

Mt. HOPE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

George Burns resided at Graysville, Ohio and after visiting many people found a church at Marr, Ohio on Mt. Hope Ridge. This church originally was an old log church. The church was a Methodist and had been closed for a while. Arrangements were made, and the church was re-opened as a Free Will Baptist. Word spread and people came to see God work.

Ministers from the North Eastern Ohio Conference located in Akron, Ohio came and helped organize the church. The ministers involved were: Rev. Harlan Webb, Rev. Lawrence Smith, and Rev. Ed Bates.

Mt. Hope Free Will Baptist Church was organized in January 1967 at Marr, Ohio. There were eight charter members. Their names were: George Burns; Mary Burns; Virginia Burns; Charles Burns; Homer Blair; Marjorie Blair; Sonny Blair; and Pam Blair.

Officers and teachers were elected. Meeting days and times were set as follows; Sunday School 9:30 am., Sunday evening services at 7:30 pm., and Wednesday night services at 7:30 pm.

Around 1970-75 the old log church was getting to the point of no repairs, and fell down. We acquired two acres across the road to build a new church. The land was given to us by a neighbor, with the stipulation that when he died, he would be buried there. During this time, since we had no church, we began meeting in people's homes for services.

Rev. George Burn had another vision to see a church being built in Pleasants County, West Virginia. Burns left Mt. Hope in a borrowed car, and eleven dollars in his pocket. That church is known today as the Maple Lane Free Will Baptist Church, located in Hebron, West Virginia. With the help of Maple Lane Free Will Baptist Church, we were able to move into our new church in 1979, which is known as the Mt. Hope Free Will Baptist Church of today.

Membership over the years has ran from eight, to around thirty five.

Rev. Rex Cox is the current pastor and has been the pastor of this church since 1980.

The following men have served as pastors of the Mt. Hope Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. George Burns
Rev. Ed Bates
Rev. George Flinn
Rev. Thomas J. Cox Sr.
Rev. Rex Hadley
Rev. Roy L. Cox
Rev. Rex A. Cox

The following men have served as deacons of the Mt. Hope Free Will Baptist Church.

Homer Blair

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

NOTE: *Information supplied to the Historical Committee of the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, came from a letter in June 2012.*
