

## Church History

Moore's Memorial Baptist Church was organized "in the year of our Lord 1907."<sup>1</sup> The church is located 3 miles east of gate city on the Nickelsville Highway. The original membership list contained 82 names. The first pastor was Rev J.W. Lane. Business meetings were conducted following the morning worship service.

The original name of the church was Moore Blair Memorial Church. In some of the 1907 records it is referred to as Memorial Church. On March 19, 1907 a building committee was appointed for the purpose of erecting a church house on the Moore property. The building was to be 30 feet by 44 feet and was to be used by all denominations when not in use. However the dominations were to be in "good standing". The building committee members were H. C. Moore (Henry Clifton), Rev C. C. Blair, and N. R. Franklin. The church was to be erected in the memory of Hugh Clifton and Hannah's only son, R. B. Moore, born October 9, 1883 and died of Tuberculosis July 1, 1905 and the age of 22.

The original deed was never recorded and a new deed was made and recorded on July 16, 1949. I call your attention to two statements in the deed. (1) "this conveyance is made for the purpose of correcting the description of the former deed to the church lot which did not embrace or include the land on which the church was erected. (2) The deed requires that the church "erect, build, construct, and maintain a good and substantial gate across the New right of way, at a point where the new right of way intersects the New State Highway (state route 71, now Nickelsville Highway), which gate shall be kept securely fastened at all times, except when it is necessary to have the same opened for egress and ingress to and from said church known as the Moore Memorial Baptist Church."

The property was originally owned by Hugh Clifton Moore (Ruth Combs Fugate's grandfather) and his wife Hannah Hartsock Moore. The current deed was made to the church by Charles C. and Luana Carter.

There are several gaps in the records of the church partly because someone broke into the church took the records and scattered them across Clinch Mountain. Coy Arnold found part of those records and returned them to the church.

The church was reorganized on March 8, 1985 by Billy Jack Cox, Wilma Cox, Lucille Cox, Alafair Blair, John Crawford, Paul Patrick, Gail Patrick, Jesse and Clora Ramey. At that meeting Rev. Guy Taylor was received into membership by statement of faith and elected as pastor. On July 3, 1985 Rev. Albert Poole was elected as associate pastor. Rev. Poole was elected as interim pastor after Rev. Taylor

was called home to be with our Lord. Rev. Pool and Rev. Lonas Salling were elected as pastors on July 20, 1988. On September 10, 1989 Rev. Patrick Johnson was called to the church as associate pastor. On August 10, 1994 Rev. Johnson was elected as pastor. On July 16, 2007 W. Patrick "PJ" Johnson was elected as pastor and continues to this day. The current membership of the church stands at 65.

Special thanks go out to Ruth Combs Fugate for her assistance in recording some of the early church history.

Submitted by Dana Johnson.

<sup>1</sup>taken from the original minutes dated March 19, 1907.