

SUNSHINE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Sunshine Free Will Baptist Church , formerly know as "The Community Church," was founded in 1938 by a group of Christians who left led of the Lord to leave the Westmoreland Baptist Church and start a new work.

The Sunshine Free Will Baptist Church was organized on June 27, 1941, by councilman Reverend O.C. Berry, chairman Reverend J.C. Wilcox, and Brother Morrison from the Brotherhood Conference. Reverend O.C. Berry was elected as its first pastor, J.M. Cook was appointed as a deacon, and Brother Arnold Mollett was elected clerk and secretary.

The minutes from the church's first business meeting stated that there were twelve original members. Regular services were conducted in a one-room wood framed building that was enlarged on two different occasions over the years.

In 1988 the Church's membership had increased to 122 and the need for additional room was evident. Plans were drawn up and in November 1988 construction began on the new church building located on a peice of property on James River road and East Road. Sister Ethyl (Gibson) Spreaker gave the first fifty dollars to secure the property.

The first service in the new church was held on April 16, 1989. Pastor Carl Lilly's pastor from Holden, West Virginia, Reverend John T. Vance preached the dedication service. Twelve years later the need for a larger church was realized and the first service was held on March 16, 2003. The seating capacity in the new church is 500 to 600. The present membership is over 300.

Pastor Jody Fortner and his wife Kim began serving at the beginning of 2010, with much energy and excitement ready to share the love of Christ to win souls and rededicate those gone astray. We give God all the praise for the wonderful Christians that make up our membership.

To Him Be The Glory!

The Church belongs to the Brotherhood 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 Sunshine Free Will Baptist Church are as follows:

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Rev.

Rev.

Rev. Carl Lilly

Rev. Jody Fortenr ---- Present pastor

***NOTE:** Information supplied to the Historical Committee of the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, came from a letter supplied to the Committee March 2013*
