

**The Concluding Celebration  
of the Silver Jubilee of  
Pastor Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr., Ph.D.**



**Sunday, August 28, 2022**

**11:00 AM**

**First Baptist Church  
101 South Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Emmett G. Price III  
Community of Love Christian Fellowship**

## **The Silver Jubilee of Pastor Dumas Alexander Harshaw, Jr., Ph.D.**

### **The Occasion**

**By Deacon Linda E. Booker as presented on September 26, 2021**

Giving honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to the presiding minister, the Reverend Joseph J. Briggs, to our honoree, Pastor Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr., to our special guest, the Reverend Alvin Tunstill, Jr., to the other clergy, program participants, members, and guests of First Baptist Church... Good afternoon!

Sunday, September 1, 1996, marked the commencement of a new era in the history and life of our church, First Baptist Church, 101 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC. On that day twenty-five years ago, Dr. Dumas Alexander Harshaw, Jr., preached his first sermon as the Tenth Pastor of First Baptist Church. On that date, twenty-five years ago, the entire Harshaw family, (Dr. Harshaw, his wife, Mrs. Sharon Denise Stringer Harshaw, and their children, Dennaë, Dumas III, and Shanise) united in membership with First Baptist Church. And so began a twenty-five-year union of Pastor and People.

Today, we are assembled to begin a year-long, monthly commemoration of Pastor Harshaw's Pastoral Silver Jubilee. A silver jubilee is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a significant event; said another way, it is our celebration of the passing of a quarter-century since this match of Pastor and People was made in Heaven.

Take a moment and just think about the past twenty-five years and what that means. I am not suggesting that we try to tabulate the Pastor's accomplishments. For even if we counted the number of Sunday sermons or Wednesday night Bible Studies, or the number of baptisms or weddings or eulogies or prayer meetings or church conferences, the prayers of comfort, the visits, the phone calls, the house blessings, the baby dedications, the graduations, birthdays, and all the unseen ways that Pastor Harshaw has ministered to us and served us. . . Or, if we attempted to enumerate the ministries he started or enhanced, the associate ministers and clergy he has guided, the sons and daughters in the ministry he has mentored, the building improvements that were made, the storms (natural and spiritual) he has weathered, the community partnerships and affiliations he established, or the divinity school courses he has taught during his pastorate; undoubtedly, we would still fall far short of accurately measuring how much the Pastor's presence has truly meant to our congregation and the community at large spiritually. We simply acknowledge in the words of Paul to the Thessalonians, "We continually remember before our God and Father Pastor Harshaw's work produced by faith, his labor prompted by love, and his endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." Only God knows the full measure of what our Pastor has poured into us and to what extent lives have been changed and saved.

Rather, what we can do during this year-long occasion is to take our time, and in the words of Virginia Woolf, "give passionate attention" to the matchless grace of God which has orchestrated it all and has held us together as Pastor and People for all these years.

So, what is this occasion?

First, this Pastor's Silver Jubilee is an occasion for *rejoicing* and *remembering*. The Apostle Paul's Letter to the Philippians urges us to "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again, I say rejoice." John the Apostle tells us why: ". . . Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given." To paraphrase the words of the great Prophet Jeremiah, God has given us, in Pastor Harshaw, "a shepherd after God's own heart who has fed us with knowledge and understanding." Therefore, the Prophet Moses tells us, "To remember that the Lord your God led you all the way." Pastor and People knitted together and growing in Christ.

Secondly, this Pastor's Silver Jubilee is an occasion for *thanking*. We humbly thank God for all that God has brought us through. "God has attended to the voice of our prayers and has shown His mercy," according to Psalm 66. Through Hurricane Fran, the Bremson Building fire, our pastor's bouts with illness, the civil unrest in downtown Raleigh, and even now, through the unparalleled COVID 19 global pandemic, God's "mercies have been new each morning, great is His faithfulness." We are still here, Pastor and People.

Finally, this Pastor's Silver Jubilee is an occasion for *worshipping* and a call to *praying*. As David, the Psalmist writes, "We will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on our lips." "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence," insists the writer of Hebrews, "so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." In Ephesians, the Apostle Paul shows us, "In him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

So, in faith, let us worship God "in the Spirit and in truth," and earnestly pray that God's providence and favor will continue to bless us as Pastor and People in the days ahead.

In closing, during the year to come, as we give passionate attention to the grace of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, through *rejoicing*, *remembering*, *thanking*, *worshipping*, and *praying*, we will roundly declare our gratitude, love, prayers, and support for Pastor Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr., Ph.D., our beloved Tenth and current Pastor of the First Baptist Church, 101 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC, for our dear First Lady, Mrs. Sharon S. Harshaw, and the entire Harshaw family.

