

THE HISTORY OF BANNERTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

BY

RUBY B. FLINCHUM & SARAH SIMPSON

On October 22, 1906, the residents of Bannertown community met in Oak Grove School to discuss building a church. Old records state "the interest in having a church in our community was so strong that a considerable amount of money, approximately half of the cost of the building, was subscribed on the spot."

A Building Committee, consisting of James O. Belton, N. S. Caudle, W. H. Stephens, J. W. Simmons and Clint Gray was appointed. On a lot donated by James O. Belton, they decided to build "a white frame church 30 x 44 feet, with a 14 foot ceiling, with self-supporting roof, covered with good shingles and a good pitch the same, all to be good fine lumber, said building to be in good workmanship manner."

The Bannertown Baptist Church was organized Sunday, December 16, 1906 with Rev. C. C. Arrington as the first pastor. All of the first members enrolled, except one, came by letter from Holly Springs Baptist Church. W. F. Welch came by letter from Sulfur Springs Baptist Church. The enrollment was listed as follows: T. J. Barker, George Arnder, James Johnson, Joe Barker, W. F. Welch, Ed H. Smith, Sarah Barker, Addie Arnder, D. S. Barker, Rose Johnson, Bertha Caudle, Mary Smith, Ada Brinkley, Jettie Belton, Cora B. Moser and Rebecca Boyd.

Though not charter members, some people who were enrolled in the church near its beginning were James R. Caudle, Silvana Myers, Ben and Lucinda Edwards, Pearlle Barker, James O. and Mary Jane Belton and Jim and Lizzie Gunnell.

With quarter-time preaching, the church met at first on fourth Sundays in the Oak Grove School located on the Westfield Road where Gilbert and Ruby Flinchum now live. The church building was completed in 1907, the nucleus of the church in which we have worshiped since then. By 1910 the church was paid for.

Years later the side wings and four rooms were added to the church along with a heating system. Prior to that time, two coal stoves were used for heat. In 1951, four more Sunday School rooms were added to the back of the church. In 1956 the church was bricked, the choir loft changed and the vestibule added. Rest rooms were added to the basement in 1957 and a second furnace added in 1962. The church was air conditioned and a baptistery installed in 1968.

In 1949 the church purchased a home next to the church which was used as the parsonage until 1969. The building was remodeled in 1966 and is now being used for the Pastor's study, library and office. In 1969 a wooded lot on Massey Road was purchased from Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Glass and a new parsonage was built. In 1994 the parsonage was sold and a housing allowance is now paid to our Pastor.

In 1975 the Bannertown Elementary School property, adjacent to the church property, was purchased. The original school building, erected in 1930, was demolished and the separate later addition to the school was converted into Sunday School classrooms and a Fellowship Hall which is still in use. Our new sanctuary is located over the site of the original building.

The Rev. Christopher Columbus (Kit) Arrington served as our first pastor from 1906 until 1909. He was followed by the Rev. Sam F. Morton who first served from 1910 until 1916. He was succeeded by Rev. A. L. McLendon, a Rev. Haynes, and Rev. Lee Burris for which we have no exact dates of service. Rev. Sam F. Morton served again from approximately 1922 until 1939.

In 1940 we began having preaching twice a month. Subsequent Pastors were: Rev. Edward Thornburg (1940-1947), Rev. W. Edgar Burrus (1947-1949), Rev. Joe Crews, our first full time Pastor (1950-1966), Dr. Cort R. Flint (1967-1969), Dr. Gerald T. Smith (1969-1977), Rev. Terry Coe, interim (1978), Rev. Wayne Haynes (1978-1984), Rev.

Donald Cashwell (1985-1987), Rev. Terry Coe (1987-1992), Dr. Gerald Hewitt, interim (1992-1993), Dr. William G. Guthrie (1993-2002), Rev. Joel Stephens, youth minister (1998-2001), Rev. Tim VanHoy, youth minister (2001-2006), Rev. David Allred, interim (2002-2004), Dr. Rick Jackson (2004-present).

A Long Range Planning Committee was elected in 1988 to study the future needs of the church, and it was felt we should plan for a larger sanctuary. At that time the Building Fund was \$20,000. Preliminary architectural plans for a new sanctuary were first obtained in September 1990. At that time the church decided the Building Fund should be much greater before construction should begin. The Building Fund began to grow as interest increased.

In the summer of 1994, the Committee submitted some changes in the architectural plans which included raising the pitch of the roof of the sanctuary, bringing the floor elevation of the building up to the level of the old church and adding a connector between the old and new building to include a nursery and choir room. The church voted to proceed with starting the construction, and a ground breaking ceremony was held on Sunday, October 30, 1994.

