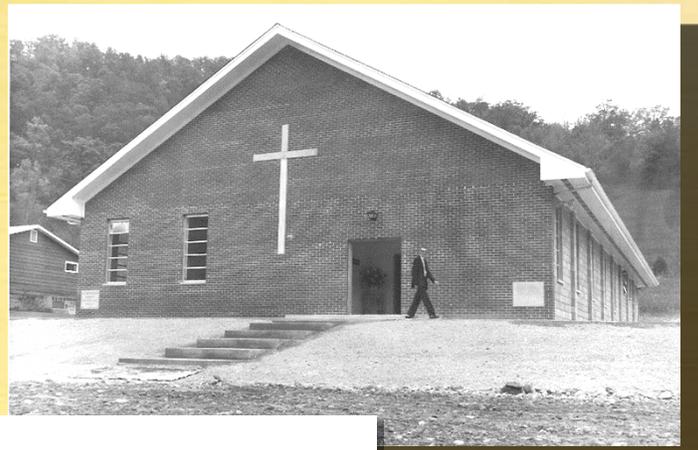


Meta Baptist Church 50th Golden Jubilee



Welcome Home



Meta Baptist Church
50th Homecoming Celebration
October 21-22, 2017

Local And State News Of Pikeville And Eastern Ky.

JOHN PAUL COMPTON, Bureau Chief, Telephone GE 7-6426
Mail for this bureau may be addressed in care of Box 613, Pikeville, Ky.

10 * * * Williamson Daily News, Friday, March 30, 1962.

Meta Baptist Mission To Break Ground For New Church Sun.

META Meta Baptist Mission will conduct a ground-breaking service for the mission's new church building this Sunday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock.

The building is to be a concrete block structure with a brick front. The dimensions will be 50 feet by

34 feet. The building is to stand beside the recently constructed parsonage on a 3.2 acre tract of land on Highway 119 between the Johns Creek High School and Meta.

The sanctuary, 38 by 57 feet, will seat approximately 225 people. There will be 13 classrooms besides the auditorium and choir loft, providing space for 205 in Sunday School.

The cost of the building is to be shared by the Meta Baptist Mission and the First Baptist Church of Pikeville. The Kentucky Baptist Convention is also giving some financial assistance. Construction of the building is to begin next month and will be completed by the last of September.

The Meta Baptist Mission was established in June, 1958. It has experienced considerable growth since that time. The present membership is 82.

At the present time the Mission conducts its church services in the basement of the parsonage which was finished in January, 1961. Sunday School classes are held in a rented building across from the Mission property.

A covered dish dinner will be enjoyed following the morning worship service on Sunday; friends of the Mission are invited to be present for this meal.

Dr. Harold Sanders, executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will be guest speaker for the ground-breaking ceremony. Also taking part on the program will be the Rev. Harold Wainwright, pastor of Pikeville's Baptist Church, the Rev. Eddie Henson, pastor of the Mission, and Leon Huffman, a member of the building plans committee.

META BAPTIST MISSION

SPONSORED BY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

PIKEVILLE KY.

1962

MATT. 28:19, 20

Williamson Daily News, Thursday, January 10, 1962

Baptist Church Calls Pastor For Two Missions

PIKEVILLE The Rev. and Mrs. Emory C. Register of Shelbyville, Ky., will move the Baptist Mission at Meta Feb. 4.

The Rev. Mr. Register will be in the pulpits of Meta and Ferguson Creek Missions of the First Baptist Church of Pikeville Feb. 9.

He is a graduate of Southern Seminary of Louisville, of Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn., and of South Western Baptist Seminary of Fort Worth, Tex.

For the three and one-half years prior to moving here, he has been pastor of Burks Branch Church at Shelbyville. For several years he has been active in evangelistic and radio ministry.

His wife, Mrs. Billie Griffith Register, formerly of Lebanon, Tenn. is a graduate of Belmont College. They have one son, James Jeffrey, ten-months-old.

Everyone is invited to come to services and welcome the Rev. and Mrs. Register.



Williamson Daily News, Friday, October 20, 1967



META BAPTIST MISSION - An unadorned wooden building will constitute the Meta Baptist Mission, shown, into a church. The building was started nine years ago in its old form.

Meta Baptist Mission Sets Organization Service Sunday

META - Sunday will be a special day for the people of old stone building at Meta by Meta Baptist Mission and Pikeville's First Baptist Church.

The organizational service in the Mission has enjoyed considerable growth from the very beginning. The first A beautiful building and pastor, Harold Wainwright, and now of the Second Baptist Church of Owensboro, will deliver the sermon. There will be greetings from some of the former pastors through the Mission to bring others to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, church. Nine years ago the Meta Baptist Mission was started in an



Meta Baptist Church

Mission Statement

To encourage, edify and equip the members of Meta Baptist Church, through Evangelism, Discipleship, Fellowship, Ministry, Missions, and Worship, in proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to our community and around the world; and to develop and demonstrate a life of commitment, obedience, and Holiness unto the Lord Jesus Christ to the Glory of God the Father.

On behalf of our Church Family, I want to welcome each of our guests and former members, and also thank you for sharing with us in this wonderful celebration of our 50th Church Anniversary. To God be the Glory, great things He has done!!!!

In these days, when many churches are closing their doors, we certainly have been blessed by God to continue the ministry and the vision that He gave to Pikeville First Baptist Church in June 1958. By God's hand, He placed in the hearts of many individuals to establish this little mission, and in October 1967, Meta Baptist Church was born.

For the past 50 years many individuals and families have passed through these doors, and because of the love and commitment of so many, the preaching and teaching of God's Holy Word, and the ministry outreach of this Church, God has used Meta Baptist Church to impact for the Kingdom, our community, state and around the world.

As we reflect on years passed, and as we celebrate what God is doing today, let us, by faith, continue marching forward with the vision and the commitment that God has given through the Great Commission, that we "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

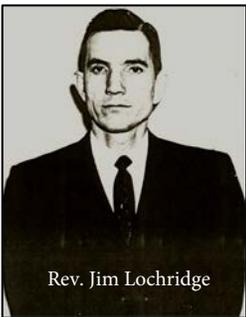
"To God be the Glory, great things He has done!"

