



## Rev. White becomes second longest serving pastor at New Ford Baptist Church

Submitted by  
REV. ED ANDERSON

Rev. Calvin L. Lockhart is the longest serving Pastor with 41 years of service. Rev. Albert T. Zellars served as Pastor of Historic NFBC for a total of 21 years. Rev. James White is in his 22nd year as Pastor of NFBC and is now the 2nd longest serving Pastor of NFBC. Having originally been established in 1795, New Ford is one of the oldest churches in Wilkes County. It became principally an African American Church in the 1870s when the white portion of the congregation established Danburg Baptist Church.

Born in 1947 in Burke County, Georgia, Rev. James White accepted the call to pastor New Ford Baptist Church in January 2001, while continuing to be employed in his career vocation as a Supervisor at International Paper Company in Augusta. His lovely wife, Sister Doris Griffin White, also a native of Burke County, and incidentally a former teenage beauty queen representing her county, arrived with him with all the charm, grace, and poise of a Miss Burke County, and more. While also winding down her career, she came to New Ford standing with and by Rev. White, and she has been with him throughout every step of the way. She brought with her a generous display of her gift of singing. Her gift of exhortation enables her to be active in encouraging the congregation and other citizens to vote in every election. She enjoys sharing success stories of local African Americans on the church bulletin boards. As a happily married couple, they are beautiful role models. They are the parents of three successful adult children and three smart and beautiful grandchildren. Indeed, they are loved, respected and appreciated by all the members and friends of the New Ford community.

A visionary pastor with preaching, teaching, love, and leadership as his spiritual gifts, one of his first decisions as pastor was to expand worship service opportunities from one Sunday a month (4th Sunday) to two Sundays a month ((2nd and 4th Sundays).

Subscribing to the words of some of his mentors, Pastor White has advanced the teaching that “Christian Education is that ministry of the church that undergirds every other ministry of the church,” and that “all Christians should be teachable.” Accordingly, during this season of Covid, he teaches Bible Study each Wednesday night via ZOOM and conference call from 6 until 7 p.m. Additionally, he has, from the onset, placed great emphasis on everyone attending Sunday School. The Adult Sunday School teacher has been Rev. Ed Anderson for the last 30 consecutive years. The Youth Teacher is Sister Dyann Jackson. The Assistant Youth Sunday School Teacher is Sister Virginia Sims. Moreover, Rev. White implemented an annual Vacation Bible School to convene in June of each year, under the leadership of Sister Dyann Jackson and Sister Pamela Banks. Our membership has increased in

knowledge and numbers over the years.

Rev. White has guided the church away from the old concept of “Boards” functioning as power entities within the church. Accordingly, the Deacon Board has become the Deacon Ministry, the Trustee Board has become the Trustee Ministry, the Usher Board has become the Usher Ministry, etc. This moved the congregation to seeing its involvement in the ministries and auxiliaries of the church as acts of service for the wellbeing of the entire congregation and to the glory and honor of God the Father, rather than as an insulated perceived power holding board. Contemporaneously, the Trustee Ministry was enlarged and given added duties and responsibilities.

Under the leadership of Rev. White, a planned and written budget has been established and approved for each upcoming year, by the church, at our annual December business meeting and church conference. Insistence on adherence to the budget has been ongoing. Additionally, an annual calendar with all the upcoming activities is formulated for the upcoming year at the annual December business meeting and church conference and is closely followed.

Early on in his pastorate, Rev. White began to teach the importance of Tithing. Many have accepted this teaching and are now tithers. Because of the generous giving of so many of our members and friends of New Ford during Family and Friends Day, the church has been able to accomplish the following, and much more.

Listed are some of the completed improvements during the pastorate of Rev. White from 2001 until 2010. The entire roof was replaced, the church foundation was underpinned, the Fellowship Hall was added, the inside baptismal pool was installed, vinyl church siding was installed, the entire church interior was painted, a new septic tank was installed, new carpet was installed, and new pews were added.

