

“Our Heritage”

Little River Baptist Church

1792 – 2017

Two hundred and twenty-five years of
WORSHIP!



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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Pioneer Men and Women who so bravely founded our church, to all the “Men of God” who have led us in our beliefs, and to all members since 1792 that made Little River Baptist Church possible.

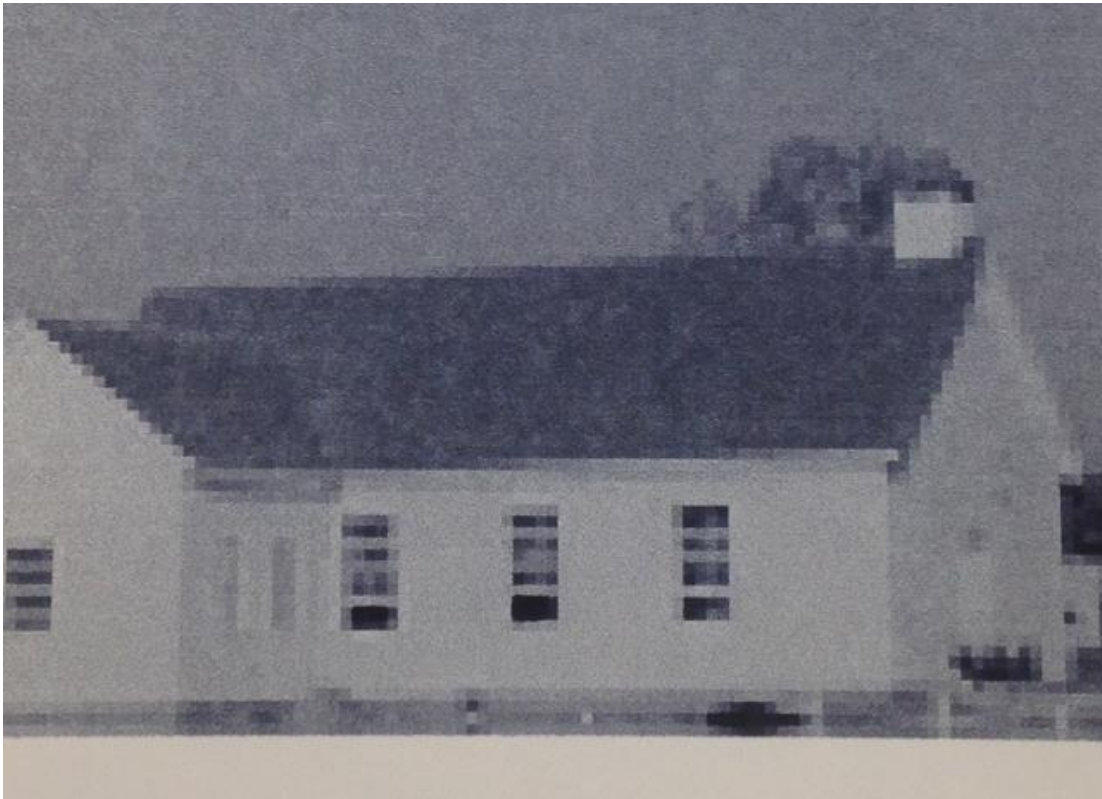


Oldest known picture of the “old plank church”. Graveyard to the right of the church.

The information contained in this history of Little River Baptist Church was researched and compiled originally by Sue Davis Daniels. Her research included Little River Baptist Church minutes, Alexander County Baptist Association, "Alexander Baptist History" by Walter Harrington, Alexander County Genealogical Society, and from memories of church members.

In the 200-year history, she stated that her "purpose of compiling this booklet is to help all members of Little River Baptist Church to know of our history and beliefs."

Thank you Sue for your work then and now.



Second oldest picture of the church.

Since Little River Baptist Church was organized in the year 1792, the church and its people have not ceased moving forward. Since then, thousands of men, women, and children have entered through its doors to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, or as Jesus said in John 3:35 "The servant abideth not in the house forever; but the Son abideth forever." The purpose of this church shall be to foster and maintain public worship, to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, and to promote Christian fellowship and growth among its members.

The statement above was in the 200-year history and remains true twenty-five years later.

This year, 2017, we are celebrating 225 years of worship. Starting in 1792, George Washington, was still president. A group of families moved from Iredell County to what now is Alexander County, in order to form their own Baptist Church. This was also to be free from England's beliefs. History tells us these families settled in our area. Probably, an open "Brush Arbor" was built on the higher slope north of Joe and Colleen McDuffie's house. Reasons for thinking this is an old wagon road was there and also eleven field stones are marking graves. This was the first organized church in Alexander County. They named their church "Little River" after the place they came from in England called "Old Little River."

When a new road was built in the vicinity of our road today, these people built a log church and started the grave yard. Today, the oldest stone says "Webster Infant 1887." A few unnamed field stones remain.

Three groups of people left Little River to start their own church and graveyard. They were Three Forks, Mt. Olive, and First Baptist, all in good standing.

First Baptist was organized October 6, 1851 with twenty-three white men, twenty-eight white women and five black charter members. John Jones and others were expelled from Little River over joining the Sons of Temperance movement. Several members of Little River met on May 14, 1857 to organize Three Forks (fifteen men, twenty white women, and two black women). Mt. Olive was organized in April 1865 with the name New Prospect with members from Little River and Walnut Grove Baptist.

Over the 225 years, the church has been blessed with many babies. The parents chose, at one time, to keep them in the Nursery during the worship service. Parents chose to keep their babies during the worship service around 1996. We have also been blessed with a lot of young people.

Bible School is held in the summer and Revival meetings are held in the spring and the fall. We have Homecoming on the 4th Sunday in September. Communion is held twice a year. Seniors members are treated to an outing in the fall and a Christmas party sponsored by the Faithful Servants Sunday School class.

Every year promises a Christmas play using mostly children. A Christmas tree with gifts delights everyone in the Fellowship Hall following the play.



Church prior to first remodel in 1974.

History

The first Baptist Church and perhaps the first of any denomination in what is now Alexander County was Little River Baptist Church.

Brinsley Barnes who with Thomas Jones, was a charter member of Little River Church, was one of the signers of the petition to Governor Tryon for redress in the matter of exorbitant fees and taxes.

All the “Regulators” who had signed the above-mentioned petition or had any part of the “Battle of Alamance” on May 16, 1771, had to swear allegiance to the Kings of England, or flee their former homes. Many of those patriots in Anson County, now Montgomery and Chatham, gathered up their families and belongings and fled across the Cherokee line that is the boundary between Tryon’s domain and the Indians, said to have been between here and Statesville.

It is said that the “Old Little River” in the country from which they fled had 500 members in 1768 and due to the trouble with Tyron and the coming Revolution, this group all left for other places by 1772, but 48 members.

If Brinsley Barnes had enough of his neighbors to come with him to this section, it is quite natural that they would get together, organize, and call the new church “Little River” after the old church where they formerly lived.

In 1791, Little River sent Elder John Swain, who served as first pastor, and brother Soloman Barnes to the Yadkin Association, there they asked for and received fellowship for Little River Baptist Church.

There is some dispute about the year Little River Baptist Church was organized, but since our Corner Stone states 1792 that is the year we will go by.

We have no records from 1791 – 1878. The first eighty-six years will remain unknown. The first minutes likely contained information regarding the land, building, preamble of beliefs, organization, pastors, officers and growth during its early years.

It is believed by our ancestors that the very first church, perhaps an “arbor”, because meetings were held only in the summer months, or “log house”, was built where the old road used to go behind the church on what is now

Dr. Hugh Sherrin's land or North of Joe McDuffie's land. There you will find a cemetery with eleven graves marked with field stones, no names or dates.

Mr. Clete Jolly tells that his Great Grandmother was told by her ancestors that this was where the first house of worship was located. When the new road was built, a log church was built in the vicinity of our church today.

Our records start in 1879. We have "Old Deeds" to land purchased in 1879, 1882, 1907, and 1922. The Deed of 1879 states that the Church stood on 1 acre of land. The last names of our first recorded members were: Deal, Watts, Crouch, Barnes, Chapman, Bebber, White, Brown, Robinette, Rogers, Bumgarner, Hubbard, Laws, Sweet, Pearson, Kilby, and Oren.

The oldest tombstone in our present cemetery is marked "Infant Son of S.W. Webster, 1887". Markers used before 1887 were unmarked filed stones.

In 1847 there was the greatest revival ever recorded in this area: 158 people were baptized at Little River. John Bryan was the next pastor and the membership dropped to 97 members by 1859. Many members from Little River left to help start other Baptist Churches in the county, also there was a dispute among the members over changes and beliefs of a new era.

In this period new churches were being and had been organized all around the country, and since Little River Baptist Church was the first and oldest, it is natural that many members for the new churches would be from Little River Church.

About the middle of the nineteenth century, grave trouble arose in many of the churches and Association of Western North Carolina over the "institutions of the day", such as Sunday School, Missionary Unions, Bible Societies, schools for preachers, etc. The Mountain Association had declared itself Anti-Missionary, and spoke out against everything the North Carolina Baptist Convention was doing.

It was hard for the people to accept new ideas. There were no radios and televisions or telephones in their time to help them understand that these changes would be for the best. But the biggest split was yet to come over "Homemade brew", called "Sons of Temperance."

The split of church members came from a controversy over the “Sons of Temperance.”

One of the most disturbing things was the “Sons of Temperance”. Those who joined this organization took an oath not to make, sell, or use alcohol as a beverage. Some preachers and laymen looked on joining this organization, considered a secret society, as a sin. This caused splits in churches and associations. If you were against the use or sell of “Homemade Brew”, you would have been dismissed from the church.

It may seem strange that a church would take such action as Little River and others did on this issue, but there were conditions and customs which may help to explain it. These churches were located in the Brushy Mountains of Alexander and Wilkes Counties where corn and apples were the chief products of the farm, and there was practically no industry. The easiest way to get money, which did not come easy, was to make corn whiskey or apple brandy of these products. This had become a way of life for many of these people, besides the taste had been pretty well established among many of the brethren, even some preachers. “Uncle” Andy Bumgarner, in his book, says that in his young manhood there were only two men in Little River and Lebanon communities who did not drink.

When the Alexander Baptist Association was formed in 1887, Little River Baptist Church was a charter member. In 1898, the Alexander Baptist Association met with Little River Baptist Church for the first time.

Associational Affiliations

Yadkin Baptist Association	1791 – 1822
Briar Creek Association	1822 – 1837
Lewis Fork Association	1837 – 1859
United Baptist Association	1859 – 1862
Lewis Fork Association	1863 – 1871
Brushy Mountain Association	1871 – 1887
Alexander Baptist Association	1887 – 2010 (October 3, 2010)
No Affiliation	2010 - present

Membership

The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration, who have been baptized by immersion, who have subscribed to the covenant and constitution of this Church, and who have been received by vote of the Church.

Members may be received upon public profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, by transfer of membership from another Church of like faith and order, by statement satisfactory to the Church to the effect that they have previously been members of a Church of like faith and order or restoration.

This Church shall dismiss from its membership those who are removed by death, those who unite with churches of other faiths to which this Church does not grant letters, those who request a church of like faith and order to ask for a letter of transfer, those who may request membership to cease and those who are found guilty of unchristian conduct members as hereinafter provided.

Members shall be expected to be faithful in all the duties of the Christian Life, to be regular in attendance at services of the Church, to give regularly and systematically to its support and to Kingdom causes, and to share in its organized work.

Taken from the By-Laws of our Church.



The church in the late 1950's



Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort: to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Interesting Facts from Minutes 1879 – Current

The old records are merely old yellowed papers, brittle with age, but filled with interesting data of how our forefathers conducted the services and guarded the name of Christ and His Church.

Members were excluded from the fellowship of the church for doing things that were a “sin” and frowned upon by the members, such as

Bastardy	Trouble Makers
Adultery	Drinking “too much”
Fornication	Swearing and Cursing
Heracy	

When a decision could not be made, an appointed committee of men would call in their neighboring churches, Mt. Olive, Three Forks, and Poplar Springs. Chosen men from each church would make the decision. A “hearing” was held, and if the person was guilty as charged, that person would be dismissed from the fellowship. They could be reinstated at a later time if they came forward and asked the church to forgive them and that they had asked the Lord’s forgiveness.

1913 was the last recorded exclusion from the church.

1880’s

- 1880 – First recorded baptizing at Brother William Brown’s in the river.
- 1887 – First recorded communion. June meeting and invited our sister churches, Mt. Olive, Three Forks, and Poplar Springs.
- 1888 – First recorded deacons: L.S. Deal, B. Laws, L. Robinette, and J.C. Chapman.
- 1887 – A great revival, 22 were baptized in August. Preachers C.C. Poole, Robert Teague, W.J. Bumgarner, and J.B. Poole had nine days of preaching. On Sunday, the largest crowd in forty years. Offering was taken and divided among preachers. Each received \$8.75.
- Since 1879, when our records start, Little River Baptist Church took offerings for the foreign missions and Baptist orphanage.

1900 – 1949

- Early 1900's, Brother Blalock, Missionary from China would speak at our church.
- 1913 – First Sunday School was organized at Little River.
- 1920 – Gave \$1.00 to the poorest families at Christmas.
- 1925 – Purchased land around cemetery from June Jolly.
- 1931 – Hired someone to sweep the “house”, Church.
- 1934 – Gave Pastor T.C. Watts a pounding for Christmas

Sugar	\$0.82
Coffee	\$0.22
Fruit	\$3.00
Other Articles	\$2.50
Total	\$6.54

- 1938 – D.L. “Bub” Bumgarner was ordained to be our pastor. He was 25 years old.

1950 – 1960

- 1950 – Great revival – 19 additions – 14 professions, and 5 by letter.
 - Offering taken for Ned Moose family, whose house was destroyed by fire.
 - Paid Mrs. Annie Johnson \$11.90 for playing piano for our revival.
 - Paid Butler Chapman \$11.90 for leading the singing for our revival.
- 1951 – We gave Calvary Baptist Church our old book board.
- 1952 – Collection for the Polio Fund was taken - \$17.40
 - Voted to carry Fire Insurance on church building.
 - Swapped land owned by the church to Bergen Walker for a piece of land joining the church and cemetery.
 - Sowed the cemetery in grass.
 - \$7.40 was given to buy testaments for soldiers.
 - Voted to remove the 2 stoves and buy one large one, also to get new doors for front of church.
- 1953 – Gave old organ to Mrs. Lona Belle Robinette as a keepsake.
- 1954 – Voted to send offering of Sunday School every 5th Sunday to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.
- 1955 – Mrs. Lorene Elder presented a beautiful Bible to the church in memory of her father, George Walker, who died at an early age of 23, from an epidemic of pneumonia. We still use this Bible today.
- 1958-59 – Educational Building was built onto the back of the church.

1950 – 1960 continued

- 1959 – Indoor plumbing was installed. Before this time our conveniences were two “out-houses” – Men and Ladies. A bucket of water and dipper was brought every Sunday for drinking.

1961 – 1979

- 1962 – Guy Rogers’ Ordination Service. Mt. Olive Baptist Church had called him to be their pastor.
- 1969 – Voted to cement around tomb rocks.
- 1972 – Sent our Pastor, Rev. Arthur Jenkins, to tour the Holy Land.
 - Paved the parking lot.
- 1973 – Built a brick wall in front of cemetery and we paved portion between wall and highway.
- 1974 – Voted to build a new church under the leadership of Rev. Arthur Jenkins.
 - Purchased land from Clete Jolly.
- 1975 – Purchased a grand piano for new church.
- 1977 – Stacey Mitchell and Guy Chapman asked for basketball goals to be put in parking lot.
- 1978 – Dedication of new church building. Complete with kitchen, four rest rooms, and Fellowship Hall.
- 1979 – Purchased new organ.

1980 – 1990

- 1980 – New sanctuary paid in full. A note burning was held at the eleven o’clock service February 10, 1980.
- 1981 – Voted to drill a well, since our water was piped from spring and sometimes froze up, leaving the church without water. The drilling was not a success, \$6,000.00 for two dry holes. We went back to the spring with new water lines and a new pump. The church used this spring until around 2001.
- 1982 – Bought first van for \$5,000.00.
- 1983 – Elected Esther White as first paid secretary and treasurer.
- 1989 – Six Southern Baptist Missionaries spoke at our church September 10th through 13th.

A good number of members attended Poplar Springs Baptist Church for the ordination services of Mark Robinette, who we had called to be our pastor.

