

LAUREL BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

The organization of Laurel Branch Baptist Church dates back to 1911, the first place of worship being a log cabin about a mile below Pittman Center on the Little Pigeon River.

In 1923, Pastor Mid McCarter called a meeting at which time he appointed two committees to find a suitable building site and to obtain building material. Miles Green gave a lot to the church and by 1928, the structure was completed.

A special dedication service was held in the new church building featuring the Reverend W. W. Bailey who preached the dedication sermon and the Reverends Seldon Ogle and A. P. Valentine, also speaking.

Laurel Branch had the unusual experience of having three generations of McCarters serve as pastors. Reverend Mid McCarter came into the community forging the river on a big white horse, as some remember. He was pastor from 1911 to 1928.

Reverend Mid McCarter's son, Robert, also served as pastor as did his son, Otha McCarter. Reverend Otha McCarter pastored the church several times.

All through the years, the membership took pride in their church, re-roofing, bricking the outside walls, installing a central heating system, adding Sunday School classrooms, and new windows and doors.

Laurel Branch, in 1988, is a beautiful Baptist church serving a membership of 100. The pastor is the Reverend Bill Cantrell.

Pastor, Reverend Bill Cantrell, 1989.

Information came from Bessie M. King.