



# Elon First Baptist New Member Orientation Handbook



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# Introduction to Elon First Baptist Ministries

To all new members of Elon First Baptist, Pastor M. Keith McDaniel and the entire Elon First Baptist Church Family welcome you!

We encourage all new members to attend and complete your new member training. After completing your orientation, you will be presented your New Member Certificated and invited to join any auxiliary of your choice.

New member classes are held in the sanctuary each Sunday at 9:45. Information covered during these important sessions are located here so that you may acquaint yourself before, during and after the completion of your orientation.

If you have elected to complete the online tutorial, we ask that you send an email to one of the ministers listed in the back of the booklet so that you can complete the second phase of your new member training.

We look forward to seeing you!

*Pastor M. Keith McDaniel, Sr.*  
*Pastor and Teacher*





# What is Christianity?

A community, a way of life, a system of belief, a liturgical observance, a tradition? Christianity is all of these, and more. It is the belief in the triune God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. It is the very means by which one experiences a relationship with the triune God.

## **A Community**

Christianity is best lived and experienced in a community with other believers. Just as the triune Godhead lives in community as one, so should Christians. Jesus prayed that his followers would do just that. (John 17:22)

## **A Way of Life**

Christianity is a way of life. It is a way of being. It is the very means by which one is transformed into a new creature (Romans 12:1-2, 2 Cor. 5:17)

## **A System of Belief**

Paul stressed the basics every Christian must believe: that Christ died for our sins, that he was buried (really died), and that he rose again. (Romans 10:9-10, 1 Cor. 1:18, Gal. 3:13-14)

Christianity also believes in the triune Godhead. God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost form this Godhead. They are equal in substance and are always in communion with

each other. There is one eternal God, the Lord, who is holy love. Through his self-revelation he has disclosed to his people that he is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Yet he is not three deities but one Godhead, since all three persons share the one Deity/Godhead. (Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 12:4-6, 2 Cor. 13:14, 2 Thess. 2:13-14)

## **A Liturgical Observance**

The Christian faith has many liturgical observances to include but not limited to calendared events (such as Lent, Easter and Christmas), Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These observances and those that have not been mentioned are observed to celebrate and worship God for the great things which He has done.

## **A Tradition**

Christianity is a tradition that began in the 1st Century with the formation of the Christian church founded in the book of Acts (Acts 2). It rests on the belief in the resurrection of Christ. For if there had been no resurrection, our hope is in vain.

# Commission to Christian Workers

## **New Converts**

Scripture: 1 John 4:13-21

Conversion - Steps to a Christian Life

## **Repent**

Turn around. Change your mind. "I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3

## **Receive Him**

You need the Savior. Accept Him. "But as many received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.: John 1:12

## **Be Born Again**

This is what God does for you. This is the New Birth - a miracle of spiritual life performed by the Holy Spirit. "Which were born, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:13 and John 11:25.

## **Rejoice Publicly**

Make your testimony for Christ. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9, 10 and Matthew 10:32,33.

## **Request Water Baptism**

Make your testimony for Christ. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9, 10 and Matthew 10:32,33.

## **Read the Word**

The word is the source of your faith. “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:13, Romans 10:17, Psalm 119:105.

## **Reach God in Prayer**

Prayer is conversation with God. Life is sustained by union and communion (Ephesians 6:18 and James 4:2) “and this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” 1 John 5:14, 15.

## **Relate Your Experience to Others**

You maintain strength by exercise. “Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?” Ezekiel 33:9,10.

## **Resist the Devil**

Temptation is not sin. It is the yielding to temptation that is sin. “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:7.

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” Hebrews 4:15

## **Restitution**

Your guilt is gone, and you can convert your influence for good. “And Zacchaeus stood and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.” Acts 24:16

## **“Render.. Unto God the Things That are God’s”**

Start tithing your income immediately. “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee. In tithes and offerings. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith saith the Lord of host, if I will not open up the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:8, 10. See also 1 Corinthians 16:2.

## **Regularly Attend Church and Sunday School**

Associate yourself immediately with God’s people. Become a church member. Hebrews 10:25 “And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.” Luke 4:16.

