

Sand Spring Baptist Church

1616 Harrodsburg

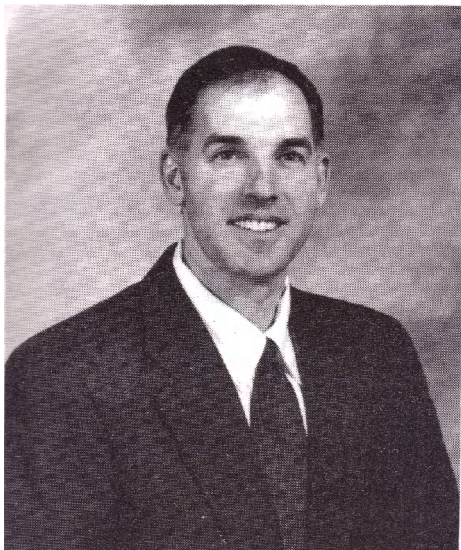
Road

Lawrenceburg,

Kentucky

1901-2001

Exactly 100 years ago—Monday, June 24, 1901—thirty-seven dedicated people envisioned a need for a new and better place to worship. As we gather today Sunday, June 24, 2001—we are enjoying the fruits of their labor and trusting, with God's help, that the vision we have will be as evident in the next century.



Michael Hamrick, Pastor

Pastor Mike Hamrick came to Sand Spring in June of 1996. He served previously as Pastor of Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort for 8 years. Before that, he was Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church in Bellevue, KY for 3¹/₂ years. While in Seminary, he served as Associate Pastor of West Side Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, TX

Brother Mike received his B.S. degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. He went on to earn an M.Div from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX, and a D.Min from Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta, GA.

Pastor Hamrick is married to Diana (Adcock) of Frankfort, KY They have 2 children; Michael and Kristen.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Lewis Ballow	Mrs. Mary A. Hedger
Mrs. Minnie Ballow	Mrs. Mary Houchin
Joel Boggess	Wallace Landrum
Mrs. Lucy J. Bolton	Mrs. Matilda Landrum
Mrs. Addie Boston	Mrs. Susan McMichael
Miss Viola L. Boston	W. D. Moore
Mrs. Mattie C. Brown	Mrs. Alice V. Moore
Mrs. Flora J. Burford	Forrest Moore
George C. Burford	Miss Sallie Moore
Thomas Carrow	Isaac Nichols
Mrs. Emily T. Carrow	Mrs. Lucy Nichols
John R. Cox	Mrs. Mallisa A. Price
George W. Fallis	Miss Maude Price
Mrs. Katherine I. Gillis	Mrs. Lucy D. Price
D. F. Hanks	Miss Jessie S. Waterfill
Mrs. Nannie Hanks	Miss Mary Williams
Miss Valeria L. Hanks	H. S. Wise
J. C. Hanks	Mrs. Georgia A. Wise
Mrs. Sarah E. Hawthorne	

THE SAND SPRING STORY

by

Jack Birdwhistell

with additions by

The Centennial Committee

"A bus driver stopped and came to the parsonage to tell us the church was on fire. Betty Jean called some of the businesses in town and people came from all around to help carry stuff out. The water line was to the church, but we weren't hooked on. If it had been we could have put the fire out."

With these words Bro. John Kruschwitz recalled the fire which burned the building of the Sand Spring Baptist Church to the ground on the night of April 7, 1951. A dramatic front page photo in The Anderson News shows volunteers watching helplessly. That fire, tragic as it was, probably contributed as much as any event to the shaping of the present membership of Sand Spring. Like the Hebrews of old, "The people had a mind to work," (Neh. 4:6) and their labor together to rebuild forged a spirit which lives on--a spirit like that of the pioneer generation.

"How Firm A Foundation": 1901 - 1929

The Sand Spring story begins at the turn of the century with two revival meetings; one in a borrowed colored Baptist church building in Rippyville, the other in the old Salt River Schoolhouse. At the latter meeting, Mr. Harry S. Wise and his wife, Georgia, became Christians, and their enthusiasm added to the sentiment in favor of a new church in the neighborhood. When Mr. Wise died in 1910, in fact, the church officially mourned the loss of "one of her most devoted members, one who has ever labored, prayed and given for the building and success of the church from the very beginning." But back to the story.

It was on Monday, June 24, 1901, at Salt River School that Sand Spring Church was formed. B. F. Adkins, who had preached the previous revival meetings, acted as moderator; and Bro. W. D.

Moore, long-time farmer-preacher of Anderson County, acted as clerk. The minutes record:

After the reading of the 3rd Chapter of 1st Timothy by the moderator and prayer by the clerk, an opportunity was given for all those wishing to go into the congregation to do so. Thirty-seven presented themselves whose names were accordingly enrolled.

