

WILLIAMSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Williamsburg Missionary Baptist Church was organized September 11, 1949, with the Reverend J. L. Helton moderating. In October of 1949 Edward Price, Samuel Hobe Maples, and Carl Dennis were elected trustees.

Violet Price presided over a February 2, 1950 business meeting when the Reverend Richard Watson was called as pastor. The membership voted to locate the building on a Stinnett lot.

The Reverend Joel Carr became pastor September 17, 1950 and in December of that year, he appointed Clifford Price, Thomas Ogle, and Herman Large as a building committee.

The church voted to deed Mr. Stinnett's lot back to him, and they accepted a new site selected by the building committee. The proposed building was to be constructed of rock-faced blocks.

On February 18, 1951, Samuel Hobe Maples filled the place of Thomas Ogle on the building committee and pledges of \$325 were given. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Price pledged the deed and grounds for the building.

January 6, 1952, the site Clifford Price had pledged was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Hanson T. Price, but ownership was transferred by sale of this and another tract to Hanson and Violet Price.

Williamsburg church began a fully organized Sunday School in 1950, and they agreed to ask for membership in the Sevier County Baptist Association August 19, 1951, being accepted by the Association.

A large congregation assembled in the new building November 16, 1952, to hear Dr. Wyatt bring the special message. The Reverend Francis Wright helped organize a Training Union the next year.

The Reverend Carr resigned April 4, 1954 and the church called the Reverend Otha McCarter as pastor June 13, 1954.

The church ordained three deacons April 17, 1955: Luther Campbell, Ezra Litton, and S. H. Maples. October 30, 1955 about 175 people heard Reverend McCarter deliver the dedication service, ending with a special prayer of thanksgiving. Ken Maples, Carl McCarter, and Cates Ogle led the singing; C. S. Kyker returned thanks and Reverend Richard Watson preached. Reverends Clarence Wilson, Edward McCarter, and W. B. Williams gave testimonies.

In 1970, the church relocated and rebuilt. The property given by the Hanson Price family was deeded back to them with a standing vote of appreciation.

Some “firsts” at Williamsburg: Trustee Clifford Price died July 26, 1959, the first death from the membership. Ezra Litton was named trustee, filling Mr. Price’s place. Full-time preaching began October 2, 1960. Wednesday prayer meeting began February 5, 1961. Melba Price was the first pianist, elected in 1961. Messengers to the Association in 1953 were Violet Price, Tinnie Price, and Willie Mae Huskey.

The first Christmas program given by the young people was December 23, 1954. Vacation Bible School began in July 1956. Arlie Maples and Herman Large became trustees in 1957. In 1962, the church began youth services on Thursday nights. February 3, 1963, the church voted to send \$5 to the Association.

The church elected Edward Parton as assistant pastor in 1964. Xan Cogdill and Herman Large were ordained as deacons March 14, 1965.

Some of the early pastors were the Reverends Richard Watson, Joel Carr, Otha McCarter, Earl Campbell, M. L. Plemons, Clarence Wilson. James Edwin Whaley, Kenneth Hurst (assistant pastor), Ben Knight, 1989.

Williamsburg Missionary Baptist Church helped many needy families down through the years, putting into practice the Bible command to take care of the needy. They still exercise a spiritual influence in their community.

Information Violet G. Price.