

# HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## New Bethel Baptist Church

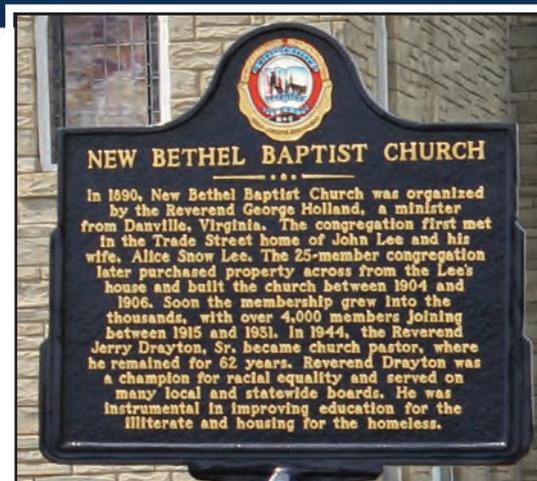
1016 N. Trade Street

The Reverend George Holland from Danville, Virginia organized the New Bethel Baptist congregation in 1890. Holland organized other African-American churches in Winston-Salem, such as First Baptist, Mount Zion Baptist, and Shiloh Baptist, all before 1900. New Bethel began in the home of Mr. John Lee and Alice Snow Lee, across the street from the present-day church building. When the congregation grew to approximately 25 members, a lot was purchased for \$960, and in 1904-1906 plans were made to begin construction of a church. New Bethel was constructed in a predominantly African-American neighborhood known as "The Pond" that had been devastated in 1904 when the City's water reservoir collapsed and flooded. Soon the membership grew into the thousands; church history states that 4,096 members were taken into the church between 1915 and 1931.

Over its long history, there have been several ministers who served New Bethel Baptist Church. Reverend Drayton was the longest tenured pastor in the City of Winston-Salem, with over 62 years of service to New Bethel. He was an effective and vocal leader in the community, championing racial equality, education, and homes for the homeless.



Photo courtesy of Digital Forsyth, Rev. Jerry Drayton (third from left), 1967



Architecturally, New Bethel Baptist Church features an asymmetrical façade, with two crenellated square brick towers that flank the main block of the sanctuary. Both towers feature façade entrances with pointed-arch, stained-glass transoms. The transom above the double-leaf, main entrance on the southeast tower's east elevation bears the church name. At the second level of the northeast tower, above the entrance and on the south elevation, are pointed-arch, stained-glass windows. Prominent stone steps descend to the sidewalk from both entrances. The main elevation's central feature is a large, pointed-arch window with mullions creating three smaller pointed-arch windows within, all filled with stained glass. Two smaller stained-glass windows flank the central window, and a small round stained-glass window is centered in the gable. Over time alterations have been made to the structure, including the application of permastone in 1952.

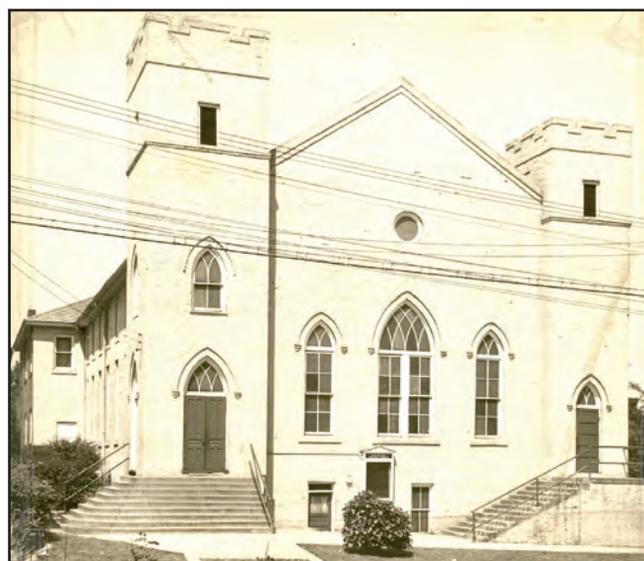


Photo courtesy [www.newbethelchurch.org](http://www.newbethelchurch.org), New Bethel Baptist Church ca. 1944



Reverend Jerry Drayton



This information is also available  
at the Forsyth County  
Historic Resources Commission's web site:  
<http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>