

OLD TOWN CREEK

— *Baptist Church* —



1818-2018

“Celebrating the Faithfulness of God”

“Celebrating the Faithfulness of God”

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for **He is faithful that promised...**”

-Hebrews 10:23

May 27th, 2018

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mrs. Betty Montgomery, Chairperson

Mrs. Magdalene “Maggie” Johnson

Mrs. Andrea LouAllen

Mrs. Belinda Kimbrough

Mrs. Misty Stricklin

Bro. Johnny L. Riggs

Bro. Ed Herring

Rev. Brandon Kerby, Pastor

Dedications



Bro. William Clanton Hovater

1935 - 2012



Bro. Robin Wayne Kimbrough

1961 - 2017

The office of the deacon is one that requires a meek spirit and servant's heart. We dedicate this book in memory of two of the humblest servants of God that have ever walked the hallways of our church. May we continue to share in that same spirit and follow their example, for they certainly followed Christ.

Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.

-1 Corinthians 11:1 (CSB)

A Word From Our Pastor...

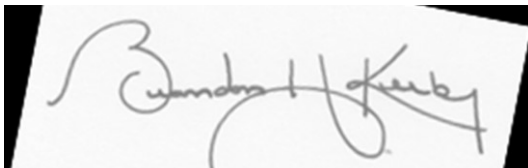
Dear Friend,

Today is a very special day within the life of our church, for on this day we celebrate TWO HUNDRED consecutive years of Christian ministry! More importantly, we are *“Celebrating the Faithfulness of God”* and what a worthy celebration it is as we consider all the mighty works that God has done in us and through us over the past two centuries. Since May of 1818, Old Town Creek Baptist Church has stood in this community as a beacon of hope, lighting the way for lost and wayward people, helping them find their way back to God. It is my heart’s desire and prayer to God that He will continue to bless the ministry efforts of this church so that we may continue the work of the Great Commission for many more years to come.

Let me encourage you to take a moment and complete a “Welcome Card” so that we can connect with you after the service and keep you updated on the activities going on here in the church. After you have completed the card, feel free to drop it in the offering plate as it comes around or leave it with someone at the door on your way out.

Again, thank you for being here today and please know that YOU ARE LOVED by Jesus and by our church family. May God bless you!

Serving at the pleasure of the King,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Randy H. Kerby". The signature is written in black ink on a white background, which appears to be a piece of paper or a card. The signature is centered and occupies most of the width of the image.

About Our Guest Speaker...



State Missionary Rick Lance was elected in June of 1998 to serve as Executive Director of the State Board of Missions and Treasurer of the Alabama Baptist Convention. Rick leads state mission efforts and facilitates Great Commission Ministries for the Convention's 3,200+ churches and more than one million Alabama Baptists. Rick and his wife, Pam, are members at First Baptist Church, Montgomery. They have two daughters. Prior to becoming the executive director of the State Board of Missions and treasurer of the Alabama Baptist Convention, Dr.

Lance served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa; First Baptist Church, Cullman; West End Baptist Church, Birmingham; and Valence Street Baptist Church, New Orleans, La. Thank you, Dr. Lance, for joining us in celebrating two hundred years of God's faithfulness!

Denominational Service: 1979-1983, served on State Executive Board; 1983-1985, first vice president, Alabama Baptist Convention; 1985, chairman, properties committee, Alabama Baptist Convention; 1985, acting chairman of personnel committee for Executive Committee of the State Board of Missions; 1985-1995, trustee of Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board; 1988-1992, trustee, Samford University; 1989-present, member of New Orleans Seminary Foundation Board; 1990-1992, president, Alabama Baptist State Convention; 1993, member, feasibility study committee, Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers; 1988-1990 and 1993-1995, Strategic Planning Task Force, Alabama Baptist Convention; 1996-1998, vice chairman, Bylaws Review Committee, Alabama Baptist Convention; 1997 trustee, Judson College; 2006, President, Executive Directors Association, Southern Baptist Convention.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Speech, Samford University; Master of Divinity in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Ministries, New Orleans Seminary; Ed.D. in Pastoral Counseling and Preaching, New Orleans Seminary; D.D., Judson College; Doctor of Humane Letters, Samford University.

200th Anniversary Celebration

Old Town Creek Baptist Church

May 27, 2018

10:00 AM -----Sunday School Small Groups

11:00 AM -----Morning Worship Celebration

Welcome-----Pastor Brandon Kerby

**Invocation----- Rev. Robert Smith, Director of Missions
*Muscle Shoals Baptist Association***

**Presentation-----Mr. Jerry Armor, Commissioner
*Alabama Baptist Historical Commission***

Call to Worship-----Hymn #417 "Victory In Jesus"

Choir Presentation

Congregational Worship-----Hymn # 54 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Offering

Special Music

**Message-----Dr. Rick Lance, Executive Director
*Alabama State Board of Missions***

Invitation

Benediction ----- Bro. Larry Kimbrough

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

1:30 PM -----Afternoon Worship Celebration

Welcome-----Pastor Brandon Kerby

Invocation----- Bro. Norman McLemore

Call to Worship-----Hymn # 136 "Are You Washed In The Blood"

Recognition of Former Pastors -----Pastor Brandon Kerby

Special Music-----The Abundant Life Trio

Closing Prayer-----Bro. Wendell Mitchell

A HISTORY of (OLD) TOWN CREEK BAPTIST

In the year 1816, Russell Valley began to be settled by the whites. Among these settlers, Elder John Davis, formerly of Georgia, but more recently from Tennessee, an ordained minister, was instrumental in constituting Russell Valley Church, in 1817, on thirty-two members. Elders Bennet Wood and Jennings were the presbytery. Elder Davis was the first pastor. Soon, by the indefatigable labors of her pastor, this church became the mother of several churches. In May, 1818, Town Creek Church was constituted, Elders Davis and Skinner being the presbytery. Elder Abner Smith was called as its pastor. On the third Saturday in May, 1818, Hepzibah Church was constituted by the same presbytery. Solomon Smith and Jeremiah Ward became their supply.

TOWN CREEK CHURCH.

This church was one of the constituent members of the association, and was organized in May, 1818. Elders John Davis and Theophilous Skinner being the presbytery. It is located in Lawrence county, eight miles west of Moulton, on the public road leading from Moulton to Russellville. It is in the midst of a rich and populous neighborhood. We have not been able to secure the records of this church, and cannot give the names of its constituent members and its first deacons. Its first pastor was Abner Smith, who was member of Russell Valley Church. How long he served we are not able to say. In 1827, D. Coopwood and Wm. Coopwood and Thos. Elkins were messengers to the association. It had a membership then of thirty-six. It is not stated who was the pastor at that time. In 1833, the fourteenth session of the association was held with this church.

In 1840, A. L. Stovall, George D. Cleere and Jephtha West were appointed delegates to the association. Brother Stovall was elected clerk of the association at this meeting and continued clerk for many years. He was not at this time a minister. He became one soon after, however, as we see by the minutes that, in 1842, he was put down as an ordained minister. He was pastor

of this church for a number of years—up to 1852, when he removed to Mississippi. Elder G. D. Russell succeeded him and served one year. Elder J. C. Roberts succeeded him, and served until 1856, when Elder W. H. Barksdale became pastor. Elder J. C. Roberts was its pastor in 1858 and 1859. Elder Thos. Nicholson was pastor from 1860 to 1862. In 1863 and 1864, part of the time, Elder Jos. Shackelford was pastor. After this, Elder J. C. Roberts was pastor for several years. He was succeeded by Elder

J. Gunn, who was pastor for one year. Then Elder Roberts again became pastor. He was followed by Elders J. S. Gibson and R. T. Wear. Elder S. R. C. Adams was the pastor one year, 1886. Elder R. T. Wear succeeded him, and is the present pastor. The names of all the deacons of the church we have not been able to procure. We mention a few: Brothers Jonathan Sandlin, Jephtha West, T. Jones, J. H. Caruth, W. S. Johnson, L. A. Stephens, L. M. Wear.

This church has sent out quite a number of ministers, we mention the following: A. L. Stovall, J. C. Roberts, R. T. Wear, Wm. Stockton, J. I. Stockton, J. M. Roberts, L. R. Craig. It has also been the mother of several churches. Mt. Hope and New Prospect Churches were formed from members of this church. At one time, it was the largest church in the association, having over 300 members. Its membership now is 207. Elder R. T. Wear is its faithful pastor. Under his administration, the church has grown in spiritual strength, if not in members. It has a large and commodious house of worship. Brother J. N. Jackson is the clerk.

These articles are excerpts written by Rev. Josephus Shackelford (pictured on the right) and published in 1891 in his book History of The Muscle Shoals Baptist Association.



A HISTORY of (OLD) TOWN CREEK BAPTIST

Town Creek Baptist Church is the oldest Baptist church in Lawrence County. The congregation was established in May of 1818 while Alabama was still a territory. The church was one year and seven months into its existence at the time that Alabama was admitted into the Union as the twenty-second state on December 19th, 1819. The name was later changed to “Old” Town Creek Baptist to eliminate confusion between this congregation and the church at Town Creek Station (now First Baptist Church of Town Creek).

The church is located eight miles West of Moulton at the intersection of what is now Alabama Highway 101 and Lawrence County Road 460 (Old Alabama Highway 24). The first church building located on the property was a log structure. In the church minutes dated April of 1855, it is recorded that the old building was sold for the sum of ten dollars. In the church minutes dated October 1853, it was recorded that a committee should be formed to calculate the cost of finishing the house of worship. The current building has been in use since that year. There have been many changes to the building over the years, but the basic structure remains the same with the original hand-hewn floor joists and internal skeleton. In 1971, the church building underwent a massive remodel effort. The building was moved from its original position (running parallel with the road) and was relocated further back into the “grove” and positioned to face the road. An educational building complete with a full basement was added across the back of the building. A kitchen and dining area were added in the basement. The sanctuary was remodeled by adding new carpet, new pews, new furnishings, and a new baptistry complete with a scenic mural painted by John Lavert Riggs. On Homecoming Day 1980 (May 25th) a note burning ceremony took place, celebrating the complete pay-off of the educational building.

On March 5th, 1997 the regular monthly business session was called to order and it was during that meeting that the Building and Grounds Committee presented the members of the church with an architectural rendering of a future building expansion project. In May of 1997 the following measures were approved by the congregation at Old Town Creek:

1. Build a 60 ft. extension to the education building with classrooms in the basement and a fellowship hall on the upper level.
2. Budget \$100,000.00 for the project and once the building fund is depleted, the amount needed to complete the project will be borrowed by the trustees.
3. Employ Bro. B.H. Hale to have oversight for the construction project. He will have the responsibility for contracting each specialized area.

On August 27th, 1997 the church voted to borrow a total of \$65,000.00 in order to make improvements to the existing building. In April of 1999 the church voted to take up a special offering and combine that amount with the \$6,285.41 in the building fund in order to renovate the sanctuary. Plans were made, the work began, and the sanctuary was completed in the

Summer of 2000. New choir chairs were purchased by generous donations and were delivered in May of 2001 just before 183rd Homecoming Celebration. On Homecoming Day 2007 (May 27th) a note burning ceremony took place, celebrating the complete pay-off of the new extension and church renovations.



Photos from the note burning ceremony - May 27th, 2007



From left to right: Rev. Alan Compton, Rev. R.C. Borden,
Mrs. Betty Montgomery, and Bro. Roger Craig.

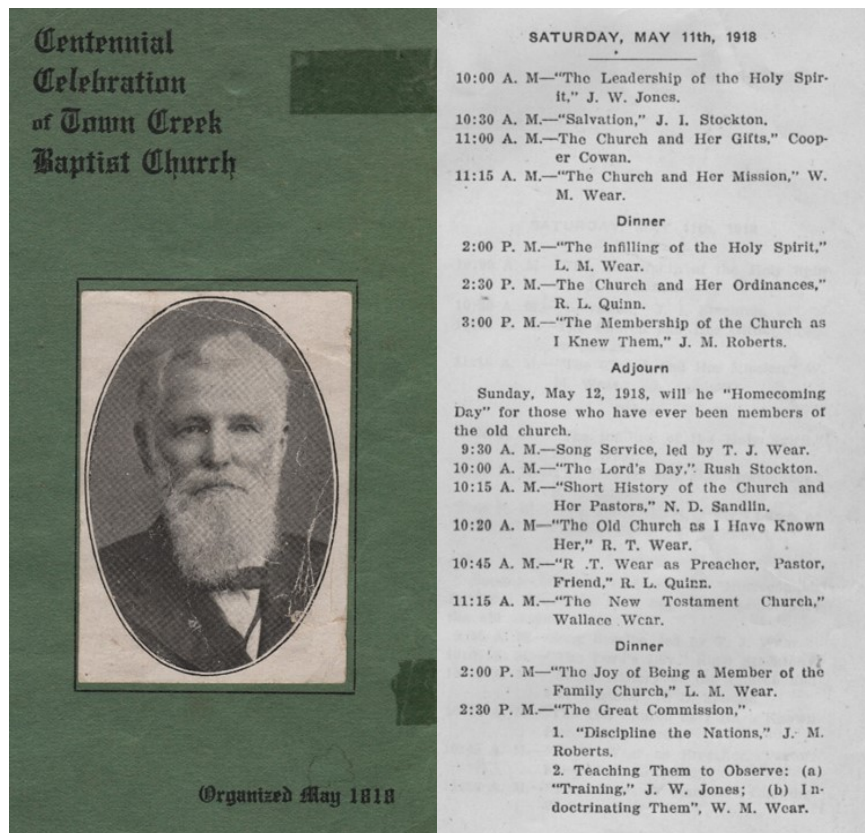
THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION – MAY 1918



The following article is an excerpt of the historical sketch compiled by Wallace Wear (pictured on the left) and was published in the event program used at the Centennial Celebration of Town Creek Baptist Church on May 11th and 12th, 1918.