1980 – 1990 continued

- 1990 – Voted to send Rev. Robinette to Brazil on a mission trip. We also sent \$500 to be spent on their orphanage.
 - Voted to start charging \$300 per plot in the cemetery for non-members.
 - Purchased land behind church, cleared, and sowed in grass.

1991 – 1999

- 1991 – Sent Donna Jenkins to Brazil.
 - Gave old registry to the Prison Chaplaincy.
 - A Carnival was enjoyed by all the last day of Bible School.
 - The Prison Ministry held a supper at our church.
 - Voted to support the Prison Ministry by sending \$30 a month to the Chaplain.
 - Rebuilt the front of choir loft to make more room for choir and pulpit.
 - New sound system was installed.
 - Voted to incorporate our Church.
 - A Constitution and By-Laws was adopted by the Church.
- 1992 – Little River Baptist Church begins to celebrate our 200th Anniversary.
 - A booklet of pictures of Church members and their families and a church directory was made.
 - Gave our old sound system to the Prison Ministry.
 - Elected three new Deacons: Danny Chapman, Darrin Rogers, and David R. Mecimore. Held ordination service for new Deacons.
 - Began a rotation system for the Deacons (3 inactive and 7 active)
 - “Ole Fashion Day” was enjoyed by all in June.
 - Our Big Celebration of 200 years came in September. We held our Homecoming, dinner, and singing. Former Pastors were our guest speakers in the afternoon service: Rev. Harvey White, Rev. Hunter Church, and Rev. Arthur Jenkins.
 - Visitation and Sunday School attendance was greatly promoted.
 - The Alexander Baptist Association met with Little River Baptist Church in October. A summary of our history was read by Joe McDuffie. Lunch was served by the ladies of Little River.
 - Gave monies to the hurricane victims in Louisiana and Florida.
 - Formed a Budget Committee.

1991 – 1999 continued

- Began taping services and distributing tapes to homebound individuals.
- Required anyone being buried in our cemetery to be buried in a vault.
- Buried a time capsule that included the church history written by Sue Daniels; a church directory; a copy of The Advantage that contained an article about our church; and various other items.
- 1993 – Bought our first computer
 - Easter breakfast began to be served by the men of the church following the sunrise services.
 - Formed a Benevolence Committee to look at the needs of church members (and non-members) in order to give monetary assistance.
- 1994 – Remodeled old church sanctuary for Sunday School rooms.
 - The youth began to hold a volleyball tournament for missions.
 - Began request to bring county water to the Little River community.
 - Formed a Family Life committee to look at building a Family Life Center.
 - Representatives from our church began attending the State Association meetings.
 - Held a Youth Jamboree with over 70 youth participating and camping out in the church parking lot.
- 1995 – Lindsay Brown, our oldest deacon to date, passed away.
 - Began supporting Dr. Ed Moore who started a mission church in Indiana.
 - A new church directory was produced and bought a new copier
 - Held another Youth Jamboree.
 - Supported the Crusade for Christ which was held in Alexander County.
 - Purchased a new base guitar, amplifier, and cordless microphone.
 - Began using bottled water for drinking due to bacteria build up in spring that provides water to the church.
 - Began re-plotting cemetery; increased the fee for burial for non-members; and made plots no-transferable for non-members.
 - Greg Mathis, then NC Southern Baptist Convention President, held our revival services.
 - Ordained Phil Jolly as a Deacon.

1991 – 1999 continued

- 1996 – Voted to build a Family Life Center. (Currently on hold)
 - Assisted the Shew/Ward families who lost their home and most of their family to a fire.
 - Made 2 changes to our by-laws.
 - Cecil Rogers, our oldest member to date, passed away.
 - Alexander County Commissioners met at our church to discuss the Little River water project. Later named the Sugar Loaf water project.
 - Andrew Sarver was appointed Youth Director for the Alexander Association.
 - Joe McDuffie has been active in the Alexander Association for several years and was/is Moderator of the Association.
 - Pastor Mark Robinette resigned.
 - Made changes to By-Laws of the church.
 - Participated in the Hispanic ministry through the Alexander Baptist Association.
 - Kisha White Memorial Scholarship created in memory of Kisha Lenay White. Monies collected were given to high school graduate attending college or a current college student.
 - Called Jeff Chapman as interim pastor for five weeks in December.
- 1997 – Called Jeff Chapman as interim pastor in January until a full-time pastor could be called.
 - Purchased a fire proof safe.
 - Called Jeff Chapman as our full-time pastor in February and he accepted the position and was given 100% vote in March.
 - Jeff Chapman ordained as our pastor at Liledoun Baptist Church.
 - Family Day held at Hickory Cover Bible Camp.
 - Purchased a new tape duplicator and began looking at remodeling our church.
- 1998 – Ricky Brown and Shawn Brown participated in a mission trip to Texas.
 - Began a Youth Bible Study that was held the 3rd Sunday of each month for Youth and adults.
 - Based on our remodeling study, we decided to a phased approach to remodeling. This decision was made in September, 1998. Prior to this we had looked into building a Family Life Center.
 - Jeff Chapman visited the Holy Land.

1991 – 1999 continued

- 1999 – Purchased wireless hearing devices for those in the congregation with hearing impairments.
 - Jeff Chapman participated in a mission's trip to Mexico.
 - Purchased a new steeple for the sanctuary.
 - Brother Ed Mooney, missionary to Wales, Scotland and several young men from the mission visited with us.
 - Participated in the flood relief assistance following hurricane Floyd and provided Bibles to flood victims. Pastor Jeff Chapman and Brother Ricky Brown traveled to the flood area.
 - We purchased a vehicle for our Pastor.

2000 – 2005

- 2000 – Brother Danny Reeves, missionary to Mexico visited with us and delivered the message of the Lord in a morning worship service.
 - Participated in the 2000 Alexander Association Missions Conference.
 - Participated in flood relief assistance for Eastern North Carolina during 2000.
 - Celebrated with our Pastor as he wed Elizabeth Shea Childers on September 9, 2000.
 - We began remodeling sanctuary in April 2000 and moved our worship services to our Fellowship Hall beginning October 8, 2000.
- 2001 - Missionaries from the Philippines visited with us in October and shared their testimonies.
 - The remodeling of our sanctuary was completed in 2001 and we held our first worship service in the new sanctuary on April 8, 2001. We had our first baptismal service in the new sanctuary on August 19, 2001 with five baptismal candidates.
 - New church directory photos taken.
 - Changed our Burial Plot Policy.
 - Two flags were presented to the church in memory of Ed and Hazel Teague. The flags hang on the wall behind the choir.
- 2002 – Brother Danny Reeves, missionary to Mexico visited with us while on furlough.
 - We purchased a new icemaker, stove and dishwasher for our Fellowship Hall.

2000– 2005 continued

- Hosted Mother/Daughter and Father/Son banquets.
- Began giving our shut-in's a financial gift instead of a fruit basket at Christmas.
- 2003 – Brother Stefan Bankov, missionary to Bulgaria visited with us.
 - Terry Harrington began doing small maintenance on church properties.
 - Alexander Baptist Association held their Summer Quarterly Session with our church.
 - A “Back to School” event for students was held.
 - Purchased a new copier.
 - Phil Jolly surrendered to the call of the Lord to preach.
 - Approved the blueprints for additions and improvements to the church.
- 2004 – Appointed David R. Mecimore and Darrin Rogers to the Board of Directors of our church and named Danny Chapman as Vice President and Jeff Chapman as President. (Incorporation documentation. Former Board Members Bobby Daniels and Rick Brown requested being removed and Joe McDuffie had passed away.) These changes were to permit the securing of a loan from Taylorsville Savings Bank for our building project.
 - Secured a \$700,000 loan from Taylorsville Savings Bank for our building project.
 - Purchased a new car for our Pastor.
 - Todd Payne, missionary to India visited with our church.
 - Voted to not allow mausoleums in our graveyard.
- 2005 – Prayerfully considered, asked, and ordained Keith Meadows and Scott Shook as Deacons.
 - Bobby Sizemore with Rock of Ages Prison Ministry visited with us.
 - Brother Kevin Fuller, International President of Gideon's, from Australia spoke to our church.
 - Dr. Steven Merrill, medical doctor in Taylorsville, spoke to our church on Prophecy.
 - Upgraded our computers.
 - Jerry Hubbard announced his call to preach.
 - Our church hosted a Watch Night Service.

2006– 2010

- 2006 – Recognized our Building Committee members for their service with a plaque and a \$50 Lowe’s Hardware gift card.
 - Brother Alex Fishchenko and his wife Natasha were with us from the Ukraine. Brother Alex serves in the Rock of Ages Prison Ministry. He serves as an interpreter for the American missionaries that travel to the Ukraine to preach in the prisons.
 - Purchased a new Hammond organ.
 - Voted to purchase a larger, stainless steel, commercial grade refrigerator.
 - Increased the fee for a grave plot for a non-member from \$500 to \$1000.
 - Mr. Kipp Rayfield, a missionary to Brazil, visited with us.
 - Brother Danny Reeves, missionary to Monterey, Mexico visited with us.
- 2007 – Purchased new Bibles and hymnals for the pews.
 - Gave money to help a Laotian church purchase land.
 - Purchased two food warmers for the Fellowship Hall.
 - Held a joint service with Lebanon Baptist Church.
 - Held a “Back to School” service.
 - Recognized Edsel Mitchell for his service as a Deacon.
 - Honored Margery Hubbard and Cindy Jolly for their service as Nursery workers. Margery has served for 35 years and Cindy for 22 years.
- 2008 – Held a Relay for Life fundraiser at Salem Park to raise money for the American Cancer Society.
 - Purchased a larger ice maker.
 - Helped in the campaign against liquor by the drink in our county.
 - Purchased a new car for our Pastor.
 - Began a website for our church.
- 2009 – Ordained Phil Jolly into the ministry. He had accepted a call from Dover Baptist Church.
 - Purchased a 7 CD burner for our tape ministry.
 - Hosted a Brushy Mountain Youth meeting.
 - Sold our church van.

2006– 2010 continued

- Purchased a Phone Tree System to help communicate information regarding church activities.
- Began supporting our young preachers with a financial gift at Christmas.
- Began paying for schooling for our young preachers if they desire to go, making financial donations to West Lenoir Bible College each year and through prayer.
- Paid for Luke Connor to attend West Lenoir Bible College. He was seeking to obtain a Master's degree.
- 2010 – Rev. Mike Sutphin, Itinerate Missionary held our Revival services.
 - Hosted a Brushy Mountain Youth meeting.
 - Held a Relay for Life fundraiser at Salem Park to raise money for the American Cancer Society.
 - Voted to leave the Alexander Baptist Association.
 - Began “adopting” students at Sugar Loaf Elementary at Christmas. The church would pay for a coat and an Angel Food box per family. Church members would purchase items for their “adopted” child.

2011 – 2017

- 2011 – Brother Kip Rayfield, missionary to Brazil, visited with us.
 - A major snow/ice storm blanketed our county.
 - Amended the Church constitution due to not being affiliated with the Alexander Baptist Association.
 - Purchased a new color copier.
 - Paid off our \$700,000 loan (5 years).
 - Purchased a defibulator and trained several folks on its use.
- 2012 – Koty Wheeler announced his call to preach.
 - Helped in the campaign for the Sanctity of Marriage.
 - Hosted a Brushy Mountain Youth meeting.
 - Changed our church year to the first Sunday in September. (New officers, teachers, and staff changes begin on this date.)
 - Purchased a new car for our Pastor.
 - A new pictorial church directory was made.
 - Began having preaching on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sunday nights with a Bible Study on the 4th Sunday night.

2011 – 2017 continued

- 2013 – Gave money to help pay for the cost of publishing a booklet to be used by Rock of Ages Prison Ministry.
 - Purchased a new CD Burner for the church.
 - Stripped and buffed flooring in basement Sunday School rooms.
 - New roof was put on the church.
 - Donated money to pay for school items for students at Sugar Loaf Elementary, East Alexander Middle, and Alexander Central High School.
 - Purchased 25 tables and sufficient chairs for the Fellowship Hall.
 - Voted to start the renovations of the church Fellowship Hall. It included a cost estimate of \$75,000. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher and other equipment will be commercial grade. The extension will make the kitchen area 16 x 20 feet.
- 2014 – Major snow/ice storm and extremely cold temperatures.
 - Voted to purchase three acres of land across the road.
 - Koty Wheeler was ordained into the ministry. Goshen Baptist Church has called him as the Associate Pastor.
 - Renovations on the Fellowship Hall were made.
 - Began supporting, through ministry and financially, Rev. Dean Crane ministry in Bradshaw, West Virginia
 - Hosted the Brushy Mountain Youth Revival.
 - Our youth sang at the Apple Festival.
- 2015 – Decided to no longer sell grave plots to people outside of the church.
 - Amended our By-Laws not allowing the marriage of same-sex couples in our church.
 - Several electrical things in our church were damaged due to an electrical storm. Those things were repaired or replaced.
 - Began looking into getting an elevator for our church.
 - Created a Wedding Guideline for the church as a result of the Supreme Court ruling on marriage.
 - Created a Food Pantry Committee so that our church could be a local Food Pantry for the community.
 - Helped Rock Springs Baptist Church in Bradshaw, West Virginia purchase a van for transporting children to services.

2011 – 2017 continued

- 2016 – Our Secretary/Treasurer for the past 30 years, Esther White, passed away.
 - Purchased security cameras to be placed throughout the church property.
 - Hosted the families of the Alexander County Head Start with a breakfast.
 - Alexander Central High School Bible Club held a meeting at Little River.
 - Assisted in the fight against the liquor by the drink.
 - Made some repairs to our stained-glass windows.
 - Traded our Pastor's current car in on a new one.
 - Stopped supporting West Lenoir Bible College.

- 2017 – A major snowstorm blanketed our county with 7-8 inches of snow and very low temperatures.
 - Decided to not to continue pursuing an elevator for our church.
 - Honored Colleen McDuffie on her 90th birthday.
 - Celebrated our 225 Anniversary during the month of September.
 - Held an "Old Fashioned Day" on Sunday, September 24.

Christmas Comes to Little River in the Form of a Hydrant

In Honor of Joe McDuffie

After 209 years (1792 – 2001), a dream comes true – County water comes to Little River Baptist Church.

Dear Joe,

We wish to thank you for the years of thought, telephone calls, house calls, and meetings toward our water project. We appreciate your tirelessness of pushing and pulling all for us, the members of Little River Baptist Church. You would always tell us, “Don’t give up, water will come to our church, and it will come in our day.” It took six years and many meetings but in the fall of 2001, your hard work paid off. The trenches were dug, pipes were laid, and with the hydrants in place, Little River finally had water that was so longed for. Praise the Lord!

After 209 years (1792 – 2001) of using spring water.....

- NO MORE cleaning out the “spring”.
- NO MORE muddy water after storms.
- NO MORE signs over commodes “Do not flush”.
- NO MORE transported water for “flushing”.
- NO MORE freezing lines in the winter months.
- NO MORE looking for busted or leaking pipes up that steep hill.
- NO MORE expensive drilling “dry holes” for water.
- NO MORE signs “Do not drink the water.”
- NO MORE water pumps to look after.
- NO MORE surveying the community.
- NO MORE disappointments when the water project would go to another community.



