

## HOPE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Hope Free Will Baptist Church was organized on April 25, 1985, in Parkersburg, W.V., by Rev. William H. "Billy" Samms, along with Edward E. Husk Jr., Bobby L. Casto, Steven A. Parsons, Donald L. Meeks, Charles L. Davis, and Lewis Dean Johnson.

Charter members of the Church were: Edward E. Jr. & Betty Ann Husk, Bobby L. & Joyce Casto, Steven A. & Sharon Parsons, Donald L. & Snadra Meeks, Charles L. & Hazel Davis, Lewis Dean & wife Johnson, Wanda Boyles, Ted & Sue Jones, Ray Boyles, and Reva Riser.

On September 11, 1985, broke ground, to build the church. Held first service in the church on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1985.

On March 21, 1987, the church held a dedication service; Rev. Daniel Kelly preached; Rev. Ira Keller and Rev. NORwood Webb came to ordain Rev. Ron Little. Shortly after that, Rev. Ron Little became the associate pastor.

The baptistery was installed sometime in March-April of 1998, and was first used on Easter Sunday, April 3, 1998

In 1989, the church started to build a Youth Center. On September 7, 1991 the Youth Center was dedicated; Rev. Ottis Hensley preached.

On July 18, 2005 the parking lot was paved.

On October 20, 2010, the church constructed a picnic shelter, and was finished on May 20, 2011.

The Church belongs to the Kanawha Conference of Free Will Baptist, the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, and the National Association of Free Will Baptist.

Ministers who have pastored the Hope Free Will Baptist Church are as follows:

Rev. Willain H. "Billy" Samms	-----	4-17-1985	to	9-20-1989
Rev. Kenneth Samms	-----	10-15-1989	to	10-4-1995
Rev. Tommy Blake	-----	11-18-1992	to	4-23-1995
Rev. Clay Sloan (interim pastor)	-----	8-9-1995	to	6-?-1996
Rev. Kenneth Welch	-----	6-16-1996	to	8-13-1999
Rev. Martin L. "Bud" Corbin	-----	10-?-1999	to	present

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***NOTE:** This information was given to the Historical Committee of the  
West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, in January 2016,  
by the clerk, Jerry L. Plaughter..*  
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