“Town Creek Baptist Church was organized in May of 1818 with Elders John Davis and Theophilous Skinner as a presbytery. Elder Abner Smith a member of Russells Valley Baptist Church was pastor.

The charter members of the church are not given, but a few years after the organization of the church, messengers from the church D. Coopman, Wm. Coopman, and Thomas Elkins reported to the Association that the church had thirty-six members on roll. The fourteenth session of the Association met with the Town Creek Church in 1833.”



Pictured Above: The program cover and Order of Service from the Centennial Celebration held at Town Creek Baptist Church on May 11th and 12th, 1918.

Rev. R.T. Wear is pictured on the cover. It was during this service that he became the first and only “Pastor Emeritus” in Old Town Creek History.

Abstract of Principals

A statement of faith adopted and recorded by (Old) Town Creek Baptist Church in 1837.

“We do jointly engage in the strength of the Lord and through His assistance to keep the faith as it was once delivered to the Saints which we believe to contain the following sublime and important doctrines: The being of a God, a Trinity of persons in the Godhead, that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and the only rule of faith and practice, the fall of Adam, the degeneracy of his posterity, corruption of Human Nature and the inability of fallen man to do that which is spiritually good, the everlasting love of God to His people, a covenant of grace with Jesus Christ, election in Him before the foundation of the world and a particular redemption by His blood, justification by the imputation of Christ’s righteousness, pardon and reconciliation through Him, calling regeneration and sanctification by the influence and operation of the Holy Spirit, the final perseverance of the Saint in Grace, the resurrection of the dead and general judgment that the days of righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal, and that baptism is by immersion in water and that none but regularly baptized persons have a right to commune together at the Lord’s Table, also that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordained, but such as are regularly baptized, called and come under the imposition of hands by the presbytery.”

The Rules of Decorum

***Rules of Order for church meetings adopted
and recorded by (Old) Town Creek Baptist Church in 1837.***

- Article I.** Conference shall be ruled by a moderator chosen by the church, who shall continue until a successor be appointed, whose duty it shall be to keep order, and he shall have the same liberty of such speech that any other member has, by nominating some other member to act in his stead.
- Article II.** When the church is convened in order and organized, in the first place a door for the admission of members shall be opened.
- Article III.** After the reception of members, all matters respecting fellowship shall next be attended to, those on record first in order.
- Article IV.** Reference relating to other things shall next be attended to.
- Article V.** But one person shall speak at one time and he (will) rise to his feet and address the moderator and not be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject in debate or uses personal reflections.

- Article VI** Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the church and (if) there is more than one motion before the church at the same time, on the same subject, the first motion shall be first in order, but one motion shall be attended to until the former one is disposed of.
- Article VII.** No male member shall depart the service of the church without leave, while setting in conference.
- Article VIII.** No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition without leave.
- Article IX.** The application of Brother and Sister shall be used in our addresses to one another.
- Article X.** No member shall be allowed in any practice that has a tendency to interrupt in the time of speech.
- Article XI.** The choice of a pastor to be at the December meeting in each year and shall be governed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present, but the reception of members must be unanimous and the dismissal of members must be unanimous and the dismissal by letters unanimous. The excluding of members and all other business shall be decided by a majority.
- Article XII.** Upon ordinary occasions three male members with any number of sisters shall constitute a quorum to transact church business, but when business of extraordinary consequence shall come before the church, not less than two-thirds of the males shall be required.
- Article XIII.** Every male member shall keep a copy of the rules of decorum and it shall be the duty of the clerk to read them and the abstract of principals every three months.
- Article XIV.** Conference shall be opened and closed by prayer made by the moderator or some person whom he may nominate.

What We Believe...

About The Bible

We believe both the Old and New Testaments are a divine revelation and constitute the complete Word of God to us. The Bible was recorded by selected men who wrote under the inspiration and superintendence of The Holy Spirit. The Bible is fully inspired in every word, as originally given. The Bible is our only authority in all matters of faith and practice and should be preached with confidence and authority. (II Timothy 3: 1-17, II Peter 3: 15-16; Revelation 22:19)

About The Trinity

We believe in one living and true God. God is spirit, light, and love. Theologically, God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His wisdom, power, presence, unity, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and love. Thus, God is sovereign. God is revealed as self-existent and self-revealing in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who share the same attributes and are worthy of the same worship, confidence and obedience, each one having a distinct place in the execution of divine purpose. (Genesis 1:1; Deut. 4:35, Deut. 6:4, John 4:24, I John 1:5, Psalm 94: 9-10, Hebrews 1:8)

About God The Father

We believe in God the Father, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom and measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all that come to Him through Jesus Christ. (II Samuel 7:14; Deut. 32:6; Matt. 23:9; John 4: 21, 23)

About The Lord Jesus Christ – God The Son

We believe the second Person of the Trinity is the Son whose name is the Lord Jesus Christ. He existed eternally with the Father, and at the time of His birth, without change in His Deity, became man through the miracle of His divine conception and virgin birth. He lived a sinless, impeccable life, died a substitutionary death for all men, was buried and physically arose from the grave on the third day. He ascended into Heaven, is presently performing His intercessory and mediatorial ministry, and has promised to return to rapture the church, prior to the Tribulation, at the conclusion of which He will institute His Davidic reign over Israel and the nations. (John 3:16; Isaiah 53: 4,5; Hebrews 1:3; John 1:1; Matt. 18:11)

About God The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead and is the divine agent in Creation, revelation, and redemption. He convicts the world of sin, calls, brings the New Birth, seals, and places the believer into the Body of Christ. He indwells all who are born again and empowers and gifts them for service, illumines their understanding of the truth and promotes sanctification in all who become children of God through faith in Christ. (John 14: 16,17; 16:6-15; I Corinthians 2:12; Acts 1:8; Romans 8: 9,30)

About The Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation and this is to be accepted literally, not figuratively. Man was created directly from God's own image and after His own likeness and did not evolve from any lower form of life; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly by God and His established law is that they bring forth only "after their kind." (Genesis 1:1, 2:25; Hebrews 11:3)

About The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God immediately and apart from any process of evolution. Because of Adam's personal disobedience to the revealed will of God, man became sinful and subject to the power of the devil. The sinful nature of Adam has been transmitted to the entire human race so that man is not only a sinner by nature, choice and practice, but guilty before God and possesses within himself no means of recovery or salvation. (Genesis 1: 27-31; Genesis 3: 6-7; Romans 3: 9-18, 23; John 1:12)

About The Way of Salvation

Salvation is by the grace of God through a free gift that is neither merited (deserved) nor secured in whole or in part by any virtue or work of man. The single ground or basis of salvation is the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and the single condition is faith imparted through Biblical gospel truth and thus enabling man by free choice to receive Christ as personal Savior. (Ephesians 2: 8-10; I John 4:10; Acts 15:11; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:19; Romans 10:17; John 5:24; Romans 10: 9-10; John 1:12)

About Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is presented in three phases in Scripture: that believers have been made partakers of Christ's holiness the moment they are born again, that they will be completely sanctified at their glorification, and that there is no complete removal of the old nature here on earth in progressive sanctification. Progressive or gradual sanctification begins at salvation and continues throughout life. Sanctification is the point of life when a believer renounces the desire to live for self and desires to live totally for the glory of God. (Hebrews 10:10; I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 3:18; John 17:17; Philipians 3: 12-16; Galatians 5:17)

About The Local Church

We believe there is a spiritual body of Christ called the Church, into which all true believers of this dispensation have been baptized by the Holy Spirit. Its only officer is its Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that a local, visible church is a congregation of baptized believers associated together by a common faith and fellowship in the Gospel; observing the ordinance of Christ and governed by His Word; seeking to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth; that its only Scriptural officers are Pastors (or Bishops), Elders / Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus. Old Town Creek Baptist Church is an autonomous local church that voluntarily partners with the Southern Baptist Convention for the purposes of unity and effectiveness in reaching the world for Jesus Christ. (Matthew 18:17; Acts 5:11; Acts 8:1; Acts 2: 41-42; I Corinthians 11: 23-24; II Timothy 3: 15-16; I Timothy 3: 1-6; Titus 1: 5-9)

About Baptism and The Lord's Supper

*We believe that God ordained two ordinances of the Church: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Each are a memorial, a symbol and a prophecy. Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is a testimonial, a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. Baptism pictures our death to sin, and resurrection to new life. Christian Baptism by immersion is a prerequisite to the membership into the local church. The Lord's Supper is receive in remembrance of Christ's death for our sins – the bread representing His body and the fruit of the vine representing His blood. It is in remembrance of God's love and grace toward us, and the love we must share with one **another**, preceded always by solemn self-examination. (Romans 6: 3-4; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:28; I Corinthians 5: 1, 8; I Corinthians 11: 17-32)*

About Eternity

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is eternal death. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. (John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8: 17-18; Revelation 20: 15; I Corinthians 2: 7-9)

MINUTES.

The delegates composing the Sixty Eighth Annual Session of the Muscle Shoals Association of Baptists, convened with the Town Creek Baptist Church, Lawrence County, Alabama, on Friday, the 30th day of September, 1887, at 11 A. M. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Josephus Shackelford, from the parables of the talents and ten pounds found in Matthew 25th chapter, 14-30 verses, and Luke 19th chapter, 12-26 verses. After the sermon, there was a recess of one hour and a quarter.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the former Moderator, Elder J. Gunn. Elder Jos. Shackelford, the former Clerk, took his place at the Clerk's table. The Association was opened by singing, reading of the scriptures and prayer by Rev. J. M. Thomas. An address of welcome was made by Rev. R. T. Wear, Pastor of Town Creek church, which was responded to by the Moderator. Bros. C. G. Lynch, John Speer, and John E. Weaver were appointed reading clerks. The following churches were represented by letter and delegates:

Russelville—Wm East, Peter Clay, John Byars.
Mt Pleasant—A H Stanley, Henry Gargis, R R Maye.
Okolona—W D Braswell.
Bethany—Jackson Patterson.
Town Creek—R T Wear, James S Gibson, George W Jackson.
Salem—J M Roberts, A Heflin, J P Pearson.
Moulton—Mat Lyon, O D Gibson, C G Lynch.
Harmony—J S Howell, W S Howell.
Mission Grove—J W Yates.
Gum Spring (L)—W H Muston.
Zion (L)—Letter, no delegates.
Enon—W M Duke, J T Wallace, R L Key.
Hillsboro—S J Porter, J W Wallace.
Decatur—J Gunn, Jos Shackelford.
Pleasant Hill—John Speer, J S Hale, W P Hill.

The Pastors of Old Town Creek Baptist Church

Absalom "Abner" Smith	1818-1827 *
Sylvanus Gibson	1834-1840 *
Absalom Lewis "A.L." Stovall	1841-1852 *
George Daniel "G.D." Russell Jr.	1853
John Chapman "J.C." Roberts	1853-1856
William Henry Barksdale	1856
Jackson Gunn	1857
John Chapman "J.C." Roberts	1858-1860
Thomas Nicholson	1860-1862
John Chapman "J.C." Roberts	1862-1864
Josephus Shackelford	1864-1866
John Chapman "J.C." Roberts	1866-1871
Robert Tipton "R.T." Wear	1872
J.S. Gibson and Robert Tipton "R.T." Wear	1872-1873
John Chapman "J.C." Roberts	1873-1874
J.S. Gibson and Robert Tipton "R.T." Wear	1874-1877
Robert Tipton "R.T." Wear	1877-1885
Simeon R.C. Adams	1886
Robert Tipton "R.T." Wear	1886-1907
J.M. Roberts	1907-1911
Robert Tipton "R.T." Wear	1911-1917
Supply Preachers	November 1917 – March 1918
J.W. Jones	1918-1919
James Alwynne Davis	1920-1931
Supply Preachers	1932-1934
Oscar Montgomery	1935-1938
John C. Coggin	1938-1939
W.H. Haddock	1939-1940
W.H. Swearingen	1940-1943
J. Irwin Hagood	1944-1946
J.W. Greenway	November – December 1947
Gordon N. Francis	1948-1950
W.W. Parker	1950-1952
Harold D. Northcutt	1952-1954
Deen Sims	1954-1956
Jimmy L. Willis	1956-1957
Bill Ellis (Interim)	1958
Billy Caine	1958-1959
Lyndon T. Montgomery	1960-1962

William C. "Bill" Pullen	1963-1966
Raymond McElhane	July 1966 – July 1969
R.C. Borden (Interim)	November 1969 – May 1970
R.C. Borden	May 1970 – January 1971
Doyle W. Combs (Interim)	January – June 1971
Travis Voss	July 1971 – June 1973
Jack Bryant (Interim)	September 1973 – November 1974
Jack Elberling	December 1974 – August 1976
B. Elmer Fowler (Interim)	August – November 1976
Cecil Carden	1976-1978
David Harris	September 1978- October 1979
William C. "Bill" Pullen (Interim)	November 1979 – August 1980
Charles Richard Inman	October 1980 – May 1981
Arnold Bracken	June 1981 – October 1984
Jimmy Hare (Interim)	November 1984 – June 1985
Jimmy Hare	June 1985 – September 1990
R.C. Borden	November 1990 – February 2005
Alan Compton	November 2005 – July 2009
Barry Cater	October 2009 – October 2013
Jim Fiscus (Interim)	October 2014 – March 2015
Jim Fiscus	March 2015 – April 2017
Brandon Kerby	September 2017 - Present

* Unfortunately, the earliest records of Old Town Creek Baptist Church have either been lost or destroyed. We have verified from other sources that the congregation was established in May of 1818 with Absalom Smith as its first pastor. We are uncertain of the year in which he left the congregation, but we feel confident that it was between the years 1827 and 1833. We are not certain of the exact years that Sylvanus Gibson served, but we do know that it was for six years. *The Baptist Record* indicates that Rev. Stovall preached his first sermon at Old Town Creek on the 2nd Sunday in June of 1841 and he was licensed to preach in August of that same year. Our church records do verify that Rev. A.L. Stovall ceased to be pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist Church in 1852. He became pastor of First Baptist Church Tupelo, Mississippi in 1853.