**To God be the Glory!**

## **Theme: Grace Upon Grace, More Than Sufficient!**

*But he said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. II Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)*

### **The Concluding Celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Pastor Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr., Ph.D.**

**Associate Ministers in Charge**

**Reverend Joseph Briggs, Presiding**

### **Order of Service**

**Prelude**

**Mr. John Massenburg, Organist  
Mrs. Gwendolyn Neale, Pianist**

**Call to Worship**

**Reverend Joseph Briggs**

*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great GOD, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. Psalm 95:1-6 (NIV)*

**Invocation**

**Reverend Briggs**

**Scripture**

**John 1:14, 16-17**

**Reverend Cynthia Meekins-Mattocks**

**Songs of Praise**

**Congregation**

**"We Have Come This Far by Faith"  
"Praise Him"**

**The Occasion**

**Reverend Philip Broyles**

**Litany**

**Dr. Leon D. Parker, Sr.**

**Musical Selection**

**The Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. Jubilee Choir  
"Center of My Joy" – Smallwood**

**Welcome of Visitors**

**Reverend David Dolby**

**Special Tributes**

**Introduction of Speaker**

**Reverend Briggs**

**Pre-Message Music**

**Deaconess Aleta Howell  
"I Give You Jesus" – Fender**

**The Sermon**

**Dr. Emmett G. Price III  
Founding Pastor  
Community of Love Christian Fellowship**

**Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

**Dr. Price**

**Altar Prayer**

**Pastor Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr.**

**Musical Selection**

**“Heal Me”– MacAlmon**

**The Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. Jubilee Choir**

**Special Recognition of Guests**

**Remarks**

**Dr. Dumas and Mrs. Sharon Harshaw**

**Musical Selection**

**“Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me” – Weatherley**

**The Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw Jr. Jubilee Choir**

**Benediction**

**Dr. Price**

**Postlude**

**“Let the Church Say Amen” - Crouch**

**The Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw Jr. Jubilee Choir**

## **Pastor’s Prayer**

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17 (NIV)*



## **“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”**

by Albert A. Goodson

We’ve come this far by faith  
Leaning on the Lord;  
Trusting in His holy Word,  
He's never failed me yet.  
Singin' oh, oh, oh,  
Can't turn-around,  
We’ve come this far by faith.



## **Praise Him!**

Donnie Harper/New Jersey Mass Choir

Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Jesus, blessed Savior  
He's worthy to be praised.

From the rising of the sun  
Until the going down of the same.  
He's worthy, Jesus is worthy;  
He's worthy to be praised.

Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Jesus, blessed Savior  
He's worthy to be praised.

Glory! Glory!  
In all things, give Him the glory!  
Jesus, blessed Savior,  
He's worthy to be praised!

God is our Rock,  
Hope of salvation;  
A strong deliverer,  
In Him will I always trust.

Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Jesus, blessed Savior  
He's worthy to be praised.

## Silver Jubilee Litany

Leader: Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

**People: For His mercy endures forever:**

Leader: Let those who fear the Lord now say,

**People: His mercy endures forever.**

Leader: The Lord is my strength and song,

**People: And He has become my salvation.**

Leader: This was the Lord's doing.

**People: It is marvelous in our eyes.**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

**People: We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!  
For His mercy endures forever.**

Leader: For a relationship which began through the exercise of faith, vision, and prayer.  
For the congregation of First Baptist Church who diligently prayed for a Pastor in 1996.  
For Pastor and Mrs. Harshaw who sincerely prayed for God's will and a place to serve the Lord.  
For God's answer to both prayers to glorify His Name and to extend the work of God's Kingdom in Raleigh, North Carolina. We thank You, O Lord.

**People: And of His fullness we have received, grace upon grace.**

Leader: For the spiritual union between Pastor Harshaw and First Baptist Church for twenty-five years and beyond. What God has called together has been a blessing and a sheer act of Grace. We thank You, O Lord.

**People: And of His fullness we have received, grace upon grace.**

Leader: For the unfailing support of First Lady Sharon, the Harshaw family, and members of First Baptist Church that have made these years an enriching experience for the Harshaws, First Baptist Church, and the community. We thank You, O Lord.



**People: And of His fullness we have received, grace upon grace.**

Leader: For the preaching and teaching of the Word of God;  
For the ministries of discipleship, the pastoral care and  
ministries of encouragement;  
For new disciples, baptisms, baby dedications, and memorial services;  
For fellowship offerings, mission initiatives, campus improvements, and  
outreach;  
For all that have made First Baptist Church "*A Point of Contact for the  
Kingdom of God*" for over twenty-five years. We thank You, O Lord.

