

125 YEARS

To The Glory of God



BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
7022 BETHEL ROAD
GREENBRIER TN 37073

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

125TH ANNIVERSARY

June 13, 2010

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor
Minister of Music & Education
Minister to Students
Preschool Director
Parents' Day Out Director
Ministry Assistant
Custodians

Dr. Joseph Rosas III
Rev. Mike Corbin
Rev. Michael Hinton
Mrs. Stacy Stinson
Mrs. Marlene Burchett
Mrs. Jo Harris
David & Michelle Carroll

125th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Barbara Abney, Chairman
Keri Barnes
Sherry Crawford
Shirley Crawford
Sharon Fitch
Angie Foster
Don Hendrix
Noel Swafford
Lois Walker

Interesting Facts About Bethel Baptist Church

Taken from the Church Minutes and Church History

- 1885: Bethel Baptist Church was organized in May 1885, by members of Bethlehem Baptist Church, known as The United Church of Christ, for the purpose of starting a church more centrally located.
- Early Years: The church met briefly on the Bill Cole farm. Stephen and Elizabeth Jones deeded property to the deacons for Bethel Church and school. The first building was erected and Bethel School was built on the northeast side of the church.
- 1916: Bethel, along with other churches, withdrew from Cumberland Baptist Association to form the Robertson County Baptist Association.
- 1920: Church growth created a need for a new building. The old building was torn down and all useable materials sold to Babe White of Greenbrier. The present sanctuary and side rooms were begun and completed in 1921, at a cost of \$8,000, under the pastorate of W. B. Woodall. Bro. Woodall resigned in 1923.
- 1924: Bro. E. H. Greenwell became pastor in January and resigned in December of this year. Bethel Cemetery was started in March. The deed was misplaced and a new deed drawn up paying \$1 to Stephen and Elizabeth J. Arthur and Lille Jones and Herbert and Ruth Jones.
- 1925: Bro. A. L. Bates became pastor in January and resigned in January 1926. Bro. Curtis Fehrman was ordained by the church to preach the gospel.
- 1926: Bro. T. W. Carroll became pastor in October, on a part-time status with a salary of \$600 per year. He resigned in January 1927. In the November 1926 business meeting, the church voted to observe The Lord's Supper twice a year.
- 1929: Bro. J. J. Jenkins became pastor and resigned in February 1932. The church voted to not call a new pastor until the church indebtedness was paid off.
- 1931: The church voted to hire L. G. Shannon, a church member, to clean the church and grounds. Each member was asked to bring \$0.25 to pay for work done.
- 1932: The church voted to have Sunday evening services.
- 1933: Bro. J. B. Ray was called as pastor, with a salary of \$25.00 per month. The annual church budget was \$1,000 and the janitor's salary was \$3.00 per month.
- 1934: Bro. Ray resigned to go to Bible Baptist Institute and Bro. P. A. Shelton was called as pastor. Bro. Shelton resigned in November 1939.
- 1935: The church voted for T.W. Grubbs (Malcolm Grubbs' grandfather) to sign for the church to be wired for electricity.
- 1937: During business meeting, the church voted to choose a helper for each deacon. The purpose of this decision was to train our young men for deaconship.

- 1940: Bro. Wayne Dehoney was called as pastor. Bethel was his first pastorate and he also attended school.
- 1945: Bro. Eddie Holland was called as pastor with a salary of \$75 a month. He resigned in 1947.
- 1947: The church observed The Lord's Supper on the 2nd Sunday of each quarter. At a business meeting on December 11, the church voted to license Vernon Jones (Paul Jones' father), to preach the gospel. He was a lay-preacher and preached each Sunday at the jail.
- 1948: Bro. Charles Franklin was called as pastor and resigned in December of the same year.
- 1950: Bro. J. C. Miles was called as pastor and remained until 1956. He served on a part-time basis and was also professor at a Bible college in Nashville. In 1950, the church purchased a used bus for transportation at a cost of \$900.
- 1952: The church purchased a Jeep station wagon for \$1,600, to replace the bus.
- 1956: Melvin Grubbs donated land for a church parsonage. He was a contractor and built the parsonage for \$16,500. Bro. A. L. Nations was called as pastor in October. He was Bethel's first full-time pastor and his family was the first occupants of the parsonage. During this year, Vacation Bible School lasted for two weeks.
- 1958: In May, the church licensed Bobby Swift to preach the gospel.
- 1961: Bro. Nations resigned in January and he and his family served as missionaries in Japan for several years. Bro. Don Dorris was called as the new pastor. During his ministry, 74 new members were added to the church, which included 45 by baptism. An educational building was added, a new baptistry and the outside of the church received a facelift at a cost of \$28,558. Alvis Grubbs (Don Grubbs' mother) was the first person baptized in the new baptistry. Bro. Dorris remained until 1964.
- 1965: Bro. Doug Dickens was called as pastor and resigned in 1967. Air-conditioning was added to the church during this time.
- 1968: Bro. Frank Evans was called as pastor. Many souls were won to Christ during his ministry.
- 1969: Bethel's first pictorial directory was published. A special called business meeting was held for the purpose of purchasing the house and lot behind the church at a cost of \$5,750. The church voted to purchase the land.
- 1970: During the early part of the 1970s, Barry Lord was called as Bethel's first Minister of Music and Youth. On May 13, \$2,000 was transferred from the operating budget and donated to Bethlehem Baptist Church to help them rebuild their sanctuary which was destroyed by a tornado on April 27, 1970.

