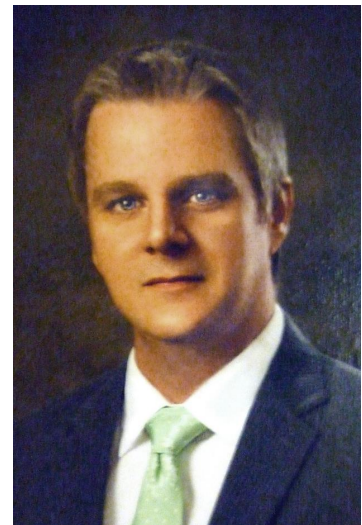


**First Baptist Church**  
HILLSBOROUGH, NORTH CAROLINA  
EST 1853

## **2000's Ministers**

**Dr. Randall David Carter**  
Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 2003-2019

Dr. Randall (Randy) D. Carter was called as minister in August 2003 just prior to the church's 150th anniversary celebration held November 15-16, 2003. At the time of his call, he was serving as pastor of Grassy Creek Baptist Church located in Bullock, NC. During his fifteen years as pastor, Carter helped the church strengthen and expand its outreach ministries to meet the needs of socially-disadvantaged families living in Hillsborough and surrounding communities. Mission trips helped build a church in Venezuela, connect with believers and outreach in Belize and Mauritania, meet the physical and spiritual needs of refugees in Lebanon, and assist those recovering from the aftermaths of hurricanes and other related disasters. In 2011, a Hispanic congregation began holding weekly worship and Bible study meetings at the church.



In response to membership growth, the church instituted two Sunday morning worship services and launched a successful capital building campaign to renovate existing facilities, to provide more space for children and youth programs and provide greater accessibility to the sanctuary, administrative offices and educational space. The sanctuary was modernized to allow for a blend of traditional and contemporary worship. With Carter's guidance the church developed a mission statement to remind the congregation that the church's purpose and focus was to:

GLORIFY God through worship  
GROW in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ through discipleship  
GO and GIVE our lives away in missions and ministry through a living testimony  
As a family of believers, we also GATHER together to celebrate our common faith in Jesus.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Carter taught and mentored ministerial students enrolled at Duke University and Campbell University. He served on key committees of the Yates Baptist Association and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina.



Carter was born on October 3, 1972 in Austin, Texas and grew up in Austin and Houston. He graduated from East Texas Baptist University in 1995 with a

double major in Spanish and Religion. Just prior to graduation, he married Rebecca Westerman in December 1994. They moved in the summer of 1994 to northern California so that Carter could attend Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in San Francisco. While in seminary, Carter served as a campus minister with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at San Francisco State University. He completed his Masters of Divinity degree in 1998, walking across the stage three days after the birth of his first son, Wesley. A few weeks later, the family left California for North Carolina and Duke University.

Carter completed his Th.M. (Master of Theology) at Duke's Divinity School in 2001. In October 1998, he accepted the call to Grassy Creek Baptist Church in northern Granville County. Jeremy and Avery soon joined the Carter family in 2000 and 2003, respectively. During his time as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hillsborough, the family grew to include four adopted children; Oliva, Justin, Valarie and Jemma. In 2008, Carter began doctoral work at Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC and in May 2011 received his Doctor of Ministry Degree. In 2009, the Carter's purchased a house on the outskirts of Hillsborough. He was the first minister to do so.

Carter submitted his letter of resignation in January to become effective on Sunday February 17, 2019. In the letter he wrote, "It is with immeasurable gratitude for these past 15 years and 5 months, and with a heart that at this moment is both heavy with grief and beating with anticipation that I tender my resignation as pastor of First Baptist Church of Hillsborough. I have accepted the call to become senior pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Raleigh." He continued, "I hope that I have loved you with at least a measure of the love you consistently gave to me. I hope even more that together we have followed Jesus Christ, seeking His kingdom above all for the sake of this church and the sake of Hillsborough, Orange County, and the world. Jesus has always been Lord of this church and will forever continue to be."

*Compiled by Reginald Carter, Historian, FBC Hillsborough; portrait photographs by Kent Murrary Studios, 2001. Family Photograph provided by Randy Carter.  
Last Updated: February 12, 2019*