

## McCorkle Free Will Baptist Church History

### Remember, Reflect, Review, Rejoice

#### **Remember ...**

Many years have passed since the FIRST worship service of McCorkle FWB Church. It all began with eight men & women who by faith followed the leading of God on June 19 1921, in a one-room church on property donated by Ed Walker. Reverend J.e. Hatfield was the FIRST pastor and the FIRST offering received was \$4.00. Walking by sight may only lead to anxiety and fear, but those who walked by faith were blessed with the faithful promise of the power & presence of God.

#### **Reflect ...**

Worship services & revivals ushered in new births for Christ causing growth within the congregation of McCorkle FWB Church. Saturday night services were as regular as Sundays & Wednesday services and revivals were held for two weeks at a time. A piano was bought for the church in 1948 and the hymns sung joyfully were elevated to a new height of praise, as the faithful few witnessed growth among them.

#### **Review .....**

Pastors - Men of God - came and went over the years proclaiming God's Word - "doing heartily, as to the Lord, and not to men .... " and many have already gone on to their heavenly home. Faithful women (mothers & grandmothers) continued with services of praise & worship when the church entered a trying "valley" and lacked male leadership. Through their continual perseverance, prayers, devotion, dedication, and faithfulness - the church thrived and is what we know it to be today. As the words of the song states: "They have gone on before us and have lined the way. Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace."

Rev. Ove Hill had a vision for a new church building and inspired the members to seek assistance from the community for support and financial contributions. God heard and answered prayers, blessed and gave the increase. Services were being held in a new church building in 1956.

#### **Rejoice ....**

McCorkle Free Will Baptist Church has grown from a one-room church to a large sanctuary church with classrooms upstairs, downstairs & in the basement. It has an indoor baptistry, choir loft, pastor's study, clerk's office, picnic shelter, gymnasium, walking trackball field, paved parking lot, and a playground area for the youngsters. The church has become an oasis of blessings and encouragement to the community of Sod, WV.

The Word of God is always being taught and preached with unflinching love. Testimonies of God's faithfulness are openly shared. God has blessed McCorkle FWB Church with an open arms outreach of activities and events that branch out to the community:

G.R.O.W Evangelistic Outreach, AWANA Children Program, VBS, Missionary Support, "March for Missions" Drives, "Secret Angel" for needy children of the community, "Operation Shoebox" for Christmas, FWB Bible College & the Children's Home, Revivals, Children's Church, Goldeneers, Community Health-Care/Nursing Program, Special Evening Service Singers, Blood Drives, Pig Roasts, Homecomings, Christmas Plays/Cantatas, Uplifting Choir, Secret Sisters, Youth Trips, Monthly Character Bible Studies, Feet Washing/Communion Services, Weddings, Stronghold! Youth, Funerals, Conferences, Birthday Parties/Baby Showers, and Gideon Presentations have all been a part of McCorkle FWB Church. The Lord has blessed abundantly over the decades of years and continues to do so. We have reason to REJOICE! May He find us FAITHFUL still when He returns.

### **Partial List of Pastors of McCorkle FWB Church From 1921 - Present**

J.C. Hatfield  
T. J. Kinder  
Creed McCallister  
E.L. Gibson  
Ove Hill  
Que Young  
Marvin Kuhn  
Meddie Graley  
Cyril Adkins  
R. L. Bradley  
John Abbott  
Morgan Flourey  
Joe Workman  
Lice Mickles  
Hugh Hilbert  
Ramie Hunter  
Woodrow Lawson  
Jimmy Craddock  
Billy Samms  
Jim Varney  
Charles McGraw  
Roe Smith  
Russell Wright  
Venny VanHoose  
Ronnie Scott (Interim Pastor)

## **McCorkle FWB Church History Timeline**

**1921** - McCorkle FWB was organized June 19th, 1921. Reverend J.C. Hatfield was elected as the first pastor. There were 8 members. First offering was \$4.00 and Lucinda Kidd was the first treasurer. J.A. Allen & Oscar Lacy were the first deacons.

**1922** - Ed Walker gave the land to build the church in 1922. He did most of the carpentry work.

**1948** - a piano was bought for the church

\*\* Saturday night services were just as regular as Sunday & Wednesday services

\*\* Two week revivals were common to be held

\*\* Ove Hill - inspired to build a new church. Went around the community collecting donations

**1956** - New church had first services. (Brenda Stone Flowers was the first to get saved in the new building.)

**1968** - Parking lot developed for new church

**1971** - New Sunday School rooms were built

**1973** - New sanctuary was built

**1980** - Gymnasium built.

**1986** - Another new building fund began

\*Children's Church began by Dwight & Vicky Priestley

**1987** - Sunday School class rooms built upstairs

**1989** - Parsonage exchanged for lots adjoining church property for additional parking

**1991** - Dedication of church's remodeling completion

**1993** - Parking lot paved

Remodeling to basement classrooms and nursery class

New Heat & AC System Installed

Remodeled kitchen/gym

1994 - New church sign was put up  
1995 - Saturday night services discontinued

1997 - Stained glass windows installed  
New look of exterior put on church building

2000 - Walking track / ball field / picnic shelter

2001 - \*80th Anniversary of the Church  
Church Van purchased  
Children's playground equipment put up  
Parade/Pig Roast/Church Picture Made  
Annual Homecoming

2014 - New Church Building Being Built on Purchased Property Adjacent to Old Church  
(Still in building process of its completion)

### List of First Members

Touncil Greene  
Lonce Dunlap  
Lumb Kidd  
Ernest Griffith  
Belva Griffith  
Athie McCallister  
Carrie & Bob McCallister  
Enoch Pauley  
Jayce Allen  
George Armstrong  
Oscar Lacy  
Lucinda Kidd

### Partial List Pastors From 1921-Present

J.C. Hatfield	R.L. Bailey
T.J. Kinder	John Abbott
Creed McCallister	Morgan Flourey
E.L. Gibson	Joe Workman
Ove Hill	Lice Mickles
Que Young	Hugh Hilbert
Marvin Kuhn	Ramie Hunter
Meddie Graley	Woodrow Lawson
Cyril Adkins	Jimmy Craddock
Billy Samms	Charles McGraw
Jim Varney	Roe Smith
Russell Wright	Venny VanHoose
	Ron Scott (Interim)

### Partial List of Deacons From 1921 - Present

J.A. Allen	Bob McCallister	Clayton Justice	Ezra Dunlap
Oscar Lacy	Carl Graley	Carnis Griffith	Avis Griffith
George Atkins	Lonce Dunlap	Burt Lay	Maywood Turley
Oscar Thomas	R. V. Isaacs, Jr.	Jahue Graley	Estill Smith
Gill Pauley	Joe Pauley	Dean Dunlap	Shelton Brogan
Delmie McCormick	Donald Dunlap	Hobert Dunlap, Jr.	Ray Pauley
Roe Smith	Fred Edwards	Leonard McCormick	Paul Jones
Bill Chapman	Roger McClure	Buddy Smith	Fred Flowers
Calvin Brogan	Eric Flowers	Davy Pauley	

### Affiliation

The McCorkle Free Will Baptist Church is a member of the Kanawha Conference of Free Will Baptist, The West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, and the National Association of Free Will Baptist

### Missionaries

Rev. Russell Wright -- Home Missionary to Nebraska and West Virginia

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***NOTE:** This information was given to the Historical Committee of the  
West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, sometime  
in, or around June 2015.*  
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