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Jeremiah 3:15 (KJV)

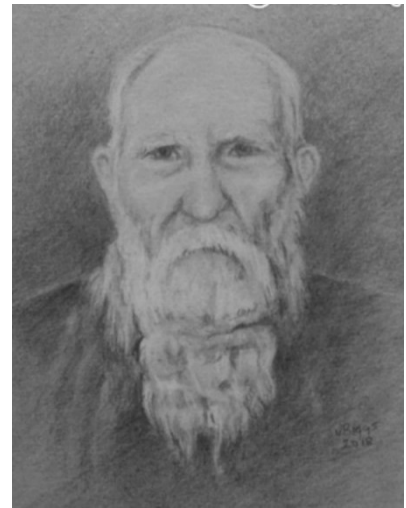
PASTORS OF OLD TOWN CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
1818-1918

REV. ABSALOM “ABNER” SMITH



Rev. Absalom “Abner” Smith was born July 4, 1781 in Warren County, North Carolina. Smith came out of the Russel Valley Church and served as the first pastor of (Old) Town Creek Baptist Church from its founding in 1818 until about 1827. He served as the moderator of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association in 1832 and again in 1833. Accompanied by members of the Town Creek Church and some from the church that he served in Marion County, Smith left Alabama and went to Texas in 1833. He secured a Spanish land grant and founded the Providence Baptist

Church in March of 1834. Providence Baptist Church was located 12 miles south of Bastrop on the Colorado River and was the first Baptist church to be established on Texas soil. In a letter to J.H. Stribling in 1871, R.E.B. Baylor (Co-Founder of Baylor University) said that Rev. Smith was a man “deeply read in Scriptures, a man of talent and unquestionable piety”. Rev. Smith died on April 26, 1872 in Burleson County, Texas and is buried at the Black Jack Cemetery.



The photo above is Rev. Abner Smith in his later years. The artistic rendering of Rev. Smith was created by Old Town Creek Deacon Johnny L. Riggs in 2018.

State of Alabama Lawrence County.
To any of the Judges of said state any Justice of the
peace for said County or any ordained Minister of
the Gospel legally authorized These are to authorize you
or any of you to solemnize the rites of matrimony
between William Carruth and Mary Ann Stovall
of said County agreeably to the statute in such cases
made and provided given at the office of the Clerk
of the County Court of said County this 15th day of
February 1832. I John Gregg Clerk
and the Rites of matrimony Executed Between the
persons within mentioned the 15th February 1832
Abner Smith Revd

A copy of a handwritten marriage license signed by Rev. Absalom "Abner" Smith, solemnizing the rites of matrimony between William Carruth and Mary Ann Stovall (the younger sister of Absalom Lewis "A.L." Stovall who served as pastor of Old Town Creek from 1841 to 1852).

"State of Alabama, Lawrence County.

To any of the Judges of said state, any Justice of the Peace of said county, or any ordained Minister of the Gospel legally authorized. These are to authorize you, or any of you, to solemnize the Rites of Matrimony between William Carruth and Mary Ann Stovall of said county, agreeably to the statute in such cases made and provided given at the office of the Clerk of the County Court of said county this 15th day of February 1832.

John Gregg, Clerk

The Rites of Matrimony executed between the persons --- mentioned the 15th February 1832.

Abner Smith, Revd."

ALL STATE ERECTORS, INC.

P. O. BOX 87667
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77287
713/944-9610

7265 GALVESTON RD.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77034

June 15, 1983

Mr. Theodore Johnson
Box 7
Mt. Hope, Alabama 35651

Dear Sir:

Recently I visited the Town Creek Baptist Church about one week after the reunion. This was my second visit, and if I had known about the reunion, I would have timed my trip so that we could have attended.

My Great, Great, Great Grandfather, Abner Smith founded the church in 1818. After 1830 he traveled through Arkansas and settled in Texas, and established a church near Austin, Texas at a city named Smithville.

This was the first organized Baptist Church in Texas, and it was named "Providence Baptist Church". Most of this church members were from Alabama.

He lived to a "ripe" old age and when he died on April 26, 1872, he was 91 or 92 years old.

Abner Smith founded a number of churches in Texas. He was born July 4, 1781 in Warren, County, N.C. and married Siddy Busbee January 31, 1805 in Wake County, N.C.

His son, Newman Smith is in the 1830 Census in Lawrence County, N.C. Son, Newman married Mary Ann (?) maybe Allen or Anderson. Newman lived in Lawrence County approximately 10 years after his father left and came to Texas. Newman moved to Mississippi and in 1854 arrived in Burleson County, Texas.

Solomon Smith, brother of Abner was a pastor in the Lawrence County, Alabama area. He too moved to Texas.

It is interesting to note the "Town Creek Baptist Church", located in Nash County, N.C. was organized in 1803, which was located in the area where Abner came from. If you have any information on the Smith Family, and on the history of the Town Creek Church, I would appreciate receiving it.

Sincerely,

M. R. Krueemcke, Jr.

M. R. Krueemcke, Jr.
Box 18342
Houston, TX 77223

REV. SYLVANUS GIBSON



Rev. Sylvanus Gibson was born in Wilkes County, Georgia on November 24th, 1783 to Sylvanus Sr. and his wife Eleanor. Very little is recorded about Sylvanus' childhood. He married Mary Elizabeth "Polly" Orr on October 27th, 1803 at twenty years of age. According to *The History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia*, Rev. Gibson was baptized on November 12th, 1809 just days before his twenty-sixth birthday. He joined fellowship with the Clark Station Baptist Church in Tignall, Georgia. While at Clark Station he was ordained into the ministry around 1819 and later served that same congregation as their pastor until he left the State of Georgia. It is very possible that Clark Station was Rev. Gibson's first church to serve as pastor. It was said that he labored in

Georgia for eighteen years before coming to Alabama between 1830 and 1832. Josephus Shackleford records in his book, *The History of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association*, that in April 1833 Elder Gibson and his wife, Mary, joined fellowship with the Hopewell Baptist Church in Danville, Alabama. He served eighteen years as the pastor of Enon Baptist Church from 1833 until his death in 1851. While serving Enon, he simultaneously served seventeen years as the pastor of Hopewell Baptist from 1834 until his death in 1851. During that same time, he served Shiloh Baptist Church for ten years and Town Creek Baptist for six years. Since the records from Old Town Creek Church from this era are not available, we assume that Rev. Sylvanus Gibson served Old Town Creek Baptist from approximately 1834 until approximately 1840. Elder Gibson was said to be a great revivalist and a remarkable man. He possessed a strong and vigorous mind with a clear understanding of the Scriptures. The Lord blessed him with thirty-two years in the ministry and during that time he baptized well over one thousand people. Rev.



Sylvanus Gibson passed away in Lawrence County, Alabama on July 25th, 1851. His grave marker has been placed at Hopewell Baptist Church in Danville, Alabama, but he remains interred on the grounds of the Gibson homeplace.

REV. ABSALOM LEWIS "A.L." STOVALL

Eld. A. L. Stovall.

One of the highest compliments ever paid to man, has been recorded by Inspiration: "For Barnabas was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith; and much people was added unto the Lord." Truly might we say the same of Eld. A. L. Stovall. He was a good man. I

Rev. Absalom Lewis Stovall was born in Giles County, Tennessee, December 25th, 1809 to William Stovall and Cynthia Tatom. Absalom moved to Lawrence county with his family in December of 1818. He married Miss Nancy K. Harris on September 14th, 1830. According to *The Baptist Reporter* (the newspaper of the Mississippi Baptist convention), Rev. Stovall recalled his conversion as taking place in November of 1826. The following was his own remarks concerning that wonderful

occasion: *"I and some of my youthful associates were engaged in singing, when we came to these words: 'Oh! What has Jesus bought for me?' It forcibly occurred to my mind that the Savior had purchased life and salvation for me, and that I could be saved in consequence of what He had done. My soul was filled with love and joy, such as I could not describe. I could not suppress the feelings, though I strove to hide them from those present."* However, it would be

eleven years before Absalom would follow the Lord's example in believer's baptism. Rev. Stovall said, *"I thought of joining the church but I was afraid of doing wrong."* Rev. Stovall eventually overcame those fears and was baptized by Rev. Sylvanus Gibson and became a member of Old Town Creek Baptist Church in November of 1837. In May of 1839 he was chosen to serve as a deacon of Old Town Creek. He was ordained in July and was liberated to practice his gifts in August of that same year. The Baptist Record indicates that Rev. A.L. Stovall preached his first message on the 2nd Sunday in June 1841, his passage was Acts 17:30 *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."* Rev. Stovall was licensed to preach the Gospel by Old Town Creek Baptist Church in August of 1841. We believe that this coincides with the time that he began to serve as the pastor of Old

Town Creek. Rev. Stovall served Old Town Creek as pastor until 1852. At the time he left Lawrence County, Rev. Stovall had preached seven hundred and eighty sermons and had served as the clerk of the Association for three years. He departed Alabama to serve as the pastor of the First Baptist

His great hospitality, his sympathizing heart, and brotherly spirit, won the hearts of all. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

He was a gospel preacher. When he stood in the sacred desk, the love of Jesus fired his soul, and his heart's desire and prayer to God, was that men might be saved. He did not preach in the pulpit only; his whole life gave knowledge that he had been with Jesus. When he spoke, men listened, because they had confidence in him. He was a firm Landmarker. He often preached doctrinal sermons, yet he did it in such a way that men could not object. The Truth was preached in love; hence, we may conclude that his influence had much to do with the building up of that strong Baptist element, that we find in this section of the country.

Church of Tupelo, Mississippi, which he did on three different occasions: 1853-1859, 1861-June 1866, December 1866- July 1872. Rev. Stovall was born on Christmas Day and he died on Independence Day (July 4th) 1872. He was the first person to be buried in the Glenwood Cemetery also known as the "City" cemetery in Tupelo, Mississippi.

* The two articles pictured in this section were provided by the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. These are excerpts from a much larger article that was written and published in *The Baptist Reporter* newspaper on July 25th, 1878 in memory of Rev. Absalom Lewis "A.L." Stovall.



DECEMBER 14, 1850.

Dear Brethren M. W. Mays, Wm. Puryear and Thomas Ashford:

I received yours of December 2nd, and should have replied sooner but have delayed in order that I might duly consider your request. I have been, to the best of my ability, preaching to the church and congregation in Courtland, five years. During my labors with you, I no doubt have erred, for I am a fallible man, but I have great satisfaction in knowing that I have not knowingly shunned to declare the truth of God. How far my ministry has been, or will be blessed of the Lord in your midst, is known to Him who knoweth all things. I trust you will pray that God in mercy will forgive wherein we may have sinned and bless our labors of love, causing the seed sown to produce much fruit to His glory, and the salvation of sinners.

The many pleasant interviews we have enjoyed are now numbered with things that are passed and gone, no more to return. I hope I shall never be wanting a heart to remember with gratitude the many kindnesses shown me and my family by the church and congregation in Courtland. During the five years I have been, both in and out of the pulpit, treated with much attention and respect.

In reply to your request, that I should continue to supply the church, I will refer to the remarks I made to the church at the close of the year 1849. My feelings and situations are about as they were then. I agreed last spring to attend the church until the winter, that you might have time to look out a minister. This I have done the best I could. I had intended to preach a farewell sermon at the November meeting, but Brother Burlison had agreed to preach on a particular subject, and I did not mention my intention, thinking I might be with you in December. My reasons for declining to serve the church longer are these: the distance, the want of sufficient bodily strength to encounter the weather many times, and fatigue of so much labor, both of body and mind; my affairs at home require more of my attention, than I have given for the last five years—I mean the duties I owe to my family. You may be astonished, when I tell you, that at times I feel like I was almost worn out. I think it my duty to rest as much as possible, and be more with my little boys. If my life is spared, and strength afforded, I expect to labor in the cause of Him who died for me, as long as I live, and humbly hope that we shall be, through grace, prepared to praise Him together in a better world than this.

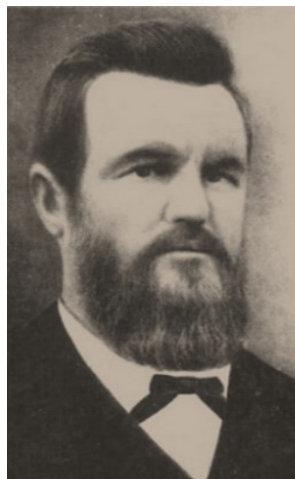
In leaving you, I only would say, be faithful unto death, in the discharge of all your duties as members of Christ's church—love one another—live in peace. Be careful to observe all the rules given by the great Head of the church. Remember that this is not our home. Set your affections on things above. Expect soon to die, and realize the truths contained in the Bible respecting the future. Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints; but contend in love for the truth's sake.

It will depend on the weather and my health whether I am at your next meeting. I hope the church will proceed without delay to supply their pulpit. Present my best love and that of my family to your families and all my friends. Yours in brotherly love,

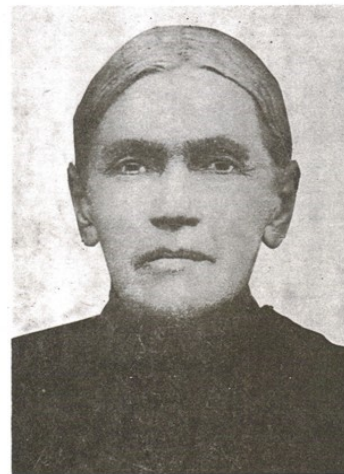
A. L. STOVALL.