The new church was organized under the Articles of Faith and Church Covenant found in J. M. Pendleton's Church Manual. They selected B. F. Adkins as pastor and Forrest Moore as clerk, and chose for the church the name "Sand Spring." Mrs. Melissa Price, a charter member, suggested the name, a lovely one which came from a spring on the plot of ground donated by the Fallis family. This was the site of the first building and is where the church now stands.

Among the original members the names of Hanks and Moore appear frequently, and these two families had much to do with the "firm foundation" laid for Sand Spring.

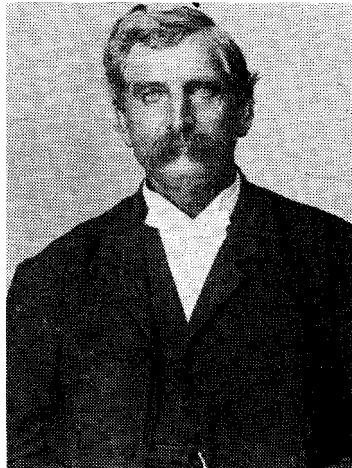
As Forrest Moore described their situation, "with only 37 members at the beginning and most of them in very moderate circumstances, the church was not strong financially." Nevertheless, the congregation managed to put together the \$1600 needed to build a "sturdy, one room frame structure about 36 x 30 feet with a seating capacity of about 250." The new building was dedicated debt free on June 29, 1902 with "an all day meeting and dinner on the ground."

The Western Recorder in its issue of July 3, 1902, praised Pastor Adkins and his "little band" for "this contribution to the Lord's work."

B. F. Adkins was selected pastor each December under the "annual call," formally the custom in Baptist churches, which required that the pastor resign at the end of each year. Usually, but

not always, the pastor was then called for the following year. Sand Spring's first pastor preached one weekend a month for a yearly salary of \$100. December, 1903 found the church some \$40.00 short. The committee formed to help the deacons raise the money extended its work through March, 1904. In April they reported "that no further progress could be made" and they were relieved of their duty! The faithful Bro. Adkins continued to preach.

Some early sessions were concerned with economy. The church had stipulated that Bro. Adkins preach 36 times per year "divided as nearly equal each month as circumstances will admit" (September 1905). By late 1907, however, at least one member seemed to think that Bro. Adkins was not living up to his end of the bargain. The motion, "Instead of \$100 that the church pay the amount of \$2.77 and 7/9 cents for each sermon preached by the pastor," clearly designed to insure that the church got its money's worth, carried by "a large majority." Bro. Adkins refused the call phrased in this way, the church reconsidered, and he accepted the call "as usual" for \$100 per year.



B. F. Adkins



W. D. Moore

In 1908, after strong urging by several members and "a very earnest and appropriate talk to the church by H. S. Wise," Bro. W. D. Moore accepted the call as pastor. He declined the call for 1909,

and Bro. E. W. Summers became pastor. In October, 1909, the church decided "if it suited the preacher, to have preaching twice a month during the year," and a "Directory" printed in 1914 revealed that this was the practice at that time.

A departure was made from the tradition when Bro. Summers resigned in August, 1912. On that occasion Sand Spring decided "to call a pastor and to make the call indefinite," a practice that has generally been followed since. The first pastor called in this way was the scholarly Garrett Reed, who served the church through 1916. In 1917 Bro. E. W. Summers returned as pastor for two years, followed by C. T. Ricks (1920-1921) and Zell Shaw (part of 1922). In 1920 a Sunday School annex was added to the original building at a cost of \$2800.



J. E. Darter



C. T. Ricks

It was during the pastorate of J. E. Darter (1922-1925) that the church grew to a membership of over 400 and began to have "full-time preaching." After leaving Sand Spring, Bro. Darter enjoyed a long and successful ministry at the Gilead Church, working also with the Glendale Children's Home.

Bro. Darter was succeeded by Bert Gould (1926-1929) under whose leadership the church, like many throughout Kentucky, voted to build a basement under the existing structure. Bro. Gould's impact on Sand Spring is best reflected in a memorial adopted when the church heard of his death in 1944. Recalling his courage in the face of ill health, they remembered:

Bro. Gould loved people, he understood people, he sympathized with people. Because of these traits of character he endeared himself to all those whom he served . . . as it was said of Barnabas, so it can be said of Bro. Gould, "He was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost."