In His Service,

Bro. Bill Staggs, Pastor

A History of Meta Baptist Church

Meta Baptist Mission was established by the First Baptist Church of Pikeville, Kentucky, on June 29, 1958, in a four-room store building at Meta, near Johns Creek High School, with 48 people present.



Rev. Jim Lochridge

Rev. Jim Lochridge preached on alternating Sundays with Rev. Harold Wainscott, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Pikeville. After graduating from high school in Thomasville, North Carolina, Jim served as a radio/gunner in torpedo bombers in the South Pacific theatre of World War II in the United States Marine Corps. After marrying Mary Frances Manuel on September 7, 1946, and graduating from East Carolina Teachers College (now ECU), Jim taught school in Walkertown, NC and then Thomasville, NC, before surrendering to God's call to preach. After five years of further schooling, James "Jim" Lochridge was called as Meta Baptist Mission Pastor in June 1958. Rev. Lochridge resigned as Mission Pastor in February 1959, to



accept appointment as a foreign missionary to the Philippine Islands. Bro. Lochridge passed away on December 26, 2013, at the age of 90 years old in Kings Mountain, North Carolina.



Rev. Harold Wainscott, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pikeville, conducted the first revival here in the fall of 1958. There were 23 additions by baptism and 7 by letter at that time. In November 1958, the Church and Mission purchased a 3.2-acre plot of land, across the highway from the store building, for \$2,500.00. Tent revivals were held on this lot in the summers of 1959, 1960 and 1961, with Rev. Bill Lodwick and Rev. H.G.M. Hatler preaching.



In June 1959, Eddie Henson was called to be the first full-time pastor. Eddie grew up in Missouri. He received his AA degree from Southwest Baptist College (now Southwest Baptist University) in Bolivar, MO, and his BA from Oklahoma Baptist University, and then his BD (now MD) from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville. When he finished his seminary training, in order to continue serving the Bob Fork Mission, he taught Junior and Senior English at Leslie County High School. This is when he met and married his wife, Mary Hotchkiss Henson. Mary, a Michigander, attended Grand Rapids Bible School in Michigan before getting her RN from Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago. She then moved to Hyden, KY to get her training as a midwife from the Frontier Nursing Service.



Pastor Eddie Henson

It was around this time that Harold Wainscott, from First Baptist Church in Pikeville, contacted Bro. Eddie about Meta Baptist Mission. Rev. Wainscott and two or three businessmen came to see him, with maps and prospects, and explained about the area and their concerns. He came



here to see for himself and was impressed. Within two weeks someone came to take over the leading of the Bob Fork Mission for him, and he and Mary felt free to come and serve full-time at Meta. He and Mrs. Henson moved on the field in June 1959. The Home Mission Board and State Mission Board joined in helping the Church and Mission with his salary. In the fall of 1959, a four-room house adjacent to the original building was rented to provide additional Sunday School space.

Bro. Eddie Henson served as Mission Pastor until August 1963. Their son, Stephen, was born while they were serving here at Meta. After leaving Meta, the Hensons served with the Home Mission Board for many years, and Eddie was also appointed the Director of Missions for the Greater Huntington Baptist Association. While serving in this capacity, he became involved with the beginning of the Chinese Mission, which now is the West Virginia Chinese Baptist Church in Scott Depot.

Bro. Eddie and Mary retired from full-time ministry in 1999, and then served for 7 years as Chaplain for the Huntington City Mission. They now reside in Sylva, North Carolina. They are both very active in their church and community. Eddie volunteers with the Community Table, where they feed up to 80 people each week, and Mary volunteers with their local Nursing Home. A group called “BALL Team” meets in their home each week for Bible Study. This stands for “Be Active, Live Longer”. Some overseas mission trips he has been on include: Zimbabwe, to Angola twice, China twice, the Philippines, and Belize. In the words of Bro. Eddie, “I have truly lived an awesome life.”



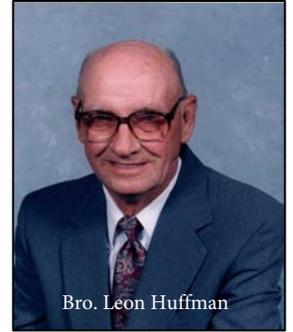


All of these folks pictured above were baptized before Meta Baptist was even constituted as a Church. They include, in no specific order: Linda, Bob, & Sandy Huffman, Gwen Lawrence, Lana Christian, Woody Christian, Margaret Ann James, Larry Thompson, Donna Thompson, June Deskins, Mr. & Mrs. Rell Bevins, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thompson, Mrs. Vera Thompson, Joe Day, Noa May Day, Kathy Day, Will Phillips, Hope Trent, George Turner, J. T. Maynard, Ernestine Thompson and Bertha Mae Thompson



Early Church Worship Service

Construction of the parsonage began in May 1960, and finished in December of the same year. Leon Huffman served as the Chairman of the Building Committee. The full basement served as the sanctuary for the Mission from June 1960, to October 1962. Costing \$11,228.36, it was constructed primarily from donated labor. It was valued at approximately \$18,000.00.



Bro. Leon Huffman



The groundbreaking service for a new sanctuary and educational building was held on Sunday afternoon, April 1, 1962, at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Harold Sanders, Executive Secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention was the speaker for the service. Eddie Henson, Mission Pastor, and Harold Wainscott, Pastor of the sponsoring church, the First Baptist Church of Pikeville, presided.



October 1962 Groundbreaking

The 50' x 94' building provided educational space for 210 in 13 classrooms, and permanent seating for 200 in the sanctuary. The conventional style pews and other furnishings were purchased from the Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Kentucky. The approximate cost, including the furnishings, was \$42,000.00. There were 91 resident members of the Mission and 7 non-resident members. The first unit was dedicated October 14, 1962, with Eddie Henson serving as Mission Pastor, and Harold Wainscott, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pikeville.