A letter written by Rev. A.L. Stovall on December 14, 1850 to Courtland Baptist Church. This letter was found on page 237 of Jos. Shackelford's history of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association. On page 238, Shackelford says that in this letter we find "a man with a kind disposition and a tender regard for the people to whom he pastored.

REV. GEORGE DANIEL "G.D." RUSSELL JR.



Rev. George Daniel "G.D." Russell Jr. was born in Franklin County, Alabama on April 29th, 1824 to George Daniel Russell Sr. and Leah Jackson Hudson. He was the grandson of Major William Russell after whom the City of Russellville is named. Both William and George Sr. served in the War of 1812, at Horseshoe Bend, as Indian Scout Hunters and both were personal friends of Davy Crocket and acquaintances of Andrew Jackson. Rev. Russell married Emily Menville Stovall, the sister of Rev. Absalom Lewis "A.L." Stovall, in 1842 and together they had twelve children. George Daniel Russell Jr. served the church as pastor from January until November of 1853. He later moved to Texas. He died on February 16th, 1884 and is buried at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lampasas County, Texas.



EMILY MENVILLE STOVALL RUSSELL

REV. JOHN CHAPMAN "J.C." ROBERTS



Rev. John Chapman "J.C." Roberts was born in Lawrence County, Alabama on February 14th, 1821 to Matthew Roberts and Susan Wells, who were early settlers of Lawrence County. John received salvation around the year 1839 when was eighteen years of age. He was baptized by Rev. Sylvanus Gibson into the fellowship of Old Town Creek Baptist Church. He remained a member of the church until his death. He was twice married. His first wife was Emeline Flannigan. John and Emeline were married in 1841 and remained married until her death in 1871. His second wife was Mary Catherine "Mollie" Delashaw. Rev. Roberts married Ms. Delashaw on February 17th, 1874. Rev. Roberts was ordained into the ministry in 1846 at the age of twenty-five. His presbytery consisted of Elder John Edmiston and Rev. Absalom Lewis Stovall. Rev. J.C. Roberts served as the Associational Missionary for at least one year. He served as the Associational Clerk for thirteen sessions. He is remembered for serving five separate tenures as pastor at Old Town Creek: 1853-1856, 1858-1860, 1862-1864, 1866-1871, and 1873-1874. Even though his education was limited, he remained well versed in the Scriptures and well informed on the doctrines of the Baptist denomination. He was always ready to give reason for his beliefs and was willing to defend them with zeal. According to *The Moulton Advertiser*, Elder J.C. Roberts passed away on July 3rd, 1885

after a long and painful illness. He was buried in the cemetery at Old Town Creek Baptist Church on Sunday July 5th, 1885.

REV. WILLIAM HENRY "W.H." BARKSDALE



According to *The Barksdale Family History and Genealogy*, Rev. William Henry Barksdale was born on February 19th, 1827 in Rutherford County, Tennessee to Randolph Barksdale and Susan C. Williams. He was their only child. William's mother died on March 5th, 1830 when he was just three years of age. It was her dying request that William be raised by her mother as if he was her own. That request was granted and so young William left the company of his father and went to live with his maternal grandparents. His Grandmother Williams taught him to read and love his Bible at a very early age. He received salvation in 1841 at the age of fourteen. He was baptized by Rev. R.W. January into the fellowship of Enon Baptist church near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. William received his education at the Bardstown

Kentucky Theological College and at the Baptist Seminary at Louisville Kentucky. He was ordained into the ministry in 1846 and began to preach in and around the area of Nashville, Tennessee. He married Mary Frances Baskette in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on July 31st, 1849. In 1851 he relocated near Florence, Alabama and from there bought a small farm in Lawrence County, Alabama. He served six months as pastor at Old Town Creek Baptist in the year 1856. We could not locate a picture of Rev. Barksdale, but it was said that he was a very tall and slender man, standing over six feet tall with bright blue eyes and a short beard. He was one of the politest gentlemen that one could ever hope to meet and he was considered to be one of the best ministers in the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association. Rev. Barksdale removed himself from Lawrence County, Alabama around 1857 or 1858 and relocated to Helena, Arkansas. He remained there until after the Civil War. His wife, Mary, passed away on June 10th, 1865. He remarried on July 1st, 1867 in Clarksville, Tennessee to Lucy Elizabeth Donoho. Rev. Barksdale passed away on September 5th, 1904 and is buried in the Forrest Hill Cemetery in Memphis, Tennessee.

REV. JACKSON GUNN



According to the *History of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association* by Josephus Shackelford, Elder Jackson Gunn was born September 8th, 1823 in Robertson County, Tennessee to Anderson and Martha Gunn. Jackson spent his childhood on the family farm learning all the things that would prepare him to later become a successful farmer. Elder Gunn received salvation in October of 1838 at fifteen years of age. He was baptized in to the fellowship of the Hopewell Baptist Church in Robertson County, Tennessee by Elder William S. Baldry. In 1842, at the age of nineteen he felt the call of God upon his life to proclaim the Gospel. He spent the next six years of his life acquiring an education. He went to high school at Port Royal and from there he attended Georgetown College in Scott County, Kentucky. While Jackson was in college his health began to decline

and he had to seek outdoor exercise. He was ordained on October 15th, 1848. Soon after his ordination, Jackson left Tennessee and relocated to North Alabama in hopes that the mountain air and mineral water would aid in the restoration of his health. On April 3rd, 1849 he married

Elizabeth Ellet and together they raised eight children to maturity. In 1856, Elder Gunn became an agent of the Female Baptist Institute in Moulton, Alabama (Pictured to the Right) in order to raise money for the school. Jackson Gunn served as pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist for a time in 1857. At the request of his friends, Jackson Gunn campaigned and was elected to serve as a member of the Alabama State



House of Representatives in the session of 1870-1871. Jackson Gunn was known for his simplicity in the pulpit, both as a pastor and as an evangelist, proclaimed the Gospel message in a way that even the most illiterate could understand. Elder J. Gunn passed away on April 10th, 1910 in Morgan County, Alabama. He is buried in the Gunn Cemetery just off Tower Street in Trinity, Alabama.

REV. THOMAS NICHOLSON

According to the United States Census taken in 1860. Rev. Thomas Nicholson was born in England around the year 1836. We have no information concerning the childhood years of Rev. Nicholson, nor do we have any information as to how he arrived in the United States or when he relocated to Lawrence County, Alabama. It appears that upon arriving in Lawrence County that he resided with a local farmer by the name of William Harris and his wife Nancy (the sister

of Rev. A.L. Stovall and Emily Menville Stovall Russell). Rev. Nicholson married Sarah Jane Jackson on September 26th, 1860 (the ceremony was performed by Dr. Josephus Shackelford). That same year he was selected to serve as the pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist Church. He served in that capacity until 1862. We know nothing of Rev. Nicholson's passing or where he is buried. However, we do know that his wife Sarah and his son Vince are buried in the cemetery at Old Town Creek Baptist Church.

DR. JOSEPHUS SHACKELFORD



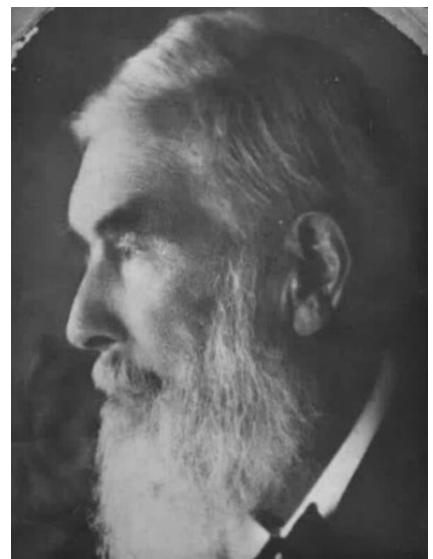
Josephus Shackelford was born February 6th, 1830 in Portsmouth, Virginia. He was the seventh son of Satterwhite Shackelford and Courtney Ann Brown. He married Ann Cordelia Stow on June 18th, 1855, in Penfield, Georgia. They had eight children together, six daughters and two sons. His wife preceded him in death in 1900 as well as two daughters and one son.

Rev. Josephus Shackelford, D.D. was an author, publisher, educator and pioneer Baptist minister in Northern Alabama. In 1847-1848 he served as a corporal in the Mexican War before returning home and graduating college in Georgia. Rev. Shackelford was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1855. He later served in the Confederate States Army as a Captain in Company G of the 4th Alabama Cavalry during the Civil War and also served

as Chaplain for his regiment before the war ended.

Dr. Shackelford took charge of the Baptist Female Institute, at Moulton, Alabama, in January, 1856. Rev. Shackelford was the founder and editor of a weekly Baptist newspaper, the Christian Herald, which he established at Moulton, Lawrence County, Alabama in 1865. He also published a secular paper, The Tuscumbia Times, which was afterwards absorbed by the North Alabamian, which paper he bought. He continued the publication of the North Alabamian until 1875. Shackelford also served as president of the Danville College at Danville, Alabama from 1893 to 1898. Rev. Shackelford was one of the early influences of the Baptist Church in the North Alabama area. In 1876 Elder Shackelford served the State Mission Board as evangelist for north Alabama. He opened a select school in 1879, called the Mountain View High School, which he taught, with the exception of one year, until June, 1889. In 1886, he became associate editor of the Alabama Baptist, and continued with that paper about one year.

In 1882, he was nominated and elected to the legislature of Alabama, from Morgan County. He served one term of two years. In 1891 the Rev. Josephus Shackelford wrote and published a book



titled *History of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association*. During all the years he was connected with the press, in the military and in the legislature, he never ceased preaching. Dr. Shackelford served as the pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist Church from 1862-1864. Dr. Shackelford died on June 5th, 1915 in Morgan County. He and his wife are buried in the Grange-Hall Cemetery on Trinity Mountain. His grave marker indicates that, in total, he spent sixty-one years in the ministry.

REV. JAMES SAUNDERS "J.S." GIBSON



Rev. Gibson was born in Lawrence County, Alabama on July 27th, 1840 to Judge Charles Gibson and Clarissa McDowell. He married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Jackson on January 10th, 1865. Rev. J.S. Gibson was ordained into the ministry by (Old) Town Creek Baptist Church in 1872. He served the church as a co-pastor along with Rev. R.T. Wear from 1872-1873 and again from 1874-1877. The church records indicate that Rev. Gibson was very active within the church from the time that he joined fellowship until the time that he died. He was an active part of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association, serving as an Associational Missionary and a trustee for the Baptist Female Institute in Moulton, Alabama.

Rev. Gibson passed away on April 23rd, 1900. He is buried in the Old Town Creek Cemetery along with his wife and three of his children (Octavia, Adrienne, and Vinet C.)

REV. SIMEON R. C. ADAMS

Simeon R. C. Adams, a Baptist minister, was born June 18th, 1849, near Dalton, Ga. He was the son of parents who were members of the Swamp Creek church, near Dalton. His school opportunities were poor; as he increased in age, he overcame his disadvantages by hard study, and became a profound student, especially of the Bible. He united with the Baptists in 1865 and was baptized by Elder G. W. Selvedge in October 1865.

He married on March 22, 1870, to Nannie C. Mitchell (born May 1853 Georgia) and moved to Alabama where he joined the Pleasant Hill church and was ordained a minister in that church, August 10, 1875. Elders J. Gunn and James I. Stockton constituted the presbytery.

In 1876 he was called to New Friendship church, Morgan County, and was pastor of other churches in that county, to 1880. His excellent memory aided him in retaining whatever he read. He had a wonderful knowledge of the Scriptures and with his command of language he was a very effective preacher. He was a missionary until 1884. Besides New Friendship, Rev. Adams was pastor of the following churches: Lebanon and Mt. Zion in Morgan County in 1879 and 1880; Mt. Pisgah and afterwards Enon; Danville and Warrior, Hopewell, Blue Springs, Mt. Nebo, **Town Creek**, Warrior, Trussville Dolomites, Pratt Mines; He located permanently in Jefferson County

and was in charge of Woodlawn. Rev. Adams died in 1919 and is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Newnan, GA.

REV. JOHN MITCHELL "J.M" ROBERTS



Rev. J.M. Roberts was born on November 4th, 1844 in Lawrence County, Alabama to Rev. John Chapman "J.C." Roberts and Emeline Flannigan. He professed Christ as his Savior in 1858 at the age of fourteen. He was baptized into the fellowship of Old Town Creek Baptist Church that same year. Prior to his service in the ministry, he surrendered his services to the Confederate Army by serving in Company A of the 4th Alabama Calvary during the Civil War. After the war had ended, Rev. Roberts married Flora A. Montgomery on December 14th, 1865. He was ordained into the ministry in November of 1872 (the same time as Rev. R.T. Wear). Rev. J.M. Roberts served as the pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist Church from 1907 until 1911. Rev. Roberts passed away on October 14th, 1927 at the age of eighty-two. He is buried in the Montgomery Cemetery at Wren.

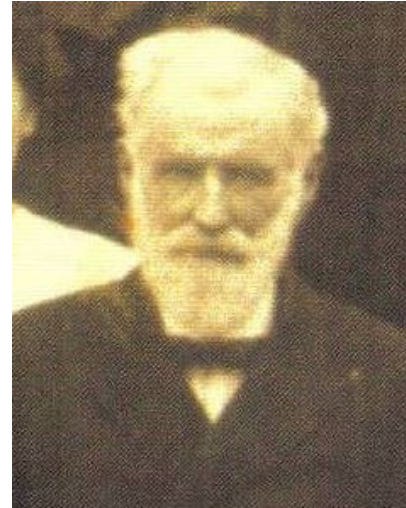
REV. ROBERT TIPTON "R.T." WEAR



Rev. Wear was born near the community of Mt. Hope, in Lawrence County, Alabama on September 12th, 1846 to Gilbert Newton Wear and Margaret Angeline Strain. Rev. Wear was twice married. His first marriage was to Sarah Mariah Francis "Sallie" Wallace on September 19th, 1865. The following is his testimony as recorded by Robert L. Guinn and published in the program for the Centennial Celebration of Old Town Creek Baptist Church in May of 1918.

