

I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me, "Let Us Go Into The House Of The Lord!"

CHURCH OF THE WEEK

Bethlehem Baptist Church



BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH 1842-1989

Bethlehem Baptist Church is the third oldest church in the Kings Mountain Baptist Association. Bethlehem Baptist Church became an arm of Antioch Baptist Church. Several Baptists were living in the community of Bethlehem which was called White Plains. Being so far from any Baptist church, they decided to build a meeting house and ask the Baptist church at Antioch to make them an arm so they could receive members and baptise them. Elder R.P. Logan began preaching for them and held services for several months with great success. They decided to organize a church. The church was organized July 16, 1842 and 26 people presented letters to become members.

In March of 1845, James Alton, for the regard that he had for the cause of the Christian Religion, gave, granted and conveyed and by those present, did give grant and convey unto the deacons of Bethlehem Baptist Church and their successors in office forever, a certain piece or parcel of land to build a meeting house. This piece or parcel of land to build a meeting house. This piece of land contained one and a half acres, and was a glebe for Bethlehem Baptist Church or meeting house. (Glebe: a portion of land attached to an ecclesiastical benefice as part of its endowment; land belonging to a parish; ground.)

In 1866 land was given by Dr. Thomas Williams of Shelby. A tract of land which joined the present location was secured and a log church was built. In 1869, a frame church was contracted to Mr. P.D. Paterson.

This building was used until the building of another in the year of 1929. On February 16, 1929, in conference, the committee reported a suggestion to first raise the present building sufficient for a basement, a wing on each side and build an addition to the back for a choir. The outside was to be veneered over the wood frame. The building constructed in 1929 with Sunday School rooms on the ground floor is still being used.

The present brick building was built during the depression. There were financial committees and work committees. With a lot of prayer and hard work the church was built, complete with beautifully stained glass windows which different members donated in memory of loved ones. The members moved into the church in 1930.

On December 28, 1947, the treasurer was authorized to pay the County Superintendent for the School house and grounds. This property is now Bethlehem's Fellowship Building and grounds.

On Easter Sunday, 1952, the first offering was taken by the church for the construction of a pastor's home. Ground was broken for the home the last of July. In less than a year the home had been completed and paid for. This could never have been accomplished in so short a time except for the arduous efforts of the building committee, the free labor of many of the church members, and the generous gifts of material and money by the people.

In 1960, Bethlehem was again renovated. A new Sanctuary, Chapel and Educational Building were added.

Since this renovation, our church has made changes and continued to grow. As membership grew so did the needs of the church. As office space expanded so did our church staff. We hired a full time secretary, and a music director who also assisted the Pastor. Other acquisitions of the church during the past 22 years included purchasing additional land adjoining the fellowship center. Robes were purchased for the choir. A bus ministry was started and our church now has two vans to aid in the duties of our church. Our parking lots were paved during this period also. New office equipment has been purchased to assist the secretary in her work. From this acquired machinery, our church now publishes a Church Scroll each week. A ramp was built to assist the handicapped who come to our church. Protective coverings were placed over our stained windows to insure their safety. Cushions for the pews in the sanctuary were purchased as well as the cushioned chairs used in the Chapel. Being supporters of the Missions, our church felt led to sponsor The Norman Browns during their missionary services in Germany. We have a Minister of Education and a Minister of Music who work together to provide Choirs and activities for our youth. A Backyard Bible Club and Lock-In Retreat will be remembered by all who participated. The Young at Heart meet monthly and they enjoy special events as well as planned trips. This group is our active members who visit and take church material to our shut-ins.

