

THE OLD MILL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

James Menees II of Henry County, Virginia, was given a grant of 640 acres of land on the east side of Mill Creek in Middle Tennessee. After looking over his new property, he moved his family to it in 1782. He was of the first of Baptist faith to make a permanent settlement there.

Historians conclude it was in the Menees home that Mill Creek Baptist Church was organized April 15, 1797. On this same day James Whitsitt, Menees son-in-law, was ordained to the ministry and called to be the Church's pastor. The history of this church and the extension of Baptist work in this section of Tennessee is centered around the efforts, the influence and faith of this noble character.

Church services were conducted in members' homes until a log meeting house was built on the Menees property, where the congregation worshipped until 1810. R. C. Foster, a Mill Creek member, after having been in correspondence with the Baptist board of Foreign Missions, invited Luther Rice, agent of the Board, to preach for the association. After his forceful sermon, the first offering for foreign missions was taken. So with Mill Creek leading, Baptists launched into the work of foreign missions in 1817.

The Church's early home mission endeavors consisted in establishing churches. In 1804, the Church established its first mission which became Concord Baptist Church. First Baptist and Antioch churches in Davidson County, Rock Springs, and Providence Churches in Rutherford County owe their origin to Mill Creek's efforts.

In 1908, Mill Creek organized its last church, Grandview, with nine charter members. It was located on Joyner Avenue and later moved to its second location on Nolensville Road. Certain properties once owned and used by Mill Creek Church became the property of Grandview Baptist Church.

In April 1849, James Whitsitt, at the age of seventy-nine, departed this life, having spent fifty-three years in the ministry, and having exerted more influence than any other pioneer Baptist minister.

THE CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH



On August 11, 1804, Concord Baptist Church (with twenty charter members) was the first congregation to be formed out of the old Mill Creek Baptist Church. The church was originally a log structure located on a hill behind the present site. An examination of the Church records reveal in 1843, at the Church conference, the subject of repairing the old meeting house or building a new one was discussed. Evidently, the title to the ground on which the meeting house was built was tied to a theological issue. Exercising its right as a Baptist church to govern itself and not to be tied to a theological position, Concord Church chose land on the opposite side of Mill Creek for a new building in March of 1844. Bricks were made by hand and a structure forty by sixty feet was built. In December 1845, James Whitsitt preached the first sermon in the new building.

Our forefathers built well. The building, completed in 1945, served as the sanctuary for Concord Baptist Church until February 26, 1989. In June 1927, the first Sunday School was organized. In 1945, the Church called its first full-time pastor, C.J. Krause. In 1947, an educational unit was added. In May 1947, a tent belonging to Concord Association was erected on the Guthrie farm in the Hebron Community on Clovercroft Road in Nolensville. Vacation Bible School was held during the day, revival services at night, and a mission congregation was formed. In 1951, the mission was organized into a church, which became known as Nolensville Baptist Church. A new home for the Concord pastor was completed across the street from the church in 1952. A second education unit was added in 1956.

February 26, 1989, under the leadership of Pastor Ralph Carroll, the congregation dedicated new facilities on the corner of Nolensville and Concord Roads. After moving into the facility, internal conflict and financial stress caused the congregation to move back into the old Concord building and eventually sell the new facilities.

Pastor John Burke was called in March 1995. In the fall of 1995, the church appointed a "Dream Team", consisting of sixteen members, which was charged with investigating the current ministries and future needs of the historic congregation. Their report brought many challenging goals, including the need to provide a new worship center by the year 2000. A Steering Committee was elected to seek out a new property with the intent of a nearby relocation. During this process, the Church became aware that a sister church, Grandview Baptist, was also seeking to relocate in the same area. In search for God's will, this congregation of believers was led by the Holy Spirit to unite its efforts with the sister church.

THE GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH



GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

The Grandview Baptist Church, 2635 Fourth Avenue South (Nolensville Road), was organized December 27, 1908 with nine charter members from the historic Mill Creek Baptist Church on Glenrose Avenue, near Glencliff Station. This Church grew out of a Mission on Joyner Avenue, which was sponsored by the Mill Creek Church. The Church met at the Joyner Avenue location for the first few years until the site on Nolensville Road near Thompson Lane was secured.