"About the year 1863, I was at home on a furlough, attending a Cumberland Presbyterian meeting at Rock Springs Church. I was brought to realize my acceptance of God through Christ. Going back to the army, I soon left my first love and wandered far off into sin and great wickedness. In this condition, with only now and then a gleam of light in my poor darkened heart, which caused me at times great remorse of conscience, I remained until the Spring of 1868, when I began to read the New Testament and pray most earnestly for the pardon of my sins. I was too poor to have even a tallow candle, so I learned my first lessons of God's truth by fire light made by pieces of boards and splinters from the fence after plowing all day. In the month of August or September, God restored unto me the joys of His Salvation."

“In August of 1869, my wife who had never made any pretensions toward religion went to Town Creek, to church, was convicted of sin under the preaching of J.C. Roberts, went forward for prayer and was converted. When I heard this, my soul was stirred within me and I went with her to church the next day...My wife and I were buried with Christ in Baptism on the third Sunday in August, 1869.” Elder Wear was licensed to preach at Old Town Creek around the year of 1870 or 1871. He was ordained in November of 1872. Rev. Wear served as the pastor of Old Town Creek in 1872. He partnered with Rev. J.S. Gibson during that same year and was a co-pastor with him from 1872-1873 and again from 1874-1877. He served on his own for three additional tenures: 1877-1885, 1886-1907, and 1911-1917. His wife, Sallie, passed away on August 8th, 1885, prompting him to step away from the ministry for a time of grief. He would go on to marry Mittie S. Shoemaker on December 21st, 1886 before returning to serve again as pastor. Rev. Wear was a prince of a pastor. For nearly four decades he entered the homes of the community regardless of denominational affiliation. He has buried the dead, comforted the living, won the lost to Christ, and married the generations until his name was familiar in most homes with twenty miles around. Rev. R.T. Wear retired from the ministry in November of 1917 due to his failing health. The church secured the services of several different ministers in order to fill his vacancy until March of 1918. According to the program from the Centennial Celebration of Old Town Creek Baptist Church the church conferred upon Rev. Wear the Honorary Title of Pastor Emeritus, “allowing this Soldier of the Cross to pass into rest with the consciousness that the members of the church (Old Town Creek) still hold him in highest esteem. Rev. Robert Tipton Wear passed away on October 21st, 1921 at the age of seventy-five. He is buried in the cemetery at Old Town Creek Baptist Church.



PASTORS OF OLD TOWN CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
1918-2018

REV. JAMES WILLIAM "J.W." JONES

Rev. J.W. Jones was born in Coosa County, Alabama on October 18th, 1883 to Isaac Hardy Jones and Annie R. Barrett. He married Vena Madlyn Pyron on December 3rd, 1905 in Chilton County, Alabama. He became pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist church in the Spring of 1918 and served until the Fall of 1919. During his tenure at Old Town Creek, the church celebrated its centennial anniversary. The event was held on May 11th and 12th, 1918. Rev. Jones passed away on April 28th, 1968 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. He was interred in the Deatsville Cemetery in Elmore County, Alabama.

REV. JAMES ALWYNNE "J.A." DAVIS



Rev. James A. Davis was born on July 30th, 1870 in the Spring Creek community of Shelby County, Alabama to Joshua Davis and Sarah Elizabeth Hale. He married Carrie Emma Dupree on January 6th, 1893 in Coosa County, Alabama at the age of twenty-three. Rev. Davis preached his first sermon as pastor of Old Town Creek on February 29th, 1920. He continued to pastor the church until 1931. Rev. Davis passed away on January 8th, 1933 in Mt. Hope, Alabama. He is buried in the cemetery at Mt. Hope Methodist Church.



REV. OSCAR MONTGOMERY



Rev. Oscar Russell Montgomery was born on February 21st, 1897 in Franklin County, Alabama to John Jackson Montgomery and Launa Eldridge Roberts. He grew up near Moulton and was graduate of Lawrence County High School (class of 1916). He married Ethel Angeline Densmore on December 24th, 1916. Rev. Montgomery was ordained into the ministry by the First Baptist Church of Burnsville, Mississippi around 1930. He served Old Town Creek Baptist Church as pastor from July 14th, 1935 until the August of 1938. During his tenure, there were thirty-five additions made to the church. Rev. Montgomery passed away on November 6th, 1969 in Bessemer, Alabama and was buried in the Jefferson Memorial Gardens.

REV. JOHN CALVIN COGGIN JR.

Rev. John Calvin Coggin Jr. was born on April 11th, 1910 in Mississippi to John Calvin Coggin Sr. and Minnie Olive Grant. He was married to Lucile Busby. He served as pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist Church from 1938 until 1939. In the early 1940's, Rev. Coggin removed from Lawrence County to serve the Madison Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. After three or four very successful years in that ministry, Rev. Coggin was called to be the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bay Minette in Baldwin County. Rev. John Calvin Coggin Jr. passed away in May of 1950 and is interred in the Montgomery Memory Gardens in Montgomery, Alabama.

REV. WILLIAM HENRY "W.H." HADDOCK

Rev. William Henry Haddock was born on March 28th, 1885 in Chattanooga, Tennessee to William Holland Haddock and Mary Ann Theodosia. Rev. Haddock was married to Matilda Skelton on September 24th, 1913 in the community of Avondale, Alabama in Jefferson County. Rev. Haddock served Old Town Creek as pastor exactly one year from March of 1939 until March of 1940. While in Lawrence County, Rev. and Mrs. Haddock resided in the West Lawrence community of Wolf Springs. In 1940, Rev. Haddock returned to his native home of Jefferson County. He died there on December 4th, 1940 just a few months after leaving Old Town Creek Baptist Church. He is buried in the West Jefferson Freewill Baptist Cemetery.

REV. WINSOR HOWELL "W.H." SWEARINGEN



Rev. Winsor Howell "W.H." Swearingen was born on July 18th, 1898 in Pinehurst, Georgia to James Swearingen and Clara Graham. The Swearingen family relocated to Russell County, Alabama sometime between 1903 and 1909. Rev. Swearingen came to Winston County as an orphan in 1914 after the death of his mother. Until marriage he alternated his living arrangements between two of his uncles. He lived with W.T. Cauthen part-time (near Ashridge) and with Frank and Lisa Curtis part-time (near Rock Springs Baptist Church between Moulton and Double Springs).

Rev. Swearingen married Mary Lyle on January 16th, 1916 at the age of eighteen. He was employed as an educator for the Winston County Schools for twenty-five years. He was ordained as a minister on September 22nd, 1929 by the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, six miles northwest of Double Springs. His first pastorate was his home church of Liberty Grove near Ashridge, Alabama. He began serving both Old Town Creek Baptist Church and Mt. Hope Baptist Church as pastor in the Spring of 1940. He served both congregations until September of 1943. He resigned in order

to serve as the Chaplain of Kilby Prison, a position that he held for eight years. After serving at Kilby Prison, he returned to the pastorate and served the First Baptist Church of Rutledge and the First Baptist Church of Phil Campbell. He was then appointed to serve a six-year term on the Alabama State Board of Pardons and Paroles. In all, he served forty-five years in the ministry. He wrote, "My ministry at Old Town Creek was an enrichment of my life." Rev. Swearingen passed away in May of 1975.



REV. J. IRWIN HAGOOD



Rev. John Irwin Hagood was born on January 29th, 1905 to Montie Monroe Hagood and Velma Sanderson. Rev. Hagood's mother died just five days after he was born. He was married to Carrie D. Randolph of Lawrence County. Rev. Hagood served as a stand-in from October of 1943 until March of 1944 at which time he was elected as pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist Church. He delivered his final sermon as pastor on August 25th, 1946. During his time at Old Town Creek there were nine additions made to the congregation. Rev. Hagood passed away on

October 18th, 1996 at the age of ninety-one years. He is buried beside his wife in the Moulton Memory Gardens.

REV. J.W. GREENWAY

Rev. J.W. Greenway was elected as pastor Old Town Creek Baptist Church on November 23rd, 1947. He resigned three weeks later on December 14th to pursue "endeavors of a private nature". To date, Rev. Greenway holds the record for the shortest tenure as pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist Church.

REV. GORDON N. FRANCIS



Rev. Gordon Nathaniel Francis was born on November 15th, 1909 to Charles William Francis and Myrtle Moody. He married Bernice Melvillene Letson on Christmas Day of 1942. Rev. Francis was elected to serve as the pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist Church on April 25th, 1948. He was ordained into the ministry at Old Town Creek on May 23, 1948. During his time at Old Town Creek, the Training Union and Women's Missionary Union (W.M.U.) programs were established. Under his leadership, Wednesday night prayer meetings and Sunday night services were held for the first time and twenty-five additions were made to the church. Rev. Francis tendered his resignation to the church on March 26th, 1950 in order to take up classes at Tennessee Temple. Rev. G.N. Francis passed away in Morgan County, Alabama on May 22nd,

1963 at the age of fifty-three years old. He and his wife are buried in the cemetery at Old Bethel Church in Courtland, Alabama.

REV. WILLIAM W. PARKER

Rev. W.W. Parker was born on January 23rd, 1902 to Luther Benton Parker and Sarah Frances Key. He grew up in the Wren Community of Lawrence County, Alabama. Rev. Parker married Martha Ellen "Ellie" Woodard on December 20th, 1922. He was licensed to preach and ordained into the ministry by Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Rev. W.W. Parker was elected as pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist on September 24th, 1950 and he served until July 13th, 1952. Rev. Parker went on to pastor the neighboring church of Owen Chapel from 1953 until 1957. He then served the church at Wheeler Grove until his death. Rev. W.W. Parker passed away on July 16th, 1977 in Decatur, Alabama. He and his wife are buried in the Montgomery Cemetery near Wren.

REV. HAROLD DEAN NORTHCUTT



Rev. Harold Northcutt was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma on February 23rd, 1930 to Willie Power Northcutt and Gaston Mamie Downing. He was the fourth of seven children in the family.

Harold surrendered his life to Jesus Christ at an early age. He was licensed to preach by a church in Montgomery, Alabama while he was stationed there with the United States Air Force. After serving four years during the Korean War, he returned

to Birmingham and enrolled at Howard College (now Samford University). He had only been there a short time when he was given the opportunity to pastor at Old Town Creek. Rev. Northcutt served the church from October of 1952 until August of 1954. He never moved to Lawrence County during the time that he served the church. He and his wife Betty would arrive on Sunday mornings and go back to Birmingham following the Sunday night service. He was ordained by the church in November of 1952. He was always ready to share his hope with those who would listen. Harold thoroughly enjoyed studying his Bible, especially the prophetic passages in the Old and New Testament. The following accomplishments were made during Rev. Northcutt's tenure as pastor: The front of the building was remodeled, the separate single door entrances were replaced with a new double door entrance, a covered porch was added, and a gas heating system was installed. During that time the church began full-time services and fourteen additions were made to the congregation. Rev. Northcutt passed away on August 5th, 2013 at the V.A. Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He is buried at Brown's Cemetery in Pottawatomie, Oklahoma.



REV. ELMER ALDEEN "DEEN" SIMS



Rev. Deen Sims was born in Morgan County, Alabama, near the community of Austinville, on April 5th, 1927 to James Elmer Sims and Bertha Cordella Price. He enlisted in the United States Army on July 13th, 1945 and was stationed at Fort McClellan as a Private during the remainder of World War II. After the war, Rev. Sims married Edna Louise Turner. He was licensed and ordained into the ministry by Fairview Baptist Church in Decatur, Alabama. He then enrolled at Tennessee Temple and preached his first sermon at a prison camp in Chattanooga. He received a Bachelor of Bible degree in 1952. After his graduation, he taught homiletics for one year. Rev. Sims was pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist from March of 1955 until February of 1956. During his time at this church, the Training Union was enthusiastically promoted. The first church-wide visitation ministry was initiated under his leadership and ten additions were made to the congregation. Rev. Elmer Aldeen Sims passed away on September 25th, 2008. He and his wife are buried at the Caddo Cemetery.

REV. JIMMY LOVE WILLIS



Rev. Jimmy Willis was born in the Uniontown area of Perry County, Alabama on July 17th,1934 to Emmett Houston Willis and Ada Love. His mother died while giving birth. Rev. Willis would leave the company of his father in order to go live with his Aunt and Uncle.

He married Kathleen Faye Halbrooks in February of 1952 in Hale County, Alabama. The picture to the left was taken shortly after they were wed. Rev. Willis was a student at Howard College (now Samford) when he accepted the full-time pastorate of Old Town Creek Baptist Church. He and his wife would come to the

church field on weekends and would return to Birmingham after the Sunday night services. He maintained his studies and graduated from Howard College while serving the church. Rev. Willis wrote the following message in regards to his time at Old Town Creek:

“...on May 27th,1956, I was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Old Town Creek Baptist Church near Moulton, Alabama. I had been licensed to preach on September 6th,1953.

I wanted a church to pastor long before God gave me one. I dearly loved to preach as often as I could. God’s Word was like a fire in my bones. But, God knew that I needed a maturation period before I could pastor even a small church. In His own time, God called me to one of the three oldest Baptists churches in the State of Alabama. The Old Town Creek Baptist Church had seen great days and had ordained many ministers since its founding back in 1818. I went there in February of 1956 and they called me as pastor and ordained me.”