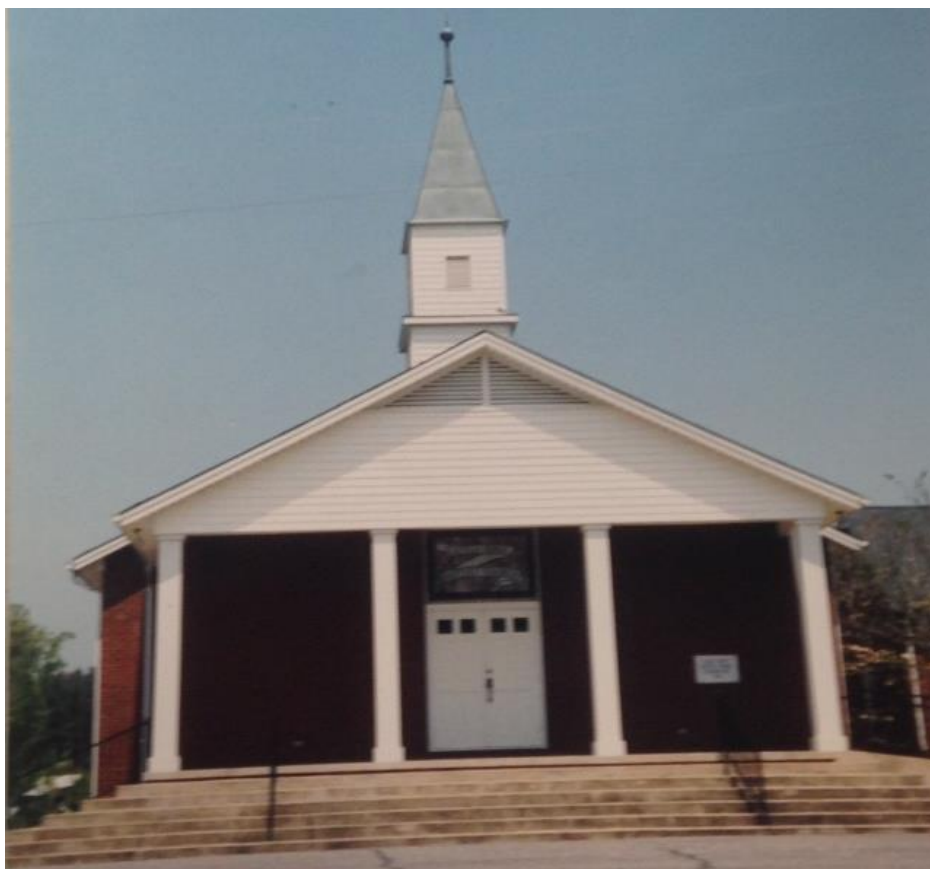
NO MORE

NO MORE

NO MORE

NO MORE

2000 Remodeling



Church prior to the 2000 remodeling project.

We began remodeling our sanctuary in April 2000 and moved our worship services to our Fellowship Hall beginning October 8, 2000. The old church and educational building were retained and plans were drawn for a large Educational building and an enlargement of the sanctuary. A large entrance and side entrance were designed. Harrington Construction was contracted to build the church.

The remodeling included: spacious hallways, a new Pastor's study, a new Secretary's office, eight rest rooms, a media/library room, a choir room, a room for floral arrangements, four maintenance closets, new Baptistry, five entrances on the main level and three entrances downstairs, an enlarged Fellowship Hall, eight restrooms, kitchen and storage improvements (remodeled in 2014), six Sunday School rooms downstairs, six Sunday School rooms upstairs, and two nurseries (one in the sanctuary).

In Remembrance

Music at 12 noon – A recording of hymns to be played from the Bell Tower was given to our church by the Louise Chapman family in memory of D.B. Chapman. Lovely music flows through the air each day at 12 noon.

Our silver Communion set was given in memory of Mrs. Lake Jenkins by the Rev. Arthur Jenkins family. We have used this service for many years. Danny and Kathy Chapman are in charge of communion.

New hymnals replaced our old hymnals in memory of Bobby Daniels by his family.

A nice brass collection plate was given in memory of Billy Mullis by the Mullis family.

A lovely arrangement of flowers was given in memory of Edsel Mitchell by his family. It has been used on our altar table many times.

The Mae Pearson family gave us a beautiful design of roses. One rose represents each child. This was in memory of their mother, Mae.

The small table that holds our bulletins every Sunday was made by and given to us by Willard Watts.

Baby roses mixed in with an assortment of tropical flowers were given to our church in honor of Jimmy and Kay Hubbard's 50th anniversary by their children. We thank you.

Our pretty flags representing Communion, hang on the wall behind the choir, were given in memory of Edd & Hazel Teague by their children.

Education for the Children of Little River

In the late 1700's and early 1800's, children were taught at home by their mothers. After the Civil War, in the late 1800's and early 1900's one room buildings were built for school houses.

Grammar school age children from Little River attended one of two schools, Little River Academy, a two-room school, and Salem, a one room school. After they finished these schools, they were then able to go to Taylorsville school.

Ruby Deal remembers attending the Academy and remembers her teachers well, they were Miss Alice Bumgarner, Miss Blanch Mullis, Miss Ruth Mullis (Shirley Mitchell's aunts), Mr. Lloyd Kerley, and Mr. Peter Johnson. Grades 1-7 were taught by two teachers.

Bobby Daniels and Willard Watts remembers going to Salem, which stood beside Salem Lutheran Church. Their teachers were Miss Alice Bumgarner and Mrs. Lois Kerley. Grades 1-5 were taught by one teacher. We might add that all children walked to school.

In 1945-46, these schools were closed so all children could go to Taylorsville.

Kisha White Scholarship Recipients

In 1996, the Kisha White Scholarship was created in memory of Kisha Lenay White. The scholarship was set up to help young men and women achieve their educational goals. Potential recipients were to be an active member of Little River Baptist Church and must be enrolled full-time. Selection of a recipient is based also on academic achievement, moral and religious attitude, participation in church programs and activities, financial need, and goals and aims of the applicant. The 2016 class were the last recipients of the scholarship. As of that time, over \$40,000 had been given to help in student's education.

Year	Recipients
1997	Shea Childers Chapman, Denise Pennell Johnson, and Amy Brown Fortner
1998	Summer Walker Eldreth
1999	Kimberly Brown and Katie Childers Windsor
2000	Garrison Davis and Michelle Rogers Safriet
2001	Brittney Barnes Herman
2002	Jamie Mecimore Smith
2003	Jamie Mecimore Smith and Jodi Davis Speaks
2004	Jamie Mecimore Smith, Garrison Davis, Leah Hubbard Martin, Amy Kerley Copeland, and Tonya Steele Bousman
2005	Leah Hubbard Martin, Brian Lackey, and Ashley Earp Bare
2006	Ashley Earp Bare and Chris Bare
2007	Sarah Davis and Brittney Barnes Herman
2008	Sarah Davis, Cristy Jones, and D.J. Fortner
2009	D.J. Fortner, Emilee' Rogers Hall, and Lindsay McNeely Fleisher
2010	D.J. Fortner, Thomas Fortner, and Lindsay McNeely Fleisher
2011	Lindsay McNeely Fleisher and Dustin Jolly
2012	Dusty Jolly, Josh Mecimore, Danni Rhyne, and Alisha Orren
2013	Emily Hubbard and Kailyn Brown Pennell
2014	Bobby Alexander, Kailyn Brown Pennell, Emily Hubbard, and Jessie Tallman Jolly
2015	Bobby Alexander, Jessie Tallman Jolly, and Kailyn Brown Pennell
2016	Courtney Brown, Kyra Brown, Abby Harrington, Jessie Tallman Jolly, Seth Watts, MaKayla White

Tragedies

Civil War – When North Carolina joined the confederacy on May 20, 1861, there was a rush of volunteers in Alexander County.

By May 29, 1861, only eight days after war was declared by President Lincoln, over 50 men from Alexander County had joined Company A, 7th Regiment and started training. Another 50 men volunteered in July, 1861. We think there were men from our church who served, because there are two graves in our cemetery stating they served in the Civil War. It is possible that there were more. There is no record of slaves being owned by one of the church's members, but records show there were 50 families in Alexander County who owned slaves with a total slave population of 500-600.

So why join up to fight if you did not own slaves? People have the instinct to fight when land and country are invaded. Their ancestors had fought for independence and freedom to make their own choices less than 100 years earlier and these principles were still deeply instilled in their hearts and minds.

The brave, battle-scarred men from Alexander County fought until the bitter end. When General Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865, what was left of the Alexander County soldiers surrendered with him.

At long last the fighting was over for the tired soldiers from Alexander County. They had fought with fierce courage and loyalty to the Confederacy a war none of them had wanted but had to fight to defend their homeland and the rights of a people who wanted only to govern themselves.

The Great Flood of 1916 – A devastating flood that took lives, livestock, crops, and houses. Tons of rocks, trees, and debris amidst swirling water plunged down “Onion Knob Mountain” gaining momentum as it traveled.

It almost totally destroyed the Little River section. Our church was not damaged. Uncle Andy Bumgarner wrote a poem about three children that were drowned in the swift current of the raging waters and mud slide. One of the children was never found, Perry, son of Lonas and Lillie Russell. Following is some of the poem written about this tragedy.

The Flood of 1916

By Andy M. Bumgarner

In the month of July, in the year sixteen.
Occurred the worst tropical storm that ever was seen:
As it made it's way from the ocean wide,
It struck with force on the mountain side.

At the head of Jack Branch there were children five.
A father and mother and all alive;
As they stood in the doorway and the rain come down
They saw how quick it covered the ground.

The downpour came with terrific roar,
It struck the house, they were thrown to the floor;
As they all went down they struck a tree,
They were all thrown out except the three:

"Oh no," says Lonas, "I fear they are downed,
They have not been seen since the house washed down."
But down in the bottom by the Lee St. Clair Pond,
The bodies of Lewis and Jennie were found.

As the neighbors came and walked around,
Their teardrops fell fast on the ground;
But poor little Perry had not been found,
He sleeps somewhere beneath the ground.

With a bed of mud and a pillow of clay,
He may not be found till the last great day,
When the Angel comes with trumpet sound,
To awake the dead that is under the ground.

Other Wars

Little River Baptist Church had its share of men to serve in the four wars. To the best of our knowledge, they are listed below.

World War I	Lee Burgin Minter Rogers Dallas Teague
World War II *Killed in action	Floyd Barnes Hugh Barnes Lynn Barnes T.C. Barnes Chephus Chapman Elisha Chapman J.C. Chapman Ira Elder Dock Jolly Hall Jolly Sidney Jolly Bill Mullis Don Mullis Hall Mullis Ray Orren* Edwin Teague Turner Walker
Korean War	T.C. Barnes Donald Chapman Wade Childers Charles Jolly, Jr. Joe McDuffie Johnny Orren Roy Rogers Willard Watts
Vietnam	Danny Childers Tony Ferguson Hal Fox Keith Meadows (stateside) David R. Mecimore (stateside) Ronnie Orren

Since the Vietnam War, the United States has been a part of various conflicts in many countries. The following men served their country during these times of conflicts. Some may have seen battles and some may not. Their sacrifice, however, does not go unnoticed. The sacrifice of their lives is very much appreciated to help protect our freedom.

Served during a time of peace	Aaron Bousman Cainie Bumgarner Robert Cavin Scott Lackey Bill McNeely Donald Sprinkle Clay Tallman (Beirut)
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September 11, 2001 marked the beginning of our country's War on Terrorism. The following men are currently active in their service to our country.

Active	Tony Hurtado Tyson Meadlock
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Other Tragic Events

1924 – Pneumonia Epidemic struck many homes. Lorene Elder's and Hazel Teague's father, George Walker, died at age 23 from pneumonia. There was sickness in almost every home.

1933 – Mr. Chaunce Barnes was shot three times by bank robbers and died later that day. He was the cashier of "The Merchants & Farmers Bank" of Taylorsville, which was later "The North Western Bank." He was a member of Little River Baptist Church. Four men were captured in Wilkes County and served time in Federal Prison for bank robbery. Our church could not hold the vast number of people who attended his funeral.

1940 – Another flood that did much damage, but was nothing like the flood of 1916. It was reported that the houses in lower lying areas, had four feet of water in them. Crops and gardens were ruined. Equipment left close to streams were carried away in the swift currents. The bridges leading to Little River were washed away leaving our community isolated.

1944 – Staff Sergeant Ray Orren was killed in action. Engagement: Normandy, World War II, July.

1952 – A Polio Quarantine demanded ALL children stay at home during the summer months. Two children in our community were stricken. Rowe Bumgarner, son of Norris Bumgarner, who was left crippled, and Doris June, daughter of our Pastor, D.L. Bumgarner. She recovered without being crippled.

1965 – Our Pastor's wife, Mrs. Herman Johnson was critically injured in a tragic auto accident. She later died. Pastor Herman Johnson was seriously injured. He resigned as pastor. After some length of time, he recovered.

1965 – Gary Harrington, son of Hattie and Charlie Harrington, drowned in Atlanta, Georgia. He saved a little girl from drowning but lost his life.

1966 – Bud Pearson, son of Mae Pearson, was killed in an auto accident.

1969 – Geri Lynn Harrington, baby girl of Martha and Jerry Harrington, died in an auto accident.

1972 – Danny Query, son of Rayford Query, died from a gunshot accident.

1977 – Mack Bumgarner, son of James and Jackie Bumgarner was killed in an auto accident.

1980 – “Little Joey” McDuffie, son of Danny McDuffie was killed when he was hit by a car.

1981 – Michael Bumgarner, son of Dock and Margaret Bumgarner, died from a gunshot wound.

1984 – Our Pastor’s wife, Mrs. Lake Jenkins, was stricken with cancer. Rev. Arthur Jenkins also was stricken with cancer. Mrs. Jenkins passed away in 1986. Rev. Jenkins recovered and continued to be our Pastor until his resignation.

Other tragic events have occurred to members of our church family and in the community during the past twenty-five years. We chose to let the members share those events in their memories.

Preachers Who Served Little River Baptist Church*

Since 1792, the pastorate has been filled with a long list of illustrious solders of the cross. The following list is in order per records.

Year	Pastor
1792	John Swaim
1835	William Holder
1837	Robert Lucky Steele
1839	William Poole
1840	Thomas Watts
1841	Smith Ferguson
1851	John G. Bryan
1859	William Poole
1878	William Poole
1879	James Kerley
1884	C.C. Poole
1886	L.B. Poole
1890	L.P. Gwaltney
1896	J.M. Shaver
1900	W.J. Bumgarner
1901	Solomon Barnes
1903	O.A. Keller
1907	G.B. Bumgarner
1914	G.Z. Bumgarner
1915	B.T. Austin
1917	J.A. Abernathy
1919	F.C. Watts
1922	E.V. Bumgarner
1925	Frank Peeler
1929	W.E. Linney
1931	F.C. Watts
1938	D.L. "Bub" Bumgarner
1945	Harvey White
1948	D.L. Bumgarner
1950	Herman Johnson
1955	Wayne Hendren
1959	Hunter Church
1964	Herman Johnson
1966	Arthur Jenkins
1989	Mark Robinette
1997	Jeff Chapman

At the 200th Anniversary, one preacher had gone forth from this church. Guy Rogers was ordained on October 21, 1962. He and his family, Nelda, his wife, and his children Denise and Darrin left Little River to go to Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where Guy was serving as Pastor.

Other ministers ordained at Little River Baptist Church include:

Minister	Ordained	Called Church
Guy Rogers	October 21, 1962	Mt. Olive Baptist
Phil Jolly	January 25, 2009	Dover Baptist Church
Koty Wheeler	April 26, 2014	Goshen Baptist Church as Associate Pastor

Pastor's Salary

Up until 1966, a collection was taken at the preaching service and whatever was received, was the pastor's pay.

Year	Amount
1910	\$3.75
1920	\$4.10
1930	\$4.30
1937	\$5.85
1940	\$6.20
1948	\$31.85
1950	\$40.00
1955	\$55.55
1966	\$100 first set pay per week

Deacons**

Deacon	Year Ordained or Installed
L.S. Deal	
L.D. Robinette	
W. Laws	
J.C. Chapman	
N.C. Deal	
John Rogers	
W.L. Kerley	
L.W. Davis	
R.O. Mullis	
Lindsay Brown	Chairman 1962 – 1978
Connie Brown	
J. Horace Bumgarner	
C.C. Harrington	Chairman 1951 – 1954
Turner Walker	
Edwin Teague	
Charlie Childers	
D.B. Chapman	
Turner Harrington	
Floyd Chapman	
Guy Rogers	
Kelly Morrison	
Rayford Query	
Steve Mays	1973 Chairman 1979 – 1981
Bobby Daniels	1973
Joe McDuffie	1973 Chairman 1982 – 1988
Rick Brown	1982 Chairman 1989 – 1992
Roy Rogers	1982
Edsel Mitchell	1982 Chairman 1995
Darrin Rogers	1992 Chairman 1993-1994
Danny Chapman	1992 Chairman 1996 – current
David Mecimore	1992
Phil Jolly	1995
Scott Shook	2005
Keith Meadows	2005

Duties of Chairman of Deacons

The Chairman of Deacons has several duties to help carry out the business of the church. A few of the responsibilities were provided by Danny Chapman, current Chairman of Deacons. (These are not listed in any particular order.)

- Setting up Communion which consists of buying the bread and juice, preparing the table cloth, setting the table for the service, and then cleaning up after the service.
- Serving on all committees including Budget, Nominating Committee for Teachers and Officers.
- Opening and closing the service when the pastor is not available.
- Conducting service when the pastor is unable to attend (for example Wednesday nights).
- Conducting Business Meetings if the church has no pastor.
- Conduct portions of the service on Pastor Appreciation Day.
- Preparing the Baptismal pool and helped the pastor baptize individual converts. (Danny states that he hasn't had this privilege in years.)
- Co-signing all checks that are written on behalf of the church.
- Doing my best to make all decisions according to God's Word and will. To Him I owe my allegiance.
- To the best of my ability, to serve the people who elected me.