J. Edward Cunningham, John Hammett, Harold Wainscott, Jim Scott, Eddie Henson and R.H. Hobbs

Following is a copy of the article printed on November 15, 1962, in the *Western Recorder*.

Meta Mission in Pike County is Dedicated

The Meta Mission located in Pike County, halfway between Pikeville and Belfry, was dedicated on October 14th. A capacity crowd overflowed the building for the services in which Pikeville First Baptist Pastor Harold Wainscott delivered the dedicatory message.

The Meta Mission was organized June 28, 1958, by the First Baptist Church of Pikeville. It met first in an old abandoned storehouse across the highway from the present church site. The first Mission Pastor was James Lochridge, who was preaching at the same time at three other missions, and who is now a foreign missionary in the Philippines.

Eddie Henson became the first full-time pastor in June 1959, and has led in the building program at Meta.

A building lot of more than three acres was purchased for the church building and the pastorium. The pastorium was finished in December of 1960.

Meta has had a remarkable growth in its short existence. There are 91 resident members of the church now, and 78 have been baptized since the mission began. The church is strategically located in the midst of a large community; it is near a consolidated grade and high school which has over 1,000 enrolled. Pastor Henson says there are 1,500 prospects for the church.

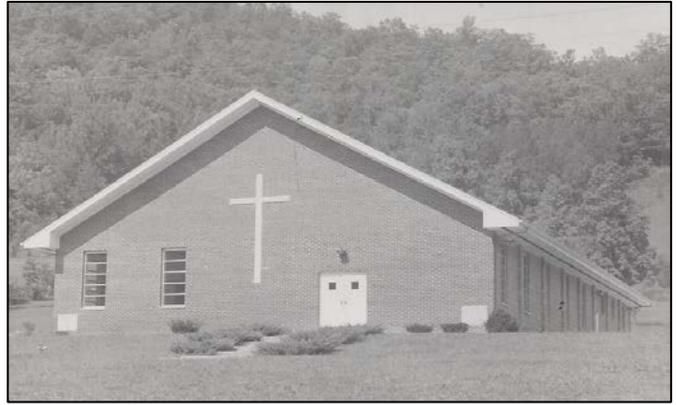
The present state of progress of Meta is the result of the unusual missionary zeal of the First Baptist Church of Pikeville, along with assistance from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board and the Woman's Missionary Union of Kentucky.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Kentucky Baptist Mission Board cooperated to pay the pastor's salary for the first year. Since then, the salary of the pastor has been paid by the State Mission Board and the Mission membership. Contributions for the building and for furnishings have been made by the KY Baptist Woman's Missionary Union as well as the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

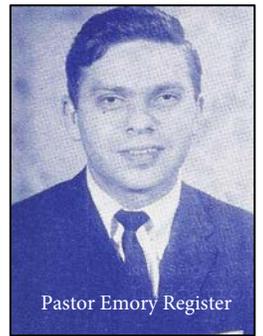
The new building which was dedicated has 13 classrooms, a baptistry, and modern facilities. The educational space will accommodate 210, and there is room for 200 permanent seats in the sanctuary. The total cost of the building was \$42,000.00.

Others participating in the dedication service included J. Edward Cunningham, Associate Secretary of Missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and R.H. Hobbs, layman from Pikeville's First Baptist Church.

Footnote: The Woman's Missionary Union of Kentucky gave \$2,000.00 toward the purchase of furniture, and Kentucky Baptist Convention contributed \$3,000.00 toward the expense of the building. This information was taken from a Building Committee Report.



Emory Register served as Mission Pastor from February 1964 – September 1965. He performed the marriage ceremony for Phillip and Betty Murphy while Pastor. He was also Pastor when the note was paid off on the construction of Meta Mission.



Note-Burning on First Unit

Tony Robinette - Chairman of Church Building Committee,
 W. Elmer Blackburn - Ex. Vice-President, First National Bank of Pikeville
 Rev. Emory Register, Pastor of Meta Mission

On Sunday afternoon, October 22, 1967, the Meta Mission constituted into a Southern Baptist Church.

Constitution of Meta Baptist Church

Eddie Henson, Bob Jones, Claude Justice,
 Ed Case, Bill Davis, Harold Wainscott, Leon
 Huffman, A. B. Colvin, & Jack Mutter



