

The History of Cochran Ridge Baptist Church

In the summer of 1946, a need was felt by the people in the community for a local church

On August 31, 1946, Bro Jesse Alexander donated land for a church building.

On September 1, 1946, a missionary group, along with the people of the community met on the property and Cochran Ridge Baptist Church was constituted.

Among the group, there were five preachers: Rev Horace Bearden, Rev Richard Justice, Jr., Rev Jack Fambro, Rev J. C. Alverson and Rev Herbert Childers. There were also six deacons: Bro C. H. Horne, Bro John Neal, Bro Bill Henderson, Bro George Baxter, Bro Will Johnson & Bro Jesse Alexander.

There were nineteen charter members:

Bro Arlee & Sis Dorothy Cole, Sis Reba Johnson, Sis Bernice Fambro, Bro Horace Bearden, Bro Reece Fambro, Bro William Grant, Bro John Thomas Freeman, Bro Will & Sis Opal Johnson, Bro Cliff & Sis Vera Thackston, Bro Jesse & Sis Isabelle Alexander, Bro Jack & Sis Minnie Fambro, Sis Louise Alexander and Bro Vernoy & Sis Frances Harris.

The first offering for the pastor was \$8.50

Received on October 13, 1946

The power company didn't charge for power until November 1954

The first bill was \$2.06

Rock Altar

The men met for prayer and placed rocks on a pile
Each rock represented a person or situation in need of prayer.

The first deacons were: Bro Will Johnson and Bro Jesse Alexander. It was voted to ordain Bro Vernoy Harris.

The building committee were: Bro Jack Fambro, Bro Will Johnson, Bro Jesse Alexander, Bro Cliff Thackston and Bro Vernoy Harris.

Secretary & Treasure was: Sis Isabelle Alexander

Sunday School Superintendent was: Bro Vernoy Harris

**In the afternoon, a tent was set up on the property and Bro Richard Justice, Jr. led a revival from September 1st to September 8th. From the revival, the church added five new members by letter: Bro J. G. Poss, Sis Reba Cook Poss, Sis Loeraine Poss, Sis Georgia Phillips Shipp and Sis Omar Blalock and three new members for baptism: Sis Hazel Blalock, Bro Tommy Poss and Bro Basil Shipp
After the revival, the church met in homes until the building was completed.**

The building was completed in December 1946

Services were held twice monthly until November 27, 1955, at which time, it was voted to have weekly services.

**Bro Jack Fambro
was the first pastor**



Not pictured:

Bro Horace Bearden

Bro Reece Fambro

Bro William Grant

Bro John Thomas Freeman

Charter members



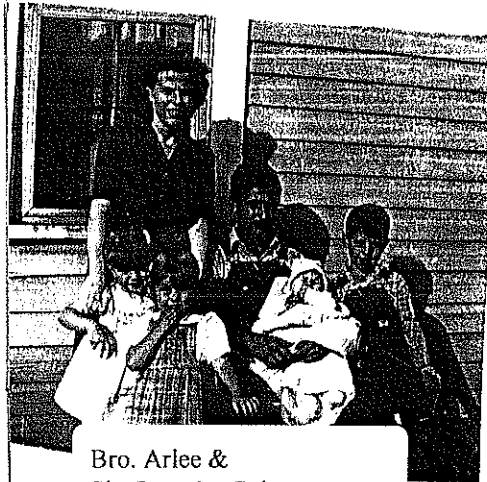
Bro. Will & Sis. Opal Johnson



Sis Bernice Fambro,
Sis Louise Alexander
Sis Reba Johnson (L)



Bro. Jesse & Sis Isabelle Alexander



Bro. Arlee & Sis. Dorothy Cole



Bro Jack & Sis. Minnie Fambro. (first pastor)



Bro. Cliff & Sis Vera Thackton



Bro Vernoy and Sis. Frances Harris

The First Church Building

The people of the community donated trees to make lumber for the building.

It was completed in December 1946.

It was heated with a coal stove which was located in the aisle in front of the pulpit.

In 1949, Sunday school rooms were added to the back of the building. There were four rooms on the main level, and four rooms on the basement level. The cost was \$300.00.

In 1956, a wing was added to the side of the church for two more Sunday school rooms. One room was open and faced the pulpit.

There was an outdoor toilet until 1967 or 1968. At that time, restrooms were added to the wing. The men's room was accessible from the outside.

In 1972, it was voted to install a cross on the front gable.

In 1974, it was voted to extend the front of the church sixteen feet.

