

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

The Concord Baptist Church

by
Mrs. Berlin Berkley

From
**A History of Owen County Baptist
Association and Its Churches**

www.nkyviews.com



History of the Concord Baptist Church

The first meeting place of the Concord Baptist Church was in 1883 in an old school house, known as Oak Grove, about a mile from the present location of the church. The church has a copy of the Constitution and rules of the church adopted in 1883.

When the congregation decided to move in 1884, an acre of ground was given for the church and cemetery by William Webster, son of Mann Webster. The wood frame structure was built by the older men of the community. The first person to be buried in the cemetery was Ann Beard.

After several years, the people decided a larger church was needed, so they split the church down the middle and widened it. A wooden style block also stood near the church.

Before the new church was begun, the members were in the old church and it was in such a condition that rain had covered the seats. The members were discouraged and the talk was that they should disband and go to other churches. One of the members made the remark, as he view the hills, that if they could find some way to use the rocks for a house that he had the steam engine to run the machinery. So going on faith, R. A. Stegar, Jake Berkley, and N. B. Osborne traveled to Bracken County and found that Rev. J. F. McClanahan had the block machine so work was begun and the blocks were made on the church grounds. The men of the community worked months and months without pay to complete the church in one year's time.

In 1921 the church was started, and July 30, 1922 the building was dedicated in the presence of 2,000 people. The pastor at this time was Rev. E. R. Sams with N. W. Stewart as church clerk. Rev. J. A. Lee, State Senator from this District, preached the dedicatorial sermon.

Rev. N. B. Osborne was licensed to preach October 22, 1921. He was later ordained at Williamsburg, Kentucky.

In 1960 the pastor A. E. Gibson wanted to leave a memorial and purchased the material for the bulletin board, and Charles Lee Kinman gave his labor.

As the early church records were lost, the only authentic record we have is a book published in 1888 by a pastor who was ordained July 24, 1884. His name was W. J. Johnson who came from Alabama to attend the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky. His ordination was the first one in the church for in the story of his life he tells of being called to a church in the "Big Woods" in the edge of Grant County. At that time, woods covered most of the territory for miles and miles. He tells of the men coming to church in their shirt sleeves while the women thought they were finely clad in calico dresses. We do not know how many members were in the first church, but he says that after working ten days with the people, he had 49 additions to the church. The members called him to preach and agreed to pay his expenses and also called for his ordination. The council in 1884 was composed of brethren from the following churches: New Liberty, C. M. Riley; New Bethel, J. V. Riley; Clarks Creek, L. M. Theobald, J. W. Evans, N. Green, W. H. Kuhn; Owenton, J. R. Waldrop; Bethany, L. Woods, A. G. Gross, Samuel Hix; Macedonia, A. Hern, S. Jones, Charley Bradley; Lusby's Mill, J. D. Clark; Beech Grove, Joel Cobb; Concord, William Jump, Jackson Jump, L. Pryor, Green P. Smith.

Although the people were poor, they were ready to minister to the needs of the pastors.

August 6, 1961, Lester Caldwell was licensed to preach and September 30, 1962, was ordained as full time minister. The present church membership is 81 resident members; 59 non-resident members, of this number, 5 are active deacons: Johnson Osborne, Grover Kinman, Kirtley Caldwell, Herman Kinman and Carey Vannarsdall. Rev. Jack Rogers, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, was called as pastor in 1964.

Some of the former pastors were: Bro. Lusby, Bro. Cobb, Clark Riley, Henry Holbrook, Will Hutton, Frank Hunter, A. A. Parsons, E. R. Sams, G. V. Stephens, A. L. Goodrich, C. N. Royal, C. C. Perry, W. B. Kemper, N. B. Osborne, Orlie Hale, W. W. Oliver, E. W. Simpson, John S. Gaines, A. E. Gibson, and Frank R. Smith.

Mrs. Berlin Berkley