



HISTORY

In January 1921, Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church was founded by a small group led by Dr. Joseph Edison Walker at 974-978 Mississippi Boulevard. MBCC became the first African-American congregation in the city of Memphis to belong to the brotherhood of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

When the congregation outgrew this facility, a new air-conditioned sanctuary was built in 1952. In 1979, a disastrous fire completely destroyed the educational building and resulted in extensive damage to the main sanctuary. On August 26, 1984, MBCC moved to a 1,700-seat sanctuary at 250 East Raines Rd. in Whitehaven. Phenomenal growth in membership at MBCC has occurred under the shepherding of the following senior pastors: Elder W.P. Martin (1921), Elder Blair T. Hunt (1921-1973), Elder Lee E. Koonce (1973-1978), Dr. Alvin O. Jackson (1979-1997), Rev. Thomas L. Murray (1998-1999) and Dr. Frank A. Thomas (1999-present).

The Mississippi Boulevard Christian Academy was located at 1255 Poplar until it closed doors in 2000. The building is currently occupied by Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering, the city's leading academic middle and high school.

Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church has been instrumental in the establishment of four other African-American Disciples of Christ congregations; Riverview Christian Church (1949), Walker Memorial Christian Church (1954), Community of Faith Christian Church (1995) and New Direction Christian Church (2001).

During the past eight years under the leadership of Pastor Frank Anthony Thomas, MBCC has continued in the vision of the Founders to be servants of the Most High God. There are more than 70 ministries operating within MBCC which meet many needs of both the congregation and the Memphis metropolitan area at large. We have learned to love our neighbor, value clarity, show compassion, seek freedom from bondage, pursue truth, worship from our spirit, and live a life of evangelism and service.

MBCC exists to reach, ignite, and empower passionate servants of Jesus Christ who serve the world and each other. Indeed, we desire to be a peaceful, fruitful and accountable church that makes 10,000 passionate servants of Christ in every generation. God is moving us to have a passionate desire to please Him and "do the right thing" in all relationships. God has blessed us with growth in membership and is calling us to growth in spirit. MBCC honors the Founders for answering the call of the Lord in the founding of the church. MBCC answers its call with a yes and amen!