Rev. Willis accepted the pastorate of Old Town Creek Baptist on April 15th,1956 and remained until November of 1957. He later graduated from the New Orleans Theological Seminary and went on to pastor Flintstone Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee and Franklin Road Baptist Church in LaGrange, Georgia. Rev. Jimmy Love Willis died in LaGrange, Georgia on May 9th, 2010. He is interred in the Shadowlawn Cemetery.



REV. BILLY CAINE



Rev. Billy Caine was born in Decatur, Alabama on October 5th, 1930 to Anthony R. Caine and Bessie M. Richardson. He married Barbara Jean Pearsall of Pontiac, Michigan. Rev. Caine grew up near Moulton and graduated from Lawrence County High School. After high school, Rev. Caine graduated from Howard College (now Samford University) and then earned a Master's of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. While in New Orleans he was ordained into the gospel ministry. He united with Old Town Creek Baptist Church as pastor on December 1st, 1958 and remained until September 6th, 1959. During his ministry he started churches in Mississippi, Alabama, Alaska, and New Jersey. He was a gifted pastor and missionary. He was a member of Moulton

Baptist Church at the time of his death. Rev. Billy Caine passed away on December 22nd, 1994 at the age of sixty-four and is buried in the Moulton Memory Gardens.

REV. LYNDON TRUETT MONTGOMERY



Rev. Montgomery was born on June 23rd, 1923 to John Dewitt Montgomery and Della Ann Key. He grew up in the community of Wren, Alabama and was a graduate of Lawrence County High School. He attended Howard College (now Samford University). He was ordained at Sulphur Springs Baptist Church in Hillsboro, Alabama. The first church where he served as pastor was Valley Grove Baptist Church in the Speake community. While there he met the love of his life, Margaret Elizabeth Stephenson. They were married on December 23rd, 1951 and were married for sixty-three years until Margaret passed away on October 11th, 2015. At the time of his death, he was a member of Valley Grove Baptist. Other churches he served include Enon, Providence, Blue Springs, Hopewell, Macedonia, Friendship, Ryan, Pines, Oak

Ridge, Flower Hill, and Eastside. Rev. Montgomery served as pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist for two years, 1960-1962. He passed away on January 8th, 2016 at the age of ninety-two years old. He is buried in the Hartselle Memory Gardens.

REV. WILLIAM CLIFTON "BILL" PULLEN



Rev. Bill Pullen was born in Town Creek, Alabama on October 4th, 1934 to Cordelia Pullen. He is a graduate of Decatur High School Class of 1954 in Decatur, Alabama. Immediately after high school he joined the United States Army. He married Hazel "Bonnie" Burden on February 21st, 1958 and remained married for fifty-nine years until Bonnie passed away on November 29th, 2017. Rev. Pullen was elected as pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist Church in February of 1963. Old Town Creek was his first pastorate. Soon after taking the position, he was ordained by his home church, Fish Pond Baptist in Hillsboro, Alabama. Rev. Bill Pullen would continue as pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist until April of 1966. On November 12, 1979, Rev. Pullen returned to Old Town Creek to serve as the interim pastor. He resigned from that position on August 24, 1980. Today, Rev. Pullen still serves the churches of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association as an ambassador to the Alabama Baptist Children's Home. He continues to proclaim God's Word at every opportunity and resides in Hillsboro, Alabama.

REV. RAYMOND MCELHANEY



Rev. Raymond T. McElhaney was born on January 24th, 1937. He married Clara M. Morris in January of 1958. He was licensed to preach on April 18th, 1959 by the Victory Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas while stationed there with the United States Air Force. Rev. McElhaney preached his first sermon at the First Baptist Church of Cantonment, Florida. He served as the pastor of Farm Hill Baptist Mission in Cantonment, Florida for two years before moving with his family to North Alabama. Bro. Ray was ordained into the ministry by Old Town Creek Baptist Church on June 23rd, 1968. The ordination message was delivered by Bro. Robert Campbell and Rev. Doyle Combs, Associational Missionary, served as the Chairman of the Presbytery. Rev. McElhaney served the church as pastor from July of 1966 until July of 1969. During his pastorate at Old Town Creek, the pastorium/parsonage was

completed, fifty-one additions were made to the congregation, and beloved pastors Rev. R.C. Borden and Rev. Conrad “Clyde” Goodlett surrendered their lives to the call of ministry. Having retired after a number of faithful years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Tanner, Alabama, Rev. and Mrs. Raymond McElhaney still reside in Limestone County. They are members of the First Baptist Church of Athens, Alabama.

REV. R. C. BORDEN



Rev. R.C. Borden was born in the Landersville community of Lawrence County, Alabama on April 6th, 1939 to Enoch Borden and Gladys Reed. He graduated from Lawrence County High School and attended Florence State University (now University of North Alabama). He married Uvone Nolen on October 21st, 1960. The Borden family began attending the church at Old Town Creek in 1965. During the Summer revival, Rev. Borden and his wife united with the church by baptism. Rev. Borden was very active as a member of the church serving in various ministries and participating in diverse endeavors. He preached his first message in the pulpit of Old Town Creek on December 24th, 1967. He was licensed by the church on October 13th, 1968 and ordained as a deacon on December 8th of that same year. In November 1969 the church selected him to served as the interim pastor in order to fill the vacancy left behind by Rev. Ray McElhaney. He was ordained into the ministry at Old Town Creek Baptist on January 18th, 1970. Rev. William C. “Bill” Pullen delivered the charge to the candidate and Rev. Clyde Goodlett delivered the charge to the church. The presbytery included the following people: Elmer Fowler, T.W. Watley, Earnest Dillard, Doyle Combs, Jack Carroll, and Charles Wynn. Rev. R.C. Borden entered into his first pastorate at Old Town Creek in May of 1970 and served until January of 1971. After leaving Old Town Creek, Rev. Borden served the following churches: Faith Baptist, Sulphur Springs Baptist, Summit Baptist (Decatur), and Mount View Baptist. He returned to Old Town Creek Baptist as pastor in November of 1990 and served until February of 2005. In total, Rev. R.C. Borden served in the pulpit of Old Town Creek Baptist Church for fifteen years and five months, making him one of the longest serving pastors in Old Town Creek history.

During his time at Old Town Creek the church was incorporated and the building underwent several massive transformations. However, no physical transformation can compare to the spiritual transformation that took place in the lives of so many who sat under the preaching of this most humble and Godly man. To this day, Rev. and Mrs. Borden and their entire family are greatly loved by the people of Old Town Creek Baptist Church. Rev. R.C. Borden continues to live in the Landersville community of Lawrence County and he continues the work of the pastor at Wheeler Grove Baptist Church where he has served since May of 2005.

REV. TRAVIS VOSS



Rev. Travis Theron Voss was born in Lawrence County, Alabama to Robert F. Voss and Lillie Tingle. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Ardennes Rhineland Central Europe with the 276th Combat Engineer Battalion. After the war, he married Opal Nadine Shankle on October 5th, 1946. Rev. Voss delivered his introductory message at Chalybeate Springs Baptist Church on the night of September 16th, 1962. In October of that same year he was licensed to preach at Chalybeate Springs. He was ordained into the gospel ministry in 1966. Prior to coming to Old Town Creek Baptist, Rev. Voss had pastored New Hope Baptist and Berea Baptist in the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association. He accepted the pastorate at Old Town Creek Baptist in July of 1971 and remained until June of 1973. Rev. Voss passed away on February 22nd, 2012 and is buried in the Roselawn Cemetery in Decatur, Alabama.

REV. JACK ELBERLING



Rev. Jack Eberling was born on October 23rd, 1951 in Phoenix, Arizona. He surrendered his life to the work of the ministry at the age of fifteen. In November of 1967, at the age of sixteen, he was licensed to preach by the First Southern Baptist Church of Yuma, Arizona. He delivered his introductory message at the First Baptist Church of Somerton, Arizona. He attended Grand Canyon Baptist College in Phoenix. After completing a tour of duty with the United States Marines, he then enrolled at the University of North Alabama

Before coming to serve as pastor at Old Town Creek in December of 1974, he served as pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Tacna, Arizona and as the Minister of Music of Nitrate City Baptist Church in Sheffield, Alabama. Bro. Eberling married Denise Hampton of Decatur, Alabama. They moved into the parsonage at Old Town Creek in January of 1975. He resigned as pastor of Old Town Creek Baptist in August of 1976. Associational Missionary B. Elmer Fowler would serve the church as an interim pastor from August until November of 1976 in order to fill the vacancy.

REV. CECIL CARDEN



Rev. Cecil Leo Carden was born on March 1st, 1927 to Harley and Mary Carden. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the United States Navy. He married Teresa Maria Caraccia on December 24th, 1947. They had two children. Rev. Carden was saved in 1958 and three years later felt the calling of God on his life to serve in the ministry. He was ordained in 1966 by the First Baptist Church of Hackleburg, Alabama. Rev. Carden served Old Town Creek from December of 1976 until June of 1978. Rev. Carden died on April 16th, 1997 and was interred at the Shady Grove Cemetery #1 in Phil Campbell, Alabama.

REV. DAVID LEWIS HARRIS



Rev. David Harris served the church from September of 1978 until October of 1979. He concluded his letter of resignation by saying, "I am grateful for the time I have been allowed to serve as pastor here and will always remember this time of service with you. I will always consider it a valuable part of my training."

Likewise, the church was grateful for the work of Rev. Harris.

REV. CHARLES RICHARD INMAN



Rev. Charles Richard Inman was born in Colbert County, Alabama on April 16th, 1924 to George Lee Inman and Arrie Matilda James. He married Margaret Richardson on August 8th, 1948 and they remained married until her death in October of 1993. He was a graduate of Coffee High School and attended Tennessee Temple College. He earned Samford University certificates in Christian and Pastoral Training in 1953, 1966, and 1967. He attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Extension in

1978. He and his wife Margaret served in many churches in Alabama and Tennessee, where he was a church starter and bi-vocational pastor. He worked for TVA at Colbert Steam Plant, Ocoee, and Watts Bar for over 20 years as an administrative officer. He accepted the pastorate at Old Town Creek Baptist Church in October of 1980 and remained until May of 1981. At the time of his death, he was a member of Lookout Valley Baptist Church in Tennessee. He passed away on March 20th, 2008 and is laid to rest in the Forest Hills Cemetery in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

REV. ARNOLD BRACKEN



Rev. Arnold Bracken is a native of Morgan County. He is a graduate of Priceville High School. His home church was New Friendship Baptist Church in the Morgan County Baptist Association. While at New Friendship, he served as a deacon, was licensed to preach (March 9th, 1966), and was ordained into the ministry on May 19th, 1968. Before coming to Old Town Creek, Rev. Bracken served as the pastor of Owen Chapel Baptist Church for five years. Rev. Bracken and his wife Ms. Tula retired from the ministry on January 12, 2014, but still reside in Lawrence County, Alabama.

REV. JAMES DOYLE "JIMMY" HARE



Rev. Hare was born on September 25th, 1945 in Lawrence County, Alabama to A.G. "Shorty" Hare and Minnie Simms. Rev. Hare was first called to Old Town Creek Baptist Church as an interim pastor in November of 1984. He served in that capacity until June of 1985. In June of 1985 the church elected him to the position of pastor and he was ordained on June 30th, 1985 at Moulton Baptist Church with Dr. Darryl Wood, Rev. Elmer Fowler, and Rev. Ron Manley conducting the ordination service. He served Old Town Creek as pastor until September of 1990. Under his leadership a bus ministry was initiated at the church on October 1st, 1986. Rev. Hare passed away on April 2nd, 2003. He is buried in the Moulton Memory Gardens.

REV. ALAN COMPTON



Rev. Alan Compton was born in Moulton, Alabama in 1951 to G.W. and Doris Waters Compton. He is a graduate of Lawrence County High School (class of 1969). On January 4th, 1971 he married Donna Terry and together they have three children; Coley Compton, Brian Compton (who is now married to Chasity Kerby), and Emily Compton (who is now married to Shannon Wilson). Rev. Compton was saved by grace through his faith in Jesus Christ in 1972. He united with Old Town Creek Baptist Church and was an active member. He surrendered his life to the call of ministry in 1979 and pursued higher education. He received an Associate's degree in

Pastoral Ministry from Liberty University and a Bachelor's degree in Religious Education from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He accepted the pastorate at Old Town Creek Baptist Church in November of 2005 and remained until July of 2009. After leaving Old Town Creek, Rev. Compton served as the founding pastor of Parkway Baptist Church and as the pastor of the Beech Grove Baptist Church in Winston County, Alabama. Today, he is a grandpa to six grandchildren and he continues to proclaim the gospel message from the pulpit of Macedonia Baptist Church in Franklin County, Alabama.

REV. BARRY CATER



Rev. Barry Cater was born in Greenville, South Carolina on September 14th, 1970 to Roger and June Cater. Rev. Cater married Amy Sightler in Greenville, South Carolina on June 6th, 1992. He is a graduate of Bob Jones University earning a Bachelor's degree in Business & Finance in 1992 and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership in 2001. After a thirteen-year career in education, Rev. Cater and his family relocated to North Alabama in 2007. He served as the pastor of the Community Baptist Church located between Moulton and Landersville. While there he served as an administrator of the Lawrence County Christian School. He accepted the pastorate at Old Town Creek Baptist Church in October of 2009.