Some of the completed work during the period 2011 until 2022 includes the remodeling and making handicap accessible the front bath rooms, erecting a church cornerstone, spreading of gravel over the majority of the church parking area, adding the multipurpose room and the Unisex restroom in the rear portion of the church, installing exterior security lights in the front and rear of the church. The church purchased and installed all new chandeliers and ceiling fans in the church Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, chemically treating all vegetation in the church cemetery to minimize vegetation, and painting of a significant portion of the church. Commencing in 2021, the church implemented a 3 year Cemetery Improvement Plan.

Throughout the 2020 and 2021 Covid 19 pandemic, God enabled New Ford to continue to meet for Sunday morning worship service in either the front church parking lot or in the rear parking lot (Brush-Arbor). To God be the Glory.

## Fourth week of session with the Georgia General Assembly

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amended budget that focus on education, health, public safety, as well as the state’s workforce and infrastructure.

This new funding in the amended budget presents an opportunity to allocate funding towards our state’s aging infrastructure and vital workforce needs. Our budget dedicates more than \$900 million to the state’s infrastructure needs, such as replacing agency vehicles and school buses, upgrading state technology and maintenance, repairs, infrastructure, and design for state facilities. This AFY 2022 budget also makes a sizeable investment into retaining and recruiting state workers, including an allocation of more than \$900 million for salary increases for state employees, educators, and other school employees. Before July 1, full-time, benefit-eligible state employees would receive a \$5,000 salary adjustment, our teachers would receive a \$2,000 supplement, and many other school employees would receive a \$1,000 supplement.

Georgia’s K-12 education system is the largest budget expenditure and totals \$11.16 billion, or 43.3 percent of the general funds in the state budget. Due to the rebound in state revenues this last year, this amended budget restores \$383 million that is needed to fully fund our K-12 education system using the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula. The House’s version of the AFY 2022 budget also includes \$93 million in additional QBE funding for enrollment growth of 11,926 new public school students, \$188 million to purchase 1,747 public school buses, and \$5 million to help schools purchase alternative-fuel vehicles.

My colleagues and I were also able to allocate the necessary funds to help promote better health for Georgians, both physically and mentally. HB 910 includes \$263 million to meet the projected need from increased enrollment in the state’s Medicaid program. This budget also includes an additional \$1.7 million for the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce to fully fund residents in graduate medical education programs. Furthermore, \$500,000 is designated to the Morehouse School of Medicine’s new nursing program. Under the budget area for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, HB 910 provides \$416,875 for Georgia Options and the Matthew Reardon Center for Autism; these programs have been great partners to the state and provide incredible support services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. This budget also appropriates \$10 million to fund service cancelable loans for mental health practitioners to expand the workforce to meet increasing

demands for services. HB 910 also includes \$310,000 for the Georgia Crisis and Access Line to implement the National Suicide Lifeline in our state.

This budget also prioritizes keeping Georgians safe and supporting our law enforcement agencies and corrections system. This version of the AFY 2022 budget allocates \$1.3 million to support our judicial system’s critical operations. HB 910 also includes \$23.6 million to replace almost 600 vehicles for the Georgia Department of Corrections, Department of Community Supervision, Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), and Department of Public Safety. For the health, safety, and security of offenders in our correctional system, this budget designates \$432 million to the Georgia Building Authority for a state prison facility transformation and various technology projects. HB 910 also mirrors the governor’s recommendation to provide \$4.6 million in new funds to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund to help offset lower than normal probation fee collections, as well as \$1.8 million in unallocated training funds, totaling \$6.5 million in increased funding for this im-

portant initiative.

HB 910 includes funding for a number of other House priorities over the next several months. The governor recently announced that the electric vehicle company Rivian will bring nearly 7,500 new jobs to Georgia, and to support this initiative, this budget includes \$112 million in the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to support the local development authorities around the company’s new site. This version of the budget also includes funding for improvements to several state facilities, including the Georgia World Congress Center, the Georgia National Fairgrounds, and Jekyll Island State Park. Finally, HB 910 designates approximately \$483,000 to allow the GBI to hire four election complaint investigators.

