

HISTORY OF NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

by Kenny M. Creekmur

In the late 40's as Princeton was growing and young families were moving to town to work in factories and businesses, there was a lot of growth on the Dawson Road with the opening of the Macklin Subdivision. New businesses including Implement Dealerships, restaurants, groceries, upholstery shops and others were established .

This did not go unnoticed by the First Baptist Church of Princeton, after a survey was conducted by the church a committee recommended to the church that a mission be established on the north side of Princeton in regular business meeting in February 1949.

A building which could be used for the purpose of establishing a mission was located at the corner of Dawson Road and Madisonville Street. In March of 1949, the First Baptist Church purchased the building from International Harvester Company at a cost of \$5,000 plus. The building had served as a maintenance shop for tractors so much grease, oil, and grime had to be removed before it could be utilized as a meeting house. After extensive cleaning by members the building was readied for service in just 31 days and began its first revival on April 10, 1949. The evangelist was Reverend H.G.M. Hatler, a native of McKinnery, Texas and Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Princeton.

Reverend Hatler was instrumental in starting Northside and later Southside while serving the First Baptist Church of Princeton for some 14 years. During Reverend Hatler's tenure as pastor of First Baptist some approximately 1200 people joined the church with 581 by baptism.

On May 8, 1949 members of the mission met and elected officers for the new church. Brother Hatler as to serve as pastor, Mr. Gorman Mitchell as Sunday School Director, and Mr. Herschel Creekmur was to serve as the first Training Union Director. On May 15, 1949, the first Sunday School classes were held with 45 in attendance.

The building was divided for Sunday School classes by stretching wires with curtains being pulled to provide some privacy for the classes and then the curtains were opened for worship service. Under the leadership of Rev. Hatler, the mission was organized into a Missionary Baptist Church on September 4, 1949 with 77 charter members. Of this number, 55 came from First Baptist Church the remaining 22 from 8 other Baptist Churches in the area. The new church was named Northside Baptist Church.

On January 8, 1950, Rev. Irvin L. Parrett and his family came to Princeton from the First Baptist Church of Irvington, KY to accept the pastorate of Northside. A full-time program was started and six deacons selected.

A church planning committee was formed in March of 1950 with Frank Sisk as chairman. The deacons, after working all day at their regular jobs, met at the church at night tearing down the original building and preparing the site for a new church building. Construction of the new building began May 5, 1951 with completion in November at a cost of \$35,000. When the basement was complete, seivces were

held there until the sanctuary was completed and dedicated on Mother's Day, 1952. The new church was constructed by Owen Robertson and Robertson Lumber Co. between Cadiz Street and Cadiz Road.

The new structure would seat a congregation of 400 and the Sunday School enrollment at that time was 327 with 52 on the Cradle Roll and 25 in the extension department. For the first 10 plus years, the average Sunday School attendance was 211.

In 1955, Northside started a Sunday School on a vacant house on Nichols Road in northern Caldwell County which grew to a full mission of Northside. Today it is known as the Sugar Creek Missionary Baptist Church of the Caldwell/Lyon Baptist Association. The church today is located at the intersection of HWY 293 North and Sugar Creek Church Road.

As Northside Baptist continued to grow through the 50's, 60's, and 70's, under the leadership of Rev. Ellis Ham (1956-1957), Rev. R.M. Stovall (1958-1964), Rev. J. Howard Sutton (1965-1970), Rev. Doug M. Anderson (1971-1974), and Rev. David L. Royalty (1974-1989), it became apparent that additional education space was needed.

A note burning ceremony was held on Mother's Day, May 14, 1972. Northside Baptist Church's note was paid in full. Participants were Pastor Doug Anderson lighting the note being held by Mrs. Viola Carson, being the oldest member of the church at that time.

Under the leadership of Bro. David Royalty, the original church sanctuary and Sunday School rooms were refurbished with carpeting, pews, window treatment, lighting, and sound system by Stegar Construction. The sanctuary served the church well, holding double worship services during the late 70's and early 80's.

In April of 1976, a bell dated 1888 weighing 489 pounds was obtained. A group of men from Northside retrieved the bell from a closed church in Eastern, KY. After some cleaning, the bell was placed in a new steeple atop of Northside Baptist Church with a mechanized ringer. The bell rings today alerting the community of worship services and special occasions at Northside Baptist Church.

In January of 1976, a long range planning committee was appointed to student the need for additional educational space. On September 12, 1976, a presentation was made to the church reflecting it's twenty-eight year history of attendance and offering. It was proposed to build a three story educational complex costing approximately \$240,000.

The complex was built beginning Fall of 1977 by Princeton Lumber Company at a project cost of \$260,000, including new property purchased, parking, landscaping, and furnishings. Monetary contributions during construction were \$103,600, leaving \$157,000 to be borrowed from First Bank and Trust Company, Princeton. The complex was designed by a former Princetonian, architect David Jones of Gresham and Kerr, John Keeling Associates, Hopkinsville office. The first Sunday to use the new facility was January 21, 1978.

In addition to the church building and campus, Northside Baptist purchased two church parsonages through the years, the first on Madisonville Street and the second on Vivian Drive in the Dixie Heights

subdivision located off of Dawson Road. In the early 80's, the church voted to disperse with the parsonage and provide the pastor with a housing allowance which is continued to today.

In 1982, the long range planning committee was formed to predict the future needs in property and parking using the past ten years of church attendance, additions, giving, and utilities as a benchmark. In February of 1984, it was determined that a new sanctuary would need to be built seating 600 people and construct a parking area of approximately 175 cars. The building committee was formed and employed Equitable Church Buildings as architects and engineers for the project.

