

OCEANA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Oceana Free Will Baptist Church was organized in 1910 with 11 members and reorganized in 1939 with 10 members added to the church. Currently (2016) it has 51 members. It was the first Free Will Baptist church in Wyoming Country.

The land was donated by Don L. Cook and the work on the church began in March of 1940, and was completed in June of 1941.

A church bell was bought by Harve Tilley and remains on the property today.

A dedication sermon was preached by Elder Jeff Thomas. The first pastor was Rev. H.K. Cook of Oceana. Deacons were Harve Tilley, Don L. Cook, Kenner Griffith, and Glen Cook.

Three additions were added to the church as the congregation continued to grow. A new building was built on the same property with work beginning in June of 1970. While the building was under construction, services were held at the Oceana Grade School during the summer and in the Kopperston Union Hall.

A dedication service was held on March 25, 1973 with the sermon preached by Rev. Gerald Holley of Prosperity, W.V. The pastor was Rev. Jack Hicks of Oceana. The deacons were Bryant Wesley, Frank Whitten, Opie Bolen, Bill Stafford, Garvey Blankenship, and Gordon Paitsel.

The Ladies Auxiliary Building was also under construction in 1973. The porch area of the church was later enclosed by an add-on to the church. A steeple was purchased and installed on the church in April of 2001. The land beside the Ladies' Auxiliary building was purchased and a picnic shelter was built in 2004.

A dedication ceremony for the picnic shelter was held in honor and in memory of Brother Oral Harless on Sunday October 10, 2004.

Summer 2010 a covered stage was built in the picnic area to host outdoor singing's and other events.

Land beside the church was purchased for parking in February 2011.

March of 2016 the sanctuary and foyer of the church was completely remodeled.

The Church currently belongs to the Wyoming County 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 Oceana Free Will Baptist Church are as follows:

1941 -	Rev. H.K. Cook
1944 - 1949	Rev. Pierce Cook
Oct. 1949 - 1957	Rev. Stollie Parsons
April 1957 - June 1958	Rev. Leland Phillips
June 1958 - July 1960	Rev. Kimble Blankenship
July 1960 - 1962	Rev. Robert Woods
July 1962 - Feb. 1964	Rev. Kimble Blankenship
March 1964 - 1965	Rev. Gerald Holley
1965 - Feb. 1967	Rev. Roy Adkins
March 1967 - 1973	Rev. Jack Hicks
Aug. 1973 - 1977	Rev. Ronald Baldwin
Aug. 1977 - 1978	Rev. Leland Phillips
May 1979 - Nov. 1981	Rev. Carl Lyons
May 1982 - Aug. 1989	Rev. Ottis Hensley
March 1990 - Marc 1999	Rev. Timmy Brewster
Oct. 1999 - to present	Rev. Jackie Grimmett

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

(Approximate dates)

1941 -	Harve Tilley
1941 -	Don L. Cook
1941 - 1946	Kenneth Griffith
1941 -	Glen Cook
1943 - 1949	L.J. Shrewsbury
1944 - 1945	Seaman Marcum
1+44 -	W.R. Cook
1945 -	Garnet Bailey
1945 -	Willis Brooks
1949 -	Renn Cook
1949 -	Wicher Thomas
1949 - 1949	Bryant Wesley
1949 - 1975	Opie Bolen

???	Paul Dempsey
???	George Goings
1954 - 1959	John Dixon
1956 - 1955	Roscoe Morgan
1960 - 1965	Lacy Davis
1956 - 1967	Boyd Prichard
1967 - 1977	Frank Whitten
1961 - 1992	Bill Stafford
1968 - 1996	Garvey Blankenship
1962 - 2001	Gordon Paitsel
1977 - 2007	Oscar Justic
1981 - 1999	Bill Huffman
1989 - 1998	Dillard Tate
1992 - 2009	Wesley Cook
2001 - to present	Michael Prichard
2001- - 20015	Danny Cooke
2009 - to present	Bob Price
2013 - 2014	Dewey Rose
2014 - to present	Ronald Samples
2014 - to present	Gene Bailey

Attached you will find: a picture of the church, in the 2016; and a picture of the interior of the church.

NOTE: *This information was given to the Historical Committee of the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, on March 3, 2018. Information came form a Booklet put together in 2016.*

Oceana Freewill Baptist Church