When we return to the State Capitol on Monday, February 14, we will have another packed week under the Gold Dome. While this session is getting busier by the day, one of my top priorities will remain connecting with my constituents to hear your feedback about the work we are doing in Atlanta. I encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or concerns regarding legislation that has been discussed or passed so far.

## Back in the Day

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cial guests all combined to make a wonderful evening for all who attended the annual Valentine Ladies Night and Awards Banquet of the Washington Rotary Club last week.

People who have received unexpected and unwanted calls from various long-distance telephone companies, soliciting their business and offering inducements to switch long-distance carriers, could benefit from a program presented Monday evening, February 17, to the members of the Washington Lions Club at their regular weekly meeting.

*Extracted from the Office Cat Column.* Bill Bennett and John Davidson have begun work on restoring the old buildings on the south side of Court Street just before you get to the Old Jail. I saw what appeared to be an old juke box in there one morning, but couldn’t tell much about it because it was so covered in dust.

Dr. Ralph Hopkins, son of Mrs. FO. (Sara) Booker and the late Ralph Hopkins of Washington, led the Eagle Scout Ceremony at his church, the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, during the evening worship service on February 2.



**The Roy L Burns Senior Center Schedule: Monday – BINGO 10 a.m., Wednesday – Exercise 10 a.m., Thursday – BINGO 10 a.m.**

**The Washington City Council will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, March 14, at 6 p.m. at the Pope Center.**

**Jackson Chapel and Blackrock has a new phone number**

**which is 617-793-8272. Additionally, the worship time has been changed to 11:00 a.m. Worship service is now held in the church as well as virtually.**

**Are you about to turn 65? Need help with Medicare? The Wilkes County Senior Center offers free help through the Georgia Cars State Health Insurance Assistance Program every first Wednesday form 10 am -noon. The next session will be held at the Senior Center on Wednesday, March 3. For additional Medicare counseling services, call 866-522-4464.**

## Book Review

By MORRIS BRANSON  
Staff Reporter

### Harlem Shuffle By Colson Whitehead Published September 14, 2021

Colson Whitehead is known for his honest, sometimes disturbing, depiction of the black experience in the United States. He has won two Pulitzer Prizes for previous novels, *Underground Railroad* (2017) and *The Nickle Boys* (2020). In both of those books, he told a fictionalized version of real events. In this novel, he offers a crime drama set in 1960’s Harlem.

The protagonist, Ray Carney, is the first in his family to graduate from college. He runs a legitimate business, a furniture store, on the edge of the neighborhood. He considers himself an honest businessman, even if occasionally he acquires merchandise that “fell off the back of a truck” or fences the occasional piece of jewelry of questionable origin. “Ray Carney was only slightly bent when it came to being crooked...”

He gets involved in a robbery of the “Waldorf of Harlem”, the Hotel Theresa. Of course, the heist goes incredibly wrong and he gets sucked deeper and deeper into the world of organized crime. It turns out his father was a minor mobster, whose legacy comes back to haunt him.

Ray still considers himself a good man and sees his criminality as a step up for his family. He moves them from a small apartment to a house in the area known as “Strivers Row,” where his disapproving in-laws live.

Ray struggles with the dichotomy of striving to achieve on his own and the lure of easy money that the life of being part of the crime scene offers. He also realizes that he is powerless to easily escape the grip the gangsters have on him. Can he avoid getting killed, rescue his miscreant of a

cousin, get his share of the “big score”, all while preserving his reputation as the “source for all your quality home furnishing needs?”

*Harlem Shuffle* is an entertaining, well-written novel that plays out in the background of a faithfully recreated Harlem and New York City of the early 1960s. It is a family saga, crime novel, sometimes morality play, and ultimately a treatise on race and power.

I am very impressed with Colson Whitehead’s writing style. Although I appreciated his previous works for their scholarly adherence to history, I found this novel to be the most entertaining. I have to admit that I read this 336-page novel in two days, at least partially because I was sure disaster or death was right around the corner. I highly recommend it.