**People: And of His fullness we have received, grace upon grace.**

Leader: To You, God of all grace, we give all the glory for Your  
amazing, abounding, all-sufficient grace poured out upon  
Pastor Harshaw and the disciples of First Baptist Church. We thank You, O  
Lord.

**People: And of His fullness we have received, grace upon grace.**

**All: Today we pray for God's continual anointing upon Pastor  
Harshaw and the ministry of First Baptist Church as we in faith  
look to the future that God alone will provide.**

**For God knows the plans He has for us; plans to  
prosper us and not harm us, plans to give us hope and a  
future.**

**Amen.**

*Scripture References: Psalm 118:1,4,14,23,24,29; John 1:16; Jeremiah 29:11*

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Emmett G. Price III**



Emmett G. Price III is an internationally recognized expert on Black Music & Culture, Afro-Diasporic sacred and secular expressions, and Christian Worship. He has spent much of the past few decades writing, lecturing, and conducting cutting edge research on bridging the generational divide. A well-regarded scholar and educator, Dr. Price has the unique ability to capture the hearts and minds of the most diverse and versatile audiences with his compassionate sense of humor, his amicable intellect, and his quick wit. He is a noted print and broadcast media expert, as well as a widely sought-after keynote and motivational speaker.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Dr. Price received a B.A. in Music from the University of California, Berkeley, and earned both his M.A. and Ph.D. in Music (ethnomusicology) from the University of Pittsburgh. Currently, Dr. Price serves as Dean of Africana Studies at Berklee College of Music, Boston, Massachusetts, and Visiting Associate Professor of Music at Harvard University. Prior to his current post, Dr. Price served on the faculties of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (2016-2021) where he founded the Institute for the Study of the Black Christian Experience (ISBCE) and Northeastern University (2001-2016) where he served as chair of the Department of African American Studies (2008-2012). He has served as visiting professor at Boston University, Berklee College of Music, Andover Newton Theological School, and Brandeis University. He has served as a guest lecturer at over 50 universities worldwide.

An acclaimed scholar, Dr. Price is the author of *HIP HOP Culture* (ABC-CLIO, 2006), executive editor of the *Encyclopedia of African American Music* (ABC-CLIO, 2011) and editor of *The Black Church and Hip Hop Culture: Toward Bridging the Generational Divide* (Scarecrow Press, 2012). He is the former editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*. Along with numerous commissioned writings and book length

chapters, his work can be found in *African American Review*, *American Music*, *Black Music Research Journal*, the *Boston Banner*, the *Boston Herald*, *Ethnomusicology*, *GIA Quarterly: A Liturgical Music Journal*, *International Jazz Archives Journal*, *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, *NOTES: Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association*, and *Yale Journal of Music and Religion*.

Dr. Price is a celebrated keynote and motivational speaker in high demand; he has addressed audiences at Nike, Network Health, the U.S. Coast Guard, Raytheon, Year Up, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & Museum, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Inc., the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Business Journal, American Jazz Museum and many more. He has made several appearances on GBH-TV's Basic Black, WNYC's RadioLab and NPR's All Things Considered. Dr. Price is a regular contributor to GBH-Radio's Boston Public Radio segment "All Revved Up!" and is the co-executive producer/ co-host of the very popular All Rev'd Up Podcast.

A trained musician, Dr. Price has performed throughout the United States, the Caribbean and Europe as both a solo artist and as a sideman. As a composer and arranger, he has worked with internationally lauded poet and playwright Ed Bullins, the Greater Boston/Cambridge John Coltrane Memorial Concert Ensemble, the Zamir Chorale of Boston and numerous gospel choirs, sacred music ensembles and jazz bands across the globe.

An ordained minister, Dr. Price serves as Founding Pastor of Community of Love Christian Fellowship (Allston, MA). Since 2011, he has served as the Director of the James Abbingdon Church Music Academy as part of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference & Choir Directors' and Organists' Guild. Dr. Price is a respected civic leader and arts advocate currently serving as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Emmanuel Gospel Center (EGC). He is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra and a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Contemporary Art/ Boston. He previously served as CEO and Board Chair of Jazz Boston and former Board Chair of the MetroWest YMCA Association. Dr. Price is a Trustee of the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies and former Trustee of Massachusetts Bay Community College.

This year Dr. Price celebrates 21 years of marriage to the love of his life, Nicole Gayle Price, Esq. They are proud parents of Emmett G. Price IV (a rising sophomore at Berklee College of Music) and Nicholas R. Price (a rising senior at Framingham High School).

