

## Giving Thanks: For the Past, Present and Future

PASTOR: We are gathered here today, November 9, 2014, to give thanks for the establishment of Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church to minister for Christ in this community.

PEOPLE: *We thank you, God, for the insight and willingness of the founders of this congregation to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance in establishing this church to worship, work, and witness for Jesus Christ in this community.*

PASTOR: One-hundred forty years ago, this church was chartered with thirteen members. Through the years, the congregation has grown and faith has deepened because of the devoted witness of its members.

PEOPLE: *Heavenly Father, we come to give you thanks for the men and women who have shared their witness in this church and community. We owe our Christian faith and hope to the Holy Spirit working through these obedient witnesses.*

PASTOR: So, let us come; give thanks for the past, realizing our responsibility in the present, and dedicating ourselves to the task of keeping this church and its witness alive for future generations.

ALL: *Oh God, we owe our faith in Jesus Christ to those who have been faithful in carrying the gospel message to each future generation. We come today pledging to be faithful to praising You in this place of worship; to working to minister to "the least of these" in our community; and, dedicating ourselves to spreading the Gospel message from here to the ends of the earth that lost souls may be saved.*

PASTOR: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generation, forever and ever!"

(Ephesians 3:20)

ALL: *Amen!*