  
Johnny Graham  
Allen Grissom  
Ethel M. Grissom  
Erma Grimes  
William Grimes  
Ann Harris  
Cordella Hart  
Daryl Hart  
Raymond Hawkins  
Ora Lee Heard  
Barbara Hicks  
Henry Hicks  
Dewitt Hill, Sr.  
DeWitt Hill, Jr.  
Erma K. Hill  
Horace Hill  
James Hill  
John Hill  
Patricia Hill  
Rosie Lee Hill  
Kansas Iverson  
Willie Iverson  
Beatrice Jacko  
Deloris Jackson  
Eli Jackson  
Maggie Jackson  
Matilda Jeter  
Artis Johnson  
Ben Johnson  
Charles Johnson  
Richard Johnson  
Lille Jones  
Carrie Kendrick  
W.H. Kendrick  
Nealie Key  
Carolyn LaFlora  
Earlean LaFlora  
Pearl LaFlora  
Thomas LaFlora  
Cleo Lee  
Michael Lockett  
Millard Lockett  
Peggy Lockett

Robbie London  
Ophelia Marshall  
Betty Matthews  
Sadie Mays  
Virginia McElvaine  
James McIntyre  
Mamie McIntyre  
Onie McLeod  
Ora Lee McLeod  
William McLeod  
Willie McLeod  
Bessie McMurry  
Clem McMurry  
Lee Andrew McNeal  
Cornelius Merritt  
Cleo Merritt  
Rose Merritt  
Jessie L. Miller  
Cheyenne Moore  
Christopher Moore  
Johnny Moore  
Jewel Morgan  
Frankie Morrison  
Katie Noble  
Jeffrey Norris  
Carolyn Parish  
Eursie Perry  
Roscoe Pittman  
Charlotte Pree  
Surrilla Price  
Eddie Joe Pulliam  
Thomas Pulliam  
Elizabeth Reed  
Doretha Reynolds  
Odis Richmond  
Otis Robinson  
Omae Rodgers  
Mary Sanders  
Mamie Scott  
Pearlie Mae Scott  
Carrie Smith  
Chester Smith  
Earselean Smith  
Howard C. Smith  
Jesse Smith  
E. Stoudamire-Edward  
Carrie L. Stoudamire-Smith

Joe Stocker  
Priscilla Stovall  
Lee Ella Thompson  
Lewis Tidwell  
Queen Tisdale  
Vertna Tolbert  
Cleophis Turner  
Laura Umphrey  
Alma Weekley-Vaughn  
Pearl Vaughn  
Ramey Vaughn  
Essie Ware  
Guy Walker  
Jerry Walker, Sr.  
Naomi Walker  
Rosie Walker  
Clementine Wesley  
Hense White  
Alpha Wilkerson  
Rodessie Williams  
Loredia Williams  
Eliese Wilson  
Roosevelt Wilson  
Rosie Winston  
Edward Woodus  
Shirley Woodus





## *A Historical Glimpse*

The history of First Trinity Church Of God In Christ is almost as old as the Church Of God In Christ itself. It was revealed that the church had its beginning in 1910. This was three years after Bishop Mason had received the Holy Ghost at the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, California. The first known meeting place was on Sixth and Maple Streets in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas. At that time, the church was called, “the Sanctified Church.” In 1911, when Bishop C.H. Mason and the congregation moved from that location, they church moved on Fourth Street in a tent and from there to a house. In 1913, the Matthew family who were parents to the late Mother Mary Z. Sanders, grandmother to the late Mother Alpha Wilkerson donated the land on Catalpa Street so the congregation could build a sanctuary. The church was built on 700 South Catalpa Street in Pine Bluff just adjacent to the current location. Once the church was built, it was known as “The Mother Church” and often referred to as the “Tongue-Lane Church”. There are reports that Bishop D.J. Young who was a travelling companion with Bishop Mason was also co-pastor. The chronological order of pastors are:

**1911-1913 Bishop C.H. Mason, Bishop C.P. Jones**

**1913-1915 Elder R.E. Harding**

**1915-1921 Elder G.R. Washington**

**1921-1926 Elder J. Boer**

**1926-1932 Elder W.M. Rogers**

**1932-1957 Bishop W.H. Kendrick**

**1957-2019 Saint DeWitt Hill**

**2020-Present Elder Aaron Withers**

During the pastorage of Bishop W.H. Kendrick, the church was rebuilt and the name was changed to “*Trinity Temple Church Of God In Christ*”.

In 1957, Elder DeWitt Hill became pastor and continues to serve to the present date. To the structure built by Bishop Kendrick was added an educational wing, kitchen, modern facilities, restrooms and drinking fountains. In 1968, the structure was destroyed by fire and fifty percent loss to the educational wing.

