

Emmanuel Baptist Church History 1978 – 2018

Emmanuel Baptist Church, located in Berea, KY is today celebrating its fortieth anniversary, Sunday, September 9, 2018. A brief history follows.

On May 4, 1978, thirty-six people met at the A&R Plumbing Building owned by Rufus Whittamore to discuss the possibility of starting a new mission work.

On Sunday, May 7, 1978, the first service of Faith Baptist Mission was held at the home of Joan and Sherman Sparks. There were eighty-seven people in attendance. The evening service was moved to and continued to meet in the old Baker Williams building on US-25.

On June 25, 1978, Brother Frank DeClue accepted the call to become the first pastor of the church and the name *Emmanuel Baptist Church* was adopted.

The church was constituted on July 9, 1978, with eighty-four charter members and was accepted into the Bates Creek Baptist Association as a Southern Baptist church in October 1978.

The four acres of property on which the church is presently located was purchased from Geneva Jennings for \$16,000.

The meeting place of EBC was moved to the old Harrison Farm Service Building on October 9, 1978, where services were held until completion of the new building. The first service in the new building was held on February 25, 1979. There were 104 people present for Sunday school.

The church has called seven pastors since its inception, including Frank DeClue, Rich Everett, Phillip Barbour, Michael Wells, James Overbee, Hurstle Laxton and our current pastor, Joey Kays, who preached his inaugural sermon on Easter Sunday 2002.

In August 2002 the church voted to begin a building program to add a new wing, including five Sunday school rooms, a fellowship hall with a kitchen and new bathrooms. The addition was completed in the summer of 2004 and the Lord blessed the church financially with the payoff of the loan in the spring of 2007. The church celebrated with a note-burning at the end-of-year fellowship on December 30, 2007.

In 2013 EBC underwent a sanctuary renovation with new carpet, pews, and sound system.

There have been approximately 290 baptisms, 8 deacon ordinations and 2 men ordained and licensed into ministry during the forty years the church has been in existence. A total of 22 men have served as deacons, with five currently serving, including Boyd Adams, Bill Cope, Justin Dargavell, Dennis Grant & Joe Kays.

Emmanuel Baptist Church continues to be a growing family of believers committed to the worship and service of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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