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.” 2 Peter 1:3

# Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of Heaven and Earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only son, Our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended to the dead. x On the third day he rose again

He ascended into Heaven and He sits at the right hand of the Father.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal,

The communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and Life everlasting.

Amen

# Articles of Faith

The *National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.* ascribes to these Articles of Faith which should be adopted by Baptist churches at the time of organization:

## **I. THE SCRIPTURES.**

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

## **II. THE TRUE GOD.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

## **III. THE FALL OF MAN.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

## **IV. THE WAY OF SALVATION.**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his

personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

## **V. JUSTIFICATION.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

## **VI. THE FREENESS OF SALVATION.**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

## **VII. REGENERATION**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith, and newness of life.

## **VIII. REPENTANCE AND FAITH**

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.

## **IX. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

## **X. SANCTIFICATION.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

## **XI. PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

## **XII. THE LAW AND GOSPEL.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

### **XIII. A GOSPEL CHURCH.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons whose Qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

### **XIV. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

### **XV. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

### **XVI. CIVIL GOVERNMENT.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth.

### **XVII. RIGHTEOUS AND WICKED.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

## **XVIII. THE WORLD TO COME.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave for final

retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

Source: <http://www.nationalbaptist.com/images/documents/26.pdf>



# Elon First Baptist History

## Turn of the Century

A former slave, John McMullen began the first African American Church in the town of Elon College at the turn of the 20th century. He built Elon First Baptist Church on his land on Ball Park Avenue. Rev. McMullen was a very intelligent young man who owned a store adjacent to his white frame church.



## 1922

John McMullen remodeled the building by replacing the planks with a brick structure. The handmade bricks came from a brickyard that was located across the railroad track from the church. The entire congregation worked toward completion of this remodeling effort.

## 1925

After the death of McMullen, Rev. Sandy Gilmer began to pastor the church. Services were held on the third Sunday of each month. Rev. Gilmer pastored the church until his death in 1956. He was a prominent dedicated minister who was loved by many. As a token of the church's love and affection, his body lay in state at the church from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on September 10, 1956, so that the community both near and far

would be able to pay their respects.

## 1958

Rev. Weaver Davis was installed as pastor, and under his pastoral care, Evangelist Mary Ireland became the first lady to preach her initial sermon at Elon. Sister Ireland founded the Elon Gospel Chorus. The membership began to grow and many visitors fellowshiped with us on a regular basis. Under Rev. Davis, water and sewer services were installed, the pastor's office, classroom and bathrooms were added to the church building. A few years later, the Elon Elementary School property on Lynn Street was acquired as land to build a new church. Also during this time, the church purchased a bus for the ministry. In 1983, Rev. Davis retired as pastor to care for his ailing wife.

## 1984

Rev. Clarence Wall from Greensboro was installed as pastor. Sister Lena Summers was Mother of the Church and the visionary for the Missionary module of the Guilford Baptist Association; of which Elon was an active and very influential affiliate. Sister Mamie Cousin was Assistant Mother.

## 1990

On the first Sunday in August, following many years of praying and hard work, members and friends marched to the new church edifice on Lynn Street with the Elon Police and Fire Department lead the way. Pastor and Sister Wall, Deacons, Trustees, Choirs, members and friends followed with joy and pride.

The television station came to film the

march which was featured on the six o'clock news. Oh what a wonderful day! The church was filled to capacity. Friends and well wishers gave remarks and we all gave



thanks unto God for the great things He had and continues to do.

## **1990**

Deacon Sam Cousin played a great role in helping to make sure that the church building was constructed and completed.

## **1994**

Ms. Caroline Powell donated our baptismal pool, which was dedicated in honor of Sister Mamie Cousin. The old church bell removal and sign were donated by Isaac J. and Rosetta Foust.

## **1997**

With a lot of prayers, hard work, and with the business knowledge of the trustees, especially Trustee Raymond Warren, the mortgage to the church was burned on December 14th.