The minutes from early years reveal, in addition to the growth of the church, a concern for discipline of the congregation. As early as 1904, members were visited because of "charges brought against them by the church." In March, 1911, the Deacons were appointed as "a special committee to look after church discipline," and in April they reported that they had "waited on members whom the church thought had not been conducting themselves as should." In 1922 there was great concern over a decline in morals in the community, and the church adopted a resolution which "advised and implored" members to leave off wicked practices, such as dancing, card playing, profanity, drunkenness. . . . The "grave sins" of members usually consisted of no more than dancing, but in 1924, a committee was appointed "to investigate the rumor that one of our members was caught with a moonlight still."

Many cases of discipline, however, seem to have been dropped as members recognized the dangers of this sort of action. All who asked for forgiveness were restored and very few were actually excluded.

In the first thirty years of existence, then, Sand Spring Baptist Church had grown from 37 members in 1901 to more than ten times that number in 1929. Its place of influence in the

community was assured as the sons and daughters of the founders, as well as many others, entered the full fellowship of the church.

"Through Many Dangers, Toils, and Snares": 1930 - 1945

The optimism that the Baptists of Sand Spring shared with all Americans in the period before 1929 was severely tried during the next fifteen years. The men who led the church through this period, H. H. McGinty (1930-1934) and M. D. Morton (1935-1945), have been among Sand Spring's most beloved.



H. H. McGinty

Called as pastor for \$1500 per year, Bro. McGinty, recognizing the financial situation caused by the Great Depression, twice requested the church to reduce his salary by \$10.00 a month. The church first "voted to let it stay the same for the present," but finally relented in January, 1933. Members were urged to save their pennies and dimes to help pay off the church's debts, a major concern during the early 1930's. Nevertheless, during Bro. McGinty's pastorate the membership passed the 500 mark. Upon

leaving Sand Spring, Bro. McGinty went to Missouri where he became editor of Word and Way, the state Baptist paper.

M. D. Morton, called in late 1934 "for one year only," soon endeared himself to the people and served Sand Spring longer than any other pastor. It was he who led the church out of the Depression and the dark days of World War II. And the church records certainly reveal the impact of the war on the congregation. Carl Hanks became a Christian on Wednesday, October 7, 1942 during a revival and was baptized the next day in Bond's Lake. He left that weekend to rejoin his Navy outfit. Revival services for 1943 were described as well attended "despite the gas rationing," but attendance at the fall revival was hurt by "gas, tire and labor shortage." To help the war effort, the church even purchased a \$100 bond.



M. D. Morton

The main concern, though, was for the young men of Sand Spring who went off to war. During World War I, the names of soldiers had been entered on an "Honor Roll," and the congregation had sung "God Save, God Keep, God Hold Our Men" and prayed

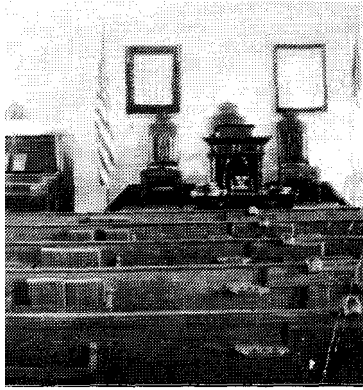
for the safety of their soldiers. During World War II, two Service Flags at the front of the church were decorated with stars, one for each boy in service; and the weekly bulletin kept members informed of the whereabouts of those whom the church had nurtured through Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. This concern for servicemen continued during the wars in Korea and Vietnam.

In spite of trying times the church continued to grow steadily and the facilities were improved with electric lights and a furnace (1939). A home was purchased for the pastor on the site of the present parsonage (1940). Recognizing the importance of M. D. Morton in their progress, the congregation passed a resolution of appreciation:

We know that most of the credit for our progress should go to the untiring efforts and unfailing zeal of Bro. Morton. In the years to come these accomplishments will stand as monuments to his energy and devotion. . . . He preaches the Bible. He speaks as one who is deeply impressed with the greatness and urgency of his message. . . . For his sympathy and comfort and helpfulness in times of sickness and distress, Bro. Morton will long be remembered by the people of Sand Spring.

"Bring Them In": 1946 - 1952

The war was over in 1945, the boys came home, and the county began to boom--as did Sand Spring! Pastor Roy A. Hamilton (1945-1948) presided over an unprecedented period of growth in the church's life that found it in 1948 as the largest congregation in Baptist Association and one of the largest rural churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. Much of the growth was due to two spectacular revivals conducted by Evangelist Louis W. Arnold in 1946 and 1948. Clerk Zora M. Carter wrote concerning the former meeting, "The Lord certainly did wondrous things for us. . . . Many Christians who had grown cold and indifferent entered into the meeting with all their hearts."



Sand Spring During W.W. H



Roy A. Hamilton

Bro. Hamilton was succeeded in 1949 at Sand Spring by John W. Kruschwitz.



