

Mountain View Baptist Church



Built Around 1890



May 25, 1975

Some Historical Events Of Mountain View Baptist Church

Mountain View Baptist Church was organized around 1885-1890. Herewith is some information secured from Mrs. Martha Barker Talley, daughter of Horatio Constantine Barker, who was very instrumental in organizing the Mountain View Baptist Church. Mrs. Talley now lives in Greensboro, North Carolina with a son, Bob Talley. Mrs. Talley furnished the picture of the old church building made in the summer of 1931. This building was located on the opposite side of the road from the new church.

Horatio Constantine Barker was a merchant, owning a general store in the Lowgap Community from 1885-1895. He felt the need of having a Missionary Baptist Church in the community, and talked with the people about it, and encouraged them to build a church here. There was a Primitive Baptist Church about a mile away, but Mr. Barker wanted a Missionary Baptist Church. Mrs. Nora Woodruff Thompson can remember her father, Mr. W. M. Woodruff, along with other interested people of the community hauling logs on a steer-drawn wagon to a sawmill to have the lumber sawed to build the church.

When the church membership was asked to send in names for the naming of the church, the name chosen was "Mountain View Baptist Church" which was the name Mr. Barker had submitted.

One of Mrs. Talley's earliest childhood memories is of going to the church and sitting quietly with her mother, Mrs. Mary Jones Barker, as she listened to Rev. J. H. Lewellyn preach. Rev. Lewellyn was one of the first (if not the first) to pastor Mountain View Baptist Church. He was a very able preacher. (Rev. Lewellyn died November 18, 1903 at the age of 73, having preached for 50 years). Mrs. Talley recalls hearing her mother and her sister, Mrs. Martha Jones Lovill praising Rev. Lewellyn as the most able preacher they had ever heard.

The Third Annual Session of the Surry Baptist Association met with the Mountain View Baptist Church August 17, 18, 19 and 20, 1905. The introductory sermon was given by Brother C. F. Fields, from Nehemiah 6:3. The delegates from Mountain View were: Taylor Lowe, J. B. Armfield, and L. A. Martin. Mr. J. G. Burrus of Rockford was moderator. There was 27 male members and 33 female members, and preaching services were held on the third Sundays in each month.

Herewith is a list of Pastors of the Mountain View Baptist Church.

Rev. J. H. Lewellyn.....	Believed to be the first pastor
Rev. K. Thompson.....	Followed Rev. Lewellyn
Rev. J. T. Kirk	1904-1906
Rev. W. H. Beamer	1907-1914
No Pastor	1915
Rev. A. J. Williams.....	1916-1919
Rev. Alex Collins.....	1920-1922
No Pastor	1923
Rev. J. H. Hall.....	1924-1932
Rev. John Weatherman	1933
Rev. L. M. Cook	1934-1938
Rev. S. F. Morton.....	1939
Rev. O. H. Hauser	1940
Rev. A. Finch	1941
Rev. J. H. Hall	1942
Rev. L. A. Flemming	1943-1944
Rev. Brady Snow	1945-1950
No Pastor	1951
Rev. Clarence Marshall.....	1952-1954
Rev. Tommy Johnson.....	1955
Rev. C. L. Leftwich.....	1956
No Pastor.....	1957
Rev. Charlie Freeman.....	1958-1965
No Pastor.....	1966
Rev. J. L. Byrd.....	1967-Present Pastor

A Brief History of Mountain View Baptist Church of Lowgap, NC
(from the Mountain View Baptist Church Centennial Commemorative)

The individuals who would form the roots of Mountain View Baptist Church of Lowgap first assembled as a group in 1885. Horatio Constantine Barker, a merchant owning a general store in the Lowgap Community from 1885 – 1895, felt the community needed a missionary baptist church in the area and thus encouraged members of the group to erect a church. At that time, there existed a primitive baptist church in Lowgap (about a mile from the church's current location), but Mr. Barker's desire was that a permanent missionary-focused church be established. A search for land began and the lot on which Mountain View's cemetery currently resides was found. The property was purchased on April 16, 1888 from William Payne for fifteen dollars in cash. It was, at that time, deeded to the "Missionary Baptist Church of Lowgap." Mr. Barker, Mr. W.M. Woodruff and other interested community members started hauling logs to a nearby mill on steer-drawn wagons to have lumber sawed with which to build the church. That first church building was a wood frame structure composed of one large room which seated about 250 persons. The building itself and the surrounding property were valued at \$500. When the church membership was asked to submit suggestions for naming the church, the title chosen was Mountain View Baptist Church, a submission provided by the man bearing much of the responsibility for the creation of the church, Mr. H. C. Barker.

