

Spring Garden - 1895

Craven
ATLANTIC

Attankus

H I S T O R Y
O F T H E

S P R I N G G A R D E N B A P T I S T C H U R C H

The following retrospective view of events in the life of Spring Garden Baptist Church has been compiled and written by Mrs. Francis McCoy, a former member, in 1970.

Route 2 Box 110
New Bern, N.C.
28560

"On April 14, 1895, a large crowd assembled at the Spring Garden Baptist Chapel to witness the organization of the Spring Garden Baptist Church." These are the exact words copied from the original church clerk's record book and written by Brother A.N. Pate. It continues, "Brother Rufus Ford of the New Bern Baptist Church preached the organizational sermon from Haggai 2:9, 'The glory of this latter house shall be greater than the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.'" After which the following Brothers formed a presbytery: Brother Rufus Ford, Brother J.W. Rose, Brother H.B. Duffy, Brother M.E. Whitehurst and Brother F.G. Mitchell. Brother Ford was elected Chairman and Brother Duffy was elected Secretary. Five certificates of membership were read and accepted by this Board. These being: Brother Oliver H. Perry, Mrs. A.E. Weathersbee, Mrs. Mary A. Heath, Brother A.N. Pate and wife, Eliza Pate."

The following church covenant was read and adopted for use: "Having been led as we believe by the Holy Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ. We engage therefore by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity, spirituality, and to sustain its worship ordinances, disciplines and doctrines; to contribute regularly as the Lord has prospered us to the support of the ministry, expenses of the church, relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

"We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment, to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger, and to abstain from the sale of all intoxicating drinks as a beverage and from excessive use of same, and that we will abstain from all forms of gambling, dancing and card playing, and from visiting any place that will tend to impair our Christian influence; but to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rule of our Saviour to secure it without delay. We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other Missionary Baptist Church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word."

A plot of ground for the church building was given by Brother H.W. "Dock" Dixon, a Methodist. Men of the then sparsely settled community came together and gave of their time, energy and financial means to build a house of worship. It was a plain frame-building with an A-shaped tin roof with plain glass windows, designed to seat approximately 100 persons. It was heated with a large heater that burned wood, however coal was used later. Kerosene lamps were first used for lighting, then carbide, finally electricity. Brother J.W. Rose was called to be pastor and preaching services were made possible once each month.

In July, 1895, Mrs. Roberta Carmon was received into the church. The amount of offerings at that time were very small, many times less than one dollar. In Sept., 1895, Miss Della Pate was received into the church, thus signifying that the Lord added daily such as should be saved. In Nov. 1895, Reverend C.M. Alderman was called to the pastorate for 3 years. Rev. C.F. Hopper followed him. Then in Nov., 1900, Rev. J.B. Newton was called to be pastor. He was paid the same salary as was paid the former pastors, that being \$50.00 per year. The church contributed \$10.00 per year to missions. On Oct. 29, 1900, the Fort Barnwell, Cove City and Spring Garden Baptist Churches formed a field, with Brother Newton as pastor until the winter of 1903. Brother C.F. Pate and Miss Mollie Hughes were united in matrimony in the church in 1903.

Brother A.D. Watson and Miss Viola Pate were wed in the church's first "white wedding", the same being known as such in 1900.

The church continued to grow under the leadership of Rev. W.L. Bilbro, Rev. W.G. King and Rev. T.J. Ragland. In July, 1911, Rev. H.B. Hines was called. Then, in 1914, Rev. W.M. Huggins was called. Rev. Kyle M. Yates was called in 1916 and was followed by Rev. W.L. Bilbro, who came back in 1919. Following Rev. Bilbro were the pastors E.J. Trueblood, E.F. Mumford and J.T. Kirk.

Due to incomplete records, we have very little information about the church life at Spring Garden in the years of 1902-1922. There are no authentic records to reveal the names of the first deacons or the names of some pastors in those intervening years. The lack of such naturally leaves much to the imagination concerning the church's progress in those years.

The Rev. Belch was pastor in 1923. It is stated that Brother R.A. Adams, Brother A.D. Watson and Brother C.F. Pate were the church's trustees at that time. The deacons at the same time were Brother H.L. Groom, Brother R.A. Adams, Brother A.D. Watson and Brother J.N. Pate. Rev. Waldron was the pastor in 1924-1927, then Rev. M.E. Eubanks was called. It was possibly about this same time that Mrs. Mollie Pate conducted our first Sunbeam Band. Our present Sunbeam Band is named in loving memory of her.

From 1929 through the summer of 1932 Rev. D.B. Tritt was pastor. In 1932, Rev. C.H. Henderson was called and was paid \$75.00 per year. That year the church gave \$10.75 to the Cooperative Program and gave \$11.00 to the Baptist Children's Home. The church had a membership of 48 and a Sunday School enrollment of 93. The church's property was valued at \$700.00. In 1932, Brother Larry B. Pate and his wife, Lucille, came into the fellowship of the church and assumed places of leadership, which was so vital to the church's growth. Brother Pate has served the church as Chairman of the Board of Deacons for approximately 35 or more years and has also served as Church Treasurer for nearly as many years. The Lord has also used Lucille in a mighty way, for she has actively led the women of the church in a progressive missionary endeavor.