J. W. Kruschwitz

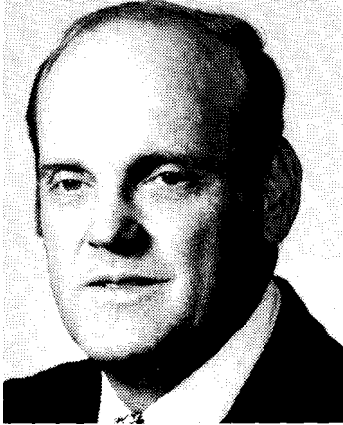
Under the leadership of "Krusch" the church undertook extensive improvements in the church building, including enlargement of the auditorium, additional Sunday School space, a

choir loft, and a baptistery. The "new" church was dedicated on May 7, 1950 in an all day meeting. What happened next is best told in the words of Forrest Moore:

But dark days were coming. On April 7, 1951, just eleven months from the dedication of the new additions, the church building was destroyed by fire. . . . The hearts of the people were heavy, but faith in God and courage and determination were not lacking. With hearts united in spirit and purpose Sand Spring met the challenge. Many friends gave encouragement as well as financial assistance.

The congregation met the next morning for Sunday School and worship service at Anderson High School gymnasium, but later arrangements were made with the County School Board for the use of the Sand Spring School until a new church building could be constructed. On May 27, 1951, a mass meeting was held in a tent on the school grounds at which \$22,000 was given or pledged. That is all the more amazing since the largest individual contribution was \$500! Work began immediately. The first service was held in the new basement on September 16, and the educational building was used for the first time on March 30, 1952. On June 29, 1952, exactly one-half century from the dedication of the first building, the distinctive Bedford stone structure was dedicated in a joyous day of worship. The sermon of dedication was given by Dr. Verlin C. Kruschwitz, brother of the pastor, his subject being "What Mean These Stones." Sand Spring later recalled its "debt of gratitude to Bro. John Kruschwitz for his faithful and loyal shouldering of the task of leading in rebuilding." Marvin Goff supervised the construction of the building as he had worked with his father, J. W. Goff, and his brother, Jimmy, on the previous buildings.

With the new church completed, Sand Spring continued to grow under Pastors Melvin E. Torstrick (1955-1957) and Charles F. Jones (1958-1959). During Bro. Torstrick's pastorate, on November 11, 1956, Sand Spring celebrated the retirement of the \$40,000 debt on the new building--probably one of the proudest moments in the church's history.



Melvin Torstrick



Charles Jones

Bro. Torstrick, having previously served as a foreign missionary, greatly encouraged the missions organizations of the church. And it was the mission field of Chile that he and his family served upon leaving Sand Spring in late 1957.

"Make Me A Blessing": 1958 - 1976

With the debt retired, Sand Spring could look to the future. Growth continued, but at a slower pace as the community surrounding the church stabilized. The focus in recent years has been on new kinds of minis

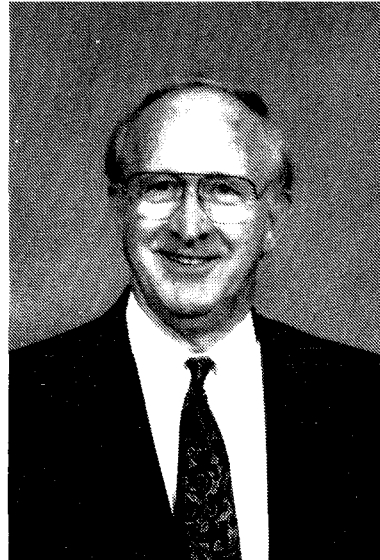
Pastor Hugh Brooks (1959-1962) began the Sand Spring youth choir program. This program, which involved a large number of the church's young people, supplemented the Sunday School and Training Union. The church's youth committee became very active as regular Sunday night snacks, usually supervised by Mrs. Mabel Phillips, became a regular part of the youth program.

Bro. Louis Twyman (1962-1965) continued the emphasis on youth ministry, shepherding the first group from Sand Spring to Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in North Carolina. In 1964, Bro. Twyman presented to the church some specific goals which in-

eluded the idea "that the church sponsor a direct mission endeavor either in our community, Eastern Kentucky, or some other like area . . . without decreasing Cooperative Program giving, but with the idea that the church that 'loses its life will save it'.



