

Kettering Baptist Church was founded on October 17, 1969, as a Southern Baptist mission under the sponsorship of Kent Baptist Church of Landover, Maryland. In June 1969, Rev. Patrick Maloney led the Missions Committee of Kent Baptist Church in a survey of the recently established Kettering subdivision and determined that there were sufficient Baptist residents to justify the establishment of a mission to be known as Kettering Baptist Chapel. The first church founded in Kettering, A community planned for over 6,000 homes, Kettering Baptist Chapel held its first service at Kettering Elementary School on October 19, 1969 with 26 in attendance and 29 in Sunday School. Rev. Roger Berghauser, a retired minister, served as the Chapel's first pastor for a period of six months. Soon thereafter, Landover Hills Baptist Church and Berwyn Baptist Church of College Park responded to an invitation to join with Kent Baptist Church in sponsoring the mission. Later, Grace Baptist Church of the District of Columbia joined as a sponsor after relinquishing its earlier intention to relocate to Kettering. Early members of Kettering Baptist Chapel included the Sites, Behrens, O'Roark, Wolgamuth, and Hoover families.

A Steering committee was started that included three members of the sponsoring churches and three members and the Pastor of the Chapel. The Steering Committee was charged with locating land on which to erect a church building. Initial interest focused along Route 202 Between White House Road and Central Avenue. However, when none was available, the Chapel was offered land at the entrance to the Kettering community previously identified by Cresthill Baptist Church of Belair who withdrew their interest in building a church after learning of the establishment of the Kettering Baptist Chapel.

In April 1970, Rev. Charles Stover became the second minister to lead the new congregation, a position he held until June 1971. In September 1970, the Chapel purchased the 3,562 acres of land on the south side of Central Avenue at its intersection with Kettering Drive. The sum of \$35,260 was paid for the property with the assistance of a \$33,000 interest free loan for the first 2.5 years from the Home Missions Board. The balance of the cost was provided through small gifts and loans from the Prince George's Baptist Association and the Maryland Church Extension Society.

Membership in the chapel grew and in June 1971, Rev. William (Billy) Comfort accepted the call to be the Chapel's first full time minister. At this time, several members held dual membership between Kettering and Kent or Grace Baptist Churches. By November 1971, morning worship attendance doubled to 148. Likewise, the budget of the Chapel grew to nearly \$26,000 and the Chapel voted to begin planning for a permanent building. On July 2, 1972, the Chapel voted to employ C.M. Hale and Associates to construct what was described as the "first unit – an educational building with a temporary worship facility" at an anticipated cost of \$115,000. On September 27, 1972, Kettering Baptist Church was incorporated within the State of Maryland. Ground was broken for the building on April 1, 1973, however, several construction delays including a midstream change in contractor, prevented actual occupancy of the building until 1974. The new church, completed at a final cost of \$133,000, was dedicated on May 12, 1974.

Shortly before the dedication of the building, Rev. Comfort left his pastorate and was replaced with Rev. Larry Kalb, who served until 1977. During this time, the church experienced declines in attendance.

Rev. Harry Hoback was called in 1978 as a bi-vocational pastor and led the church in a period of re-growth. He was pastor until 1987. During this era, the Kettering community was undergoing tremendous change in racial composition from a predominately white to a largely African-American community. However, the church remained largely white, although some members left the church to start a new church. The first African-American members were Jerome and Sallie Travis, Freddie and Edna Williams, and James and Earlene Porter. In 1979, James Porter became the church's first African-American deacon. Despite Pastor Hobeck's part-time status, the church was very responsive to needs of the membership through preaching the gospel, a growing Sunday School, and multiple fellowships.

