

180 Year Anniversary of The Bethlehem Baptist Church of Ruff Creek

History Highlights

1843 – First met in a Brick School House located North on 221

May 1846 - First church building was dedicated

1886 - Plans were drawn up for a new church building. Total Cost: \$6,721.46

1888 - The Second Church Building was finished (current location)

March 1911 – Church building destroyed when the boiler exploded

June 1912 - Third and present building was dedicated. Total cost: \$9,000

Bricks for the present building were fired in a kiln just across the creek from here

1992 - 93 Church basement remodeled in preparation for 150th Anniversary

At the 150th Anniversary there were 24 “50 Year Members”

2023 – At this time we have 6 “50 Year Members”

Glenda Engle, Bea Robinson, Randy Anderson, Lois Hunnell, Louise Gapen & Sue Wood

2023 - 30 new members added since 175th anniversary

Improvements to the building and grounds:

- Ramp for sidewalk
- Sound Equipment
- AC in basement
- New Lighted Sign
- Sidewalk replaced
- Parking Lot expanded
- Sanctuary remodeled
- Added security cameras
- New roof
- Repointed all exterior bricks of the building
- AC added to sanctuary
- New parking lot lights

The Bethlehem Baptist Church counts among its finest Blessing, the long list of dedicated men who have served as its pastors down through the long corridors of time.

PASTORS

H.K. Craig, James Miller, W.W. Hickman, Robert Miller, A. J. Meeks, Dr. Lehman, E. K. Bailey, A. J. Adams, W. E. Henry, W. H. McKlveen, C. W. Rockwell, D. W. Swigart, H. W. Cottrell, Lloyd Conn, W. C. Leinbach, William Turner, J. W. Ayers, M. M. Smith, E. O. Sebolt, C. O. Fuller, William McKeever, C. K. Boyer, Lindley Shearer, Jack Wynne, John Wellard, O. L. Williams and William Morford, Ronald Dean Evans, Paul Carter, Roy E. Hughes, . . .

November 1994 - Pastor Larry Calvert fills the pulpit as interim

January 1995 - Rev. Louis Sprowls begins serving as interim pastor

February 16, 1997 to August 31, 2002 - Rev. Robert Ayars

January 2003 - Pastor David Earnest begins serving as interim pastor

January 11, 2004 to February, 2006 - Pastor David Earnest

March 2006 - Ford Campbell fills the pulpit as interim

January 2007 to April 2009 - Pastor Paul Salosky serves as interim pastor

May 1, 2009 - Rev. David E. Earnest returned as Pastor

May the sincere faith and brave determination of those who have gone before use inspire us:

To love one another, to forgive one another, to Pray for one another

Surely, someday, there must be a great reward for those who still somehow or other get there, maybe a bit late, but still get there despite such difficulties, any of which could easily cause persons with less sturdy faith and sense of duty to evade rather than overcome such a challenge.

➤ If anyone would like additional information, please contact Pastor David