Hugh Brooks



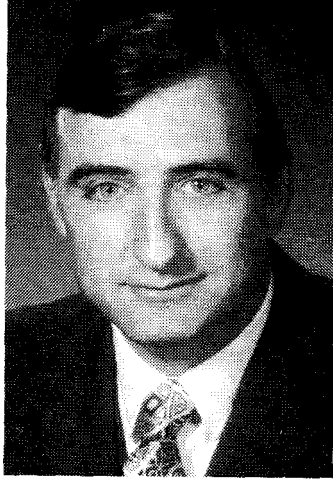
Louis Twyman

Thus began Sand Spring's involvement in far away places with names such as Phelps and Hellier. Many members, young and old, became involved in a challenging way during the period that the church struggled with how best to serve the people of Eastern Kentucky.

Joseph W. Hinkle (1965-1967) continued the emphases on ministry established by his predecessors and added his own special concern for family-centered ministry. By now a new generation of the "old families" was active, and the church had begun to benefit from a new influx of energetic and dedicated young couples.

Under Robert A. Hill (1968-1974) Sand Spring, as had churches throughout the South, entered into a bus ministry. The purchase, maintenance, and driving of the buses has involved a large

number of men of the Brotherhood. Those who ride the buses have generated a new sense of mission and caring in the congregation--especially among the children's Sunday School teachers. This sort of "direct mission" involvement at home has proved more fruitful than the "far away" involvement in Eastern Kentucky, but both ministries have benefited the participants.



Joseph W. Hinkle

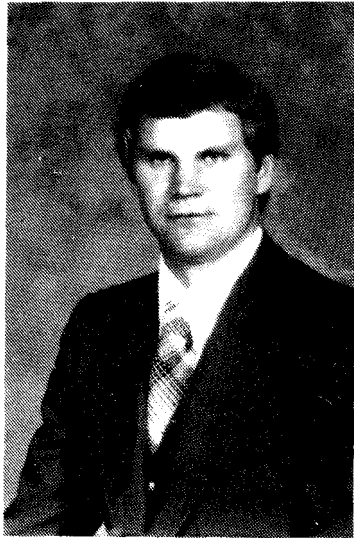


Robert A. Hill

"We'll Work Till Jesus Comes": 1977 - 1995

Bill Messer (1975-1982) brought Eastern Kentucky to Sand Spring. The beneficiary of a spacious new parsonage built during Bro. Hill's pastorate, Bro. Messer, like every pastor before him, brought distinctive emphases and interests to the church that enriched Sand Spring. With his leadership and the church's visionary sense of growth, the Stella Smith property became available and was purchased July 30, 1978 for \$65,000 adding approximately fifteen acres for future expansion needs.

Bro. Messer resigned December 12, 1982 to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church at Ashland, Kentucky, following the same path as did Bro. Morton in 1945.



Bill Messer



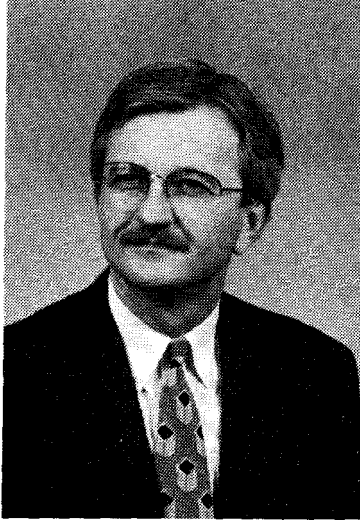
Terry Wilder

Terry Wilder (1984-1992) led the church with strong emphases on Sunday School, effective preaching and meeting the needs of the church with sound budget responsibilities. Under his leadership in 1984 the church saw the need to use modern-day technologies, and began taping our Sunday morning worship services to be shown later on the local cable system. Sand Spring still uses this tool in its on-going ministry today.

Transportation needs for many church groups necessitated attention, so in October 1988 the church voted to purchase a new 41-passenger bus. May 1990 saw the construction of a parking lot at a cost of \$92,865.00.

In May 1992 Bro. Wilder submitted his resignation to become pastor of Burlington Baptist Church.

Rick White's pastorate (1993-1995) saw changes in the church building appearance. In the spring of 1993 the sanctuary was completely redecorated.



Rick White

Live morning broadcasts of services started in May 1993 and continues today.

July 1994 started several months of major renovation of the church with attention given to Sunday School space, personnel offices and restrooms at a cost of \$214,992.00.

Bro. White resigned as pastor in August 1995.

"This Is The Day That The Lord Hath Made": 1996-2001

As Sand Spring enters its second century, much excitement abounds. Bro. Mike Hamrick—our pastor since June 1996—reflects that feeling from the pulpit with his exuberant bible-based sermons.

With over 282 additions, it was obvious that changes had to be considered. An early morning service has proven to be very successful and helped to solve the space for those wishing to worship.

