

THE FIRST 140  
YEARS OF  
SWEETWATER  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH

1832 - 1972

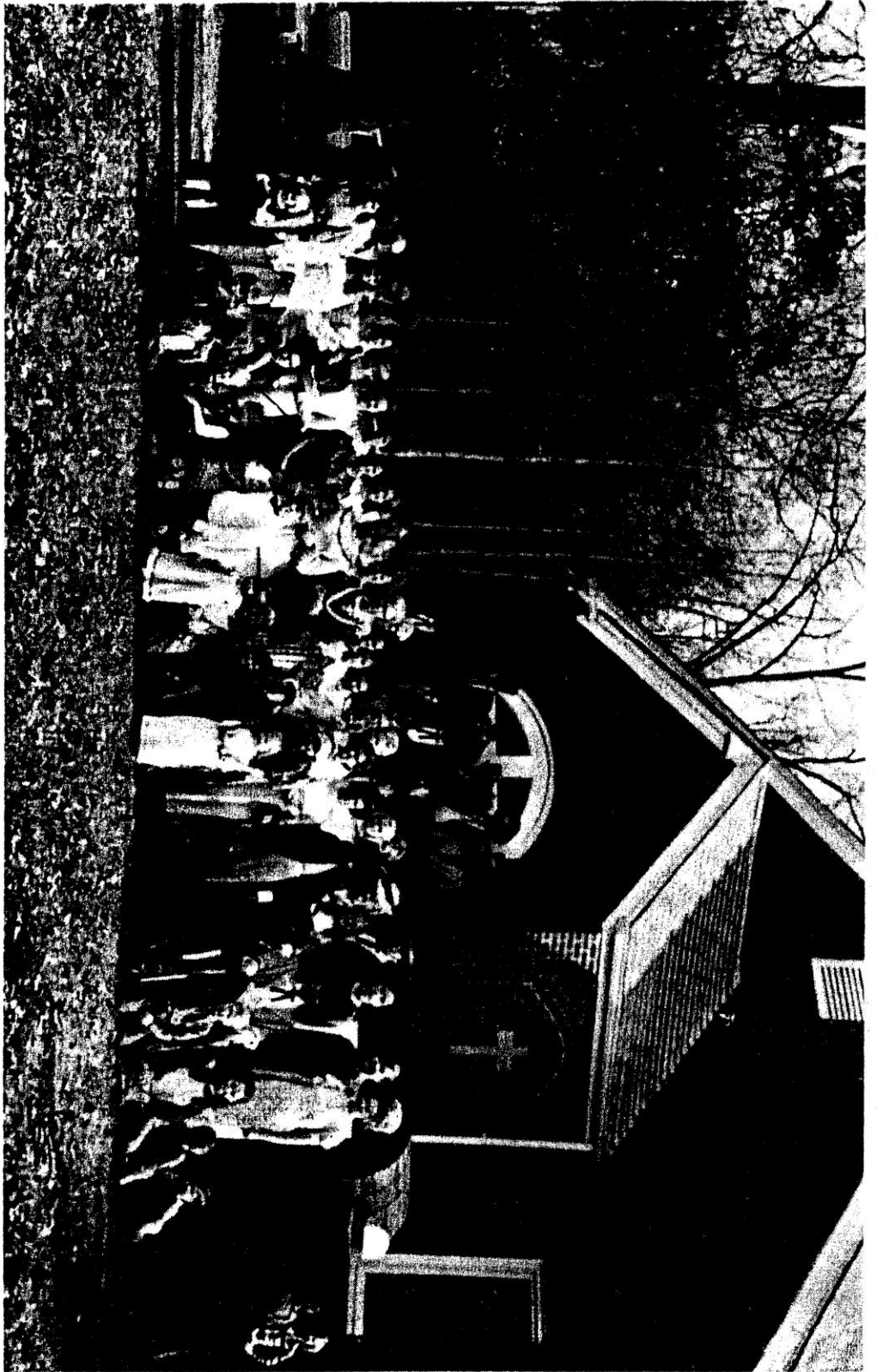
For 140 years God's word has been preached in the Sweetwater community in Paulding County. Our desire in this book is to share some of the joys, heartache, and growth of the Church. It's survival through the years is a tribute to our Lord and His willingness to die for the Church.

I would like to thank those who worked many hours to make this book possible: Gail Williams and Inez Johnson, the historical committee for their work of gathering the material from the old Church records, much of it written with a quill pen; Brenda Simonds and Annie Williams for their work of typing and proof reading the manuscript.



Sincerely,

Rev. Charles T. Johnson  
Editor





At the turn of the 19th Century, a wagon train traveled west on the Cherokee Trail. At some point in the Journey, unknown today, there was an outbreak of scarlet fever. The train stopped in the settlement of George Harrison on Sweetwater Creek in Old Cherokee, now Paulding County. During the sickness, two children died, and the parents elected to remain in the area where they had buried their children. From this start of sorrow, a church was born. On Monday, December 10, 1832, the Sweetwater Baptist Church was constituted, by Elders James Majors and Silas King, of the following members of the Baptist Churches of Christ from whence they removed, and according to a previous appointment and sermon being delivered, did constitute the following Brethren and Sisters into a Church State.

Males

Females

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Isaac Hughes       | 1. Martha Hughes   |
| 2. Cyrus Dobbs        | 2. Rachel Dobbs    |
| 3. Simond Strickland  | 3. Mary Strickland |
| 4. George Harris      | 4. Nancy Harris    |
| 5. Livingston Skinner | 5. J. E. Skinner   |
| 6. Thomas W. Garner   | 6. Sarah Garner    |

The Church adopted the following Constitution, Rules of Church Conference.

## CONSTITUTION

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three Persons in the God-head; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of Faith and Practice.
3. We believe in the Doctrine of Eternal and Particular election.
4. We believe in the Doctrine of Original Sin.
5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will ability.
6. We believe that Sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.
7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
8. We believe the Saints shall persevere in grace and never fall finally away.
9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these Ordinances; and we believe that the true mode of Baptism is by immersion.
10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a final judgement.
11. We believe the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the Righteous will be eternal.
12. We believe that no minister has a right to the Administration of the Ordinances only such as are regularly called and come under the imposition of hands by the Presbytery.

## DECORUM

1. Shall be entitled to a Moderator and a Clerk who shall be chosen by the body only on December meeting - the Clerk excepted.
2. Conference shall be opened and closed by Prayer.
3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order whose duty it shall be to call to order at any time.
4. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any brother; provided, his seat be filled, and shall have no vote, except the church be equally divided.
5. It shall be the duty of this Church to be faithful in all matters, especially in the reception and dismissal of members.
6. It shall be the duty of this Church to Commune and wash the saint's feet twice each year, on April and November meetings.
7. It shall be the duty of every member to fill their seat in time of communion.
8. It shall be the duty of male members to contribute for the support of the Gospel, and the Ordinances of the House of the Lord Jesus.
9. It shall be the duty of the Deacons to prepare for the Communion, and make collections to defray the expenses.
10. It shall be the duty of male members who miss more than one Conference to give the reason of absence.
11. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the Observation of the body, unless it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

12. Members who speak in debate, shall arise from their seats; and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject.
13. No member shall absent himself while in Conference without leave of the Moderator.
14. No member shall be allowed to speak more than three times to the same subject without leave of the Moderator.
15. The appellation of "Brother" and "Sister" shall be used in our address one to another.
16. It shall be considered disorder for any member to be whispering or laughing in time of public speech or cast reflections on the Speaker.
17. Every matter shall be decided by a majority of the members present, except that of fellowship.
18. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular record of the Acts of this Church, and read the **Decorum** quarterly.
19. We agree to amend this form of Government at any time, where a majority shall find it necessary.

## RULES OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. To invite visiting brethren and sisters to seat with the body.
2. To inquire for fellowship.
3. To call for references.
4. To open door for the reception of members.
5. To call for miscellaneous business.



The church held its first conference or business meeting, April 21st, 1833, and called Elder James Majors to the pastorate of the church and Thomas W. Garner as her first clerk. They both accepted their respective call.

Elder James Majors served the church until May, 1834, when she chose Elder Robert McMinn as her pastor and moderator.

The church met according to appointment on August 9, 1833, and in this conference, she selected her first messengers to an association. The messengers were, Thomas W. Garner and George Harris. (We remained a member of the Tallapoosa Association until we petitioned for membership in the Concord Missionary Baptist Association, October 9, 1913, while meeting with Prays Mill Baptist Church. The following year Sweetwater was host to the associational meeting.)