The first house on the new site was destroyed by fire on February 27, 1927. Very little of the furniture was saved and there was only \$7,000 in insurance. With this sum as a starting point, the congregation immediately made plans to replace the building. The first service was held in the new basement auditorium Sunday, July 1, 1928. As soon as the debt was paid, a building fund was started for the erection of a sanctuary. The contract was activated in October 1945. The congregation met in the Turner School Building for their Sunday Services while this work was being done. April 6, 1947, Easter Sunday, the first service was held in the new sanctuary.

In 1955, remodeling of the existing education space and construction of a 3 floor annex for use in Sunday School classroom had begun. In 1964, construction of 3 floor educational building was started. Over a period of time, several residential properties around the church were purchased to facilitate parking for members and guests.

In 1957, Grandview began sponsorship of a mission in College Grove, Tennessee and a lot was purchased for a building site. In 1958, the loan was paid off and plans were approved for the first unit of the building. Groundbreaking was in June of that same year (1958). In 1961, a 'note burning' service was held. In 1963, Grandview members voted to put the College Grove Mission on a six month trial basis of independence. This probationary period was postponed when the College Grove pastor resigned. In 1968, Grandview donated an outdoor bulletin board and a piano to the College Grove Mission. First Baptist Church of College Grove, Tennessee was organized on July 15, 1973 with 48 charter members. Grandview donated a debt-free deed to the property with a reversionary clause.

Pastor Jess Love was called in the spring of 1983. Through fifteen years of ministry with the Grandview congregation, many lives were touched. However, the transition of the community and a membership that had relocated to the suburbs left the Grandview Church with a facility that no longer met its needs, and a decision to relocate was made.

THE CONCORD-GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Over two hundred years ago, God led some of His people to organize the Mill Creek Baptist Church. With a heart for church planting, they organized a number of churches in Middle Tennessee. Concord was the first in 1804 and Grandview was the last in 1908. These two joined into one congregation.

On May 19, 1997, Pastor John Burke of Concord and Pastor Jess Love of Grandview met to discuss the needs and dreams of their respective congregations. Out of the meeting the concept of the two congregations serving together was birthed. Both congregations had seen decline, both had needs for new facilities, and both had similar ministry goals. Drawing the leadership from each congregation together, representatives from the two churches met on June 12, 1997. A spirit-led decision to continue to pursue the possibility of merger eventually led the two congregations to become one.

The churches agreed to totally merge, in that all assets and members would join together without conditions benefiting either group. Although unusual, Pastors Burke and Love agreed to serve as 'co-pastors.' The pastoral responsibilities were divided between them equally. The Sunday School organization and committees were also merged together. Darin Worthington was called as full-time Minister of Youth and Family Life.

On October 5, 1997, the new congregation held its first service at the Concord location. During that service, communion was served using the original communion ware from the historic Mill Creek Baptist Church which had been in Grandview's care. Officially the merger was completed in special services on Sunday, March 22, 1998. In the "Resolution of Merger" the two congregations pledged "their loyalty to the combined ministry" and resolved to give "glory and honor for this new venture, solely and completely" to Jesus Christ.

Pursuing the vision the Church believed the Lord had given them, the new congregation purchased 8.5 acres on the corner of Pettus and Nolensville Roads from Ray and Sarah (Greene) Brinkley. On Sunday, October 5, 1998, the first Homecoming, the congregation dedicated the property and began the plans for a new building.

1997 The proceeds (\$633.00) from the Brotherhood Fish Fry held in October were designated to change the sign in front of the building to Concord Grandview Baptist Church. Ivan Parker held a concert. Grandview property put on market for 1.5 million dollars. Concord sought clear title to property. Five heirs found, letters sent and judge would rule. Fifteen pianos from Grandview were sold for \$200 each. Proceeds were used to repair organ at Concord. Search began for site for new facilities.

1998 Offer received on 2635 Nolensville Road property (Grandview) from Edmondson Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for \$800,000. (This did not include lots 52 & 53 south of Central Avenue.) March 22 was celebrated as Merger Celebration Sunday with signing of the merger document which legally bound the Churches together. Documents filed with the State. Offer on Grandview property withdrawn. Two lots on south side of Central Avenue sold for \$160,000.

