

Ravenna Baptist_Organized in 1893



February 20, 1891 land was bought for the Baptist Church site from J. C. and E. C. Trout. W. E. Eubanks and Milton Smith signed the deed. The first church building was constructed in 1893. Three deacons met to organize the church: their first act was to make a list of all church members. They then divided the list into thirds to solicit funds from the members to pay a pastor's salary. Rev. W. R. Pickam was called in 1905 as the first pastor. F. A. Spencer, W. C. Gray, and D W. Kinkade were among the early day deacons as were C. W. Edmonds, A. V. Horn, and Bro. Tolerson.

In 1919 repairs were made on the church building after a storm damaged it. In 1953, the church bought the old Mulberry school building and added this on to the sanctuary for Sunday School Classrooms.

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On September 30, 1956, the church voted to buy a parsonage, and Mrs. Ray Faulkner, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Perry, Mrs. George Eaton, O. A. Moore, and Ernest Hasten were appointed as a committee to see about securing a suitable house. On February 17, 1957 a house was bought from David Garrison to be used as a parsonage.

Under the leadership of John Gilbert the Ravenna Baptist Church first began to dream of a new church building in the fall of 1964. The building committee was Raymond Perry, Hubert Nichols, Ray Faulkner, and Percy Adams. On the third Sunday of October 1965 the reality of that dream was dedicated at the First Annual Homecoming of the Ravenna Baptist Church. This has been an annual affair since that time with the exception of the meeting time which is now on the 4th Sunday in October.

A few highlights!

February 20, 1891	Land was purchased for present church site from J. C. and E. C. Trout. W. I. Eubanks and Milton Smith signed the deed.
1893	First church building was constructed
October 1907	The church was called "Missionary Baptist"
November 15, 1914	Church moved to have communion service each quarter
November 1926	Bro. Jim Truitt held a meeting that lasted 12 days; he was paid \$42.00
1936	A revival meeting was held with Johnnie Crutchfield preaching; he received a pounding and \$25.00
February 1945	The church was wired for lights
January 1946	The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was \$16.00
May 1947	Twenty-five dollars was taken out of the treasury to go on a hard surface road in front of the church, with the understanding that members put the money back over a period of time.
February 1953	The church seats were refinished.

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1953	Bought OLd Mulberry School building and added on to auditorium for Sunday school rooms.
October 1954	The church voted to go full-time with 23 for and 4 against
September 1955	Church gave Pastor Harper a love gift of \$70.00 to make last payment on his car.
January 1956	The church voted to give the Methodist church \$100.00 to apply on their new parsonage.
February 1957	House was bought from David Garrison to be used as a parsonage.
September 1957 where the pastor was to eat.	A Sunday meal chart was adopted to indicate
August 1958	The young adult calss was organized The pupils were given the privilege of selecting their own teacher. Mrs. Ray Faulkner was selected.
April 1959	It was voted to reorganize a WMU. The church gave them \$10.00 to start on.
August 1960	Fans were bought for the church. Siding was put on part of the parsonage. The kitchen was painted.
January 1961	The church voted to discontinue offering to Western Missions and that \$5.00 per month be given to Fannin County Association.
August 1962	A map of the community was made, information being taken from census.
May 1963	The church voted to give \$25.00 to aid the New Life Movement in Japan.
October 1964	John Gilbert, pastor, was given the authority to investigate the possibility of constructing a new church building. The church set a goal of \$50.00 each month for the building fund.

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- April 1965 A loan committee was composed of the deacons to secure a loan from Bonham Savings and Loan; the parsonage was used as collateral. Marvin Garrison was elected carpenter, with Percy Adams as assistant. lights from the old building were to be used in the new auditorium.
- March 1966 Voted to take part in a joint Sunrise Easter Service.
- April 1967 Ray Faulkner, Bill Eaton, & Percy Adams ordained as new deacons.
- December 1968 Voted to gravel our driveway with members meeting on Saturday to spread it.
- May 1969 \$50.00 was set for expenses to have a youth revival. A youth group from East Texas Baptist College was invited to hold the revival.
- February 1971 Pastor Dan Christian's mother donated a gas range and refrigerator to be used in the parsonage.
- June 1972 Voted to hire someone to paint the church. Raymond Perry volunteered to paint it for \$100.00.
- September 1973 Voted in install a rest room in back hallway of the church.
- December 1974 Vote was taken to build on to the church. There were 5 votes for and 22 against.
- September 1976 Voted to buy a steeple with cross for the church at a cost of \$295.00, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lake Bledsloe.
- June 1977 Voted by secret ballot to add classrooms and fellowship hall to back of building, a committee was selected to look into the cost.