In the December conference of 1833; Isaac and Martha Hughes, Cyrus and Rachel Dobbs, Livingston and J. E. Skinner, Simond and Mary Strickland, 8 of the original 12, asked for letters of dismission, which was granted. With the new additions since its beginning this left a total membership of 9.

In the July, 1834, conference it was resolved that the church come together in fasting and prayer on Friday before our next meeting for the purpose of choosing out from among ourselves one or two deacons. On the Eighth of August, 1834, the church chose George Russell and Thomas W. Garner as her first two deacons. In this same meeting the church petitioned the New Hope Church, in Carroll County, for ministerial aid, together with the eldership of their church for the purpose of ordaining the newly elected deacons. On August 30, 1834, they, the ministers; Elders James Majors, Henry Haynes and Barnibas Pair, with the deacons; Johnson Haynes, William Majors, and Barnabas Adair held the ordination service.

On Thursday, September 25, 1834, the church met and resolved that the Brethren to wit; T. W. Garner, George Russell, H. Milford, and A. Stark, together with the moderator, to meet on the Saturday next at the Powder Springs Church in Cobb County, clothed with church authority to receive members by experience or by letter as members of this church.

In the May conference of 1836, they appointed the July Meeting as their communal meeting and agreed to invite four of our sister churches to visit us to wit; New Hope, Holly Springs, Powder Springs, and Campbellton. In this same meeting the church agreed to continue her communion and feet washing.

In the October 8, 1836, conference, it is noted that the church as a church having received Brother \_\_\_\_\_ as a member into their fellowship and after mature deliberation, believing that they had departed from the regular rule of the Baptist in general in the reception of said Brother \_\_\_\_\_. He, though divorced according to the laws of Georgia, hath taken another wife under the laws of the State, but, contrary to the Scriptures as we believe. Therefore at the request of Brother \_\_\_\_\_, he was excluded from the fellowship of this church, this the 8th of October, 1836.

In the November, 1836, conference, a committee of five men were elected to arrange the preaching annually. (The church was without a pastor.)

May 13, 1837

A committee was elected for the purpose of looking out a place to build a meeting house. (The committee was to consist of five members of the church and five of the neighbors.)

The Members--T. W. Garner, J. C. Garner, D. B. Brazziale, Reubin McClung, and Abner Starke.

The Neighbors--L. B. Hawkins, J. P. Clinton, James Stewart, J. Humphrey, and John Canady.

June 10, 1837

The church received a petition from Brother Elder Edward Haynes for aid in constituting a church on the waters of Craw Fish Creek in Carroll County. This petition was granted and on November 11, 1837, Sweetwater called Elder Haynes as her pastor.

November 12, 1837

William Hendrick and Elizabeth, his wife, became members of the church. (Later Elizabeth and their children sold the church two acres of land for \$10.00 in 1900 for the cemetery.)

August 22, 1840

Brother J. C. Garner was chosen to serve as a deacon, but was unprepared to give the church an answer that day. The church agreed to give him until the next meeting. At this meeting, he brought before the church, the beginning of the Non-Fellowship Act. He stated that he could not serve with the present Elder and therefore the church brought his subscription before the body which was laid over until the next meeting.

After holding seventy-six (76) conference meetings, the church in the Seventy-Seventh (77) Conference met, November 21st, 1840, when Brother John C. Garner introduced the Non-Fellowship Resolutions follows:

Resolved, 1st. That there be a fair vote taken, and the majority give the minority letters of dismission. The minority is namely, Robert McMinn, Lavina McMinn, Reubin McClung, Sarah Umphrey, and Elizabeth Dudley, and the vote 13 to 3.

#### Preamble and Resolution

"Whereas, the Institutions falsely called Benevolent and the preaching and practice of the same, has been the cause which has produced the division in the Baptist Denomination, 1st resolved, that we as a church do resolve to withhold all church fellowship, church union, and church communion from all who preach, practice, or support any of them: Such as the Bible Society; Tract Society; Missionary Society; Sunday School Union; Theological Seminarys and all Kindred Spirits."

During the session of the 83rd conference Elder Robert McMinn and his wife, Sister Lavina McMinn, came forward and subscribed to the Resolutions.

No conference held in January, February, March and April after the split of 1841.

The minutes of the 85th conference reads as follows:  
"We the Baptist Church of Christ at Sweetwater, met according to appointment, and in council, concluded to give each other letters of dismissal. Believing that we are too weak to keep house, so ordered the Clerk to prepare letters for all the members. Agreed to and signed by order of the church when in council.

J. C. Garner, Clerk  
Thomas W. Garner, Moderator

The minutes of July 1843, reads as follows: The Sweetwater Baptist Church, it being a long time that the church had not set in conference on account of the non-fellowship resolutions being pushed in amongst us and so divided us that we had no conference for upwards of two years. At last in July, 1843, we again set in conference as the Old Sweetwater Church and received William H. Brown and Irene Brown, his wife, by experience and baptism. In the September conference Brother Brown was elected as the church clerk.

When the church regrouped in 1843, it had ten members. They were: William Hendricks, Reubin McClung, Derrel Brazell, William H. Brown, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Brazell, Mary McClung, Irene Brown, Sarah Umphrey, and Susanah Baker.

May 1845

The church calls Derrel Brazell and William H. Brown as their only deacons after the split.

June 8, 1850

In this conference, the petition was received from Brother Brazell for letters of dismissal for himself and others to constitute a church. Ten members were granted letters for this purpose.

November, 1850

The church is faced with the task of calling a pastor. The one they chose, Elder T. W. Burton, said he would not serve the church without a stated amount for his services.

May, 1851

Called for the ordination of one of her members to the Gospel Ministry, Nelson Porterfield, who was then called as the pastor of the church.

September, 1851

The church voted to raise money on subscription to build a new house for the Sweetwater Church.

December, 1851

The church resolved to discontinue the practice of lettering out members and agreed to dismiss members on their own responsibility, not holding the church accountable for their conduct.

January 13, 1855

Elected the first **chorister**, Brother Talley Norton.

October, 1855

The church heard and received an acknowledgement from Moses M. Baker for selling merchandise to a slave. In this same conference the church dismissed her Pastor, Nelson Porterfield, and twelve of the members. It doesn't give any reason or cause.

January, 1857

The church called Brother J. Peek as her pastor, who stated that he would not take charge of the church unless the church would pay him fifty dollars for his services. (He wasn't accepted.)

July, 1858

The church adopted the resolution of the association to record the amount contributed to our preacher for his services.

November 13, 1858

The church elected her first treasurer, Brother S. McClung.

His records show that the church paid the Pastor, J. Riggs, \$11.55 for his services the last year. This was the first time a record had been kept of the contributions to a pastor.

April 23, 1859

The church voted to buy the first hymn book and instructed the treasurer to pay for it. (The pastor or the chorister sang the verse first, and then the congregation sang the same verse.)

November 26, 1859

A committee was appointed to lay off the land approbated for the church. The committee was; William H. Brown, William Umphrey, and William Jones.

Sunday, July 22, 1860

A fast was held on account of the severe drought which prevailed over the country.

On Monday the church met again in prayer and fasting. the minutes read, "it rained a little in the afternoon, doubtlessly in answer to prayer."

August 25, 1860

The church appropriated eighty (80) cents for an associational fund.

October 27, 1860

The church voted to draft resolutions disputing the charge of abolitionism against her Pastor, H. A. Williams.

Georgia, Paulding County, October 27, 1860

Whereas, rumor having charged our Pastor, Elder H. A. Williams of being an abolitionist; that he had been holding secret meetings with negroes; that he had forbidden any white persons attending his meetings appointed for the black people; that he was confined in jail for abolition sentiments; that he had run away to escape justice; therefore we, the undersigned committee appointed by the Baptist Church at Sweetwater, to express our sentiments publicly, pass the following resolutions.

Resolved 1--That we believe all of the above reports are entirely false; that they were doubtlessly put in circulation by some designing one to injure the cause of Christ.

Resolved 2--That from twelve years acquaintance with Brother Williams, both as a citizen and a minister of the Gospel, we know of no cause why we should even doubt for a moment his loyalty to the South, or his fidelity to the Christian Ministry.

Resolved 3--That his bold, fearless, zealous, and faithful defence of the South will ever command our regard.

Resolved 4--That we have read and adopted the action of the Baptist Church at Power Springs relative to these reports.

Resolved 5--That the Banner and Baptist; Christian Index; and Weekly Intelligence, be requested to publish the above resolutions.