These men have served Bethlehem as pastors:

Elder R.P. Logan.....	1842-1845	Rev. J.G. Graham.....	1912-1913
Elder Tom Dixon.....	1846-1847	Rev. D.V. Vipperman.....	1914
Elder W.B. Padgett.....	1848-1849	Rev. J.W. Suttle.....	1915-1916
Elder B.E. Rollins.....	1850	Rev. R.C. Campbell.....	1917-1919
Elder P.R. Logan.....	1851	Rev. W.G. Camp.....	1920-1923
Elder P.R. Elam.....	1868-1880	Rev. H.V. Tanner.....	1924-1925
Elder G.P. Hamrick.....	1881-1884	Rev. W.N. Cook.....	1926-1928
Elder P.R. Elam.....	1885	Rev. W.J. Black.....	1929-1939
Rev. J.M. Bridges.....	1886-1888	Rev. Carl Mauney.....	1939-1940
Elder P.R. Elam.....	1889-1890	Rev. W.G. Camp.....	1941-1945
Rev. G.M. Webb.....	1891	Rev. T.W. Fogleman.....	1946-1951
Rev. P.G. Hopper.....	1892	Rev. R.E. Robbins.....	1952-1956
Rev. E.B. McSwain.....	1893	Rev. Norman Brown.....	1957-1961
Rev. B.M. Webb.....	1894-1896	Rev. Donald Callahan.....	1961-1963
Rev. R.L. Limrick.....	1897-1899	Rev. James F. Graham.....	1965-1967
Rev. A.M. Ross.....	1900	Rev. Russell Fitts.....	1968-1978
Rev. A.H. Sims.....	1901-1906	Rev. Samuel H. Murphy.....	1978-1984
Rev. G.G. Oniel.....	1907	Rev. Edward Sessom.....	1984-1986
Rev. C.W. Paysour.....	1908	Dr. Randy Gardner.....	1987-Present
Rev. J.W. Suttle.....	1909-1911		

- Amity Finance of Kings Mountain, Inc. 739-1311
- Neisler Brothers, Inc.
- First Union National Bank or North Carolina P.O. Box 352
- BB&T 410 East King Street
- Allens Flower Shop, Inc. Management and Staff
- Harris Funeral Home, Inc. Ollie Harris and Staff
- Jones Intercable Management and Employees
- Kings Mountain Florist 739-7331
- Setzer's Discount Auto Parts 1301 Grover Road 734-0121
- Dr. James R. Mason Optometrist
- Mac's Grocery 739-3391
- Love's Fish Box 1104 Shelby Road
- Winn Dixie Stores And Employees
- Parkdale Mills, Inc. #5 Management and Employees
- J & S Pantry Main Street, Grover N.C.
- Keeter Furniture Tommy Keeter and Employees
- Plonk Tire Wray and David Plonk
- Kings Mountain Truck Plaza And Employees
- Harper's Prescription Pharmacy, Inc. 739-3687
- First Citizens Bank 405 South Battleground Ave.
- Home Federal Savings and Loan Association
- Kings Mountain Hospital 739-3601
- First Federal Savings and Loan Association
- Barrett's Floor Covering and Paint 739-2770 - 739-4581
- Childers Heating and Cooling, Inc. Bill Childers and Employees

- McGill Exxon Servicenter 100 E. King Street
- Sandra Wilson Realty 739-5872
- Country Time Rest Home Brevard Road Kings Mountain, N.C. 739-2760
- Butler Air Conditioning and Heating David Butler and Employees
- Peggy's Restaurant Management and Employees
- Kerns Trucking Inc. "You Call - We Haul!"
- Depot Stop and Go, Inc. Ken Roberts and Employees
- Warlick and Hamrick Associates Insurance - Real Estate
- Bridges Textiles Management and Employees
- Sadie Mills, Inc. Management and Employees
- Champion Contracting Company And Employees
- Dilling Heating And Employees
- Community Grocery Jim, Glenn and Chrystine Carroll
- Harris Teeter Supermarket And Employees
- Phifer Hardware Management and Employees
- Cloninger and Neisler Attorneys at Law
- The Printin' Press, Inc. Management and Employees
- Martin Marietta Management and Employees
- Ben T. Goforth Plumbing Management and Employees
- Grover Industries Where Friendly People Work
- Tulfex Yarns And Employees
- Lutz Oil Co., Inc. 739-4261
- Dellinger's Jewel Shop Better Diamonds at a Better Price
- Combustion Engineering Inc. Joe Andrews and Associates

Our Houses Of Worship Are God's Institutions For Reforming Human Lives. Area Pastors And These Sponsoring Firms Invite You To Attend One Of Your Choice Regularly.