- 1970: On August 19, the church voted to start a kindergarten and had 16 children enrolled according to their October report.
- 1976: In January, the church voted to build onto the educational building at an estimated cost of \$50,000. This new section was added, giving much needed space for offices and Sunday School rooms.
- 1981: Bro. Evans resigned in June to become the Associational Missions Director for the Robertson County Baptist Association. Bro. John Rushing was called as pastor. Many souls were won during this time. Bethel's sanctuary was redecorated and a baby grand piano and sound system were donated.
- 1982: On October 6, Bethel voted to start a Mother's Day Out program. Classes began on November 11, 1982. Currently under the leadership of Director Marlene Burchett, our program is called Parent's Day Out and has 66 preschoolers enrolled and a faculty of nine teachers.
- 1985: On April 12, Bethel voted to license Jonathon Fuqua to preach the gospel. Bethel ordained him to the Gospel Ministry on November 17, 1985. Bethel celebrated her 100th anniversary with 5 weekend revivals during the month of June. On the fifth Sunday, a time capsule was placed behind the cornerstone on the outside of the sanctuary. Items in the capsule are: 100th anniversary song, written by David Danner, former Minister of Music and commissioned for David Whipple, Jr., who then served as Minister of Music, different denominations of money, mission statement, 1985 directory, June 1985 bulletins, by-laws and constitution, financial report, Bible, The Lord's Supper preparations and a copy of the church history. On September 1985, David Brandon was called as full-time Minister of Music and Youth.
- 1987: Bro. John Rushing resigned and Bro. C. W. "Bill" Palmiter was called as pastor.
- 1992: Mike Headrick was called as full-time Minister of Music and Youth.
- 1995: Ground breaking ceremony for new educational building and Family Life Center. Sunday morning worship services are now held in the Family Life Center. The educational building serves as Sunday School classrooms and during the week houses a certified daycare operating 5 days a week.
- 1996: In September, our Daycare Ministry began with 62 children enrolled. Currently, Bethel Baptist Christian Preschool has 82 preschoolers and 15 school age children enrolled. We have 12 full-time teachers and 8 part-time teachers. For the 2nd year in a row, Director Stacy Stinson has led our program to attain a "Three Star" rating, which is the highest possible in the state's annual evaluation. During this year, the church parsonage was removed from the property.
- 1997: In June, Bethel voted to give \$3,000 over the next 3 years to start a new church in the southwest part of Robertson County in the Coopertown area, now known as the Coopertown Community Church.
- 1998: On January 22, the Daily Bread ministry was started, serving 11 meals, one day a week. Currently we are serving 30 meals two days per week.

- 1999: During a called business meeting on August 15, Mike Corbin was called as full-time Minister of Music and Education.
- 2000: During a called business meeting on January 2, Scott Ranson was called as full-time Minister of Youth and Church Activities. In October of this year, the Upward Basketball program was introduced by Scott Ranson. There were 70 participants during the 2000-2001 season. In 2009-2010, 209 children participated in the Upward Basketball program.
- 2001: On September 29, approval was given for the Robertson County Baptist Disaster Relief Team to use one of our vans to take relief workers to New York to help with the serving of meals to the people working at the site of the World Trade Center Disaster. The decision was later made to fly rather than drive and Bethel's Leroy Sterry joined other relief workers from Tennessee Baptist churches to work at the World Trade Center site.
- 2004: On February 18, Jo Harris was hired as full-time pastor/financial secretary. During a called business meeting on December 5, the church approved a recommendation from the deacons to begin the fundraising process for "Phase Three" of construction which includes a new worship center.
- 2005: On June 5 during a called business meeting, the church elected the building committee for "Phase Three" of construction which includes a new worship center. Elected were Walton Walker, Ronnie Wilkerson, Gene Oakley, Stephanie Herring and Barbara Abney.
- 2007: On June 30—July 7, Bro. Bill Palmiter led a six-member team from Bethel to participate in an international missions project in Newfoundland, Canada. Bro. Bill resigned from Bethel in December of this year.
- 2008: In April, Bro. Kenneth Clayton was called as interim pastor and served until January 24, 2010.
- On July 26—August 2, 2008, Chris Ramage, Bethel's Missions Coordinator, led fifteen participants in Bethel's first family missions project. This intergenerational group served as volunteer staff for the *Arena Bowl Fan Fest* held outside the Superdome in New Orleans and worked at the summer day camp at Highland Baptist Church in Metairie, LA.
- On September 26-27, Bethel hosted its first two-day marriage conference. Harold and Bette Gillogly led the participants in this "Marriage Tune-Up Conference."
- On November 19, Michael Hinton was called as Minister of Youth and began his ministry on February 2, 2009. On April 19, 2009 Bethel ordained Michael to the Gospel Ministry.
- 2009: On June 21-27, twenty-eight participants went on our family mission trip to Townsend, TN where they led day camps and family night activities at two area campgrounds as part of the CHARM ministry sponsored by the Chilhowee Baptist Association.

2009: On November 22, in a special offering called "The Chest of Joash," \$18,949.80 was given to support our building fund to build a new worship center. Through May 2010 our building fund has \$524,553.59 available for the building of a new worship center.

2010: Dr. L. Joseph Rosas was called as interim pastor in April.

