

# Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church

**"Growing Stronger Since 1889"**

129 years ago a small group of Christians who identified themselves Baptist, met to organize a Baptist church. They met from time to time over a long period in a one room school building, located on Ham's Creek, about six miles northeast of DeQuincy.

Formal organization took place in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Andrus on Hickory Creek, Feb. 17, 1889. T. J. Jackson was moderator of the organization meeting. He was also called as the first pastor. Ten men and women pledged themselves to walk together in brotherly love to the glory of God. They were not to forsake the assembling of themselves together to uphold the public worshipping of God and the ordinances of His house.

Charter members included: Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Jackson, J. H. Cannon, G. W. Devore, J. A. Andrus, John Hill, William Arrington, N. B. Alston, James Eason, Thomas Clark, Gilbert Jackson, Francis Thornhill and Mary Jean Jackson.

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church was the name selected for the church and they referred to the church as a Missionary Church.

During the first 25 years, several pastors were called and for some unknown reason, would serve only a few months and the church would call T. J. Jackson as the pastor again. Some of the early preachers were O'Quinn, Hamilton, Patterson, Ford and Meyers.

In the early years the church met once a month for all day services and dinner on the ground. They came by wagon, buggy, horseback and on foot. They usually met in homes in bad weather. In good weather they would gather at Hickory or Beckwith Creek bridge for all day services.

The minutes state that once in 1902 they met at Alston Cemetery for all day services. Some times bad weather caused them to cancel the meeting, but bad weather did not dampen their spirit. New Christians were added to the church roll



Pastor Brad Johnson, wife, Britny and daughters, Brooke and Baylee

after being baptized in the nearby creek.

The church did not meet regularly from 1902 until 1908, the reason was not stated. The records were not kept as efficient as in the past. In 1908, there was a committee appointed to clear up the church roll. It was during this time that the church relocated to Springhill School house, about one mile from its present location.

In May 1909 they hosted the Calcasieu Baptist Association meeting.

From June 1914 until 1920 some of the pastors were R. L. Meyers, P. W. Mitchell who served four years after which W. A. Hughes was called as pastor in 1920. In August the church acquired a building at Gordon and met there for six years.

In 1926, land was given by Desmond Alston and the church building was moved to this land which is the present location. Brother Mitchell returned in 1926 as pastor and served until 1955.

A new building was built in 1955. The pastors following Brother Mitchell were Gordon Ash, James Dickerson, Luther Dickerson, Gayle Blankenbaker, Charles Willis, Steve Manuel, Deloy Shows, J. A. Allen, Rickey Cain, Roy Parham, Joe Poole, R. T. Bridges, Bob Colquette, Dustin Royer, and our present pastor, Bro. Brad Johnson who began leading the congregation in February, 2017.

We thank the Lord for His watchcare over this church and give Him all the glory for the ones added to His kingdom through the efforts of Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church.

If you want to feel the love of Jesus Christ, come visit Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church.



# First Church of God in Christ organized in 1928

The First Church of God in Christ was organized in 1928 under the leadership of the late Rev. J. H. Keys

Among its first and permanent members were Mother Anna Bryant, Rev. J. Brown, Brothers O. M. Moss and Dutch Pete, Sisters Amanda Jackson, Williana Jones, Irene Blue, Annie Pete, Molly Brown, Mary Roberts, Bell Gray, Eve Edwards, Edna Kelly, Tina Kelly, Irene Moss, Ethel Gray, Katie Orsaw, and Minnie Cheatum.

This Group of Saints began worshipping in a small building at 308 S. Front St. where the Lord really blessed this work by adding souls to the church. On June 19, 1929, the church purchased the lot where it was previously located on Jefferson St. for \$200. Dutch Pete, O. M. Moss and Rev. J. H. Keys signed the contract.

In June 1931, the Masonic Hall was rented at 611 Grand Avenue for \$10 per month. In fall of 1931, meetings moved from the Masonic Hall to what was then known as the Jessie McClain's Hall at 223 Jackson Street. On Dec. 31, 1931, the hall was purchased from Mr. B. R. Gammage of Westlake for \$100.