Charter Members of Meta Baptist Church

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Carolyn Baker Varney | * 41. Joe V. Day | * 81. Garrett Todd Mutter |
| 2. Patsy Baker Soros | * 42. Noa Mae Day | * 82. Mrs. Lylean Maynard |
| 3. J.T. Barb | 43. Jackie Day | * 83. W.T. Phillips |
| 4. Eva Barb | 44. June Deskins | * 84. Clyde Pinson |
| 5. Kathy Barb Huffman | 45. Debbie Deskins Justice | * 85. Pauline Pinson |
| 6. J.T. Barb, Jr. | * 46. Ruth Elswick | 86. Don Pinson |
| * 7. Ronnie Barb | 47. Peggy Fain | 87. Judith Lyons Gatling |
| * 8. Louise Bevins | 48. Charles Fain, Jr. | * 88. Northcutt Rawlings |
| 9. Tommy Bevins | 49. Tommy Howard | * 89. Mary Rawlings |
| 10. Marie Bevins | * 50. Robert Leon Huffman | 90. Sarah Rawlings Chaffin |
| 11. Sandra Bevins Bellamy | * 51. Lou Vern Huffman | * 91. John Rawlings |
| 12. Madge Blackburn | * 52. Mrs. Ross Huffman | * 92. Donald Rowe |
| 13. Victoria Blackburn | 53. Linda Lou Huffman | 93. Elizabeth Ann Rowe Ewers |
| 14. John George Blackburn | 54. Robert Leon Huffman, Jr. | * 94. Don Ed Rowe |
| 15. Andy Blackburn | 55. Sandra Huffman Ramsey | * 95. Kate Rowe |
| * 16. Juanita Blackburn | * 56. Claude Justice | * 96. Tony Robinette, Sr. |
| * 17. Dennis Blackburn | * 57. Blanche Justice | * 97. Betty Robinette |
| 18. Gail Brown Hunt | * 58. Clara Lawrence | 98. Tony Robinette, Jr. |
| * 19. Thomas Chaffin, Sr. | 59. Gloria Lawrence | 99. Mary Ann Robinette McNamee |
| * 20. Lillie Chaffin | 60. Karen Lawrence Maynard | 100. Dot Robinette |
| 21. Tommy Chaffin, Jr. | 61. Linda Lawrence Greene | * 101. Roberta Slone |
| 22. John Chaffin | 62. Gail Lawrence Rogers | * 102. Troy Tackett |
| 23. JoAnne Charles | 63. Gwen Lawrence Chaffin | 103. Gerema Sue Tackett |
| * 24. Imal Collins | 64. Vickie Lawrence Justice | * 104. Bertha Mae Thompson |
| 25. Eddie Collins | 65. Peggy Keith | 105. Ernestine Thompson |
| 26. George Collins | * 66. J.T. Maynard | 106. Truman Thompson, Jr. |
| 27. Eppie Ann Collins | * 67. Maxie Maynard | * 107. Richard Thompson |
| 28. Ira Combs | 68. Karen Maynard | 108. Donna Due Thompson Ratliff |
| 29. Mrs. Ira Combs | * 69. Donna Sue Maynard | * 109. Maxine Thompson |
| 30. Kim Combs | * 70. Eugene Meade | * 110. Vera Thompson |
| * 31. Virgil Curry | * 71. Norma Meade | 111. Lavonne Thompson Blevins |
| * 32. Getta Curry | 72. Billy Meade | * 112. Aubrey Trent |
| * 33. John Curry | 73. Judy Meade Thacker | * 113. Hope Trent |
| 34. Debbie Coyer Murphy | 74. Lucian I. Meade | * 114. George Turner |
| 35. Nancy Coyer Bevins | 75. Barbara Bevins Meade | 115. Verba Turner |
| * 36. Betty Davis | * 76. Sandra Blackburn Meade | 116. Edith Williams |
| 37. Bill Davis | 77. Betty Collins Murphy | |
| 38. Audrey Davis | 78. Jack Mutter | * Denotes Deceased |
| 39. Sharon Davis Weddington | 79. Sue Mutter | |
| 40. Michael Davis | 80. Sherry Lynn Mutter | |



Jack Mutter served as Pastor for 10 years from January 1966 to July 1976. He came to us from Harman, Virginia. One fond memory we have of his time here with us is when he built a big homemade boat (we called it his ark). He took it to Dewey Lake and it was too heavy and sank. He brought it back to the grassy area behind the church, cleaned it up and allowed the children to swim in it. We also had wonderful times working on VBS crafts in the basement of the parsonage with his wife, Sue. The Mutters moved to Florida where Bro. Jack was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Cape Canaveral. Bro. Jack and Sue now live Rockledge, Florida with their daughter, Sherry.



Troy Tackett served as Worship Leader & Deacon for many years at Meta Baptist Church. He also taught an Adult Couples Sunday School class and was very faithful in the church's visitation ministry.



Ernestine (Ernie) Thompson served faithfully as the Sunday School Secretary for over 40 years.

Bro. Ronald Barnett became the Pastor here at Meta in October of 1976. He was born in Indianapolis, Indiana but was raised in Waynesburg, Kentucky. After getting out of school, he was pastoring a new mission with only 4 people attending in Wheelersburg, Ohio. The mission had grown enough that they were able to constitute as a Church. One night when preaching, Bro. Bill Davis, Troy Tackett & Leon Huffman showed up in that congregation. The next morning Leon called Bro. Ron to invite him to come and preach a trial sermon here at Meta. When pulling into our parking lot, Bro. Ron remembers telling Mary Ann, "This is home." Our Church experienced rapid growth while Bro. Ron was Pastor. He served here for 8 ½ years until July 1985. Bro. Ron & Mary Ann have 2 sons and 5 grandchildren. He now serves as Pastor of Pleasant Run Baptist Church at Short Creek, Kentucky. His health has been an issue requiring him to use oxygen full time. With God's blessings, he is now off oxygen and able to preach full sermons. Outside of church activity, Bro. Ron enjoys woodworking, reading and puzzles.



Construction of Meta Baptist Church's second unit began in 1981 and dedicated on October 31, 1982; the approximate cost being \$241,000.00. Those participating in the Dedication Service were: Troy Tackett - Song Leader, Leon Huffman - Opening Prayer, Meta Quartet - Special Music, Gary Lockhart & JoAnna Brock - Soloists, Truman Thompson, Jr. - Dedicatory Prayer. Former ministers of the church were recognized. Bro. Harold Wainscott, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville when Meta Mission began, brought the message. Bro. Ron Barnett was Pastor.

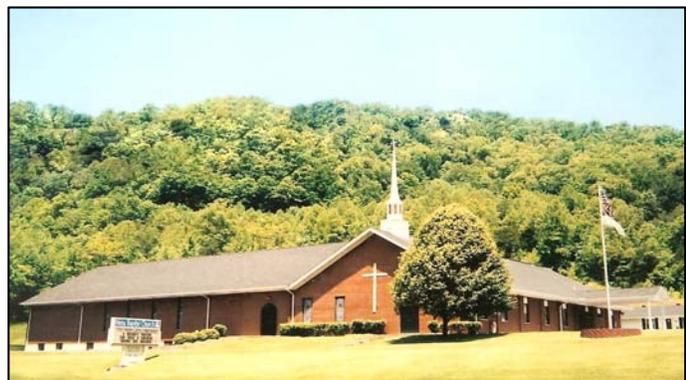


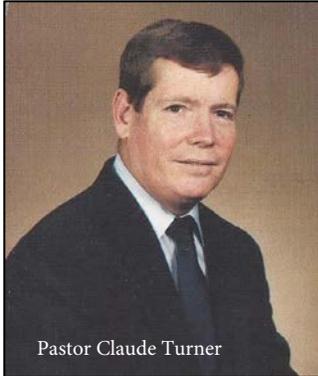
This unit contains a beautiful new sanctuary, baptistry, full basement and several additional classrooms. The first unit now serves as a fellowship hall, along with classrooms and offices. The first service held in the new building was on August 27, 1982, with Dr. J. Harold Smith bringing the message. This marked the beginning of revival and several professions of faith and many decisions were made.



