

FRENCH BROAD VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Members of the Dumplin Creek Baptist Church “who lettered for the purpose of organizing a church at or near Douglass’s School house,” met at the school house on Wednesday night, May 10, 1893. “After devotional, exercises engaged in business.” They elected needed officers and fixed the day of organization of the new church for Thursday, May 25, 1893.

A Baptist Council, made up of elected members from Shady Grove, Beech Springs, and the Dumplin Creek Church, convened at the Douglass School on May 20, 1893 “for the purpose of approving the organization of the Baptist church and for examining the church as faith.” The church was approved and recognized by the council as a “Church of Christ.”

At this meeting, the church also received the name, French Broad Valley Baptist Church. They ordained the first deacons and minister, T. A. Lyle. D. F. Manley became pastor June 24, 1893.

From 1893 through 1983 the following pastors have served: D. F. Manley, J. M. White, H. E. Hamsted, Noah Bull, D. F. Manley, W. L. Cate, J. A. Atchley, J. H. Grubb, J. M. Fawver, George Hinchy, Walter Bailey, Lee H. Reed, Mansel Smith, John Fox, O. Perry Chesney, Troy Cody, Othey Woodby, Robert Cody, Arthur Petty, Henry Ruth, Jimmy Riner, Hardy Scarborough, Al Smith, Clyde Lakin, Kyle Cate, Colbert Strange, Ray Carr, Buford Wilson, Calvin Helton, W. A. Galyon, Creed McCoy, and Steven Jett.

Reverends Galyon, McCoy, and Strange were supply pastors. There may have been others serving in the years between 1905 and 1964 when some of the church records were lost.

In 1983, the Reverend Steven Jett was pastor. Deacons were Ben Whaley, Veryl C. Atchley, Eugene Hinkle, and Cobert Strange. Trustees were Ben Whaley, Tommy Simms, and Earl Stiles.

The church celebrated the ninetieth year in special services in the beautiful stone church May 15, 1983 when this historical sketch was printed in booklet form. Joe Easterly directed the Gatlinburg Hand Choir and slides were presented.

French Broad Valley Baptist Church is on Route 2. Douglas Dam Road, near Kodak. In 1983, Sunday school attendance was between 80 and 117 with an offering of \$973.

Pastor, Reverend Charles Harkleroad.

Information was taken from a 90th Anniversary bulletin and from Rosco Rule.