In the Spring of 1932, a brush harbor was erected on the extreme south end of the present lot and continued worship services while the McClain's house was being torn down, and the materials would be moved to the present lot to be used in building the church.

In the fall of 1932, the church was moved to the house where Mrs. Nellie Simpson lived and started worship services. Because the house was too small, meetings were moved back to the Masonic Hall and remained there until the church was ready. The new church was used for services in early 1933 even though it was not fully completed.

After 10 years, Rev. J. H. Keys resigned and Rev. W. H. Samuel was appointed pastor. His first message was from *Matthew 25*. Rev. Samuel resigned in the spring of 1942 after pastoring for three years. In October of 1942, Rev. O. B. Pete, Sr. was appointed pastor.

On Nov. 1, 1947, the pastor presented plans calling for



Elder Clifton E. and Louella David

the tearing down of the old building and rebuilding a new sanctuary. By September of 1949, \$1,196.92 was raised. Construction of the new church began immediately; it measured 30' x 50' (1,740 sq. ft.), and it was completed for a total cost of \$1787.79.

In 1952, the fellowship hall and pastor's study were added. During this time, the building was remodeled, and the pews were made by the pastor at a cost of \$2,229.28.

### ORDAINED MINISTERS

Eight ministers have been ordained from the church. They are Elders Sam Bell, O. B. Pete, Sr., Albert Hodges, William Alexander, Otha Green, Sr., Oby Pete, Jr., Clifton David, and Rodney Williams.

The Lord continued to bless the church, and its membership gradually grew its space for the educational training. It became apparent that something had to be done.

In spring of 1986, Bro. and Sis. David went to Pastor Pete's home after church about building a new church. It was a divine providence of God because the Pastor was thinking about the same thing! This process really set the Pastor's heart aglow. The pastor appointed a building

committee to begin putting the pieces of the puzzle in their proper places.

Those appointed to the committee were: Eld. Oby Pete, Jr., chairman; Bros. Bill Silas, Clifton David, Daniel Marburgh, Sis. Louella David, Catherine Pete, Delicia Marburgh, and Margaret Brown along with Eld. Otha Green and Pastor Pete.

With God as the chief Pilot, the old ship finally landed. On a surprisingly cold day, Mar. 5, 1989, we held the groundbreaking ceremony for the new edifice. Supt. Alfred Perry, Mrs. Alma Brown, Manager Calcasieu Marine Bank in DeQuincy, and Mr. Henry Thomas, contractor, were the featured speakers.

Construction actually began in April. Yes, God smiled on us; now, here we are today with a determined mind to continue to carry out the great commission:

**"SEEK THE LOST AT ANY COST!"**

In 2000, Bishop O. B. Pete, Sr. retired as pastor but not from preaching the gospel. The saga continued in 2001 when Bishop Roy L. H. Winbush appointed Elder Clifton E. David as pastor of First Church.



If you want to feel the Love of Jesus Christ, come visit . . .

## PILGRIMS REST BAPTIST CHURCH

Established 1889



~ Join Us For Services ~

### SUNDAYS

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

*We thank the Lord for His watch-care over this church and give Him all the glory for the ones added to His kingdom through our efforts.*

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church

1129 Pilgrims Rest Rd.  
337-499-0584

BRAD JOHNSON, PASTOR

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Psalms 122:1



## First Church of God in Christ

Motto: "To Win The Lost At Any Cost"

'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:'  
Matt. 28:19

- Sunday School . . . . . 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday Midday Worship . . . . . 11 a.m.
- Tuesday Youth Ministry . . . . . 6 p.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study . . . . . 6 p.m.
- Thursday Discipleship . . . . . 6 p.m.
- YWCC/CWC/Men's Fellowship . . . . .
- 3rd Wednesday Monthly . . . . . 6 p.m.
- Fifth Sunday Missions . . . . . 6 p.m.
- Annual Prayer Walk . . . . . 4th Saturday in April

### Our Mission Statement

As a Church: We actively equip spirit-filled Saints for service in our fellowship by instruction and encouraging all Christians to concentrate on serving and obeying God, and discover and use their spiritual gifts to minister to the Whole man. We evangelize the unsaved by being active disciples, who through local outreach, attract unbelievers to faith in Christ for identification with us as a local body of believers.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14



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