

GHENT FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Ghent Free Will Baptist Church was organized in 1945, in Ghent, W.V. The men that helped organize the Ghent Church was: Rev. D.W. French; Rev. Jeff Thomas; Rev. Robert Doan; Rev. Cal Sexton; and Rev. Leslie Lilly (*see attached photo*).

Charter members of the Church was: Grover Moore; Clyde Lilly; Boone Lilly; Gurn Byrd.

(If the information I have is correct) The congregation of the Ghent Free Will Baptist Church began to met in a building that was loaned to them by Grover Moore, and used as the Church from 1945 to 1950 (*see attached photo*).

In 1950 the congregation moved into a newly constructed church building - current address of the Church is 114 Oak Creek road, Ghent, W.V. 25843. Over the years many improvements have been made, including a Fellowship Hall (*located behind the church*), which was dedicated in 1999 (*see attached photo*).

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.

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

Rev. Bob Doan	1945-1946
Rev. F.C. French	1947
Rev. Leo Kendrick	1948
Rev. Royce French	1949-1950
No listing for years	1951-1957
Rev. Blink Williams	1958-1960
Rev. Bobby Koontz	1960-1961
Rev. G.E. Huffman	1962-1963
Rev. Dallas Adkins	1963-1966

Rev. Leslie Lilly	1967-1972
Rev. G.E. Huffman	1972-1973
Rev. Wesley Grose	1973-1974
Rev. Harold Taylor	1974-1978
Rev. John Richmond	1978-1979
Rev. Edward Harold	1979-1980
Rev. Frankie Lyons	1980-1984
Rev. William Sitton	1984-1985
Rev. Terry Hatcher	1985-1986
Rev. William Bennett	1986-1987
Rev. Carl Whittaker	1987-2000
Rev. Gene Snuffer	2000-2006
Rev. Jeff Shewsbury	2006 to present

Deacons who have served the Ghent Free Will Baptist Church are as follows:

Clyde Lilly	1948	until his death in 1967
Gurn Byrd	1948	until his death in 1969
Boone Lilly	1948	until his death in 1985
Vernon Phillips	1958	until his death in 2003
James Woods	1997	until he resigned in 2000
Larry Bell	2001	until present . . .

Attached you will find: a picture of the men who organized the church; a picture of the old church (1945-1950); a picture of the present church - Fellowship Hall behind church; a picture of some of the pastors.

NOTE: *This information was given to the Historical Committee of the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, sometime in, or around March 2016.*



From left to right:
Reverend D. W. French
Reverend Jeff Thomas
Reverend Robert Doan
Reverend Cal Sexton
Reverend Leslie Lilly



First Church 1945 - 1950



Ghent Free Will Baptist Church and Fellowship Hall



Bob Doan F C Calhoun Leo Kendrick G E Huffman
Dallas Adkins Leslie Willy Harold Taylor John Richmond
Frankie Lyons Carl Whittaker Gene Snuffer Jeff Shrewsbury