**Dumas Alexander Harshaw, Jr., Ph.D., Pastor**

*“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts.”*  
Zechariah 4:6

**“A PASTOR’S HEART: A STORY OF OUR PASTOR’S JOURNEY”**



Our Pastor, the Reverend Dr. Dumas Alexander Harshaw, Jr., once wrote that his occupational objective was “to become a servant of God in the ministry of the care of souls. This desire and call can be fulfilled in the realms of the pastoral ministry and/or the teaching ministry.” Through the amazing grace of God, Pastor Harshaw has lived out that objective in every aspect serving as a Minister of the Gospel for over fifty years, including holding pastorates for over forty years and being a Professor of Theology for over thirty years. His assignments have been many and various: altar boy, youth counselor, evangelist, Sunday School teacher, minister’s assistant, chaplain, revivalist, associate minister, assistant pastor, senior pastor, adjunct professor, dean, and mission instructor. Upon examining Pastor Harshaw’s journey as a Minister of the Gospel, one can see that God has made him one of God’s *“pastors according to my own heart which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding,”* as recorded in *Jeremiah 3: 15*. Pastor Harshaw, now in his twenty-sixth year as the tenth pastor of First Baptist Church, has indeed been gifted with a heart of compassion for his flock, a keen desire to teach and preach the Word of God to the unconverted and to feed and shepherd God’s sheep. His career in the ministry is a happy meeting of his heart’s intention and God’s Holy Will.

Attaining a Christian education is foundational in the life of a true pastor-teacher. A scholar and lover of theology in every respect, Pastor Harshaw’s ministerial journey has been supported in each step by his pursuit of a strong Christian education, earning five degrees. In 1972, he earned the Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Point Loma

Nazarene University in San Diego, California. In 1978, he earned both his Master of Divinity Degree and Doctor of Ministry Degree from the Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, California. The following year, in 1979, Pastor Harshaw earned the Master of Arts Degree in Theology from Point Loma Nazarene University of San Diego, California. In 2015, Pastor Harshaw earned his second doctorate, the Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California.

Through the years, Pastor Harshaw has had several theological articles published. His scholarship and experience as a pastor have afforded him many teaching and lecturing experiences throughout the state and country, including but not limited to Adjunct Professor at Shaw University Divinity School, Raleigh, NC; Campbell University Divinity School, Buies Creek, NC; the Apex School of Theology, Durham, NC; Duke Divinity School, Duke University, Durham, NC; Palmer Theological Seminary, The Seminary of Eastern University, Philadelphia, PA; Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA; and Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA, his *alma mater*. His most recent, noteworthy lecture engagement took place this year when Pastor Harshaw represented First Baptist Church and Shaw University Divinity School at the 2022 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Baptist Scholars International Roundtable at Christ Church, Oxford University, England. He joined scholars from a broad array of disciplines to consider how Baptists around the world have engaged in higher education practices. Pastor Harshaw's dynamic paper was entitled, "The Baptist Church and the Beloved Community: A Promising Partnership," noting the influence of higher education on the leadership of Howard Thurman and Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a pastor and minister of the gospel, Pastor Harshaw follows in the spiritual footsteps of generations of ministers and pastors before him in his family. His paternal great-grandfather Reverend Michael Harshaw was a pastor in Morganton, NC, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Reverend Michael Harshaw's son, Pastor Harshaw's paternal grandfather Dr. David A. Harshaw, was born in Morganton, NC on June 20, 1888, and became an African Methodist Episcopal pastor in Springfield, IL. In addition, our pastor's maternal great-grandmother Minister Essie Hickman was a lay minister with the Nazarene Church in St. Louis, MO.

With such a spiritual heritage, Pastor Harshaw's Christian journey began at a youthful age. The young Dumas was born on October 11, 1950, to Dumas Alexander Harshaw, Sr., and Lois June Upshaw Harshaw (both deceased) in Springfield, IL where he grew up in a Christian home. It was as a young boy in Springfield that Dumas' life-long journey of Christian service began when he became an altar server at St. Paul A.M.E. Church, the same church where his grandfather, Reverend Dr. David A. Harshaw, had pastored over thirty years before young Dumas was born. At age ten, Dumas moved to

Pasadena, California with his parents and his three sisters Paula, Cherry, and Sandra. Throughout his formative years, he was a church member in various churches, always participating in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and other activities. Following a dramatic conversion experience as a high school teenager, he began to seek God earnestly and to experience deeply God's presence. Ultimately, he recognized and embraced the ministerial calling in his life.