In the year of our Lord, 1885, in May, the Bethlehem Baptist Church, then known as the United Baptist Church of Christ, granted to eleven members letters of dismission for the purpose of organizing a church. This church was to become Bethel Baptist Church. The charter members were:

William Tirrel
Permelia Webb
John S. Webb
Sallie Webb
Mary Eva Webb
Martha A. Webb
John Webb
John Phipps
Mary Phipps
Franklin Robertson

The church met briefly on the farm of Mr. Bill Cole, located 1 1/4 miles north of the present location. It was near the Dayton's Post Office where mail was brought from Bakers Station below Ridgetop on horseback.

During these early days, Mrs. Armistead Webb, known as "Granny Betty," picked the present location for the first church building. She is the great-grandmother of Dara Jones, Nell Jones, Marie Crawford, Dorothy Sanders and Ollie Swift. Ruth Jones is her granddaughter.



"Granny Betty"

Stephen Jones and his wife, Elizabeth (Sallie), Granny Betty's daughter, by deed conveyed to the deacons of Bethel Baptist Church a parcel of land where the church now stands.



The building erected on this site was rectangular in shape and measured 38 x 45 feet in dimension. The outside walls were hand dressed wood siding, sawed at William Hackney's mill. On the inside a small pulpit stood at one end and the heating was from a large wood burning stove. Lighting was from kerosene lamps, attached to the walls with metal reflectors. There was a pump organ given by William (Bill) Hackney, who also played it.





Baptism was in Sulphur Fork Creek and Distillery Lake.

Bethel School 1910



Shown above first row: Eula Jones, Sallie Grubbs, Clyde Bruce, Carner Mayes, Barney Mayes, Claude Box, and Sanford Crutcher.

Second row: Malloy Mayes, Nora Mayes, Robert Terrell, Lucille Grubbs, Pauline Williams, Ruth Shannon, Eloise Mayes, Nannie Williams, Alton Bruce.

Third row: Boyd Mayes, unknown, Tinnie Box, Quadella Webb, Buelah Grubbs, Mary Cole, Minnie Smith, teacher, Herbert Shannon, and Cleburn Bruce.

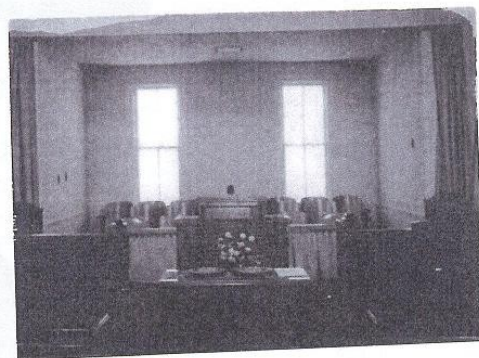
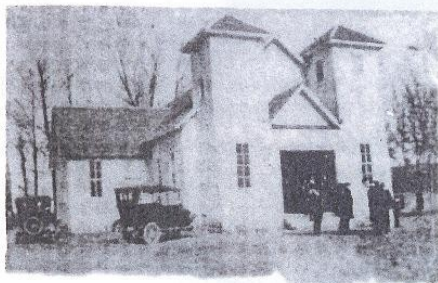
Fourth row: Minnie Cole, Eddie Liebengood, Verna Williams, Ernest Grubbs, Ruby Shannon, Charlie Mayes, Walter Crutcher and Clyman Mayes.

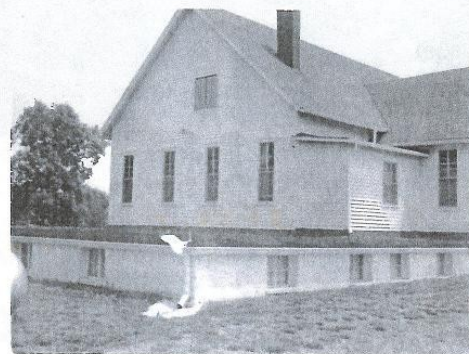
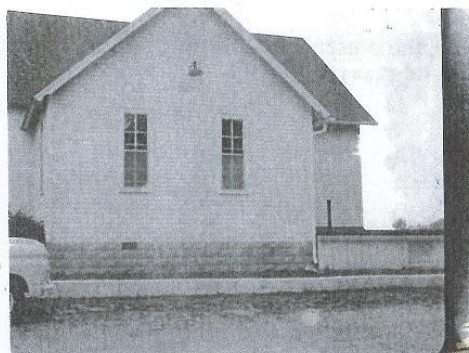
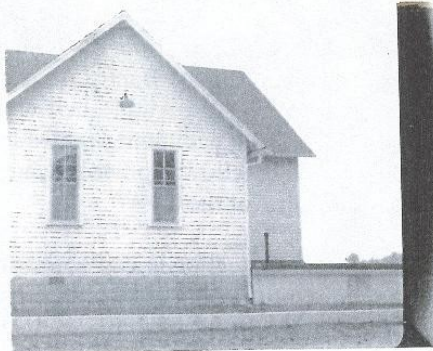
Bethel, along with 15 other churches, withdrew from the Cumberland Baptist Association in 1916 to form the Robertson County Baptist Association. Bethel applied for the membership by letter in the hands of Brother Franklin Robertson, John S. Webb and John Webb, reporting organization May 31, 1885, with fourteen members. On motion the church was received and the right hand of fellowship was extended by the Moderator, the congregation singing, "Am I a Soldier of the Cross" .

During the first 35 years very little information is available about the church's history. We can attest to the fact that solid foundation of Christian principles were sown and the present congregation and community are the beneficiaries of these endeavors.

By 1920 the church had grown, creating a need for a new building. The membership voted to tear down the old building and construct a new one. During the building period, a large brush harbor was built on the church yard and worship services were conducted there and at old Kelly-Willis School when the weather was unsuitable. Bro. W. B. Woodall was pastor during the building period and until December of 1923.