Reverend J. H. Lewellyn was one of the first (if not the first) to pastor Mountain View. He was a very capable pastor, having preached a total of fifty years at the time of his death, November 18, 1903. Reverend Lewellyn died at the age of seventy-three. Mountain View Baptist Church became a member of the Surry Baptist Association when it began in 1903, and the third annual session of the association met at Mountain View from August 17-20, 1905. That session's introductory sermon was given by Brother C. F. Fields, taking his text from Nehemiah 6:3. The association delegates from Mountain View in 1905 were Taylor Lowe, J.B. Armfield and L.A. Martin. In 1905 there were twenty-seven male and thirty-three female church members, and services at that time were held once each month on each third Sunday. Mrs. J. E. (Ethel) Cockerham, whose father, Zachary Lowe was also instrumental in organizing Mountain View, remembers the first church building and is quoted as saying, "I remember so well when the Mountain View Baptist Church and the Lowgap School were combined in the same building. The building was large with a stage extending all the way across the auditorium with two doors in the back. Many good plays and religious revivals were given on this stage. People came from far and near to attend the church services and school functions." The combination of church and school in one building took place for several years at the turn of the 20th century and therefore caused Mountain View Baptist Church to also be called "The Academy."

The land on which the Mountain View Baptist Church sanctuary now resides (directly across Highway 89 from the old building site) was purchased on June 10, 1938 from

D.V. Woltz Gentry for \$100 by church trustees, E.L. Schuyler and Fred Armfield. Serious consideration regarding the construction of a new sanctuary on that land was begun in April of 1939, when a five person building committee was established. That committee was comprised of Joe B. Thompson, Tilden Ramey, Eugene L. Schuyler, Charlie F. Carson and Truman N. Woodruff. The main portion of that sanctuary (the one currently in use) was constructed in 1940. It was a three room, brick structure that, with the surrounding property was valued at \$4,500. That structure has since been remodeled. In October, 1958, a renovation committee made up of Claude W. Eason (chair), Margaret Lowe and Mary Lowe was established, with Kay Lowe assisting as Remodeling Fund Treasurer. Expansion of the sanctuary was completed in 1961 under the supervision of Corbett Ramey who served as trustee in charge. Upon completion of the project, the sanctuary was enlarged over 100% with the addition of two side rooms upstairs and a full basement downstairs. The expansion provided church members with four Sunday School rooms and two restrooms.

(Information taken from church minutes 1995 – 2003)

Digging of a new well to serve the church was commissioned during a business meeting held May 3, 1989 – the well was completed in July, 1989

Established rules and regulations for interment in the church cemetery and for use of the church building were adopted at the May 7, 1989 business meeting

In April, 1990, Mountain View Baptist Church participated in a simultaneous nationwide revival

During the July 11, 1990 business meeting, deacons recommend that the church recognize graduates, that a picnic area be improved, and that a church phone be installed. These were approved by vote. Reverend Sitton suggests that a weekly bulletin be created.

Cement was poured for a church picnic area in July, 1990. That cement now serves as foundation for the floor of our Youth Building.

During the August 1, 1990 business meeting, approval was given for seeking estimates regarding installation of overhead insulation and air conditioning in the church sanctuary

Approval was given during an October 10, 1990 business meeting for the purchase of a church copying machine. Although not the first to be used by the church, a machine was purchased in November

On January 9, 1991, the church minutes indicate a discussion regarding another possible expansion of the church for "Sunday School rooms"

Church minutes reflect during a March 6, 1991 business meeting, that a discussion about a youth trip to Caswell led to a vote of approval granting sponsorship (\$45 per person) for any church youth interested in attending camp at Caswell.

During the June 5, 1991 business meeting, a Mountain View Baptist Church youth council was created. The first recorded youth "lock-in" was held on August 16, 1991.

Minutes record a second discussion regarding another expansion of church facilities taking place during the business meeting of October 3, 1991

Deacons notify those attending the business meeting of November 6, 1991 of a discussion had by them the previous night regarding the creation of a potential fellowship hall (possibly to be started "in the spring")

During the business meeting of January 8, 1992, a five person building committee (Jim Dowell, Richard Seaver, Jim Cockerham, Donald Davis, Dennis Riggs) is identified "to make plans" for the building of a "fellowship building"

During the business meeting of March 4, 1992, a recommended plan pertaining to the construction of a fellowship hall was presented by the building committee (with blueprints to be created by "a man from Thomasville"). This recommendation for construction was approved by vote.

At the April 1, 1992 business meeting, it was reported that a blueprint (fellowship hall) was completed.

Minutes of this meeting also contain the first recorded suggestion for a nursery to be provided during Sunday worship services.

