

**NEW SANDY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
OUR HERITAGE AND OUR HOPE
1900-2011**

Owing to the faith and vision of our founding fathers, New Sandy Creek Baptist Church was organized on October 14th, 1900, with 13 charter members. Our constituent members came from Bethel and Cary Baptist Churches. From our humble beginnings in Mr. James Amos's packhouse, the historic church has emerged as a dynamic body of faith moving into its second century of existence.

Located today in the shadow of a giant oak tree that has been a silent observer of it all, and nestled against a backdrop of tall stately pines, a beautiful brick sanctuary, fellowship hall, parsonage and soon to be completed Family Life Center adorn an eleven acre campus in eastern Vance County. Our first church was built in 1901 on land donated by Mr. William Dickie. It was a small one room structure located nearer the cemetery than our present church. The timber was cut from the Dickie estate and was dressed by hand by the members. The people had a mind to work and work parties were formed where everyone joined together in a labor of love to provide a place of worship. The nature of the Kingdom's work is always such that the most meager of contributions is always needed. Reverend Alexander George Washington Holmes was sent from God to be our first pastor. NSCBC has been blessed with a long line of faithful and devout pastors who's calling and passion was for lost souls. Reverend Tim Burgess along with his precious family are now serving in their fourteenth year as our beloved Senior Pastor. Reverend Daniel Atkins has served as his co-laborer in Christ as our Associate Pastor for more than four years as of this writing.

In 1913, the church purchased a one acre tract from the Dickie estate on the northern border of its original tract to be used as a cemetery. The road did not curve in front of the church in those days, but traveled straight down by the cemetery. The oldest marked grave in the cemetery belongs to Myrtle E. Neal, who died August 13th, 1913.

The historic church grew rapidly and in 1914, a larger building was erected on the site where our present church is located. The church continued to use the old building until the new church was ready for occupancy. This one story wooden structure would stand as a beacon to the community for the next 34 years. Educational wings across the back of the building, conforming to the traditional T-shape churches of its day, were added in the early 1920s. Travel was difficult in those days and often in the deep of winter, the church would be closed for weeks and months at the time. The first WMU was organized in 1914. Miss Iola Finch would head the long and distinguished list of dedicated women who would serve as its' president down through the years.

In 1924, the church entrusted its' financial matters with a young lady named Myrtle Hoyle. Little did it realize that she would render a truly great and tireless service in this office of treasurer for the next fifty years. It is with wonder and amazement how God touches human hearts to invite them to become a part of His great plan.

In the fall of 1926, the church purchased the two-room school across the road, where the parsonage is now located, to be used for educational space. Aycock High School had just been completed and the county sold this idle facility to the church. The building was divided into several rooms and would double as a parsonage when needed as well as Sunday School classrooms for the next three decades.

It was during W. B. Cone's ministry that the church launched out on faith and built our present church. On October 26, 1947, the congregation wisely voted to erect the new building on the present site. Demolition of the old building was delayed until Ruby Moss and Thomas Floyd could be married on November 10, 1947. Actual construction was begun on December 11, 1947, and the first worship service in our present building was conducted on June 27, 1948. We shall ever be indebted to the leaders of that generation whose vision, unfailing support, and untiring efforts resulted in such a beautiful house of worship.

Wednesday night prayer services and the rotation system for deacon selection had their beginnings in 1948. In 1952, O.W. Weldon and Otha Wright donated additional land surrounding the old Sunday School building to provide an adequate site for a new parsonage. In November 1953, the church voted to tear down the old Sunday School Building to make way for a new parsonage on that location. The new parsonage was completed in November 1953 and the Rev. Sherrill Stevens and his wife Margaritte, were the first family to occupy the parsonage.

In 1958, the Tar River Baptist Association, because of its large geographical size, voted to divide its territory into two associations. We remained a part of the northern territory and was subsequently renamed the Cullom Baptist Association.

In 1959, the church purchases two additional acres on the eastern border of our property to be used for cemetery expansion. The historic church continues to grow.

The church library was organized in 1965 with Mrs. Raymond Simmons serving as our first librarian. Our first steeple was erected in 1965 and was a most welcome and attractive enhancement. It's ornate architecture and copper spire would serve as a beacon to the community until it was replaced by a new steeple in 1995.

The church's thoughts have seldom been focused on itself. Consistently, throughout the years, the church's mission expenditures have grown in relationship to it's total expenditures. To God be the glory.

In 1979, the church built a spacious and attractive fellowship hall on land donated by the Claude Edwards family. All organizations of the church have been blessed

by the widespread utilization of this facility and have moved ahead with harmony and purpose.

In 1991, major renovations were made to the educational space across the back of the church as the main sanctuary and fellowship hall were connected and made into one structure. The physical facilities of the historic church continue to evolve to meet the growing needs of it's body. Also during this year, two more acres on our eastern border were purchased from the Dickie Estate to be used as cemetery expansion.

In 2007, the church initiated a three year capital campaign to provide funding for a Family Life Center. Hartwell Wright served as Director of the Arise and Build Capital Campaign that resulted in contributions totaling more than \$1,250,000 over a three year period. This allowed for the purchase of 3 acres of land from the Preston Edwards family and for construction that began on a 10,000 square foot building in June of 2008 and occupancy of a portion of the first floor in March of 2011. The church has chosen Kevin Kilgore to lead in a second capital campaign that will allow us to complete the first floor for occupancy. Breaking the Barriers is a two year focus on raising capital and on spiritual growth. This facility is but a tool for reaching lost souls. Thank you Lord for allowing us to get in the harness with you.

More than a century has passed since those pioneering souls dedicated to Almighty God the meeting house at New Sandy Creek. As the church reflects on its' traditions, it has steadfastly remained a bulwark of spiritual strength. We shall ever be indebted for her baptisms, weddings and funerals; for her record of ministries to hungry hearts, seeking minds and embittered souls; for the sick visited, the children taught, the adults challenged and the aged comforted. The church has always been generous in monetary giving, stalwart in keeping the faith and conscious of her missionary calling. It is with pride that we look back, but the story does not end here. We must recognize that the battle is not over. Christ has not returned. His Kingdom has not come. He does not reign supreme in the hearts of men and women as He should. In turning toward the future, we must not forget the part that we must play in the work of the kingdom. If we that remain are as true to the cause as our predecessors were, then New Sandy Creek is assured of a grand and glorious future. To God be the glory. Amen