Done by order of the church in conference.

W. H. Brown  
L. McClung  
W. Humphrey  
J. M. Huey  
William Jones

January 26, 1861

Elected the first housekeeper and agreed to hold prayer meeting on the second Sabbath of each month.

May 25, 1861

A motion was made to keep the first day of June as a day of fast and prayer to Almighty God for the protection of our country and our rights.

July 27, 1861

On Saturday, read and adopted the following series of resolutions offered by the clerk, relative to our secular and national affairs.

Whereas, an unholy and fratricidal war is now being raged against us, and that our Land and Country are threatened with the desolation of an invading army; therefore, we, the Baptist Church at Sweetwater, pass the following resolutions.

Resolved 1--That while a bloody revolution is following that of peaceable secession, and that our once happy and prosperous country, is now threatened with desolation and ruin, we approve of the course and policy of our Government "The Confederate States of America", and will, (if necessary) with our lives and treasury, defend our fire-sides, families, and sacred rights.

Resolved 2--That we return thanks to our Heavenly Father, for the plentiful harvest that has already been reaped, and for the continued showers of rain.

Resolved 3--That the church now suspend the regular order of business, and spend a few minutes in prayer, returning thanks to Almighty God for all His Blessings, and for the glorious victory achieved by our army at Manassas Junction, Va., on the 21st instant, in the defense of our constitution and religious liberty.

Resolved 4--That our beloved Pastor lead in prayer, and that these resolutions be recorded in the minutes of this church.

It was suggested that this church set apart next Friday, as a day of fasting and prayer, and thanksgiving, and praise to Almighty God for the many blessings that we have received, and still enjoy.

H. A. Williams, Moderator  
J. M. Huey, Church Clerk

September 21, 1861

Agreed to keep the fifth Sabbath, instant, as a day for special prayer and fasting to Almighty God in behalf of our soldiers in the tented field.



April 26, 1862

Adopted the following tribute of respect in memory of Brother William Umphrey, who had volunteered his services in the defense of his country and who died at Knoxville, Tennessee on the morning of the 17th instant, and was buried on the Sabbath the 20th instant in the burial ground at this place.

Whereas it has pleased God in his unerring providence, on the morning of the 17th instant to remove from mortal life our esteemed and beloved Brother William Umphrey, therefore, the Baptist Church at Sweetwater passed the following resolutions.

Be it resolved that by his death, we have lost a valued brother, to his immediate relatives a devoted kinsman, and to his country an ardent and zealous patriot. Resolved that we sincerely condole with his afflicted relatives for the heavy and irreparable loss which they have sustained by his death.

Resolved that this preamble and resolutions be entered in the minutes of this church and a copy of the same be sent to his bereaved widow.

These died as volunteers in defense of the rights of their country. Charles Hendricks, June 27, 1862; John F. Smith, July 4, 1862; and Isaac Baker, July 15, 1862.

The 21st day of August was proclaimed as a day of fasting by the President of the Confederate States.

November 14, 1863

Brother James G. Denton becomes the pastor and again the church calls for the ordination of one of her members to the Gospel Ministry.

June 18, 1864

No conference today, the enemy being in our midst.

February 17, 1866

The church agreed to receive George and Caroline (freedmen) to the fellowship of the church as their church letters were destroyed during the war.

August 18, 1866

Resolved that this church recommend that the association withdraw from the Cherokee Baptist Convention and Kindred Institutions.

May 23, 1868

The church agreed to make up enough money to supply the wine for the next communion and collected eighty-five (85) cents.

June 28, 1868

The church communed and washed feet.

March 20, 1869

On motion, the church received the new pitcher presented by Brother William H. Brown for the use of the church.

September 25, 1869

The church agreed to purchase a new Bible for the use of the church. (cost \$2.50)

March 20, 1870

Received Brother Randall Gamble (a freedman) by letter from Bethesda Church, Carroll County and who applied for license or permission to exercise in public; which was granted verbally until further consideration by the church.

July 15, 1870

The church calls for the ordination of Brother Randall Gamble, our colored Brother. The following day the Presbytery was composed of Elders, John M. Key, J. G. Denton, and the colored Brother, Elder John Moore.

August 20, 1870

The church took up the resolutions printed in the minutes of last association in regard to employing a missionary to labor within the bounds of this association, but passed it for the present.

August 20, 1870

The church in conference on application and motion granted letters of dismission to the colored Brethren and Sisters to wit; Randall Gamble, Soloman Chambliss and his wife, Sarah Ann J. Chambliss, Silva Chambliss, Dolla Blanchard, Sidney Blanchard, and Cata Polk, to constitute themselves into a church.

August 24, 1870

The church met in conference this evening for the purpose of extending an arm of the church to the colored people to be known as "The Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church of Christ". Invited visiting brethren to seat with us. Organized the Presbytery by calling Elder John M. Key to the chair to act as Moderator, with the deacons, J. C. Meadows, W. K. Hurt, J. M. Huey, and of the layety Brethren J. L. F. Benson, W. H. Brown, Jr., and W. H. Brown.

Enrolled the list of names as follows:

Males	Females
1. Randall Gamble	1. Sebell Gamble
2. Ned Parker	2. Ellen Blanchard
3. George Blanchard	3. Dolla Blanchard
	4. Laura Seales
	5. Rachael Parker
	6. Mary Taylor
	7. Eady Seales

After singing an hymn and extending the hand of fellowship to the colored brethren and sisters in their new organization; the benediction was pronounced by the Moderator, Elder J. M. Key. (J. M. Huey, Church Clerk)

January 14, 1871

The church received a new Pulpit Hymn Book presented by Brother W.H. Brown. Everyone saw and agreed to pay for it.

April 5, 1873

The church voted to put a copy of the Decorum in the Church Bible for the use of the church at any time when needed.

The church voted to buy a new record book for the price of \$1.25.

Appointed prayer meeting on each conference morning at 9:00 o'clock A. M.

July 5, 1873

On motion, agreed to meet on Wednesday before the first Sabbath in August to clean off graveyard, around the house, and work on the spring.

January 28, 1874

Brother W. H. Brown, Sr., presented the church the deeds to the property and asked to be released from holding it any longer. On motion, Brother Brown was released and the deed was turned over to the church clerk to be recorded in the new book of records.

September 5, 1874

The church after a motion was made, agreed to create a pool at the church for the convenience of baptism.

December 12, 1874

The church heard Brother John M. Key, who delivered his great lecture on "The Sale of Religious Literature in the land, and a judicious selection, to be made for children".

September 4, 1875

On a motion for the choice of a pastor for the next year and by acclamation, elected Elder W. M. Coalson to the pastorate. The subscription list was made up for his support. It remained the same as the previous year.

October 10, 1875

At 9:00 A. M. in the morning the church met at the water where three brethren were baptized by the moderator.

May 10, 1879

A motion was made for the church to get new table cloths for the communion services.

August 2, 1879

The increasing rain and court week prevented the usual conference meeting this month.

August 3, 1879

The church held divine services with a small congregation; Brother Walter B. Smith preaching. The church then agreed to ordain two deacons and organized the presbytery, with a motion being made that Brother E. B. Spinks to be the "mouthpiece" for the church.

September 6, 1879

The church agreed to meet on Wednesday to build a new arbor and to make the necessary arrangements for the association meeting.

November 9, 1879

The church received the new hymn books and agreed that all motions made and seconded in the church will be voted on by a standing vote.

July 10, 1880

The church appointed a committee to solicit funds to pay Sister Nancy Hendrick for the half acre of land included in the graveyard fencing.

December 11, 1880

Brother W. M. Coalson consented to serve as pastor for the next year. The church paid Brother Coalson \$13.75 in advance.

The church appointed the clerk to prepare a suitable preamble and resolutions, relative to the death of our Brother, Elder David Austin, which was read, and adopted, and ordered recorded in the church book.

The church collected and paid Sister Hendrick \$5.00 on the graveyard purchase price.

#### TRIBUTE OF RESPECT TO ELDER DAVID AUSTIN

##### Preamble

Whereas, it has pleased God, Our Heavenly Father to remove from our midst, our beloved Brother, Elder David Austin who departed this life at the residence of his brother-in-law, Deacon John E. Bagby, Paulding County, Georgia on the 18th day of September, 1880, aged 63 year, 7 months, and 22 days.

He was born in the state of New Hampshire, January 26th, 1817, joined the Baptist Church at Mt. Zion, Jefferson County, Florida in the year 1847.

