

POPLAR SPRINGS
PASTOR: REV. MIKE R. LANE

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	S. E. Gentry
J. S. Chipman	D. R. Haynes
William West	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.

Footwashing was practiced along with the Communion service during those early years. 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 strict rules, was that up to 1890, a member was required to render an excuse to the church 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-September) 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 & 1911	J. W. Bryant	1923
C. F. Fields	1886 & 1919	Richard Day	1926 & 1939
S. E. Gentry	1891, 1894 & 1900	E. G. Jordan	1933
G. M. Burcham	1895	Woodrow Wishon	1945 & 1952

W. H. Melton	1897	C. W. Simmons	1947
B. Mathis	1902	Warren Norman	1950
J. M. Barker	1903	C. B. Mickles	1956
J. R. Jolly	1906	Grady Norman (int.)	1962
Levi McCann	1906 & 1914	Garfield Gambill	1963
Jones Carter	1908	Stanley Townsend	1967
J. Z. Adams	1910	Philip Swanson	1974
John Burcham	1912	David Tipton	1976
Grant Cothren	1917	Mike R. Lane	1978
W. F. Cooper	1920		

Rev. L. E. Myers served as interim pastor between Stanley Townsend and Philip Swanson.

Ministers of the gospel ordained from this church include S. E. Gentry (1891), J. Z. Adams (1910), Clyde Hawkins (1965), Herbert Caudle (1966).

Also, Lance Burcham was licensed to preach and just following the revival in 1971, Dale Gentry announced his call to the ministry. He is a great-grandson of the first minister to be ordained from this church, 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 given 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. General improvements have been added each year such as electric power, piano, digging well and installing pump, also a 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 an organ in memory of a deceased deacon, Clarence Newman.

A community building was constructed in April 1961, on land given by Kelly Ray. This was completed in approximately six months and contains a modern kitchen, two restrooms, picnic space with a playground and basketball court.

In November 1966, the church voted to go into fulltime ministry and early in 1967, land was secured for building a parsonage. Plans were approved for a modern home to include a pastor's study and four bedrooms, one to be furnished by the church for use by visiting ministers.

In August 1967, the first fulltime pastor, Stanley Townsend and his family moved into the parsonage. With the donation of some free labor, the home was built at a cost of \$32,000 dollars, and was completely debt free in October 1969. A note burning and dedication service was held on November 16, 1969.

Under the leadership of Rev. Townsend and his wife, the church grew rapidly. The first budget under fulltime ministry was planned with five (5%) per cent for the Cooperative Program and later raised to six (6%) per cent with one (1%) per cent for Associational Missions. Mission groups were organized and there were many new additions to the church.

In 1970, the church was air-conditioned and as a token of love and respect for the pastor and his wife, members of the church financed their trip to the Holy Land.

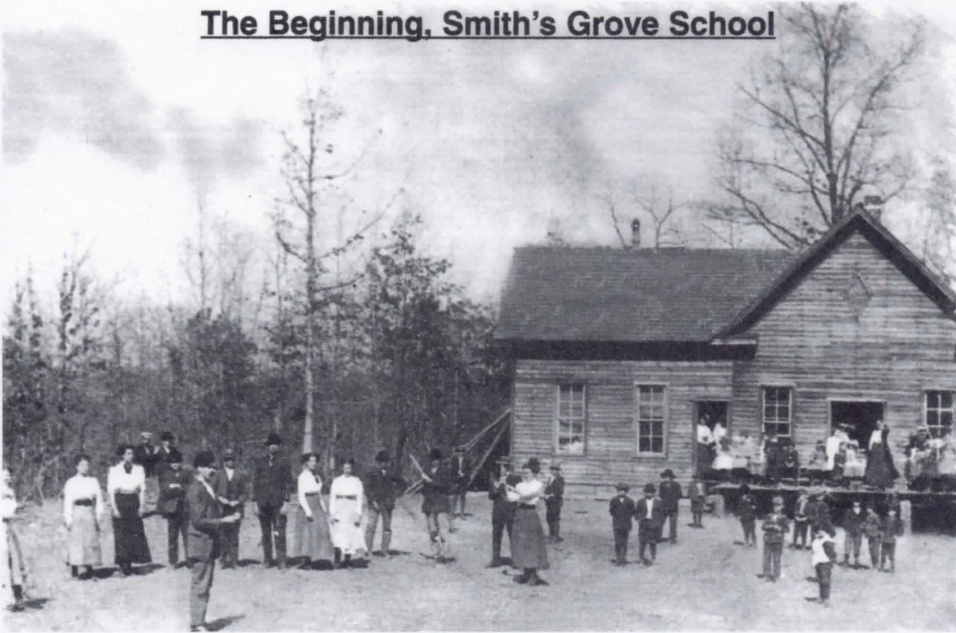
Recognizing the need for more parking and cemetery space, for additional Sunday School rooms and a larger sanctuary, the church voted to purchase approximately 30 acres of land joining the cemetery and community building property. This was in April 1971. The building fund has grown steadily and plans are to begin an entirely new church structure in 1979.