Meta Baptist Church

Both units (1st & 2nd) shown; the steeple was added in 1988.





When Bro. Claude Turner was called to be our Pastor in October 1985, he and Ann were church planters for the Home Mission Board in Pennsylvania. Leon Huffman called Claude after receiving a copy of the newsletter from Hasson Heights Baptist Church in Oil City, PA. That was the beginning of it all.

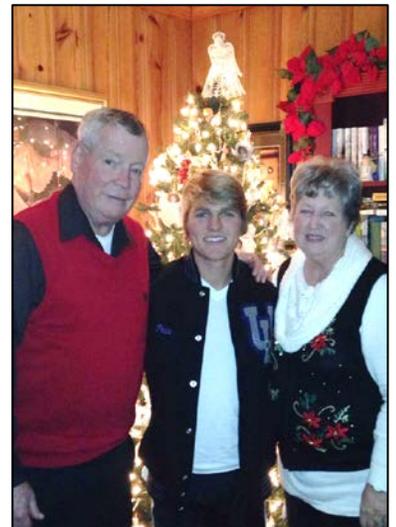
One of his favorite memories was when he had to call the Secretary of the Navy in order to have an Honor Guard for Mr. Rufus Thompson's funeral. The fly over at the cemetery was a beautiful sight. Ann's favorite memories are all about Girls in Action. She loved working with the girls and was so proud of them. Brushy Creek was a Mission and Bro. Claude worked hard, securing mission teams from all over to help build and complete their facility. When all was said and done the total debt was \$14,000. A Mission at Kimper was just a thought at that time. Bro. Claude expressed that he worked with two great Worship Leaders while at Meta, Troy Tackett and Tommy Thompson. He said Bro. Tommy was always nervous in the pulpit because he was never sure of what Bro. Claude was going to do next.



Bro. Claude served as our Pastor until April of 1989. In 2001, the Lord allowed them to move to Thomaston, GA, where their daughter, LaResa, and her family lived. They moved within walking distance of her home. Their only grandchild, Turner Durell Price, was four years old at the time. Turner is now 20 years old and is a junior at Georgia State College in Atlanta, GA, making the President's List with a 4.0 GPA. They are so proud of him. LaResa works for the State of Georgia in the Department of Family & Children's Services out of the state office.

In 2009, Bro. Claude officially retired. He states, "You know you never really retire from God's work, so in 2010, I became the part-time (full-time) pastor for a small struggling church of 6 people." He is still there with about 20 people now and loving every minute of it.

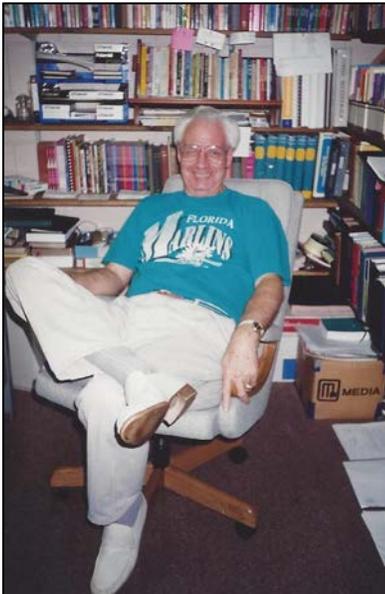
Bro. Claude and Ann wish they could join us for this celebration, but it just wasn't possible. They pray for God's blessing on Meta and for a special friend and great matriarch of Meta Baptist Church, Mrs. Ernestine (Ernie) Thompson.





Pastor Leon Greer

Bro. Leon Greer was serving at First Baptist Church of Louisa, KY when Bro. Troy Tackett, Chairman of the Pastor Search Committee, contacted him. He served as our Pastor here at Meta from August 1989 through June 1995. His wife Carole states, "All of the memories I have of my time at Meta are precious to me." She especially loved her time with the choir and WMU. After Bro. Leon and Carole moved to Winchester, KY, Bro. Leon served as pastor of Parkway Baptist Church from 1996 through 1999. He also served as Interim Pastor for a few other churches. Bro. Leon passed away on August 11, 2008 at the age of 75. His wife, Carole, still lives in Winchester, Kentucky.





Pastor Ron Spurgeon

Ron Spurgeon served as our Pastor from April 1996 through July 1999. He was very supportive of the MOPS Ministry, which was started here at Meta while he was Pastor, and through that ministry, we began participating in Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Bro. Ron passed away February 16, 2014. His wife, Joyce, lives close to family in Vandalia, Ohio.



The MOPS Ministry invited the church families to participate as well. The ministry quickly grew to be more than the MOPS group could handle so our church assumed the Operation Christmas Child ministry. Since 2002, Meta has served as an official Regional Shoebox Collection Center for Operation Christmas Child. An average of one thousand (1000) shoeboxes are collected each year from the church and the surrounding community and sent out to be distributed to children around the world. In 2017, Samaritan's Purse honored Meta Baptist with a beautiful statue inscribed, "In appreciation of 15 years of partnership with Operation Christmas Child."



Kim Taylor has served as our Operation Christmas Child Coordinator for many years.



Pastor Jeff Foster

Jeff Foster was called as Pastor of Meta Baptist Church in June of 2000 and served until July 2002. Jeff had just graduated from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College when he was called to be our Pastor. After leaving Meta, he went back to school and received his degree at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He and Lesley have three children. Hannah is 22 years old and received her Bachelor's degree at the University of the Cumberlands. She will soon be working at the Florida Baptist Children's Home. Benjamin is an 18



year old high school senior and John Michael is 16 years old. Both enjoy playing on the football team. Bro. Jeff is Pastor of the First Baptist Church of San Mateo in Northern Florida.



