

GISTS CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Gist Creek Baptist Church was organized in 1869. In 1889, there were 126 members.

Pastor N. H. Haggard moderated the first recorded minutes in 1887 with G. W. Waters serving as clerk. Reverend C. Rule became pastor in 1888. Collection for the new pastor came to 35 cents.

Reverend G. A. Atchley accepted the call to pastor Gists Creek in 1889. By 1891, the church building needed repair. The first building was on a hill above the Fate and Sally Robert Reed home, better known as the Andy DeLozier property.

The old church building was made into a schoolhouse, the Reeds School. Later it was torn down and moved to the Dave Mize property. The former Gists Creek property was made into the Gists Creek Cemetery.

When a new church was built, community folks worked free of charge. Reverend Jim Brown, building contractor, held the first revival in the new church.

The first missionary "society" began the first Sunday in July 1891. From September 1891 to January 1892, the women, with help from the men, collected \$4.24, an average of 85 cents per month, as their sacrificial gift to missions.

In 1897 church was meeting in Ingles School House but by March, 1898, they voted to lock the old church doors, sell the house, and with money from the old building, to enclose the grave yard and use the remainder for building a new church house.

Some of the accomplishments through the years were to dig a well, build an outdoor baptismal pool, enlarge the parking area, carpet the church, and others.

In 1952, \$1,750 was used to build Sunday School rooms and buy furniture.

In 1954, the church bought a furnace, insulated the building and added new windows and the next year, brought pews and two chairs for the pulpit.

Many improvements were made through the years including building additional Sunday School rooms with a gift from George Winford Hodges of \$2,500.

Gists Creek was blessed with many faithful pastors, each contributing to the physical and spiritual welfare of the church. Gists Creek Baptist Church is a beautiful red brick building standing on a hill on Gists Creek Road just a few miles off of the old Knoxville-Sevierville Pike.

Pastors have been the Reverends Lowe, Huse Brown, J. R. Clabough, S. C.

Atchley, G. A. Atchley, Roscoe Rule, C. Rule, J. R. Clabough, D. B. Ogle, W. A. Masterson, J. H. Blair, Lee Reed, Ernest Parrott, W. E. Watson, W. W. Bailey, W. E. Conner, L. S. Carnes, R. B. Bohanan, Luther Rule, Glenn Whaley, Selvidge, N. H. Haggard, Walter Ownby, John Fox, Hulet Stogner, H. R. Whaley, Collie O'Shields, Earl Wilhoit, McKay Phillips, Hugh Cody, Lee Ownby, Robert King, Gary Farley, W. A. Galyon, J. Roy Stallings, Henry Woody, Dick Baumgardner, Ben Whitted, Ray F. Williams, and Jim White.

The listed pastors served from 1869 through 1988 (not listed in chronological order). Pastor, James White, 1989.

Information came from Mary Jane McCroskey, Jewel Clark, and her mother, Mrs. Lona Rule Clark, the oldest member at age 95 (1989).