

Church History

In 1977, the Office of Church Development of the Maryland Baptist Convention (now the Mid-Atlantic Baptist Network) established that, because of the rapidly growing population in Odenton and Gambrills, there was need for another Southern Baptist Church in the area. Bible Studies were begun in a home in Millersville with Charles Barnes, Director of Church Development, for the BCMD conducting the sessions.

As plans progressed, the Steering Committee for the Gambrills-Millersville Mission, subsequently called Emmanuel Baptist Mission and Emmanuel Baptist Chapel, (consisting of 3 local churches - First Baptist Church of Crofton, Severn Baptist Church, and South Shore Baptist Church) agreed to sponsor a mission on March 4th 1979. Dr. Cline L. Vice was called to be the pastor of the mission. On April 1st 1979, the first worship service was held at Waugh Chapel Elementary School in Odenton. Emmanuel Baptist Mission also started Wednesday and Sunday evening services in a member's home in Gambrills.

Later, in June 1981, the mission leased space in an office building on Route 175 in Odenton. In May of 1982, the mission purchased its current property on Waugh Chapel Road and began construction of the church building. The original 3600 square foot building was completed in October of 1982.

Emmanuel called its first full-time pastor, Rev. Ronald Elville, in October 1982 and the mission grew steadily, becoming incorporated as Emmanuel Baptist Church of Gambrills in September of 1983. Rev. Robin Shifflett came as pastor in January 1985 and he still serves the church today. The church completed an addition to the building in the winter of 2002 and is growing in numbers and maturity as we serve Christ in this community.