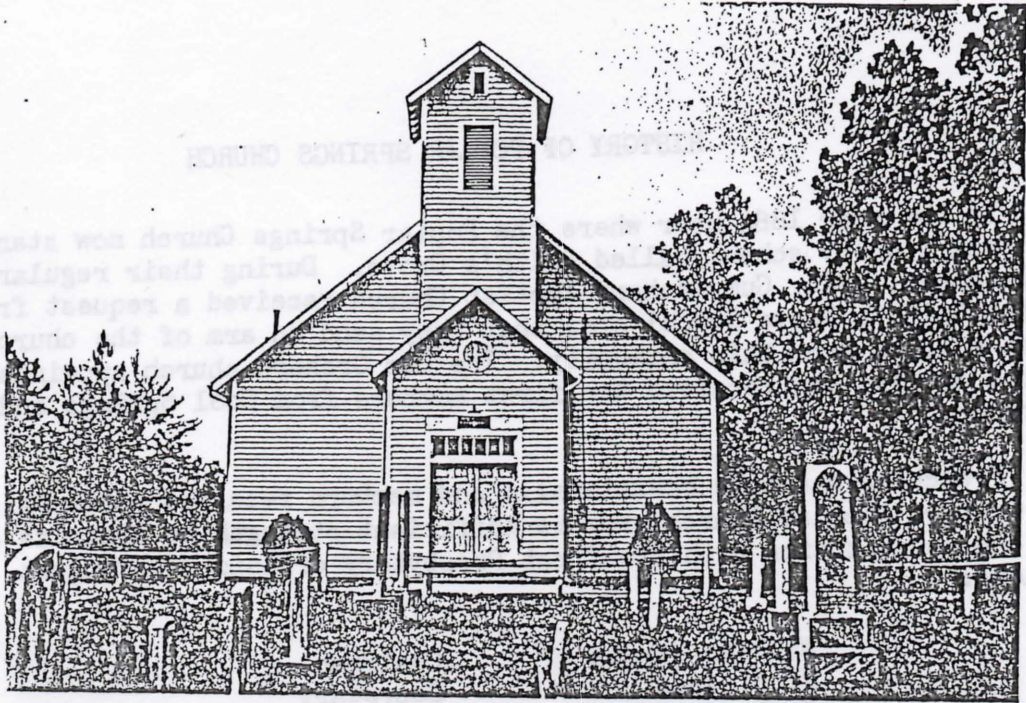


FIRST CHURCH BUILDING
POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

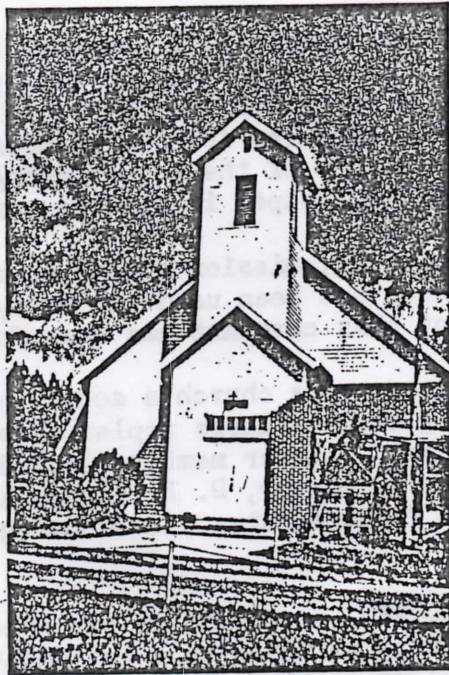


Renovation completed



New church building 1939

Expansion
and
Remolding
1958



HISTORY OF POPLAR SPRINGS CHURCH

In the year 1884 near where the Poplar Springs Church now stands was a one room country school called Smith's Grove. During their regular session in December, 1884, Gum Orchard Baptist Church received a request from people of the Smith's Grove School area that they send an arm of the church and receive members from this community. The Gum Orchard church appointed a committee of five and received the first members from Cool Springs and Macedonia churches.

Preaching was held occasionally and members received until this arm of Gum Orchard Baptist Church grew to sufficient strength to organize and form its own constitution with the first Presbytery organized in August, 1885 as follows:

William Harris	Chairman
W. F. Byrd	Secretary
G. M. Burcham	Spokesman

Members composing this constitution entered into a covenant with each other:

"That we will walk together in the will of God and in brotherly love and will promote the growth of the Christian body by contributing cheerfully of our property for the maintenance of a faithful ministry of the gospel among us and for the spread of the gospel in all the earth".

Today, a growing, mission minded church, a new parsonage and a Community Building which has been used and enjoyed by many neighboring communities, is evidence that this covenant has been faithfully kept down through the years.

