

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Christians in the Wears Valley vicinity near the Blount County line wanted so much to worship together that they began meeting in their homes and sometimes under the trees in yards.

November 6, 1936, they met in Park Settlement School to establish a Missionary Baptist Church. After singing and prayer, a council was formed using ministers and deacons from other Baptist churches. Reverend Melvin Parrot was elected moderator and E. E. Price, clerk.

After the “privilege to organize” was given by the council, the following people joined by letters from sister churches: Reverend Dennis and Eva Adams, Loy and Beada King, Cling and Rebecca Cogdill, Reverend Lawrence and Hester Nolan, Nora White and Ruth King.

Loy King became clerk and Reverend Robert Branton pastor. The people named the church “Friendship” and services were scheduled for every second Sunday.

The old Greenbrier Church was torn down and used to build the new church building. After adding on to the church several times, members pledged to erect a new building. The new church building was completed and dedicated May 11, 1975.

Friendship pastors include Levi Ogle, Lum Dixon, Lester Trentham, Raymond McCarter, Sheridan Lequire, Alex Adams, John Haynes, Earl Campbell, Milburn White, Richard Watson, Walter Ogle, Reverend Bohanan, Homer Burns, Herman King, Clifford Williams, Reverend Rawlings, and Elmer Seals.

In November 1986, the church celebrated the 50th anniversary with a special service. Reverend Milburn White was pastor.

Reverend Milburn White, pastor, 1989.

Information from Reverend White.