On the 16th day of May, 1857, he was licensed to preach; and was ordained to the Gospel Ministry, January 19, 1861, at the Baptist Church at Mountain Home near Cave Spring, Georgia.

Brothers Chambers, Newton, Thompson, and Martin acting as Presbytery.

At the January Conference 1871, of this church, Brother Austin and his now bereaved wife, Sister Drucilla Austin presented letters from the Baptist Church at Land Mark,

Turber County, Arkansas and become members with us at Sweetwater.

### Resolutions

Resolved 1--That we bow in humble submission to the will and providence of Almighty God, believing that all things work together for good to those who love Him.

Resolved 2--That in the death of Brother Austin, we have lost one of our most-pious members and faithful ministers of the Gospel, but regard our loss as his eternal gain.

Resolved 3--That we tender to the bereaved and heart-stricken wife, our warmest sympathy and prayers in her affliction and grief.

Resolved 4--That this Tribute of Respect be entered upon the minutes of this church, and that a copy of the same be sent to our grief-stricken Sister in Christ.

Done in conference and signed by order of the Church, this December 11, 1880,

J. M. Huey, Church Clerk  
Elder W. Coalson, Moderator

January 8, 1881

The church collected and paid Sister Hendricks \$1.00 on cemetery.

March 12, 1881

A motion was made to take up the graveyard question and the church directed the clerk to make the deed at once with the consideration of \$10.00 in fee simple. The church collected and paid Sister Hendricks \$1.60 on the price.

## DEED TO CEMETERY LOT

State of Georgia  
Paulding County

This indenture made this 1st day of April in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-One (1881) between Nancy S. Hendrick, widow, Saretsta Selman, Artamissa Brown, Elijah Hendrick, Desedemonia Hendrick, Ardesa Hendrick, William Sanford Hendrick, and Manerva S. Hendrick, heirs of the late William P. Hendrick, deceased, of the County and State aforesaid of the one part, and William H. Brown, Sr., Jacob C. Meadow, Jno. E. Bagby, Jno. B. Benson, and Jno. M. Huey, Deacons of Baptist Church at Sweetwater, and their successors in office of the other part.

Witnessed that the said Nancy S. Hendrick, widow of said William P. Hendrick, deceased, and her children, heirs of said deceased for and in consideration of the Sum of Ten Dollars to them in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt where of is here by acknowledged, hath granted, bargained, sold, and conveyed and doth by these presents grant bargain, sell, and convey unto the said Deacons of Sweetwater Baptist Church, for Grave-yard, all the tract of parcel of land, lying, situate, and being into the 1st District of the 3rd Section of Originally Cherokee, now Paulding County and known in the plan of said District as part of Land Lot number Five Hundred and Sixty-Seven (567) and bounded as follows, to wit, commencing at a stone for corner on the Line between Land Lot Five Hundred and Sixty-Seven (567) and Six Hundred and Twenty-Five (625) thence North 240 feet to a stone for corner, thence East  $181\frac{1}{2}$  to a stone for corner, thence South 240 feet to a stone on the original line for a corner, thence West along the old line, One Hundred and Eighty-One and One-half ( $181\frac{1}{2}$ ) feet to the starting point-containing Forty-three Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty square feet, or One Acre. To have and to hold said tract or parcel of land unto them, the said Deacons of Sweetwater Church, together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances there-unto to the same in any manner belonging to their own proper use, benefit, and behalf forever in fee simple.

And the said Nancy S. Hendrick and her children, the heirs of Wm. P. Hendrick, deceased, as aforesaid, their executer, heirs, and administrator the said bargained premises unto the said Deacons as aforesaid, will warrant and forever deferr the right and title thereof against themselves and against the claims of all other persons whatever.

In witness whereof the said heirs of William P. Hendrick, deceased, hath hereunto set their hand and affixed their seals, the day and year above written.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered in the presence of

John M. Huey  
Parker N. Brown

X(her mark) Nancy S. Hendrick  
Artamissa Brown  
W. S. Hendrick  
Manerva Hendrick  
Desdemonea Hendrick



April 9, 1881

The church collected and paid Sister Hendrick \$1.75 on the cemetery.

June 11, 1881

The church collected and paid Sister Hendrick \$.50 on the cemetery.

July 8, 1881

A motion was made to work on the church-yard, graveyard, and the spring.

A motion was made and it was resolved by this church that the colored people, "do not bury their dead in the burial grounds of this church, and that they bury their dead at their own churches".

A motion was made for a committee to be elected, to see those members who are holding letters from this church and to request them to return their letters back to the church.

June 10, 1882

The church after much debate about the church spring, the expression of the church was taken and directed that Brother E. B. Spinks remove his fence from around it by the first of December. The church agreed to meet on Wednesday before the July meeting to ditch out and fix the spring.

July 8, 1882

The church agreed to meet on Wednesday before the fifth Sabbath, to work on the spring, the arbor and the yards.

June 9, 1883

The church agreed to meet at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  A.M. tomorrow for the purpose of organizing a Sabbath School.

August 11, 1883

On an application and motion, the church granted Captain James J. Bell leave to teach school in the meeting house, with the assurance that he would take care of the house, seats, etc.

February 9, 1884

The church, on a motion, received Elder W.M. Coalson as a State Evangelist, and heard his address, setting forth the work of the State Board of the Convention.

The church collected \$1.70 in cash for state missions.

March 8, 1884

The church did not meet today because of the continued rains and high waters.

May 10, 1884

On a motion the church took up the graveyard question relative to the burying of the colored dead. As the colored people are now trespassing up on the bounds of the burial grounds of the whites, it is resolved that a committee be appointed permanently to supervise the burial of the colored people in the cemetery grounds.

August 8, 1885

On a motion the church agreed to investigate the practicability of building a new house of worship. The church elected a building committee of seven men with power to investigate the case, adopt the plan of building, with such changes or modifications as they deem best and to sell the old house, either publicly or privately as seems best to them.

September 11, 1885

The church did not meet today, the old house pulled down and the new house going up. (clerk)

October 10, 1885

No meeting, new house incomplete. (clerk)

November 7, 1885

No meeting today, owing to inclement weather.

December 12, 1885

The church met and carried out their business as usual.

May 8, 1886

A deacon rose from his seat, and made known the needy condition of a sister member, who is left in helpless condition with several small children. The brethren responded liberally with supplies of bacon, corn, flour, syrup, and some cash.

June 12, 1886

On a motion the church granted Milton Kennedy leave to teach a singing school in the meeting house.

July 10, 1886

Agreed to meet Wednesday before the first Sabbath in August for the purpose of cleaning the graveyard and spring.

August 6, 1886

The church on a motion agreed to send \$2.50 for associational minutes, \$2.50 for state missions; and \$9.35 for A. J. Coalson, a state evangelist.

March 12, 1887

The church took up the item of the old school house on the church lot and a motion was made for a committee to be appointed to confer with the neighbors in regard to the removal of it from the church lot.

October 18, 1887

A request was made for the ordination of Brother A. J. Coalson to the Gospel Ministry.

After a motion being made, it was so ordered and a presbytery was elected.

May 5, 1888

A motion was made to buy a Bible for the church, the cost being \$4.50, which was collected.

July 6, 1889

The church agreed to buy a new lamp for the church and then collected \$2.50 to pay for it.

August 3, 1889

The church collected \$2.75 for missions and \$1.65 for associational minutes.

August 31, 1889

The church collected for foreign missions \$3.65 and \$2.50 for associational minutes.

The church then went into the call of a pastor and recalled her present pastor, Elder Owen D. Williams.

November 2, 1889

The church voted to strike from the decorum the 11th article and to amend the 9th as which reason shall be subject to acceptance or rejection.

February 2, 1890

The church appointed Brother J. R. Benson a committeeman to see A. L. Bartlett and see if he would sell the church a "slip of land" on the northside of the church along the public road. On Saturday April 5, Brother Benson made his report to the church concerning the land which was unfavorable. The church then released the committeeman.

May 3, 1890

The church took up the convention question and collected \$2.55 to help pay the moderators expenses to same, also collected \$12.00 on the pastors salary.

May 31, 1890

The church took up the necessities of our old colored Brother George Baker and collected \$2.35 for his wants. The church appointed a committee to see about locating, constructing, and building a suitable pool for the use of the church.

July 5, 1890

The church called for references and took up the pool question and on statement of the committee, the pool to be located at the spring, with the lumber being ready for use when needed.