There was a growth in church membership in the decade between 1930-1940, which necessitated the addition of four large classrooms on the rear of the church proper in the year of 1938.

No definite date can be determined as to when the church disposed of the pump/or pedal organ, but it is believed that it was in the late twenties or early thirties.

The Rev. S.B. Wilson served as pastor from 1936-1942. Rev. W.P. Childers was called in December of 1942 and was followed in April, 1944, by Rev. C.W. Kreamer, a young man who had just graduated from Wake Forest College. In October of the same year, the membership felt the need of a full-time program. After discussing it with the other churches in the field, Cove City and Fort Barnwell, it was agreed that such would be a wise move. Spring Garden Church made provision for a parsonage and launched into a full-time program. The pastor's salary was \$1680.00 per year. In December of that same year, the church purchased a house and lot, consisting of one acre, for the price of \$1,000.00. It was purchased from Brother H.L. Croom and his wife, Myrtle. In 1946, Brother J.O. Pruden was called as pastor. And in 1947 the church felt it was best for the welfare of both churches, Spring Garden and Fort Barnwell, to return to a half-time program. It was agreed upon and Brother W.M. Cassell was called as pastor of the two-church field. Rev. Frank Robinson was called in 1949 and served two years. Rev. J.F. Stegall was called to the field in 1951 and was followed by Rev. Julian Morton, who was called in May of 1953 and he served six years and three months. The church budget for 1952 was \$13,000.00.

The church was again experiencing growing pains, in that the existing building was inadequate. The membership also desired a more attractive building in which to worship God. Many plans were presented and abandoned. Then, on January 15, 1953, the church accepted as a gift from Brother Dick Hubbard and his wife, Helen, the lot where the present church building is located. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held June 21, 1953. Brother S.A. Wilson, Sr. was elected as Chairman of the building committee, at which he labored long and hard to do the job right for the glory of God. The new church edifice was made possible through many hours of earnest prayer and efforts on the part of the membership. It was built on a pay-as-you-go basis, strictly on faith. Mrs. Francis McCoy was elected as church historian in 1953. The church's first "Harvest Day" was observed as an annual Homecoming on September 27, 1953. The construction of the church building was placed in the hands of Mr. Brice Ipock, who did his very best in the interest of the church.

Weddings were performed in the new sanctuary, even before the floors were laid, the first being the wedding of Miss Ruth Ellen Adams to Mr. Hubert E. Bremer on June 19, 1954. Following this rite were others: Miss Frances Aldridge became the bride of Mr. Frankie Weatherington, and immediately thereafter Miss Ethel Ann Wilcox became the bride of Mr. Marvin Register.

The original church building was sold to Mr. Herbert Bryant for the sum of \$400.00. The same was removed from its original site, was put on his estate, and has since been destroyed by a hurricane. The church parsonage and lot was sold to Mr. Samuel Bryant for the sum of \$3,000.00.

Mrs. L.B. Pate, Sr. was elected Chairman of the church's library in 1954. It has been through her efforts and the labors of those who have worked with her that the library today consists of 600 books. The Vacation Bible School in 1954 had an average attendance of 102. The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1943.

This group's first President was Mrs. H.L. Croom. It fostered a Young Woman's Auxiliary, a Girl's Auxiliary, a Royal Ambassador chapter and a Sunbeam Band. During this period, these groups, working together for the cause of Christ, attained goals which had never been achieved before. The Girl's Auxiliary Coronation services each year became a highlight in the church's life.

In 1955, Mr. La Rue and Mr. S.A. Wilson, Jr. gave the pulpit furniture to the church in honor of their father, who had labored so devotedly as Chairman of the building committee. Mrs. Lela McLawhorn, the church's first Deaconess, gave the carpet and piano to the church. The stained-glass windows of the church's sanctuary were given as memorials. They speak for themselves, as each is artistically designed and memorialized.

In 1956, Miss Mary Herring conducted her last Bible study with us. That study was concerning the life of Peter, the Apostle. Miss Herring, truly a saint, has been a real blessing to this church.

A recreation committee was elected in April of 1957, which was composed of Brothers Joel Adams, Leon McLawhorn II, and Mrs. Guy Hope-well. Brother McLawhorn felt a burning desire to provide a wholesome recreation program in the community and laid a format for the same, which should challenge each of us. In November of 1957, the church accepted the Lela Dail McLawhorn Trust Fund, doing so with a deep feeling of gratitude to its founder.

In January of 1959, the church had 93 resident and 40 non-resident members on its membership roll, a total of 133. Brother Morton, the pastor at this time, resigned his pastorate on September 1, 1959.

The Rev. V.L. Mabry, having been called by the church, moved to the church-field on January 22, 1960. It was in April of that year that Mr. J. Harper Wetherington presented a beautiful oil painting to the church, giving it in loving memory of his grandmother, Mrs. Mary A. Heath, a charter member. Rev. Mabry resigned on June 23, 1963.

In November of 1964, Rev. William Freeman was called as pastor and remained for one year. The church, in 1964, gave \$300.00 to the Cooperative Program and \$100.00 to Associational Missions.