Minutes of the June 15, 1992 business meeting indicate that Branch Brothers would be chosen as the contractor responsible for construction of a fellowship hall/educational building.

On July 18, 1992, a "special called" meeting was held to present fellowship hall/educational building blueprints to the entire church and to inform members that \$65,000 would be needed to "get the building under roof." Motions to begin construction were entertained, followed by a unanimous vote to begin construction with Richard Seaver serving as liaison ("contact man") between the church and the county, and the church and Branch Brothers (entries from later minutes identify Richard as "project manager").

On August 3, 1992, Mountain View's pastor, Reverend Frank Sitton, was killed in a tractor-related accident. Reverend Sitton's funeral was held on August 6.

During the August 19, 1992 business meeting, a decision was made to name Mountain View's new structure the *Charles Frank Sitton Memorial Educational*

Building, and authorization was given to purchase signage ("a plaque") indicating such.

On August 23, 1992, ground was broken for the new educational building (the first shovel of dirt was turned by Mrs. Frank Sitton - Reverend Bill Pearson of the Surry Baptist Association presided over the activities).

On April 11, 1993 the church decided to solicit pledges from the membership to acquire additional funds needed for construction of the educational building.

On March 13, 1994, the church membership gave authorization toward the borrowing of \$70,000 to complete construction of the educational building/fellowship hall.

On April 13, 1994 a five person fund-raising committee was adopted to organize fund-raising efforts toward payment of the educational building loan.

Dedication of the completed *Charles Frank Sitton Memorial Educational Building* took place on July 17, 1994. Dedication activities were led by Reverend Bill Pearson.

During summer, 1995, the church celebrates its 110th anniversary celebration (in part by providing informational booklets for members). Reverend Wayne Trexler was the guest speaker.

Minutes of the December 6, 1995 business meeting first mention church involvement in a shoebox ministry ("51 shoeboxes for Bosnia"). A \$100 donation to help needy children at Cedar Ridge Elementary School was also authorized at that meeting.

On January 21, 1996, a deed of easement for the houses behind Mountain View's Cemetery was granted.

Minutes show that Mountain View Baptist Church raises funds toward payment of the educational building loan using a variety of methods including: collection of Food Lion receipts (Food Lion paid a percentage of receipt totals), golf tournaments, trash collection (county pays a per-bag amount), collection and sales of aluminum cans, car wash with yard & bake sale, and sales of cook books.

Minutes from the May 7, 1997 business meeting includes an entry indicating that final payment had been made for educational building/fellowship hall expenses.

During October, 1998, remodeling of Sunday School rooms in the sanctuary basement takes place (paneling, suspended ceiling, florescent lights).

In January, 1999, the church purchases a Clavinova to replace the piano as its primary means of musical accompaniment.

In July, 1999, the church sponsors a mission trip to Saint Lucia for some of its members. Regular sponsorship of children in Saint Lucia (\$35 monthly) begins later.

Installation of double glass doors at the church entrance begins September 1, 1999.

A donation process designated to raise funds for installation of stained glass windows in the sanctuary begins on October 6, 1999. By March 1, 2000, funding is secured and installation begins. On May 28, 2000, a service for dedication of the stained glass windows is held.

In September, 2000, the church paved its parking lot to its current dimensions.

In April, 2001, the church baptistry was built inside the educational building/fellowship hall.

On June 5, 2003, the church was officially incorporated by the state of North Carolina as a not-for-profit entity.

In spring of 2013, the Educational Building is repainted and one classroom is expanded.

In June/July, 2013, the Mountain View Baptist Church sanctuary is expanded upstairs via addition of restrooms and an expanded foyer area.

Mountain View Pastors

J.H. Lewellyn – believed to be the first	L.A. Flemming –	1943 - 1944
Kim Thompson – followed J.Lewellyn	Brady Snow -	1945 - 1950
J.T. Kirk - 1904 – 1906	Clarence Marshall -	1952 - 1954
Will H. Beamer - 1907 – 1914	Tommy Johnson -	1955
A. Jackson Williams 1916 – 1919	C.L. Leftwich -	1956
Alex Collins - 1920 – 1922	Charlie Freeman -	1958 - 1965
J.H. Hall - 1924 – 1932	Jim L. Byrd -	1967 - 1982
John Weatherman - 1933	Ray Coleman -	1984 - 1986
L.M. Cook - 1934 – 1938	Ben Mull -	1986 - 1989
S.F. Morton - 1939	Frank Sitton -	1989 - 1992
O.H. Hauser - 1940	Clyde Stewart -	1992 - 1999
A. Finch - 1941	Russell Parsons -	2001 - 2012
J.H. Hall - 1942	Ewell Vernon -	2013 -