

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

1847

The few brethren of the Baptist faith in the community of Pittsboro banded together and resolved to build and organize a church. It was constituted by Elders William Lineberry and George Purefoy. By Feb 2, 1847, they had made plans for the erection of a Meeting House. The building committee consisted of “three consecrated members who had faith enough to give bond, binding themselves, their heirs, executors, or administrators. These far-sighted men were: R.C. Poe, John Thompson, and P.W. Dowd.” The contractors who accepted the bid for building this Meeting House for the sum of twelve hundred dollars (\$1200.00) were Wesley Hanks and Martin Hanks, natives of Pittsboro. The first meeting house was finished at a cost of \$1200.00.

1880

May 5—Biblical Recorder article announcing the reorganization of a Baptist Church in Pittsboro on 4/17/1880. (Appendix B, Article 1)

1886

March 10—Biblical Recorder article in anticipation of the railroad coming to Pittsboro. The article describes the anticipation of both town and church growth. (Appendix B, Article 2)

1915

August 18—Biblical Recorder article announcing Pearle Johnson had been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board to set sail for China. (Appendix B, Article 3) Pearle Johnson was appointed missionary to China on July 15, 1915. In 1941 she was imprisoned by the Japanese until 1943. She was not physically harmed, however, the camp had very limited food and supplies. It is believed that the living conditions of the camp were responsible for her cancer which forced her to return to Apex in 1949 where she died in 1952.

1941

March 19—Biblical Recorder article describing the annual fellowship supper held in the school cafeteria. (Appendix B, Article 4)

WW II—PBC sent 44 men into the armed services. All returned except for 2, Staff Sergeant Wade L. Wagner, who lost his life in New Guinea, Pacific Theatre of War and James Womble, member of the Merchant Marines, who was lost at sea.

1944

July 1—Went from 1 service per month to 2 services per month under the leadership of Rev. K. E. Bryant.

1947

June 4--- A Centennial Celebration was held. Former pastors and members were invited for a program, a picnic and service. Rev. K. E. Bryant was pastor at that time.

1948

June 1—Groundbreaking for new church.

1949

March 13—First service in the new church. The new Pittsboro Baptist Church, erected at approximate cost of \$80,000., was formally opened on Sunday March 13, 1949. “Around 400 church members and invitees heard addresses by Dr. I. G. Greer of Chapel Hill, the Rev. K. E. Bryant, pastor, and other church leaders. Rev K. E. Bryant was in his eighth year as pastor of PBC. Dr. Greer was the former Superintendent of Thomasville Orphanage and was currently serving at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

1951

March 11—Biblical Recorder article mentioning the anniversary celebration of the originally organized church in 1817. (Appendix B, Article 5)

1952

Feb 10—A dedication service was held. Five memorial windows, the painting for the baptistry and the organ were all dedicated. Rev. K. E. Bryant’s sermon topic was: “Dedicated to Kingdom Service.” This occasion marked the 10th anniversary of Pastor K. E. Bryant’s service to the church.

Nov 30---Regular church conference—Recommendation brought by the Board of Deacons that full time services be started, beginning the 1st Sunday in Jan. 1953. Vote taken with 61 favoring the recommendation and 27 against it. Motion was made that the vote be made unanimous and the motion was carried.

1955

Sept. 25—Dedication service for the new sanctuary and middle education building. The celebration included a note burning ceremony. Membership numbered 235 at that time.

1958

Oct 2-3—Biblical Recorder article: Sandy Creek Association observes 200th Anniversary at Pittsboro Baptist Church and Love’s Creek. (Appendix B, Article 6) The Second Hundred Years of the Sandy Creek Association, a history by H. A. Teague was to be for sale during this bicentennial session.

1962

Dec 30---A reception was given to Mrs. W. F. (Julia) Bland, honoring her for more than fifty years of faithful service as church organist. She was presented a stereophonic record player by the church.

1965

May---Christian Home Week was observed. A banquet was held at the school cafeteria. The speaker was Rev. W. W. Finlator, former pastor. High school graduates in our church were presented a Bible at the morning service as has been the custom for several years.

1967

Jan. 29—Groundbreaking ceremony for the new educational building.

1969

Oct. 12—First Homecoming Day. Dr. George Griffin, former member of Pittsboro Baptist Church and current Dean of Religion at Wake Forest University brought the message.

1971

April---Official opening of the library with 229 books available for check-out.

June 20 & 27---In conjunction with Pittsboro's Bicentennial celebration, PBC had a special bi-centennial service, Sunday, June 27. The following Wednesday evening the church sponsored a bi-centennial supper (fund-raiser) at the high school. The meal included only foods of 200 years ago, no "store bought" items were served. Members dressed in costumes of 200 years ago.

October 10---PBC held its annual Homecoming Harvest Day with guest speaker Rev. R.F. Smith (PBC Pastor 1958-61). \$2,180.85 was received for the building fund.

1972

Oct. 8---125th Anniversary Celebration. Rev. W. W. Finlator was guest speaker.

1973

The 3 L's were organized. (Live Longer and Like It) Composed of mature adults aged 58 and older and its purpose is to involve its member in church activities, fellowship and community needs.

