

OUR HISTORY



Original Pastor – A slave born in Virginia, Nelson Grover Merry (ordained November 1853).

Original location “Bethel” a small slave community in Murfreesboro, TN.

In 1866 main street First Baptist Church donated their old church located on the corner of Spring and Server Street to this congregation.

1879 - grounds and building legally became what is now First Baptist Church. The Pastor to occupy this building was Rev. Napoleon Bonaparte Frierson.

1880 - A new building was built on this site.

1940 - The church was destroyed by fire.

1941 - This building was repaired and the Rev. William Howard Donaldson became the pastor.

1950 - Urban renewal by the City of Murfreesboro, church was relocated to its present site, 738 East Castle.

1953 - The church was completed and occupied. Rev. R. T. Sanders was pastor at this time.

1955 – 1958 Rev. Grady Donald, pastor.

1958 – 1961 Rev. B. C. Gaudeaux, pastor.

1962 – 2005 Rev. Richard W. Gordon of Owensboro, Kentucky accepted the call to become Pastor of First Baptist Church. Pastor Gordon was instrumental in paving the way for integration in the city of Murfreesboro. In the spring of 1997 Rev. Gordon announced to the congregation that God had given him a vision to build a new addition to the old edifice. Ground breaking was held September 29, 2000. December 14, 2003 was the first service in the new sanctuary. Rev. Gordon having seen his vision come to reality announced his retirement December 2005, forty-three (43) years of spiritual leadership for First Baptist Church.

2006 – Current Pastor James M. McCarroll was selected as the new pastor of First Baptist Church. On July 17 2006 Pastor McCarroll preached his first sermon to the congregation.

Pastor McCarroll is a servant, preacher, teacher, a civic and political minded individual, orator, a world traveler and gentleman. A native of Nashville, Tennessee. The charismatic leadership of Pastor McCarroll has led to additional ministries to the church, the formation of many Christ-centered organizations; he is a Bible Scholar, an avid reader and encourages other to expand their knowledge. He sincerely believes in church outreach into the community. Since his arrival in 2006 to the present 2013 the church has experienced a phenomenal increase in membership.

Under the leadership of Pastor McCarroll our grace filled journey is assuming an intimate family character. Our mission statement places emphasis on uplifting and strengthening individuals in Christian faith.

From a tiny acorn to a mighty oak, under the leadership of Pastor James M. McCarroll Jr. “the best is yet to come.”