

History of Midway Baptist Church

Mount Airy, NC

1952-2019

1951

In March of 1951 less than twenty persons gathered in the basement of the Utt family home less than 100 yards from the present location. In that initial meeting emerged a sincere discussion to plant a local church. Over the next few months that small group would continue to discuss, pray and listen to various local preachers. Some months would pass but the desire to plant a Christ-Centered, Bible Preaching, Soul-Winning local church would grow stronger.

1952

Those initial families would call their first pastor Rev. Johnny Weatherman. Pastor Weatherman would officially organize the church which was initially named Old Fancy Gap Baptist Tabernacle. It would begin services in a store front building about one-quarter mile south of our present location.

The first bank deposit would be made August 1st, for the amount of \$28.50.

1953

A loan was secured through Workmen's Federal Savings and Loan in the amount of \$1,500.00. A small track of land was purchased on our present location where the gym is currently located.

1955

Rev. Weatherman resigned to assume another pastorate.

1956

Old Fancy Gap Baptist Tabernacle would call its second pastor the Rev. Oscar Walker. Under Rev. Walker's leadership the congregation would build its first sanctuary a small white church and over the next four years additions would be added.

1958

A loan was secured through Workmen's Federal Savings and Loan in the amount of \$9,500.00. The congregation would build its first sanctuary a small white church and over the next four years additions would be added.

1960

Rev Oscar Walker resigns in spring of 1960. In July the church would decide to call its third pastor the Rev. Lee O. Meadows who began in August of that same year. Under the leadership of Pastor

Meadows Old Fancy Gap Baptist Tabernacle would change its name to Midway Baptist Church. The name change allowed the church to more closely identify with the community called Midway which was located between Toast and Fancy Gap. The community was identified as such because of the old Midway grocery store which stood a few hundred yards north of our current location.

1965

In July of 1965 Midway would enter a bond drive to raise money to build a new sanctuary to accommodate the growth the church had experienced.

1966

Easter Sunday the congregation would dedicate what would be at the time the largest sanctuary in Mount Airy.

Like most aggressive soul-winning churches in the 60's and 70's Midway begin a bus ministry. At its peak the church ran eight buses and had two full time bus mechanics. One of the mechanics at the time was the late Rev. Junior Easter.

During late sixties and through the seventies the spiritual influence Midway upon the community continued to increase. Guest preachers such as Dr. B R Lakin, Manley Beasley and Bill Stafford along with some of the greatest names in southern gospel music continue to attract visitors and new members.

1972

A new educational wing is built and dedicated and a church Daycare and kindergarten program begin. The first director of the school was Mrs. Betty Meadows, wife of Pastor Lee O. Meadows.

Midway would in seventies continue an aggressive mission program and see a few of its members surrender to full time Christian service on the mission field and plant new churches in nearby neighboring communities.

1988

After serving twenty-eight years as senior Rev. Meadows retires from active ministry and the church organizes a pulpit search committee to find its fourth Pastor.

In December after months of prayer and seeking God's will, the church would by a vote of 97% call Rev. Larry R Phillips to be its fourth pastor.

1989

In February Rev. Phillips assumed the pulpit ministry which has continued for thirty-one years.

During his ministry Midway would see seventeen men surrender to preach the gospel, hundreds come to know Jesus Christ as Personal Saviour and every home in Mount Airy, Pilot Mountain, Dobson, Elkin and Galax VA presented with a copy of the New Testament.

Members and visitors, who listen weekly to his sermons, describe Rev. Phillips as one of the most engaging Bible expositors in North Carolina.

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