## **2001**

The first Big Tent Celebration to commemorate our 79th church anniversary was held on June 25th. We marched from the Ball Park Avenue Church to our current location. Pastor Wall preached from the topic: "I'm Going With Jesus All the Way." After the service, we had a blessed celebration with food and fellowship. Two additional church vans were later purchased as an anniversary gift to the church members at another tent celebration.

## **2004**

Pastor Wall served as pastor for twenty years. He was known for his singing ability and as well as his preaching. His years of service ended in October. Deacon Lawrence Slade, Chairman of the Board took on the task of contacting Ministers to preach each Sunday.

The congregation was blessed with hearing the Word from different ministers to preach each Sunday, including Elon's very own: Minister Jean Parris, Minister Keth Johnson, Minister Sharon Johnson, Minister Shelia Lea. The congregation fasted and prayed to God for direction.

## 2005

On the 3rd Sundays in March and May, God sent the Rev. M. Keith McDaniel, Sr., to preach. The membership recognized "A pastor's spirit" in him during both services. The church members and friends were truly blessed by the word from God. During the month of July, Rev. McDaniel preached every Sunday.



On the 2nd Sunday in August, the McMullen, Pennix, Johnson and Cousin family reunion was held. The Johnson family made a special presentation: a scholarship was begun for college students to aid in furthering their education.

Rev. McDaniel accepted the call as Pastor and was presented the keys to the church on the 3rd Sunday in August 2005. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Trustee Johnny Mapp, Elon First Baptist Church launched its first television ministry.

The surrounding communities continue to be blessed as they witness this component of our multimedia ministry.

During the month of September, several noteworthy blessings occurred: Pastor McDaniel and several members participated in Church Day on the campus of Elon University on September 9th. The Elon Gospel Chorus celebrated their 60th anniversary on September 10th and 11th. God truly rained down on this historic and anointed music ministry.

Pastor McDaniel has instituted a wholistic approach of ministering in order to promote healing and restoration for the total being. To that end the following new ministries have been implemented:

New Members Class, Oaks of Righteousness (Men's Fellowship), Women of Virture (Women's Fellowship), Faith in Action Committee, Computer Lab/GED, Intercessory Prayer, Singles Ministry, Senior Ministry, Preservation Committee, and Youth Rites to Passage Ministry

## 2006

In July, Elon First Baptist held their first Annual Renewal Conference. The purpose of this conference is to create dialogue with the larger community concerning issues of social and economic injustice. Other worship opportunities birthed out of the ministry of Pastor McDaniel include the Super Bowl Fellowship, College Day and the Winter Revival.

## 2008

This year proved to be a tremendous success in ministry. Elon First Baptist spear headed an environmental project entitled Heal the Land. This was a partnership between Elon First Baptist and Elon University. The first of its kind, the project focused on connected spirituality with care for the religious and racial barriers the project sought to create a dialogue of healing, socially, spiritually, and environmentally. Crossing demonational, religious and racial barriers the project brought the



community together and in one day, planted 1,600 Oak trees as a lasting symbol of communal healing. As the congregation continued to experience growth, additional earlier morning service was added to facilitate this growth and to provide additional opportunities for worship. The formation of a young adult choir and the remodeling of the church kitchen were also realized during 2008.

# Order of Service

Sunday School 9:45 am - 10:45 am

Devotional Service Led by Praise Team 10:45 am - 11:00 am

Call to Worship & Invocation

Opening Selection

Morning Announcements

Recognition of Vistors

Hymn of Inspiration

Saintly Fellowship

Missionary Offering

Offertory Musical Selection

Responsive Reading of the Psalms

**Leader** O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who has set thy glory above the Heavens.

**People** Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us the joy of thy salvation.

**Leader** Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

**People** Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us the joy of thy salvation.

**Leader** In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; Let me never be put to confusion

**People** Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us the joy of thy salvation.

**All** For they that trust in the Lord, shall be as Mount Zion which can not be removed, but abideth forever

Altar Prayer

Inspirational Selection

The Word

Invitational to Discipleship

Benediction

# Elon Ministries



Elon First Baptist Church ministries are proactively involved in church ministry as well as the Elon Community to provide healing and help to various levels.