In February 1985, the church voted to act as the general contractor and Leo Smith was employed as Building Superintendent. The estimated cost of the sanctuary was \$560,000 with additional property acquired for the project in excess of \$50,000. One of the outstanding features of the new sanctuary was to be stain glass windows to be designed and built by Dennis Harmon of Emmanuel Stained Glass.

Construction began on April 15, 1985 and after a lot of hard work and many decisions was readied for worship on November 24, 1985. Dedication of the Sanctuary was held on January 5, 1986. Through the years, the sanctuary has served Northside well for worship and various meetings. The celebration of note retirement for the new sanctuary (\$554,000) was held November 12, 1995.

As the church continued to grow under the leadership of Rev. Tommy Tackett (1993-2008) and challenges presented themselves in the realm of educational space, church fellowship, growing youth programs, a decision was reached that a new facility, the Recreational Outreach Center (R.O.C.), needed to be added to the Northside campus.

The new building was designed and built by Ted Martin DBA, TWM Enterprises of Princeton at a cost of approximately \$776,000. The building of metal and masonry construction includes a full size gymnasium, commercial kitchen, showers and restrooms, office and educational space surrounded by adequate parking. The R.O.C. now houses outreach ministries such as AWANA, Upward, Camo Night, and other programs designed to reach the lost in our community and surrounding communities.

As Northside moved into the 21st century, an additional 15 acres was purchased on the Northside of the existing campus to provide space for additional expansion of Northside ministries.

DISCLAIMER:

Thanks to each person who contributed historical information, dates, and personal memories to make this writing possible. To the best of our knowledge, the fore written information is correct. Much of the data was taken from earlier publications, and from the memories of those still among us. We are certain there are errors found herein, but have done the best we could with the limited information on hand. We wish to disclaim and errors found and apologize for any contained herein. This summery was written to give each an overview as we approach our 60th anniversary in the life of a very loving church.

Northside Baptist Pastors:

Rev. H.G. Hatler	1949-1950
Rev. Irvin L. Parrett	1950-1955
Rev. Ellis Hamm	1956-1957
Rev. R.M. Stovall	1958-1964
Rev. J. Howard Sutton	1965-1970
Rev. Doug M. Anderson	1971-1974
Rev. David L. Royalty	1974-1989
Rev. David Wilkerson	1990-1992
Rev. Tommy Tackett	1993-2005
Rev. Jeff French	2005-2008

Northside Song Leaders

Meredith "Buddy" Brown
Jimmy Creekmur
Kenny Creekmur
Robert Sisk
Ranny Cavanah
Charles Adams
Ron Goodwin
Carl Hinton
Megan Jackson

Northside Ministers of Music and/or Youth

Steve Littlefield
Steve Norville
Tim Lacy
Tim Burgher
Tim Purdue
Jason Collins
David Young

Properties Purchased through the years for building and campus extension

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| 1. Coleman Dunn Garage | \$5,000 |
| 2. Rock House from O.B. and Arrietta Russell | |
| 3. House and Lot from Logan Alexander | |
| 4. House and Lot from the Hall's | |
| 5. House and Lumber shed from Arrietta Russell | |
| 6. Service Station and Oil Company from J.B. Tidwell DBA Livingston Oil Co. | \$30,000 |
| 7. House and Lot from Lucille Young | \$15,000 |
| 8. Trailer and Lot from Ed Chambuss | |
| 9. Two Houses and Lots from Kenneth Sheridan Estate | |
| 10. Westside Parking Lot from Albert Cartwright | |
| 11. Middle Street Lot from Arrietta Russell | |
| 12. House and Lot from Jan Traylor | |
| 13. House and Lot from Charles Creekmur Family | |
| 14. Business Property of Covington Florist and Two Houses and Lots | |
| 15. Approximately 15 acres on the West side of Bus Garage and Parking Lot from Harold Van Hooser | |

According to Caldwell County Clerk

1. JL Alexander and Wife 6/14/58
2. AH Woolf and Berth Willis 6/16/58
3. Howard McConnell and Wife 11/25/59
4. Albert Cartwright and Wife 2/11/63
5. Arrietta Russell 4/5/76
6. Joseph Albert and Elva Cartwright 10/5/78
7. Joseph Albert and Elva Cartwright 10/5/78
8. Joseph Albert and Elva Cartwright 10/5/78
9. Joseph Albert and Elva Cartwright 10/5/78
10. Joseph Albert and Elva Cartwright 10/5/78
11. Joseph Albert and Elva Cartwright 10/5/78
12. James Boyd and Wilma Tidwell 4/18/84
13. Robert Kendall and Elizabeth Tidwell 4/18/84
14. Arrietta Carter Russell 6/18/84
15. Lucille Young 7/23/84
16. Timothy and Deborah Lacey (mortgage) 12/18/87
17. Robert and Dorothy McClure 4/7/92
18. Bobby Lewis 4/7/92
19. Teresa Goode 4/7/92
20. Edwin Tyler 4/7/92
21. Kenneth Walker Sheridan (deceased) 6/1/93
22. Kenneth Warren Sheridan 6/1/93
23. Janice S Traylor (Estate) and Dana Sorrells 7/23/99
24. Charles and Carma Mae Creekmur 5/1/02
25. Glada D. Covington 4/14/03
26. Kalus Edward and Beverly Jane 9/16/04
27. Harold Van Hooser 7/14/05