Thirteen attend the WMU State convention. May 30th saw a Block Party for the community targeting 5,000 new homes in Brentwood. Church sponsored co-ed softball team. Deacon body recommended Ed Knight and Danny Chaudoin be considered for ordination; Barry Sewell and David Love selected as Yokefellows. Ordination held June 7. On June 7, the Church voted to purchase 8.5 acres at the northeast corner of Nolensville and Pettus Roads for \$119,000. The youth held a retreat in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. September saw the Grandview property sold for \$600,000. (This sale was not completed.) Annual Fish Fry receipts \$634.50. During Homecoming celebration approximately eighty-five (85) members gathered in a circle on new property to pray and dedicate work to God's glory. A sign was erected on new property and application made to Metro for driveway entrance. Contracted with Architectural Department of Lifeway to draw land-use plans. Brother Burke met with officials from the State and Metro regarding a light at Concord and Nolensville Roads. Plans for widening Concord with right turning lane and light installed in spring of 1999. Cornerstone at Grandview property removed and placed at the storage building. Holy Grounds Coffee House held in December.

1999 Twelve youth signed commitment forms at True Love Waits Rally. Youth raised approximately \$350.00 at spaghetti dinner towards June mission trip/retreat in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Grandview cornerstone opened; a copper box in place since May 1928. A partial list of items contained inside: copy of Church history, Nashville Banner (evening newspaper) dated May 12, 1928 which cost three cents, a new Bible – cost \$2. Grandview property sold to Kahn's Produce for \$514,925 with closing on February 19th. Meeting for members held with architects to voice ideas. Darin Worthington, Youth Minister, resigned effective July 31st to continue his education. In mid-1999 the Church experienced several months of disharmony related to financial pressures from the merger. At this time there was \$966,955.80 in the building fund, but tithes/offerings were not enough to support the day-to-day expenses of the Church. At the July business meeting, Pastor John Burke resigned as co-pastor. Michael Hilliard assumed Youth Director duties in August. A new outreach program, GROW, was started in November with Donna Hamm as director.

2000 Easter Sunrise Services were held on the new property. Steering Committee issued a formal invitation requesting Christian free labor (Carpenters for Christ) for June 2001. In June of 2000, the church property flooded bringing water into the building including approximately 12 inches deep around the pulpit area. Members and friends worked many hours during the next few days to have the building ready for Sunday services. At this time \$874.60 was donated towards replacing carpets. Vacation Bible School materials were also damaged beyond use and had to be replaced. In regular business meeting on August 16, 2000, the Church voted to retain the Church Architecture Department of Lifeway Christian Resources to design the new building. Church granted the Steering Committee authority to make decisions during the construction process and to enter into agreements as necessary to complete the new building. Groundbreaking set to coincide with 3rd Homecoming celebration (October 1). Fundraising Committee in place. Fall Festival planned with proceeds to go towards expenses incurred when free labor workers were on site. Commemorative bricks on sale – use to be determined at a later date. Annual Fish Fry profits: \$495.74. Preliminary perk test on new property was positive. Steering Committee sought bids for a new contractor. (William Beard named later as contractor.)

2001 In January, plans for the new building were submitted to the membership – approximately 20,000 square feet, all brick, seating 305 in sanctuary and 216 in fellowship hall. Preschool sponsored Lil’ Bit of Heaven consignment sale netted approximately \$1,000.00. The first piece of equipment, a ‘ditch-witch’ came onto the property on April 24, 2001. Bob Blankenship was called as part-time Minister of Music in May. The June date for Carpenters for Christ had to be rescheduled since the concrete slab had not yet been poured. The group of approximately thirty arrived in July to frame the new building. The shower stalls used for the volunteer workers were donated to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Mark Lane designed and launched a website for the Church. Total amount in the building fund: \$803,579.78. In August of 2001, frame work on new building almost complete. Bids were being accepted for roofing and brick work. Charles Rowlett, Wayne Wilhoite and Robert Wade Williams Jr. named as Yokefellows. On November 14, 2001 the Church voted to deed title to property of Glenrose Avenue to the Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, a non-profit organization for \$10.00. Lottie Moon goal of \$800.00 met.

