

FOOTNOTES – HISTORICAL NOTABLES AND JUST PLAIN FUN

Here are some of the “firsts” at PBC over the years plus a few other facts included for your amusement and otherwise. Some things just need to be remembered.

1898

Pittsboro Baptist Church organized its first Women’s Missionary Society. Mrs. H.T. Chapin, was the first president of the group, a post she held for over twenty years .

1943

In December, the church voted to enter a new financial system using the church envelope as a means of improved method of giving for the work of the church. This system is still in place today.

The first church building did not have restroom facilities so church members would take the liberty of using the bathroom in the parsonage next door.

Unknown Date

Miss Flossie Whitley served as the church’s first known librarian.

1947

The summer months include several days commemorating battles and war – VE Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, D-Day, Independence Day and so on. On June 29, 1947, when PBC celebrated its Centennial Birthday, World War II was still fresh in their minds. It was noted in the minutes of that celebration that 44 members of Pittsboro Baptist Church had served in the armed forces in World War II. Two of those members did not return: Staff Sergeant Wade L. Wagner died at New Guinea in the Pacific Theater and James Womble, Merchant Marines, who was lost at sea.

When the sanctuary where we now worship was completed in 1947, it was built over a portion of the church cemetery. Two or three graves remain under where the baptistry and choir loft stand today.

The stained glass window, given in memory of beloved parents, William and Joanne Foushee, was a jewel adorning the sanctuary of the old clapboard Pittsboro Baptist Church building. The church grew and the time came for the wooden building to be replaced by a larger and more modern sanctuary in 1947. A church member, a descendant of the Foushees, was so upset about the clapboard building being torn down that she asked for the stained glass window and took it to her home. She stopped attending PBC for a number of years, but eventually she returned and also returned the stained glass window. It was stored in the church attic until some members renovated the old fellowship hall into a lovely chapel, where they installed the lovely glass window. The chapel has now been updated to a Children’s Chapel but the beautiful window remains on display.

1949

First service in the new church sanctuary and building was formally opened on Sunday, March 13, 1949.

1958

March - *The Spiral* was first published.

Mary Margaret Griffin became the first church secretary (12/7), part time. Rev. R. F. Smith was the pastor.

1959

Pittsboro Baptist Church first established a nursery under the charge of Mrs. A.N. Tatum. Later, maids were employed to perform this service. It was not until 1969 that church volunteers took over the responsibility of caring for the babies.

1960

Miss Carolyn Elam became the first salaried Minister of Music.

March - Rev. Howard G. Dawkins of First Baptist Church, Kinston spoke in a series of services. He was Marilyn Tyndall's pastor when she was a child and he baptized her.

1963

The congregation was grateful to Mrs. Lottie Gilmore, who scared away a would-be robber of the church office. Damage was done to the door, but nothing was missing.

1964

First Baptist Women's Day was held February 23. Mrs. William Griffin brought the message.

An article in the Pastor's Paragraph in *The Spiral* reported a KKK rally was held outside of Pittsboro. It was a cause of grave concern and embarrassment.

1965

Mrs. Belk Vaughn (Doris) refused "to contribute to any building program which does not include a nursery for adults who sleep during the worship services."

The bulletins would intermittently include Rev. Mister's visitation schedule for the following week which included the names of streets and roads for the homes he would be visiting.

1969

March 3 morning worship service was cancelled due to 12 inches of snow.

The First Homecoming Day was held on October 12, 1969 with Dr. George Griffin formerly of Pittsboro and Dean of Religion at Wake Forest University as guest speaker.

The Tape Recorder Ministry began by taking audio cassettes recordings of the Sunday worship services to home-bound members. Reflecting technological advances, it evolved into the Tape Ministry and in 2015 became the Audio – Video Ministry

Eighty-four place settings of dinnerware were purchased with a special fund designated for this purpose. Ladies were asked to come to the church "armed with several dish towels" to wash this dinnerware

1970

Royal Ambassadors (RA's) was re-organized for boys between the ages of 9-11.(9/14/70)
Sept. 12th, 1987: Another first for our church was the organization of a Brotherhood group for men and boys.

1973

The 3L's, a Senior Adult group, offering activities, fellowship, and travel, came into being. The group still meets monthly

1984

The first Senior Adult Day was held May 6. Rev. Ted Williams, Director of the Dept of Aging , NC Baptist State Convention was the speaker.

1986

The first Family Night was held, October 8 included a meal followed by groups going to assigned places for Bible study or meetings.

1987

Fred Nooe's motion passed by narrow margin "that we inform people parking in the church parking lot that they have the opportunity to help support the upkeep of the parking lot if they so desire and that a letter be given to those using the lot explaining the purpose and enclose an envelope for their first donation and ask they follow up as they so desire."

1988

Jane Nooe became the first woman elected to the diaconate.

1989

Fred Nooe, who had been a special influence for missions in the church and made numerous work project trips in the US and other countries, was presented first Outstanding Christian Service Award.

Late 1980s-early1990s

On Sunday mornings, Dr. Noah Wilson would drive his blue pick-up to church while his dog, Clarence, followed behind, traipsing down Salisbury Street. Clarence would patiently wait on the front porch of the church until the service was over then follow his master home. It turns out, however, that Clarence's attendance record was better than Dr. Wilson's, as Clarence could be found at church on Sunday mornings even when Dr. Wilson was out-of-town.

1990

The first service of the Spanish Mission was held in our Chapel on September 1, 1990. The Spanish Mission met a Pittsboro Baptist Church for almost 7 years.

2010

The Prayer Quilt Ministry's first meeting was held August 18, 2010. Ministry is still active, creating hundreds of quilts for others since it began.

2018

Susan Griffin was elected to be the first female chair of the Deacons.