

# Freeman, Mathis, among leaders of Morning Star Baptist

In 1869, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church was conceived and brought into being under a bush harbor near where the home of Bro. Dan Lawrence is located. Original founding fathers include Rev. Ben Sharpe, Rev. Marshall Coleman, Rev. Jeff Kincaide, Rev. Jeff Northcross and Rev. Black.

In 1874, the church moved from its founding location to a section of Humboldt known as 'Arkansas.'

Reverend J. T. Freeman was the leader of the flock from 1947 – 1957. It was during his leadership that the present edifice was built. Committeemen negotiated the purchasing of the site for the building, which is presently located on 12th Avenue. Groundbreaking ceremonies took place on March 27, 1949.

On October 5, 1952, the new Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church held its dedication ceremony. One of the largest newspapers of that time featured the article.

On the fifth Sunday in March, 1963 Rev. John H. Mathis, Sr. preached his first sermon at the church and became the pastor where he led the congregation until his passing in June of 2009.

Mathis pastored Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church for 46 years. During his 46 years of leadership, numerous innovations and organizations sprouted and growth was abundant. The building located across the street, formerly known as the Heglar Plumbing Company, was purchased and renovated as the Christian Education Building. It has

been made available to the entire community for various occasions.

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church underwent a major renovation that began on June 23, 2008 and included a new interior, two additional offices and restrooms, a new chandelier, sound system, new pews, new balcony, choir and pulpit furniture, newly installed carpet and tile and a new metal roof.

On June 12, 2009, God called Rev. Mathis home to glory after his work down here on Earth was done.

Assistant pastor, Rev. Johnny R. Turner continued to lead the flock from June 2009 until 2010. Rev. Turner led the

church through the storm of finding a new pastor.

On April 30, 2010, Rev. Quill Brabham, Jr. was elected as senior pastor of Morning Star. Rev. Brabham preached his first sermon as pastor on May 9, 2010. Although the circumstances at the church were very tragic due to a flood within the city and with everything the church owned under water, Pastor Brabham proudly accepted, with much compassion, the wet and mucky church he had been offered.

Under the anointed leadership of Brabham, the educational center has been dedicated and renamed "The Mathis Center."

The music director, Helen Cyrus, is over the music for every service and the youngest of the flock is led by Karen Johnson with Sanjenette Perry directing the teens of the church.

Since it's beginning, Morning Star MB has had a tradition of ministering to those in Humboldt and the surrounding communities. Their one true mission has always been to seek the opportunity to love all, pray for all, serve all and make disciples of all mankind while doing all things with integrity and in a spirit of excellence.

Morning Star is equipping individuals of this community to embrace their tomorrow during their services held at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. where people can meet in person or view the services online at [www.morningstarhumboldt.org](http://www.morningstarhumboldt.org). To attend mid-week services please call the church at (731) 784-3983.



Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church