Pastor Harshaw's surrender to God's calling placed him on a path of evangelism and preaching the gospel to youth on the edge. Before his being called as a pastor for the first time, Pastor Harshaw's roles began to shape his identity and style of ministry. His growing, closer walk with God expressed itself outwardly in a desire to spread the gospel through lay preaching and witnessing to his peers in urban Pasadena, as a Youth Counselor and President at the Pasadena Youth Christian Center, a para-church ministry led by Reverend Ed Bryant. This work under the nurturing tutelage of Reverend Bryant helped lay the spiritual foundation of his life's work as a pastor-teacher. Continuing to Altadena and Los Angeles, now in his twenties, Pastor Harshaw became increasingly intentional and involved in his Christian service. He was an Associate Minister to Pastor A. Winston Best, Bethel Church of the Nazarene (1968-1970); Pastor James Reese, Neighborhood Community Church (1971-72); and Pastor G.B. Washington, Bethel Church of Christ (Holiness), (1972-75), ministering in each church with increasing responsibilities and opportunities. While he was an Associate Minister at Bethel Church of Christ, Pastor Harshaw was licensed to preach in 1974, and ordained in 1975, by the Church of Christ (Holiness), marking two significant milestones on his journey. At Baldwin Hills Baptist Church he served as Christian Education Director /Youth Director, a paid position, and assisted the pastors, Pastor Forge and Pastor Ronald Roberts, (1976-77).

Overlapping Pastor Harshaw's Christian work as assistant minister in the various congregations listed above, his positions during his "pre-pastor" years from 1972-76 as Protestant Chaplain at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, in Downey, CA; Protestant Chaplain and Juvenile Camp Coordinator in Los Angeles County; and most significantly, Protestant Chaplain at the Wayside Honor Rancho in Castaic, California also richly contributed to his maturity and training as a pastor. Whether it was maintaining contact with church groups; planning religious programs for nine different detention facilities; daily counseling on spiritual matters, home problems, and crises situations with male and female inmates ranging in ages from eighteen through sixty-five, Pastor Harshaw's devotion to his calling was characterized by his ability to form close relationships with his counselees, to care deeply about their spiritual, emotional and physical well-being, and to teach the clear gospel message of redemption and hope. His *chaplainships* were, in effect, *pastorates*.

Pastor Harshaw's next ministerial post (1978-79) was as Associate Minister of the Holman United Methodist Church under the leadership of Pastor James (Jim) M. Lawson, Jr., the noted social activist who had been a trusted colleague of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Pastor Lawson taught courses on Dr. King at the Claremont School of Theology. His hiring of Pastor Harshaw proved to be a significant turning point for Pastor Harshaw because it included his appointment as the Pastor of Fourth Avenue Community Church (now Martin Luther King United Methodist Church), an extension of the Holman UMC's ministry in Southwest Los Angeles. The Lord had established him in his first pastorate, giving him first-hand knowledge of the pastoral ministry. As Fourth Avenue Community Church's first pastor, Pastor Harshaw built the foundation of an emerging United Methodist congregation.

Until this point, Pastor Harshaw's approach and attitude toward the direction of his ministry was simply to follow God's leading as he accepted each spiritual task before him. It had been this openness that had provided so many diverse experiences in ministering to God's people. In 1978, Pastor Harshaw while a student in the School of Theology at Claremont, spent a semester of Parish Studies under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Elliott J. Mason, Sr., Pastor, at Trinity Baptist Church in Los Angeles, California. Pastor Harshaw had become a member there earlier in 1977. This seminal course of study helped Pastor Harshaw to clarify his direction, reach an understanding of and develop his style of ministry, and develop the skills necessary to assume the responsibilities of ministry. His time at Trinity also fostered a close relationship with Dr. Mason, whom he grew to love and revere as his spiritual, surrogate father and mentor. And so it was that while Pastor Harshaw was still pastoring and leading the Fourth Avenue Community Church, he made what he has described as his only conscious professional decision. That decision was to be ordained into the Baptist denomination, an intentional decision that allowed him to enjoy the freedom that the denomination offered as well as the opportunity to minister to the Black community more fully. Accordingly, on July 9, 1978, the Ordination Council of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and the American Baptist Churches, USA jointly ordained Pastor Harshaw at Trinity Baptist Church.

From 1979 through 1985, Pastor Harshaw served as Assistant Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Elliott J. Mason, Sr. Upon Dr. Mason's retirement in 1985, Trinity Baptist Church called Pastor Harshaw to be its eighth senior pastor. For the next eight years (1985-1993), this "pastor according to God's heart" successfully led Trinity Baptist Church through a period of spiritual growth through the establishment and enhancement of church initiatives and ministries which emphasized expository teaching, stewardship, outreach, and missions. All told, Pastor

Harshaw was a “servant of God in the ministry of care of souls” at Trinity for fourteen years.

