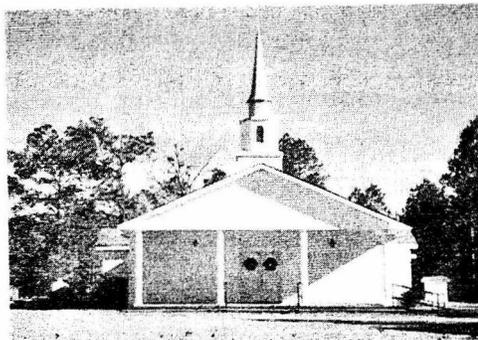


Union Hill Baptist Church

In 1898 Beulah Missionary Baptist Church was formed from its parent church Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church. The congregation met first at Bellview school house located between the present Union Hill Church and Mt. Olive Church.

The land was given by Beulah Wilcox and the church was named



Union Hill Baptist Church

after him but he died before deeding the land to the church. His wife later remarried and would not deed the land.

The minutes for Beulah Church from 1898 to 1904 indicates Union Hill Baptist Church was formed August 28, 1904 and organizers were: E. E. English, E. O. Mitchell, Etta

Mitchell, Rev. W. R. Deese, Martha Deese and Joseph Deese. The Beulah Church minute book continues as Union Hill Church from 1904.

Church minutes for 1912 indicates a new building was under construction. The original church building was sold in 1915 for \$21.50. The church roll for 1912 listed 63 members. The present church building was constructed in 1953 and the old building was sold for \$300. The educational building was added in 1950-1960. From 1961 to 1965 the church was remodeled inside and a choir loft

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Bonifay

was added. In 1970 the church purchased a used piano from Ponce de Leon School and purchased an organ in 1972.

On February 4, 1976 a baptistry was installed. In 1997 a renovation of the education/fellowship hall was completed and in 2002 stained glass windows were installed. The pastors since 1904 are: W. R. Deese 1904-1906, J. W. Bryant 1906-1909, J. B. DeShazo 1909-1912, Lonnie Womble 1912, A. B. Womble 1912, J. B. DeShazo 1913-1916, W. H. McIntosh 1916, B. F. Blount 1917-1918, S. W. Locke 1919, C. E. Locke 1920, J. B. DeShazo 1921, C. A. Cozart 1922, J. H. Holland 1923, **E. B. Riddles** 1924-1925, A. B. Halstead 1926-1929, M. Simmons 1930-1940, G. M. Turner, 1941, H. E. Draughn 1943-1946, B. F. Blount 1947, Albert Matthews 1948, Jack Davis 1949-1952, J. A. Cornelison 1952-1959, Roger Jarrell 1959, Joe Speight 1960, C. L. Wattenbarger 1961, W. F. Bullington 1961-1965, John W. Shy 1965-1969, Fred Hatcher 1969-1972, B. H. Reeves 1973-1987, Fred McCoy 1987, Greg Allen 1988-1989, Paul Cartmill 1989-1992, Marcus Caraway 1992-1995, Huey Hughes 1996-1999, Chester Padgett 1999-2000, 2000-2001 vacant, Jack Andrews 2001-2002, Chad Reister 2002-2004.

Submitted by: Holmes County Heritage Book Committee. Sources: Union Hill Baptist Church 100 Year Anniversary Book.

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October to participate in forming Jackson County Baptist Association.

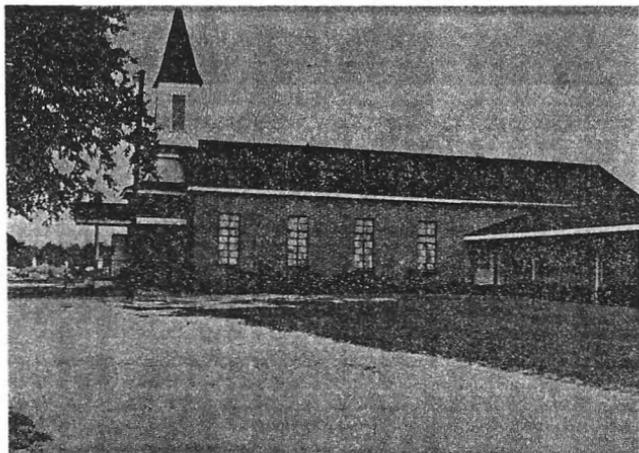
On January 14, 1945, the Building Committee was given the power to proceed with the building program. Pulpit furniture, Flower Stands, Communion Table, and Vanity Wall around the choir was built by Doug Alford a church member. Pews were made from Magnolia lumber cut off property of church members.

In 1959-60 the pastorium was built. In 1962 bathrooms were built and the outdoor toilets discarded (the location of the old outdoor toilet is northwest of the present pastorium. The old pit was filled in and a rose garden was planted by Mrs. Summer, wife of the pastor at the time).

Ide Spooner purchased the Pulpit Chairs around 1963. Ms. Dora Alford donated the lights for the church sanctuary in memory of John Alford in 1966. In 1968 the church members provided carpet for the sanctuary. Some time in the late 1960's the church sign was built.

The fellowship hall was built in 1970 with the men of the church pouring the concrete floor and the block work being done by Mr. George Goodwin and Mr. Daniel Basford doing the roof work.

In 1981 a Sound System was donated and installed in the church, in memory of Vonceil Grace and Etta Spooner.



HISTORY OF PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

1884 - 1984

The first evidence of a church was a brush arbor where some church services were first held. After a short period of time a log cabin was erected and services were held in it. The first churches were built in the middle of many pine trees, hence the name Piney Grove. Later they were mostly cut away and many oak trees were planted.

