



Danville is known as the "City of Churches" and we here at Stokesland Baptist are very, very pleased to be one of them. As Danville celebrates "200 YEARS ALONG THE DAN", let's go back to our beginning.....

The Baptist denomination came to Roanoke County in about 1758. Colonel William Samuel Harris of the British Army chose to oppose the Church of England and while riding in his uniform stopped near Allen's Creek to hear "the Baptist Murphy Brothers" as they were preaching. The words of William and Joseph Murphy completely changed the life of Samuel Harris. He became a member of the Dan River Church which was organized in 1760. On June 14, 1749 Samuel Harris was granted 5000 acres of land on both sides of Fall Creek and the Fall Creek Church was established in 1771. Harris would not allow himself to be ordained until 1769. Roanoke County was divided into a number of smaller counties from which it is believed Pittsylvania County was started. Prior to the 1800's Baptist churches were being formed.

The first Baptist church to be constituted in Danville was First Baptist Church on June 28, 1834. On December 5, 1834 the deed of property sold by James D. Patton to the trustees for \$150.00 on Patton Street (then called Old Street) was recorded in Pittsylvania County Court House. Elder Joseph S. Baker was the first pastor of the church erected on Patton Street opposite Roanoke Female College (which later became Averett College) and the location became known as "Baptist Hill". In 1883 First Baptist members bought a lot on Main Street and built a larger sanctuary. First Baptist is the mother church for most Baptist churches in Danville.

Our church formerly known as State Line Baptist Church was the outgrowth of a brush arbor revival held by C. C. Chaplin at a school house not far from the site of the first church building located near the rock quarry at Pelham, N. C. on old Route 29, South. A congregation was constituted October 18, 1874 through the ministry of First Baptist Church. The land for the church and a one room building was donated by William D. Coleman, great Uncle of Kenneth, Herbert, Grace and Bertie Coleman. State Line joined the association with other Baptist churches in 1876.

Fifty years after the church was founded a stone company started blasting at the quarry and this was a great risk to the church so in 1924 the membership decided to move to what was known as the "Stokesland Village" and took on the name of Stokesland Baptist Church. The two lots used for the church location is right where we are now; one lot was purchased by the church and the other lot was given to the church by Mrs. Ella Coleman Gatewood, aunt of the Coleman's in 1925. A frame building of one large room and two small rooms (at the rear of the pulpit) were built.

In October, 1926 Rev. Stanley B. Houghton was called to serve as pastor of Stokesland, Mount Herman and Riceville Baptist churches. Worship services were held two Sundays each month. Bruce Perkins, member of Stokesland Baptist, was ordained as a minister of the

gospel in 1939. He then served as an assistant pastor preaching two Sundays each month, thus enabling the church to have worship services each Sunday. With the assistance from the State Mission Board the church became a full time church in 1942 with Rev. Houghton as full time pastor.

Soon after the church became self supporting, plans were made for the building of an educational building. This building was soon completed and the first service held in it was on October 19, 1949. After the debt for this building was dissolved January 7, 1951 plans for a new sanctuary were in the making. Ground breaking services for the present sanctuary were held November 13, 1955. The new sanctuary was completed and dedicated on October 7, 1956 with Rev. Houghton preaching the dedicatory service.

In June, 1961 the church voted to buy two lots at the rear of the church lot as future building lots for a new parsonium. April 30, 1972 the church voted to proceed with the construction of a new parsonage at the corner of Cline Street. The parsonage was dedicated December 12, 1973 and Rev. Raper and his family were the first to live in the new parsonage.

On April 16, 1978 the church voted to construct a fellowship building which was completed and dedicated as the Claude Myers Fellowship Building on November 12, 1978.

God has certainly blessed Stokesland Baptist Church, its congregation and community in many, many ways since our beginning. As we "Look to the Future" great things will be taking place as we participate in the "Great Commission Breakthrough". With God's help, your support and cooperation much will be accomplished in years to come.

The following pastors have served our church since its beginning:

Rev. Stanley B. Houghton part time from October, 1926 to 1942; full time from 1942 to June, 1955.

Rev. Bruce Perkins served part time from 1939 to 1942.

Rev. Henry Smith September 4, 1955 to October 1, 1958.

Rev. Michael Ledbetter October 17, 1958 to June, 1963.

Rev. R. S. Rangel September, 1963 to December, 1963.

Rev. John Davenport, Jr. February 15, 1964 to August 31, 1969.

Rev. J. C. Raper February 1, 1970 to August 25, 1985.

Rev. Deryl Holliday, Interim.

Rev. Donald Page February 2, 1986 to May 20, 1990.

Rev. Jack Waddell, Interim.

Rev. Don Frank March 10, 1991 to present.