



Ayersville Baptist

Part Of A Series

Ayersville Baptist Church was formed Dec. 28, 1896 when a council of elders met in an old store building owned by D.S.R. Martin in Ayersville. After singing "How Firm A Foundation," the council adopted the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant and named the church Ayersville Missionary Baptist.

J.D. Joyce and P.M. Martin were chosen as deacons and the Rev. J.H. Vipperman was elected pastor. After a message by the Elder N.J. Matthews, the group adjourned to meet on Saturday before the fourth Sunday of January 1897.

Charter members were D.S.R. Martin, P.M. Martin, W.N. Martin, Alice Martin, Harriet Rakestraw, Harriet Joyce, Rosa Lee Martin, Charlotte Moore, Dosqua Martin and Rosa Martin Pratt, all now deceased.

P.M. Martin donated land to build a church, and it was completed Feb. 27, 1897. Because of contributions of labor and materials, the cost of the building was held to \$135.05.

That building was used until 1951, when a new building was completed and dedicated April 19, 1953. The new church stands on the ground of the original building. On April 12, 1958 ground was broken for the parsonage, and on Dec. 9, 1961, ground was broken for a Sunday School building. An additional wing was added after February 1973.

Pastors have included Vipperman, 1896-1899; J.W. Bennett, 1899-1900; J.R. Johnson, 1900-11; James M. King, 1912-13; J.A. Joyce, 1913-31; F.L. Fiddler, 1932-36; J.A. Joyce, 1937-58; Tom Stevenson, 1958-62; Claude Harrelson, 1962-67; Robert J. Martin, 1967-68; Bill Buchanan, 1968-75; Marcellus Cox, interim; J.W. Allen, 1975-present.

AYERSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Charter members were D.S.R. Martin, P.M. Martin, W.N. Martin, Alice Martin, Harriet Rakestraw, Harriet E. Joyce, Rosa Lee Martin Pratt, Charlotte Moore, Dosqua Martin, Mary Lou Joyce, and Harriet E. Moore.

P.M. Martin donated land to build a church, and it was completed 27 February 1897. Because of contributions of labor and materials, the cost was held to \$135.05. Pinkney M. Martin donated an acre of land for the cemetery in 1900.

The old building was used until 1951, when a new building was completed and dedicated 19 April 1953. The new church stands on the ground of the original building. On the 12 of April 1958, ground was broken for the parsonage, and on 9 December 1961 ground was broken for a Sunday School building. An additional wing was added after February 1973.

Mary Jane Martin was the first person to be interred at this cemetery. She was the daughter of P.M. Martin and Harriet E. Moore- born 11 January 1898 and died 28 March 1900. Mary Jane was the sister of Minnie Martin East. Minnie was one of the members of the Ayersville Baptist Church that was baptized in Means Creek before the pool was built. Minnie and her brother- Little John- have attended more home-comings than anyone, I suppose.

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28 Sept. 1985

Zelma Joyce Scott

Sources: Church records, personal knowledge, family contacts, and members.