In the same year, 1920, the present auditorium and Sunday School rooms were begun and completed at a cost of \$8,000.00.





Pastors who served prior to 1920 were:

George Treanary	
T. W. Willis	1889-1890
W. S. Adams	1891
F. P. Dodson	
G. W. Featherstone	1894-1904
Sylvanus Dorris	1914-1917
Billy Shannon	
Cleave M. Crosswy	1918
J. L. Mason	1919

Pastors who served in the new building from 1920 to present:

W. B. Woodall	January 1920—December 1923
E. H. Greenwell	January 1924—December 1924
A. L. Bates	January 1925—January 1926
F. T. Carroll	October 1926—July 1927
J. J. Jenkins	January 1929—April 1932
J. B. Ray	October 1933—August 1934
P. A. Shelton	October 1934—November 1939
Wayne Dehoney	March 1940—June 1942
W. B. Woodall	April 1942—March 1944
Eddie R. Holland	November 1945—October 1947
Charles Franklin	April 1948—December 1948
J. C. Miles	January 1950—September 1956
A. L. Nations	October 1956—January 1961
Don Dorris	June 1961—July 1964
Doug Dickens	February 1965—November 1967
Frank Evans	February 1968—June 1981
John H. Rushing	November 1981—June 1987
Jim Ryan	Interim 1987
Charles W. Palmiter	February 1988—December 2007
Kenneth Clayton	Interim March 2008—January 2010
Dr. L. Joseph Rosas	Interim starting April 2010

The following are outstanding events concerning Bethel Church and several of its pastors, from 1934 until the present.

Bro. Phil Shelton, shown below, pastor from 1934-1939.



Bro. Wayne Dehoney, pastor from 1940-1942. Bethel was the first church that he pastored. For a brief period of time he lived at the church and washed his clothes at Mrs. Audrey Swift's house. Twenty-two years later he was elected as President of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The following is the earliest known surviving minutes as Bethel Missionary Baptist Church "sat in conference" on a Saturday in July 1923.

We the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church met
on Sat. before the first sun. in July 1923.
After preaching by our Pastor we then sat in conference.
Bro T. W. Grubbs reported that he & others
others had borrowed the money at the
Green River Bank until the first of August
to finish paying for our Farmice. as Mr. Bell
was unwilling to wait any longer for settlement.
& it was suggested that each formic committee
to try & collect what has been subscribed in
order to pay off the note at the Bank when due.
Then the Committee in securing help in
the meeting reported that the majority wanted
our Pastor to do the preaching with the aid of a
singer. Which Bro. Woodall agreed to do.
Then a Committee of three were appointed to secure
singer. The time was set for our revival to
begin on Wednesday night after 1st Sun. in Aug.
Being in need of an instrument a committee
of seven were appointed to raise money to
get a Piano. Then Bro. Earnest Webb offered
his resignation as Church Clerk. Resignation
was now accepted then H. L. Shannon was
nominated to succeed Bro. Ernest & was elected.
No other business offering we then adjourned

W. B. Woodall Mod.
H. L. Shannon Clerk

"God's Little Acre Plan" We could not find any information that told what this was for.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF BETHEL CHURCH

We are urging every member of Bethel church to be at church on next Sunday, if it is at all possible. On that day we will actually start the work of distributing agreement cards on the God's Acre Plan. We are endeavouring to get a card in the hand of each and every member, no matter how young or old. Of course that is not saying that we are trying by this to force anyone to agree to something that they cannot see eye to eye with other of their brethren. But we do want each and every member to get a card and have time to think this project over before finally rejecting the plan. We believe that if one will take a card and study the plans suggested in it and season their study with alittle prayer that he will come to see the wisdom of such a move that will enable the church to take its place along with other churches in the world wide advancement of the cause of the Lord.

On next Sunday at the Sunday School hour and also at the church service cards will be distributed to each church member--present, and each will be credited with having taken a card. The following week the deacons and their helpers will distribute cards to the members in their homes who were not at church on the preceeding Sunday. That will give every member about a week--to think and pray over this matter and to decide what kind of an offering wach will make to the Lord.

It is expected that the card is to be filled out and signed by the following Sunday, the first Sunday in April, on which Sunday afternoon the deacons and their helpers will visit every home in their respective territories and collect the cards both signed and unsigned.

We are urging every church member to take a card and think

LET US KEEP PRAYING FOR OUR SICK, AND FOR THOSE IN DISTRESS OF BODY, MIND, AND SOUL. THE CHURCH WILL OBSERVE HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS NEXT SUNDAY. COME PRAYING FOR THE SERVICES

this matter over and then do as you feel in your heart you ought to do. Not as we say but what honestly you feel is the best thing to do.

We are also urging that every member, or at least a representative of each family stay at home on that afternoon to welcome these visitors, and that you cooperate with them in your best way.

This is purely and simply a cooperative effort. We do not want anyone to feel that we are forcing this project on conscientious objectors, but we do feel that each church member owes a solemn obligation to the Lord, to the church, and to himself,--to honestly and earnestly consider any project that the church votes to adopt, before finally rejecting such plan.

COME WITH US ON THIS PLAN!

IN THE SECRET OF HIS PRESENCE.

