



The Baptist Church at Randolph, Texas was organized by Fount Jones sometime in the latter part of the 1880's according to Mrs. Floy Crandall Hodge in her book "A History of Fannin County", published in 1966. Bro. Jones continued to serve as pastor until some in 1896.

The earliest record of this church being affiliated with the an Association was in 1887. Then in 1889 the first Messengers to the Fannin Baptist Association are listed as J. Henson, F. F. Helton and H. McClure. The church had a membership of 44. In 1891 we find the Church Clerk to be J. R. Henson with a membership of 84 and J. W. Sumner was Sunday School Superintendent.

During this period the business meetings, or better known as conferences, were held on Saturday. On March 25, 1905 the church voted to change the conference time from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday.

It seems that one of the responsibilities of the deacons was to take subscriptions (pledges) from the membership for paying the pastor's salary.

During this period the church met once a month. Business was conducted on Saturday morning or afternoon and on rare occasions it was conducted on Sunday. There was preaching on Saturday night, Sunday morning and Sunday night. Pastors were called on an annual basis.

The only records available between June 23, 1907 and July 1918 include that of 1911 when F. A. Spence was Sunday School Superintendent with an enrollment of 97.

1918-1955

We begin this section with Bro. R. L. Keene as pastor, and Mrs. S. H. Reynolds as Clerk with a church membership of 60.

In June 1920, the church voted to go on record as opposing Sunday baseball and other things that would desecrate the Sabbath Day. The church voted to have electric lights installed.

In July 1923, a revival resulted in 11 by letter; two by restoration; and 58 for baptism. During the year of 1923 there were 68 received for Baptism; 23 by letter and two by restoration. On October , 1923, Ryan and Marvin Hancock were recommended by the church to be ordained to the Gospel Ministry.

The Women's Missionary Union was organized on July 12, 1925 with Mrs. C. L. Nelson as President; Mrs. Marvin Hancock as Secretary; and Mrs. A. Baldwin serving as Treasurer.

Wednesday night prayer meeting was organized on Saturday April 10, 1927. At the same conference a Senior Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU) was organized.

July 24, 1927 found the church calling a pastor, electing officers for the coming year, and selecting messengers for the annual association meeting. Bro. Thomas Reece received the majority vote over G. R. McGraw (present pastor) and Ryan Hancock. The vote was made unanimous for Bro. Reece at a salary of \$300.00 a year. New Officers included: C. A. Cox, Sunday School Superintendent.

On January 9, 1935, the Treasurer's report showed \$2.00 left after all bills were paid except the deficit in the Pastor's salary. It was then discussed as to how the offering envelopes were going to be distributed. A committee was appointed to distribute the envelopes.

During the month of October 1935, the church did some remodeling. In Conference it was voted to repair the building which included papering the ceiling, fixing the windows, repairing the flue and getting a new stove. In a business meeting On October 20, it was noted that the building sure looked nice. With new paper on the ceiling and walls, but a real debt to be paid in the amount of \$12.00.

The church met in conference on May 20, 1941 to accept the resignation of Bro. Coleman as Pastor. The church did not discuss the calling of a pastor until August 31 and then the church decided to wait until the next Sunday. The following were nominated and the votes received: Dan Vestal - 31; Bro. Abernathy of Ector - 4; Bro. Waltrap of Greenville - 0; Bro. McSpadden of Pilot Point -2. Bro. Dan was unanimously elected and he served the church until December 10, 1942.

With Jesse Moore as moderator, the Randolph Baptist Church, met in conference on February 21, 1943 to call a pastor. Joe Britton made the motion and Edd McGee second that the vote be by open ballot. Re. R. L. O'Brien was called as Pastor.

It was brought up at the November 25, 1945 meeting concerning the building of some class rooms, enlarging the choir, putting a curtain and railing around the choir, getting a religious picture for the church, getting two chairs for the pulpit area. The church voted to purchase one dozen Stamps-Baxter song books for the price of \$3.00 each.

Bro. E. G. Nelson resigned as pastor on January 26, 1947. The church met on May 18 to call Bro. Fred Thomas as pastor on the condition that if he resigned, he would give us two weeks notice and if we wanted him to leave we would do likewise.

The committee appointed to consider building new Sunday School rooms reported on Jan. 11, 1948 that the cost to build the rooms would be \$418.00. It was voted to postpone action on the building but authorized the pastor to appoint a committee to investigate buying an old school building for materials. Then on May 2, the church voted to purchase the lumber from the Randolph School to build four Sunday School rooms.