## **Music Ministry**

Youth Choir  
 Elon Gospel Chorus  
 Male Choir  
 Senior Choir  
 Young Adult Choir  
 Praise Team

## **Dance Ministry**

## **Helper Ministries**

Deacons Ministry  
 Trustee Ministry  
 Usher Ministry  
 Greeter's Ministry  
 Pastor's Aid  
 Culinary Committee

## **Christian Education**

Christian Education  
 New Member Training  
 Bible Study  
 Kingdom Building Series  
 Tutoring Program

## **Outreach/Evangelism Ministries**

Missionary Circle  
 Faith In Action

## **Auxiliaries**

Men's Fellowship  
 Women's Fellowship  
 Tape Ministry  
 Youth Ministry  
 Intercessory Prayer  
 Computer Lab  
 GED Classes  
 Health In Him  
 Singles Ministry  
 Seniors Ministry  
 Preservation Committee  
 Youth Rites of Passage  
 Committee

# Associate Ministers of Elon First Baptist Church



*Under the Leadership and Direction of  
Pastor M. Keith McDaniel, Sr.*

## **Minister Silas C Hart**



Minister Hart is a former member of Union Baptist Church; where he was a member for 20 years. He has worked diligently in many ministries at Union: a van driver, a choir member and president, a Sunday School Teacher, Devotion Leader and Deacon. Accepting the call to preach in 2003, Minister Hart preached his initial sermon was licensed in October of the same year and joined the Ministerial Staff.

He is the son of the late Joseph and Sarah Hart. He is a graduate of Parkland Senior High school. He is married to the former B. Kay McDaniel and is the father of Pastor M. Keith McDaniel, Sr. and Mr. Timothy (Tia) Hart. He is the grandfather of two beautiful grandchildren: M. Keith McDaniel, Jr. and Madison Nicole McDaniel.

His favorite scripture: *“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment, thou shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their righteousness of me, saith the Lord.”* Isaiah 54:17.

## **Minister R. Keth Johnson**



Minister K. Johnson, a native of Burlington NC, is an associate minister at Elon First Baptist Church. He was called to preach the gospel in 1999 and delivered his initial sermon on Father’s day of that year. He is married to Minister Sharon Johnson and they have 3 wonderful children – Demario, Nicholas and Kayla. He has served on various ministries such as Sunday School Teacher/Superintendent, President/Director of the Gospel Chorus, member of the Elon Young Adult Choir, praise team, Head of the multimedia ministry, Discipleship Training Instructor, Adult Bible Study Teacher and Vacation Bible School Teacher. He has a heart for people and a desire to share the joy and love of Jesus Christ.

He currently enrolled in Liberty University pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in

Business Marketing. He has a genuine thirst for knowledge and growth and earnestly believes that “*people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*” (Hosea 4:6a).

## **Minister Sharon Johnson**



Minister Johnson was born and raised in Alamance County. While growing up, she was a member of New Covenant Holiness Church where she sang in the choir and worked in the ushers’ ministry. Currently, she is a disciple of Elon First Baptist Church, where she is an associate minister, Youth Advisor, Youth Bible Study Teacher, Discipleship Training Class Teacher and an Intercessor. She is married to Minister Keth Johnson. They have three wonderful kids- Demario, Nicholas, and Kayla. She desires to be the woman that God has called her to be.

Her favorite scripture is Psalm 27, *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?* Her favorite song is, “Oh How I Love Jesus!”

## **Minister Shelia D. P. Lea**



Minister Lea has worked persistently in the ministry since November 1999. Prior to joining Elon First Baptist in 1994, she was a member of United True Holiness where she served as financial secretary and deaconess, Adult Sunday School Teacher, and Bible Study Teacher. Since joining Elon, she has served as Adult Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School Teacher, New Members and Convert Class teacher, Church Comptroller, President and Vice President of the Ministerial Alliance. Currently, she serves as a disciple of EFBC ministry board, the coordinator and teacher of New

Members Orientation, finance committee, and advisor to Pastor’s Aid Board. With the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, she continues to conduct workshops on family matters and effective church membership.

