

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, SEVIERVILLE

Second Baptist Church of Sevierville resulted from the efforts of a small band of believers meeting in a Sevierville home, agreeing on the need for a church in West Sevierville, designating a committee, and in the same year, 1952, beginning the building of a simple block building. The first service was held in the new church July 23, 1952.

Formal organization took place under leadership of a group of ministers and laymen March 19, 1953. Charter members were Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Clinton, Curtis Clinton, Ada Clinton, Kate Watson, Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Huskey, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Cusick, Grant Adams, Bill Adams, Crettie Adams, and Bonnie Adams. The new church called Orville Valentine as pastor and in the period from April 1953, through August 1956, the 18 charter membership grew to 114 members, one third of them coming by baptism.

Pastors have been the Reverends Orville Valentine from May 5, 1953 to July of the same year, J. D. Compton from August 1, 1953 to March 1956, A. C. Wadley from April 22, 1956, through October 1962. The Reverend Robert Cody began his pastorate January 6, 1963. He served as pastor for 26 years, through June of 1989.

On May 7, 1967, a special meeting was called to consider adding an educational building to the existing church building and remodeling the sanctuary. By July 1967, all loans had been approved to begin the building program. The finished building is a red brick church, beautifully furnished with comfortable facilities for every need. In October 1967, the church voted to complete the work program and to install a central heat and air system.

Second Baptist Church, Sevierville, is a member of the Sevier County Baptist Association, often serving as host to Association meetings. The church staunchly supports the Association with leadership and with finances. Members are both proud and humble, thankful and committed to extending spiritual service to all who will worship at Second Baptist Church, Sevierville.

Pastor, Reverend Robert Cody, 1989.

Information, Patsy Hodges.