Bro. Charlie Higgins

Charlie Higgins served as our Minister of Music and Youth for six years, from October 1997 through May 2003. He had graduated from the University of the Cumberlands with a Bachelor of Music. His wife, Kim, worked with the Children's Choir and in VBS. Kim and Lesley often worked together with the children making a great team. The Lord called Charlie into Pastoral Ministry and he graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth. He is now Pastor at Westview Baptist Church in Sanford, Florida. He and Kim have four sons, Donovan (Alaney), Spencer, Hunter, and Riley; and one grandson, Owen.





Bill Staggs is currently the Pastor at Meta Baptist and has served since September 2002. Before being called as the Pastor, he served as the Interim Pastor. Bro. Bill challenges us to remember the task that is still ahead of us. What will be the impact of this Church in 50 more years? He reminds us to never forget the Great Commission and the work that must be done.

Bro. Bill, Lisa, Ben & Elisabeth Staggs



Several ministries that have been active over the years still continue at Meta. Our Brotherhood is very active in helping those in our community with benevolence. They have helped with needed wheelchair ramps and repairs to homes where elderly or those in need are concerned. During the Fall of 2005, it was decided that we would prepare Thanksgiving dinners here at the church on Thanksgiving Day and deliver to families in the community who were in need of a meal. The dinners consist of: turkey or ham, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, rolls & a dessert. Each year more dinners are requested. We have delivered up to one thousand dinners some years.

Our WMU is still active in community service. We choose mission projects each month, some of which include making gifts for the teachers at our local school, giving candy & cookies to our local Johns Creek Fire Department volunteers, supporting our World Changers with gifts for their trip, and making pillowcases for those at our local Cancer Center in Pikeville. Some projects we have participated in recently are as follows: helped replenish our food pantry to help the needy in our community, donated to the Pure Water, Pure Life fund, donated toward Mission Offerings, and provided pallet art to two members in our congregation going through illness.

We have been participating in a Backpack Ministry in conjunction with the Johns Creek Family Resource Center since the 2006-2007 school year. This program was started when teachers reported to the Family Resource Center Director about several children coming to school on Mondays very hungry, as though they hadn't received adequate food throughout the weekend. Our church, along with other community churches, has committed to providing imperishable food each Friday during the school months for the Resource Center Director to place in backpacks for the designated children to take home with them. Our church currently takes care of filling 12 backpacks each week.

For many years our church has participated in World Changers. We have had an average of 14 per crew to go out over the years. In participating in World Changers, they not only learn a trade, but grow spiritually as well. The participants complete a Bible study session before the trip and once they arrive at the location, they have individual devotion time, as well as daily devotions as a crew at the worksite. The locations our Meta Baptist World Changers have participated in are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Rock Hill, SC (2 years) | Immanuel Baptist Church in Shelbyville, KY |
| Muncie, Indiana | Aniston, Alabama |
| Huntington, WV (2 years) | Smithfield, NC (Mission Serve Project) |
| Johnson City, TN | Providence, Louisiana (Mission Serve Project) |
| Atlanta, GA | Birmingham, Alabama |
| Roanoke, VA | Chattanooga, TN |
| Sugar Hill, GA | |

For the last few years the Pike Association of Southern Baptists has had Love Loud, an outreach ministry much like World Changers. They help folks in our Association needing repairs or work completed but are unable to do it themselves. Several of our youth and adults have participated. As a church, we are happy to support those doing the work by taking care of lunch and drinks for two crews. Below are some photos from Love Loud projects:



During the past few years some renovations have been made here at Meta: a picnic shelter was built in the rear of the church, equipped with electricity and ceiling fans to help make fellowships a little more comfortable and enjoyable; a drive-thru canopy was constructed on the side entrance of the building; our pulpit area was extended, and the piano and organ were placed at the same level to help with sound quality; our sound system was upgraded with dual screens for media presentations; the camera systems and audio were upgraded to assist our TV Ministry; a flagpole was erected near the front corner of the church displaying an American and Christian flag - it is surrounded by a flower bed that contains a stone with an inscription honoring the veterans of our church family; our upstairs restrooms were remodeled making them more handicap-accessible - this required a change in the Nursery which is adjacent to the restrooms; a concrete porch was added to the former church parsonage; ceramic tile was put on the floors in the hallway,

restrooms, and kitchen; and our storage building was moved to make available the space where our new Family Life Center now sits.

In June 2009, the Church extended the call to Rollie Mitchel Casson to serve as Minister of Youth and Children here at Meta Baptist Church. Mitch is a graduate of the University of the Cumberlands. He and his wife, Sarah, and their children, Carter, Caraline and Charlotte, live near family in Northern KY. Mitch serves as the Children's Minister at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

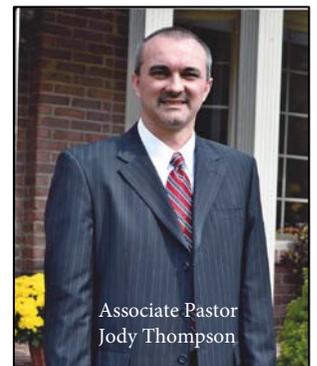


In July 2010, a flood devastated our community. Many families were left without homes and provisions. Several of our church family members experienced great loss. The Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief team was dispatched to our area to help. They made our church their headquarters for folks to contact them for help. Mennonites from other regions and groups from Christian Aid Ministries came to work with the Disaster Relief teams to help with cleaning out and repairing homes. Donations of clothing, food, cleaning supplies, water and many other essentials were distributed throughout the weeks to come. Many of our members worked alongside these groups to ease the burden of this overwhelming cleanup and restoration process. During this year, our World Changers volunteers opted to stay here and help folks in our own community instead of going elsewhere to volunteer.