When the organization of the Home Demonstration Club in the community disbanded, their lot and building, the Community Building, which is adjacent to the present church building, was given to the Spring Garden Baptist Church. The lot had been originally given to the Home Demonstration Club by Mrs. Beulah D. Epperson. In June of 1966, Brother Neil Breland was pastor. In 1967, a brass vase was placed in the church sanctuary in honor of Mrs. Lela McLawhorn, who has lovingly placed flowers in the church for more than 35 years. Brother Breland and his wife were called into foreign mission service in August, 1968.

The church has for many years subscribed to the Biblical Recorder, a publication of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, using the every-member plan.

In January of 1969, Brother Herman R. Orr accepted the call to the two churches, Spring Garden and Fort Barnwell, and is the present pastor of the same. Our baptistry has been completed this year and was dedicated in the Sunday morning worship service on June 28, 1970. The first baptismal service was conducted that evening in a special service with Brother Orr officiating. There were 13 candidates for baptism from the Spring Garden Church and 2 candidates from the Fort Barnwell Church. A new outdoor bulletin board was built in front of the church building. Dedication ceremonies were conducted for this new bulletin board on the third Sunday of June of this year.

The church budget for 1969-71 is \$6,932.66. The pastor's salary is \$3,300.00, with other allowances of \$625.00, making a total of \$3,925.00 being paid for support of the pastor. In this budget, nine percent (9%) of all offerings is designated to the Cooperative Program and five percent (5%) designated to Associational Missions.

The Spring Garden Church has been marvelously blessed of God since its beginning. As we look back, we see His Almighty hand leading and guiding and protecting us. As we approach His return, let us be found always abiding in His will, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

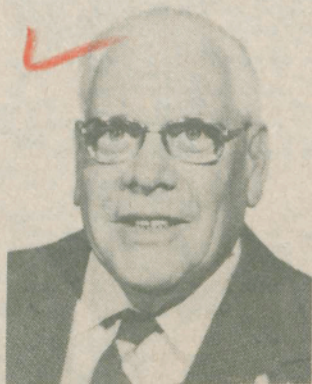
Bard comes to Spring Garden

Rev. Paul L. Bard, Th.D., began serving as pastor of Spring Garden Baptist Church.

Rev. Bard comes to Spring Garden after more than 27 years as a career missionary under appointment of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. While he was a missionary Rev. Bard served in Maryland and in the New York area.

The Hagerstown, Md. native served as pastor of churches in Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Louisiana, and Mississippi from 1932 until being appointed by the Home Board in 1950.

He is a graduate of Bluefield College, Bluefield, Va. and did



REV. PAUL L. BARD

special work at the University of Richmond and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He received a Th.B. from New Orleans Theological seminary and a Th.D. from the American Divinity School and was awarded a D.D. for work in missions.

He is married to the former Rosa Hall and they have two daughters.

New Bern: Sun-Journal
Norfolk: Virginia Pilot
Raleigh: News & Observer
Raleigh Times
Reidsville Review

APR 23 1977

1875 -

1876 -

1877 -

1878 -

1879 -

1880 -

1881 -

1882 -

1883 -

1884 -

1885 -

1886 -

1887 -

1888 -

1889 -

1890 -

1891 -

1892 -

1893 -

1894 -

1895 - Const.

Admit. to assoc.

1896 - *no delegals*

1897 -

1898 -

1899 - Dism. to form new assoc. (Neuse II (E))

ATLANTIC

1899 - Char. mem. from Atlantic I B/A.

1900 -

1901 -

1902 -

1903 -

1904 -

1905 -

✓ 1906 -

1907 -

In Nov. 1907, the Neuse and Atlantic B/A re-united as the NEUSE-ATLANTIC(E),
1907-29

k " " ATLANTIC

In Nov. 1907 the Neuse and Atlantic Baptist Associations re-united as Neuse-Atlantic

1907 - *Chair. man for NEUSE II*

1908 -

1909 -

1910 -

1911 -

1912 -

1913 -

1914 -

1915 -

1916 -

1917 -

1918 -

1919 -

1920 -

1921 -

1922 -

1923 -

1924 -

1925 -

1926 -

1927 -

1928 -

1929 -

The assoc. divided into two associations named NEUSE and ATLANTIC.

- 1925 -
- 1926 -
- 1927 -
- 1928 -
- 1929 - Char. mem. but no report. *for Press - Atlantic*
- 1930 -
- 1931 -
- 1932 -
- 1933 -
- 1934 -
- 1935 -
- 1936 -
- 1937 -
- 1938 -
- 1939 -
- 1940 -
- 1941 -
- 1942 -
- 1943 -
- 1944 -
- 1945 -
- 1946 -
- 1947 -
- 1948 -
- 1949 -

1950 -
1951 -
1952 -
1953 -
1954 -
1955 -
1956 -
1957 -
1958 -
1959 -
1960 -
1961 -
1962 -
1963 -
1964 -
1965 -
1966 -
1967 -
1968 -
1969 -
1970 -
1971 -
1972 -
1973 -
1974 -