Examples of Major Decisions Provided by Danny Chapman

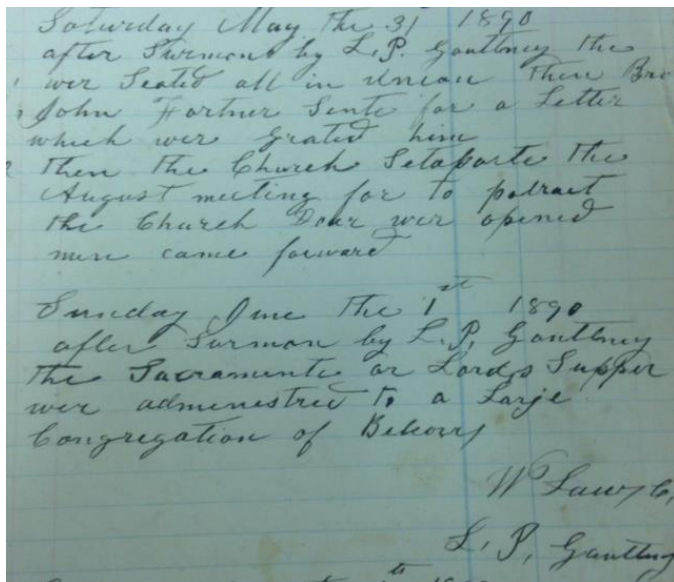
Southern Baptist Association – I do not remember the exact year we quit supporting the Southern Baptist Association in full. It seems we began by supporting certain missions so the money would go directly to them. We still support The Baptist Hospital and Children's Home with \$2,000 each year. We withdrew from full support because it seemed, slowly, but surely, the Association was becoming liberal in their beliefs. They began condoning the ordaining of women, gays and those with two living wives. These are things that Little River Baptist could not support. So, we felt it would be better to support missions where we had similar beliefs and felt that we could see the Lord's money being used more wisely to help spread and show the love of God.

Elevator – The consensus of the people at Little River, according to what I have been told, the cost was too high. They wouldn't be in favor of spending over \$341,000 in it. It is possible that something could be taken away, reworked, and looked at again. We still need a way to get people from point A (upstairs) to point B (downstairs) and vice-versa.

Church Clerks

A Church Clerk is responsible for keeping records of church membership, historical events, and all business of the church. When I became Clerk, I was in awe of the beautiful handwriting of former clerks. Older individuals know the importance of handwriting. It was one main form of communication in the previous 225 years. It was also a beautiful art. Young people were taught how to write using a “push-pull-up-and-down” method as well as an “obal-obal-obal-obal” method. (My mother, Jayne Elder Goble showed me how she was taught to write.) Unfortunately, this beautiful communication tool has slowly been replaced with texting. Too often that method has lost a lot of personal interaction.

Many of the 225 years of the church’s history were handwritten. There were also several early years that the minutes were typed. I chose to type the minutes during my time as Clerk mainly because I am not satisfied with my handwriting. (When I was young, you learned cursive writing in third grade. My teacher did not feel that my handwriting merited a passing grade!)



May 31, 1890

As a teacher, many of the young people that I teach cannot read cursive writing. I urge them to learn to sign their name in cursive at least! Several weeks ago, Byron Harrington made a request that we write letters to some family members of his and he encouraged us to hand write the letters. That inspired me to include copies of our former clerks hand written minutes.

May 1, 1913

Little River Church May 1st Sat. 1913
 Church met. after sermon by Bro
 G.G. Bumgarner Church seated for business
 Minutes of last conference read and
 approved. No business on hand.
 Opened Church door noon come forward
 Adjourned.
 G.G. Bumgarner M.D.
 J.W. Deal C.C.

Clerk	Years
A.L. Barnes	1878 - 1879
A.D. Bumgarner	1879 - 1885
S.S. Deal	1885 - 1886
J.W. Deal	1886 - 1892
Wesley Long	1892 - 1914
R.Z. Webster	1914 - 1919
N.C. Deal	1919 - 1949
Tessie Chapman	1949 - 1950 (first woman clerk)
Bertha Bumgarner	1950 - 1954
Edwin Teague	1954 - 1972
Joe McDuffie	1972 - 1981
Roy Rogers	1981 - 1990
Esther White	1990 - 1994
Suzanne Goble	1994 - current

October 5, 1958

Sunday Night Oct. 5 - 1958
 Little River Baptist Church
 Seated in Conf.
 Reading of the last Minutes
 and appointing delegates
 for the association.
 As follows: Edwin Teague
 Lindsey Brown, Mrs James Ford
 Alberts, Mrs Lois Deal,
 Pauline Orrin, Mozelle Brown
 The Church Budget for the
 coming year was also approved
 by the Church.
 And adjourned
 Rev. Wayne Spelman Mod.
 Edwin T. Teague, C.C.

Choir Directors***

Choir Director	Years
W.L. Kerley	
Lonzo Davis	
D.L. Orren	1951 – 1954
Tessie Chapman	
Kenneth Davis	1954 – 1956
Charlie Harrington	1965
Roy Neil Banes	1957 – 1962
Gary Jenkins	1963 – 1975
Tom Seamone	1976 – 1979
Phil Witherspoon	1980 – 1984, 1988 – 1989
Martha Jenkins	1985 – 1987
Ronnie Yow	1990 – 1991
David R. Mecimore	1992 – current

Musicians

Before 1945 an old-fashioned pump organ was the musical instrument used. Mrs. Lydia Barnes played the organ.

1945 the first piano was purchased. Sue Davis Daniels was the first pianist, followed by:

Pianist/Organist	Years
Marie Orren Chapman	1951 - 1955, 1964 – 1968
Louise Davis Chapman	1956 – 1963
Pamela Teague Childers	1969 – 1972, 1991 – current
Martha Jenkins (pianist and organist)	1973 – 1981, 1984 – 1987
Brenda White Rogers	1982 – 1986
Lisa Smith Warren	1987 – 1990
Joy Deal Fox (pianist and organist)	1988 – 2008
Vickie Hendren	2001 – 2003
Suzanne Goble (organist)	2009 - current

Our church has been gifted with individuals that also play the guitar for our music. Stuart Barnes has been playing the bass guitar since 1989 and Scott Lackey has been playing the rhythm guitar since around 1991.

Family Harmony

Barnes Family – Our children: Kim, Stuart, and Derek inherited their talents and love of singing from the Daddy – Roy Neil Barnes and grandparents Maurice and Grace Barnes and John Henry Brown. Neil was asked to sing with different people, to help with many funerals. His mother and Dad, C.I. Chapman, Lloyd Douglas, and many more. Neil wanted to help if he could. He led the choir for some time at Little River. Any time someone said “let’s sing”, he was ready. He sang with the Sons of Faith, The Arthur Jenkins Family and many more. Many nights he spent in practice and singing for the Lord. But perhaps, he best loved to sing with his children. We sang as a family, Neil, Kim, Stuart, and I. Derek was too small to sing but sat beside his beloved Pam Teague (Childers) as she played the piano for us. Derek loved Pam and was in her and Danny’s wedding.

Early on, as our family was singing “Heaven Came Down” one night at Poplar Springs, Norris Bumgarner got happy, began shouting and running. He scared Stuart and he started crying louder and louder. He was only 6 years old. Kim and Neil sang that much louder. Between Norris shouting and Stuarts crying and amens going up. Echoes were heard between those hills for days after that meeting. This was a favorite story of Neil’s to tell about singing with his family. They sang as long as Neil was able. He passed away of Melanoma after a three-year fight on April 13, 1987. He was 53. Now Neil sings *Around the Throne Eternal*. He is sorely missed by family.

The group has consisted of Kim singing soprano, Stuart singing tenor and playing the bass guitar, Derek singing bass and playing guitar, Roxanne Foster singing alto and Scott Lackey playing guitar. Derrek continued to sing until he moved away. Roxanne moved to another church and Kim Pennell, alto, began. Scott sings when needed. Phil Bentley adds to this blessed singing group by playing guitar and mandolin. Sadly for us, Kim P. felt led to another church but is still an active member of the singing group. They sing as the “Barnes Family”. Stuart says, “I am the only Barnes singing”. Guess who is the boss! Twenty-five years ago, the Barnes Family sang *Gone Home* for our 200th homecoming. We have been asked to sing this again for our 225th homecoming. I am a proud mother, grandmother, great grandmother and so thankful to see Neil’s talents passed down through all of my family of children. I am a well blessed “Mee Maw”.

Angell Brown Barnes

Davis Family – Nelda (Rogers), Louise (Chapman), Maxine (Chapman), and Kenneth (Davis). Their home church was Mt. Olive Baptist. Each started singing as a child. One by one, each moved to the Little River community. They all married and joined Little River. Kenneth's wife, Millie, sang with them. Later they moved away. At first, Louise played the piano for them to sing. The sisters continued to sing as "The Davis Trio". For several years, Marie Chapman was their pianist. Sue Daniels was their pianist next. Nelda's daughter, Denise, was the next to play. She is a talented pianist. They were very well known and much in demand until their health failed. Nelda, Louise, and Maxine have all passed away. Kenneth still lives but Millie passed away. Our local radio station continues to play "The Davis Trio" recordings. They were all truly a blessing to Little River.

Jenkins Family – Little River called Rev. Arthur Jenkins to be our pastor in 1966. All of his family (Gary, Martha, Dean, Dixie, and Becky and Arthur) came with him. They were all very talented. Lake Jenkins, his wife, was a very sweet person. This family blessed our church family very much. Rev. Jenkins was our pastor for 23 years. Mrs. Jenkins passed away from cancer while she was at Little River. Arthur also took treatments for cancer and recovered. Several years later, he was stricken with brain cancer and died. They were a well-known musical group and had several records of gospel Songs published. Martha went on to form a county wide choir. She taught many girls and boys to play the piano. Her nephew, Shane Jenkins, became a professional piano player for a famous quartet, "Gold City".

Pennell Family – Kim, Teresa, Bill, and Lindsay. God has blessed this family with the sweetest harmony. Old song, new songs, they could sing them all. Kim wrote many of the songs that they sing.

Uncle Ted Pennell was a delightful elderly man that moved his membership to Little River along with the Pennell family. This family watched out for each other. He loved to sing. Kim and Teresa would sing with him. This man truly loved the Lord. Phil Jolly asked Mr. Ted to sing at his ordination service at Little River.

Ground Keepers and House Keepers

June and Ruby Bumgarner
Hessie James and Ora Chapman
Charlie and Essie Childers
Floyd and Gerry Chapman
Arthur and Lake Jenkins
George McDuffie
Phil and Kathy Witherspoon
Donnie Davis
Lucy Mays
Renda and Angie Burgess
Edsel Mitchell
Anita Fox
Terry and Debbie Harrington



Current church (2017)

Membership Data

In 1992, Little River Baptist Church Membership was 315 with an active membership average of 150. The Sunday School average was 110. As of August 2017, our membership includes 372 members with an active membership of 181. Sunday School average is 112.

Since our 200th anniversary, we have added 135 members through transfer of letter, 15 by members by statement of faith, and 108 members through baptism. We have lost 78 members to death, 102 members that joined another church, and 6 members that joined another denomination.

Year	Received			Lost		
	Letter	Baptism	Statement	Death	Letter	Denomination
1992	12	2		1	3	
1993	30	19		1	1	4
1994	2			4	7	1
1995	9	4		2	7	1
1996	2			4	1	
1997	7	3		3	8	
1998	2	4		3	3	
1999	4	10	1	1		
2000	3				4	
2001	11	3	1	4	3	
2002	4	8		5	3	
2003	4	4		2	1	
2004	3	2			1	
2005	2			2	7	
2006	5	5	3		11	
2007	3	10	3	8	4	
2008	2	2		6		
2009	8	4	5	2	5	
2010	5	3		2	3	
2011	5	2		4	6	
2012	5	5		1	4	
2013	2	3	2	8	1	
2014	5	8		2	5	
2015		4		5	2	
2016		2		3	7	
2017		1		5	5	
Total	135	108	15	78	102	6

Missions Support

Since the beginning of our minutes, we have supported missions and the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville. In 1992, it was noted that we also supported: Co-Operative Program of Sothern Baptist Convention; Foreign and Home Missions; Christian Crisis Center of Alexander County; Prison Ministry of Alexander County; and Alexander Baptist Association.

We currently support the following missions:

- Baptist Hospital
- NC Children's Homes
- Gideons
- Christian Action League
- Baptist Men of NC – Alexander Camp
- Christian Crisis Center
- Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center
- Danny Reeves – Mexico Missions
- Bobby Sizemore – Rock of Ages Prison Ministry
- Rev. Mike Sutphin – Itinerate Missionary Services
- Todd Payne – Peru
- Bradshaw, West Virginia Mission
- Sugar Loaf Elementary School Bible Club
- Taylorsville Rotary Club – Backpack program

Love offerings are taken when there is a need. We typically give the 5th Sunday offering each time it occurs to families in need.

When a death occurs in our church, food is served by two groups of ladies.

When a member is stricken with an illness and the family needs relief, the ladies or men in our church make a schedule for around the clock sitting.

The ladies of Little River Baptist Church sponsor a shower for every bride or groom from our church. Also, for every expectant couple, a baby shower is given.

Finances

In the 200th Anniversary history, the following Financial Statement for the Month Ended December 31, 1991 was presented.

Balance Forwarded	8,068.77
Receipts	9,696.35
Interest	<u>52.00</u>
Total	17,817.12

Disbursements

Salaries

Pastor	1,600.00
Sec.-Treas.	375.00
Clean Church	350.00
Church Maintenance	150.00
Pastor Expense	481.73
Heat-Light	609.35
Telephone	74.97
Co-Op Program	
Children's Homes	60.00
Lottie Moon	3,003.93
Alexander Baptist Association	219.12
Love Offerings	1,122.76
Flowers	204.53
Miscellaneous	<u>692.24</u>
Total	8,943.63

Checkbook balance	8,873.49
Passbook Savings	1,371.72
Certificate of Deposit	<u>1,259.33</u>
Total	11,504.54

July 2017 Financial Statement

Balance Forwarded	75,815.52
Tithes/Offerings	32,075.00
TSB-Interest Checking	3.45
Total Income	<u>\$ 32,078.45</u>
Expense	
Bldg/Equip Repairs/Maint	552.45
Church Activities	
Bradshaw Mission	1,339.46
VBS	219.67
Total Church Activities	<u>\$ 1,559.13</u>
Flowers	80.25
Insurance	
Pastor/Family	1,404.00
Total Insurance	<u>\$ 1,404.00</u>
Love Offerings	2,457.00
Maintenance	200.00
Miscellaneous	386.75
Missions	1,000.00
Mowing	750.00
Pastor Expense	1,065.49
Ricoh USA Program/GE Capital	283.66
Salaries	
Cleaning	514.69
Custodial	370.57
Pastor	5,246.15
Sec-Treas.	923.50
Total Salaries	<u>\$ 7,054.91</u>
Software Support	16.05
Supplies	
Nursery	12.73
Sunday School & Literature	307.27
Supplies - Other	58.73
Total Supplies	<u>\$ 378.73</u>
Transfer to CD	1,000.00
Utilities	2,072.91
Vehicle Maintenance	143.88
Total Expense	<u>\$ 20,405.21</u>
Checkbook Balance	<u>\$ 87,488.76</u>

July 2017 Financial Statement Continuation

CD-TSB	166,975.00
First Citizens	29,843.20
First Community Bank	<u>200,000.00</u>
	\$ 396,818.20
Love Offerings/Benevolence	
Christian Crisis Center	400.00
Danny Reeves	150.00
Dr. Bobby Sizemore	150.00
Rev. Mike Sutphin	150.00
Bethel Bapt. Ch. (In memory of Louise Bowers)	100.00
Neil George	500.00
Wade Childers	500.00
Julie Sebastian	207.00
Heather Bumgarner's Sister	<u>300.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,457.00

Pastor's Wives

In recognition of the women that have taken on the responsibility of becoming a Pastor's wife. We have had several young women whose husbands have answered the call of the Lord into the ministry.