Sunday School space was the next issue. In May, 2000, a stewardship campaign was presented to the church and was overwhelmingly accepted with more than \$1 million pledged for that purpose. Today as we gather to remember that 36 x 30 building in 1902, we see before us a \$2 million addition that is being built, not for the present, but for those who will come after us to belong to a great and loving congregation!

Worship At Sand Spring

As in all Baptist churches, preaching has stood at the center of the congregation's worship. Sand Spring has enjoyed a succession of pastors and evangelists who, in the words of the clerk's description of some of W. D. Moore's revivals, have preached some "big sermons."

But Baptists have usually been a singing people, too, and Sand Spring is no exception. One of the first purchases made by the congregation was a supply of song books, and in 1916 the church voted to buy a pump organ, "said organ to be used only for congregational singing." In 1927 the church purchased its first piano, and in 1947 the old pump organ was replaced with an electronic organ. In 1982 a new Allen Digital organ and baby grand piano were purchased and are still in use today. The church has been blessed with many skilled musicians who have played the instruments, sung solos, and sung in the choir. One of the most faithful of these was Mrs. Lucy Moore Hanks, who played the organ at Sand Spring from 1916 to 1971.

Song leaders have included D. F. Hanks, Nevins Hanks, and Eugene Stratton. After the pastorate of Hugh Brooks, the church turned toward a professional music ministry, and music directors have included Joe Slade, Bill Hawkins, Doug Anderson, Bill Rideout, Bryan Burdette, Joe Hovater, Kevin Royalty, Gary Burton, Kirby Johnson, Tony Whitfield, Andrew Lewis and Ellery Milburn. The Sand Spring quartet has varied in membership through the years, providing many high moments of special music at worship services, revivals, and community functions. The quartet's

rendering of "The Church in the Wildwood" at the fund raising in May, 1951, was a memorable part of that memorable day.

Like most Kentucky Baptist Churches, Sand Spring has from the beginning observed the Lord's Supper quarterly. A communion set consisting of a pitcher, two chalices, and plates was used until Mrs. May Moore donated a communion service with individual cups.

Baptism is especially important for Baptists, and the early "baptizings" at Sand Spring were festive occasions. Converts were baptized in Salt River, usually below Bond's Mill. In the late 1920's candidates were baptized at Lawrenceburg Baptist Church, a practice continued until Sand Spring installed a baptistry in 1952.



Sand Spring Baptizing at Bond's Mill — September 12, 1915

Revivals At Sand Spring

Undoubtedly, some of the highest moments of worship in the history of Sand Spring have come during revivals or "protracted meetings" as they were formerly called. In the early days, revival

preaching would be both in the morning and at night, with special events such as "Members Day," "Children's Day," and "Old Peoples' Day." Later revivals have used such methods as "Pack a Pew" night or "Be One of the Bunch (Bananas)" or "Don't Break the Chain" to encourage folks to attend.

W. D. Moore held a meeting almost every spring in the early history of the church, and in 1924 the church passed a resolution saying that Bro. Moore and Bro. Garrett Reed could use the building for meetings "at their pleasure."

The autumn meeting was generally conducted either by the pastor or by a preacher from elsewhere in Kentucky. Sand Spring revivals have included such well known preachers as Hollis Summers (1912), W. M. Nevins (1919), Z. F. Bond (1929), Duke K. McCall (1941), Fred T. Moffatt (1946), W. O. Vaught, and Verlin Kruschwitz. After one revival meeting in 1923, the enthusiastic church clerk, J. B. Martin, wrote of the preaching of Evangelist Summers; "to say he did it well is putting it very mildly." These revival meetings, usually planned to coincide with a "slack" season for farmers, have done much to strengthen the fellowship of the church through the years.

Fellowship At Sand Spring

One of the attractions at Sand Spring has always been the strong fellowship existing between its members. In the early years the fellowship was exhibited in the practice of an "old fashion hand shaking," and many members can remember with pleasure the enjoyment of the Annual Sand Spring Fourth of July Picnic in "Houchin's Woods" near the W. D. Moore home. The latter were all-day affairs, involving both old and young.

After 1920 the B.Y.P.U. (Baptist Young Peoples Union) provided many socials, picnics, and other kinds of recreation for Sand Spring youth. In more recent years, Training Union-sponsored skating parties, hayrides (usually at the Roy Robinson home) and other parties as well as local softball leagues have been highlights for Sand Spring's young people. The youth ministers that have

served the church are Jack Birdwhistell, David Smith, Jesse Gonzales, Hudson Slaughter, Dave Charlton, Joey Alexander and Michael Welch.

