Rocky Hill Baptist Church at Cedar Mountain is now in its 110th year of service to the folks of that community, and from official church records, its history has been a most interesting one.

On March 11, 1875, property of William Case and his wife, Sarah, was deeded over to Jackson S. Street Burns and Ralph W. Lee, who had been designated church trustees. That property was deeded over for the specific use of a church and burial ground in the township then known as "Little Haven.

Church minutes state: "We, the Baptist Church of Christ at Rocky Church, was organized May 2nd, 1875", which was shortly after the property had been assumed by the church. The first church constructed there was a crude one-room structure located where the church cemetery is now located. The first foundation for that wooden sanctuary was started on Sept. 20, 1875.

The church had no regular pastor in those early days, relying on circuit riders and evangelists to fill the pulpit until a regular pastor could be called. That was done on April 23, 1875, when J.H. Duckworth was elected Rocky Hill's first pastor.

One item of interest from the church minutes indicates that the church held what was then called "A Christmas Tree" on Dec. 25, 1886, since the pastor didn't come and there were no services held on that day. The weather was probably pretty bad that day, because prior church minutes had revealed, "It is understood that during the winter if the weather is bad, our pastor will not be here."

While it is not clear as to just what "A Christmas Tree" was like, it is known that in later years there were presents from the tree for the little folks, handkerchiefs tied on the tree for older folks, candy, nuts, raisins and long tom chewing gum for everyone. Even further along there were lots of goodies for the entire congregation, including presents and big paper pokes of apples, oranges, stick candy, raisins and nuts.

Church minutes of Feb. 25, 1893, revealed that the state General Assembly in Raleigh had been contacted concerning the "moonshining" that was apparently going on in the neighborhood. The minutes state: "To the honorable General Assembly of North Carolina, the church at Rocky Hill now in conference do respectively ask your honorable body to pass such a law as will prohibit the manufacturing or selling any intoxicating liquor within three miles of Rocky Hill Church."

The General Assembly obviously agreed with the Rocky Hill congregation, but they did narrow the distance a little bit. Church notes continue, "This petition was granted to exclude liquor from being sold within one and one-half miles of Rocky Hill Church."

Other interesting notes from the early church minutes reveal that "Rev. W.L. Kuykendall will preach on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays, and A.W. Beck will preach on the 1st and 4th Sundays"; "No services today, as Pastor W.S. Anderson started to Indian Territory this day"; "A letter from Sister Mary Aulick Hudson, our missionary in China, acknowledging the receipt of one dollar"; and "The church got a new coat of paint." The church at Rocky Hill was continuing to grow and prosper.

In 1920, the first Women's Missionary Union was organized at Rocky Hill Baptist Church, and one of the church's older members, Sadie Heath Allison, is listed as a charter member of that organization. At 86, she is still one of the more active and outstanding members of the church, which now numbers 150 members.

Just 10 years ago, in 1975, Rocky Hill Baptist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary. At that time, the church was under the Christian guidance and leadership of the Rev. M.L. Ross, whose service there was the longest of any preceding Rocky Hill pastor. The Rev. Ross continued his ministry there almost to the time of his death in 1983. He had assumed his pastorate there in 1960.

The present pastor at Rocky Hill is the Rev. David Tucker, who was called there in 1981. Sunday school is held each Sunday morning starting at 10 a.m. and morning worship services are held at 11 a.m. Sunday evening services start at 7 p.m. and midweek prayer services are held on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.
The interior of the Rocky Hill Baptist Church in Cedar Mountain was made with virgin poplar cut from Squire Heath’s property.

Rocky Hill Baptist Church

Cedar Mountain Place Of Worship Began With A Family Land Donation
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Cedar Mountain Place Of Worship Began With A Family Land Donation

By Sandy Barnes
Staff Writer

Rocky Hill Baptist Church in Cedar Mountain began on a five-acre parcel of land donated by William and Sara Case in March, 1875. Two months later the church was officially organized by the first seven members, including the Cases. The first trustees of Rocky Hill Baptist Church were Cedar Mountain settlers whose names are still carried by present day natives: Jackson Heath, Ralph Wellington, Lee and Street Burns.