In the Secret of His presence
How my soul delights to hide
Oh, how precious are the lessons
Which I learn at Jesus Side;
Earthly cares cannot o'er come me
Neither trials lay me low
For when Satan comes to tempt me
To the secret place I go.
There my savior rests beside me
As we hold communion sweet
If I tried I could not utter
What he says when thus we meet

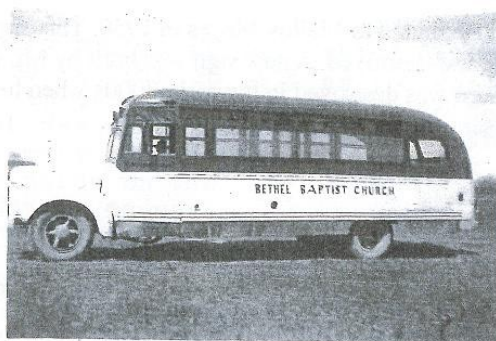
Would you like to know the sweetness
Of the presence of the Lord?
Go and hide beneath His shadow
This shall then be your reward
You may always be abiding
If you will at Jesus side
In the secret of His presence
You may every moment hide.

Donated by,
Mrs. J. J. Webb

A brick church sign was built and dedicated to Malloy Mayes in 1950. This sign was replaced in 1992 when hit by a car and destroyed. A new sign was built by Mr. Ollie Swift and Eddie Ray Swift. This sign was destroyed in the early 2000s when hit by a truck and was replaced by the present sign.



FIRST CHURCH BUS - 1950



BUS TRADED FOR JEEP



Land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Grubbs on June 10, 1956.
During Bro. Miles pastorate in 1956, the parsonage and basement were built by Bro. Melvin Grubbs, contractor, at a cost of \$16,500.00.



In June, 1998, the parsonage was moved to make room for the new building program.



Bro. A. L. Nations became pastor of Bethel in October 1956 – January 1961. He was Bethel's first full-time pastor. He and his family were the first family to occupy the new parsonage. At the end of his ministry at Bethel, he and his family went to Japan and spent five years there as missionaries.

Bro. Don Dorris was Bethel's pastor from 1961 – 1964. The educational building was built. The structure consisted of two stories and ten classrooms, two rest rooms, two nursery school room, a pastor's study and a baptistry. The auditorium was redecorated, the outside walls bricked, the vestibule enclosed, new roof added and a front porch erected. Also the front gables were removed and a small steeple was built on top of the church. Mr. Herman Waggoner was the contractor and the total cost was \$28,558.00. Seventy-four new members were added during Bro. Dorris' pastorate.

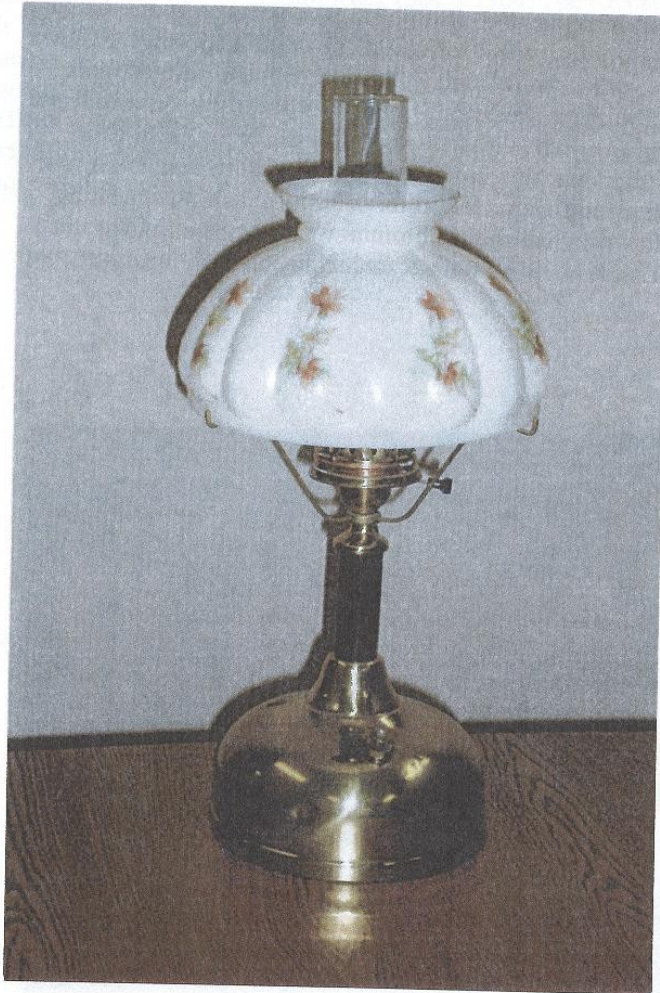


Bro. Doug Dickens was pastor from 1965-1967. Air conditioning was installed at a cost of \$4,000.00. Thirty-eight members were added to the roll.

Bro. Frank Evans was pastor from 1968-1981. Many souls were added to the kingdom of God and many changes took place. A church van was purchased and a bus ministry started. During this time three old oil lamps used in the early church were discovered in the attic. Joyce Grubbs had these restored and made into electric lamps. One hangs in the vestibule, one made into a table lamp and is in the pastor's office and the third lamp hangs in the room to the left of the baptistry, which was a Sunday School room and records room. The new part of the educational building was added, giving needed office space and new Sunday School rooms. Five and one-half acres and an additional strip of land were purchased behind the church. Additional adjoining land was donated by Don and Joyce Grubbs. A new ball field was fixed and space cleared for additional parking, including removal of many trees. The fellowship hall and auditorium were remodeled, sidewalks built and many improvements made on the parsonage, including a new dining room, two car garage and new half-bath.