Presently, she is pursuing a Ph. D. in Christian Education and holds a Master of Arts in School Administration and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education with a minor in Mathematics. She is a licensed business education and mathematics teacher as well as Principal in the States of North Carolina and Georgia. She is married to John W. Lea and has three children, Freddie, Johneva, and Shelly and three grandchildren, Desiree’, Christian, and Eva. Her

favorite scriptures are Psalm 100, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness...” and Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.” Her motto is TRUST GOD!

## Minister E. Jean Byrd Parris



Minister Parris is the eldest of five children born to Doris and Jerry Byrd of Elon North Carolina. She is married to Bro. Curtis L. Parris and the mother of three children, and grandmother of six. Minister Parris attended NC and North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC, and is presently attending the Alamance Community College in Graham, majoring in education and is certified in Office Systems Technology and Designs Graphics.

She is a lifelong member of Elon First Baptist and has served as Chairperson of the Elon Ministerial Alliance of Elon First Baptist Church, a teacher of the Adult Bible Study, Sunday school teacher, and vacation bible school teacher of Elon First Baptist. Minister Parris was inspired by the Lord to begin the Hallelujah Night service at Elon, the Holy Consecration Night service, and The New Convert Bible Gifting program at Elon.

Minister Parris preached her initial sermon at Elon in March of 1995. She has continued to minister the word of God selflessly over the years. Most importantly, Minister Parris has been, Called by God, Qualified through Jesus Christ and, Anointed by the Holy Ghost! Her favorite scripture is, (Jer. 29:11) *“For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

## Minister Joseph Summers



Minister Summers is in the music ministry. He plays the drums and assists with the various choirs. He is a disciple of Elon First Baptist Church where he sang in the C. R. Wall Ensemble, works with the ministerial alliance, and teaches the New Members Orientation class.

## Minister Lewis Davis Summers, Sr.,



Minister Summers is a native of North Carolina, residing in Elon, NC, with his wife Brenda Downey Summers. They have one daughter, two sons, and two grandsons. He is an Associate Minister and Adult Bible Class Teacher at Elon First Baptist Church, 113 Lynn Street, Elon, NC. He is employed with the North Carolina Department of Community Corrections as an Intensive Surveillance Officer.

He is a graduate of John Wesley College, High Point, NC with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministries.

He loves the Lord! He loves teaching and preaching the Gospel about his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

One of his favorite Bible verses: 1 Timothy 4:16; *“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”*

His prayer: To fulfill the great commission and tell everybody about somebody who can save anybody.

## Minister Donna Vanhook



Minister Vanhook is the daughter of Sarah Godfrey and the late W. Chester “Buck” Godfrey, Sr. She received her license to preach the gospel from Bethel Fellowship Church in Burlington, NC under the leadership of Rev. Otis Wiley during the month of March 2006. There she was the Director of Christian Education, and Adult Sunday school and Bible study teacher. She graduated from Elon University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Religious Studies and a minor in Human Services. She is currently pursuing a

Master of Divinity at Shaw University Divinity School with a concentration in Psychology and Pastoral Care; other academic interests are African American Studies, Black Theology, Womanist Theology and Women’s Studies, and New Testament Greek. She has been the Shaw University Divinity School High Point CAPE GSGA Representative since 2007, and is currently the teacher of the recently formed EFBC Young Adult Sunday School. Her passion is teaching biblical studies, particularly New Testament, and using her spiritual-giftedness in the area of women’s ministry; gifts other than teaching are counseling, leadership and administration.

One of her favorite Bible verses: *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”* Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

# Staff & Church Contact Information

## **Our Mailing and Physical Address:**

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Fax: 336.584.5797

## **To Reach Our Pastor**

[PastorMcDaniel@elonfirstbaptist.org](mailto:PastorMcDaniel@elonfirstbaptist.org)

## **To Submit a Prayer Request**

But be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

If you have a prayer request that you would like to submit, please feel free to submit that request using the following email address. It be directed confidentially to an an assigned minister, who will respond to your request.

[Prayers@elonfirstbaptist.org](mailto:Prayers@elonfirstbaptist.org)

To Contact:

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