The church decided on May 23, 1948 to purchase the two room house behind (east) of the church for a parsonage and then on July 18, the church called Bro. Sneed to finish out the term of Bro. Fred Thomas.

The church met in conference on Feb. 26, 1950 to call a pastor. Bro. Gail Buckles was called unanimously for an indefinite time. He served the church until June 30, 1950.

On October 28, 1951, the church voted to raise the pastor's salary from \$20.00 a week to \$25.00 per week but if our treasury should get below \$100. the pastor's salary would be lowered back to \$20.00

The Deacon's recommended, on January 3, 1954, that the church take up an offering for the next five Sundays for the Trenton Baptist Church to help replace their building that burned. The church gladly accepted that recommendation.

There was a tabernacle type structure on the northeast of the church building. This was used for outdoor revival services and was owned jointly by the Baptist and Methodist churches. On occasions there were joint meetings conducted by both the churches. The structure was referred to as the "Shed".

1956 - 1987

Bro. N. R. Barr resigned as pastor on August 1, 1956 and at that time a pulpit committee was elected. The church set the pay for visiting preachers at \$10.00 for one service and \$15.00 for two services. With a unanimous vote, Bro. Carry was called as pastor.

In a joint recommendation, on November 11, 1956, the pastor and deacons suggested that the church develop a building program and that a building committee and a finance committee be appointed to get things started. Accurate records should be maintained of all donations to the building program so that the money could be returned in case the building program should be abolished.

The following is a brief schedule of the building process:

December 2, 1956	Church decided that the building should face the East, there would be ten classrooms, provisions be made for a baptistery to be installed later, the parsonage be rented and the income be put in the building fund, and to defer action on the bell tower.
December 11, 1957	The church directed the building committee to see about fill dirt and the leveling of the ground.
February 6, 1957	The report was made that there was a total of \$1,132.45 in the building fund.
February 10, 1957	Church voted to have a concrete foundation, asphalt siding and to purchase the Chapel Hill Church Building if we can get it for \$500.00
March, 1957	Building fund reported \$1,908.06.
March 24, 1957	The Chapel Hill Church wants to keep ten of their old pews and for Randolph to give them ten of our pews; this was approved by the church. The church also voted to sell the parsonage for \$1500.00 and give it to the building fund.

April 10, 1957	Building Committee authorized to rent a front end loader.
May 8, 1957	Building fund reported \$2,427.56.
May 26, `957	The church approved plans to purchase the meals for the men who help tear down the Chapel Hill building.
June 16, 1957	Church voted to borrow \$8000.00 to help in the building. Payments will be \$50.00 per month and a lump sum payment of \$400.00 at the end of the year.
June 30, 1957	The Finance Committee was authorized to borrow the needed money to complete the building.
July 21, 1957	Olan Parks, Claude Emerson and Oscar Harris were elected as trustees to make loans for the church. \$7,000.00 was borrowed from First National Bank of Bonham at 6% interest.
August 25, 1957	Four recommendations were approved concerning the new building: 1.) An arched ceiling; 2). Eleven recessed lights; 3). One fan be purchased: 4). The choir section.
September 30, 1957	Orville Herriage authorized to sell the old lumber; the inside of building be painted gray; ceiling to be white and to put 10% of the offering in building fund.
October 9, 1957	Church voted for the ceiling in the Sunday school rooms in the back of auditorium be same as the auditorium; to put new lumber around pulpit area; to leave the Bois D Arc tree beside the building; and authorized building committee to put stoves in right place.
October 29, 1957	Elected to put Bell Tower south of the walk and to take up special offering for building fund.
November 3, 1957	The church agreed that the building be finished and the grounds cleaned up before moving in; that the church be insured for \$20,000 and the steps to the choir be covered with rugs to be donated by Bro. and Mrs. Carry.
November 20, 1957	Met in new building for first time.
December 15, 1957	Decided to put tile on floor.
January 19, 1958	Alvis Felmet to haul gravel and fix the driveways.

The first wedding to be performed in the new building took place on February 14, 1958. This ceremony united in marriage the Miss Jean Blevins and David Behrens.

The church decided to have the dedication of the new building on the second Sunday of April. This decision was made on March 16, 1958.