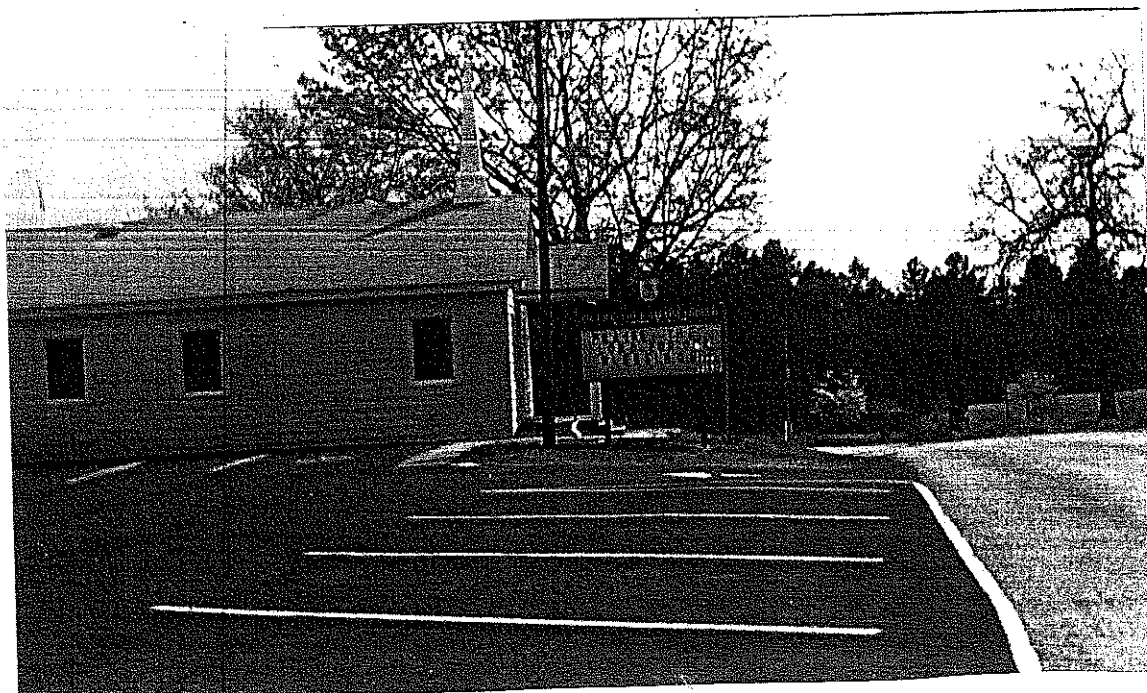
In February 1986, it was voted to buy a steeple for the church.

In March 1986, it was voted to install a baptistery. The first baptism was April 6, 1986. Those baptized were: Bro Roger Prather, Sis Tammy Mooneyham, Bro Blake Hurst, Sis Brandi Townsend, Sis Kelly Pope, Bro Jason Pope, Sis Tiffany Blair and Sis Leslie Pope.



In April 1986, it was voted to get a new sign.

In October 1986, it was voted to pave the parking lot.



On April 12, 1987, it was voted to proceed with getting the cost of starting a new church auditorium.

The Second Church Building

The land was purchased from Bro Vernoy Harris in 1987
and the building was completed in 1988

The first service was on September 11, 1988
There were 106 people in Sunday School

The first baptism was on September 18, 1988
(Sis Robin Pankey, Bro Joe Taylor & Sis Tracie Taylor)

The dedication service was on November 13, 1988
There were 102 people in Sunday School

Bro Sam Shipp preached in the morning service.
Bro Arthur Southerland preached in the evening service

Former pastors and wives present were: Sis Katherine (Curtis)
Bonds, Bro Sam & Sis Alta Shipp, Bro Louis Woodward, Bro
Arthur & Sis Joyce Southerland, Bro Charles & Sis Virginia
Bennett and Bro Ollie & Sis Betty Shadrix.

The mortgage burning service was on Dec. 31, 1989



Fellowship Halls

The first fellowship building was built in 1979. (no photo available)
It was removed when the new church building was built and a fellowship hall was in the basement.

The next fellowship building was built in 1995. The size is 50'X 100'



Church Bus

In 2004, a bus was purchased to be used for church outings



2004 Ladies attend
Kyla Rowland Ladies Retreat

The Pavilion

On Feb. 23, 2001, the church purchased property across the street and adjoining the cemetery from Sis Thelma Harris Hoophaugh.

**The pavilion was built in 2004.
It is 32' X 50' and has men's and women's restrooms.**

The dedication service was on October 23, 2004. Pastor, Bro Ricky Eaves conducted the service and the congregation held hands and completely encircled the building as the dedication prayer was prayed