The church owns two buses and a van which are used for Sunday School transportation, youth organization functions and for senior citizens.

Grand total membership is 344, and the value of church property is approximately \$200,000 dollars. Total budget and missions receipts for 1978 were \$50,728 dollars.

The church has a well organized music program, WMU, Training Union, Sunday School, and a library.

The Beginning, Smith's Grove School



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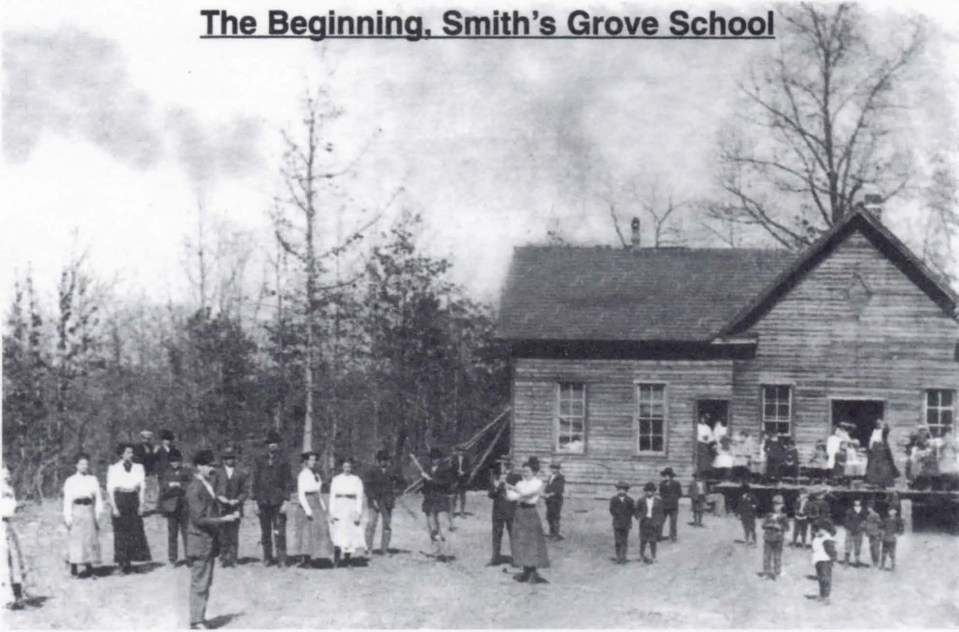
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Poplar Springs Baptist Church
1st Church 1885



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First Church Dedicated In 1896