During the pastorate of Bro. Frank Evans, three oil lamps were found in the attic that were used in the early church. These lamps were restored and converted to electricity and are in the church today. The original church bell is hung in the bell tower in the foyer of the church.



This desk lamp is located in the pastor's office.



This old oil lamp hangs in the vestibule.



This old oil lamp hangs in the old records room but will be moved to a more suitable location.

During the early 1970s, Barry Lord became Bethel's first Minister of Music and Youth.

Bro. John Rushing became pastor of Bethel in 1981 -1988. During his leadership the church was challenged to reach out in evangelism and missions. A number of souls were added to the church. Vacation Bible School was a great outreach for souls. Twenty-two decisions were made in June 1982, fifteen or more first time decisions were made in June 1983 and a good number in 1984.

The auditorium was completely redecorated beginning in August 1983 and completed in December 1983, at a cost of \$30,000.00. Some money was borrowed but the debt was completely paid off by September 1984. A new sound system was donated to the church and also a new walnut baby grand piano.

A Mother's Day Out program was begun in 1982 and is currently known as Parent's Day Out.

In 1985, we celebrated our 100th year Centennial Celebration. Bro. Frank Evans led in revival in April. During June, five week-end revivals were held. Listed below are the guest speakers for each week.

Dr. Wayne Dehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, KY

Dr. Tom Madden, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Bro. Woody Watkins, Evangelism Director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Dr. Franklin Paschall, former pastor of First Baptist, Nashville

Bro. Bob Carroll, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church (Bethel's mother church).

The 100th anniversary song was written by David Danner, former Minister of Music and commissioned for David Whipple, Jr., who then served as Minister of Music. One hundred years to the Glory of God! What a joyous and exciting time.

A pictorial directory was also made. Pictured on the front of the directory is the original leather bound record book from Bethlehem Baptist Church, which contains hand written 1885 minutes stating that Bethel Church was organized.

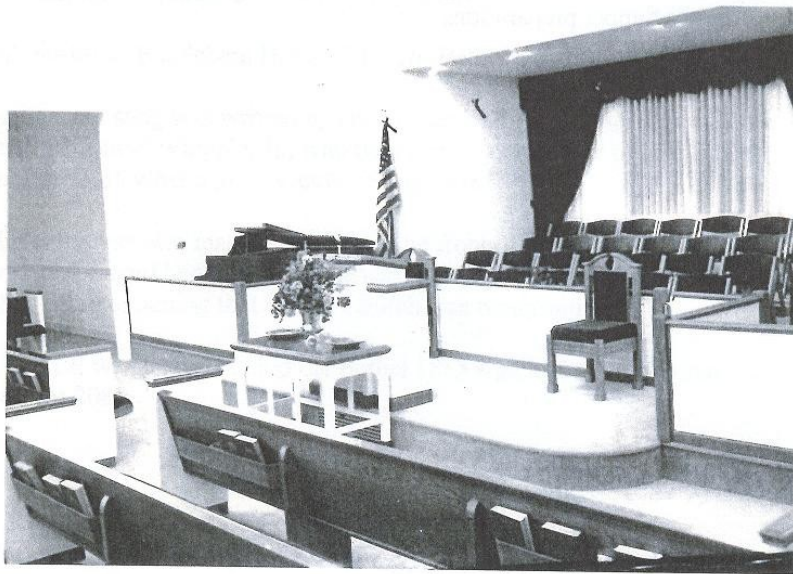
A TIME CAPSULE was placed behind the Bethel 1885 sign in front of the sanctuary, to be opened in the year 2085.

TIME CAPSULE

Placed behind the BETHEL 1885 sign inset in the front of the church during the 100th Anniversary, June 1985.

Items placed in time capsule:

Song "I Will Praise You" commissioned by David Whipple, Jr.,
Minister of Music, written by David Danner.
Different denominations of money
Mission Statement
1985 Directory
June 1985 Bulletins
By-laws and Constitution
Financial Report
Bible
Lord's Supper preparations
History





*Bro. John Rushing
Walter Startup (Dovie Startup's husband)*

For Bethel Baptist Church, Greenbrier, Tennessee in honor of the
100th anniversary of the church, David W. Whipple, Jr., Minister of Music

I Will Praise You

1. I will praise You, Fa - ther all - glo - rious, Might - y and
2. I will praise You, Je - sus, my Sav - ior; You died on
3. I will praise You, Spir - it of Ho - li - ness, You healed my
4. I will praise You, Fa - ther all - glo - rious. I will

Won - der - ful, Ev - er the same. Praise You with joy and
Cal - va - ry, Tak - ing my blame; Ris - ing in pow'r and
bro - ken heart, Cleans - ing my shame. Teach - ing me love to
praise You, Je - sus the Son. I will praise You,

praise You with glad - ness; Fa - ther all - glo - rious, Praise Your name!
reign - ing for - ev - er, Je - sus my Sav - ior, Praise Your name!
share in Your wit - ness. Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise Your name!
Spir - it of Ho - li - ness; Praise be to God the Three - in - One!

Might - y God, I'll sing of Your glo - ry,

Lift - ing my voice in glad - ness and song!

1,2 3,4 Fine
D.C. al Fine

Words and tune, BETHEL, David Danner, 1985.

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Bro. Bill Palmiter - 1988-2007

During Dr. Palmiter (Bro. Bill) pastorate many souls were added to the church. It was during this time a building program begun. Bethel Baptist members joined together for the groundbreaking ceremony of Phase I building project.

