

## **MOUNTAIN VIEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

In 1931, Ralph Tarwater and others who were concerned about the lost in Goose Gap Community began having Sunday School in an old house known as the Aunt Jane Helton house.

The next year, Forks of the River School house near Park Headquarters was torn down and rebuilt near Bluff Mountain and Sunday School meetings were held in the school. The Reverend E. E. Adams held a revival and later became first pastor of Mountain View Missionary Baptist Church. Laurel Grove Missionary Baptist Church is Mountain View's "mother" church.

October 8, 1933 the church was organized and named "Mountain View Missionary Baptist Church." Reverend Adams was pastor and J. E. Price was church clerk.

Sister church members and ministers served as Council: Laurel Grove, represented by R. H. Cardwell, George Kerly, J. A. Sutton, Westly Suttles, Edward Suttles, Reverend Otha Ownby, W. M. Kerly, and Z. C. Caylor. New Era's representatives were L. H. Jenkins and E. S. Franklin. From Dupont were J. D. Drinnon and A. L. Householder. Hurst Chapel sent G. W. Brewer. From EliJoy came J. R. Davis. W. L. Adams represented East Maryville Missionary Baptist Church. Pigeon Forge sent Walter Ownby and E. B. Ownby. Old Chilhowee was represented by J. E. Ellison, Will Garner, Sam Garner, J. B. Hurst, Frank Flanagan, and Reverend E. E. Adams.

In 1934, the church applied for and was granted admission to the Sevier County Baptist Association. Plans for building a church began that year.

L. S. Sarton, Joe McGill, and George Helton were named to the building committee and W. W. Price donated land for a church and cemetery. Members gave timber for building lumber and the first service was held in the new building January 30, 1937.

The building was dedicated on Sunday, July 31, 1938 with Reverend W. W. Bailey preaching the dedication sermon.

Members gave labor and handmade items for the church. In 1942, Nick Ogle made a record board. In 1956, Reverend Bethel Crisp donated the directional sign at the turn-in and furnished materials for a sign at front of the church made by Wilburn Helton in 1962. Reverend Bill Tarwater gave the church a table. In 1966, Grady Lowe and Mrs. Kate Huskey gave a copy of the Covenant to the church and Kate Huskey had the church organization date printed on it. Jack Edward Parton made a frame and Glenn Huskey donated the glass to cover the church covenant, which still hangs in the sanctuary.

Electricity was not installed until late in 1948. In 1950, a committee was

appointed to plan added classrooms: Clay Ogle, Jessie Seagle, and Glenn Huskey. The decision was to build a basement. At completion, a furnace was installed. Mrs. Pauline Whaley was first elected pianist to play the new piano bought in 1954.

The next two years were spent in remodeling the church. More land was bought to expand the cemetery and new pews were added in 1959 just in time for the youth of the church, under direction of Kate Huskey and Dorothy Helton, to give the first Christmas play. Carpeting was added in 1961. In 1964, the church had to add more classrooms and inside restrooms.

Happenings in 1969 included organization of Woman's Missionary Union, beginning perfect attendance pin presentations, covering the church outside with aluminum siding, and receiving a gift of the Bluff Mountain School property bought and donated by Wilbur Helton. In 1971, the church was air-conditioned and in 1973, a sound system was installed.

The church purchased a bus in 1975 and in 1976, plans began to pave the large parking area.

Pastors of Mountain View Missionary Baptist Church from 1933 to 1975 were: Reverends E. E. Adams, Willey Garner, Joe Carr, Walter Ownby, Fred W. Ownby, John Williams, Audley Cummins, J. H. Blair, Richard Watson, L. L. Whaley, Earl Wilhoite, Andy Ball, Kyle Rule, Jack Edward Parton, Rex Waters, J. L. Sutton, Edward Adams, Chester Latham, and Ray Carr.

From 1931 to 1975, church membership grew from 50 to over 300.

The church licensed to preach: David Ogle, W. H. Tarwater, Jessie Price, Bethel Crisp, Wilford Watson, Joe Trentham, and Robert Ownby. They ordained Reverends W. H. Tarwater, Jessie Price, and Bethel Crisp.

Pastor, Reverend Chester Latham, 1989

Information from Mrs. Raymond Ownby