Pastor's Wife	Parents	Married
Pam Mash Jolly	Richard & Hilda Mash	Rev. Eddie Jolly
Kelley Jolly White	Rodger & Esther White	Rev. Phil Jolly
Shea Childers Chapman	Danny & Pam Childers	Rev. Jeff Chapman
Jamie Mecimore Smith	David & Darlene Mecimore	Rev. James Smith
Michelle Rogers Safriet	Darrin & Robin Rogers	Rev. Jonathan Safriet
Kailyn Brown Pennell	Shawn & Sharon Brown	Rev. Taylor Pennell

There is one person in our Church
Who knows our Pastor's life
Who weeps and smiles and prays with Him
And that's the Pastor's wife!
The crowd has seen him in his strength
While bearing God's Sharp Sword
As underneath God's banner's folds
He has faced the devil's horde
But deep within her heart she knows
That scarce an hour before
She helped him pray the glory down
Behind the closet door
She heard him groaning in his soul
When bitter raged the strife.
As hand in hand she knelt with him
For she's the Pastor's Wife.
You tell your tales of Preachers brave
Who marched across the world
And changed the course of history
By burning words they hurled
And I will tell how back of each
Some woman lived her life
Who wept with him and smiled with him,
She was the Pastor's Wife

The Preacher's Wife

by T. R. Buzzard

In the shadow of the parsonage
Stands a figure of obscure.
Just behind the faithful pastor
Is his wife, devout and pure..
She is with him every moment
Helping make his work progress,
And you can't discount her portion
In the measure of success.
Oft behind the scene of action,
Often never seen or heard,
Yet she stands forever ready
Just to give a helping word.
It is not in active service
That her worth is really shown,
But in the bearing heavy burdens
That to others are unknown.
With encouragement and vision
She must urge God's servant on,
When the shadows are the darkest
And his courage's almost gone.
With her home forever open
And her work quite never done,
She is ever his lieutenant
In the battles fought and won.

Memories – 200th Anniversary

*Deceased

***Mozelle and Lindsay Brown** remembers their 50th Wedding Anniversary Reception held at Little River. They were thrilled at the many friends and neighbors that came to congratulate them.

***Lindsay Brown** – I remember coming to Church early on Sunday mornings to build fires in the two stoves that heated our Church. The wood was kept under the Church.

***Mozelle Brown** – Our neighboring black church, St. Johns Baptist, visited on Sunday morning at Little River and sang for us. This was in 1945. Their singing was very much enjoyed.

For 52 years, Mozelle and Lindsay Brown only missed once “feeding the Pastor and visiting Preacher,” in our many revivals.

***Miss Emma Chapman** told that in 1908 boys would hide in the loft of the log church and drop a cat on the girls during service.

***Louise Davis Chapman** – The two memories that are most dear to me are when my husband, D.B. Chapman became a Christian in the 1950’s, at which time Rev. Herman Johnson was our Pastor, and later when D.B. was ordained a deacon of Little River Baptist Church.

***Ruby Deal** – One of the first things I can remember is Mrs. Lydia Barnes playing the old pump organ, her husband Chaunce and his sister Ruby, along with Loyd Kerley singing the song “Beyond the Stars”.

***Lorene Elder** – Our church was having Baptizing at Mack Treadway’s one Sunday afternoon. Ira Elder was holding “Little Pam” Teague (Childers), and decided to cross over to the other side. One slip on a slick rock and they both fell in the creek. Needless to say, this added to the service.

***Betty Hubbard** – I will always remember how good the church people were to me and Johnny during the time of his sickness and death.

***Agatha Jolly** – Having Adams Funeral Home fans always at church.

***Pauline and Cedric Orren** – We remember when we started coming to Little River in 1940. As their family grew, each child was taken to church faithfully. All their children made a profession of faith and were baptized.

***Pauline Orren** – Remembers her granddaughter Lisa’s wedding. Another granddaughter, Char, was to be flower girl. Things got hectic and busy, so Char lay down in the “Amen Corner” and went to sleep. When she awoke, she had missed the entire wedding.

***Nelda Rogers Sigmon** – The memory that is the most dear to me is when my late husband, Guy Rogers, was ordained to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. As far as we know, Guy was the only preacher to come out of Little River Baptist Church. On October 21, 1962, an ordination service was held for the purpose of ordaining Guy Rogers. Mt. Olive Baptist Church was his first pastorate. Rev. Hunter Church was our pastor at this time.

***Edd Teague** – I remember the time I was serving on the Pulpit Committee in 1955. We were going to visit Rev. Wayne Hendren. We traveled to Wilkes County and took a winding road. We drove up and around and up and down, until we reached the top of a mountain. There we found Rev. Hendren and his family. We asked him if he would come to Little River to be our Pastor. He said that he would accept. As we left driving through the apple orchards that were in full bloom, and overlooking the valley below, I said, “What a lovely place to live.” That picture is still inscribed in my memories.

***Esther White** – My fondest memory of Little River Baptist Church is the night I was elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Church. It is an honor and my pleasure to be serving at Little River during our 200 years celebration.

1945 – A lot of older folks remember having “water melon feast” in the summer in the church yard.

Angell Barnes – My most treasured memory at Little River is of my late husband, Neil, who had such a love and talent for singing. His tenor voice could always be heard blending with the choir. He served his church as choir director for a number of years. A favorite memory is when we as a family tried to sing. The exact time escapes me but we were singing “Is that The Lights of Home I See”. Kim was about 12 and Stuart 7. Derek, 3 and yet unable to join in song, contributed his part as he sat on the piano bench beside his beloved, favorite person, Pam Teague (Childers). Neil’s love for singing was instilled in our three children and though he is now enjoying those “Lights of Home,” he left a tremendous legacy in his children, their

spouses, and six precious grandchildren and to the Church he loved so well.

Cainie Bumgarner – As a little boy, I came to Little River with my Dad, Arthur Bumgarner. Dad got to “shouting”, it scared me and I started screaming!

Penny Daniels – One Sunday night we were having preaching service. It was in the summer and our windows and doors were left open. In came “Old Bo”, Ralph Watts’ dog. He strolled down center front and sat down and seemed to be enjoying the message until the preacher lost his “train of thought.”

Sue Daniels – Miss Alice Bumgarner was my Junior Sunday School Teacher. She said she would give 50 cents to the one who learned the most Bible verses. Bill Orren and myself got 50 cents apiece. We thought we were rich.

In 1945 Little River Adult Sunday School class visited with Three Forks Adult Sunday School class and they in turn visited with Little River.

Cindy Jolly – Some of my first and most favorite memories of Little River Church are the old-time Revivals, which would last 10 to 12 days. The Davis Trio singing, the homecomings with dinner on the ground under the old trees, our Bible School, when I got to spend the week with Grandma Emma. There are many memories of my church, “The most loved and warmest place I know.”

Colleen McDuffie – In the late 1960’s our offerings were not too high. I was church treasurer and would have to ask our Pastor, Rev. Hunter Church, not to cash his check until I could deposit Sunday’s money.

Helen Mecimore – I remember having our “Christmas Tree” Church Party at the community building across the road. The oil stove “kinda” blew up. Black soot went everywhere and on everyone. Those that were sitting next to the stove had black faces and white eyes.

Mark Robinette – What a delight for me to hold the position as the 28th Pastor of Little River Baptist Church. The 200th year of the Church’s history. This experience will be a treasured memory for me. It is certainly a privilege for me to be among many that have served as Pastor in the past. With this being my first Pastorate, it holds fond memories of my Ordination, my first

Communion, Wedding, Baptism, Baby Dedication, and Funeral. I am sure the future will provide many exciting events to be remembered.

Joyce Lowe St. Clair and Margery Lowe Hubbard – Our special memory is as follows: In the fall of 1947, our parents decided it was time for the family to move. We moved to the Little River Church Community. Our Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. N.C. Deal Jr. and Aunt Lois, went to Church at Little River. As teenagers, we remember the saintly ladies of the Church: Mrs. Pearl Brown, Essie Childers, Lona Robinette, Katie Mullis, Emma Chapman, and Bertha Bumgarner, mothering us and making us most welcome.

Memories – 225th Anniversary

My parents joined Little River from Three Forks Baptist after Mozelle (Brown) and Pauline (Orren), by giving them transportation. My Daddy never drove a car. My Dad, John Henry Brown, sang in the choir. He had a beautiful deep bass. I can still hear him sing *Everybody Will be Happy Over There*. Mother did not sing in the choir but sang a high alto from the pew.

After graduation, I went to Charlotte, North Carolina and then to San Diego, California. I returned in 1955 and married Roy Neil Barnes. He was from East Taylorsville Baptist and we were married there. 1956 found us joining Little River. Rev. Wayne Hendren was pastor. Neil and Joe McDuffie were known as “city boys” in our “country church”. Three Forks called Rev. Hendren to be their pastor and he accepted. I told him that I wanted to move also, but he quickly told me that you must not “worship the preacher” so we stayed at Little River.

In 1962, Neil began singing with Henkle Little and the Sons of Faith. We joined Calvary Baptist Church. Kim was saved there. Due to job conflicts, Neil gave up singing with the quartet after five or six years and we returned to Little River. Stuart and Derek were saved at Little River.

I began going to Little River when I was young. We had Training Union. Mary and Turner Walker were our leaders. We had precious times when Turner spent his last dollar to get refreshments for us. Now, I’m one of the oldest attending our church. “Time is a vapor”.

Many happy and sad memories of these years. Members took turns having the pastor’s family to lunch on Sunday. Times seemed less hurried and there always food left to go home with you and talk and laugh and eat more food. Maxine and Ray (Chapman), Louise and D.B. (Chapman) Millie and Kenneth (Davis), Guy and Nelda (Rogers), Lorene and Ira (elder), Hazel and Edd (Teague) are just some of our friends. All these, plus all the children. I bought my first decaffeinated coffee for when Ray Chapman came to visit. Also at revivals we cooked supper for the pastor and visiting preacher. Mark Robinette was included in the frequent meal times. One time, Melony mentioned to me that Mark had bragged on her food. So, I told Mark that he had never bragged on my food! Next time he ate with us, he stood at the door and said, “Oh, by the way, Angelle your rolls were good.” He knew I hadn’t made the rolls. I said “Mark the rolls don’t count. But that’s a big daddy rabbit to you.”

I helped teach Bible school when our children were small. It was a very hot summer. I had a mischievous little fellow by the name of Billie Orren. He was sitting in the open window, then he jumped out. I just let him go play.

Charlie Harrington used to do his “magic” when he produced money out of Kim’s ears. Rev. Hunter Church bought a new car, a Fiat, a very small car to drive from their home in Wilkesboro to Taylorsville. He always parked in front of the church. I can still see D.B. Chapman behind that little car, raising it up by the bumper and saying “I’m looking for the pedals.”

Sad times have been the loss of loved ones through death: Mama, Dad, sisters Mozelle and Pauline, family and dear friends. But the most of all was Neil, my dear husband and best friend on April 3, 1987.

I am thankful for my church, pastor, love felt inside those doors, singing, musicians, all that are there and I miss all that have moved on elsewhere. I pray they have found a special place to worship.

Angell Brown Barnes

A more recent memory includes family and friends thanks to Sue Daniels. The “Hasbeens” of Possum Holler and the Darlings from Mayberry (not to be confused with the Darlings of Andy Griffin Show). Members of the family include:

Loretta Hasbeen – Sue Daniels – thinks that she is Loretta Lynn.

Leroy (Loretta’s brother) – Roy Rogers – claims to be the real Roy Rogers.

Elvira Hasbeen (their cousin) – Angell Barnes – can’t sing but sighs.

Brisco Darling – Stuart Barnes – classy white socks.

Charlene Darling (Brisco’s daughter) – Kim Lackey – cute yellow pigtails.

Mama – Kim Pennell – tambourine and dancing.

Little Brother – Brian Lackey – flirts with Colleen McDuffie.

Brisco’s brother – Scott Lackey – plays bass and smokes a pipe.

When the lights went on and the music started, you were entertained! Not only could they sing, act, play, sign---but they all were such classy dressers! This bunch entertained the young, old, Seniors at church, class reunions, family get togethers, Hospice, Three Forks Baptist banquet, Mother/Daughter, with a bicycle built for two!

Our mission was to promote laughter and lift spirits of any with problems, sick or hurting, and to show that Christians love each other and can have good clean fun.

Thanks to Little River for being our biggest and loudest true “friends”. PS: We had to call 911 to send “Nurse Goodbody” (Melony Brown) when Leroy had a wreck on his moped and landed in the briar patch!

Angell Brown Barnes

The Chair Incident – One of my favorite memories was in the old church. Danny McDuffie, Gary Hubbard, little David Mecimore, and all the big boys used to sit in straight chairs behind the last pew. They would lean back against the wall on the back legs of the chair and I thought that was so cool. I wanted to be just like them. Well, the first time I got to sit back there, I leaned back on the back legs too. Mind you now, this was on a hardwood floor and this was also during a night of Revival. Needless to say, I leaned a little too far and the legs slid out from under me and the chair, and me, went down with a crack so loud, it sounded like a shotgun had went off during the service. The first set of eyes I saw when I got up and looked over the back of that pew was my Dad’s, Roy Neil. It was not a “I’m glad you’re alright son” look that I was hoping for but rather a “You may not live to be a big boy” look that I saw. It was not a good night for me from there on out. I did live to be a big boy but had no desire to lean back in the chair again.

Stuart Barnes

Getting Married Twice – Of course my favorite memory of church is when I accepted the Lord as my personal Lord and Savior, and He saved me. I was 9 years old. Little did I know that ten short years later, I would be married to the most beautiful girl in the world. Then little did I know but twenty-five short years later, I would marry her again and renew our vows. It was one of the best times ever, as we celebrated with family and friends. It wasn’t just a renewal of vows. We wanted it to be a worship service and I believe it was. Preacher Jeff Chapman and Preacher Don Martin officiated. We had the choir to sing and ended it with the congregation singing *Amazing Grace* because, after all, it was by God’s grace that we got together, by His grace that we’ve celebrated 35 years now of marriage, and His grace will keep us together. Dean wore her wedding dress from our first wedding and she is still the most beautiful girl in the world. I love you Dean!

Stuart Barnes

The one thing that really surprised me when I first came to Little River Baptist Church was the date in which it was established (1792). Wow! What a testimony to the great heritage of Alexander County. The Lord has really blessed this little church with great people who accepted me like I was one of their own. I was always used to big churches in Jacksonville, Florida.

Being a part of Little River is more like being a part of a large family with the best cooks in the world. I just love Little River Baptist Church.

David Bickel

There's No Place Like Home – My earliest memories of Little River is a big two story house where Grandma and Grandpa Childers lived. It was beside the church where the west parking lot is now. Most of my relatives went to church there. My Dad and Mama were Edd and Hazel Teague. I have two sisters, Pam (Childers), and Joan (Meadlock). We have always been taken to church since we were born. Our whole family belongs to Little River. Daddy would say that his favorite song was *I Can Tell You the Time – I can show you the place* that he got saved.

It was always exciting to come to church, be it Bible School, revivals and homecomings, or Sunday School. My teachers were Louise and Maxine Chapman, Sue Daniels, and others. Rev. Wayne Hendren was the first preacher I remember. I loved all of our pastors. I was eleven when I got saved.

I moved away from Taylorsville. Years later, I married David Bickel. We lived in Jacksonville, Florida. Due to illness of my Mother and Daddy, I was needed at home. We moved back to Conover, North Carolina and later to Taylorsville.

Thanks to many loving people from Little River, like the pastor, the Deacons (Dad was a Deacon for many years), friends, and more friends. They were a great help to me and my sisters in this time of the passing of our Mother and Daddy.

I am so blessed to have nieces and nephews. I love them so much. Little River is steeped in 225 years of Heritage and serving the Lord for all these years.

Patsy Teague Bickel

God had been dealing with us to change churches, so we visited Little River on Sunday nights for a while. We noticed the welcoming spirit from day one. In May 2006, we started attending full time. As we drove to church that first Sunday morning, I asked God to give me assurance that this was HIS will. During SS opening, David & Sharon Mecimore sang "The Landing". I had peace in my heart that Little River was where God wanted us to be to grow in our faith.

I am so thankful for our church family (and countless others) who prayed for Mark and encouraged us when he was suddenly paralyzed in 2010. God answered those prayers and Mark is my "walking miracle".

I was asked to help teach in the Adult Ladies Class in 2008, and those ladies have been more of a blessing to me than I could have ever imagined. They have inspired me through their prayers, love, encouragement and faithfulness. They are great examples of God's love.

We are truly blessed to be part of such a loving and caring church family.