The church then took up the question of lighting up the house and appointed a committee to buy a suitable chandelier or lamp for the use of the church.

October 4, 1890

The church called for references and took the matter of the pool. - Chairman Jones gave his report and the church collected the XY Bill for lumber, and collected \$5.95.

On a motion the church agreed that the "over flush" of 19 cents is to go into the church treasury.

On a motion the church agreed to build a ladies dressing room at the pool. A committee was elected and was told to build said dressing room as soon as practicable.

On a statement of Brother George, relative to the pastors salary of \$68.00, the church agreed to make up the same and collected \$33.00.

November 1, 1890

The receipt for the lumber to build the pool was presented to the church. Brother George suggested the possibility of purchasing a stove (heater) for the use of the church. A committee was elected to collect the money, buy, and put up a stove for the use of the church. Collected \$5.85 for stove.

December 6, 1890

The church took up the reference of the stove and on a motion, she received the stove and paid \$13.65 for same. A motion was made that the same committee remain in effect until the stove is put up and completed. A motion was made to set next Friday 12 inst. to complete the stove work.

January 3, 1891

The church took up the reference of the stove and the payment of the brick, and pipe for the stove. The price for bricks, pipe, lime, tin, nails, and coal being \$5.90. The church collected \$4.95 and agreed to take 95 cents out of the treasury and settle the debt. By request the church collected \$1.60 for our "old colored Brother George Baker".

May 2, 1891

The church received 35 cents as discount money on the brick to build a flue for the stove in the church from Brother John George.

June 6, 1891

The church elected delegates to the general meeting which convenes at Concord Church the fourth Sunday in July next.

The church appointed Brother John Benson as a committee-man to purchase tools for the purpose of digging graves at the graveyard.

August 1, 1891

The church called for the report of the committee on purchasing a tent for baptismal purposes, the cost of tent being \$5.50.

October 31, 1891

Elder W. A. Ragsdale accepts the pastorate of the church.

July 1, 1893

The church collected \$2.50 for Bibles for the Sabbath School.

August 5, 1893

Collected \$1.50 for associational minutes and \$5.50 for Cuba Missions.

September 2, 1893

Collected \$2.00 for missions.

August 10, 1896

A motion was made and seconded that the church build an "arbr" for the association and it was agreed on to meet Tuesday before the second Sabbath in September to do the work.

On a motion the church agreed to move the "old sawdust" off the church floor and put on "new dust".

January 7, 1899

The church collected 89 cents to pay for coal.

April 8, 1899

The church appointed Brother S. T. Gilland, their pastor, to purchase an organ for the church.

As far as the records show this was the first musical instrument ever owned by the church.

May 13, 1899

The church elected Brother C. L. Simmons as chorister.

June 10, 1899

Collected 96 cents to pay for lights.

September 2, 1899

The church collected 70 cents for associational minutes and 50 cents for missions.

April 7, 1900

The church appointed a committee to see if there can be any more land bought for the cemetery and church purpose. In the May conference the committee reports that there can be more land purchased. The church then appoints another committee to buy two (?) acres more or less for cemetery and church use.

June 9, 1900

Appointed Brother Walter A. Garmon to take charge of the keys to the church and look after the house.

November 10, 1900

Took up reference of the land purchasing of W. T. Dorris. A motion was carried to buy the land and the church is considered as a committee, and each member is to collect what he can and report at the next conference.

December 8, 1900

The church agreed to meet next Saturday at 1:00 P.M. to pay for the church and cemetery land. They collected \$49.00 to pay toward the land.  
Collected for our pastor \$1.50.

March 9, 1901

The church agreed to rent the new cemetery land out to be "sowed in oats".  
Collected \$1.50 to pay for topping timber around the church and agreed to let R. P. Norton have and move all the cedar trees from the old cemetery grounds.

July 13, 1901

The church appointed a committee to see Brother W. A. Wood in regard to the purchase of a strip of land for cemetery purposes.  
Disposed of the rent oats from the cemetery land and donated the rent to our pastor.

August 10, 1901

The church collected \$1.30 for associational minutes and \$1.20 to pay for cleaning out the well.  
Received the report of the committee in regard to the land from Brother Wood and the church agrees to pay for the land. On a motion, the church authorizes the same committee to close the trade with Brother Wood.

September 7, 1901

Collected \$1.50 for associational minutes and \$3.22 for missions.

December 7, 1901

Collected \$15.00 for cemetery land and appointed a committee to get up the titles to the Wood tract of land for the cemetery.

January 11, 1902

Received the report of the committee on the cemetery land and appointed a committee to look after the renting out of said land.

Collected \$2.50 to pay Brother W. M. Jones on graveyard note.

Elected Brother B. B. Bell as church chorister.

February 8, 1902

Collected \$2.80 to pay on graveyard note and \$1.00 to pay for the care of the house during 1901.

Appointed Brother W. A. Garmon to take charge of the keys to the church.

April 12, 1902

The church elected committees to "relay" and "superintend" the cemetery land.

June 7, 1902

Collected \$3.15 to send to the Orphans Home at Hapeville.

August 9, 1902

Collected \$1.35 for missions and protracted meeting - follows meeting, with the results of four by letter and 14 by baptism.

August 30, 1902

Collected \$3.30 for missions.

December 18, 1902

On a motion the church released Brother C. Alexander of rent of the cemetery land by paying \$3.00. A motion was made to pay Brother W. M. Jones the \$3.00 balance on the cemetery land.

March 7, 1903

The church collected \$1.00 for the Orphans Home.

April 11, 1903

The church reorganized the Sabbath School by electing Brethren J. N. Meadows as superintendent, H. H. Kemp as assistant superintendent, T. E. Walton, secretary, and Jud Benson as assistant secretary.



June 13, 1903

Reported the last months average attendance of the Sabbath School was 44.

August 8, 1903

The church collected 35 cents for oil for use in the lamps.

Conference called off by protracted meetings, results were 7 by letter, 12 by experience.

Collected \$3.00 for missions.

October 10, 1903

The church appointed a 7 man "finance" committee to "collect" some help for our pastor.

March 12, 1904

The church elected Sister Manor Simmons as organist and Sister Debbie Walton as assistant.

June 12, 1904

A committee was appointed to see about getting some place to get water.

July 9, 1904

The committee appointed to see about the water reported and it was moved and seconded that we dig a well on the church grounds. Collected \$7.00 for the purpose of digging a well.

August 13, 1904

Collected \$8.65 for well digging, \$2.25 for associational minutes, and \$2.15 for missions.

December 10, 1904

Collected \$1.06 to buy coal and \$3.00 to finish paying for the well digging.

January 7, 1905

The church appointed 2 Brethren to go and help settle some differences between Brethren in New Georgia Church.

February 11, 1905

The church rented the cemetery land to Will Norton for \$4.00.

March 11, 1905

The church employed Brother John Benson to keep the church in order for the year of 1905 and agreed to pay him \$15.00 for his services.

August 12, 1905

The church collected \$2.04 for associational minutes and \$4.05 for missions.

Brother B. B. Bell resigned as chorister and on a motion the church elected the whole church as chorister the same date.

A motion was made and it was agreed on to move some "rock" from the graveyard and to build a wall under the church house.

September 9, 1905

The church collected \$.85 for oil and a lamp globe.

October 7, 1905

A motion was made that a committee be appointed to "look after" the part of the church that does not attend conference and help support the church expenses.

August 11, 1906

A motion was made to let the line of the church, front entry be south of the road.

April 13, 1907

The church collected \$4.10 to pay the expenses of her Pastor, Elder S. T. Gilland, to Richmond.

February 8, 1908

The church received \$3.85 for graveyard purposes. The motion carried that this money be used to buy a "wheelbarrow" for the church.

May 8, 1909

The church elected and asked a committee to collect money to pay for shingles for the church. The committee collected \$41.00.

The church collected \$2.90 to finish paying for the organ.

September 11, 1909

A motion was made and it carried that the church be painted.

(This is the first record of Sweetwater ever being painted.)

Total membership in 1909 was 67 males and 111 females.

April 25, 1910

The ground was covered with snow.

August 15, 1912

A motion was made to employ a brother to repair the shelter over the well.

March 7, 1914

A motion was made to provide the tools necessary for cemetery work. (grave digging)

April 13, 1918

A motion was made to change the "annual singing" from the second Sunday in May to the second Sunday in June.

June 8, 1918

A motion was made to organize "prayer meeting" on the night of June 15.

April 12, 1919

Brother B. B. Bell was elected as a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention.

