

ZION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Organized in 1908, Zion Grove Baptist Church became a member of the Sevier County Baptist Association in 1909 when the church sent H. H. Campbell and R. H. Cardwell as messengers. The pastor was Reverend M. McCarter. Membership that year numbered 44 with John Cutshaw as church clerk and S. H. Clark as Sunday School superintendent.

The Reverend W. E. Conner became pastor in 1910, followed by Reverend Eli Thomas in 1911. W. M. Ownby served as church clerk and W. D. Campbell as Sunday School superintendent.

In 1913 Zion Grove elected Reverend Thomas Parton as pastor, in 1915 Reverend W. F. Conner, 1917 Reverend J. E. Hicks, 1919 Reverend D. L. Atchley, and in 1921 Reverend W. R. King. Membership had reached 184.

Reverend S. C. Atchley became pastor in 1923, Reverend J. L. Helton, in 1924, Reverend S. C. Atchley returned in 1925, Reverend W. R. King in 1927, Reverend Thomas Belcher in 1928. There had been a slight decline in membership, which was 172.

Reverend L. D. Noland pastored Zion Grove in 1933 through 1935 when Reverend J. P. Davis accepted the pastorate. Reverend Walter Ogle was called in 1937 when Nannie Campbell was church clerk and Mrs. H. S. Hill was Sunday School superintendent.

In 1939, Reverend James Franklin was pastor. During his pastorate, Mrs. James Franklin served as church clerk. Reverend Richard Watson pastored the church in 1944 through 1946.

Melvin Watson became pastor in 1949, Reverend Colic O'Shields in 1951, Reverend Otha McCarter in 1952, Reverend Francis Wright in 1953.

Reverend Wright was pastor for three years. The church called Reverend Melvin Carr in 1956, Reverend Richard Watson in 1957, and Reverend Oda Wilson in 1959.

In 1960 Reverend Bill Cantrell was pastor, followed by Reverends Colic O'Shields, Henry Morton, John Fox, Arnold "Bub" McCarter, Larry Ward, Henry Morton from 1968 through 1970, Don Compton for three years, Curtis Wells in 1974, Don Compton in 1975, L. R. Dobbins in 1977, D. A. Cole in 1979, Roy Caldwell in 1981, Ronnie Huskey for four years beginning in 1982 and D. A. Cole in 1986.

The organizing church body first met in Sheep Pen and they built a frame church building on land donated by S. F. Paine. The last charter member to worship in the

church was Geneva Paine Brown. The 'wooden building kept in good repair and added on to with several comfortable renovations, is still in use.

The church is located in the midst of Camp Smoky and the membership always cooperates with the Association summer camp, allowing use of the church. It is truly a beautiful mountain church.

Most information came from the Association Books of Minutes.