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## David Baptist Church

Some of the local Baptists felt for some time that a Baptist Church should be established at or near the Bethware High School. Rev. H.E. Waldrop preached for awhile and a Sunday School was organized and kept open for some time. Rev. R.R. Cook held open air services for some time in the summer of 1938. No definite steps were taken to establish a church until September of 1938.

Rev. D.F. Putnam was approached by Terria and Luther McSwain, Sr. with reference to helping to investigate the community's interest in organizing and building a house of worship. A partial survey determined the interest and need were there, along with the endorsement and encouragement of the Pastors and Workers Conference of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association.

On Sunday, October 9, 1938, David's Baptist Church was organized, with Rev. D.F. Putnam as their first pastor. The forty-eight charter members met in the Bethware School Auditorium until a church building was completed one year later.

Luther McSwain, Sr. and L.W. (Walker) McSwain both agreed to give \$500 each, to donate a building site, and timber for the building, in memory of David Andrew McSwain. Alexander Hatcher Webb gave \$1000 to honor his father, David Webb, known as "Honest Dave Webb," a farmer and merchant from Shelby. Also, in Psalms, we read how King David loved the house of the Lord. Therefore, the church was named David's Baptist Church. The "s" was dropped shortly thereafter.

Rev. D.F. Putnam served as pastor of David Baptist Church from 1938 until 1945. During his pastorate, Sunday School and Church Training Union was organized, the first revival was held, our church was accepted into the Kings Mountain Baptist Association and started giving to the Cooperative Program. A baptistry was built and land was purchased for a cemetery. The church continued to grow, and by 1942, there were 147 members. Also, during this time, a project was organized to help with the expenses of the new church building; this project was called "The Lord's Acre". Rev. Putnam resigned in 1945.

In 1946, Rev. Oscar Long from Lawndale, N.C. accepted the position as part-time pastor of our church. With an average attendance of 85, mid-week prayer services were begun. Our church held its first Vacation Bible School in 1946, and in 1947, the Women's Missionary Union was organized in our church. A library was also developed during this time.

Because the pastor and his family had to commute the first year, the need for a parsonage was realized. The L.V. Hoyle family donated land, money was borrowed, and with the church members doing the work, the Long's were able to move into the community. Rev. Long remained as our pastor until his resignation in 1948.

Rev. Wade Lawrence McSwain, a graduate of Wake Forest College and the seminary at Louisville, Kentucky, accepted the call to David as part-time pastor as well as pastor at Allen Memorial in March of 1949. During his pastorate, the church had its first bulletin, the church debt was liquidated, hand rails were put up at the steps at the entrance to the church, and a bell tower was built for the church bell. Cotton was planted on some land owned by the church behind the school, for the Lord's Acre Project. This, along with a "\$1.00-a-Month" and other projects raised \$484.00 for building improvements, since there were no inside bathrooms or running water inside the church. Rev. McSwain resigned in 1952.

Rev. C.W. Walker began his pastorate in 1953, coming from the eastern part of the state. He was a part-time pastor at two churches, our church and Allen Memorial. During this time, the ladies of the church were busy preparing suppers and making quilts to sell to help buy carpet and church benches. Rev. Walker resigned December 1, 1954, to begin work at Flint Hill and Boiling Springs.

Rev. N.S. Hardin accepted the call to be pastor of David Baptist Church on February 13, 1955. On that same evening, the church building burned to the ground leaving only a few front columns standing. He preached his first sermon as pastor on the first Sunday in March of 1955. He was also pastor of Westover Baptist Church until July 13, 1958, when he became our full-time pastor.

Rev. Hardin's fourteen-year pastorate began by building a new church building. During his ministry, membership increased tremendously, with 97 people joining on profession of faith and being baptized; 108 joined by letter. Three men from our church were called out as pastors.

As we grew, so did our church. A new organ was purchased and the church debt was paid. Construction for our Recreational Building was begun in December of 1968.

On May 4, 1969, Rev. Hardin resigned as full-time pastor of David Baptist Church, but continued to be our supply pastor when we needed him. He became our Pastor Emeritus in 1977.

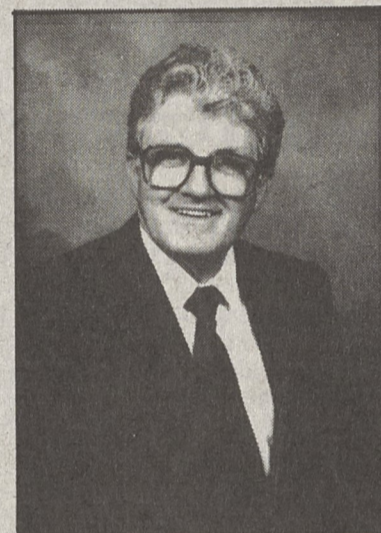
Rev. Albert Hastings preached his first sermon for our church and was called as pastor of our church on June 22, 1969. During his ministry at David Baptist Church, our first "paid" youth worker was hired, our church sponsored a cub scout troop, an up-dated and revised system of electing deacons was adopted, and one man was called out as a pastor from our church. Rev. Hastings resigned as pastor of our church on January 1, 1971.

On July 11, 1971, Rev. Marvin Whisnant became our pastor. This is the year we began having "Watch Night Services" at church on New Year's Eve. We now had 140 adult resident members in our church and our first pictorial directory was made. Our original Memorial Day, celebrated on Mother's Day each year, was changed to the second Sunday in October. Church improvements included carpeting our nursery, purchasing new choir robes, and purchasing cushions for our pews. We also hired our first secretary for the church. Rev. Whisnant resigned as our pastor effective December 28, 1975.

Rev. L.M. Schuman became pastor of David Baptist Church on March 7, 1976. Although he was our pastor full-time, Rev. Schuman also continued his education, graduating from Gardner-Webb College. During his ministry to our church, we held our first "Children's Dedication Service," a Recreation Committee was formed, and we participated in the "James Robison Crusade" held in Shelby. During this time, we paid off the debt on our Recreational Building, storm windows were put on the church, the parking lot was paved, and we had air conditioning installed in our Recreational Building. Rev. Schuman was instrumental in leading us to honor Rev. N.S. Hardin as Pastor Emeritus in May, 1977. Rev. Schuman resigned as our pastor on October 19, 1980.

Rev. James W. "Buzz" Parks began his pastorate at our church in the summer of 1981. During his ministry, our church grew in membership and increased our missions support. Church improvements included building a new parsonage, and also a ramp for the handicapped was added on to the side of the front porch of the church building. He resigned on November 25, 1984, to become a foreign missionary to Chile.

Rev. Brian Taule, began his call as our Pastor in July, 1985. In 1987, Rev. Taule made a trip to the Holy Land, and he was host to a group of people travelling to the Holy Land in 1988. He also led us in the commemoration of our fifty years of being a church family. In our 52 year history we have had eleven pastors. Claude McIntosh is presently serving as pastor.



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