Phase 1 included a Family Life Center with a full size multi-purpose gymnasium including an elevated walking track and day care facilities for 100 children. In addition to the established reputation of its Mother' Day Out program, the new facilities enabled the church to minister to the needs of more families in the community by offering day care for children and many new ministries to families, senior adults and youth.







BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
GROUND BREAKING SERVICE

June 11, 1995

THE INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE READING: I Chronicles 29:10-16

LITANY OF DEDICATION

Leader: Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God has put into the hearts of His people to break this ground to the glory of His Name. I now set it apart for the building of His Church. Let us now solemnly dedicate this site to its proper and sacred uses -

To the glory of God, the Father, who has called us by His grace;
To the honor of His Son, who loved us and gave Himself for us;
To the power of the Holy Spirit, who illuminates and sanctifies us,

People: We break this ground.

Leader: For strength for those who are tempted; for light for those who seek God's Way,

People: We break this ground.

Leader: For the strengthening of family life; for teaching and guiding children and youth,

People: We break this ground.

Leader: For the conversion of sinners; for the promotion of righteousness; for the world outreach mission of the Church,

People: We break this ground.

Leader: In the unity of the faith; in the bond of Christian love; and good will toward all men everywhere,

People: We break this ground.

Leader: In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church; in loving remembrance of those who have finished their earthly course; in the blessed hope of everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord,

People: We break this ground.

Leader & People: We now, the people and congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, aware of the sacrifices of our fathers in the faith - confessing that apart from us their work cannot be perfected, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen

Dedication
of Family Life Center
and Educational Building

June 9, 1996

Pastor: **Forasmuch as it pleased Almighty God to put it into the hearts of his servants to add to and improve his house which years ago as a new building was dedicated to God, let us now fulfill the high purpose for which we are assembled, that of dedicating to the honor of God and his Kingdom these new additions to this house of God.**

Pastor: **Our heavenly Father, who has so graciously led in this project and so abundantly blessed each step of the way,**

Congregation: We offer our thanks to Thee.

Pastor: **For the gifts of Thy people which have made possible these new additions and for the skilled plans, drawings and workmanship that has entered into them,**

Congregation: We offer our thanks to Thee.

Pastor: **For the opportunities that lie before us to serve Thee through the use of these new facilities by serving your people,**

Congregation: We offer our thanks to Thee.

Pastor: **We take now that which we have built, and in acknowledgment of Thy goodness,**

Congregation: We dedicate these new buildings to Thee and to Thy service.

Pastor: **For the teaching of Thy Word and the training of children, youth, adults and families in Christian faith and life,**

Congregation: We dedicate this Christian Education Building and Family Life Center to Thee.

Pastor and Congregation: **In the name of the Father and of the Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.**

DEDICATION OF EDUCATIONAL BUILDING BUILD-OUT

June 13, 1999

Bro. Bill: In recognition of the Great Commission which bids us "Go - make disciples - baptize - teach," and in harmony with the message which reads that "Jesus advanced in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man" we come to this moment of dedication praying that blessings in over-flowing abundance may prevail in the hearts of all who have made this happy moment possible.

Building Committee (Walker Bloodworth, Chair, Sherry Crawford, Richard Huffines, Ted Jones): To the sowing of the good seed of the Kingdom in the hearts of all of our people, young and old,

People: We dedicate our Education Building to the ministry of teaching.

Bro. Bill: To the purpose of developing a place where the Holy Scriptures may be read, interpreted, known, and applied,

People: We dedicate our Education Building.

Bro. Bill: For the spiritual enrichment of life as it unfolds through childhood,

People: We dedicate our building.

Bro. Bill: For the nurture of youth and the enrichment of the home,

People: We dedicate our building.

Bro. Bill: To provide an appointed place where the soul of man may quest for the Mystery of God and the Truth,

People: We dedicate our building.

Bro. Bill: For the training of life in the Christian Way, that character may reflect the life of the Master,

People: We dedicate our building.

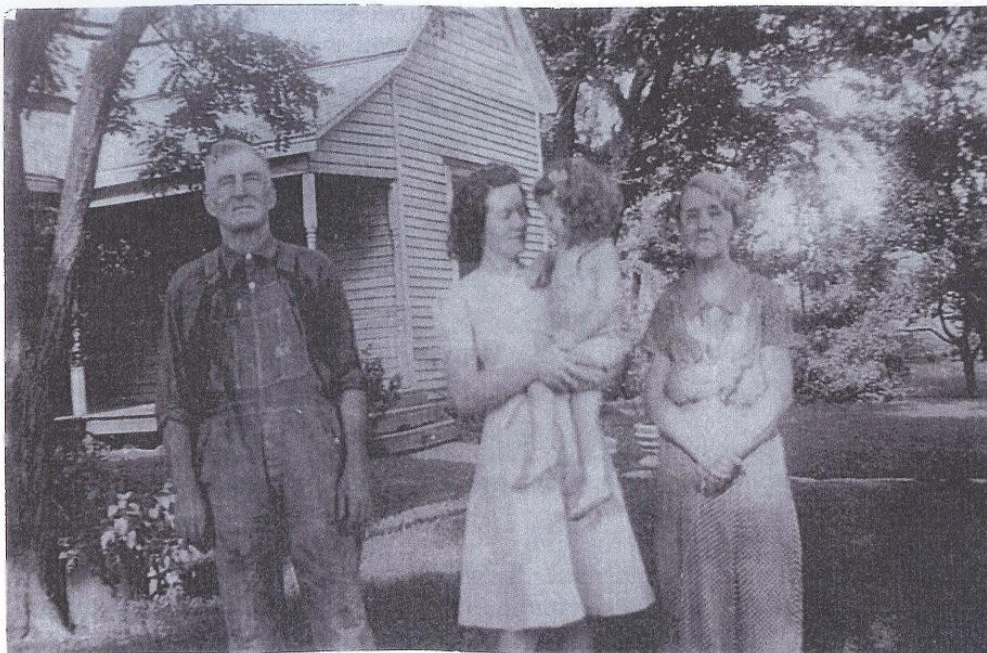
Bro. Bill: To maintain a place of intelligent faith, where we may learn to give a reason for the faith that is in us,

People: We dedicate our building.

