

## OAK CITY BAPTIST CHURCH

A group of students from Johnson's Bible College came into the small community of Oak City near Boyd's Creek in late 1940 looking for homes in which to hold prayer meetings. Several families in the community responded by inviting them and neighbors into their homes for prayer.

The next step toward having a church came when the group began having services in the vacated Oak City Elementary School building. With the help of Reverend Roy Arwood, the group established a Missionary Baptist Church November 8, 1942. There were 19 charter members. Reverend Arwood left the church soon after organization to begin another church.

Reverend A. R. Kitts from Chilhowee Baptist Academy accepted the call as pastor of Oak City January 3, 1943. With his leadership and members' determination, the church bought a parcel of land and constructed a church building. The new church building was dedicated in April 1945.

Oak City Baptist Church became a member of the Sevier County Baptist Association in 1946.

A second building was erected in *1959* and the church grew through the years, both physically and spiritually. Membership in 1988 was 200.

Pastor, Reverend Jeff Hickman, 1989.

Information from Geri Gibson.