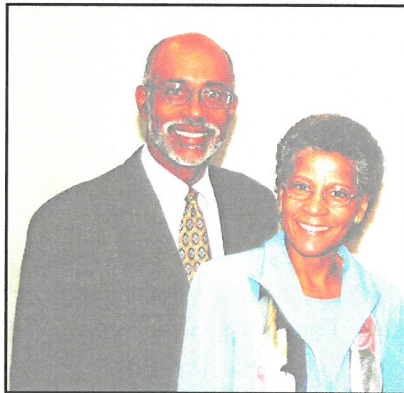


**BETHESDA  
WORSHIP CENTER**



*40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
1969-2009*



*District Elder Charles L. and Evangelist Dr. Barbara J. Reid  
Pastor & First Lady since 1996*

*Bethesda Worship Center  
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# BETHESDA WORSHIP CENTER



1280 East Algonquin Road - Des Plaines, Illinois 60016

Forty Years of Blessings!

The congregation that is now known as the Bethesda Worship Center has been in Des Plaines, Illinois, since 1969. In this the 40<sup>th</sup> year of ministry in this city, we indeed want to celebrate God's blessings.

As the current pastor, I thank God for the vision He gave to our founding pastor, Robert Burns, and to bring the fullness of salvation to souls who did not know Christ. The United Pentecostal Church, as it was known then, ministered to many people and saw many lives changed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

From 1981 to 1996 the congregation continued to move forward in ministry and was led by the late Joubert and Hazel Webb. We celebrate their lives and their leadership.

In 1996 the Lord provided the congregation new leadership. And several years later we are continuing to follow the leading of the Lord in ministry to this community. Now known as the Bethesda Worship Center, we are committed to providing help, hope and healing to people who are hurting. We are a diverse congregation that celebrates being Bible-fed and Spirit-led.

We appreciate the many people who have supported this work – past and present. We are thankful that so many are continuing to pray for us and to work with us to achieve the goal of spreading the gospel of Christ to a world in need.

For you who are joining in worship for the first time, welcome. For those of you returning home to visit and celebrate the blessings of the Lord, I say "Welcome home!" For the current members of the congregation, thank you for your continuing work and support in providing ministry and truth of God's Word to those who will hear and respond. As we are waiting for His return, we look back, and we look forward, working as we wait.

Welcome! Help us celebrate Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords!

District Elder Charles L. Reid III, D.D.

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## Small Beginnings - Great Things through God History of Bethesda Worship Center

*"For who hath despised the day of small things?" Zechariah 4:10*

It began small, inauspiciously, but with a vision and a call of God to a newspaper man, who was also a minister affiliated with the United Pentecostal Church International (UPC). Robert Burns, along with his wife Wilma and their four children, Jan, David, Ron and Paul moved to Mount Prospect, Illinois, where Brother Burns, as he was known among members of the United Pentecostal Church International, worked for the *Des Plaines Suburban Times* newspaper. They attended a church of their faith in Elgin, but God was dealing with him to establish a church in Des Plaines.



He eventually found a building on the corner of Everett and Illinois Streets in Des Plaines and began meeting there on Sunday evenings and one night a week, since the congregation who owned it used it on Sunday mornings. Eventually the owner congregation dwindled and some of their members who were left started attending the services of the United Pentecostal Church, the congregation that Brother Burns and his family had established. The congregation began to grow and eventually God provided a building on the corner of Wolf and Oakton Streets in Des Plaines, across from Maine West High School. In 1970, the congregation rented and began meeting in that building, where it continued to grow through outreach into the community and the members inviting people one-on-one.

In 1977, a building was purchased at 1280 E. Algonquin Road. It was a church building that belonged to the Open Bible Church, but it now housed a daycare center. It was far too small for the growing congregation, but the church decided to purchase it anyway, and build a new sanctuary and basement in the rear. A woman in town bought the day care business that operated in the building and agreed to rent that portion of the building from the United Pentecostal Church.

After a slow start because of a two-foot snowstorm in December 1977 and the sale of the Wolf and Oakton building to a Korean Baptist congregation, which necessitated the United Pentecostal Church moving out, the new building at 1280 Algonquin was completed. During that time, attendance dropped because of the move into The Church of God building, (yet another rented space), and a change of the meeting time to Sunday afternoon. In addition, some of the key families moved out of the area, but God provided, and when the congregation moved to the new building at 1280 Algonquin in November of 1979, God began to add souls to the church. The church grew and prospered.

Meanwhile, the assistant pastor, Brother Richard Davis moved to Ohio, but God had sent another minister to the area, whose move was, in his mind, job-related. Brother Joubert Webb, along with his wife Hazel and their daughter, Jodi, had become members when the church was meeting at Wolf and Oakton, and he became the new Assistant Pastor, and later, pastor.

