

THE BEGINNINGS OF A NEW CHURCH

Sometime in 1960 a group of God's choicest saints in the Hiddenite area began meeting for worship and Bible Study in the basement of Donald & Martha Robertson. In similar fashion, like the New Testament saints at Berea, "...they received the Word with all readiness of mind and searched the Scripture daily..." (Acts 17:10-12). Just like the Bereans of the Bible, this group desired to know more of God and His Word. That desire was what led them to become recognized as the Berea Baptist Mission. After two years of meeting in the Robertson's basement, the Bereans felt led by God to purchase four acres of land and on June 24, 1962, groundbreaking occurred to begin construction of a church building. The building was finished, and the first service was held on September 9, 1962. The church was officially organized on February 3, 1963; the following are excerpts from the first few pages of the original minutes of the church clerk.

THE OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION OF BEREA BAPTIST CHURCH

TIME - Sunday, February 3, 1963, 2:30 P.M.

PLACE – Church building, Berea Baptist Mission, Route 2, Hiddenite, Alexander County, North, Carolina

SPONSER – Damascus Baptist Church, Route 2, Statesville, N.C.

PRESBYTERY – Rev. Ed Miller, Rev. Irvin Wallace, Rev. Charles Cook, Rev. Mack McCurdy, Rev. Basil Waters, Rev. Dwight Dowell, Deacon Bert Johnson, Deacon R.N. Sloan, Deacon John Moxley, Deacon Faxie Brown, Deacon Roscoe Campbell, Deacon Bill Moxley.

MODERATOR – Rev. Ed Miller

CLERK – Rev. Dwight Dowell

To open the service the congregation sang "All Hail The Power" followed by "Come Thou Almighty King", "Oh, How I Love Jesus" and "Bringing In The Sheaves".

Following the song service Rev. James Sigmon read II Timothy 2:1-2 and made a few comments. Rev. Charles Cook led the congregation in prayer.

The service was turned over to Rev. Ed Miller to act as moderator for the Presbytery and he in turn asked Rev. Dwight Dowell to read a list of the names of the people who had brought letters from Damascus Baptist Church to join the Berea Baptist Church. The following people formed the nucleus of the new church.

- Brother Forriest Sprinkle
- Brother James L. Davis

- Brother Dewey D. Robertson
- Brother Clint Millsaps
- Brother Ed Millsaps
- Brother Emmitt Millsaps

After the examination of the nucleus, Rev. Ervin Wallace gave a sketch of the two ordinances of the Baptist Church – water baptism and the Lord’s Supper. He stressed the importance of these two ordinances and emphasized the fact that as Baptists it is our duty to observe them in the fullest measure.

The men on the Presbytery had no further questions or comments and they stated they were satisfied with the testimonies they had heard. So, on the motion by Rev. Mack McCurdy, seconded by Rev. Charles Cook, at 3:22 P.M. Berea Baptist Church was established.

After the church was established Brother Dewey Robertson was elected by the Church to serve as temporary Moderator. Brother Forriest Sprinkle was elected by the church to serve as temporary clerk.

The temporary Moderator, Brother Dewey Robertson, took charge of the services and opened the doors of the church. The following were received pending letter of recommendation:

Mrs. Marguerite Looper Sprinkle
 Steven Sprinkle
 Gary Sprinkle
 Mrs. Joyce Steele Robertson
 Mrs. Sylvia Lackey Davis
 Mrs. Pearlie Parker Millsaps
 Mrs. Lucy Cook Millsaps
 Mrs. Martha Sue Millsaps Robertson
 Donald Robertson
 Mrs. Ann Davis McLain
 James Ball Jr.
 Jerry Lee Millsaps
 Mrs. Margaret Davis Millsaps
 Edward Millsaps Jr
 Mrs. Lona Parker Ball
 J.E. Ball

The following were received as candidates for baptism:
 Miss Jettie Millsaps
 Donald McLain

The Church voted to accept these people pending necessary letters of recommendation and instructed the clerk to write Fairview Baptist Church for the letters.

It was decided that the doors of the church would remain open for thirty days. Anyone joining the new church within those thirty days would be a charter member.

The church called as its first pastor, the Rev. James Sigmon. Since its beginning, the Berea Baptist Church has a rich heritage of Godly, loving pastors who have faithfully proclaimed the truth of God's Word. The following is a list of the pastor's Berea Baptist Church has had since its inception until the present.

James Sigmon	1963-1966
James Gwaltney	1966-1969
Harry Simms	1970-1973
David Parks	1973-1980
Timothy Works	1980-1981
J.D. Dunn	1982-1984 interim
Lincoln Donevant	1884-1985 interim
Karl Moyers	1985-1986
Lincoln Donevant	1986-1988 interim
Charles Cook	1988-2014
Sheridan Stanton	2014-Present

As the congregation grew, the members had a burden to build a parsonage. After much prayer, it was decided to begin construction in 1971. Pastor Harry Simms and his wife became the first occupants. Five years later, in 1976, a new sanctuary was built under the leadership of Pastor David Parks. Then, in November of 1995, under the leadership of pastor Charles Cook, a fellowship hall was constructed and was named Sigmon Hall honoring the church's first pastor, James Sigmon. In the fall of 2002 a very sizeable project of remodeling the sanctuary was carried out under the leadership of Pastor Charles Cook.

The church continues to be a great example of multiple family generations represented in our membership. Like the Bereans of Acts 17, the truth of God's Word, His eternal love, and the discipline to obey the teachings of His Word continue to be interwoven in the spiritual fabric of our great church. In 2007 the Berea Baptist Church affirmed its official Constitution and Bylaws. The Statement of Faith adopted in this document is posted on the church's webpage.