



HOMECOMING

First Baptist Church

1948 - 2023

The background of the slide is a dark, textured wooden surface. Scattered around the edges are several autumn leaves in various colors, including shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. Some leaves have small, clear water droplets on them. A single red berry is visible near the top left of the text area.


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.



**On September 22, 1948, the decision
was made to become a church.**

The background of the image is a dark, textured wooden surface. Scattered around the edges are several autumn leaves in various colors, including shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. Some leaves have small, clear water droplets on them. A single red berry is visible near the top left corner.


October 10, 1948,
the First Baptist Church
of Bristol, Florida was
founded.

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

Charter Members



A photograph of autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow, scattered on a dark wooden surface. A single red berry is visible among the leaves on the left side. The text is centered over the image.

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 serving in the early years:

Rev. H. B. Lytle (1948 to 1950)

Rev. G. T. Hunt (1950 to 1954)

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).



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



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



Pastors serving in the middle years:

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 1997-2022



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





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.

On October 29, 2006, the church held the Dedication Ceremony for the new facility.



Pastors serving in the later years to present:

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.