From 1988 to 1996, those who served on the Long Range Planning Committee were Gilbert Flinchum, Elizabeth Branch, Mary Neal, Ruth Smith, Lacy Sawyers, Jr., Paul Shelton, Earl Myers, D. M. Dalton, Imogene Bowman, Buck Bowman, Wayne Gwyn and Guy Caudle.

Construction of the sanctuary was started in December 1994. The architect for the project was Ray Troxell and Associates of Winston-Salem, and the general contractor was Blum Construction Company, also of Winston-Salem, with Buck Bowman as Supervisor and Co-coordinator of the construction and Wayne Gwyn as his assistant (both men being members of our church).

The beautiful new sanctuary has a brick exterior, matching the old church which will continue to be used for Sunday School rooms, etc. The front of the new building has a covered porch with four large white columns and a three door entrance leading into a large vestibule which has a lounge and rest room on each side of it. The sanctuary has a seating capacity of 452, including the balcony, and has stained glass windows depicting the life of Jesus from birth to ascension. Construction was completed in December 1995 and the Dedication Service was held on March 17, 1996.

Rev. Joel Stephens came to Bannertown on March 1, 1998 as our first Minister of Youth and Children.

In 2004, we purchased new hymnals and brought a fourteen passenger bus. We also installed a new sound and video system and put a large video screen on the wall.

Pastor Rick Jackson added a greeter ministry that has enhanced our church friendliness.

In 2005 a handicap ramp was added in front of the church to help visitors and our own members to have easier access to our church.

In 2006 interest was raised about a bell tower to house the bell from the old church. The tower was to be constructed between the two churches and be done by November 5, 2006. The bell tower will help us celebrate our centennial.

Since its founding in 1906, Bannertown Baptist Church has been aligned with the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association and the Surry Baptist Association, the North Carolina Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Our present church membership is 511 and the Sunday School enrollment is 184.

October 23, 2006

*Information compiled by Ruby Flinchum, Sylvia Chilton and Sarah Simpson
Pilot Mountain Baptist Association, Surry Baptist Association and Church Records

1998-2001 – Rev. Joel Stephens, Youth Minister Rev. Joel Stephens came to Bannertown Baptist Church on March 1, 1998, as our first full-time Minister of Youth and Children and served here until September 8, 2001.

He is a graduate of North Stokes High School and grew up in Simmons Grove Baptist Church of Pilot Mountain. He graduated in May, 2005 with a Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Joel is married to Lisa Allred Stephens. The Lord has blessed them with four children: Carson, Carrie, Cooper and Cathryn.

Currently, Joel is serving as Senior Pastor of the Westfield Baptist Church in Westfield, N.C. where he has been since leaving Bannertown.

2001-2006 Rev. Tim VanHoy, Youth Minister Born, September 26th, 1966, in Yadkin County, North Carolina. He has been married to Debra for 20 years and they have a daughter, Taylor. Graduated from Mt. Airy High School in 1984. Attended Southern Baptist Seminary Extension at the Surry Baptist Resource Center. Received Associates in Applied Science Degree in Drafting and Design Technology at Surry Community College. He was called to full time youth ministry in 1999 and has served 3 churches as either Youth Minister or Youth Director.

2002-2004 – Rev. David Allred - Interim Rev. Allred is a graduate of Wake Forest University where he received a B.A. in Sociology and a M.A. in Pastoral Counseling. He is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary where he received a Masters in Divinity degree. He was ordained in 1963 by the Rocky Hock Baptist Church in Edenton, North Carolina.

Rev. Allred served the Villa Heights Baptist Church in Martinsville, Virginia as full time pastor for six years prior to entering the mental health field as a Clinical Chaplain. He is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and has served over 35 years in the mental health field. He is currently the Housing Development Specialist at Center Point Human Services in Winston-Salem, N.C. and does contract work with Triumph as a Marriage and Family Therapist at the mental health clinic in Mt. Airy several evenings each week.

Rev. Allred has served as interim pastor of numerous churches across North Carolina. In recent years he has served as interim pastor for Antioch Baptist Church in Mt. Airy; First Baptist Church, Dobson; Bannertown Baptist Church, Mt. Airy and Mountain Park Baptist Church in State Road, N. C.

Rev. Allred is married to the former Mary Lou Pharr of Concord, N.C. He has three sons, Steve, Mark and Peyton and four grandchildren. For the past seven years, David and Mary Lou have made their home in the mountains of Southwestern Virginia.