During his tenure at Old Town Creek, the congregation grew extensively and the fellowship

remained sweet. Rev. Cater resigned his pastorate in October of 2013. He currently serves as the pastor of Harmony Baptist Church and is working toward earning a Doctorate of Ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

REV. JIM FISCUS



Rev. Jim Fiscus was born in New Castle, Indiana on December 3rd, 1973 to Ralph and Fay Fiscus. He attended Colbert County High School and Shoals Bible Institute. Rev. Fiscus was saved by the grace of God and called into the ministry on April 19th, 1993. He was ordained by the Shoals Bible Baptist Church in 1994. He married Christy Willcutt on August 24th, 1996. Together they have five children (David, Steven, Nathan, Courtney, and Sarah) and five grandchildren. Rev. Fiscus came to Old Town Creek Baptist Church from Southside Baptist (Sheffield, Alabama) in August of 2013 to serve as a pastor to students. He was selected by the church in October of 2014 to serve as the interim pastor in order

to fill the vacancy left by Rev. Barry Cater. He assumed the pastorate indefinitely on March 16, 2015. Rev. Fiscus' last message as pastor of Old Town Creek was delivered on Easter Sunday of 2017 and one soul came to know Jesus. Rev. and Mrs. Fiscus will always be remembered at Old Town Creek for their love of the people, but especially their heart for the children. Today, Rev. Fiscus is currently serving as the Worship Pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. In 2018, he serves as the Moderator for the Association. He and his family live in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

REV. BRANDON HEATH KERBY



Rev. Brandon Kerby was born in Lawrence County, Alabama on July 7th, 1990 to Danny and Lesa McCary Kerby. He is a native of the Hatton community and is a graduate of Hatton High School (Class of 2008). The following is his personal testimony:

"I was saved when I was a nine-year-old boy. I remember the brokenness that I felt when I first truly realized how great God is and how terrible I had been. I was not a "terrible" person, but for the first time I was aware of my sinful nature and what Jesus Christ had done about it upon the Cross of Calvary. As a boy, I remember lying in bed

one-night thinking to myself, “What is going to happen to me if I die?” and “Where will I be if the Lord were to come back tonight?” I didn’t understand it all, but I understood as well as a nine-year-old boy could. I was blessed with good parents who had carried me to church, so I had heard the Gospel through the messages and through the Sunday school lessons and I knew what it was that I had to do. That night in the back bedroom of my home, with my mother near me and our pastor counseling with me on the phone, I bowed the knees of my heart before God and admitted that I was a sinner and that I was in need of a Savior. That night I made Jesus Christ the Lord of my life and a few weeks later was baptized at the Mt. Zion Freewill Baptist Church in Town Creek, Alabama. I know that God had a purpose in saving my soul at such an early age, had He not saved my soul when I was a young boy in grade school, I am certain that the temptations that were set before me in High School would have overtaken me and I would not be where I am today, doing what I am doing today, and for that I give God all the glory.

The Lord began to deal with my heart at the age of seventeen, leading me into the ministry. For a while I made excuses as to why I was not and would never be a “good candidate” for ministry work. It was in August of 2008 when I was attending a Sunday morning worship service at Old Town Creek Baptist Church that the Lord dealt with me in a way like He had never done before. Even though I tried to put off the urge, the Lord had other plans and that morning during the invitation I found myself at the altar confirming in my heart what God was calling me to do. That morning I surrendered my life to the work of the ministry.

Without a doubt, God has called me into the ministry to proclaim His message fully and faithfully. It has been, it is now, and it will forever be my desire to spread the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ and to minister to those in need. I am committed to seeing revival and spiritual growth within the church, encouraging unity among the believers, motivating young people to become active in the local church, but most of all helping lost people come to find a life changing and total transforming relationship with Christ our Lord. “

Rev. Kerby went to be the Associate Pastor and Minister of Music of Courtland Baptist Church in December of 2009. While on staff at Courtland Baptist, Rev. Kerby was licensed to preach on August 15th, 2010, he was ordained on July 17th, 2011, and he married Leslie Graves on October 8th, 2011. He remained in the Courtland Church until August of 2012. Rev. Kerby accepted the pastorate of Hillsboro Baptist in October of 2012. In 2015, the members of Hillsboro Baptist nominated him to receive the Troy L. Morrison Leadership/Church Health Award. He remained there until August 20, 2017. Rev. Kerby delivered his first message as pastor of Old Town Creek on September 3rd, 2017. In 2018, he serves as the President of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association’s Pastor’s Conference and as Vice-Moderator of the Association. Rev. and Mrs. Kerby reside in Moulton, Alabama with their infant daughter, Harper Grace Kerby.

THE MUSIC MINISTRY



Pianist

Mrs. Mary Kimbrough



Organist

Mrs. Tammy Parker



Assistant Pianist

Ms. Abby McLemore

Mary Kimbrough joined fellowship with Old Town Creek Baptist Church in May of 2000 and became the pianist that same year. She is married to Larry Kimbrough and they have two children, Bartlett and Elizabeth. Bartlett is married to the former Emma Stinson of Huntsville, Alabama and they will soon welcome their infant daughter, Landers Anne. Elizabeth is in her final year of Medical School and currently lives out of state.

Tammy Parker joined the fellowship of Old Town Creek Baptist Church in August of 1999. She served as the church pianist from 1999 until 2000. In 2000, she transitioned into the role of church organist. She is married to Randall Parker and they have two children, Carla and Ethan.

Carla is a Registered Nurse at NHC in Moulton, Alabama. Ethan is married to the former Maddie Sanchez and recently they have welcomed their infant daughter, Tinley Madisen.

Ms. Abby McLemore began assisting on the piano at the age of eleven. Today, at age thirteen, she continues to bless the people of our congregation with her wonderful talent.



THE MUSIC MINISTRY – Continued



Interim Worship Leader

Rev. Brandon Kerby



Sound Technician

Mr. Ben McLemore



Assistant Worship Leader

Bro. Johnny L. Riggs

Rev. Brandon Kerby came to the church on September 3rd, 2017 as pastor. The church voted in March of 2018 to utilize him as the interim worship leader.

Bro. Johnny Riggs has been a long-time member of Old Town Creek Baptist Church since September 6th, 1964. He was baptized into the fellowship of the church by Rev. Lyndon Montgomery. He was ordained as a deacon on September 12th, 1993. He has served in many areas of the church and has, at times, led the worship on a full-time basis. Johnny sings in the adult choir and is most noted for his artistic abilities. The mural in the baptistry is just one of his works that you'll see throughout the church.

Mr. Ben McLemore faithfully serves the congregation in many different ways, but none any greater than what he is able to do in the sound booth. Mr. Ben gives sacrificially of his time to be present at every choir practice. He arrives early on Sundays to ensure that all of our equipment works properly and that we have exactly what we need to lead our congregation in worship.



THE DEACONS of OLD TOWN CREEK BAPTIST



Bro. Johnny L. Riggs

2017-2018 Chairman of the Deacons



Bro. Wendell Mitchell



Bro. Norman McLemore



Bro. Larry Kimbrough

"...men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom..."

-Acts 6:3 (NIV)

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Old Town Creek Baptist celebrates 175th birthday

Special to The Advertiser
from Old Town Creek Baptist Church

To celebrate its 175th year, Old Town Creek Baptist church plans all-day services for Sunday, June 6. The church is located approximately 8 miles west of Moulton on Alabama Highway 24.

At the Sunday morning worship service (11:00 a.m.), the guest speaker will be Bro. Ray McElhaney, former minister who pastored the church during its 150th year and now pastors First Baptist Church, Tanner. Afternoon service (2:00 p.m.) will feature guest speaker Dr. Troy Morrison, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

According to Methel Riggs, Old Town Creek Church looks back on a wonderful and rich heritage. It is the oldest church in the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association--older than the State of Alabama by one year--and third oldest in the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

The church in its 175 years has been served by 38 different pastors; three interim pastors; has ordained some 26 men to the preaching ministry; licensed others to preach the gospel; and organized 5 other churches during its early years.

It is said that John Davis and Theophilous Skinner organized the church in May of 1818 as a presbytery from the Russell Valley Church in Franklin County. The first pastor was Abner Smith. He was also from the Russell Valle Church.

The first church building was of logs. In 1855, it is recorded that the log building was sold for \$10. In October 1853, it is recorded that "a committee was appointed to make calculations of the cost of finishing our house of worship." Supposedly, this is the current building. Many changes have taken place since then.

The original building was positioned east and west, parallel with Highway 24; now it sits north and south, since being moved in 1971, but the basic structure

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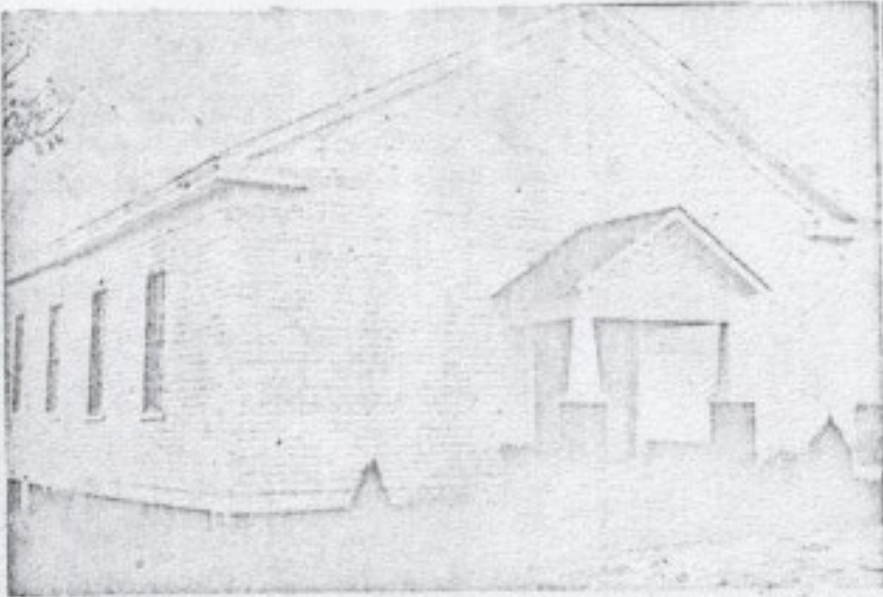
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AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY



OLD TOWN CREEK CHURCH — Members, visitors, and former members will gather this morning at Old Town Creek Church in Lawrence County near Mt. Hope for all-day fellowship services. The church, founded in 1828, is the oldest in the Muscle Shoals Area, and has a colorful 128 year history. (Daily Photo)

Old Town Creek Church In Mt. Hope Section Outdates State Of Alabama By A Full Year

By JACK SMITH

MT. HOPE—A church founded when this state was still a territory and sprinkled with over a 100 years of colorful history will be the scene of all day fellowship services this morning when members and visitors return to Old Town Creek Church near Mt. Hope in Lawrence County.

The little white frame church, kept in excellent condition by an active congregation, stands as the oldest Baptist church in either the Muscle Shoals Area, or Lawrence County. The 128-year-old church was a year old when Alabama came into the union in 1820.

All living former pastors have been invited for the event that will include serving lunch by members of the congregation plus both morning and afternoon services.

Services are to be conducted by the Rev. Jimmy Willis, pastor, who will graduate in January from Howard College. The Rev. Willis, his wife and daughter are expected to move near the church after graduation.

Some 15 Baptist ministers have been ordained there and Lawrence Countians as well as former countians have been closely connected with the church. Among those ordained at Old Town Creek Church are the Revs. A. L. Stovall, J. C. Roberts, R. T. Wear, William Stockton, J. I. Stockton, J. M. Roberts, L. R. Craig, L. A. Wear, L. M. Wear, Wallace Wear, W. M. Wear, G. N. Francis, H. G. Northcutt, Emmett Tubbs and present pastor, Jimmy Willis.

Former pastors invited to today's services include the Rev. W. H. Swearingen, now a member of State Parole Board, Montgomery; the Rev. Irvin Hagood, pastor of Flower Hill Church, Trinity 1; the Rev. Willie Parker, pastor of Youngtown Church, Moulton 1; the Rev. G. W. Francis, pastor of Dayton (Tenn.) Baptist Church; the Rev. Harold Northcutt, Florence, now pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, Russellville 4; and the Rev. Dean Sims, Decatur, pastor of Brooksville Church.

Already over 40 years old by the time of the Civil War, the church survived the war years and although attendance showed a decline, regular meeting days were observed.

According to church records, the building was partitioned, one section for women, the other for men, plus a special reserved section for Negro slaves.

The church grounds, which include 10 acres, has two cemeteries, a section of the older one set aside

for burial of slaves. Dates as far back as the 1700's mark tombs in the old cemetery.

Records show that Old Town Creek Church was a hub of activity in the past with large crowds attending from miles away. Old timers of the community say they can remember when crowds were so large that one service would be inside while another group would be listening to another preacher in a shady grave outside.

Today's church stands in striking contrast to the first one built of logs. And even though the present building is old enough that it was constructed with square headed nails, (which date back more than 50 years) the church has undergone a face lifting. A white coat of paint covers the church; a new floor has been installed; a heating system set up; and except for pews a newly decorated interior.

Members of the congregation, now numbering 57, are planning new Sunday School rooms from a building funds that is well toward being a success.

*The Decatur Daily
Oct. 1956*

2 County Churches To Observe 150th Anniversaries

Two Lawrence County churches - Courtland Methodist and Old Town Creek Baptist - will observe sesquicentennials this month as they mark 150th year anniversaries.

Courtland Methodist will mark its 150th year this Sunday with Old Town Creek Baptist planning anniversary activities for Sunday, May 26.

Both churches are older than the state of Alabama and both have planned revival meetings to precede the homecoming day services.

Courtland Methodist

A three-night layman's revival will precede the special day of activities in observance of Courtland Methodist' sesquicentennial with speakers from various sections of Lawrence and Morgan Counties highlighting the program.

Courtland Methodist Church, a church older than the state of Alabama, will observe its 150th year Sunday, May 18.

A three-night layman's revival will precede the special day of activities planned in observance of the church's sesquicentennial with speakers from various sections of Lawrence and Morgan Counties highlighting the program.

Revival nights are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 16, 17 and 18 at 7:30 daily.

Homecoming activities will get underway Sunday morning with guest speaker to be the Rev. Clifford Wheeler, superintendent of the Decatur district of the Methodist Church.

