

JONES CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist organized in 1848 with 35 members. Elders John Russell, who became pastor in 1849, and James Ray constituted a Presbytery. First deacons were Daniel Layman and John Layman.

H. L. Blair, Reverend John Russell, and John Layman were elected as a committee to plan a new meeting house and to lead in soliciting means for building it.

December 4, 1869 this report was read: "Whereas the Baptist Church at this place commenced building a church some time ago, and our Methodist Brethren propose to assist in completion of said house upon condition the church let them use said house when not occupied, by which was unanimously agreed to."

For 16 years, the Methodists shared the building they helped to construct, and they paid the Baptists \$160 for the use of it.

In 1895, the church elected a building committee for a second building. John Burchfield, Samuel J. Allen, and Samuel Brown served on the committee. On August 3, 1896, the new wooden structure, complete with bell, was dedicated and the church sold the old building for \$121.50, \$40.50 going to Eden Methodist Church, for helping in the construction.

Lightning struck this building July 6, 1969 at about 10 p.m. and it burned to the ground, with only the piano and pulpit stand saved. Pastor and Mrs. Melvin Carr had received word that their son, Danny, had been killed in the Vietnam War and services at the church had been called off.

Members met on Sunday after the church burned, and voted, while standing on the hill in the ashes of the church, to rebuild in the same place. Services were held in New Center School while the building was under construction.

Ralph Burchfiel, who headed the finance committee, appointed every member of the church as members of the committee. S. L. Allen chaired the building committee with members Hollis Loveday and Ralph Burchfiel.

Many people contributed to the rebirth of the new building. Gifts came from sister churches, organizations, businesses, and individuals. By the help of the Lord, the new 300-seat-capacity church was built. It had a baptistry, ten class rooms, and facilities to make it a beautiful and comfortable meeting place. The church shared the first service in the new building December 1, 1969.

L. Edward Williams was contractor, Chester Latham, former pastor, was overseer, and L. R. Allen served as treasurer. By September 15, 1970, the beautiful red brick building was paid for in full. One room was named the Danny Carr room, dedicated to

the memory of Reverend and Mrs. Melvin Carr's son who gave his life in Vietnam on July 4, 1969.

Pastors through 1988: Reverends John Russell, J. W. Coker, W. W. Bailey, Samuel Atchley, George Houser, Joseph Atchley, Isaac Parrott, J. N. Clabough, S. S. Story, J. R. Davis, Joseph Atchley, R. R. Rule, W. A. England, A. P. Valentine, Robert McCarter, John Fox, Ezra Adams, Robert McCarter, Joel Carr, Bill Manning, Lloyd Loveday, Robert King, Chester Latham, Ben Webb, Fred Haynes, Melvin Carr, Rellie Trentham, Earl Lane, Dwayne Johnson, Walter Ogle, Dallas Gibson, and James D. Allen.

The first pastor, Reverend John Russell, served for 39 years and the present pastor (1989), Reverend James D. Allen, is the great grandson of the first pastor, who was lovingly called "Uncle Jackie."

Pastor, Reverend James D. Allen.

Information, Rev. Allen and Lillard Allen.