The original church building, which was begun in September, 1875, was a one-room structure situated on the present cemetery grounds.

The Rev. J.H. Duckworth became the first pastor of Rocky Hill Baptist Church in the spring of 1882. Soon after being elected, Duckworth began holding revivals and seeking converts, according to church records.

In November, 1882 a 10-day revival “wherein the church was greatly revived, and received by the experience of grace was eleven and one by letter,” the records read. Services were held by Duckworth and The Rev. D.C. Freeman. Two months later, Freeman baptized 20 converts in 17-and-a-half minutes, with Duckworth keeping the time, according to the church’s historical account.

After Samuel Case sold the church land to the original trustees in February, 1883, Rocky Hill Baptist Church continued to flourish. Baptismal services were performed just below Little River Bridge, with the minister extending his right hand in fellowship to those who were saved.

In bad weather, however, Rocky Hill Baptist Church had to conduct Sunday services without a minister. A notation dated Nov. 25, 1985 reads: “Services today. It is understood that during the winter if the weather is bad, our pastor will not be present”.

In 1896 the menfolk of Rocky Hill Baptist Church began building a new one for the congregation. To help build the new church, members and friends made donations and gave building materials.

The paneling and the church pews in the new building were made from virgin poplar trees taken from Cedar Mountain resident Squire Heath’s property. The poplar trees were so large that only two were used for the church’s interior and to build pews. Older members can remember playing on the stumps of the poplar trees when they were children.

After being cut down, the huge poplar trees were taken to a water-operated saw mill in Cedar Mountain and planed. The lovely old wood with its soft sheen can still be seen in the present sanctuary of Rocky Hill Baptist Church Cedar Mountain.

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Duckworth, who was paid $25 a year for his services as minister, was re-elected in 1888. He continued as pastor of Rocky Hill Baptist Church until 1891 when Brother W.S. Anderson agreed to preach for the same yearly sum.

A springhouse was given to the church for its use.
Rocky River Baptist Church (1875)
May 4, 2000

   Call Number: 206.9756 M66tra

   Call Number: BF

   Call Number: BF

4. Bishop, Arthur Hudson. [P].
   Call Number: BF

   Call Number: BF

   Call Number: BF

   Call Number: BF

8. Duckworth, James Hamlin 1819-1891. [P],[Pn].
   Call Number: BF

   Call Number: BF

    Call Number: NCCF

    Call Number: NCCF

    Call Number: NCCF
Rocky Hill Baptist Church (1875).
P.O. Box 509, Cedar Mountain, N.C. 28718
Located in Little River Township, Transylvania Co., N.C. This church was organized May 2, 1875, with 7 charter members. The original one-room church building was begun in September, 1875. J. H. Duckworth was their first pastor elected in the Spring of 1882. The Women's Missionary Union was organized in 1920.

**Association Membership:** Transylvania, 1875-present.

Abstract:

**Sources:**

Association minutes: Transylvania
Barnes, Sandy, Staff Writer. "Rocky Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Mountain Place of Worship Began With A Family Donation." *Transylvania Times (Brevard)*, Sept. 25, 1995.
Norris, Bill, "Rocky Hill Baptist Church has Served 110 Years." *Transylvania Times (Brevard)*, Nov. 21, 1985.
Reporter. "Baptist Church Plans Centennial Celebration." (Contains a photograph of the original Rocky Hill Baptist Church.)* News-Piedmont* (Greenville, S.C.), Apr. 27, 1975.
100TH ANNIVERSARY — Members of Rocky Hill Baptist Church, shown here as it looked in 1914, will be celebrating the centennial of the church on Sunday. The program begins at 10 a.m., breaks for a picnic lunch at 12:30 p.m., and resumes at 2 to end at 3:30. Rev. M. L. Ross, pastor, invites pastors, their families, friends, and former members to join in the celebration.
Sheree Jones Is Named To New Position

Raleigh — Sheree Jones of Route 3, West Jefferson, a senior at Mars Hill College majoring in Religion, has been appointed to a youth ministry position with the Rocky Hill Baptist Church, Statesville, through a program of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Jones will serve the church for ten weeks this summer, performing in a variety of ministry roles. She was appointed, along with over 70 other college students, through the Youth Corps program.
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