HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRISTOL, FLORIDA

Established on October 10, 1948.





•Bristol was the only county seat in Florida without a Baptist church. This led Dr. Reese, pastor at Lake Mystic Baptist Church, to begin the work to have a mission in the city of Bristol. He received \$1,000 from the Florida Baptist Convention to "seed" this mission.

- •On September 22, 1948, the decision was made to become a church.
- •October 10, 1948, the First Baptist Church of Bristol, Florida was founded.



CHARTER MEMBERS

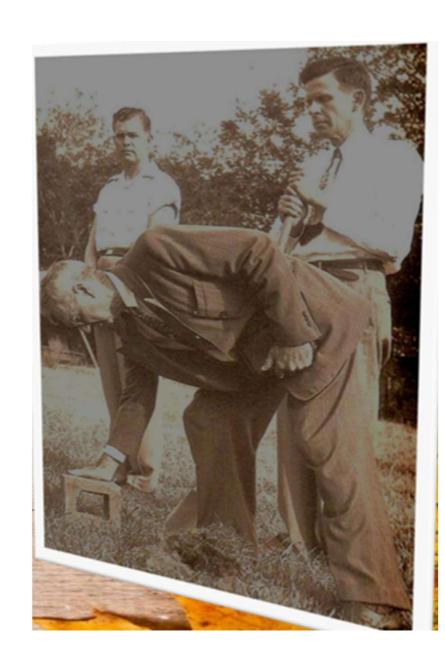
- Mrs. Mary Dell Tanner
- Mr. & Mrs. James Connor
- Mrs. Lydia Herndon
- Miss Tessie Thagard
- Mrs. Elizabeth Shuler
- Mrs. Clara Belle Revell
- Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Sumner
- Miss Sue Cook
- Mrs. Lizzie Dunaway
- Mrs. B. T. Kever

- Miss Betty Jean Hansford
- Mr. & Mrs. Earl Singletary
- Miss Jacquelyn Singletary
- Mrs. Anna Rhoden
- Mrs. Gertrude Revell
- Mrs. Lavada Foster
- Mr. Jerry Money
- Miss Valda Ivy
- Mrs. Julia Revell
- Miss Laura Peck

•On October 1, 1950, under the leadership of Rev. G.T. Hunt, the church broke ground for a new church building.



Pastor G.T. Hunt set the first block for the new building with the two newly elected deacons James Conner and J. L. Traylor.



Lester Summers presented the model of the new church as Edward Revell, Julia Kate Wingate, and Jacquelyn Singletary looked on.



In 1952 services began in the new building even though it was not finished. Two years later the baptistry was dedicated on October 17th.

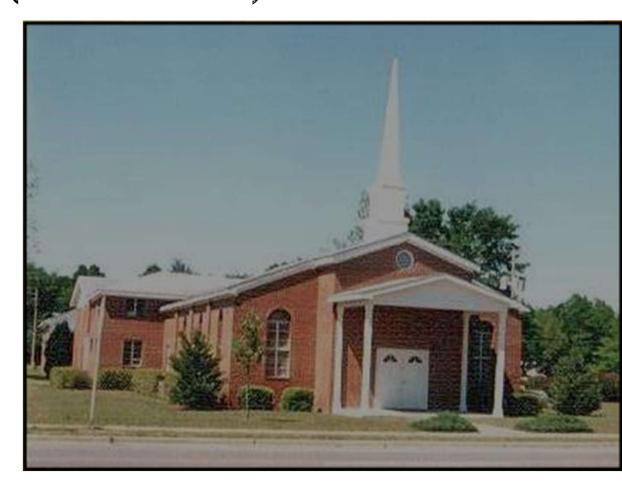


PASTORS DURING THE EARLY YEARS

- Rev. T.O Reese (1947 to 1948)
- Rev. H. B. Lytle (1948 to 1950)
- Rev. G. T. Hunt (1950 to 1954)
- Rev. Carl Parker (1954 to 1955)
- Rev. James K. Solomon (1955 to 1956)
- Rev. James C. Moore (1957 to 1958)
- Rev. Harry M. Hughes (1958 to 1960)

MIDDLE YEARS (1960-1996)

• The Education Building was built under Rev. Eugene Abernathy (1962 to 1964).



MIDDLE YEARS (1960-1996)

 On October 29, 1989, Rev. Bob Williams led a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the Family Life Center.



MIDDLE YEARS (1960-1996)

On May 30, 1993, Rev. Bob Williams assisted in the note burning ceremony for the new Family Life Center.



PASTORS DURING THE MIDDLE YEARS

- Rev. Thomas Hires, Jr (1960 to 1962)
- Rev. Eugene Abernathy (1962 to 1964)
- Rev. Cecil Davis, Interim (1964)
- Rev. Kenneth Kinley (1964 to 1966)
- Rev. Wesley Haefner (1966 to 1983)
- Rev. Ellis Turner (1984 to 1987)
- Rev. Francis A. Knight (1987; 1988 to 1989)
- Rev. Tommy Brock (June 1988 until his death in October 1988)
- Rev. James A. Kirkland (1989 to 1991)
- Rev. Robert T. Williams (1992 to 1995)
- Rev. Mark McDowell, Interim (1995 to 1996)

In July 1997, the church purchased 10 acres of land from Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Strickland on which to build a new church.



•On April 18, 1999, Pastor John McDaniel led a dedication ceremony on the new property.



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•On March 6, 2005, a groundbreaking ceremony for the new church building was held on the property

at Michaux Road.

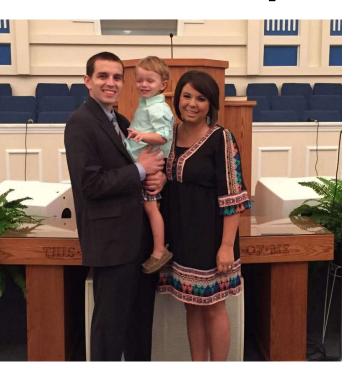


 Charter members Jerry Money and Jacquelyn Singletary Kelley broke ground at the new church site.





 Deacon ordination ceremony for Troy Brady and Grant Conyers on August 16, 2015.





PASTORS DURING THE LATER YEARS

- Rev. John W. McDaniel (1996 to 1999)
- Rev. James Henderson, Interim (1999 to 2000)
- Rev. Shelly Chandler (2000 to 2002)
- Rev. Victor Walsh (2003 to 2010)
- Rev. Roger Phillips (2010 to 2013)
- Rev. Matt Basford (2015 to 2023)

•The new facility was paid off on October 15, 2023 and the church celebrated with burning the note.



•Church family gathered on the front lawn for the 75th annual Homecoming celebration in October of

2023.



PRESENT YEARS (2024-PRESENT)

- Pastor Thomas
 Howell was voted in
 as lead pastor on
 February 18, 2024.
- •He was joined by his wife, Hannah Howell, and daughter, Ally Grace Howell.



PASTORS DURING 2024-PRESENT

Dr. Thomas Howell (2024 to Present)

PRESENT YEARS (2024-PRESENT)

- Deacon board as of September 8, 2024.
 - (left to right) Troy Brady, Ronnie Deason, Travis Peavy, Ethan Foran, Calvin Foran, Joey Brady, Grant Conyers, and Gene Free (not pictured).

