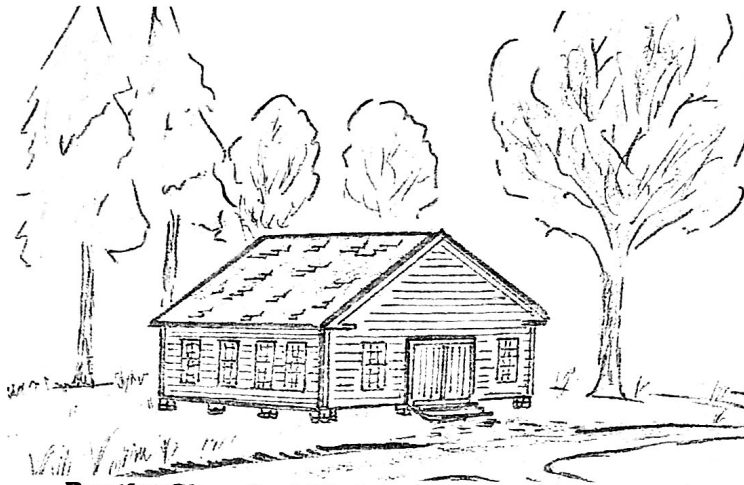




History of Sardis Baptist Church

Submitted by: Sandra Huffmaster



***Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis - Early 1900's
Drawing by James Robinson***

Sardis Baptist Church was established in 1875. As the area six miles west of Palmetto became more populated, residents felt the need of a more localized church. In 1875 the "Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis" was established with the Reverend J.R.T. Brown as pastor. Earliest membership records show 65 members on role (see below). Many came from Ramah Baptist Church in Palmetto. The first church building was located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Hutcheson Ferry and Sardis Roads. Services were held one weekend each month (Saturday and Sunday). An enlargement to the first church was added in 1904.

In October, 1926, a committee was appointed by the church to investigate building a new church. The committee members included: H.G. Peek, C.D. Kearns, F.O. Turner, D.B. Gullatt, Mrs. Mamie Barnes, and Mrs. Mamie Turner.



H.G. (Henry) & Jewell Peek

In November of 1926, the church voted 23 to 13 in favor of building a new church building. Many thought it would be impossible, that they would never be able to pay for a new building. One man said, "The only way we can pay for a new church would be to sell the cemetery." But there were others who knew that with God's help they could do it. Mr. Henry Peek said that he would be at the church on Monday morning to start building and that anyone who wished to help would be welcome to join him. Many men met together and the building was started. When the building was completed in 1928, the entire structure was paid for with the exception of the new pews, for which Mrs. Mamie Barnes loaned the money. The church still meets in the same building today.

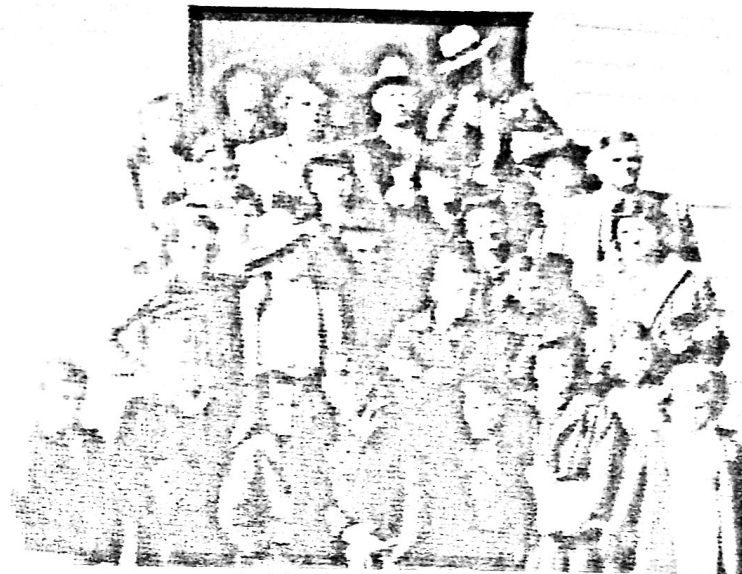


Mrs. Mamie Barnes



Sardis Baptist Church - 1975

In 1935 services were changed to two Sundays each month. Records show that in 1942 the church was called "Sardis Baptist Church". Some members recall that as late as 1947 horses and wagons were still used by some people as a means of transportation to church. The church began holding services every Sunday in 1948.