Highlights of the morning activities will be a history of the church presented by Foster B. McNamee, a Sunday school teacher at Courtland High School, who has been compiling background information on the church for several months.

R. B. Mober McGowan of Courtland will be organist.

A basket lunch brought by the congregation will be spread at noon, concluding the morning's activities. The program resumes at 1:30 Sunday evening with speakers to be James G. Bould of Decatur, W. L. Cox of Town Creek and Charles Graham of Courtland. Pastor of the church is Herbert Myers.

Invitations are being mailed to about 150 families, including members and former members. Mrs. Roy W. Terry is in charge of invitations.

Former pastors will be extended personal invitations to attend the Sunday services, he said. An invitation is also being forwarded to John Shadwin, a former pastor who is now a chaplain with the armed services in Viet Nam.

Other former pastors to be invited include A. L. Edrington, pastor of the church from 1885 to 1895; J. L. Gunnis, Sumnerville; B. S. Sumner, Sumnerville; Norman E. Stafford, Cantonville; Leland D. Decker, D. L. McVee, Anniston; Samuel W. Berry, Decatur; and C. T. Howell of Etna. R. F. McDonald and Z. S. Carpenter of Birmingham, former pastors who are now retired, will also be invited.

Speakers for the layman's revival will be E. R. Todd of Courtland, Maurice Graham of Chalybeate and W. L. Sisson of Decatur at the Thursday, May 16, service; G. S. Parker, Triola, Woodard Logan, Landersville, and Nelson B. Buck, Decatur, at the Friday night service; Bailey Terry of Hillsboro, J. W. Hill, Morris Chapel, and A. G. (Buddy) Simons of Courtland at the Saturday night service.

Town Creek News

Mayer Paul Houston, who has been a patient at the Culbert County Hospital, is now at home.

R. B. Talaferro and daughter, Pam, of Milton, Fla. were recent guests of Mrs. B. B. Talaferro, Sr.

Sunday guests of Mrs. Cella Martin were Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Black of Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Silas Black, Sr. and Mrs. W. C. Cross, Sharline, Karen, and Annette, and Mrs. Ethel Cross of Moulton.

The people of the town are

Old Town Creek Baptist

An all-day service is planned for the 150th year observance of Old Town Creek Baptist, located on Alabama 24 West at the intersection of Alabama 101.

The Sunday, May 26, service will climax a week of revival services led by the Rev. William 1800 Post of Florence, who is pastor of Central Heights Baptist Church.

Nightly services, beginning this Sunday, will be at 7:30.

Singing during the week-long revival will be directed by Clyde King, accompanied by his wife.

The church pastor, Rev. Raymond T. McShary, has scheduled activities for homecoming day.

The guest evangelist, along with McShary and former pastors, will speak at services during the day, highlighted with a dinner for all at noon. The afternoon services resume at 2 p.m.

A history of the church, from its early days to the present, will be included in the morning service. The history has been compiled by Mrs. Jessie Gibson McChang of Decatur, a grand daughter of a former pastor at the church, Rev. Bob West.

Growth and progress will be pointed out in the history, which is the result of months of research.

A special invitation has been extended to former pastors to visit the church on homecoming Sunday and take part in the services.

The group includes Oscar Shortemery of Birmingham; Levin Hagedorn, Chalybeate; W. H. Savarinas of Montgomery; Willie Parker, Wheeler; Harold Northwest, Oklahoma City; Okla. W. Dean Sims, Decatur; Lathan Montgomery, Bartlett; Billy Calne, Clear, Alaska; Jimmy Wilds, Ludlow, Ga.; Bill Purden of Hillsboro and Bill Ellis.

Homecoming day activities will conclude with the 7:30 evening service, which also features The Rev. Post of Florence.

A spokesman for the church said the revival and homecoming day services will be open to the public and that former members are especially invited to attend.

The invitation is open to ministers who were ordained at Old Town Creek Baptist, and according to a member of the church, several ministers received their ordination during services there.

Wes Wear of Moulton, who is now retired from the ministry, was among those ordained at the church. He was a member for several years.

Palms with the families of Rufus Berryman and Mrs. Gerry Houston, who lost their homes by fire Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Berryman, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Low and Mrs. Bob and Terry Low and Mrs. and Mrs. Donald Carlton and Tom of Sylarups spent Mother's Day with Mr. and Mrs. Tummie Roberts.

Visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Young Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jeffreys from Cherokee and Thomas and Gene Craig. Mr. and Mrs. George Berryman and Mrs. Jessie Berryman of Decatur.

Miss Lucy Greenhaw is a patient at the Culbert County Hospital. She is reported as improving slowly after surgery.

Dr. and Mrs. "Buddy" Montgomery and Gay Austin and Mrs. Betty Carline of Birmingham and Miss Ann Gilly of PSTC were recent guests of Mrs. Harriet Montgomery and Miss Minnie Owen.



OLD TOWN CREEK CHURCH



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Next Sunday Marks 130th Anniversary For Oldest Church

Old Town Creek Baptist Plans Homecoming Services

The Old Town Creek Baptist Church will observe its 130th anniversary next Sunday, with Homecoming Day services.

Established in 1818, two years before the town of Moulton was founded, the church is the oldest in the county and one of the oldest in the state.

Elders John Davis and Theophilous Skinner were the presbytery of the church after its formation, and its first pastor was Abner Smith, a member of the old Russell Valley Church.

Membership Grew

The records of the early church are incomplete, but fragmentary files show that the membership of the church grew from 36 in 1827 to more than 300 members.

Elder Joseph Shackleford, one-time editor of The Advertiser when it was a denominational publication, served as pastor of the church in 1863 and 1864. He was succeeded by Elder J. C. Roberts, who was pastor for several years, and then by Elder J. J. Gunn, who served one year. Other pastors for the church in the late 1890's were Elders J. S. Gibson, R. T. Wear, and S. R. C. Adams.

The old church has sent out quite a number of ministers, and has been the mother of several churches.

Among ministers coming from its congregation were A. L. Stovall, J. C. Roberts, R. T. Wear, William Stockton, J. I. Stockton, J. M. Roberts, and L. R. Craig. Mt. Hope and New Prospect Churches were also formed from its membership.

The Rev. G. N. Francis, Lansdown, is pastor of the church and Paul Jackson is the clerk.

One Of Oldest Members

Mrs. Mittie Wear, 96-year old Moulton resident, is one of the church's oldest members. Mrs. Wear became a member of the Old Town Creek Church when she was 18, and has never moved her membership. She is the mother of the Rev. Will Wear, pastor of the Moulton Baptist Church.

Homecoming services will begin at 10:30 next Sunday morning, May 23, and ordination services will be held at the church at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Dinner will be served on the grounds at noon.

HOMECOMING

1948

Old Town Creek Homecoming Set

Old Town Creek Baptist Church, located west of Moulton on Alabama 101, will observe its 137th homecoming Sunday with special services planned for the day.

Rev. Jack T. Bryant of Courtland will speak at the 11 a.m. worship hour. He is a retired Baptist minister and former interim pastor at the church.

Lunch will be served at noon and there will be special singing in the afternoon. Steve Hall, minister of music and youth at Moulton Baptist Church, and the Youth Choir will sing at 2 p.m.

All former pastors have an invitation to attend homecoming day.

The pastor of the church is Rev. Jack Eberling.

The following information outlines the history of Old Town Creek Baptist, the oldest Baptist church in Lawrence County and the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association.

"Town Creek Baptist Church was organized May 1818 with Elders John Davis and Theophilous Skinner as a presbytery from the Russells Valley Church in Franklin County. Elder Abner Smith was the first pastor. (Later it is reported that he and his family were killed by the Indians somewhere in the West.)

"It is the oldest Baptist Church in Lawrence County and the oldest church in Muscle Shoals Association. The church was founded when this state was still a territory, and was a year old when Alabama came into the Union in 1819.

"The church is located eight miles west of Moulton on Alabama 24, at the intersection of Alabama 101. The church,

- Bid Opening

(Continued From Page 1)

Anyone not able to attend the group showing can make other arrangements to inspect the site by contacting Lee Greene, a civil engineer with the Soil Conservation Service in Decatur. His telephone number is 353-6632.

Bids are asked from small contractors only.

The SCS will have supervision of the project once it begins, according to Mathews.

At a citizens' meeting last Thursday night in Courtland, a large number of residents were on hand to hear SCS officials and engineers explain the proposed work.

An emergency flood control grant, approved in Washington, will finance the Big Nance work.

Mrs. Mary Curtis, a local citizen of Courtland, has obtained most all rights-of-way from property owners and the others are expected to be secured before the date of the bid opening.

Mrs. Curtis, part owner of a local beauty shop, was largely responsible for leading this effort.

She was one of the citizens affected by flooding from the creek, not once but two times in the past. When this effort was begun, she made numerous contacts to get a flood relief project going, and has been the leading force in this drive for channel clearing.

pastorium, built in 1906, and two cemeteries are located on a 9 1/4 acre plot of ground. The deed to the first plot of land is not available. However, the deed for the land purchased in 1872 and 1900 is on record at the Lawrence County Courthouse.

"The first church building was of logs. In church minutes dated April, 1855, it is recorded that \$10 had been received from the sale of the old building. The church minutes from the 1851 to now are available. In October, 1853 it is recorded that "a Committee was appointed to make calculation of the cost of finishing our house of worship." In October 1858 plastering the ceiling is mentioned. The building has been remodeled and some changes made through the years.

However, the basic structure remains the same, with the original hand hewn sills and floor joists. In 1971 the church building was moved back into the grove and turned to face the highway.

"An educational building with full basement was added across the back on the south side. A kitchen and dining area are located in the basement. The sanctuary has been remodeled and carpeted, complete with new pews and pulpit and other furniture. A baptistry was added, with background scenery painted by Johnny Lavert Riggs, a young member of the church.

"The present membership of 79 seems small compared to the membership of 263 in 1855, which included 16 blacks. The influence of Old Town Creek Church has been felt through 26 ministers who have gone out (21 ordained, 2 licensed, 4 liberated to exercise gift as minister of the gospel) and the five churches organized. Organization of Mountain Springs Church in 1851 is recorded in the minutes. Pleasant Grove, Gum Springs and Mt. Hope were organized in 1856. New Prospect was organized in 1888."

Club To Hold Show

The Lawrence County Saddle Club will sponsor an all-trophy horse show Saturday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. at Dick Peebles' barn east of Moulton.

Classes will be the following: lead line, eight years and under; two year old racking horses; ladies' western pleasure; pony class, 12 years and under; mare and gelding class; barrel race; stallion class; potato race; style racking; western pleasure; junior racking class, 16 years and under; rescue race; gaited pleasure; speed racking; ladies' racking; pole bending; racking championship;

Each class will have three judges. Rainout date will be Friday, May 25.

Peebles' barn and arena is located six miles east of Moulton on Alabama 24.

HOMECOMING

1975

2017-2018 CHURCH STAFF, OFFICERS, AND TEACHERS

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Brandon H. Kerby
Interim Worship Leader	Rev. Brandon H. Kerby
Director of Student Ministries	Bro. Norman McLemore
Director of Children's Ministries	Mrs. Aleshia McLemore

CHURCH OFFICERS

Treasurer	Mrs. Misty Strickland
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs. Mary Kimbrough
Church Clerk	Mrs. Belinda Kimbrough
Trustee 1	Bro. Ed Herring
Trustee 2	Bro. Norman McLemore
Trustee 3	Bro. Barry LouAllen
Recorder	Bro. J.B. Nolen
Representative to the Association	Bro. Johnny L. Riggs
Alternate Representative	Bro. J.B. Nolen
Children's Church Director	Mrs. Alice Kimbrough
Nursery Coordinator	Mrs. Joyce Parker
Men's Ministry Director	Bro. Wendell Mitchell
Assistant Men's Ministry Director	Bro. Doug Kimbrough
W.M.U. Director	Mrs. Sue Farley
VBS Director	Mrs. Sheree Adams
Assistant VBS Director	Mrs. Emily Elkins
AWANA Director	Mrs. Aleshia McLemore
VBS Secretary	Mrs. Leslie Dutton

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS

Sunday School Director	Johnny L. Riggs
Assistant Sunday School Director	Wendell Mitchell
Sunday School Secretary	Johnny L. Riggs/Wendell Mitchell
Bulletin	Aleshia McLemore
Literature	Doug and Belinda Kimbrough

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Nursery Teacher	Mrs. Brittany Hill
Nursery Assistant	Mrs. Andrea LouAllen

Preschool Teacher (2-3 Years)	Mrs. Lisa Mitchell
Preschool Teacher (4-5 Years)	Mrs. Sheree Adams
Preschool Assistant (4-5 Years)	Mrs. Leslie Dutton
Grades 1st-3rd Teacher	Mrs. Belinda Kimbrough
Grades 1st-3rd Assistant	Mrs. Savannah LouAllen
Grades 4th-6th Teacher	Bro. Ed Herring
Grades 4th-6th Assistant	Mrs. Mary Kimbrough
Youth Teacher	Bro. Norman McLemore
Youth Assistant	Mrs. Aleshia McLemore
Young Adult Teacher	Bro. Larry Kimbrough
Young Adult Assistant	Rev. Brandon H. Kerby
Growing Sisters Teacher	Mrs. Misty Strickland
Growing Sisters Assistant	Mrs. Alice Kimbrough
Willing Workers Teacher	Mrs. Betty Montgomery
Willing Workers Assistant	Mrs. Becky Hopkins
Adult Men Teacher	Bro. Randall Parker
Adult Men Assistant	Bro. Lyndon Smith

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father."

- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (KJV)

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Sunday Morning Worship-----11:00 AM

Sunday Evening Worship-----6:00 PM

Wednesday Evening Bible Study -----6:30 PM

Rev. Brandon Kerby, Senior Pastor

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