During his fourteen years at Trinity Baptist Church, Pastor Harshaw’s personal life changed dramatically upon finding his wife and becoming a devoted husband and father. On June 28, 1980, he wed his beloved, the former Sharon Denise Stringer, and together they became the proud and devoted parents of three children: Denna Malesa, born April 6, 1981; Dumas Alexander III, born October 22, 1984, and Shanise Lauren, born August 7, 1987. By God’s grace, the Harshaws celebrate their forty-second wedding anniversary this year, and the Harshaw family has increased to include their daughter-in-law, Amy Jimenez Harshaw; their son-in-law, Kevin C. Mark; their five granddaughters, Kayla Marie Harshaw, Sophie Marie Harshaw, Gabrielle Julianna Mark, Eva Celine Mark, Victoria Claire Mark; and their grandson, Dumas Alexander Harshaw IV. As a pastor and family man, Pastor Harshaw epitomizes the Scripture as recorded in part in *1 Timothy 3: 2,4*, “*Now the Overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife.... He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.*”

Discerning a new leading of the Lord, Pastor Harshaw resigned from Trinity Baptist Church on February 28, 1993, to accept the position of Area Director of Africa, Europe, and the Middle East for American Baptist Churches USA, Inc. The new position meant a cross-country move to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania for the young Harshaw family. Officially, Pastor Harshaw coordinated the work of ABC Missionary Personnel assigned to Africa, Europe, and the Middle East and maintained collegial relationships with partner national conventions. He later served as Special Assistant to the Executive Director of International Ministries for ABC, USA. Beyond the seemingly administrative tasks of “coordinating the work” of the personnel, Pastor Harshaw’s role is more accurately described as a pastoral one. Living in Pennsylvania and traveling to and from the Congo (formerly, Zaire), and learning the French language, he grew to know and love the American career missionaries and Congolese pastors and leaders and their families, shepherding and feeding them as their Pastor from 1993 until 1996. His pastor’s heart of commitment and care revealed itself as clearly as ever.

The time came in 1996 when Pastor Harshaw’s heart desired to be the pastor of a local congregation in the more traditional sense once again. He missed the close pastor-congregation relationships such as those he had known in California. In his words, he longed to pastor “a very small congregation where he could minister and preach, teach in the community, and remain quietly in the background.” God’s Holy Will was to send him to the not-so-small congregation of the historic First Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. Since he arrived at First Baptist Church, he has not remained quietly in the background by any measure.



God answered the effective, fervent prayers of the Harshaw Family and the First Baptist Church Family to bring the two together and form the spiritual union and marriage between the pastor and the people. Easter Sunday, April 6, 1996, Denna Harshaw's fifteenth birthday, denotes the beginning of Pastor Harshaw's enduring association with First Baptist Church. It was on this date that Pastor Harshaw preached his sermon at First Baptist as a candidate to become its tenth pastor as a part of the church's pastor search process. First Baptist Church called Pastor Harshaw to be its pastor in July 1996. On September 1, 1996, he preached his first sermon as our pastor, and each member of the Harshaw family became a member of First Baptist Church that day. The following year, First Baptist Church on Wilmington Street in Raleigh, NC installed Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. as its tenth pastor on Sunday, April 7, 1997. In this historic service, Pastor Harshaw's spiritual father Dr. Elliott J. Mason, Sr. delivered the installation sermon entitled "The Book of Dumas."

*Ephesians 4: 11-13(NIV)* affirms, "So Christ himself gave...the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Pastor Harshaw's twenty-six-year-long sojourn at First Baptist Church has been and remains God's gift, a mutual gift shared between the pastor and the people. Among the many personal gifts received from First Baptist Church, Pastor Harshaw counts the opportunity to serve the Lord by serving the people of First Baptist Church; the secure organizational foundation of First Baptist, which protects the people and the pastor; and the gifted and resolute leaders across the years. Most especially, he treasures the encouragement, acceptance, and love that have been shown to his family. He derives great joy contemplating such things as the significant and life-changing relationships that have ensued; the church's personal and corporate growth in matters of the heart and spirit; the maintenance of the Church history and renovations to the Church campus; seeing and witnessing the birth of children and nurturing young people, who now are having children and grandchildren of their own; the growth of fellowship and discipleship ministries; the burning of the Bullock Building Mortgage; the vibrancy of the Christian Education Ministry including Sunday School, Bible Studies, Vacation Bible School, and the evangelism it represents; and the list goes on. He has learned what love and compassion mean in human relationships, the meaning of patience in pastoral leadership, being transparent and committed to truth-telling personally and professionally, and always walking in faith and trusting in God for the results.