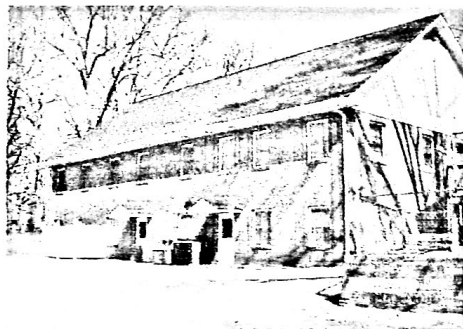
In Front of Church

(Joe Hearn, Herman Kearns, Jack Peek, James Turner, Richard Hearn, Allen Hearn, Hilda Peek (Cochran), Opel Turner (Draper), Helen Kearns (Huffmaster), Robert Peek, Harvey Hearn, Jimmy Shell, Mary Hearn, Dan Peek, Hazel Hearn (Lawson), Olynn Johnson, Alice Kearns, Billy Peek, Alma Jean Crawley (Norred), Emma Eidson, Pauline Jones, Lena Hearn, Ralph Kearns, Sara Jean Barnes, Bonnie Shell, Emma Turner, H.P. Shell, Fred Turner, Ezra Jones)

Sunday School rooms were added to the church in 1944 and again in 1947. A Sunday School building was added in 1960 and an Education Building was added in 1980.



Sunday School Building



Education Building



First Young Married Class - 1949

(Eunice Robinson, Nancy Huffmaster, Beckie Peek, Doris Kearns, Betty Barge
James Robinson, Harold Huffmaster, Billy Peek, Ray Kearns, Aubrey Barge)



Baptism Service at Otis Barnes' lake

(Rev. F.C. Garrard, Raymond Peek, Jr., Joyce Peek,
Harold Bomar, Jr., Diane Aldredge, Brenda Aldredge)



The Gospel Wagon

Charlie Peek drove and picked up people to take them to Sunday School and Church
(Buford Gentry, Howard Gullatt, Wayne Gentry, Y.A. Brown, Tom Peek, Clariace Johnson, Louise Kearns (Thompson), Emma
Kearns (Turner), Mary Kearns (Davidson), Henry Thompson, Florence Gentry, Tessie Peek (Shell), Callie Peek, Annie Peek (Lee),
H.P. Shell, Jr., Maggie Peek & child, Pierce Shell, Henry Peek, Jewell Peek & child, Charlie Peek)

In June of 1954 the church voted to build a Pastorium, which was first occupied by Rev. J.O. Strickland. This building is located, across Hutcheson Ferry Road from the church building, on Vernon Grove Road. In 1966 a larger pastorium, first occupied by Rev. Bill Anglin, was built where the original church had been located and the old pastorium became Sunday School rooms.



In June 1954 the church voted to build a Pastorium, which was first occupied by Rev. J.O. Strickland.



**In April 1966 plans for the new Pastorium were presented to the church.
In June 1966 the pastorium was ready for occupancy. Rev. Bill Anglin moved in.
In January 1967 Open House was held in the new pastorium.**

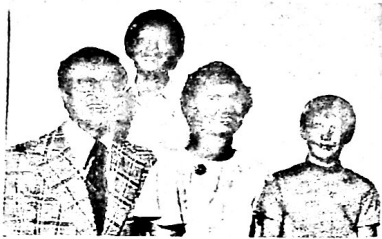
In 1998 the church grounds underwent a facelift including new landscaping, church sign, and outside lights.

The summer of 2008, a community pavilion was completed. The pavilion was made available for use by any residents of the community for activities such as picnics, family reunions, and birthday/anniversary celebrations.



Pavilion

Many servants of the Lord have been called out from Sardis Baptist church to serve the Lord in Christian service including: Christine Eidson Graves, Rev. Richard A. Hearn, Bobbi Hearn Jackson, Nell Hearn Daniel, Faye Peek Godwin, Rev. Tom & Mary Gullatt, and Tracy Turner Staton.



Rev. Roy Godwin, Faye Peek Godwin, and sons



Rev. Tom Gullatt and Mary Gullatt

The Sardis Baptist Church Cemetery is located on Sardis Church Road behind the location of the original church building (now the site of the pastorium). There are approximately 275 graves, 28 of which are unmarked (10 unknown). There are 23 marked soldier's graves: 2 - U.S. Army, 3 - World War I, 7 - World War II, 10 - Confederate Army, 1 - Vietnam War.

