

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRISTOL, FLORIDA

Established on October 10, 1948.



EARLY YEARS (1948-1960)

- 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.



EARLY YEARS (1948-1960)

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



EARLY YEARS (1948-1960)



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



EARLY YEARS (1948-1960)

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



EARLY YEARS (1948-1960)

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



EARLY YEARS (1948-1960)

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



EARLY YEARS (1948-1960)

- 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)



LATER YEARS (1997-2023)

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



LATER YEARS (1997-2023)

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



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LATER YEARS (1997-2023)

- On March 6, 2005, a groundbreaking ceremony for the new church building was held on the property at Michaux Road.



LATER YEARS (1997-2023)

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



LATER YEARS (1997-2023)



LATER YEARS (1997-2023)

- 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)



LATER YEARS (1997-2023)

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



LATER YEARS (1997-2023)

- 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).