June 12, 1920

A motion was made for the pastor to appoint a committee to "preserve order" on the church grounds on the annual singing day.

October 9, 1920

A motion was made that the church appoint a building committee "to look after the repairs to the church house".

July 8, 1922

A motion was made for the church to try the plan of "using envelopes for monthly contributions to the pastors salary".

The deacons were elected as a committee to communicate with parties interested in helping to keep the cemetery up.

August 12, 1922

A motion was made that the church receive seats purchased by the committee, and that the "funds" left from buying seats, be diverted to paying for the song books for the church.

A motion was made that the church donate the seats formally used to Cave Springs Sunday School.

February 10, 1923

A motion was made that a committee be appointed to look after the matter of parking cars on the "annual singing day".

A motion was made that the church buy 2 dozen song books.

December 13, 1924

The church made a motion to purchase sufficient fuel for the winter months.

December 12, 1925

The church purchased a piano. (the first)

February 13, 1926

The church appointed a committee consisting of Brethren, H. P. McCullars, G. C. Clonts, and H. P. Denton to draw plans for a "New Church House".

June 12, 1926

A motion was made that the deacons of the church act as a committee to solicit funds to erect a "New Church House".

January 8, 1927

The church appointed a committee to see that the timber be cut from the church grounds and be used to repair the "well curb".

February 7, 1928

The church reorganized the W. M. S. and Sunday School. The first W. M. S. meeting held Feb. 22, 1928 and the first Sunday School meeting held Feb. 8, 1928.

April 12, 1930

A motion was made for the Building committee to buy locks for the doors of the church.

November 8, 1930

The church made a motion that the records show the amount paid by each individual for the support of the church.

June 13, 1931

A motion was made that the audience "not indulge in hand clapping and cheering during the song services". A motion was made objecting to drink stands on the church ground on the annual singing day.

October 7, 1934

A motion was made that the church suspend the Saturday meetings for 12 months.

September 18, 1949

The church passed a resolution asking the association to meet at Sweetwater in 1950.

July 2, 1950

The church voted to level the cemetery and that it should be sown in grass.

August 10, 1952

The church called Brother Joe McMichen as her pastor.

November 2, 1952

The church voted to "hold services" each Sunday morning and Sunday night.

January 10, 1953

The church began raising funds to start the work on the new Sunday School rooms, \$108.00 given by church members.

October 4, 1953

The church voted to get a "Bus" and to pay \$200.00 deposit on it and the remainder at \$40.00 per month. Brother Aubrey Porter elected the bus driver.

The church reported to the association that the State Paper was in the Budget.

Total membership was 226.

February, 1954

The church agreed to put the pastor on a salary and agreed to pay him \$100.00 a month.

The church adopted a unified budget, putting all tithes and offerings into it as the source of income.

September 4, 1954

The church called Brother Tom Gore as her pastor.

November 7, 1954

The church agreed to allow Brother Walker to draw the plans for the Sunday School rooms. It was also agreed on to build a "baptistry" in the church when the construction of the Sunday School rooms began.

Collected \$25.00 to send for missions.

December 5, 1954

The W. M. S. was given permission to purchase chairs for the primary rooms.

January 2, 1955

The church voted to buy fire insurance for church building. (A \$6,500.00 coverage)

May 8, 1955

The church voted to sand and refinish the church floors for approximately \$125.00.

The church voted to dig the well deeper.

June 5, 1955

A motion was made that the church form a "tithers club" with Millard Gordon as chairman.

June 19, 1955

The Brotherhood asks permission of the church to build walkway in front of and around the sides of the church. Permission was granted.

August 14, 1955

The church voted to call their pastor for an indefinite period of time rather than a one year term. (This was the first time a pastor had not been called for a one year term since it was constituted.)

October 2, 1955

The church appointed the pastor and deacons to serve as building committee to: (a) investigate and make plans for the addition of Sunday School rooms. (b) investigate the possibility of securing a loan to purchase pews, and chairs for Rostrum.

Motion was made that the pastor be given a 3 week vacation.

Motion was made that the Christian Index be sent to each family of the church. Twenty-five families submitted their names to receive the Index.

Motion was made to send 5% of total collections to the Cooperative Program.

November 6, 1955

The church voted to hold conference on the first Wednesday night of each month.

December 4, 1955

The church voted to apply for a \$5,000 loan to build the Sunday School rooms and to apply any funds left over to purchase pews for the auditorium. (Sunday School assembly was to be built before any pews were bought so the church would have a place to store the old pews.)

January 4, 1956

The church voted to pay \$80.00 on the association Missionary's salary. (Our church's share being \$160.00 for the year.)

A motion was made giving the Home Demonstration Club the privilege to improve the church grounds.

The church agreed to erect an outside bulletin board.

February 2, 1956

The church organized the G. A.'s and R. A.'s.

April 29, 1956

The church baptized in the new baptistry for the first time with a total of 12 candidates.

The church voted to allow Mr. J. A. Boynton to construct chairs for rostrum and table.

August 1, 1956

The church voted to place carpet down aisle and around "Sacred Stand".

Motion was made to sell the church bus and the deacons and pastor be in charge of selling it.

October 3, 1956

The committee reported they had sold the bus for \$100.00. Motion was made to increase the Cooperative Program giving to 10% of all collections except the building fund, and 2% of collections for associational missions.

November 11, 1956

Motion was made to have conference on first Sunday night of each month.

Proposed a budget of \$11,605.00.

April 7, 1957

The church voted to put memorial windows in the church by voluntary donations.

The church voted to buy an organ through **pledges** of individual members.

A committee was appointed to locate church **deed**.

May 5, 1957

A motion was made to allow Brother Guy Allen permission to cut timber in rear of church, plane, and return to church; and that he be paid for this work.

August 4, 1957

Committee reports that the loan is expected to be approved.

January 3, 1962

Motion was made to have conference on the second Sunday in each month after services.

February 11, 1962

The church licensed Brother Jimmy McMichen to preach.

April 1, 1962

The church voted that Brother Jimmy McMichen become assistant pastor of the church so he can be trained in the ministry.

September 2, 1962

A motion was made to allow the Sweetwater Home Demonstration Club permission to place gateways at the entrance of the cemetery.

Adopted a budget of \$11,138.96.

Elected a committee to secure plans and information concerning pastorium.

October 7, 1962

The pastor request that he be allowed to relieve Brother Williams on School Bus Route in case of illness.

(Granted)



January 6, 1963

The church agreed to pay chorister \$30.00 each month for his services.

February 3, 1963

Mrs. H. H. Jay reports that the Home Demonstration Club would contribute \$50.00 toward installing an outside light at the church at the front of building and four lights at rear of building. (Motion carried)

April 7, 1963

The church voted to form a church council with the heads of the departments, so that plans of the activities can be made for the meetings of the year.

May 5, 1963

A motion was made for a letter to be sent to the Governor thanking him for his stand on the legalizing of pin-ball machines.

October 6, 1963

The church calls Brother Southard as interim pastor.

October 27, 1963

The church voted to purchase a central heating system for the auditorium.

February 2, 1964

The church called Brother Glenn Whaley as her pastor. A motion was made to change the lighting in the Sanctuary to florescent lights and to remodel the ceiling. Brother Jimmy McMichen resigns as assistant pastor and the church gave him a standing vote of thanks for his services.

April 5, 1964

The church voted to erect a pastorium on the church grounds.

A letter of thanks sent to Mr. H. H. Jay for the tract of land to the church.

Motion was made to check on the price of a safe deposit box for the purpose of keeping church records.

May 3, 1964

A motion was made that the church hold a school of missions, Sunday through Monday in October.

June 11, 1964

Bids for building the pastorium were presented and a motion was made to give the contract to Brother Morris Williams, provided his price would not be over \$13,000.00, exclusive of cabinets and wiring.

July 5, 1964

The church received a letter from Carrollton Federal approving the loan for the pastorium.

August 2, 1964

The church took up the intergration question and a motion was made to seat negroes if they came for the purpose of worship.

A motion was made that the pastor, in addition to his duties of the church, be given the priviledge to teach school if he so desires.

September 6, 1964

The church adopted a budget of \$10,250.00 for the coming year.

October 4, 1964

A motion was made to allow the plot of ground on the northeast side of the cemetery, for the pastors use. The church voted to send \$270.00 the the Baptist Childrens Home.

November 1, 1964

A motion was made to aply the amount in the pastorium fund to the church debt, but to leave payments as they are, thereby decreasing the number of years for payments.