The earliest birth date of the recorded markers is 1811, Martha Thompson, a charter member.



Sardis Baptist Church Cemetery

Original Members

Brothers

Jes Astin

S.F. Astin

R.S. Barnes

Calvin Dean

Thomas Dean

Arthur Eidson

Cicero Eidson

Joseph Eidson

Thomas Eidson

Sana Gentry

Wiley Gentry

L. Hayes

Charley Horton

Joseph Hutson

Earl McElroy

James McElroy

P.M. McElroy

L.A. Phillips

S.J. Phillips

Thomas Phillips

Jim W. Potts

Jules Roberson

Robert Stamps

M. Terry

William Terry

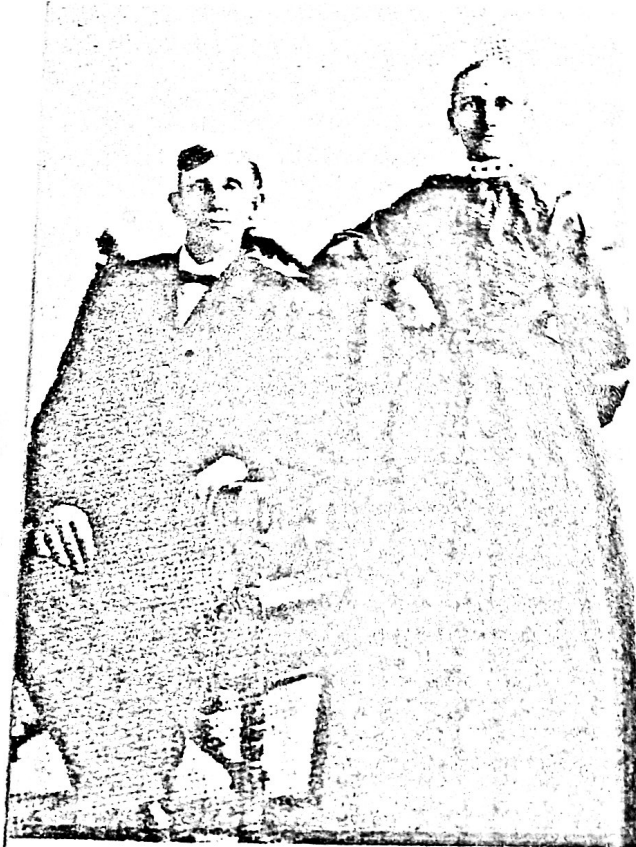
Leosson Turbyfield



L.A. (Leonard) Phillips

Sisters

Ellen Allen
Fannie Astin
Francis Astin
Matilda Astin
Matta Barnes
Sarah Barnes
Sally Barnes
Emily Byron
Sarah Byron
Lena Dean
Maggie Dean
Etta Eidson
Cornelia Gentry
Gus Gentry
Nancy Gullatt
Ruthy Henderson
Matilda Henley
Tishie McElroy
Emes Phillips
Mary Phillips
Opiela Roberson
Polly Roberson
Olive Smith
Catherine Terry
Lela Terry
Rony Terry
Martha Thompson
Samantha Thompson
Martha Turbyfield
Emma Turner
Etta Watkins
Sahronia Wakins
Molly Zellars



Joe and Etta Eidson

Facts of Interest

- **On February 23, 1889 the church voted that each member would give a nickel each month during that year.**
- **On January 25, 1889 the church employed Sister Samantha Thompson to keep the church clean for \$5.00 per year.**
- **On April, 1902 the church adopted the rule of monthly contributions. They collected 85 cents.**
- **In March, 1905 no church conference was held because of rainy weather.**
- **On August 31, 1935 Mr. S.H. Hearn was elected church treasurer. This is the first time a church treasurer was mentioned in minutes.**
- **On November 2, 1935 the vote was taken by the church on whether to continue to meet on Saturday and Sunday or two Sundays a month.**
- **On September 4, 1937 the church voted to buy a communion set.**
- **From the years 1875 - 1942 Sardis was called "Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis". On March 15, 1942 were the first records of being called "Sardis Baptist Church".**
- **In September 1948 it was voted to go to full time preaching services.**