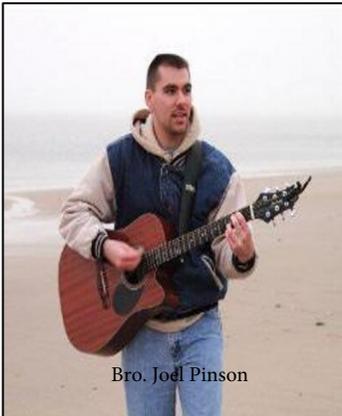
Rick Thacker worked diligently to help the flooded victims in our area. He was so special to all of us here at Meta Baptist. He was a Deacon, active participant in World Changers, and always gave a helping hand to whatever projects that needed to be done. Rick went home to be with the Lord on July 17, 2011, as a result of an accident while doing mission work.

Jody Thompson was ordained as a Deacon at Meta Baptist in 2003. However, in 2009, he felt called to preach. God uses Bro. Jody in a powerful way through his messages. Jody became our Associate Pastor in September of 2012, and still serves in that capacity.



Here he is pictured with his wife, Kari, and their children, Skylar, Addison, and Mallorie.

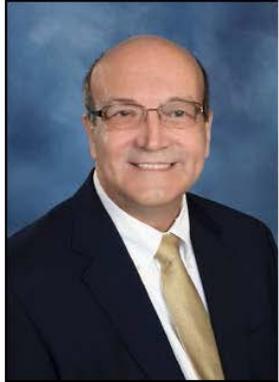
On October 7, 2012, a Dedication Service for Meta Baptist Church's Family Life Center was held. It was exciting to see this dream for many of us turn into a reality. Many years ago Leon Huffman spoke about his vision for this building and what it would mean for our community. Rick Thacker, Hannah Thompson and the World Changers team renewed the desire for this vision to come to fruition after returning from one of their World Changers' trips. This structurally steel building is 80 x 70 feet, contains three classrooms, a storage room, two restrooms, a fully equipped kitchen with modern appliances, and an open area, with a basketball goal on one end, which accommodates our many church fellowship meals and functions.



Bro. Joel Pinson

In June of 2015, Joel Pinson was hired as our Director of Children & Youth. He also blessed our congregation with his music and singing. He now serves as Pastor of Lytleton Baptist Church in Manchester, Kentucky.

Present Leadership of Meta Baptist Church

Church Treasurer Betty Murphy	Church Clerk Ambre Thacker	Church Secretary Marsha Lowe	Church Custodian Randi Varney
			
Worship Leader Tommy Thompson	Pianist/Organist Betsy Thompson	Associate Pastor Jody Thompson	Pastor Bro. Bill Staggs
			

Deacons:

Truman Thompson, Jr., Steve Elswick, Steve Harris, Tommy Thompson, Randall Taylor, Phillip Murphy & Stephen Brashear

Not Pictured: Roger Blackburn (inactive)
Michael Helvey (inactive)
Bill J. Davis (honorary)



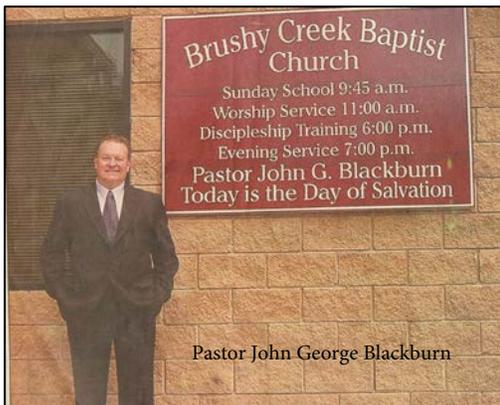
Meta Baptist's First Mission Plant

Brushy Creek Baptist Church

In the Spring of 1982, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, Meta Baptist began to pray and look for a mission point beyond their community. Brushy Mission officially began on July 12, 1982, with Vacation Bible School during the day and a tent revival at night. Several members from the Meta Baptist Church volunteered to serve as workers and become members of the Mission. Bro. Ron Barnett was pastor of Meta Baptist at this time. John George Blackburn has served from that time to present as the Pastor.

The property for Brushy Mission was purchased from the Pike County Board of Education for \$5,000.000. Additional property was given by Virgil and Getta Curry. A double-wide trailer was purchased in September 1982, for an approximate cost of \$26,000.00. The Dedication Service was held on December 12, 1982. Those participating in the service were: Troy Tackett-Song Leader, Travis Thompson-Opening Prayer, Welcome & Sharing of Church History, John George Blackburn-Scripture Reading, Meta Baptist Quartet-Special Music, and Tony Webb-Benediction. The message was brought by Bro. Ron Barnett.

Realizing the need for a more permanent structure, a sculptured block building was erected. The first sermon was preached by Bro. Kenneth Branham on May 29, 1988, beginning a revival service. The Dedication Service for the new building was held on November 5, 1988 at 5:00 p.m. Pastor John George Blackburn welcomed Bro. Ron Barnett as the guest speaker, and special music was brought by the Immanuel Glory Boys.



Brushy Creek Baptist Church has constituted and has celebrated their 35th Anniversary as a Church. Bro. John George Blackburn still serves as their pastor.



Meta Baptist's Second Mission Plant

Kimper Community Baptist Church

For several years, Meta Baptist Church discussed and prayed about mission work in the Kimper, Kentucky area. A previous work was no longer in existence, therefore, the Missions Committee, composed of Brent Thompson - Chairman, Ray Cornett, Lois Bentley and Roger Blackburn, met several times and looked at several locations. They decided to do a survey to determine interest. This was done June 11-14, 1992. There were over twenty (20) people who assisted in the survey.

There was excellent response to the survey. The committee recommended to the church on July 22, 1992, that we proceed with the Mission Program. It basically involved moving our double-wide trailer from Meta Baptist to the Kimper location. The location was to be North of Prater's Trailer Court near Kimper Elementary School. The estimated start-up cost for the Kimper Baptist Mission was \$6,000.00.

On August 23, 1992, over forty (40) people of Meta Baptist Church responded to an invitation to assist in teaching, praying, giving and visiting. A goal of \$6,000 was set for August 30, 1992, and we received \$6,434.00.

