

# CAVE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH

On March 21, 1820, Matthew Crews and his wife, Polly, conveyed to New Hope Baptist Church, a small tract of land, one mile east of the village of Jennie, for the purpose of erecting thereon a meeting house. Today there is no trace of the New Hope Church that met there.

In 1867 the church moved to Cave City. That move marked the beginning of the Cave City Baptist Church of today. It was known for many years as United Baptist Church of Cave City. The last meeting of New Hope Baptist Church was held on the first Saturday in February 1867, and on the first Saturday in March 1867, New Hope Baptist Church was merged with Cave City Baptist Church and New Hope ceased to exist.

For about 11 years the congregation worshiped in the Presbyterian meeting house, which stood on the site of the old Deweese warehouse. In the late 1870s, the Baptists decided to erect their own house of worship and the late Elkanah Dickey was selected to raise the money for the lot and church building. The lot on Broadway and Second Street was bought and a frame structure was erected.

Early lay leaders were Dr. W.K. Garnett, H.Y. Davis, L.A. Downer, Elkanah Dickey, William Neville, Baker Hatchet, G.H. Ford, T.H. Hatcher, Branch Hatcher, W.T. Bush, Cyrus Dickey, and W.A. Huggins.

In about 1889 on a Sunday morning, a terrible thunderstorm arose during the worship service; lightning set the building on fire and destroyed it. Only the organ and pews were saved. Under the pastorate of Rev. N.G. Terry, plans were formulated to erect a new brick building. The large brick building that replaced it was built in 1890 at 207 Broadway Street. It was remodeled in 1925 with a bequest from the late Miss Mollie Mills; the floor was elevated, a new front was added and basement was dug. It was remodeled again in 1939. The late Arch B. Davis, son of H.Y. Davis, bequeathed a large sum to the church. The church purchased handsome new pews, wall-to-wall carpeting and did other repairs. Full-time preaching services began in 1941.

In 1955 Rev. Andy Reese led the church to expand when a new baptistery was installed and an educational building was built. In mid-1960s, the buildings were air conditioned and heated by a modern system and a public address system installed.

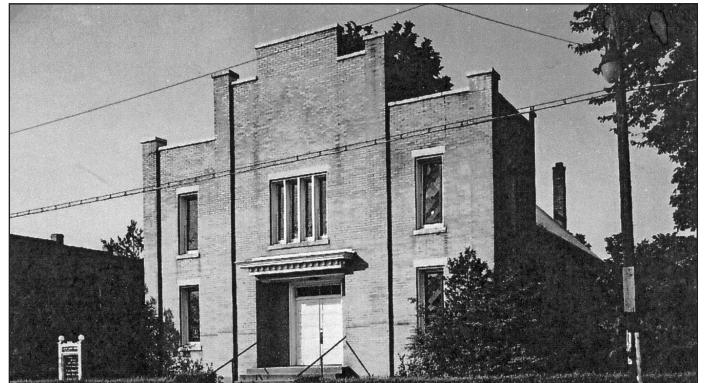
Under the visionary guidance of Rev. Gary Watkins, the church realized that future growth needs could not be met on the present property and began to look for a new location. In 1975 the church purchased the old Cave City School property located on the corner of 31 W and Highway 70. In 1978 an old school building, now known as the Sunshine House was renovated to be used as

an activities building. In 1979 the church built a new parsonage on the property and it was occupied by the pastor, Rev. Gerald McCants and his family.

Rev. Marvin Spivey began moving the church towards the construction of facilities on the site by the formation of a new building committee and the development of some preliminary plans. The building committee was Roy Withrow, Earl Bartley, Ruth Ann Gullett, J.C. Poynter, O.E. Atwell and Bob Brown. Trustees were Earl Bartley, Edmund Logsdon and Roy Withrow.

On March 31, 1985, after many years of deliberation, Cave City Baptist Church broke ground for the worship center. On May 25, 1986, the first worship service was held in the new location with Dr. Wayne Hayes as the pastor.

Pastors have included the following: N.J. Brown, N.G. Terry, Don Q. Smith, J.H. Grimes, J.H. Ramsey, DeWitt Mathews, James Burrell, Tom Dunlop, Ray Dean, Andy Reese, Clifton Bratcher, Charles Hawley, Fred Steelman, Gary Watkins, Marvin Spivey, Gerald McCants, Wayne Hayes, Leroy Dillehay and the present pastor, Stephen Cavness.



*The old Cave City Baptist Church*



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