December 5, 1964

Motion was made to make some provision to restrict the usage of the cemetery and it was voted to obtain a plaque, which would consist of the names of the people obtaining a lot or lots, and the number of lots available for use.

January 3, 1965

It was agreed to obtain a burial permit sign to be posted on the cemetery entrance requiring persons to obtain a permit before using the cemetery and to have the cemetery plaque sectioned off into two grave lots.

February 7, 1965

The motion was made to have the vestibule repoured and to have it set in broken tile.

March 7, 1965

The young people and young married people's classes express the desire to plant shrubbery down the driveway of the pastorium and one of the brethren expressed the desire to rebuild the front steps at the church. Permission was granted for both.

April 4, 1965

In preparation for home coming, the church agreed to have a tree cut down in the church yard and on home coming day to take up an offering to help pay on the church debt.

May 2, 1965

The church agreed to move the regular church conference to the first Wednesday night in each month.

June 2, 1965

A report was given on the church yards and it was agreeable to everyone to pay \$50.00 to the brother who cleaned the church yards.

A motion was made to buy a lawn mower for the purpose of cutting the church yard and cemetery.

July 7, 1965

The church agreed to have forms printed which would require a burial permit before opening a grave.

The church filled out forms to recommend Brother Jimmy McMichen to the Baptist Bible Institute of Graceville, Florida.

August 4, 1965

These motions were made that the church buy a forty foot ladder and to pay \$12.00 to have a stump removed from the church yard. It was also agreed that the church build steps leading from the first story to the second story of the educational building.

October 6, 1965

The Brotherhood purchased a security light from the R.E.A. which was placed between the two entrances of the grave yard.

They agreed to pay for the first year and the church agreed to pay the bill monthly, each year thereafter. A budget of \$10,400.00 was approved for the 1965-66 year.

A motion was made to buy fire-extinguishers for the educational building, the cost being approximately \$35.00.

November 3, 1965

The church invited the Douglas County Junior High Chorus to sing on Wednesday night before Christmas instead of having the regular Christmas Program.

A motion was made to have a special offering to help pay for carpet to be installed in the church.

January 5, 1966

A motion was made that an ordination service be held for Brother Jimmy McMichen, at the request of the New Orange Baptist Church of Chipley, Florida. Also that the church purchase a Bible to be presented to Brother Jimmy at this service.

March 2, 1966

The church voted to buy chairs for the Beginner Department.

A motion was made to have the church typewriter repaired; or, if it can not be repaired, arrangements be made for another typewriter.

April 6, 1966

A motion was made to give the Brotherhood authority to build a recreation center between the church and parsonage.

July 17, 1966

A special conference was called and a motion was made to purchase two 28,000 BTU air conditioners to be installed in the walls of the church. One at the front and one at the rear.

August 3, 1966

A motion was made to change conference from the first Wednesday night of the month to the first Wednesday night after the first Sunday in each month.

A motion was made that the church pay a visiting preacher \$10.00 a service.

A motion was made to buy a chlorinator for the well.

September 11, 1966

The church voted to buy five small heaters for the Sunday School rooms in the educational building.

October 5, 1966

The church adopted a budget of \$11,025.00 for the coming year.

A motion was made to purchase sliding glass shield for the baptistry.

January 22, 1967

The church called Brother Charles Gibbs as her pastor.

February 8, 1967

The church voted to move her new pastor onto the church field on February 18.

A motion was made that Mrs. Linda Pope be the church organist.

April 5, 1967

A motion was made to purchase a new church sign on Highway 92.

August 9, 1967

The church voted to close the side doors of the auditorium and that the building committee brick them up.

This motion was rescinded and a new motion was made to close the east door and to install a storm door on the west side.

A motion was made to put an awning over the west door.

October 4, 1967

The church voted to give the brotherhood permission to tear down the existing small wooden building behind the church and build a new one to store papers in.

January 14, 1968

The church voted for two ushers to count the offering at each service as soon as it is collected.

May 8, 1968

The church voted to call Brother Bob Walker as minister of music for \$50.00 per month.

June 5, 1968

An air conditioner was given to the nursery by Brother Walter Eison.

The church voted to put railings and a fence around the porch of the educational building for safety reason, with the cost being approximately \$46.00.

July 10, 1968

The church installed a water heater in the church kitchen.

August 7, 1968

The church voted to send a letter to the nearest relatives of person buried in the cemetery, asking for donations for the up-keep of the grounds.

September 1, 1968

The church voted to put pews in the choir loft at a cost of \$263.34.

October 2, 1968

The church opened the discussion of obtaining county water for the church and pastorium. The pastor reported that he was told that we did not have enough people on the line wanting water. The church agrees to pursue it further by meeting at the courthouse on Saturday, October 5, to discuss it with county officials.

November 6, 1968

The cemetery committee reports that they have obtained four copies of the deed to the cemetery.

December 4, 1968

A letter of appreciation was sent to Mrs. Shirley Williams, thanking her for her help in obtaining a typewriter for the church.

January 8, 1969

The water committee reports that it would cost \$27,000.00 to run a water line from Chicago Avenue to the church, and that the county could not do it.

February 5, 1969

The church voted to remodel the church kitchen by special projects.

March 5, 1969

The committee for purchasing the pews for the choir reports they have \$42.00 in the treasury at this time. The church received a \$290.00 and a \$300.00 estimate on boring a well for the church.

Brother Charles Gibbs resigns the care of the church and asks to be relieved earlier than four weeks. It was recommended he serve through March 16.

A motion was made to call Brother Hodge Malone as interim pastor and pay him \$40.00 a week.

April 9, 1969

The church voted to write a letter of recommendation to the Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Florida, for Brother and Sister Robert Walker.

May 7, 1969

A committee was appointed to obtain a new music director. A motion was made for the cemetery committee to obtain legal advice concerning the burial rights in the cemetery and what action may be taken to record these rights. The pew committee reports that they have ordered the pews for the choir.

June 4, 1969

The church called Brother Charles T. Johnson as her pastor.

July 9, 1969

The church voted to paint the pastorium at a cost of \$125.00.

August 6, 1969

The church voted to have cottage prayer meetings prior to revival.

A motion was made to pave the parking area around the church and for the Brotherhood to do the work, with the cost being approximately \$500.00.

The pastor suggest that we take a gallon jug and make a scale by it and mark the progress of the offerings as the jug is filled.

A report is made to the church concerning the Greg Atcheson Trust Fund. It is reported that the Fund contains \$186.15 at this time. A motion was made to send the parents \$100.00 per month until the fund is emptied.

October 8, 1969

The church voted to install two security lights on the church grounds and to remove present lights on the front of the church.

A letter of thanks was sent to Mr. J. B. Brown for his help in the paving of the parking lot.

November 5, 1969

A motion was made for the clerk to write a letter of appreciation to Mr. Glenn Florence for his gifts toward the pews and paving of the parking lot.

Thanksgiving

On Wednesday night before Thanksgiving, the church came together dressed in "long dresses and over-alls" with a feast fit for pilgrims. The church gave the pastor a pantry shower.

January 7, 1970

The church voted to put the pastorium and the building fund in the regular church account.

March 22, 1970

The church held a special conference for the purpose of electing a church treasurer and an assistant treasurer; Brother Walter Eison was elected treasurer and Sister Jean Standridge as assistant.

August 12, 1970

The church voted to install speakers in the auditorium.

September 9, 1970

The church adopted a budget of \$15,200.00 for the coming year.

October 7, 1970

The church discussed the possibility of auditing the treasurer's books. A motion was made for Mrs. Betty Eison to audit them and the church would accept the report as she finds it.

January 6, 1971

A motion was made suggesting that the church look into the possibility of changing the deacons to a rotating system.



January 20, 1971

A special conference was called to hear the recommendations of the music committee. The committee presented the following names for service; Mr. William Hyslip as minister of music and to pay him \$75.00 monthly, and Mrs. Bobbie Sue Youmans as pianist and to pay her \$25.00 monthly.

February 10, 1971

A motion is made to bore a new well for the church and pastorium at a cost of \$325.00. The funds to pay for the well are not to come from the church treasury, but each family in the church is asked to give \$10.00.

March 10, 1971

A motion is made to automatically resolve any committee after their purpose has been fulfilled. The church voted to exterminate the church and pastorium for termites. This is to be paid in the same fashion as the well project. The cost being \$468.00. The church voted to remove the wall to enlarge the youth class.