The First church was constituted on July 20, 1884. Services were held on a monthly basis, usually the third weekend of the month. A normal church weekend consisted of Saturday night preaching and Sunday preaching always followed by a church conference immediately afterward. The church was called the The Baptist Church of Christ at Piney Grove. The first churches were much more stricter in their rules on conduct that a member had to obey. Many times people were censured by the church for drinking, dancing or not attending church on a regular basis. A censure meant that you were dismissed temporarily until you made public apologies and you were reinstated into membership.

Chipola Min. ²⁵ 1984

The first record of church minutes were written in April 1891. The first pastor serving was Bro. J.W. Johnson. In February 1892 a Standing Committee was elected to tend to the church business at that time.

In 1892, Bro. D.W. (Dan) Creamer was elected as pastor and John Jefferson Ebenezer Washington Taylor was elected Clerk of the church.

In 1893, Rev. S.W. Locke was elected pastor and served for three years. Also in 1893 the church sent delegates to the association in August.

In 1896, Bro. J.W. Johnson served as pastor again. About 1896 the church finally agreed to observe the service of foot washing once a year on the Friday before the last adjournment of the pastoral year. They also set up the rules a member must follow.

In May 1897, Bro. Charley Locke was ordained at Piney Grove Church and then was called to preach there the same year.

Bro. William Sapp served as pastor for one year in 1898.

Bro. Loudermilk was called and he preached for the next two years, 1899-1900. During his tenure the church began talking about a new church.

In April 1900, Bro. John Walker came and served about 8 months. A meeting was called to get a committee to see about securing a plot of ground for a church and a grave yard.

Then in 1901-1903, Bro. William Sapp was called again to serve the church as pastor. They continued to work on ways to earn money for the new church for the next couple of years.

In 1903, the church approved taking bond for title from George Tharpe to build the church house on. Mr. Tharpe donated the land but the pine trees were to be cut off the land in order to build on it.

On August 21, 1904 the church called Bro. Adams to serve as pastor. At the same conference they approved a plan for the church building to be built.

In December 1904, Bro. Carter was called to serve as pastor, he served the until sometime in 1906.

In May the land was deeded to the church and the building was completed. They moved into the new frame church during this month and at the business meeting for that month, the cost of the new church was quoted as \$181.03. The amount that have been raised was \$140.71 so they had to finish paying the debt. The actual date that the church moved into the frame building was May 16, 1906.

The next preacher who served Piney Grove Church was Bro. W.H. Bryan. He was called in late 1906 and served until 1910. An interesting note is that his salary for the one weekend a month services was \$6.08. It was the amount they collected at those services. Sometimes he was given vegetables and produce from the families.

In 1911, Bro. C.L. Burns came as pastor and served until 1914.

Bro. C.T. Stuart served as pastor in 1916. In 1917, Bro. L.M. Jones served as pastor. He was followed by Bro. C.S. Locke who served in 1918. The Association letter dated 1918 stated that the church had 168 members at that time.

In November of 1919, Bro. Samuel Carter came to serve as pastor and served until 1925.

In November, 1926, Bro. C.E. Locke came to serve the church as pastor and served for three years.

In 1929, Bro. E.B. Riddles came to the church. He served for either 2 or 3 years. During his tenure as pastor the church began to discuss adding Sunday School rooms to the side of the church.

In 1931, the records show that the church was involved in Cooperative Program. Mr. J.W. Holley donated a quarter acre of cotton for the Cooperative Program. And in 1932 the church had begun to support an orphanage in Pensacola.

In September 1933, the church called Bro. B.R. Camp to serve as pastor. In September 1935, the church called Bro. F.L. Dykes as pastor. In December 1936, the church voted to have half-time services.

In 1937, Bro. C.L. Rooks was called as pastor. And the church was again discussing the need for Sunday School rooms. At the end of Bro.

Rooks tenure, Preacher Manuel was called, but he only served for two months. Then the church called Bro. E.H.S. Beall as pastor, he began his service in January 1939 and continued to serve for five years.

In 1039, the church began to build the needed Sunday School rooms. In 1940, electrical service was installed.

In October 1944, Bro. C.G. Garrett was called to serve as pastor. During this pastor's tenure the church became concerned about the shape of the frame church and appointed a committee to collect funds for a new church.

The church minutes for the period of 1945-57 were missing, but the following information was either obtained from associational minutes or members. During this time Bro. Robert Middleton was called as pastor and he served for one year.

The church then called Bro. J. Tolbert Hagler of Bascom to serve as pastor. During this time the church began actively discussing the need for a new church building. Bro. Hagler served from 1947 to 1950.

At this time the church called Bro. Willis Melvin to serve as pastor, he served the church from 1950-1953. It was during this time that the church really got busy and moved forward with the building plans and earning the money to finance it. The new church was finished in late 1953 or early 1953. The new church was a welcomed change to the church family and is still a beautiful building. Bro. Melvin was soon called to serve another church.

In 1954 the church called Bro. C.N. Walker to serve as pastor. He was a professor at the newly opened Baptist Bible Institute at the time of his tenure at Piney Grove. He served the church from 1954 to 1956.

At this time the church recalled Bro. Willis Melvin to serve as pastor. Bro. Melvin returned to the church in 1956 and still serves the church today.

Some of the things that have been done since Dr. Melvin's tenure began are the addition of the annex that is used for Sunday School rooms, the remodeling of the front part of the church, upholstering of the pews, stained glass windows installed, central heat and air conditioning was installed, carpet throughout the auditorium and the Sunday School rooms, drapes in front of the church, and a baptistry was installed.

He has served the church faithfully and has inspired the church to look toward new goals of service for our fellow man and our community. He has been serving the church since 1956 which really is a record for one pastor in continual service.