Karen Brittain

I came to Little River as a new bride in 1971. When I came, I was invited to sing in the choir and invited to Sunday School. I had always sang at my home church, so I really appreciated being included. Little River is not a building to me, it is a group of precious men and women (friends) who love me and love the Lord Jesus Christ. I can't imagine going to church anywhere else, this is HOME. I am so thankful I know that when I come through the door each service that I am going to hear God's word preached and songs that praise God will be sung. I pray Little River will remain faithful till Christ's return.

Melony Brown

Damage to Our Church – In 2012, we were having a new roof put on our newly remodeled church. A tarp was put on the roof with plans to finish the next day. That night, a storm came up and water began to come in. The tarp had fallen off. The sound room and both rest rooms were flooded. Bill and Teresa McNeely happened to stop by and found the damage. They called for help and soon they had a crew mopping up all the water and a crew to dry the walls, the attic, and we had to have the ceiling repaired. Quite an expense.

Rick Brown

Lighting Strikes – In 2013, lighting struck our steeple and did a lot of damage. We all thanked God that our church didn't burn down. The lighting ruined all the electrical equipment, phones, computers, dishwashers, phone tree service, among other electrical machines. We had to take down the steeple and have it repaired. When they put it back up, it looked like new. Keith Meadows worked out details on getting it repaired. Thank you Keith!

Rick Brown

Land for Sale – A few years ago, land across the road in front of our church came up for sale. Our church voted to buy the land. When a title search was done, the Federal Government had a lien on the property so this stopped the sale. If the land becomes available again maybe we can purchase it for future generations.

Rick Brown

I am thankful for Little River Baptist Church. Thankful to call it my home church. I was saved in the Sunday School class in the basement of the old church during Bible School. I was 12 years old. I can remember going to

the creek below Mack Treadway's with Dad and D.B. Chapman. They would go on Saturday to dam the creek for the baptisms on Sunday afternoon. Michael and Susan Ferguson now have a cabin on that creek bank. Dad said at one time they baptized at Gryder's pond. He remembered breaking the ice there one time to baptize a fellow. Mother and Dad always fed the preachers during revivals. Mother continued this for several years after Dad died. The Lord allowed me to raise a family at Little River. The Lord has truly blessed me. My church family has always supported me and Mel through everything my family has gone through. I am thankful that I attend a church with a man of God who preaches God's word. Anyone can come in off the street and hear the Gospel preached and be made welcome.

Rick Brown

I love to sing in the choir at Little River. My Mama has always taken me with her and that's how I learned to sing. I am seven years old.

Molly Bumgarner

When I was teaching the Junior class, after we would finish our lesson, I would call on one to dismiss the class in prayer. There were some who would and other didn't want to. And I understand that, because when I was in Junior class, I would try to hide behind whoever was in front of me. (Like that teacher didn't know I was there!) She did call on me and I was scared to death. I prayed, Lord, help me. And to this day, I don't know what I prayed, the Lord did it all for me. But there was one whenever I called on her, she prayed. Later on, when she was grown, she came to the Adult Ladies Sunday School class to teach. That was Jamie Mecimore Smith. She is now a pastor's wife and mother. I will never forget her. I loved her and all the Juniors that were in our class all those years.

Pat Bumgarner

It is my privilege and honor to be serving as pastor during the 225th year celebration here at Little River Baptist Church. What a tremendous testimony of The Lord's Faithfulness to this assembly and its tenure in the community since 1792. We celebrate the fact that Little River Baptist Church has been a beacon of The Gospel for all these many years. A place where any person could enter the doors and hear the glorious news of a Risen Savior and a new life for "whomsoever will: repent and confess Jesus as Savior and Lord".

Little River Baptist Church for over two centuries provided instruction and examples through the Holy Scriptures. Numerous labors in Sunday School, Bible Study, and worship that have planted countless seeds in countless souls that only the Good Master Himself could account for. The Lord be

thanked and The Lord be praised for His mercies and grace that has been shed on this fellowship.

Missions, home and foreign, has always been a priority of support for Little River Baptist Church. Community outreach including the schools with the Bible Club program as well as the Food Pantry look to reach the spiritual needs of the unchurched as well as encourage the young believer in their faith. Revivals throughout the year welcomes the membership as well as the local community to draw near to Christ for the much needed refreshing that even the most devout believer needs!

Please celebrate with us as we praise The Lord for His faithfulness to this fellowship. May God bless Little River Baptist Church with two more centuries of labor in Jesus Name!

Until He comes,
Jeffery A. Chapman

What I love most about my church is that it's the place I got saved on June 25, 2017. When I finally walked down the aisle the first step was the hardest but then I felt like nobody was watching after that first step. When I stood up, everyone came by to hug me and tell me they loved me. That's another reason I love my church. It's full of people that love and pray for me.
Emma-Kate Chapman

What I love about church is the prayer room. I love being in there with Daddy. I got saved at WV on a church mission trip and that's another reason I love church.
Sawyer Chapman

It may sound strange to look at a church pew as a landmark in life but that's exactly how I view the 7th pew from the front, organ side. Some of my sweetest memories revolve around that pew where the sitting arrangement would almost always be Papaw, then Grandma with a neat line of cherry lifesavers on her leg, myself, Mama, and then Katie. (And on the best days, Daddy) When I think of that pew, I think of my Godly heritage established in Little River Baptist Church and how it has been passed on to my children. Little did I know as a little girl sitting on that 7th pew drawing pictures and eating candy how God was going to bless me mightily.

I met Jeff Chapman there in 1996 when he became our Pastor. He finally asked me out in August of '97 and proposed in the altar of LRBC in '99. We were married in the church despite major construction in 2000 & 5 years later, in Jeff's office, I announced I was pregnant with our first child. Little River Baptist Church has always been more than an establishment to me.

It's my family and has been a presence throughout my life. Over time, the faces have changed but the love felt there has remained the same. I was saved there, went off to college, met my husband, became a Pastor's Wife, had 2 precious children, and lost my Grandparents and my Dad. Through every circumstance, whether exciting or tragic, my church has always been right beside of me praying, encouraging, and loving me. Thirty-nine years and you can still find me on that 7th pew from the front, organ side watching the heritage established so long ago being passed on to Emma-Kate and Sawyer. Thank you Little River for being the same family to my children that you have been & still are to me. Shea Childers Chapman

I have so many memories of Little River. I have gone to Little River since I was born. I was saved, married, and had two wonderful daughters whom also became members. I attended Sunday after Sunday and sat with my Mom and Dad, my two sisters and then our extended families.

Probably my favorite memory is when I was around 8 years old. Joe McDuffie would come around to all the Sunday School rooms and ask that someone sing at the worship service hour. One Sunday, he came to the primary class and asked Denise Rogers Dyson and myself to sing and we agreed, very reluctantly though. When the preacher asked for us to come up, I went to the front but Denise did not! I so very nervously stood in front of the congregation trying to sing a hymn called *He Set Me Free*. I was so nervous, I couldn't remember all the word and I got stuck on the chorus that went something like this.....

"He Set Me Free, Yes, He Set Me Free and He Broke the Bonds of Evil For Me...I'm Glory Bound My Jesus to See Oh, Glory to God – He Set Me Free

Oh, He Set Me Free Yes He Set Me Free and he Broke the Bonds of Evil For Me...I'm Glory Bound My Jesus to See, etc. etc.

Oh.....He Set Me Free Yes He Set Me Free and He Broke the Bonds of Evil For Me....I'm Glory Bound My Jesus....., etc."

I couldn't find a stopping place but I certainly could not remember any other words. The way I remember it, I must have repeated that chorus five or six times. My mind was in a panic. What was I going to do? Finally, I realized that I had to STOP!! And stop I did, abruptly!

I went back to my mother and sat down and hid my head in her arms. I was so embarrassed. For any of you who remember my mom, she didn't "take" to us children drawing any attention to ourselves and she had no idea that I was going up front to sing in front of everybody. She was not sympathetic

to say the least! She told me if I was going to sing anymore in front of people, alone, I needed to learn the words....and that's all I'm going to say about that!!! PS – I am still friends with Denise but I usually remind her of the Sunday she left me standing! Pam Teague Childers

Senior Trip – For several years now our church has sponsored a trip for our Seniors to Shatley Springs in the mountains of North Carolina, north of West Jefferson. The colorful fall leaves are in all their beauty. Everyone is in a joyful mood. We have arrived. We sit on their porch in rocking chairs and visit in the cool mountain breezes. The call comes over the speaker “Little River Baptist Church”. Our tables are ready, filling up an entire room. Waitresses get our drink order first, and I heard Jimmy Hubbard say “Hurry with the food” and Ray Walker “Bring plenty of that good fried chicken.” Three waitresses roll out three carts of bowls of seasoned food: green beans, chicken gravy, fried chicken breast, cabbage, jam, mashed potatoes, pintos, biscuits, fruit cobbler, ice cream, coffee, tea, or water. All you can eat plus doggy bags. On our trip with Pastor Mark Robinette, he told us that he was going to preach on gluttony for his Sunday sermon. Preacher Mark paid our bill and we loaded up our bus. About half way down the mountain, the bus pulled over and stopped. Roy Rogers got off and made three or four laps around the bus. He was suffering from gas. Roy needed fresh air. We did too! Rick Brown asked Roy if he regrets eating so much. Roy answered “Why no Rick, I’d do it all over again next week.” Did Pastor Mark preach on gluttony on Sunday? No because he said that he was guilty right along with the rest of us. Sue Davis Daniels

Youth Sunday – Little River has always designated 5th Sunday as Youth Sunday. Sunday School is taught by young people. Ushers are young. This gives the youth good training. Sue Davis Daniels

A First for Little River Baptist – One Sunday morning in July, 2004, at the end of the sermon, our pastor Jeff Chapman nodded to a young man. He stepped out with his girlfriend by the hand and went to the front of our church. He began to tell her of his love, then he got down on one knee and presented a ring and asked her to be his bride. She said yes and then he kissed her. We all clapped our hands and cheered them on. Today, Joe and Leah Shook Keaton have three children. Sue Davis Daniels

Sunday School – I heard it said by a young lady that “Sunday School” is for kids, I disagree. My class is made up of Senior ladies in their 80’s and 90’s. We love Sunday School. Over the years, we have been blessed with the very best of teachers: Nelda Rogers Sigmon, Pat Bumgarner, Melony Brown, Jamie Mecimore, and Karen Brittain. They have taken us on many

outings: Billy Graham center in Charlotte, dinner at Cracker Barrel, lunch in a log cabin at Conover, breakfast at Scotties Hometown Grill, dinner theater at Granite Falls at Christmas and First Baptist Church in Stanleyville at Christmas, and Karen Britain's sister's church. This year, 2017, we celebrated Colleen McDuffie's 90th birthday. Melony and Karen cooked and served dinner for us in our Fellowship Hall. We all had a wonderful time and the food was delicious. We have given "Sunshine Boxes" to our shut-ins. Sue Davis Daniels

Dedicated Men – What would our church be if we didn't have leaders? I am so thankful that our Bible belief requires a number of Deacons and a man of God, our Pastor. These men will not lead us wrong. They guard us from trouble. Put them on your daily prayer list. Deacons: Daniel Chapman, Rick Brown, Darrin Rogers, Keith Meadows, David R. Mecimore, and Scottie Shook; and Pastor Jeff Chapman. Sue Davis Daniels

I Miss Ruby Deal – I remember when she sewed and made enough pillows to cover the seats of our hard metal chairs in our Fellowship Hall. They are all gone today. She also sewed and made the table coverings, banquet style for our serving tables. She was famous for her apple butter, cinnamon stickies, and baked apples. Ruby was most famous for her colorful net scrubby balls! When you stepped into her home, you felt and knew that she believed in God and angels. Ruby was indeed my friend. (August, 1928 – October, 2005). Sue Davis Daniels

Easter Sunrise Service – Little River always met early on Easter morning at the edge of our graveyard if it was pretty weather. If not, we met inside our church around 7am. First breakfast was our treat from the year 1992. After we built our new church, under Arthur Jenkins and we had a kitchen, Joe McDuffie announced that his family was going to fix breakfast for everyone Easter morning. This continued for two or three years. When we walked through the door, the smell of coffee and bacon gave all of us a big appetite. Danny McDuffie fried the bacon, Cim McDuffie Loudermelk prepared the toast and orange juice, Colleen McDuffie stirred the grits and scrambled the eggs, and Joe was the director and greeter, doing a little bit of everything. Jelly, butter, and more jelly. Joe wore a big apron that said "Kiss my Grits". George McDuffie visited everyone. Colleen would warn him, "George, stay out of the bacon!" Willard Watts always made our coffee. Oh my, what a good time we all had! Sue Davis Daniels

No Sunday School Easter Sunday – After the 11am worship service, we would have Communion. The choir always sang *Up From the Grave He Arose* and at the end of the service they sang one verse of *There Is a*

Fountain Filled With Blood and then we were dismissed. Almost all of our little girls and mothers wore an Easter bonnet, hat and white gloves, and a corsage of flowers was pinned on their dress or jacket. Easter was a special day to all of us, after all, this was The Day that Christ Arose! Easter egg hunts were played in the afternoon. Sue Davis Daniels

Christmas Party Entertainment – Brian Lackey, 18 years old, playing a 12-year-old boy by singing “I’m getting nothin for Christmas. Cause I ain’t been nothin but bad” and “All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth.” Sue Davis Daniels for Santa Clause

One More Verse – I love to hear our choir sing. You can tell when everyone is enjoying singing and our musicians are playing their very best. A voice will ring out when they have finished the last verse and say, “Ah Dave, just one more verse!” Of course, it’s Stuart Barnes! They sing another verse and two chorus. What a blessing they are to me. Sue Davis Daniels

More Memories – Pastor Jenkins told that Bobby Daniels stayed up until 2am so that he could see the time change.

Who was that lady that borrowed the men’s restroom one Sunday morning thinking it was empty? (This took place in the brick church.) Sue Davis Daniels

Little River Men Give a Baby Shower – In 1947 my parents, Imo and Lonzo Davis, were surprised when they found out they were expecting their sixth baby. They were 38 years old. The men at Little River decided to have a baby shower for Dad at our house. I can remember the men coming with baby gifts:

Connie Brown	Homer Daniels (neighbor)
Lindsay Brown	Kenneth Davis
Horace Bumgarner	Robe Mullis
Rev. Bub Bumgarner	Cleve Robinette
Curlee Chapman	

I can remember one baby gift. A tiny little pair of overalls with cuffs turned up and sawdust in the cuffs. These men were saw millers. The overalls were made by Homer’s wife, Ruby. Mother served them strawberry short cake and tea. A baby girl was born in October, 1947. Her name is Joy and we all loved her very much. Sue Davis Daniels

Esther White – She was my friend. I first met Esther at Little River one Sunday morning. She and her three children, Joy, Kelley, and Rodger Jr.,

came to visit our church from Mountain Ridge. Esther's sisters, Nancy, Donna, Hilda, Janie; and brother, Cainie; already belonged to Little River. Esther and children joined Little River. She was always willing to help by cooking and serving food. She was asked by our church leaders if she would take the job of Secretary and church clerk. She accepted and worked for 30 plus years until her death. Esther was very talented in all that Little River expected of her. Early on Monday morning you would find her at Taylorsville Savings and Loan with the Sunday church deposit. She had a fear that she might make a mistake. She demanded a receipt for all money that came out of church funds. Two pastors worked with Ester: Rev. Mark Robinette and Rev. Jeff Chapman. Esther was a diabetic and over these years she had a lot of health issues. Not one week went by over these 30 plus years that Esther and I didn't talk. We loved, cared, and respected each other. We laughed together, cried together, and prayed together. On January 22, 2016, Esther became sick with an infection. She was taken to Baptist Hospital and immediately put in ICU where she remained. On Saturday, January 30th at 5pm, Esther White left her diseases behind and went to live with her Lord and Savior. She was 65 years old. Her only request was "when she died, just to have a simple grave side service. No need to make a to-do over me." Her family honored her wishes. A friend loveth at all times. Sue Davis Daniels

Senior Christmas Parties – Our first Christmas parties were given by Dock and Margaret Bumgarner. She would see that all seniors from our church were invited and Dock made sure that they all had a way to come. Margaret prepared all the food to be served. These parties were held in their home and at the first one, ten people came. The next Christmas, fifteen seniors came and more until thirty attended. From then on, the party was held in our new Fellowship hall. Pastor Jenkins was our pastor. Janie Sprinkle and Agatha Jolly would help Margaret with serving. Dock's health began to fail and Margaret was always busy caring for him until he passed away. Thank you Margaret for seeing the need to reach out to others by starting our Seniors Christmas Parties.