1974

April 28---The library was officially named "The Pearle Johnson Memorial Library," in memory of Miss Pearle Johnson, the only foreign missionary to go out from the church.

1978

Oct. 15---Homecoming services with Rev. Gilbert Mister who served as pastor from 1961-1968 as the guest speaker.

1980

Oct---Homecoming guest speaker was Rev. Bill Greenwood, former pastor. Community Thanksgiving Day service was held at PBC. Collections from this service of \$87.91 was given to the Transient Emergency Fund.

1982

Oct 10---Homecoming quest speaker was Dr. Charles Petter, Executive Director of Citizen Affairs. The special offering was designated for the installation of plexi-glass protective covering on the sanctuary windows.

1985

Oct 13---The chapel and library were dedicated during afternoon Homecoming services. Rev. John F. Robinson, former pastor was the guest speaker.

1988

Oct. 9---At Homecoming, Rev. John Robinson, former pastor preached at the worship service.

1989

Oct. 8---Homecoming services with former pastor Rev. Raleigh Carroll.

1990

Sept 1---First service of Spanish Mission in our Chapel.

Oct. 14---Homecoming Worship service was led by our current pastor Ron Farrar.

1993

Dec 11---Dedication ceremony for the Hwy 902 property. An attendance of 75 included members from both the Spanish Mission Church and Pittsboro Baptist Church. A well has been dug, electric line has been put up and a sign designating partial use of the property for the Spanish Mission Church has been erected. Land continues to be cleared for other projects. A new building will house 2 bathrooms, a kitchen and a covered shelter.

1994

Dec 11---Dedication ceremony for the Intercessory Prayer Room.

1995

August 27---Javier Benitez was ordained at PBC. Rev. Benitez led the Spanish Mission.

1996

Jan.—Contemporary music was introduced to PBC with the arrival of Tim Ames as part-time Minister of Music. The first musical, “God With Us”, was given by the choir and the music group, PROCLAIM, from Greystone Baptist Church, Durham, NC. Northwood High School auditorium was used the first time by PBC to present 2 more productions under the direction of Tim Ames. The first was a Praise Gathering and the second was the musical, “Alleluia, the Praise Continues.” The 100-voice choir was made up of singers from fifteen area churches.

1997

Aug 3---First church service held in newly constructed Spanish Mission Church on the Hwy 902 property.

Sept 6—Dedication service at the newly constructed Spanish Mission Church on the Hwy 902 property.

Sept 28—150th Anniversary Celebration. Former pastor, Dr. R.F. Smith brought the morning message to a filled sanctuary. Special music was presented and Sims Poindexter, historian, presented a history from our beginning in 1847 to 1997. A display of pictures and artifacts was set up in the Fellowship Hall. Covered dish lunch was serviced. Theme was “THEN, NOW AND FOREVER”.

1998

Dec 6---Mary Margaret Griffin was honored for her 40 years of service as church secretary. The day was proclaimed “Mary Margaret Griffin Day” and she was honored with a plaque of appreciation, a gift of jewelry, a commendation from the Town of Pittsboro and a basket of congratulatory letters and cards from former pastors, former members, members of the church, her family and friends. A covered dish lunch was enjoyed.

2006

Feb 16—Land and building was given to the Spanish Mission.

May 6—Spring Festival fundraiser to buy a new church bus. Most of Friday night was spent cooking and chopping BBQ by John May, Burnice Griffin, Kenneth Perry, Kevin Jeffries and Chuck Devinney. In addition to selling BBQ plates, we had an auction, a bake sale, games for the children and lively entertainment. The youth were responsible for meal take-out service and the cleanup. Committee members for the large event were: Lula Bryant, Carolyn Johnson, Mary

Margaret Griffin, Annie May, Jon Pister, Karl Shaffer and Don Whitt. The old van broke down 3 times on the way home from the mountains the previous 3L trip, so the decision was made on the way home to buy a new bus. The 3L's were very instrumental in making this fundraiser happen.

2009

April---First of 9 years of Musical Passion play under the direction of Debra Magee(music) and Donna Rezen (drama). First 2 years the production was at PBC and the remaining 7 years, the production was at Northwood High School Auditorium. Many local churches participated with both drama and music.

Oct 29-31—With the aid of many church members and other volunteers from local churches, the youth, under the direction of Youth Minister Jon Pister, presented Judgement House for the first time. It was a great success with 49 confessions of faith. Judgement House was presented every year until the final one in 2018. Professions of faith and recommitments grew every year.

Nov. 2—A Celebration Festival dinner was held at Emmaus Baptist Church to kick off the capital campaign to begin raising funds for a facility on the Hwy 902 property.

Nov. 9—Dedication service on the Hwy 902 property to dedicate the land. Tripp Harmon, the current pastor began the dedication service with prayer at 12:15pm.

2010

Oct 2---Church Homecoming covered dish lunch with guest speaker Bill Greenwood, PBC pastor 1972-77.

Nov---Church staff and church families participated in Thanksgiving Day Covered Dish Lunch in the fellowship hall.