The double-wide was moved on September 1, 1992. The men of the church put a new roof on the double-wide on September 5, and the ladies provided lunch. A total of thirty-three (33) people were present. Also, a new sign was erected. Work continued with the installation of a septic system, water hook-up, electrical hook-up and a parking area.

Services began on October 1, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. There were 48 people present. They continued to meet on each Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. and had Bible Study for Preschoolers, Children, Youth and Adults. Thursday night Bible Study continued for nine years with attendance averaging about forty (40). Three portable building units were added as they were needed.



In May of 2001, the Missions Committee recommended that full church services be started at Kimper Mission. The recommendation was approved to start full church services the first Sunday of October 2001. It was agreed that local pulpit supply would be used until a pastor was called.

A Pastor Search Committee was formed in December 2001 and Bro. Shannon Bryant was called as bi-vocational Pastor. His pastorate began January 1, 2002 and lasted through July 2007. He and his wife, Thearose, are pictured.



In the beginning, it was the intention of Meta Baptist to acquire property, construct a building and constitute a church at Kimper. As the Mission continued to grow and funds became available, a parcel of land containing thirty-eight (38) acres, located just above Layne's Branch at Kimper, was purchased for \$18,000.00.

In May of 2006, the area to be disturbed was cleared of vegetation, and excavation began and continued throughout the summer. In June of 2006, a 144 ft. x 60 ft. metal building frame with roof and 24 ft. x 30 ft. entrance canopy was ordered and delivered in October 2006. At this time, the decision was made to construct the foundations, erect the building and install the roof as soon as possible. This work was completed by December 31, 2006.

In November 2006, Chris Wurzel, President of Joshualand Ministries, a church-building ministry in FL utilizing volunteer labor, agreed to help Kimper Mission finish the new building. The details were worked out, agreed upon and the schedule finalized.

Work continued throughout the winter in preparation for the crews scheduled to arrive in mid-May. The first crew arrived May 18th and nine weeks later, July 22nd, the building was substantially complete and the first service was held. At this time, the third major goal was reached.

The first official service was August 5, 2007 and the Dedication Service was held August 26, 2007. The sanctuary seats 150 plus 19 in the choir. The Fellowship Hall seats 150 with one basketball goal. There

are 8 classrooms, 3 restrooms, 2 offices and a kitchen. There is also a 30 ft. x 40 ft. open picnic shelter; a 30 ft. x 30 ft. fenced play area for children, a one-acre play area and 70 parking spaces. The cost was approximately \$400,000.00.



Andy Keaton began preaching at Kimper Baptist Mission on November 4, 2007. He was ordained there on July 20, 2008. He served as the bi-vocational Pastor until September 20, 2009.

The Mission constituted as a church on August 30, 2009. At that time the Church Leadership was as follows:

- Pastor: Andy Keaton
- Deacons: Champ Chaney, Ray Cornett, Ben Slone
- Church Treasurer: Barbie Harris
- Church Clerk: Barbara Reed
- Sunday School Director: Ben Slone
- Pianist / Organist: Sharon Cornett
- Music Leader: Danny Bevins
- Trustees: Danny Bevins, Champ Chaney, Ray Cornett

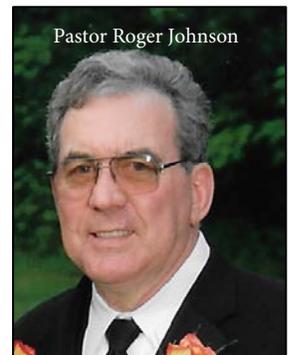
During the Constitution Celebration Service, Pike Association's Director of Missions, Bob Finch, gave the invocation and scripture reading. Meta Baptist Church & Kimper Community Baptist had a combined choir. Shannon Bryant, the first Pastor of the Mission, spoke about the early stages of the Mission. Rick Thacker, Chairman of the Missions Committee at Meta, reminded us of the history of Kimper Mission. Ray Cornett, Chairman of the Mission Council, also spoke about how the Mission had progressed to reaching this stage of Constitution. There was then the *Presentation of Documents*. Steve Thompson, Assistant Executive Director for the Committee of Credentials from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, gave the *Charge to the Church*. Paul Badgett, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, gave the *Charge to the Pastor*. Ambre Thacker, Assistant Clerk for Meta Baptist, gave the *Presentation of Transfer of Membership and Reception of Members*. Bro. Bill Staggs, Pastor of Meta, then gave the Prayer of Blessing for new membership. The memorable service was followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.



Shane Ward, of Pinsonfork, Kentucky, was called as bi-vocational Pastor of Kimper Community Baptist Church on January 30, 2011 and served until November 15, 2015. He immediately took a full time pastorate near Parkersburg, West Virginia where he currently serves.

In February 2016, Bro. Roger Johnson, former Pastor at Marrowbone Baptist Church, became the regular speaker on Sundays and in April 2017, he became the bi-vocational Pastor and currently serves in that position. The current Church Leadership is as follows:

- Deacons: Ray Cornett, Ben Slone
- Church Clerk: Allene Collins
- Music Leader: Bobby Collins
- Church Pianist: Sharon Cornett
- Church Treasurer: Sharon Cornett
- Trustees: Bobby Collins, Ray Cornett, Ben Slone



The Future Church

As we remember our past and celebrate our present, we must also embrace the future that God has for each of us. While it's true that we don't know what the future holds, we do know that God holds the future. As we move forward at Meta Baptist Church, it's our prayer that we faithfully continue the command that the Lord Jesus gave His disciples before He ascended into Heaven:

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

God Bless each of you as He continues to use you in a mighty way. To God be the Glory, great things He has done!



At Meta Baptist Church's 40th Anniversary in October of 2007, the church reported being blessed with 275 baptisms since 1984. We have had 71 baptisms in the last ten years since that 40th Homecoming. We pray the best times lie ahead for Meta Baptist Church and may we never forget the Great Commission and the work that must be done. Our prayer is that God's favor and blessing will always be on Meta Baptist Church.

Jesus says in Matthew 16:18, *"I will build My Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail."*



And all of God's people say AMEN!

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