

BOYD'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Boyd's Creek Baptist Church stands on the grounds of the historic battle of Boyd's Creek. In the late 1700s the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists took turns meeting in the Rock House Cave, a large cave in a rock bluff near the entrance of Boyd's Creek into the French Broad River. In 1784 Jonathan Mulkey and Lewis Rice, pioneer Baptist preachers, held a revival at Rock House Cave but the oldest available records are dated 1802. Because Baptists were meeting and holding revivals in the late 1700s, it is likely that the church was older than the registered organization date.

Elijah Rogers was pastor for over 30 years beginning in 1810. He reportedly held a baptismal service in the Tennessee River at Knoxville in 1825 before a crowd of 3,000, the first baptism in the city of Knoxville.

The first meeting house, a log cabin, was burned by the Indians in 1803 and a brick building took its place but fell down in 1848. Members built a frame church house that stood for 98 years, until 1947. The present brick church and 14-room educational building is the result of local labor and free help by the members who cut the timber, logged and sawed it and worked on the building. Charles Smith was the contractor.

Among the many loyal members serving the church through the years were: William Johnson, John Ammsnet, and James Randels, Baptist Association representatives; Reverend Rogers, Rise Levy, and Joel Haggard, messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention in August, 1814, O. R. Ownby, deacon; Brother William Chandler, who moved each male member be assessed 25 cents for the church upkeep; Elder William Hodges, Rufus Criswell and David McCroskey, in whose homes the church met while without a building; Theron Hodges, Mrs. Reece Rogers, O. R. Ownby, and Virgil Allen, committee to get the church wired and choose fixtures for the lights; J. R. Dykes, W. Householder, J. J. Wade, and J. C. Lineburger, delegates to Chilhowee Association in 1903; Brother Sawyer, Sunday School Superintendent; D. A. Gossett, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent; Annie Householder, Secretary; Maude Norton, Assistant; A. W. Mize, Choirister, in 1904; Pauline Hodges, BYPU leader in 1924.

The 1943 building committee included Charles H. Smith, Edd Hodges, C. A. Tipton, J. F. Synder, O. R. Ownby, and Clifford Widner. September 5, 1948, Reverend A. A. Carlton, pastor, baptized Mamie Hodges, Nancy Ingle, Jacqueline Greene, Edna Hodges, Patsy Douglas, Shirley Gossett, and James Hardin.

When the old pastorium was sold and a building committee appointed to promote building a new home for the pastor in 1972, the committee included Jackie McCarter, and Kenneth Gibson. The church bought a lot from Mr. and Mrs. Theron Hodges, and the new home was ready for Pastor S. Ralph Clevenger and family in November 1973. Ministers ordained at Boyd's Creek: Brother Levy, Brother Joel Haggard, H. L. Houk, N. B. Houk, N. B. Goforth, H. G. Gossett, P.M. Atchley, J. H. Martan, and J. R. Dykes.

Pastors of Boyd's Creek: Elijah Rogers, Samuel Love, James Langford, William Billew, William Burnette, John Russell, John H. Martan, Noah Corum, P. M. Atchley, George W. Brewer, David H. Manly, E. L. Tittsworth, H. C. Hamstead, J. R. Cox, James F. Hale, J. Robert Dykes, Sam C. Atchley, William H. Hodges, Luther Chiles, J. A. Phillips, R. H. Lambright, W. A. Masterson, J. T. Barbee, T. T. Lewis, H. C. Adkins, Pryor M. Allen, George Hinchey, O. M. Drinnen, Vaughn Johnson, Floyd Harrill, J. H. Smothers, Harry T. Copeland, A. A. Carlton, and Luther Clark.

Sam B. Conner, Grover W. Splawn, Fred J. Wohlwend, William F. Keebler, James Ivey (Interim), and S. Ralph Clevenger. These pastors served during the years from 1802 through 1973.

The pastor is Reverend Ruble Thompson, 1989.

Information was taken from a history of Boyd's Creek written by Mary Ruth Reed.