On a less structured basis, Sand Spring members have been known to gather for Rook parties, to make home-made ice cream, or to cook out—all activities which strengthen the fellowship. Other evidences of the fellowship are the small groups of people who gather outside after church on Sunday night to exchange stories and reports of relatives and friends. And it goes without saying that church members have always stood ready to help each other in time of need--the ultimate test of fellowship.

Organizations Of Sand Spring

The church organizations have also been keys to the strength of the congregation. Of these the Sunday School has probably touched more lives than any other. In Forrest Moore's words, "The Sunday School has been an important factor in the growth of the church . . . since its beginning. In the early years of part-time preaching the Sunday School met in the afternoon on non-preaching days." It has instructed people in Bible truths and provided members with a small group where they "belong." Sunday School space has been gradually increased to its present size with an addition to the church built in 1965.

Dedicated Sunday School teachers have given hours of time in preparation for teaching Sand Spring's young people, and several generations remember fondly the faithfulness of Mrs. Sallie Short in the Junior Department. An outgrowth of the Sunday School has been Vacation Bible School, held every summer since 1938, in which hundreds of children have come together each morning during a week for crafts, Bible stories, memorization of Scripture, and for refreshments donated by members.

Training Union has been a bit different from Sunday School, emphasizing public speaking through "giving parts," moral issues, and denominational education. Here again dedicated persons such as the long time superintendent, C. F. Marlowe, and the Junior

leader, Mrs. Gladys Thacker, have influenced many toward a more faithful Christian life.

The Ladies Aid was one of the most active of the church's organizations since the early days (1906), helping to beautify the church (once providing carpet and curtains) and contributing to charitable causes.

Sand Spring has also tried to foster concern for missions among its members through organizations such as the Brotherhood, W.M.U., Y.W.A., G.A.'s and R.A.'s. At various times in the history of the church, these organizations have been stronger than at others; but they have provided many with information concerning Baptists' vast mission programs in Kentucky, throughout the United States, and overseas.

Sand Spring And The Denomination

Sand Spring has tried to be faithful to the enterprises of the denomination and the Southern Baptist Convention. In April, 1917, for example, the church voted to "set aside 25 per cent of all moneys taken in to be used for mission work and charitable institutions so designated by the church." In the early 1920's the church joined other Baptist churches in the 75 Million Campaign to raise money for Southern Baptist work. To that end, "Bible Institutes" were sponsored which promoted particular programs, and individual subscriptions were solicited.

After 1925, when it became clear that the pledges during the Campaign far exceeded the actual contributions, Sand Spring joined in the new Cooperative Program which finally enabled Southern Baptists to overcome an enormous debt. The church has also faithfully contributed to the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions and the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions.

Sand Spring also has a history of interest in state missions through the General Association of Baptist in Kentucky (now the Kentucky Baptist Convention). In October 1907, for example, the church "appointed Miss Lucy Moore a committee to raise money

for our mountain missionary." In more recent years, Sand Spring has supported many other organizations of Baptist work in Kentucky.

In addition to participation in national and state Baptist organizations, Sand Spring has been active in Baptist Association (now Anderson Baptist Association) since 1902. In 1906 the church hosted the associational meeting, and members were concerned with every detail. The church gave permission for a "panel of the yard fence" to be taken out "to pass horses through," members were appointed to secure a tent, tables, homes for guests to stay in, drinking water, and "lots for hitching horses." The church voted that "no booths be allowed on the property" and decided to invite "Sheriff Collins or one of his deputies to be on the grounds to assist in keeping order." While associational meetings are not the annual highlight they once were, Sand Spring has continued to carry its part of the responsibility of the work of Anderson Association.

Sand Spring And The Community

Involvement with fellow Baptists has not kept Sand Spring from being concerned with issues that affect the whole community. For example, Bro. Garrett Reed was elected to attend the 1913 meeting of the Anti-Saloon League, the organization most influential in securing passage of National Prohibition. In September, 1916, the church voted to have Bro. Moore "invite Judge C. A. Hardin to address the men of this community on the evils of cigarette smoking," and in 1924 Sand Spring joined many churches across Kentucky in "asking state government to pass the bill stopping race track gambling." The church has been most consistently active in local option elections in opposition to extension of liquor sales in the community. Many members have also held positions of leadership in community clubs and county government.

The Sand Spring Story

Leafing through the old minutes of Sand Spring is a fascinating experience. Many of the entries, of course, are devoted

to decisions regarding improvements in the church building. Sand Spring has surely given its share of time to matters of paint, wallpaper, windows, gutters, a leaky basement, blacktop, caution lights, heating and air conditioning, and even shade trees (1907). One major concern in 1920 was lighting the church, which at the time was lighted by hanging coal oil lamps. After much discussion, the church decided to purchase a system of "Delco" lights (less expensive than regular electric lights). After months of trouble with them, the church voted unanimously in 1921 that "the lights were unsatisfactory." Fortunately, the church's experience with other improvements has been much more satisfactory.