Bro. Bill: To make accessible a place for the enrichment of social and recreational life through fellowship with those who share in the mind of Christ,

People: We dedicate our Education and Fellowship Building.

Bethel's oldest member is Mrs. Dorothy Mayes Templeton. Her parents, Mitchum Mayes and Lura Dorris Mayes, were some of the first member of Bethel Baptist Church.



L-R: Mr. Mitchum Mayes, Dorothy Mayes Templeton (holding Devona) and Mrs. Lura Dorris Mayes.

BACK TO BETHEL

By: Joe L. Morris

While growing up my cup was full. Part of that life was here at Bethel. I lived in a home with a peculiar twist. My mother was Methodist and my father was Baptist.

This may seem like a strange situation but God can be loved what'ere the persuasion. For this dear home met my many needs and forever, I'll remember all the loving deeds.

The Baptist met both morning and night and the Methodist convened in the afternoon bright. And as a boy, I bemoaned my fate, three sermons on Sunday was hard to take.

Every Sunday morning I would hear the chimes of the bell falling on my ear. Here at Bethel, I remember that scene, Mrs. Ivy, my teacher, and I a Sunbeam.

We met in a little room beneath the bell and learned of heaven and the horrors of hell. We recited from the Bible a memory verse which our parents all week had made us rehearse.

About Aunt Mary and Uncle John, I'll relate. They were always in church, but usually late. But this didn't matter for the sermon would run from a little past eleven until a quarter past one.

I remember her funeral in this dear old place. She wanted the topic to be on grace and the preacher gave a call at the end of his say and three souls were saved on her burying day.

On Homecoming day two tables sat in front of the altar while they passed the hat. The money was collected for the cemetery fund, some giving to the Mayes and others the new one (Bethel).

After the money was given we went out to eat on long wooden tables – my what a treat! Usually Bro. Woodall gave thanks to above and then all us people had a feast of love.

After about one hour we'd come back in and hear another sermon on the wages of sin. Some would sing and some would shout, especially if Semer Baggett was anywhere about.

Those days are gone but the memory is sweet. When we all sat down at the Master's feet, and yet today it's still the same table. God's in his Heaven and all is well.

Written in memory of my Dad, kin people and many friends who are no longer at Bethel.

Joe Morris lived in the Bethel community. He attended Bethel with his father, and Gideon United Methodist with his mother. He also was an educator in the Robertson County School system and served as Principal of Springfield High School for many years.

THINGS I REMEMBER

By Brenda Mayes Hulsey

I remember men climbing the ladder to light the "coal oil lamps". We had a coal burning stove. The pews were hard, homemade wood benches, clear windows that we would raise in the summer. Fans were on all the benches to fight flies and bugs, also to help to keep cool.

Mr. Ernest Webb would ring the church bell every Sunday before Sunday School. When Mr. Ernest was asked to pray, he would get in the aisle, kneel and pray a very spiritual prayer. At times, Mr. Sylvanus Doris would shout and scare me.

Each Sunday, if we had a birthday that week, we would go down front and put an offering in the plate.

During Bible School we would line up in front of the church. Three children would carry the Christian flag, American flag, and the Bible. We would march in and say the pledge to each one and sing a song after each one. We would have a short service then go to our classes.

We had BYPU and BTU in the evening service, Baptist Young People's Union and Baptist Training Union.

Memorial Day we had all day meeting and dinner on the ground. During the morning we had Sunday School and preaching. At noon, we went out under the pretty trees. We had long tables made out of rough planks with legs. Women brought white table cloths. Each family brought tea and lots of delicious food. We had outdoor johns. After dinner, we went back in the church to hear a lot of good singing.

Easter the women and children dressed in their new (homemade) dresses and new hats.

Christmas we always had a big tree that reached the ceiling. We had Santa Claus and the children got a bag of fruit, nuts and candy. We always had a program and one year we had a play that we also performed at Kelly Willis School and Greenbrier High School.

Sunday the women would cook dinner before going to church. Most of the time they would invite the pastor and family or someone else for lunch. Also during revivals, they would invite the visiting preacher and pastor for supper or lunch. The visiting preacher would stay all week in different homes.

My family, Chester, Esmer Warren, Ralph and Edward were members here. My brothers

were baptized in Sulphur Fork Creek. I was baptized at Springfield Baptist Church by Bro. Wayne Dehoney.

My grandparents, Jim and Ellen Webb Mayes, were members. They gave the land for the Mayes Cemetery. My father was Samuel Chester Mayes and was one of the early members of Bethel.



Samuel Chester Mayes
b. 11-7-1885

I was married at Bethel by Bro. Eddie Holland. My husband, Floyd Hulsey, was saved here, also our children, Randy and Gary, and two of our grandchildren, Kristy and Shawn.