For many years, the church's source of water was from a nearby spring. Near this spring stood a large poplar tree. Thus, the church got its name of Poplar Springs. Charter members included: W. T. Ray, J. S. Chipman, William West, S. E. Gentry, D. R. Haynes and Jane West. The church met monthly and the first minutes record delegates appointed to the Elkin Association.

November 5, 1887, a committee was appointed to supervise the erection of the first church building on a lot donated by Matt Guyer and Arch Rigsby. The minutes give no mention of the actual construction but in May of 1896, trustees were appointed and on the second Sunday of August a dedication service was held.

Present members of the church might be surprised to know that at one time the church practiced footwashing services along with the Communion service. During the year 1888, a vote was taken and the majority favored footwashing. However, this practice evidently was soon dropped as no mention of it is made after the year 1900. Another practice of this early church, which denotes their strict rules, was that up until the year 1890, a member was required to render to the church an excuse for missing more than one meeting.

Due to weather conditions and transportation being either by foot or horse and buggy, Sunday School was only held for six months of the year (April-Sept.) until the year 1924 when it was begun on a fulltime basis.

Pastors and the years of their elections are as follows:

A. J. Williams	1885, 1892 and 1911
C. F. Fields	1886 and 1919
S. E. Gentry	1891, 1894 and 1900
G. M. Burcham	1895
W. H. Melton	1897
B. Mathis	1902
J. M. Barker	1903
J. R. Jolly	1906
Levi McCann	1906 and 1914
Jones Carter	1908
J. Z. Adams	1910
John Burcham	1912
Grant Cothren	1917
W. F. Cooper	1920
J. W. Bryant	1923
Richard Day	1926 and 1939
E. G. Jordan	1933
Woodrow Wishon	1945 and 1952
C. W. Simmons	1947
Warren Norman	1950
C. B. Mickles	1956
Grady Norman (interim)	1962
Garfield Gambill	1963
Stanley Townsend	1967

Ministers of the gospel ordained from this church include Rev. S. E. Gentry (1891), Rev. J. Z. Adams (1910), Rev. Clyde Hawkins (1965), now pastor of West Elkin, and Rev. Herbert Caudle (1966), now pastor of Macedonia. Also, Lance Burcham was licensed to preach and just following our last revival, Dale Gentry announced his call to the Ministry. Dale is a great, great grandson of the first minister to be ordained from our church, Rev. S. E. Gentry.

Plans for a new church building were begun in 1937. It was decided to erect the new building on a nearby tract of land donated by R. S. Guyer and W. H. Hayes. A major portion of the necessary material and labor was donated by members of the church and the first service was held in the new building the latter part of 1939. Gradual improvements were added each year such as installing electricity, buying first piano, digging a well and installing a pump and water cooler. Beginning with January, 1947, the church entered into halftime ministry and in 1958 an extensive expansion and remodeling program was begun. This was to include additional Sunday School rooms, adding two restrooms, bricking entire building and installing a modern heating system.

In 1962, the Young Married People's Sunday School class presented the church with an organ in memory of a deceased Deacon, Clarence Newman.

Recognizing a growing need for a place to hold various meetings involving the entire community and for picnics and fellowship, a Community Building was begun in April of 1961 on land donated to the church by Kelly Ray. This was completed in approximately six months and now contains a modern kitchen, two restrooms and picnic space with a playground and newly constructed basketball court.

During a church conference in November, 1966, members voted to go into fulltime ministry and early in 1967, land was bought for building a parsonage. Plans were approved for a modern home which would include a Pastor's study and four bedrooms, one of which would be furnished by the church for use by visiting Evangelists. In August, 1967, our first fulltime Pastor, Rev. Stanley Townsend, and his family were moved into the parsonage. With the donation of some free labor, the home was built at a cost of \$32,000.00 and was completely paid for early in October of 1969 with a note burning and dedication service held November 16, 1969.

Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and with the help of Rev. Townsend and his wife, our church continues to grow. During the short time we have been in fulltime work, our total mission gifts have more than doubled and we have organized Mission Friends, GA and Acteen groups and started a library. Our first budget was planned with 5% for the Cooperative Program and this was later raised to 6%, plus 1% for Associational Missions. During 1970 the church was air conditioned and as a token of their love and respect for our Pastor and his wife, members of the church financed their trip to the Holy Land.

As we look back over the records, we thank God for those dedicated people who have carried on the work down through the years and for His blessings in enabling us to be an effective witness in our community and in sharing the gospel to other parts of the earth. We are grateful for the 20 precious souls who were baptized into the fellowship of our church during our last revival and look forward prayerfully to the future.

As this history was being written, the church was desperately in need of land for more parking and cemetery space, as well as additional Sunday School rooms and an enlarged auditorium. As members prayerfully consider these needs, already they are being met. Sunday night, April 4, 1971, the church voted to purchase approximately 30 acres of land which joins our cemetery and also the Community Building property.