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October 1978	Ordained new deacons they were Roscoe Blanton, Othal Vest, Gene Willis and Robert England.
September 1979	The young people acquired money and bought a sound system.
October 1980	Voted to sell our church bus to Red Mitchell for \$569.00.
October 1981	The church permitted the Perry family, the Blanton family and the Warren family to erect the church bell and a sign in memory of past members of their families.
August 1983	Bought 50 hymnals in memory of Mrs. Dious.
July 1985	A vote of 15 for and 4 against was taken to build on to the church. Pledges were made, and the opposing 4 votes asked to join in as in favor.
September 1986	Two goals were set - to brick the rest of the church and to purchase a new van.
June 1987	A cross for the front of the church building was donated by Greg Moore in memory of his father, O. A. Moore.
November 1988	Lynn Burkhead hired as Youth Director.
May 1990	Bought TV and VCR in order to use video tapes as teaching tools.
March 1991	Built cabinet to house newly upgraded sound system and audio equipment.
November 1993	Voted to change the percentage of giving tot he Cooperative program to 6% and 4% to the Fannin County Missions.
June 1996	Voted to call Keith Gant as interim pastor.
November 1998	Voted to have an Awana Club meeting on Sunday nights at the church.

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January 2000	Motion to move prayer meeting from Wednesday night to Sunday night and o away with Wednesday night service due to finances.
November 2002	Bro. Rickey Granstaff was called as pastor.
June 2003	Voted to incorporate the church.
June 2004	Voted to turn the old pastor's study into a women's restroom.
September 2005	We made a donation of \$1000.00 to the Hurricane Katrina disaster fund. We sent half to the Red Cross and the other half to the Salvation Army. Voted to ordain Chris Littrell as a deacon.
March 2005	Voted to replace the old sign with a new one just like it.
May 2007	Motion to take up special offering on May 27th for Fannin County Missions.
March 2008	Spring Revival will be held April 20-24 with Bro. Carl Fogle as evangelist.

Pastors:

<i>1905</i>	<i>W. R. Pickham</i>
<i>1907-1909</i>	<i>Rev. Tarpley</i>
<i>1912</i>	<i>John Inzer</i>
<i>1913-1914</i>	<i>J. C. Banks</i>
<i>1914-1915</i>	<i>G. R. McCraw</i>
<i>1916-1918</i>	<i>Bro. Hendrix</i>

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<i>1919</i>	<i>J. C. Purser, Bro. Hendrix, C.M. Hundley</i>
<i>1921-1922</i>	<i>Thomas Reece</i>
<i>1925-1927 or 28</i>	<i>S. W. Redding</i>
<i>1928-1932</i>	<i>Thomas Reece</i>
<i>1933</i>	<i>C. Fleming</i>
<i>1935-1936</i>	<i>Bro. Oldfield</i>
<i>1936-1944</i>	<i>Chester Moss</i>
<i>1945</i>	<i>Bro. McLean</i>
<i>1945-1947</i>	<i>Bro. Long</i>
<i>1947-1948</i>	<i>Bro. Brown</i>
<i>1948</i>	<i>Jimmy Franklin</i>
<i>1949</i>	<i>Doyle Darwin</i>
<i>1950</i>	<i>Bill Ferguson</i>
<i>1952-1953</i>	<i>Harold Cummings</i>
<i>1956</i>	<i>James Harper</i>
<i>1956-1960</i>	<i>Justin Bible</i>
<i>1960-1962</i>	<i>Paul Campbell</i>
<i>1962-1963</i>	<i>Robert Locke</i>
<i>1963-1966</i>	<i>John Gilbert</i>
<i>1966-1970</i>	<i>Jimmy Phillips</i>
<i>1970-1973</i>	<i>Dan Christian</i>
<i>1973-1975</i>	<i>Mark Gibson</i>
<i>1975-1978</i>	<i>Richard Maness</i>
<i>1978-1980</i>	<i>Clifford Bauman</i>
<i>1980-1984</i>	<i>James Rogers</i>
<i>1984-1986</i>	<i>Richard Agan</i>
<i>1986-1987</i>	<i>Keith Gant, Interim</i>
<i>1987-1996</i>	<i>Doug Simpson</i>
<i>1996</i>	<i>Keith Gant, Interim</i>
<i>1996-1998</i>	<i>Hal Brown</i>
<i>1998-2002</i>	<i>Mel St.Clair</i>
<i>2002-Present</i>	<i>Rickey Granstaff</i>