On April 13, 1987, Rev. David Keyser became Kettering's second full-time minister and was installed on May 31, 1987. Under the pastorate of Rev. Keyser, the membership of the church grew culminating in the addition of a second service, significant growth in Christian education, outreach programs including the Warm Nights' ministry to the homeless that provided food and shelter, Bible study, job training, and health services. The demand for space for Christian education and fellowships soon exceeded the capacity of the original edifice. Prayer and plans to erect an educational building were begun slowly, but gained momentum by 1992 with the establishment and/or reconstitution of the Building Committee, Finance Committee, and Joint Building/Finance Committee. The Challenge to Build Program was adopted and initiated with a banquet at the University of Maryland, Conference Center in October 1992. One hundred families pledged to support the building of an extension over a three year period. Ground was broken in October, 1992 for a 5,408 square foot facility consisting of six permanent classrooms, a library, a future kitchen, and a fellowship hall for 144 people, capable for being partitioned into eight additional classrooms. The Elrich Group was selected as the contractor for the new facility and Leon Edwards was identified as the architect. The building was completed in March 1993 at a final cost of \$264,789.00 and dedicated in April 1993.

Rev. Keyser resigned as pastor on September 30, 1998. During the next 17-month period, three ministers, Rev. Ronald Rogers, Rev. Donald Battle, and Rev. Marcus Tillman served as interim pastors, as a search was undertaken to identify the next fulltime pastor.

Pastor Bucas Sterling, III was called as pastor and installed on April 9, 2000. The young, dynamic, and spirit-filled Sterling quickly ushered in a new era of rapid growth, a dedication to teaching and preaching the full gospel, expanding the Lord's work through multiple ministries, beautification of the Lord's House, and a vision to build a new church, after overflowing three services.

With a commitment to Ministry in the Spirit of Excellence, over the years of God leading Pastor Sterling, Kettering Baptist Church is spreading its wings in ways that only could be inspired by the Holy Spirit:

- Membership increased from 225 in 2000 to over 1000
- A surge in worship attendance expanded the worship services from two to three at the church and subsequently the consolidation of two services using the larger auditorium at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Maryland
- The Annual Budget increased from \$306,875.00 in 200 to nearly two million in 2010
- A growth in paid staff to include an assistant pastor, a youth pastor, a pastoral assistant, a church administrator, an accounting assistant, a director of music, and paid musicians
- A volunteer ministerial staff of four ministers
- A broad curriculum of discipleship training
- Approximately 30 ministries addressing every segment of evangelism, worship, and service to the congregation and community, including the development of an employment ministry to assist unemployed and underemployed persons in the community to improve job skills and obtain jobs by training and hosting career fairs
- Discipling men through a program that teaches them how to practically do ministry and understand what ministry is
- An active missions ministry sponsoring international, national and local missionaries
- Cultivating African American Missionaries by traveling and sending youth and adults free of charge on in Mission trips. Areas visited include: New Orleans, Mississippi, Florida, Cleveland Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Mexico, Brazil, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Guiana and West Africa.
- A youth ministry offering activities to promote the religious, spiritual, and personal growth of children (0-12), youth (13-17) and young adults (18-24)
- Numerous fellowships uniting the membership and uniting the Spirit
- Spreading the Word of God locally and nationally through WAVA 105.1FM (where he was featured twice in the “Meet the Pastor” segment) and Sirius XM Satellite Radio 170 which reaches the entire country
- Assist the Maryland States Attorney’s Office by serving as a catalyst to provide information for the Kettering, Largo, Mitchellville area as it relates to crime and offering insight as to youth crime resolution
- The purchase of 27 acres of land in 2006 for 1.3 million dollars which was paid in full in three years.
- The breaking of ground on a new 51,000 square foot facility in November of 2009

Kettering Baptist Church, over its 40- year history is a blessing to God’s people and serves as a beacon to the saved and the unsaved seeking God’s salvation for their lives. The church is a living organism of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a deliberate focus on making disciples and making a difference for the Kingdom of God.

God started Kettering Baptist Church at a school. HE now plants us at yet another school to grow and be nurtured as He prepares and readies us for the next plateau of His Vision for Kettering Baptist Church.