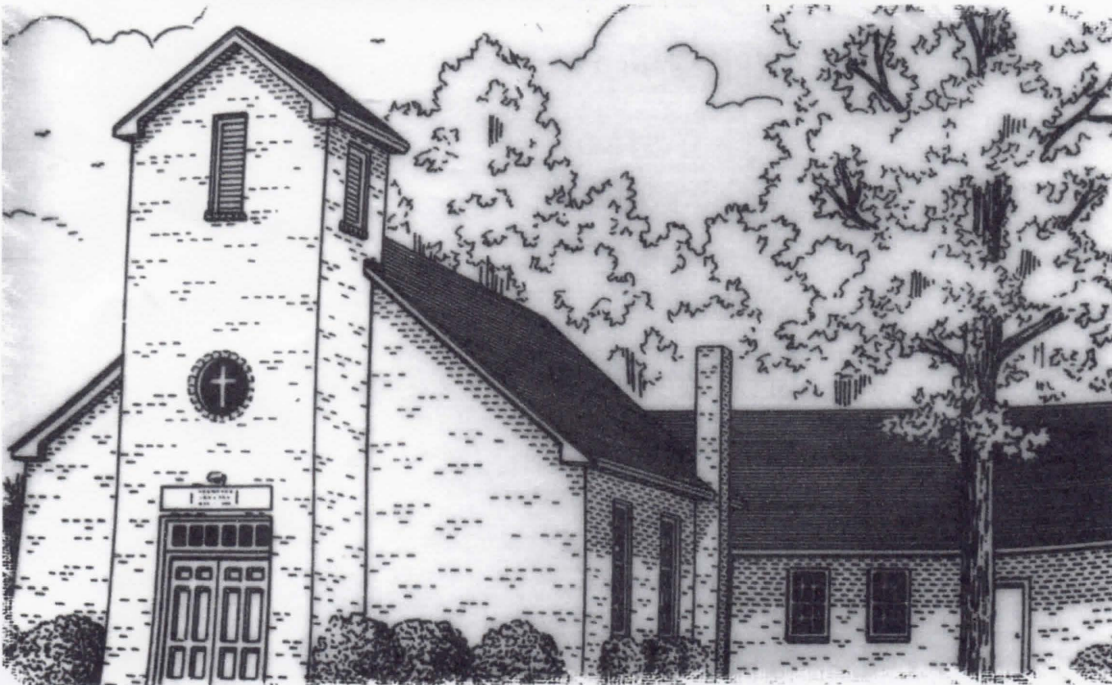


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Second Church Building 1939-1940

Second Church Building Bricked and Expanded 1958





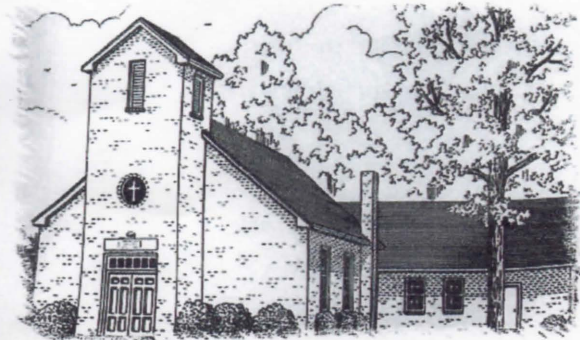
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First Church
Dedicated in 1896



Second Church
Dedicated in 1939-1940



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Today, a growing, mission-minded church, a parsonage for the Pastor and family, a fellowship hall and a picnic shelter is being used and enjoyed by many members and neighboring friends.



Poplar Springs Baptist Church

'A Vision for Generations'

In 2007, Poplar Springs Baptist Church members voted to expand the current facility to include educational space, offices and a recreational area. The completion of this project will allow us to further the ministry and mission of our church.

....we His servants will arise and build. Nehemiah 2:20

In Loving Memory of
MATT AND BAYLEY HINSON

Serving the Lord at PSBC
June 4, 2006 – July 26, 2007



Matt and Bayley were a blessing of God sent to PSBC. In just 13 months, this sweet couple was used by God to challenge our thinking about what it means to surrender to the Lord and serve Him. Matt and Bayley truly understood what is meant in James 4:14 where we are told our life *“is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”*

Because they believed this biblical truth with unwavering certainty, they spent their time wisely for the Lord. Their lives exemplified the truth found in First Corinthians 15:58. *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