In 1981, Pastor Burns and his wife (the children were now adults and out on their own), moved to Hobart, Indiana, and Brother Webb became the new pastor. He pastored the church, and three other ministers, Charles Reid, Phillip Bentley and Jeanne Christian, helped with ministerial duties. Charles Reid became the Assistant Pastor and later, the pastor.

Under the leadership of Pastor Webb, the church grew, although several families moved away, and the church was able to restructure the debt for the new building and eventually not need to have the daycare facility on site. The daycare facility moved, and the area was used as a Sunday School room, and for other church-related functions.

Minister Phillip Bentley accepted an Assistant Pastorate at another church, where upon the death of its pastor, he became the new pastor. Minister Christian worked with two start-up churches, with Pastor Webb's permission and blessing. He allowed the fledgling churches' pastors she worked with to use the baptistery for baptisms of their new converts. Minister Christian also went on to become the Assistant Pastor of one of those fledgling churches.

Pastor Webb's wife, Hazel, who served as church pianist when her health permitted, passed away in 1995, and he retired shortly afterward. In 1996, Assistant Pastor Charles Reid took the helm as pastor, and was led by the Lord to allow two other Pentecostal congregations to meet in the church building when the congregation was not using it. A Korean speaking congregation, led by Pastor Jung Ho Park met in the afternoon, while a Spanish speaking congregation, Iglesia Maranatha, used the building on Friday and Sunday nights for several years.

Throughout its entire existence, God has blessed the faithfulness of its three pastors and done great things in a small place through which many individuals and an entire community have benefited.



## 1969-1981 Pastor Robert Burns

Under the ministry of Pastor Robert Burns, the congregation was established with many faithful members, several of whom remain in the congregation today. Several strides in development took place, including the building of the 1280 E. Algonquin Road edifice. Brother Burns loved people and found it easy to talk to people about Jesus. He was a master of door-to-door evangelism and picking up children for Sunday School. Sister Burns was famous for her chocolate cakes, and the Sunday School children loved it whenever she would bake for them. Brother Burns would evangelize the parents in the homes where he picked up children for Sunday School. The church grew in numbers under his pastorate, so much that a new building became a necessity.



*Pastor Robert and the late Sister Wilma Burns  
Photo taken in 2000 in Hobart, Indiana, where  
they lived after leaving Des Plaines*

Some of the people who came to the Des Plaines church were new converts, while others were transferees into the area. A few of the people that were part of that era were Ron and Loretta McKeighen, who served as pianist and organist, respectively, for the church for several years until Brother Ron transferred out of state because of his job; Carl and Lavelle Hall and Glenn and Brenda Lemons, who did so much of the work to beautify and maintain the new building, along with many other areas of service. Also, there were other families who came to the church during that era, and some of them have gone on to serve in other ministries, after serving faithfully at Des Plaines. Some of them are the Christian family, Nancy Boyce Nalbandian, and Jerilyn Barker Solberg, who are still a part of the church and have served in various capacities, Joseph and the late Ida Carnes and family; Phillip and Joan Bentley, who were the first couple to be married in the new building and who are now Pastor and First Lady of Mount Zion Apostolic Tabernacle in Evanston, Illinois; Franso and Glenda Griffin, who went on to found Living Waters Apostolic Church in North Chicago; Gertie Dunn, who retired and is now living in Tennessee; Loretta Jorgenson and her sister, Mae Ganas, both of whom have since gone home to be with the Lord. (Sister Ganas was part of the Des Plaines church at her passing.) A very special lady who came to Des Plaines during Pastor Burns' pastorate was Sister Modie Green, who relocated from Mississippi following her husband's death. She became a mentor to many of the younger women in the congregation, and some of them designated her as "Mother Green", making her the first woman in the congregation to be honored with that title.

Brother Lloyd Hardy served as Assistant Pastor under Pastor Burns, and he and his wife Pauline, as well as his brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Pat, along with both their families were a tremendous asset when the church was located at Wolf and Oakton Streets, as was Brother Richard Davis who later moved to Ohio.

There were many more people than those who are listed above, and God brought together a wonderful mixture of races and cultures. The Christian family was the first African-American family in the congregation, and God sent in Hispanic families, too. This mixture of people has been a hallmark of the Des Plaines church almost since its inception, even at a time when it was uncommon. Bethesda people say that the congregation is a microcosm of what the Bible says heaven will be like – "... redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." Revelation 5:9

Pastor Burns was very intentional about reaching out to the various ethnic groups, and as a result, the pattern for diversity was established under the providence of God and continues to this day.