We ask you to join us in prayer that our church may ever be a source of strength and spiritual guidance.

**Ministers Having Served As Pastor, Interim, Supply Pastor and Youth Minister at
Poplar Springs Baptist Church of State Road, North Carolina, Inc.**

The following is a list of Pastors and the year of their elections and also the resignation of part of the ministers:

A. J. Williams	1885, 1892 & 1911
C. F. Fields	1886 & 1919
S. E. Gentry	1891, 1894 & 1900
G. M. Burcham	1895
W. H. Melton	1897
B. Mathis	1902
J. M. Barker	1903
J. R. Jolly	1906
Levi McCann	1906 & 1914
Jones Carter	1908
J. Z. Adams	1910
John Burcham	1912
Grant Cothren	1917
W. F. Cooper	1920
J. W. Bryant	1923
Richard Day	1926 & 1939
E. G. Jordan	1933
Woodrow Wishon	1945 & 1952
C. W. Simmons	1947
Warren Norman	1950

C. B. Mickles 1956

Grady Norman (Int.) 1962

Garfield Gambill 1963

Stanley Townsend 1967; Resigned on Nov. 5, 1972

Barry Tharpe (SP) Jan. 1973 Served as Supply Pastor

J. C. Gwaltney (Int.) Jan. 21, 1973; Resigned on July 15, 1973 to be effective 8-01-73.

James Ray Holbrook (Int.) Aug. 26, 1973; Left in October of 1973.

James B. Parker Jr. (Int.) Voted on Oct. 21, 1973 and left December 1973.

Grady Blakley (Int.) Dec. 9, 1973 left at the first of Jan. 1974.

Phillip Swanson (Int.)(Pastor) voted on Jan. 20, 1974 as Interim and was elected Pastor Feb. 17, 1974. Resigned in December 1976.

Paul Reese (SP) was voted in as supply pastor on May 2, 1976; His service ended in July 1976.

David Tipton Voted in as Full Time Pastor July 11, 1976 and Resigned May 15, 1977.

L. E. Myers (Int.) Elected June 26, 1977 and service ended in May of 1978.

Mike Lane Elected Pastor April 23, 1978 and began his service in June of 1978. Resigned on March 3, 1985.

Edgar Whitlock Elected on June 2, 1985 and resigned in Nov. of 1987.

Mack Goss (Int.) voted on as Interim Pastor on January 24, 1988, his service ended in December 1988.

Dan Spears voted in as Pastor on December 11, 1988 and began his service in January of 1989. He resigned in October of 1991.

I. V. Couch (Int.) was voted in as Interim Pastor on December 15, 1991 and his service ended in July 1992.

Roger Hensley was elected as Full Time Pastor on June 28, 1992 and he resigned on November 03, 2002.

Charles Francis Wilson (Int.) was elected as Interim Pastor on January 26, 2003 and he began his service on February 02, 2003. His last service was the last Sunday in March of 2004.

Steve Kramm was elected as full time pastor on February 22, 2004. He began his service the first Sunday in April 2004. He resigned on April 24, 2011 and his last day of service was June 06, 2011.

Matthew Hinson on April 09, 2006 the church elected our first ordained Youth Worker having the title Minister to Students. The position was part time. The person elected was Rev. Jonathan Matthew Hinson. Matt began his ministry on April 09, 2006. Matt, Bayley and their first unborn child Nathaniel Paul Hinson were all tragically killed in an automobile accident on I-77 in Yadkin County on July 26, 2007.

Kevin M. Jackson was elected as Minister of Students/Evangelism on November 16, 2008 and his service began January 1, 2009. On March 25, 2009 Kevin was Confirmed into the Ministry and ordained therefore becoming our first Full Time Ordained Minister of Student/Evangelism of Poplar Springs Baptist Church of State Road, North Carolina, Inc. Kevin resigned on February 13, 2011 with his last day of service being March 02, 2011.

Ray Davis (Int) was elected Interim Pastor on July 03, 2011 and remains in that position to the present day.

Adam Walker was elected on July 24, 2011 to the Youth Leader Position, as an ordained minister, to be part time for the present. Adam serves in that position at the present time.

It should be noted that some pastors served 2 different terms and some 3 different terms.

There have been at least six men ordained as Ministers of the Gospel and at least 4 men licensed to preach from the Church since it was organized in August of 1885.

RAY DAVIS - LAST SERMON MARCH 11, 1912

DENNIS BALL - INTERIM 4-1-12

{ REV. CHAD WHITLEY - FELLOWSHIP SAT 12-29-12 - SERMON 12-30-12
VOTED AS PASTOR
1st Sermon 2-10-13 (Rev. Ball - death in family)