

SOPHIA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

In July 1941 Rev. D.W. French and Rev. R.H. Doan came to Sophia and held a tent revival. From this revival, on July 29, 1941, the Sophia Free Will Baptist Church was organized.

Charter Members:

From a letter submitted to The Historical Committee in 2006:

Allen Lester; Inez Tate; Anna Basham; Gladys Lambert; Mae Hill; Lula Suiter; Grace Carter; Jewel Lambert; Alminta Rowels; Elizabeth Akers; Berkie Hill; Raymond Priest; Alice Priest; Cecil Priest; Joe Milano; Viola Butterworth; Julian Stefford; and Lockie Hunt.

Other, from a letter submitted to The Historical Committee in 2015: Mack Basham; Tom & Betsy Reid; Bill Stafford; Edith Horck; Howard & Ruby Walker; Mr. & Mrs. Roack; James & Libby Akers.

Rev. French And Rev. Doan were in charge of the first organized meeting. Rev. French was elected as pastor and Rev. Doan was elected as assistant pastor. Rev. French read the Church Covenant. Sister Grace Carter was elected as Clerk, and sister Elizabeth Akers was elected as Treasurer. Brother Cecil Priest and Brother Raymond Priest were elected as Deacons.

A meeting was held in the home of Brother and Sister James Akers in August 10, 1941. It was voted and carried that Brother Priest, Brother Hill, and Brother Lambert choose the lot for the church building, with Brother French assisting.

A lot was selected and bought from Mr. J.H. Farley in Soak Creek. The lot cost \$500.00, and we agreed to pay \$25.00 down and \$25.00 a month until it was paid for.

The elected Trustees were: Brother James Akers; Brother Berkie Hill; and Brother Tom Reid.

September 1, 1941 the work was started on the church building, and Rev. Doan preached the first sermon in the unfinished church on November 30, 1941. Prayer meetings and business meetings were held in different homes until the church was finished.

The first Sunday School was December 21, 1941, and Brother Tom Reid was elected Sunday School Superintendent. There was 63 members in Sunday School.

Delegates were elected to go to the Quarterly Conference at Camp Creek on November 1, 1941 to represent the Sophia Free Will Baptist Church.

January 18, 1942 we began to give offerings to the children's home in Tennessee.

Rev. French passed away in September 1957. He had served as our pastor until this time.

Rev. Wade Webb served as interim pastor several times.

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

Rev. D.W. French	07-02-1941 to 08-13-1957
Rev. French Williams	11-23-1957 to 04-05-1958
Rev. Wade Webb	04-05-1958 to 04-10-1962
Rev. French Williams	04-10-1962 to 07-21-1964
Rev. Wade Webb	07-21-1964 to 04-13-1965
Rev. Ronald Adkins	04-13-1965 to 04-13-1971
Rev. Wade Webb	11-16-1971 to 03-14-1972
Rev. George Smith	03-14-1972 to 01-15-1985
Rev. W.C. Combs	01-13-1985 to 08-15-1993
Rev. James Cox	10-13-1993 to 06-30-1995
Rev. Brain Bishop	08-01-1995 to 09-08-1996
Rev. Allen Whitt	02-12-1997 to 06-15-2002
Rev. James Cox	06-15-2002 to 12-16-2003
Rev. Robert Carter	01-28-2004 to present

God has blessed us greatly by the many lives He has touched over the years, through the ministry of the Sophia Free Will Baptist Church. We look back on our past reverently and with great respect, for the many men and women who have contributed to our heritage. Several ministers have been called from the congregation, and God has also called Missionaries to minister in International and Home Missions! With so great a foundation, we look ahead with anticipation fro God's continued blessings in the future! Pray for the church, that we will be a light to those in darkness.

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

Pastors - Sophia Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. D.W. French



Rev. R.H. French



Rev. Wade Welch



Rev. French Williams



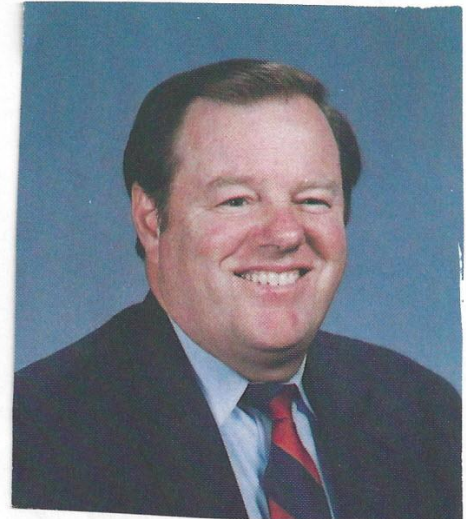
Rev. Ronald Atkins



Rev. George Smith



Rev. W.C. Carbis



Dr. James Coy



Rev. Allen Whitt



Rev. Robert Carter

NOTE: Information supplied to the Historical Committee of the West
Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, came from
information submitted to the Committee 2006 and 2015.