2002 To date, five or six proposals on the septic system had been submitted to Metro Government but none approved. Surveyor’s stakes were pulled up and redone. These and other issues caused unforeseen expenses. In February, verbal approval from Metro on septic system received. In March of 2002, a ten foot easement on church property (Concord Road) was granted to Metro. Metro agreed to give the Church a free tap-on the property and one free tap-on for the parsonage property. (Tap-on cost value: \$500 each.) Steeple for new building ordered. Sheet rock installed and trim work, painting, electrical continuing. Work teams were scheduled to arrive in April, June, and July. The Church voted to secure a construction line of credit for \$750,000. Twenty-two ladies attended the WMU state convention, the largest group from any Middle Tennessee church. Spring consignment sale profits \$700 to Preschool fund. Deacons started a ministry every third month offering communion to shut-ins. There were twelve shut-ins. In May, the pews were ordered for early September delivery and the security system was activated. The sprinkler system was approved by the Fire Marshall. The new building was projected to be completed in mid-September with dedication services the first Sunday in October (Homecoming Sunday). August: The septic tank previously approved by Metro had to be replaced with a one-piece unit which was more expensive. Metro said the approval was an oversight! Church voted to seek extension on the \$500,000 (amount granted by bank) construction line of credit at National Bank of Commerce to \$875,000. Bank denied extension. Church voted to refurbish the Steinway grand piano for \$4,830.75. Work to take approximately fourteen weeks. Estimated value of piano: \$40,000. Annual Brotherhood Fish Fry netted \$360.64. In October, the Concord Road property was put on the market in hopes profits from sale will help offset expenses for new building. Deacons shut-ins ministry increased to every other month. Civil contractors gave relief on their invoice in amount of \$91,460.00.

2003 Appraisal on Concord Road property came in at \$400,000. This appraisal did not include the adjoining lot which appraised at \$30,000. In February of 2003, the Concord Road (church) property was listed with a realtor for \$450,000. On February 16th, Yokefellows David Love, Charles Rowlett, Wayne Wilhoite, and Robert Wade Williams Jr. were ordained as deacons. In March, fourteen ladies attended WMU state convention. Metro Health inspector visited site and declared the curtain drain too close to the field lines. When told the drain was where the plans specified, he said it was still too close and must be moved. This is the fourth time these plans have been altered, bringing about additional expense.

C & P Refrigeration donated ice maker for new building. On March 30, 2007, the Constitution and By-Laws for Concord-Grandview Baptist Church were adopted. Annie Armstrong offering goal of \$650 exceeded. Helen Garrett went on mission trip to Cuba, New Mexico. Spaghetti supper netted \$712.00 for building fund. In December, permission was finally given to meet in new building. The Christmas dinner on the 17th was the first event/service. (It would be twenty-eight more months before 'final occupancy' permit was received!)

2004 Church members studied The Purpose Driven Life. A Grief Support Group was formed. After three long years, on April 18, 2004 we dedicated the new building to the glory of God. Eleven members went on mission trip to Cuba, New Mexico to work with Native Americans. This was where member, Helen Garrett, lived before moving to Middle Tennessee. In October of 2004, members living close to church heard rumors regarding the widening of Concord Road. This was confirmed about a month later when we heard the State would take the house (parsonage) property for road right of way. Estimated start date: 2006. Brotherhood Annual Fish Fry held. First Pumpkin Patch held with approximately 1,400 pumpkins grown by Native Americans in New Mexico. Community-wide Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat activities also held during time. In December of 2004, the Church voted to sell the property to Ali Shahhossiniri for \$380,000.

