

Brief History First Baptist Church of Dobson

The 1850's were times of new beginning for the settlers in the area of Surry County, North Carolina. The county of Surry was created as a division of Yadkin County. Surry was north of the Yadkin River and Yadkin was south of the river. The county seat was to be located in the center of the area. The center of Surry was in a virgin forest and from this forest the village of Dobson came into being.

At the time of division of the counties there was a move to establish a Baptist church in every county seat. Instrumental in this move in Surry County was a devout associational worker, Absalm Roby and his wife, Rosa Hampton Roby. The Roby's owned an inn in Dobson. In 1856 Mr. Roby died and two years later in September 1858, Mrs. Roby was remarried to Richard Martin and the inn became known as the Martin Inn.

It was at the Martin Inn that Dobson Baptist Church was organized in October 1858 by the Rev. James Henry Llewellyn, a native of Rockingham County, North Carolina. Rev. Llewellyn was the first Missionary Baptist Minister in this area and Dobson Baptist Church was the first Missionary Baptist Church organized in this area. Serving in both Yadkin and Surry Associations, Rev. Llewellyn founded 10 churches in Northwest North Carolina and Southwest Virginia. Joining Rev. Llewellyn as charter members of Dobson Baptist Church were his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lacy Norman, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. McGuffin, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Martin, and Mr. Alex Freeman. Rev. Llewellyn pastored Dobson Baptist at intervals until his death in 1903.

The Civil War stopped all progress in this area. We know nothing relating to the church until the 1869 Minutes of the Surry Baptist Association showing that Mr. Lacy Norman attended the yearly meeting.

In 1873 the church members bought a two story wooden structure located on Crutchfield Street about two blocks from the present church. The building was purchased for \$100 from Mr. John W. Martin, son of Richard Martin who was a charter member.

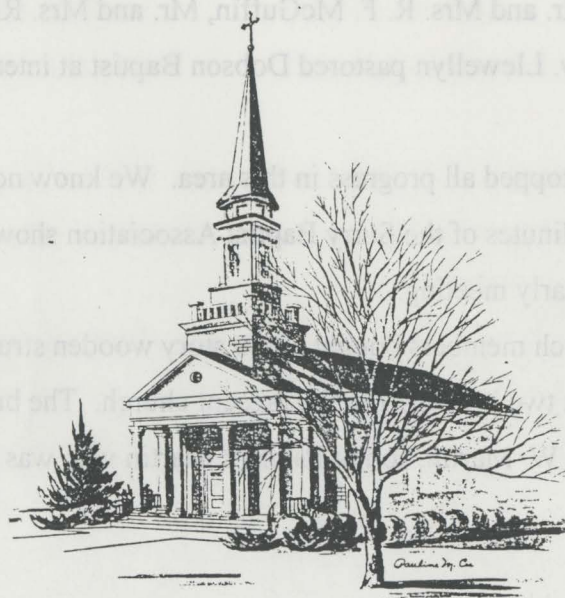
In the late 1890's Mr. Henston Reece organized the first Sunday School in the church. For 40 years he served as the Sunday School Superintendent. His leadership bought a following to the church and provided happy memories for many children.

The members built a new church building which was also located on Crutchfield Street in 1903. Sadly, this building burned in 1918. A new church was rebuilt on the same site In 1921. This building now houses Davis & Sons Funeral Home.

In 1972 the name of the church was changed to First Baptist Church of Dobson. The present church building was erected across the street from the old church in 1958. It was built in two stages. The basement housed the nursery, children and youth departments. Two years later a second story containing a sanctuary and office space was added. Needing additional space in 1985 a new fellowship hall and seven classrooms were added.

Compiled by: Hester Jackson & Camilla Cook

NOTE: The early records were destroyed by fire July 4, 1918. This information was taken from Association Minutes, Church records after 1921 and from county records. Miss Elizabeth Norman, granddaughter of Alex Freeman and great granddaughter of Richard Martin gave the information about the organization and charter members in a sworn statement. Miss Norman lived from 1900-1999.



First Baptist Church

DOBSON, NORTH CAROLINA