At this point, however, the minutes may be misleading. One of the lessons of the fire of 1951 was that the church is not a building. A church is people—at their best and worst, in their ups and downs, sinners saved by grace, laughing, crying, singing, praying, giving, receiving, agreeing and disagreeing, always moving toward the goal.

When each member asks himself the question, "What does Sand Spring mean to me?" the answer probably comes in the shape of persons who have touched his life. At Sand Spring many have encountered God, become Christians, courted future husbands and wives, received the church's comfort at a time of grief, and felt hearts filled with pride at moments of accomplishment. For many longtime members, former pastors, and newcomers, Sand Spring simply put, is "home."

Deacons who have served the Sand Spring Baptist Church since its organization with date of their Ordination:

W. G. Hedger 1902	Vernon Sutton 1962
George C. Burford 1902	Norman Barker 1965
Robert Bolton 1908	Clifford Royalty 1965
J. L. Minter 1908	Sonny Fentress 1970
J. C. Stratton 1914	Kermit Flynn 1971
J. B. Stratton 1914	Marshall Carter 1972
C. F. Marlowe 1914	Dorris Bruce 1972
Robert Goodlett 1921	Jack Griffey 1972
F. E. Hammond 1921	John Eckman 1973
Robert Hanks 1921	Ambrose Burgin 1973
Walter Smith 1932	Marvin Goff, Jr. 1974
E. C. Birdwhistell 1932	Roy Harley 1974
J. P. Walker 1939	Ben Webb 1975
Raymond Smith 1941	Mike Richey 1976
Carl Birdwhistell 1941	Bill Stucker 1978
James Sims 1941	Garvice Gibson 1978
J. B. Montgomery 1950	Carl Hawkins 1978
W. C. Stauffer 1950	Robert Shearer 1981
Roy Robinson 1951	Dudley Hanks 1981
Morris Davenport 1951	Randy Antrobus 1981
Robert Cammack 1951	Russ Williamson 1981
O. P. McGaughey 1951	Kenny Rollins 1981
Felix Spencer 1952	Vernon Holt 1972
Porter Smith 1952	Don Carpenter (no date)
Charles Peyton 1953	Mark Birdwhistell 1985
James Goff 1953	J. T. Shelton 1985
Oscar Cammack 1953	John Thornberry 1985
Marvin Goff, Sr. 1954	Ed Taylor 1985
Clellan McMurry 1954	Steven Royalty 1986
Julian Birdwhistell 1954	Ronnie O'Nan 1986
J. W. Dawson 1955	Bob Works 1987
Alvin Drury 1955	Ben Birdwhistell 1990
E. L. Springate (no date)	Bill Williams 1992
Wm. E. Birdwhistell 1960	David Wilkerson 1994
Isaac Carney 1960	Bobby Montgomery 1997
David Drury 1960	Lynn Royalty 1997
Charles T. Hanks 1960	Bob Renner 1997
John C. Ware 1960	
Ralph Smith 1961	

Sand Spring Baptist Church recognizes the following who have answered the call to enter the field of Christian service:

Geffinger Judd	Jeff Smith
G. N. Stratton	Mark Webb
Ira Vinson (Jack) Birdwhistell	Brian Sherwood
Margaret Hill McCall	Troy Shelton
Hudson Slaughter	Greg Taylor
Dave Charlton	Audrey Fint
Kevin Royalty	

Those continuing their education:

Sara Beth Fentress
Paul Richey

The following clerks have served Sand Spring since it's organization and without their well kept minutes this history would have been impossible: Forrest Moore, G. C. Burford, J. W. Abbott, J. B. Martin, Miss Zora Carter, Miss Alice Walker, Mrs. Alma Goff Mrs. Garnett Gibson, and Mrs. Bonnie Royalty.

Three former Sand Spring pastors have served as President of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. They are:

Dr. J. W. Kruschwitz, 1978
Dr. Bill Messer, 1990
Dr. Terry Wilder, 2000

If we have omitted names or events in this history program, we ask for your forgiveness.

The Centennial Committee

Sand Spring Baptist Church

1616 Harrodsburg Road

Lawrenceburg, Kentucky

1901-2001

Exactly 100 years ago—Monday, June 24, 1901—thirty-seven dedicated people envisioned a need for a new and better place to worship. As we gather today _____ Sunday, June 24, 2001—we are enjoying the fruits of their labor and trusting, with God's help, that the vision we have will be as evident in the next century.