Janet Walker felt the need to continue the Senior Christmas Parties. She took the idea to her Sunday School Class and to Ray, her husband. The Faithful Servants assured Janet that they would support her and Ray by cooking and serving a complete meal for the Seniors, plus cakes and fudge for the "cake walks". These young people treated us Seniors like we were royalty. Games were played, gifts were given, and entertainment was enjoyed. A lot of visitors attended. Thank you Janet, Ray, and The Faithful

Servants Sunday School class. It takes special people to be in charge of a party as big as our Senior party! Sue Davis Daniels

Norman – He was just a simple man. He was born in the 20's. I knew him in the 40's, 50's and 60's. His wife was named Beaunie Hubbard. They lived in the Little River church community. They walked to church along with their neighbors. Norman Hubbard had a withered hand and arm. At times, some made fun of Norman. I once overheard him tell a young boy that it was wrong to make fun of him. He told him to read in his Bible 2nd Kings chapter 2 verse 23 and 24. About two she bears that destroyed 42 people for making fun of a bald-headed man.

Norman loved to sing. He always thought that his place was to stand beside whoever was leading the choir. The men that lead our choir over the years let Norman do whatever made him happy until the 1960's. A talented young man became our choir leader. He just could not accept Norman's ways. Someone, lovingly talked to Norman and tried to get him to understand that he should sit with the other men in the choir. He and his wife left Little River in the 1960's and joined a new church on Hwy 16 N, North Side Baptist whose preacher was Buster Treadway. Norman was happy there. He and his wife are buried in their cemetery. The church changed their name to Mountain View Baptist. Sue Davis Daniels

Annie and Wade Childers – What do you think of when you hear their names? Gideon's, of course, devotions, faithfulness, cards, meetings, preparing to speak at meetings, transportation and feeding your guest. Always putting others first and promoting Bibles! We at Little River were so pleased when Annie and Wade decided to join our church. They also came to Sunday School. We learned to love them and they loved us. Wade joined the choir and sings a mean bass. He loves the old songs that he sang long ago at his home church. They were married for 59 years. Raised six children in a Christian home and church. They received many rewards from their children and grandchildren. We at Little River have been blessed to get to know Wade and Annie. Annie became sick and passed away in Baptist Hospital on August 2, 2017. She will surely be missed by all that knew her. Sue Davis Daniels

Oh, How She Could Sing – This happened in the 1940's. There was a young mother at Little River who had a new baby every two years. She loved to sing and would hold her baby on the front row of the choir. If the baby got restless, the mama automatically unbuttoned her dress and out came the baby's dinner. I always thought the baby kept time with the music. Many eyes watched this entertainment Sunday after Sunday.

These good Christian people had six children, all brought up at Little River. All were healthy children and all had their “dinner” on Sunday, seated on the first row of the church choir. And that’s enough about that!

Sue Davis Daniels

Sue and Shirley – Friends Forever! – Shirley Mullis Mitchell and I are the only members of Little River left to remember the people of the 1940’s at Little River. In 1940, Sue was nine years old and Shirley was seven years old. We were best of friends and still are. Her sister Mary, was included in our friendship. Mary could do about anything but kill a snake! She could sew, cook, was on a scrubbing board, clean out the spring, and she could drive. Mary taught me to drive, then she helped Shirley to drive. We all three finally got our licenses. Mary fell in love and got married. When I asked her, “Mary, what did you see in him to want to marry him?”, she said “Sue, he’s not afraid to kill a snake!” his name is Ralph Watts and I love this man. We all lived happily ever after. Sue Davis Daniels

I have always felt a connection with Little River Baptist Church. Since I was a little girl, I would come with my friend Sandy Cavin to Vacation Bible School when Arthur Jenkins was the pastor. Pleasant Hill was my home church and Arthur Jenkins was preaching revival there when I was saved. In April 1993, Tony and I felt led to join Little River. It was the love of God, family, and Little River Church that got us through when Tony had to have heart surgery in 2005. We are so thankful to be a part of such a loving church family and to have such a loving pastor who preaches from the heart and follows God’s word. We can’t imagine being anywhere else.

Helen Childers Davis

I have been born and raised only at Little River Baptist Church. I can’t imagine going anywhere else. Thankful to be raising my children here now. I have fond memories of Christian men and women that are now gone in Heaven that made a mark in my life that I will never forget. I probably wouldn’t have had the pleasure of knowing them if not for Little River. I have only sat under three preachers in my 37 years and that’s a testimony to this church that some churches don’t have. Preacher Jenkins, Robinette, and Chapman are truly called to be God’s man and I’m thankful to know them and be witness to their preaching. I have always been and felt welcomed and loved. Summer Walker Eldreth

When Tony and I enter the front doors of Little River, we feel a warmth come over us. Could it be because we feel the Spirit of our Lord is here? I look around and see members that have always been here, as long as I can remember. Some of you are new to me. This was my parent’s church.

Their names were Harding and Clara Lee Brown. They brought us children (Arlene, Deloras, Levaughn, and Donald Lee) to church here. Needless to say, we were devastated when our Daddy died of heart disease at an early age. I was still in high school and I had a broken heart. God helped me get through these times and many more. Thank you Lord!

I always loved Sunday School and all my teachers, especially, Joe McDuffie. Of course, I had a special Uncle Lindsay (Brown). He was always singing bass in the choir. He meant so much to me as I was growing up.

One thing I remember are the homecomings we had out in front of the brick church. Wooden “horses” with ply-wood boards for our table. Our mothers all brought their best table cloths to spread. Lots of food, desserts – cakes, pies, and cobblers. A wash tub full of ice for tea and drinks. Eating outside and running with my friends was so exciting. Relatives always come home for “Homecoming”.

Times have changed, people have changed. That is why I cherish my memories. Tony and I were married here and when our sons were born, we brought them to Sunday School and preaching.

Summers were hot in our church and one potbellied stove in the winter, but we survived. We attended another church for a while, but came back. We were welcomed back with open arms. God bless each and every one of you. Excuse me, I’ve got to get ready for Homecoming 2017!

Arlene Brown Ferguson

My first memory of Little River Baptist Church was from a funeral I attended with my parents for our Pastor, Guy Rogers (White Plains Baptist). I still see Little River as that church. My next memory of the church is, again, attending a funeral/visitation with my parents. Rev. Arthur Jenkins had passed away and I remember that as you exited the receiving line, there was a basket of gum. I remember that he always gave gum to anyone but especially the children.

Another memory of the church is hearing the choir sing for the first time. I can’t remember the details but I felt blown away by the sheer volume, harmony, and beautiful music. To this day, I love hearing the choir sing and especially love being a part of it playing the organ.

When I joined in 1993, I began attending a church without my parents in attendance too. I have many fond memories of members that have passed

away. The way that Ed Teague prayed, you knew that you were in the midst of a conversation with the Lord.

A final memory that I cherish is a Wednesday night communion when Rev. Mark Robinette was pastor. On Wednesday nights, we met in the “old sanctuary” which was used for the Faithful Servants Sunday School class. This particular Wednesday night, I’m pretty sure it was near Thanksgiving, we met in the sanctuary. He had brought sliced bread and juice for us to partake in the Lord’s Supper. We all sat on the floor as he passed around the bread and juice. I may have a few details wrong, but a strong memory of a servant of the Lord remains from this service.

May God continue to bless Little River! Suzanne Goble

Some of our sweetest and blessed times at Little River began about 25 years ago when our family joined there. From the very first Sunday, we were loved and welcomed there. We met some of the best people ever and I think of them often. Special friendships like Mr. Edd and Mrs. Hazel Teague who opened up their arms and gave us such a friendship that has touched my life forever. Mrs. Hazel spoke often about her life at Little River raising her girls there. People like Mrs. Sue Daniels and Mrs. Pam Childers who always made new babies a very special gift, one that they can hand down and tell their children about these ladies. People like Mr. Joe and Mrs. Colleen McDuffie, Mr. Lindsay and Mrs. Mozelle Brown, Mr. Edsel and Mrs. Shirley Mitchell. The list could go on and on with friends there who helped us along our way. Our preacher has always, always taught God’s word. He loves God and loves his church. He also loves his people. I am so thankful to God for him and his young family. We love them.

We are blessed to get to clean our church and I have had some wonderful times there just the Lord and me. There was one night in the old church basement and the class at the end of the hallway had a picture on a table. I caught a glimpse of a face of a man. I screamed and had to go home. No, no, it wasn’t a ghost. It was a picture of Joseph with a drape around him! I thank God for letting us be a part of Little River and we thank you preacher Jeff for leading, preaching, praying, and teaching us God’s word.

Debbie Pennell Harrington

I would like to thank the Lord for putting me at Little River Church where the people are the most loving and caring folks I have ever met. Friends I never thought I would have. Thanks for our preacher for what he stands for. Most of all I want to thank the Lord for saving me. Thank you for Little River Church. Terry Harrington

A special memory of ours is our 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, February 12, 2017. Our children and grandchildren held a reception in our Fellowship Hall. Many friends and family celebrated our special time.

Jimmy and Kay Pearson Hubbard

Family Memories – I have so many wonderful memories of growing up at Little River. Seeing the changes from the old white church to our present church has been exciting, as well as a blessing. The joys of raising children, and grandchildren, and seeing them all accept the Lord as Savior, and being baptized is such a blessing. We've had so many celebrations and events held at Little River through the years and they are all outstanding memories. My daughter's wedding in 1993 stands out as a special day #1 that was in our sanctuary that was built in 1978. Then in 2001, we remodeled and moved in our present sanctuary on April 18, 2001. Sixteen years to the day on April 18, 2017, my first granddaughter, Kailyn, was married, special day #2. Loving memories of my mother and other loved ones linger on. Sadly, members have left, but thankfully new members have joined our congregation. Each service we have is wonderful and just adds to how special our church family is. Kay Pearson Hubbard

Nursery – I have been in the nursery since 1972. When I started, I was with Margaret Bumgarner. It has been so long, I can't remember all of their names. I remember we had a set of twins, Brett and Brandon Barnes. The years passed by and we had another set of twin girls, Courtney and Kyra Brown. They are now attending college. We have had lots of children, but I have enjoyed the journey. As time went by and we moved to the new nursery, we had another set of twin girls, Vanessa and Peyton Orren. I thought that was a lot of twins for our small church. Surprise! What did I know! When it came time to have a great grandchild, guess what? It was twins, two beautiful boys, Tybee and Maverick Martin. They will be one year old on September 9, 2017. If I have remembered correctly, I have helped take care of 150 babies during Sunday School. Thanks to the parents for putting your trust in me and Cindy. Margery Hubbard

Babies, Babies, Babies – “Jesus loves the little children; all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight!” For the past 40 years, it has been a blessing to me to serve the Lord through the nursery at Little River. I joined Margery Hubbard, who has faithfully served for 50 years or more. We both have been so blessed with the children and the parents. We have had as little as three children. Then again, we have been through an explosion of 26 children in our class. At that time, Mrs. Debbie Harrington came to help us. Thank you Debbie!

We have had three sets of twins beginning with Brett and Brandon Barnes, Kyra and Courtney Brown, and Vanessa and Peyton Orren. Kyra and Courtney are identical twins so we had lots of fun figuring out which was which. Kyra Courtney have always had to nap in the crib touching each other.

We have had babies that did nothing but cry and babies that loved to eat and play. We would love to know how many bags of “Bugles” and cans of “Puffs” we have been through over the years.

We had one little girl who loved to bite and only to one little boy. Kailyn Brown Pennell, we often wondered why you picked Caleb Holdsclaw to bite!

After the church was remodeled, the nursery was divided into two classes – 1 and 2-year old’s and 3 and 4-year old’s. Now the older ones could learn more and learn to sing.

Our babies now number 14. Dean Barnes, Kim Barnes Lackey, and Patsy Teague Bickel joined us to help. Thanks to these wonderful ladies.

We sometimes did nothing but change diapers during the 45 minutes the babies were in our care. Just knowing we were doing a messy job, we knew that their parents were in Sunday School learning more about the Gospel. We know that we were appreciated.

It is our sincere prayer that each child grows up to surrender their hearts to the Lord. We thank each parent and grandparent for giving us this privilege to serve.
With Love, Cindy Pearson Jolly and Margery Hubbard

I have been blessed to call Little River my home church for over 50 years! So many precious memories of adopted moms and dads: Joe and Colleen, Edsel and Shirley, Aunt Mozelle and Uncle Lindsey, Aunt Pauline, Miss Ruby. There are too many to mention. My most precious memory is singing with daddy, Roy Neil, in the choir and special singing. I can remember singing *Haven of Rest* and my voice breaking at the very beginning and after we were through daddy saying, “Good job sis.” Never have forgotten that. Daddy is where Stu and I get our love of singing. I fee soooo blessed to call this my church!
Kim Barnes Lackey

I remember standing beside Roy Neil Barnes in the choir. Listening and learning how to sing tenor. What a singer he was! I can’t do like he did, but who could? I miss that man.
Scott Lackey

I loved to go to Sunday School. My Junior teachers were Louise Chapman and Sue Daniels. Sue taught us to sing *Jesus Loves Me* in Chinese. I still know how today.
Cim McDuffie Loudermelk

I celebrated my 90th birthday this year (2017). I am the oldest member of Little River. My Sunday School class gave me a dinner party. My teachers, Melony Brown and Karen Brittian cooked and served us a delicious meal. Twenty friends plus Cim and Danny were there. I will always remember the Sunday that two of my grandsons were baptized at Little River. Johnny (McDuffie) and Wes (Loudermelk) were mine and Joe's grandsons and he wanted to help Pastor Robinette Baptize them. He did, then he was having pressure around his heart and couldn't breathe. EMS came and took him to the hospital. He had a good recovery.
Colleen McDuffie

Members Since 1992 – My husband Bill and me and our four children, Kisha, Tyler, Kyle, and Lindsay, joined Little River in the fall of 1992. In less than a year, I began teaching the 4 to 6-year old's Sunday School class with Sharon Mecimore and we have been teaching this class together ever since. What a blessing it is to have been able to watch these children grow up and now start families of their own. Some of my first students I recall were Brett and Brandon Barnes and Brian Lackey. Although sometimes keeping the attention of this age group can be a challenge, it's new and exciting every Sunday.

Little River warmly welcomed our family right from the start. Being from a musical family, our family joined the choir immediately. My parents and sisters were in the choir as well. We had only been at Little River two years when Dad (Ned Pennell) passed away. It was then that we truly knew we were home by the way our church family nurtured and loved us.

Sadly, in March of 1996, our 16-year old daughter, Kisha, took her own life. As it is now 21 years later, we will never understand why she left us this way. In the fall of that same year, in an effort to do something positive in Kisha's memory, our family presented to the church the idea of a scholarship fund for the college bound youth in our church. Thus, the Kisha White Memorial Scholarship of Little River began. For twenty years, God blessed these efforts and over \$35,000 was gifted to young people with the promise to pray for God's guidance in their lives.

May God continue to bless Little River. Teresa Pennell McNeely

When Keith and I began coming to Little River in 1972, things were much different. Arthur Jenkins was pastor and we had our services in the "old" church. One of the things that I loved and still remember was our

Homecoming day services and “dinner on the ground.” Actually, we had lunch on sawbuck and plywood tables in the front yard of our old sanctuary after our Sunday service. The afternoon was often spent listening to “singers” from various church and families in our county.