June 9, 1971

The church has finished putting the rails around the porch of the educational building. A motion is made to send Brother Marvin Glover a letter of appreciation for the donation of the fence around the educational building. A motion is made to give the organist a love offering in the same way and amount as the pianist receives. (\$25.00 per month)

July 7, 1971

The church voted to set aside July 18, as Carmen Meadows Day for donations to help with her heart surgery.

September 8, 1971

A motion is made for the Grounds Committee to appoint a co-ordinator to finish the work on the picnic area. Brother Randy Gordon was elected. A motion was made to elect five people to update the Constitution and By-Laws of the church.

The following people were elected; Chairman of the Deacons and the Church Clerk for the coming year, Sue Gordon, Bill Hyslip, and Perry Walton.

A motion was made to set up the deacon board on a rotating basis, consisting of six of the present eleven deacons, one of which will be designated chairman. Each year, two new people will be elected by the church body. The two new deacons shall come from a ballot consisting of the five inactive deacons plus one member of the congregation nominated one month prior to the election. The board shall consist of a three, two, and one year term with the number of votes determining who shall serve in each category. Each year the two deacons serving the one year term will step down and the two new ones taking the three year position. For a deacon to be eligible for re-election he must remain off the active list for a period of one year. This is to become effective October 1, 1971.

The church voted to have the deacon election, September 26, 1971, and the deacons elected were: Millard Gordon and W. T. Eison for a three year term, Leonard Weathington and Aubrey Porter for a two year term, Cyrus Williams and Roy Hunter for a one year term.

The building committee reports that a new room is needed for the new class of young married people and a motion was made for the building to provide such room.

The church adopted a budget of \$16,650.00 for the coming year.

September 22, 1971

The church voted to remodel the intermediate department and to remove a partition, there-by making a larger room for the beginners.

The church voted for the deacon with the seventh highest number of votes to be the executive committman to the association, which resulted in a tie. It was then decided to elect both men to the executive committee of the association. These men were Grady Standridge and Don Evans.

October 6, 1971

The minutes are ammended to show that any salary increase included in the 1971-72 budget will not become effective until the wage-price freeze is lifted.

A motion was made to install a suggestion box for the members to make suggestions to help the deacons carry out their work.

November 10, 1971

A motion was made to construct a portable ramp so people in wheel chairs, old people, and people with heart conditions can get into the auditorium.

December 8, 1971

The church voted to put up a temporary sign at Highway 92 until the present one could be repaired after its involvement in an automobile accident.

The church voted to purchase a mineograph machine at a cost of \$50.00.

January 5, 1972

The church voted to begin a jail ministry of visitation at the jail.

February 9, 1972

A committee was appointed to co-ordinate the jail ministry, but the ministry itself would be church wide.

March 8, 1972

A motion was made to purchase a typewriter at a maximum cost of \$250.00.

The church voted to have gravel and rock dust put on the west side of the church building.

The Constitution committee presented members present with a copy of the new Constitution and By-Laws to be studied for two weeks when the committee will hold a question and answer session at the evening worship hour of March 26, 1972.

Brother Bill Hyslip reported on the jail ministry and its success.

March 26, 1972

The Constitution and By-Laws were read and after revisions were made it was voted to present it again at the April 5, conference.

April 5, 1972

A motion was made to purchase a used electric IBM typewriter for \$200.00.

The Constitution and By-Laws were approved as revised. A motion was made to set up a church calendar for the remainder of this church year and the next.

May 10, 1972

A motion was made for the building and grounds committee to check into the needs of the pastorium and to supply such needs.

W.M.U. reports that they have made \$164.00 in their recent carport sale.

A motion was made that anyone not wanting the Christian Index, to advise the Clerk and she was to remove their name from the list.

June 7, 1972

The deacons recommend that the church license Brother Sammy Goff to preach the Gospel.

A motion was made to check into the cost of bonding the church treasurer to coincide with the new By-Laws.

The amount of bond was set at \$5,000.00, which after checking was found to cost \$15.00 per year.

The W.M.U. reports that they sent \$50.00 to the Childrens Home in Palmetto to help purchase a rotary-tiller.

They are planning to send a popcorn popper at a later date.

The G. A.'s report that work on the church library is progressing well and that they have received a set of Broadman Commentaries which was given in memory of Mr. & Mrs. G. Jud Benson.

August 9, 1972

A motion was made to purchase a water cooler for the church.

Brother Buddy Bell was nominated from the congregation to be the sixth member on the ballot in the election of deacons in September.

A motion is made allowing the treasurer permission to send in extra payments on the church debt when all other foreseen bills are paid and we have at least \$1,000.00 in the treasury.

August 16, 1972

The building committee made a motion to replace all gutters on the church and to paint all woodwork on the outside of the building with the men of the church doing the work.

August 27, 1972

Brother John Otwell was called as minister of music for an indefinite period of time instead of on an annual basis.

A motion was made to ammend the Constitution as follows: Article IX, section 4, is amended to state that the director of music shall be elected for an indefinite period and he shall be at liberty to resign on giving thirty days notice and the church shall have the right to disperse with his services with similar notice. The church elected Brother Don Evans and Brother Buddy Bell as deacons for three years.

September 6, 1972

The building committee reports that they have finished four projects.

A motion is made to repaint all classrooms, pastorium carport, and to buy gutter guards for pastorium.

The church voted to build a bedroom in the basement of the pastorium at an estimated cost of \$250.00.

A motion was made to remove a wall in basement of the educational building to enlarge a Sunday School room.

The church adopted a budget of \$19,020.00 and then amended it to add on an expense account for the pastor in the amount of \$30.00 per month to be paid by separate check monthly.

September 17, 1972

The church ordained Brother Buddy Bell as a deacon.

DEED TO CHURCH LOT

Georgia  
Paulding County

This indenture made this July the Twenty-Sixth in the year of Our Lord, Eighteen Hundred Fifty-two (1852) between Reubin McClung of said county of the one part, and the Sweetwater Baptist Church of the other part of the same place.

Witnesseth that the said Reubin McClung hath given and granted and doth by these present give and grant unto the said Church a part of said lot of Land Number Six Hundred and Twenty-Five (625), in the First District of the Third Section of Originally Cherokee, now Paulding County, the boundary being eighty yards square around said meeting house, the public road being the front line of said boundary.

Also to have free privilege of water, the said boundary to belong to said Church as long as it remains the Sweetwater Baptist Church; also, with the privilege of moving said house, if required and if it ever ceases to be a church, then the said land to revert back to the person that owns the balance of said lot of land.

Lo, I, the said Reubin McClung will warrant and forever deferr the right and title against the claims of all other persons whatsoever.

In testimony where of the said Reubin McClung hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal, the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered in presence of

William H. Brown  
Samuel B. L. J. McClung

Reubin McClung  
(S. L.)

## PASTORS

James Majors	April 21, 1833
R. M. McMinn	June 7, 1834
Edward Haynes	November 11, 1837
P. M. Rice	August 8, 1839
B. Black	June 12, 1841
H. H. Haynes	December 9, 1841
M. H. Denmon	July 15, 1843
Elizah Northcut	March 23, 1844
P. M. Rice	January 3, 1846
Elijah Northcut	May 20, 1848
T. W. Burton	May 19, 1849
Nelson Porterfield	June 7, 1851
J. H. Johnson	March 8, 1856
J. Riggs	June 18, 1857
H. A. Williams	March 26, 1859
F. U. Smith	January 25, 1862
R. W. Hambrick	March 21, 1863
James G. Denton	November 14, 1863
Newton W. Eubank	April 25, 1869
J. M. Key	February 20, 1869
William Coalson	December 14, 1872
John I. Reynolds	November 8, 1879

PASTORS

W. M. Coalson	October 9, 1880
A. J. Morgan	October 7, 1882
Owen O. Williams	October 8, 1887
W. A. Ragsdale	October 31, 1891
Thomas R. Morgan	April 8, 1894
J. N. Standridge	October 13, 1894
W. A. Ragsdale	May 11, 1895
S. T. Gilland	August 19, 1896
J. S. Edwards	December 11, 1909
Bob Ragsdale	December 10, 1910
S. T. Gilland	November 9, 1912
Harry Meeks	March 10, 1923
P. L. Maner	January 7, 1928
T. M. Morgan	1928
J. W. Reeves	September 8, 1929
Joe McMichen	August 10, 1952
Tom Gore	September 4, 1954
Charles Reitz	April, 1959
Glenn Whaley	February 2, 1964
Charles Gibbs	June 22, 1967
Charles T. Johnson	June 4, 1969