In 1968, the church bought an acre of land adjacent to the present property and built the beautiful and spacious edifice which was dedicated in 1969. The property purchased included a six-room house which was moved to the rear of the church and renovated for classrooms. The educational wing, which was damaged by fire was renovated for classroom facilities also. The church added approximately one block in concrete parking facility to the church property.

During the 1975 Homecoming, Trinity Temple was renamed “First Trinity”. Saint DeWitt Hill pastored Greater Trinity Church Of God In Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas and recommended changing the name to First Trinity because Greater Trinity was located in the Greater Little Rock community.

April 15, 2019, Saint DeWitt Hill was transitioned from mortal to immortality and Superintendent Jerry Williams was assigned as the pastor Designate. In January, 2020, Bishop Jewel Withers appointed Elder Aaron Withers as the pastor of First Trinity.

The church has a multi-purpose center on the corner of Sixth and Catalpa, 16 Unit housing center for seniors, a office complex in the heart of downtown Pine Bluff (*The Hill Minority Business Center*), state of the art video cameras and surveillance system, broadcasting around the world through social media, World Wide Web, weekly Webcast. The church provided the basis for Greater Trinity Church Of God In Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas, The church sponsored the bond to build Nineveh Temple Church Of God In Christ in Forrest City, Arkansas. First Trinity has built churches and schools in Haiti, Bahamas, Jamaica, Philippines and support teachers’ salaries monthly. The church supports orphanages and clinics in Haiti and support the Jurisdictional Headquarters (Vision 2000).



## *Bishop Michael A. Jones*

**B**ishop Michael Jones is a pastor, husband, father, community advocate for the disadvantaged, and the prelate of the Arkansas Third Jurisdiction. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Bishop Jones went on to obtain his Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resource Management from Delta University. As an Economic Development Specialist for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Minority Business Development Center, he helped develop business plans and secure financing for minority clients. After returning to the University as the first Transfer Coordinator, he organized a UAPB admission path for declined students through the Associates to Bachelors (A2B) Program. As a Community Development Specialist with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, he used the travel abroad opportunities to Africa and Austria to organize the MidSouth Delta Youth Initiative involving over 300 students from Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana developing and implementing youth community development projects.

Since 1997, Bishop Jones has serve as pastor of the Revival Center Church Of God In Christ in Monticello, Arkansas. Under his leadership, Revival Center has implemented programs to touch the heart of the Monticello community. Programs include: The Back to School Extravaganza which provide free school supplies and equipment to area youth and encourage academic excellence. Camp BeNae, an eight-week summer program, promoted healthy self-esteem and social interactions while equipping students with additional skills to make better decisions, manage stress, and develop self-respect. The Feed America program serves approximately 350 families a month through the Revival Center food pantry.

Bishop Jones faithfully served as Superintendent of the Monticello District, First Administrative Assistant under the leadership of the late Bishop Joe Baylor Mason, and Executive Secretary for the Church of God in Christ International Auxiliaries in Ministry. He is married to his loving, supportive, and dedicated wife, Evangelist Missionary Tira Jones. They have three beautiful children: Michael II, Mi’Kira “Alex”, and Morgan.

# This is My Mission

(Sung to the tune of “Blessed Assurance”)

**Blessed with His goodness, blessed with His love,  
Blessed with His showers, that come from above;  
Blessed with His sunshine, blessed with His air,  
I’ll go on helping everywhere.**

**God give the courage, faith leads the way,  
Onward we travel, happy and gay;  
Thinking of others, willing to share,  
Taking God’s message everywhere.**

**Re-mem-bering others whenever I pray,  
Looking to Jesus, He is the way;  
Onward I travel, He’s by my side,  
I’ll never falter, He is my guide.**

*This is my mission, this is my prayer,  
Helping the needy everywhere;  
This is my mission, this is my prayer,  
Helping the needy everywhere.*

## Sister Kimberly Cole, Presiding

Call to Worship ..... Eld. Calvin Grissom

Old and New Testament Scriptures ..... Eld. Otis Walters

Prayer ..... Eld. Vernon Jimerson

Hymn.....”This Is My Mission” ..... Psalmist Denice Howard

Welcome & Recognition of Visitors ..... Sis. Diane Tatum

Homecoming Greeting..... Missionary Ruth Swindell  
*New Beginning COGIC  
Tyler, Texas*

## The Sacred Salute Necrology Video Presentation

Congregation Song ..... Missionary Teresa Martin

Homecoming Greeting..... Elder David Grissom  
*Pinnacle COGIC  
Charlotte, North Carolina*

Offering.....Pulpit

Introduction of Speaker ..... Pastor Aaron Withers

The Word..... Bishop Michael Jones  
*Prelate, Arkansas Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*

Call to Discipleship

Announcements and Benediction