Our son Brian was just a baby and he soon found many friends in the children of Little River. Chris was born three years later and both boys spent their entire lives at Little River until finishing college and getting married. Keith and I are so thankful for a church that our boys still call home and for the people who have meant so much to our family as we grew. Jacque Meadows

In August of 2005, the congregation of Little River voted to install me as a Deacon. I felt and still feel so unworthy of such an important position. I have the privilege of serving with the finest people I have ever met. I remember the good men who served before me and the great legacy of Christianity and to the development of the community over the past 225 years. Jacque and I are honored to be a very small part of this church which has kept God and Christian values first and foremost since its beginnings. Keith Meadows

I came to Little River Baptist Church in 1973 when I got out of the Army. I served as Sunday School Superintendent several times. I was asked to be the Choir Director in 1992 and I still have the honor and privilege of trying to serve in that capacity today. On August 16, 1992, I was ordained as a Deacon of Little River Baptist Church. I accepted that responsibility with great humility. I thank the Lord that He has allowed me to be part of a church where His word is preached and we can worship Him in spirit and truth. David R. Mecimore

He Was My Little Brother – My sister Margie Cavin and I had a brother. His name was Ralph. He was five years old in his mind although he was 84 years old when he died. Ralph loved his little red wagon. He would wander all around his house and Little River church area. His family lived beside the church. Sometimes Helen would find him in the grave yard. She tried to explain that it was not safe in the grave yard. In Ralph’s last years, he had to go to the Alexander Hospital. Accidents happen and Ralph was put, feet first, in a tub of scalding hot water. His feet were burned and he never walked again. Ralph never quit talking about his little red wagon. He said to Margie and me “When I get to Heaven I can pull and ride in my little red wagon.” Ralph spent some time in the nursing home before he passed away. Margie and I chose a coffin that had a little red wagon embroidered on the inside lid. When they lowered him in the grave, they also lowered his

little red wagon that Margie had kept in her attic. I'm satisfied that little Ralph is in Heaven.
Helen Mecimore

I remember when I was 12 years old and attending revival in the old white church. The windows were up and the doors were open. A dear senior lady was sitting next to a window and was swatting bugs with her fan. The revival preacher stopped preaching and told her to stop swatting bugs and to listen to him. The lady was L.E. Herman's mother, Miss Effie. She felt very embarrassed.
Helen Mecimore

I came to Little River Baptist Church in April 1981 when I married my husband, David R. Mecmore. I was asked to teach the Beginners Sunday School class in 1990 and I have been blessed with the honor and privilege to teach them since that time. Mrs. Teresa McNeely and I have taught together since 1993. In 2013, Mrs. Sue Daniels asked me to help her with church decorating and placing the flowers for the tables. I have enjoyed learning from and working with her. I am thankful for a church that stands on the true word of God and where the spirit of God moves and blesses us. My prayer is that God will continue to bless Little River Baptist Church.
Sharon D. Mecimore

I have gone to Little River all my life. When I was young, we either walked to church or my Aunt Alice Bumgarner came and got us. She was a teacher at Ellendale School had later moved to Raleigh. She was my teacher at Salem School. I went there until 5th grade. Mama had to go to Baptist Hospital in Winston and Mary and I stayed with my sister in town. We had to start school at Taylorsville. Mrs. Harrington was my teacher.

I finished school in 1952. I worked at Schneider Mills and met a fellow by the name of Edsel Mitchell. We fell in love and were married on October 9, 1954.

On September 6, 1958, we were blessed with a little girl that we named her Donna. On June 24, 1963, we were blessed with a boy and named him Stacy Lee. We were happy for many years.

Edsel joined Little River. He thought that he didn't like Sunday School, so he took me and the children to Sunday School and went to visit Mama. She was in a wheelchair and couldn't go much. Then he would come to preaching. He finally tried Sunday School and loved it so much that he became a teacher. He passed away on March 7, 2007.

I have gone to Little River all my life and plan to be buried there beside Edsel.

I now have four granddaughters. Donna has two daughters Amy Brown Fortner and Kimberly Brown. Stacey has two daughters, Anna and Addie Mitchell. I also have three great-grandchildren: Eli Fortner (9 years old), Katie Fortner (6 years old), and Ethan Fortner (2 years old).

Shirley Mullis Mitchell

What an honor to have the opportunity to share special memories of Little River. I was born on Friday, June 16, 1995; I was nine days old when my parents took me to church at Little River. All of my life I have been privileged to hear and learn God's Word since before I can even remember. I will include the same for my sisters, they were born November 10, 1997, and as preemie babies and the time of year they were born, although they were not immediately taken into crowds of people for several weeks, our church family was faithful to pray and care for them and for our family. I remember so many from the church bringing home cooked meals and praying for our family when momma was carrying them and also after they were born. My mind is flooded with 22 years of moments I've been abundantly blessed just by God's Faithfulness from the pulpit, Sunday school classes, vacation bible schools, choir practices, Easter Sunrise services, Christmas plays, mission trips, etc.

One extra special memory that I cherish are the times in singing Praises to The Lord. I have always loved to sing in the choirs, but I am extra blessed to have been able to sing and honor Our Lord with my two sisters. It comes to mind that Preacher Jeff often expounds about the "Special Worship" of being able to sing with family; and I whole heartedly identify with that. Courtney, Kyra, and I have been singing together in services since we were little girls. A very sweet memory to me is when David calls on us and refers to us as "The Brown Sisters."

Another sweet memory to me is remembering the very first time we ever sang together during a church service; we sang with Emily Hubbard, Makayla and Vanessa White. We were probably between 7-9 years old, I remember that we sang "The Last Blood." Another time that I remember singing with this particular group of girls (I was probably 15 at this time), we sang "Lord, You're the Best Thing That's Ever Happened To Me", it was during this service that the Lord first touched and moved me to shout during a service. The Lord moved on the singing and we truly had a service that the Holy Ghost took over. During that service I remember many people getting happy in the Lord, I remember my Daddy and Pappaw Rick shouting that day after I was touched, and Koty Wheeler jumped the front pew. I will always hold that service special in my heart. Since that time, my sisters and I have often sang just the three of us but

also the Lord has pressed certain songs upon our hearts and we have asked other special girls to join us to sing – Emma-Kate Chapman, Hannah Harrington, Keaton George, Chloe Little, Addison Moose, Chloe Moose, Vanessa Orren, Peyton Orren, Molly Bumgarner, Kassie Eldreth, and Kya Clark.

One of my favorites to sing is "That Name Is Jesus." When the Lord first pressed this song upon our hearts, we asked all the previously mentioned ladies, as well as some of our special little river boys to sing it with us – Sawyer Chapman, Eli Harrington, Caleb Little, Kamden George, Jaron Price, Will Watts, and Jaelyn Hopper. The Lord has blessed during this song and has used us at our home church as well as at our church mission in Bradshaw, WV when singing it. We have witnessed souls be convicted and souls be Born Again during some of these services.

I am truly humbled by how the Lord has allowed us to honor Him. I am blessed beyond measure each time I am allotted the opportunity to stand and sing beside my sisters. Singing Praises With Them is one of the things that I have found myself missing more and more since marrying and moving from Little River. The Lord has truly blessed me through the years and I am forever grateful and thankful to Him. Not only has singing and loving hearing my preacher rightly divide and deliver God's Word for our good, but we have also been especially privileged throughout our youth to share every moment at church with both our maternal and paternal grandparents and even two of our great grandmother's for many years.. (Mae Pearson and Mozelle Brown). My sisters and I thank God for bringing our parents together in their late teen years while in their own home church, Little River.

Which brings one final thing to note. Our hearts are grateful for the past 22 years having Preacher Jeff as our Pastor and for him always being faithful to share and guide us with God's Truth. Just because I have been in church and with Gods Word close to heart every day of my life, there have been some trying times. In the good and the bad times through the years it has been the greatest stability to go through it all with Jesus being my truest friend. I am eternally grateful for the values that I have been shown, learned, witnessed and felt in my own heart being raised in such a loving, truth bearing church. On behalf of me and my family, we give God the glory for His Faithfulness unto our family, our heritage, and unto Little River.

With love, Kailyn Brown Pennell

A Place of Worship – In my younger days, I met a beautiful young lady by the name of Brenda White. She had a great talent of playing the piano.

Different groups were soon asking her to play for them. We were married and moved into our new home close to where I was raised on Roy Rogers Lane. We joined Little River in 1972. Rev. Arthur Jenkins was pastor there. Brenda was asked to be the pianist and Martha Jenkins was organist. Little River had the very best musicians in the county. We were very happy there. We loved the people at Little River. I have been blessed to hold down many church jobs: Sunday School superintendent, teacher, Deacon, church clerk, parking lot watch, and check to make sure the rooms were empty at the end of the service. I have back problems and cannot sit so I can do these jobs while others are in our services. I also turn out lights and lock doors when leaving. I enjoy serving others. I love the children of the church. Brenda became sick and was diagnosed with cancer in March, 2017. She passed away peacefully in April, 2017. I feel sure that she always had a special place in her heart for Little River. As I have a special place in my heart for Little River also. May God's blessing, forever, be on Little River. Roy Rogers

I have been coming to Little River for many years. I was born in the Mt. Olive community in 1930. We moved to Little River when I was a child. I was saved in an afternoon revival meeting at Little River. Rev. Woodrow Brookshire was preaching. I was 13 years old. I graduated High School in 1947. I married Howard St. Clair. We had six children: Nancy (deceased), Roger, Randy, Pam, Hal, and Timothy (deceased).

The first Bible School I remember, a Mr. Blalock came to our church and gave instructions on how to have a good Bible School. Lemon aide was in a washing tub for us children to drink. In the years of the 1960's, when I took my children to Bible School, the old basement flooded. Charlie Harrington took off his shoes, rolled up his pants and began to mop and other started helping. So, Bible School went on as usual.

I am now 87 years old and I'm all excited about our 225-year celebration with Homecoming dinner and old fashioned dressing.

Joyce Lowe St. Clair

In August, 2005, I was put in as a deacon of Little River Baptist Church. When I was asked to let my name be put in for a vote, my thought was I am not worthy to be a Deacon first of all. I had never been married and did not have children. I did not know a lot of life's challenges that people face day to day. But God reminded me that when He saved me in August 1975, that I was a servant for Him in whatever manner He asked of me. So, I said yes to let my name be put in for a vote. And the church voted me in as a Deacon. I look back over the years and thank God for His many Godly

examples of people the Lord had put in my life. People like Edsel and Shirley Mitchell, Danny Chapman, Darrin and Robin Rogers, Rick and Melony Brown, David and Sharon Mecimore, Keith and Jacque Meadows, Bobby and Sue Daniels, Joe and Colleen McDuffie, my preachers Jeff Chapman, Arthur Jenkins, Mark Robinette, my grandma Pauline Orren, Lindsey and Mozelle Brown, and many, many other men and women. I hope that I can be just a small example to others as these people were big examples in my life. It has been 12 years since that time and I am still not worthy to be a Deacon and will never be. But, I want to serve the Lord in whatever way He would have me to. Anything that I can do for my Lord is nothing compared to what He has done and doing for me. I have been going to Little River all of my life and I thank God for my church and not just the building but the people of the church for they are truly the church. Pray God continue to bless Little River to be a light to a dark world, telling others of Jesus and His salvation, showing God's love by loving and helping others. I would have never thought 30 years after God saved me that I would have been asked to serve as a Deacon. I count it an honor and privilege to serve my Lord and His people of Little River Baptist Church.

Scotty Shook

Although we have only been attending for a few years, several memorable events have occurred in our family while at Little River. First, we want to thank God for saving our daughter and then watching her being baptized. Second, being a part of two mission trips to Bradshaw, West Virginia. This opened our eyes to the needs of those around us. Third, watching our daughter being married at Little River Baptist Church. It is refreshing to be part of a church family who embodies what the New Testament church should be: from a preacher standing in the pulpit with words of truth to the outpouring of love and service to others. We are truly thankful to say that we are a part of the Little River Baptist Church family.

Clay and Nelda Tallman

Margie Cavin drove away from our church after services one Sunday morning and got as far as Hwy 16. She felt that something or someone was missing. Sure enough it was her little boy, Marty. She swung a U-turn and back to the church she sped. There was Marty, sound asleep on the back bench.

Told by Hazel Teague

I've been coming to Little River Baptist for 40 years now when I married my best friend Ray on April 24, 1977. God has blessed us with two daughters, Summer and Amber and five grandchildren: Jaelyn, Kassie, Kya, Kohen, and Kisha. When our daughters were young, we dropped them off for Bible School one night and got a call before time to pick them up. We were told

that Summer had gotten hurt in the graveyard. We didn't know what happened until we arrived at church and found out a child's headstone had fallen on her and broke her hand and that Amber picked it off of her. We were told that it took four grown men to set it back up! Amber's adrenalin was running high that night! Janet Walker

I have been at Little River Baptist Church since day one. I have fond memories as a young boy of having meals outside on the grounds under the trees. I have had a lot of good years here. I am glad Mom and Dad brought me for years. I come now because I have a desire to be here! Janet and I brought our two daughters and now they bring our five grandchildren. Ray Walker

Little River has been the biggest part of our family's life. It has given us the opportunity to learn how to share God's love with others. Getting to help in the Bradshaw, West Virginia mission has let us see how others do without. This has given us the chance to share God's word and love. Most of all, sharing the impact God can be on a person and families. We are so blessed with the church family that God has given our family. We love Little River! Jenna, Seth, and Will Watts

Research Information

*Pastors, **Deacons, ***Music – Some information is from the 200-year anniversary booklet. Research at the following websites provided bits of information regarding the early church history. The annual church letters sent to the Alexander Baptist Association also provided information.

https://archive.org/stream/minutesofannuals18690alex/minutesofannuals18690alex_djvu.txt – “Minutes of the annual session of the Alexander County Baptist Association”. This website, along with original minutes from the Associational meetings, describe the formation of First Baptist, Three Forks Baptist, and Mt. Olive Baptist churches.

https://archive.org/stream/historyofbeginni01broo/historyofbeginni01broo_djvu.txt - “A history of beginning and conduct of ye Baptist people, of Jesus Christ, of Alexander County, North Carolina”. This website mentions a lot about Little River Baptist Church membership information as a part of Yadkin, Briar Creek, Lewis Fork, and United Baptist Association.

<http://ncgenweb.us/nc/alexander/newspaper-articles-1881/> - There are several articles about death of people in the Little River township in 1881.

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Counties/alexander_county_nc.html - This website states “Little River Baptist Church is the Baptist Church to be erected in what is now Alexander County in the year 1786. The first association was held in 1771. An old deed gives the date of this church by calling it the “Old Meeting House.” The date of the deed is 1786. (Barnes Deed).”

<https://www.geni.com/people/Brinsley-Barnes/6000000002174583024> – This website states that Brinsley Barnes founded LRBC.

Historical Table

The information contained in this table is based on church records and reports to the Associational offices. Some information was not available at the time of this anniversary book.

In 1829, it was noted that Little River had lost 26 by exclusion, death, or letter. In 1831, 34 members were gained. Between 1861 and 1863, Little River had 51 individuals baptized.

Year	Members	Average Sunday School	Average VBS	Baptized
1818	36			1
1823	51			
1824	68			1
1825	64			
1827	54			1
1828	52			
1829	29			12
1830	23			
1831	57			1
1832	66			6
1833	80			12
1834	104			10
1835	115			10
1836	115			1
1837	90			
1838	91			
1839	95			2
1840	111			11
1841	111			3
1842	109			1
1843	107			2
1844	106			1
1845	106			1
1846	96			
1847	259			158
1848	289			61
1849	308			26
1850	309			
1851	267			3
1852	240			12

Year	Members	Average Sunday School	Average VBS	Baptized
1853	253			16
1854	252			9
1855	239			
1856	260			10
1857	191			
1858	120			
1860	97			3
1861	97			2
1863	72			
1865	95			
1867	184			
1868	96			18
1870	162			5
1951	173	66		6
1952	173			2
1953	174	87		4
1954	174	87	0	2
1955	172	81	0	4
1956	173	81	0	5
1957	173	96	0	1
1958	188	100	60	17
1959	188	102	76	3
1960	190	113	90	9
1961	203	113	90	17
1962	200	105	102	14
1963	201	90	101	6
1964	196	89	78	10
1965	191	82	65	10
1966	190	80	76	2
1967	188	89	86	3
1968	192	90	74	10
1969	206	85	76	13
1970	203	91	96	0
1971	189	94	83	6
1972	199	94	80	11
1973	185	101	90	7
1974	150	102	88	1
1975	159	110	87	3
1976	159	110	75	5
1977	167	118	86	6
1978	59	112	76	6

Year	Members	Average Sunday School	Average VBS	Baptized
1979	161	112	80	1
1980	183	112	80	7
1981	180	111	71	11
1982	191	107	80	5
1983	200	103	83	10
1984	196	101	67	5
1985	199	101	67	5
1986	204	105	69	5
1987	203	110	81	2
1988	201	100	80	2
1989	306	100	90	2
1990	311	92	90	5
1991	315	105	115	4
1992	316	110	100	5
1993	364	140	163	18
1994	354	132	196	0
1995	354	133	132	5
1996	349	132	121	2
1997	348	130	124	3
1998	346	140	114	5
1999	361	128	99	13
2000	362	119	92	2
2001	370	120	115	5
2002	369	123	110	5
2003	375	126	117	8
2004	379	126	121	2
2005	373	114	115	0
2006	377	125	117	5
2007	360	130	132	9
2008	372	127	130	7
2009	384	130	130	4
2010	389	140	144	3
2011	382	140		2
2012	387	143	137	5
2013	385	144		3
2014	391	141	132	8
2015	388	140	121	4
2016	380	119	96	2
2017	372	112	154	1