

Southern Grove MBC (SFS) NC

KENLY NEWS OPINIONS

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WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 4, 1998

Southern Grove Missionary Baptist dedicates new building

Southern Grove Missionary Baptist Church's beautiful, new sanctuary was officially dedicated in services at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25. There were an estimated 300 in attendance.

Rev. Hural Barnes Sr., Trustee Anderson Sharpe and Louise Richardson joined hands to cut the ribbon that was draped across the church's new, glass front doors.

According to the program bulletin, the new building was dedicated to Christian fellowship, to worship, to prayer, to praise, to preaching, to evangelism, to the development of Christian character, to God's glory and in the name of Christ.

The pastor was the master of ceremony. The program included a welcome by church Secretary/Clerk Shirley Ruffin, the church history by church Treasurer Jessie Sharp, several songs by the New Vester Missionary Baptist Church Choir, a solo by Sister Geraldine Whitley and



REFLECTIONS

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the sermon by Rev. S. L. Ballentine, pastor of the New Vester Church.

The church dates to 1912. It got its name from Jim Southerland, who along with Albert Reed, were the initial organizers of the church located just off Old Stancil Road about three and one-half miles northwest of Kenly. Other early founders included Charlie and Mary Ruffin, Oft Richardson, Isaac Joyner, Robert and Annie Hinnant.

According to the church history, the church

began to fade away in the 1960s, "but thanks to the love and concern of Deacon Wilks Ruffin, Mrs. Louise Richardson, called the 'mother of the church,' and Mrs. Eugenia Williams, the church did not die." The original church was also used as a school in the 1920s.

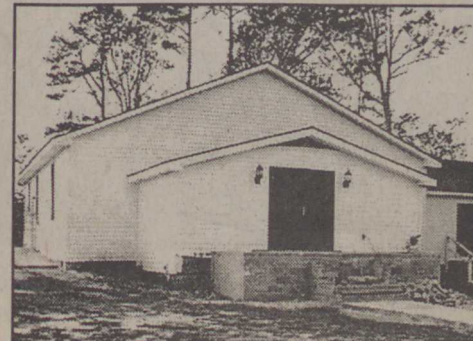
In 1980 the church began to grow again and "is continuing to move forward." The history reads, "With the help of God we are praying, trusting and believing that the church will return to that beautiful color that once brightened the surrounding area."

In 1991 a Fellowship Hall was built. The new 40 by 60 foot sanctuary joins the Hall. It is also attached to the existing lobby and rest rooms. Church members tore the old church down by hand instead of bulldozing it so the existing plumbing could be salvaged.

Ground was broken for the new sanctuary on Saturday, September 27, 1997.



This picture was taken at the church balcony immediately after the ribbon cutting dedicating the new sanctuary. Front row left to right Mrs. Jessie Sharpe and Mrs. Louise Richardson, Second row Mrs. Rosa Barnes and Pastor Hural Barnes, Sr. Third row is Anderson Sharpe and behind him is Rev. Gaddis Barnes, pastor from Clayton who gave the Dedication Prayer.



This is the Southern Grove Missionary Baptist Church today with its new sanctuary.

Bob Boyette, retired from the US Air Force, is a regular columnist with Kenly News and the author of four book of local history and information about the area.