The first funeral service to be held in the new building was for Pack Wilson on March 23, 1958. The first baptismal service was for Gary Felmet and John W. Burnett on May 25, 1958,

There was a need for a piano, so, on August 9, 1959 the church appointed a committee composed of Bonnie Felmet and Nelson Robinson to investigate the possibility of purchasing a new piano. One week later the church accepted a recommendation that the Webb Piano Company bring a piano to the church for a two Sunday tryout. The committee retained the authority to take in consideration any offer that was better. Then on August 23, on motion by Paul Pratt and second by Bobby Harris, the church voted to purchase the piano from Webb Piano Company of Greenville for \$535.00.

During the month of May 1962 the planter boxes for at the Bell Tower and the Sign were constructed by Mr. J. W. Langford and the Bell tower was under the supervision of John Garrison & L. H. Bateman.

The treasurer reported on June 9, 1963, the balance on the note for the building stood at \$92.58 with a balance in the general fund of \$489.04. A note burning was held on September 8th.

The program included:

Message by Bro. O.A. Carry and Bro. Harry Ball

Music directed by Nelson Robinson

Prayer by Loyd Blevins

Scripture by A. W. Felmet

Note burned by: Edd McGee, O. A. Harris, Esker Robinson

In the latter part of 1972 there was a change in Pastoral leadership. In August Bob Cantwell resigned and then on October 1, the church called Don Christian as pastor. It was also agreed that Bro. Don would ring the church bell before each service on Sunday.

In 1973, on March 4, the church discussed the need to provide quarters for the pastor's family to stay in on the weekends. It was voted to purchase an 8 x 30' mobile home for a parsonage.

Following the resignation of Don Christian as pastor, the church voted on October 6 1974 to ask bro. Castle to come on a temporary basis.

The Lee Gann property to the south of the church came up for sale and on April 6, 1975, the church voted to purchase it for a parsonage at the cost of \$6,250.00.

Dennis Hultsman was on the field as pastor in July 1975. He resigned on February 6, 1977. At which time the church cancelled plans for a spring revival.

Sometime between March 6 and April 3, 1977 the church called Bro. Odie Carry as pastor.

On March 2, 1986, the church voted to call Bro. Bob Cantwell as pastor. A positive attitude resulted in Bro. Bob accepting the call of the church to be it's pastor for the second time.

The homecoming to celebrate the Centennial Year of the church was being planned for 1987 due to shortness of time in 1986. During that 101 years the church has been called by several names: 1). Randolph Missionary Baptist 2). Randolph Baptist Church; 3). First Baptist tChurch. The give the church a more stable name, it was voted on July 13, 1986 to officially be called The First Baptist Church, Randolph, Texas.

Due to growth in our Sunday school there was a felt need for more Sunday School space and a Fellowship Hall. On February 7, 1987 the church voted to build a 1500 square feet building. By February 27th the shingles were tacked on the roof.

Most of the work was done by volunteers. A lot of help came from one of our neighboring churches. Sonny Allen and Billy Steele of the valley Creek Baptist Church contributed a lost of good manpower. Calvin Watterson helped in many ways. Mr. Paul Nicholas offered to do most of the work at avery reasonable price and then later he donated several hours of work. Others outside of our church who donated time and materials were Gene Godbey and Maurice Reeves.

By June 1, 1987 the building was completed except for the painting of the outside and the floor covering in the dining area.

1987-1990

One of the highlights of this period of time took place on September 13, 1987 with the Centennial Celebration. Bro. Nelson Robinson came up wit the idea to have a choir consisting of those who were in the choir prior to 1955. The response was fantastic. During the afternoon service there were about twenty choir members present. we enjoyed the company of at least 145 who registered for the activities of the day.

On November 6, 1988 Bro. Eddie Wood, of Sadler, Texas, was unanimously called to be our Minister of Music and Youth.

The year 1989 saw many things accomplished: 1.) Repair and enlargement of the parking lot; 2). New carpet in fellowship hall and auditorium; 3). Ordination of Garry Anderson, richard Garner, and Maurice Reeves as Deacons. 4). Dedication of our Fellowship Hall in memory of Nelson Robinson. Among other things.

Bro. Kevin Grimes agreed to fill in until the church mad a permanent decision. In December the church voted unanimously to call Bro. Kevin as part-time Minister of Music & Youth. Kevin, Janie and their children, Heather and Gary have been a rich blessing to our church and community. We appreciate the hours he and his family spends in their work with the youth and music program.