2004-Presnet – Dr. Rick Jackson Dr. Jackson is a native of Mt. Airy, born in Forsyth County in 1956. He is married to the former Lisa Handy. They have one daughter and son-in-law, Kelly and Bryan Waters and one son and daughter-in-law, Josh and Kendra Jackson. They also have twin granddaughters. He graduated from North Surry High School in 1974; Surry Community College in 1975; he received an Associates Degree of Religion from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute; Bachelor of Ministry Degree from Covington Theological Seminary; Master of Divinity Degree from Slidell Baptist Seminary; and a Doctorate of Theology from Slidell Baptist

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BANNERTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH CHARTER MEMBERS

GEORGE WASHINGTON ARNDER (*November 7, 1874 – July 18, 1958*)

SARAH ADELINE (ADDIE) BARKER ARNDER (*May 15, 1876 – May 1, 1919*)

Married February 16, 1895

Children:

Mattie Alice Gates married to Mark Gates

Minnie Lee Harris married to Floyd Harris

Bertha Elizabeth Willard married to Bill Willard

John Andrew Arnder married to Stella Arnder

Jettie Lou Chappell married to John Chappell

Robert Edgar Arnder married to Susan Arnder

Ida Frances Bowman married to John Bowman

Lucy Ann Westmoreland married to Henry Westmoreland

George Arnder's second wife was Ellen Gates Nester; they had three children

Ray William Arnder

Chester Raymond Arnder married to Mary Ruth Arnder

Imogene Mae Robertson married to Lonnie



JOE BARKER (*January 26, 1878 – February 17, 1960*)

VICTORIA JOHNSON BARKER (*June 10, 1876 – October 10, 1966*)

Children:

Perlie Barker

Diana Bowman

Maggie Shaw

Margie Bowman

Beulah Johnson

Lizzie Kinzer

Geneva Wilson

Lonnie Barker

Bennie Barker

McKinley Barker



THOMAS J. BARKER

SARAH BARKER

Children:

Jettie Barker Belton

Joe Barker

Diana Barker

Addie Barker Arnder

DIANA BARKER

Sister of Thomas Barker, Joe Barker and Jettie Barker Belton

Daughter of Thomas and Sarah Barker

JAMES OSCAR BELTON (*May 10, 1879 – February 25, 1956*)

MARY JANE SHAW

Married December 24, 1902

Children:

Howard Belton

Carl Belton

Aline Belton

Vera Belton

Vance Haywood Belton

Ruth Belton

Lavise Belton

Doris Belton

Betty Belton

James Belton donated land for the church and was on the Building Committee when the church was built.

JETTIE BARKER BELTON
ULYSSES GRANT BELTON

Married July 12, 1869

Children:

Jessie Belton Welch

Annie Belton Inman

Walter Belton

George & Jessie Belton Welch children

Peggy Welch

Jessica Welch Allred

George P. Welch, Jr.

Dorothy Welch Clifton

Patricia Welch Kenney

Margaret Welch Tolbert

Larue Welch Stanley

Frank Welch

Randall Welch

Joe Welch

Nancy Welch

Jane Welch Cook

BERTHA CAUDLE WILLARD

Married to Luther Willard

Daughter of N. S. Caudle

Sister to Jr. and Ed Caudle

Children:

Alie Cooke

Bob Willard

Imogene Willard

Blanche Hiatt

NEWTON SEYMORE (N.S.) CAUDLE

Married Cora Gwyn

Children:

Bertha Caudle

Junior Caudle

Ed Caudle

Junior Caudle married Bessie Wall

Children:

Eva Caudle Simmons

Russell Caudle

Mildred Short

Bernice Caudle

Jeanette Rule

Guy Caudle

Grandchildren:

Dale, Glenn & Kenneth Simmons

Patsy King, Joan Marie Vaughn, Dianne Hunter, Jr. Short, Marilyn Cooke, Janice

Sawyers, Rebecca Rule Womble, Sammy Rule, Jeff Rule, James Rule, Bess Jane Love,

Nancy Stone and James R. Caudle

CLINTON GRAY (*June 13, 1869 – August 3, 1938*)
FRANCES GRAY (*February 16, 1887 – August 26, 1943*)

Children:

Percy Gray
Lucille Quesinberry
Jesse Gray

Ozy Gray
McGertha Collin
Florence Bishop

Mrylle Stanley
Willie Gray



Clinton worked at the Quarry as a mason. He was on the Building Committee for the first church.

CORA B. MOSER

Daughter of Albert Short
Ed Short's sister

Children:

Jack Moser
Jessie Moser
Hazel Moser

Tom Moser
Lura Sykes

Dennis Moser
Doris Talley

JAMES JOHNSON*

W. F. WELCH*

ED SMITH*

ROSA JOHNSON*

MARY SMITH*

ADA BRINKLEY*

REBECCA BOYD*

*No information found