

MILLICAN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Millican Grove Baptist Church celebrated the one hundredth anniversary August 17, 1975. From that, special service comes this history presentation of the church:

Founded in 1875 with 26 charter members, the first meeting was held in a little log building near the site of the old Millican Grove School on Allensville Road.

Jesse Stafford donated a tract of land for a church and cemetery location March 31, 1877. Trustees were John Russell, A. J. Denton, and John Stafford.

Millican Grove was one of 24 churches forming the Sevier County Baptist Association. Messengers to the first Associational meeting were G. W. Rice, M. L. Maples, and Charles Russell.

Renovations on the original church, which was dedicated in, May 1911, included painting, carpeting, beautifying the outside, and purchasing an organ. In June 1916, additional land was purchased to be used for a hitching ground and an addition to the cemetery.

In 1916, the church began a Baptist Young People's Union and in 1921, a storm blew the church building down. One and a fourth acres of land bought from J. C. Hodges and in December 1921, a new church house was built. It is across the road from land on which the first building stood.

October 28, 1923, Reverend W. A. Atchley preached the dedication sermon in the new building. The total cost was \$3,500 which the church paid, leaving \$106.50 in the treasury.

In the years that followed, the church bought a piano, a coal-burning furnace, and after much deliberation, installed electricity in 1946. Nine Sunday School classrooms were added, a tool house built, new floors, a roof, and vestibule built and additional space for the cemetery purchased.

More recent improvements include an air compressor, oil furnace, front steps, an organ, two additional Sunday School rooms, and nursery. The church leased the community building from the county for 30 years at a dollar per year. The church sanctuary was completely renovated in 1975.

Thirty-two pastors served the church from 1887 through 1975, some serving more than one period. God has blest Millican Grove with good leadership through the years. Millican Grove Baptist Church still stands as the center of faith and praise in the community.

Pastor, Reverend Gary Kent, 1989.

Information from Maxine Hodges and Charles Gibson.