Likewise, as God's gift to us, our congregation has been led by an extraordinary pastor during his most energetic and prolific years. Pastor Harshaw has embodied the ideal Overseer. He has been "*temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of -money. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders (1 Timothy 3: 2b-4, 7b.)*" For an entire generation, our congregation has benefitted from Pastor Harshaw's unwavering priority on teaching and preaching the Word of God as well as his compassionate presence, and personal interest in the members' individual, personal, professional, and family achievements. From the apprehension at the turn of the century and the year 2000, through the heights of the magnificent commemoration of the First Baptist Church's Bicentennial in 2012, until the unparalleled challenges of the COVID 19 Pandemic of 2020 and beyond, Pastor Harshaw's leadership has remained Spirit-filled, visionary, and undaunted, establishing First Baptist Church as "A Point of Contact for the Kingdom of God." He is a spiritual father to many sons and daughters in the Lord who have been his theology students or have served the Lord under his pastoral tutelage and are now licensed and ordained ministers of the Gospel. Throughout the City of Raleigh and the State of North Carolina, our Pastor is the recipient of countless distinguished awards, honors, and recognitions, including the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award, the State of North Carolina Governor's highest honor. He holds memberships and chairmanships in dozens of religious, professional, Greek, and civic organizations, boards, and committees. Moreover, Pastor Harshaw has cherished and sustained the vital relationships between First Baptist Church and the Wake Baptist Association member churches, the Historic Churches of Downtown Raleigh, and other congregations of diverse denominations throughout the city. Furthermore, under the Pastor's leadership, First Baptist Church has continued its fundamental affiliations with and support of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; the American Baptist Convention, USA; the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society; and the General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc. Finally, in support of local Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), under Pastor Harshaw's pastorate, the partnerships between First Baptist Church, Shaw University, and Shaw Divinity School have endured and flourished; in recent years, a partnership with Saint Augustine's University has been established.

Upon reflection on his life as a pastor-teacher, Pastor Harshaw credits his success to three essential, yet constant elements. *One* is his endless personal search for Jesus and his constant hunger for a closer walk with Him. *Two* is his internalized notion of being a "citizen of the world." This idea, which he attributes primarily to his mother's upbringing, allows him to cultivate friendships and minister to people of all walks. *Three* is his desire to work with teens in difficult environments, such as juvenile halls and

prisons, and to extend to them the same spiritual lifeline, i.e., the saving grace of Jesus Christ, which someone once extended to him by God's grace when he was a teenager.

In addition, he is appreciative of the generous hospitality of the citizens and leaders of Raleigh, the Triangle, and the State of North Carolina, especially the clergy, political/elected leaders, and community leaders who have embraced his ministry in significant ways. Above all, he expresses a deep sense of gratitude for the love and support of First Lady Sharon, his children, and his extended family. Finally, more than ever before, he acknowledges the Holy Spirit as his ultimate resource as a pastor, according to *Zechariah 4:6*, "*Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts.*"

Pastor Harshaw has pastored three churches over the last forty-four years. His longest and most consequential tenure has been at First Baptist Church where he commemorated his Silver Jubilee Anniversary, celebrating twenty-five years, on September 1, 2021. By God's grace, Pastor Harshaw's longevity at First Baptist Church, orchestrated and maintained by God alone, has brought him great personal joy, has endowed him with a deeper understanding of the essence of the role of pastor, and has wrought lasting contributions to the life of our Church. As the year-long celebration of Pastor Harshaw's Silver Jubilee ends, we look ahead to his imminent retirement with heartfelt thanksgiving and in awe of God's glorious and amazing grace.



# God's Grace in Action

1996-2022

## Ministries begun or Enhanced under Pastor's Leadership

20-Year Envision Plan September 1997	Annual Men's Retreat	Renewal and Strategic Planning Initiative 2015-2016
Cultural Enlightenment Ministry	Health Ministry-Exercise Class	Co-Convener of Holiday Remembrance Service for Capitol Square Churches
Men's Fellowship	Intercessory Prayer Ministry	
Women's Fellowship	Senior Ministry and Bible Study	Co-Convener of Pre- Thanksgiving Worship Service with Edenton United Methodist Church
Partnership Ministry	Social Committee	
Stewardship Ministry	200 <sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Celebration	Co-Convener of Capitol Square Easter Sunrise Service
Sports Ministry	Young Adult Sunday School (YASS)	Co-Convener of Joint Health Fair Event with Edenton Untied Methodist Church (10 Years)
Parking Ministry	Evangelism Ministry	Family and Friends Day
Health Ministry	Annual Prayer Conference	7 Minutes of Daily Prayer for FBC
Pastoral Ministry Team	New Year's Watch Night Service with Martin Street Baptist Church	Spirit to Spirit – Word of Encouragement
Decorating Ministry	Beloved Community Day	Christian Doctrines Class for New Members
Multi-Media Ministry	Growth of Homeless Ministry and Worship	Get-Acquainted Lunch Pastor Harshaw
Greeters Ministry	Mission Prison and Jail Ministries	
Young Adult Choir	Purchase of Morgan Street Property	
Male Chorus	Building of Family Life Center	
Praise Dance Ministry	Purchase of New Vans and Buses	
Praise Team		
Capital City Intergenerational Care, Inc. (CCICI)		
Parent Advisory Committee		
Children's Church	Church Camp Repairs and Improvement	
Angel Tree Nursery Ministry	Established Dual Alignment with American Baptist Churches USA	
Annual Women's Retreat		