2005 In January, contract with Ali Shahhossiniri was declared null and void. In February, bricks were thrown through the stain glass windows of old building. Larry Jones won chili cook-off. On April 23, ladies attended WMU state convention. In May, the Church voted to grant easement to developer for Kroger for \$10,000. A portion of this payment to be used to finish parking lot lighting (lighting of drive). Seven men joined Carpenters for Christ in South Carolina. Occupancy permit expected in two weeks. In June, the Church voted to sell the church building and property to El Shaddai Christian Church, a Spanish speaking ministry for \$38,000. El Shaddai would lease the building for up to six months at \$3,000 per month in order to raise money needed for a down payment. In June, the Church participated in Crossover Nashville, a door to door survey, held in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville. In July, the Church voted to start a Mother's Day Out, named Kid's World, to be held Monday and Wednesday from 9am-3pm for six months to five years of age. Start projected for second week of September. Director: Nancy Smith. Start-up cost was \$2,000. The Church also voted to erect a playground in front of Preschool Department exit doors. Fall consignment proceeds went towards playground equipment. In September, Children's Worship (Praise Kids) started, K-4th grade, led by Lauri Chaudoin with volunteer helpers. Church voted to make Treasurer a paid position. In October, the annual Brotherhood Fish Fry was held during the Pumpkin Patch. (Pumpkin Patch cleared \$1,556.25.) In October 20, 2005, by Church vote the pulpit was declared vacant. Sixty four (64) shoe boxes were collected for Samaritan's Purse. In December, the Constitution/By-Laws were updated with an article outlining selection of a Pastor Search Committee. This information was omitted when revisions were made and voted on in March of 2003. Lottie Moon offering (\$1,366) exceeded goal.

2006 Brother Gene Fant called as Interim Pastor. Angie Piloto hired through Randstad as Financial Secretary. Pastor Selection Committee names: Matthew Jones, Lyndell Carroll, Wade Williams Jr. Richard Moulton, Kathleen Housman, Larry Jones (chr. Deacons), Tim Lee, Henry Clemons, Valerie Eatherly. Mark Lane won chili cook-off. Larry Jones, Matthew Jones, and Mark Lane joined Carpenters for Christ in Alabama to work on church destroyed by arson. Angie Piloto became Church employee. Loan at Sun Trust paid off; new loan made at First Tennessee. The cost to convert building to Natural gas, \$3,000. State planned to start buying land for Concord Road expansion at end of summer. Discussion held on sign on Nolensville Road – digital or not. Ten members went to Cuba, New Mexico to work with Native Americans. In August, twenty-four enrolled in Kid's World. Third Pumpkin Patch held along with annual Brotherhood Fish Fry. A portion of Fish Fry proceeds went to underwrite a Pastor in New Mexico radio ministry. Pumpkin Patch profits of \$1,445.25 designated to Mission Fund for 2007. Music Minister, Bob Blankenship, resigned; Jack Estey called as Interim Music Minister. Membership rolls purged with new figure of 780 (163 active – 617 inactive) submitted to Nashville Baptist Association in annual Church letter. Stove for kitchen was delivered! Members of Building & Grounds attended meeting with TDOT on Concord Road expansion. Work expected to start in 2008. Forty-five (45) shoe boxes were filled and sent to Samaritan's Purse. The Church voted to call Brother L. Randall Jackson as senior pastor, effective January 15, 2007 (1st sermon Sunday, January 21st). Lottie Moon offering of \$2,131.50 exceeded goal.

2007 Annual Men's Day held first Sunday in February; annual chili cook-off in evening (winner: Jefferson Wallace). Leadership Organizational Chart introduced. Thirteen ladies and two youth attended the WMU state convention. Jack Estey resigned on April 1; Mark Hale became Interim Minister of Music. On April 1, 2007, Brad Warren was called as Students Minister/ Director-Kid's World. Two AM worship services and two Sunday School sessions started until end of May as a preparation for going to two services permanently when school began in August. Personnel Committee recommended hiring a Ministry Staff Assistant. Several Men and one youth joined Carpenters for Christ working in western Kentucky. Twelve members participated in the third annual Cuba, New Mexico mission trip. Five members joined Brother Jackson on mission trip to Choteau, Montana. Sara Sanders hired as Ministry Staff Assistant. Horizon 2007, a ministry plan formed from information taken from the earlier Church member survey, was presented. In August, David Gutekunst was called as Interim Associate Worship Leader. Planning begins for celebrating the merger- 1997-2007- bringing us together for this day...November 11, 2007.