## Partnerships Established

Alliance Medical Ministry

Wake Interfaith Hospitality  
Network

Habitat for Humanity –  
Downtown Churches Coalition

Duke Progress Energy – *The  
Wills Clinic*

Host Church for the 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Conference of  
Student Nonviolent  
Coordinating Committee  
(SNCC)

Raleigh Concerts of Prayer

Duke-Raleigh Hospital –  
COVID 19 Vaccinations

Wake One

Step Up Ministries

## Church Mission Trips

Haiti

Zambia

## Other Engagements with the Community

Adjunct Professor at Shaw University Divinity  
School

Dean and Adjunct Professor at Apex School of  
Theology

Spiritual Formation Group Leader at Duke  
University Divinity School

Adjunct Professor at Campbell University School of  
Theology

Wake Missionary Baptist Association National  
Prayer Day Breakfast

Mission Class Instructor for Lott Carey Baptist  
Foreign Mission Convention

Chair of Political Action Committee of the  
Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Raleigh

Chair of Management Committee General Baptist  
Convention of North Carolina

Co-Chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
Celebration Committee of Raleigh, and Wake  
County

Commissioner and Chair of the Martin Luther King,  
Jr. State Commission

Co-Convener of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther  
King, Jr. State Observance Annual Service with  
First Baptist Church, Salisbury

Founding Board Chair of Triangle Martin Luther  
King, Jr. Committee

Co-Chair of Congregations for Social Justice of  
Raleigh and Wake County

Chaplain for North Carolina Highway Patrol  
Conference of Student Non-violence Coordinating  
Committee

Live Streaming Church Service and Bible Study via  
Facebook and YouTube

Hosted 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the  
Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*With Thankfulness to Our Beloved Pastor and First Lady*

*Pastor Harshaw*, you have served the Lord, tirelessly, faithfully and with great compassion for His flock. God has blessed you and made your life a blessing. God has chosen you and called you His own. God has gifted you and rejoices in all that you are. Thank you for listening to the Shepherd's voice and taking good care of His flock.

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens,  
and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Daniel 12: 3

*First Lady Sharon*, you shine forth in our midst, a radiant reflection of God's love. As a devoted wife and helpmate to your husband and as a believer whose identity is in Christ, your love and care are beautiful examples of a faithful heart. Thank you for your kind heart, your caring ways, and your love for the Lord that touch many hearts.

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Proverbs 31: 30-31

*What a blessing you have been in this life...*  
*As a devoted Pastor and his faithful Wife.*

--From your First Baptist Church Family

# Acknowledgements

## Flowers

Fallon's Florist

## Multimedia

Master Paul Haynes  
Deacon Steven Haynes  
Mr. Gregory Taylor

## Music

Deaconess Aleta Howell  
Mr. John Massenburg  
Mrs. Gwendolyn Neale  
Mr. Ryan Robinson  
Mr. Gregory Taylor  
The Dumas A. Harshaw Jr. Jubilee Choir

## Program

Associate Ministers  
Mrs. Angela Leonard  
Mrs. Betsy A. Young  
Pastoral Ministry Team  
International Minute Press

## Scholarship Committee

Mr. Lee House  
Dr. N. Gerry House  
Deaconess Aleta Howell  
Deacon Kevin Howell  
Deacon James Overman  
Deaconess Wanda Overman  
Deacon Gladys Walker, Chairman

## Photography

Mr. Jerry Head  
Mrs. Pearlie Gill

The Pastoral Ministry Team acknowledges with special appreciation the First Baptist Church ministries who conducted services during the yearlong celebration of the Silver Jubilee of our Pastor and First Lady. In addition, thank you to all current and future donors to the Harshaw Legacy Scholarship Fund.

## Pastoral Ministry Team

Deacon Linda Booker  
Mr. Charlie Booth  
Mrs. Francine Booth  
Mrs. Frances Cain  
Mrs. Leola Davis  
Ms. Willette Leach  
Mrs. Annie McCall  
Mr. Charles McCall  
Mr. Michael Royal  
Mrs. Vicki Royal  
Ms. Linda Washington  
Deacon Gladys Walker, Chairman