



Woodrow Wilson was President

“This new group of believers met in the grove near Big Spring when weather permitted and in the homes of its members to worship God when weather did not permit worship outside.”

April, 1913

World War I was a over a year away.



The original Big Spring Baptist Church was built where the west parking is now located.



100
Big Spring Baptist



Big Spring Baptist Church
1415 Hardwick St. SE
Cleveland, Tennessee 37311
423.472.1101 bigspringbaptist.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
BIG SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH
AUG. 28 - 1927

1913-2013: Generations of Faith & Ministry.

Reaching Out with God's Word... Generation After Generation.

The Big Spring

Following the Cherokee removal, Cleveland and Bradley County were established in 1836. In pioneer days, the "Big Spring" area was a frequent camping area for travelers and a stopping point for the copper haulers. During the Civil War, men from both armies camped near the spring at different times.



Big Spring in 1913

In 1908 Lucien B. Stivers, then Pastor of Inman Street Baptist Church, preached a series of revival services that demonstrated a need for a church in the area.

1913 Big Spring is Organized

April 6, 1913 a meeting was held in the Inman Street Baptist Church (now First Baptist of Cleveland) to organize a group of believers into a church. This newly organized church was to be called "Big Spring Baptist Church," taking its name from the nearby spring.



The first minute book.

Minute Book One

The following brethren composed the council: Granville Lee, moderator; Edgar E. Folk, clerk; W. L. Taylor, S. P. White, J. H. Lusk, J. I. Harrison, William Epperson, J. C. Townsend, and P. Whaley. These delegates represented New

Big Spring Timeline

Historical Events 1900
 1901: President William McKinley assassinated.
 1904: First Popular American Film. New York subway opens.
 1906: Kellogg's starts selling Corn Flakes.
 1908: Ford introduces the Model-T. Cost \$850.00.
 1909: Plastic is invented.
 1910: Cleveland has 50 cars.

1910
 1911: Parkville Dam completed.
 1913: 16th Amendment legalizes Red Income Tax. Woodrow Wilson elected President.
 1914: World War I begins in Europe. Panama Canal Opens.
 1917: U.S. enters World War I.
 1918: Spanish Flu epidemic kills thousands.
 1919: World War I ends.

1920
 1920: 18th Amendment passed prohibited the manufacture, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
 1925: Scopes "Monkey" Trial in Dayton, TN upheld the right of a state to ban the teaching of evolution in public schools.
 Radio broadcasting began.
 1929: The stock market crashes, starting the Great Depression.

1930
 1931: Al Capone imprisoned. Empire State Building is completed.
 1933: Prohibition ends in U.S.
 1935: Social Security enacted.
 1937: Japan invades China.
 1937: Germany invades Poland, beginning World War II.
 1938: Ozone Wells broadcasts "War of the Worlds."

1940
 1941: Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor is bombed by Japan and the U.S. enters World War II.
 1944: June 6: D-Day Normandy invasion launched.
 1945: World War II ends - Japan surrenders after U.S. drops the first atomic bombs.
 1947: Chuck Yeager breaks Sound Barrier. Deal Sea Scrolls Discovered.

1950
 1950: Korean War begins.
 1951: Color TV introduced. Polio Vaccine created.
 1953: Korean War ends.
 1955: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. movement begins.
 1957: Soviet satellite Sputnik launches Space Age.
 1959: Hawaii & Alaska become 49th and 50th states.

1960
 1961: Alan Shepard is the first American to reach space.
 1963: JFK Assassinated.
 1964: Beatles become popular.
 1965: Troops sent to Vietnam.
 1967: First "Super Bowl."
 1968: M.L. King Jr. and Robert Kennedy assassinated.
 1969: Neil Armstrong becomes the first man on the moon.

1970
 1972: Watergate Scandal Begins.
 1973: Roe vs Wade legalizes abortion in the U.S.
 U.S. pulls out of Vietnam.
 1975: President Nixon Resigns.
 1977: Elvis found dead. Star Wars movie released.
 1978: Jonestown Massacre.
 1979: Iran takes American hostages in Tehran.

1980
 1980: Mount St. Helens erupts.
 1981: Personal computers introduced by IBM.
 1983: Sally Ride becomes first American woman in space.
 1986: Space Shuttle Challenger explodes.
 1989: Berlin Wall falls. Students massacred in China's Tiananmen Square.

1990
 1991: Collapse of the Soviet Union. Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait.
 1993: World Trade Center bombed. Use of the Internet grows exponentially.
 1995: Oklahoma City bombing.
 1997: Princess Diana dies.

2000
 2001: Terrorists attack the World Trade Center and Pentagon.
 2003: The War in Iraq begins.
 2005: Hurricane Katrina strikes the Gulf Coast.
 2006: U.S. population reaches three hundred million.
 2008: Recession begins.
 2009: President Barack Obama takes office.

2010
 2010: A British Petroleum deep water oil rig explodes in the Gulf of Mexico.
 2011: Tornadoes strike Bradley County resulting in major property damage and deaths. War in Iraq declared over.
 2012: Terrorist attack consulate in Benghazi killing four Americans, including Ambassador John C. Stevens.

Big Spring Pastor Timeline

Pre-Organization			Quarter-Time: Meeting on the second Sunday of each month.			Half-Time: Meeting on the second and fourth Sunday's.			Full-Time: Big Spring began meeting each Sunday in 1926.							
Lucien B. Stivers preached an area revival in 1908.	William B. Watkins: 1913. Big Spring's first pastor.	Grandville Lee - 1914 Additional "Quarter-Time" pastors were T.O. Dake: 1915 & 1919, J.H. Palmer: 1916, and A.T. Hayes: 1923-1925. Pictures were not available.	Claude E. Sprague - 1917	L.A. Hurst - 1918	Joseph A. Robertson - 1920	Will Shamblin - 1921-1922	Samuel Melton: 1925-1953. BSBC's longest serving pastor.	C.H. Petty: 1955-1957	M.L. Ar buckle: 1959-1964	Sam Brooks: 1966-1972	R.T. Roberts: 1973-1976	J.T. Cline: 1977-1981	Mike James: 1982-1986	Gary Thacker: 1990-2001	Joe Brooks: 2003-2006	George Bulson: 2007-2012

Friendship, Macedonia, Inman Street, Union and Calhoun Baptist Churches.

The scriptures were read by Granville Lee and prayer was offered by W. L. Taylor. The letters of those wishing to go into the organization were read by the clerk. These included B. N. Cecil, Mrs. B. N. Cecil, and Granville Cecil from the Inman Street Baptist Church. W. B. Watkins, Rosa Watkins, W. M. Johnson, Minnie Johnson from First Baptist Church. James Dunn, Mrs. Mattie Dunn, and Lizzie Dunn from Calvary Baptist Church of Fairie, Georgia.

On motion by W. B. Watkins, the new church was to be known as the "Big Spring Baptist Church of Cleveland."

On motion by B. N. Cecil, Reverend W. B. Watkins was recognized as a minister of the gospel.

Early Years - Quarter Time

Initially this group of believers met in the grove near Big Spring when weather permitted or in the homes of its members.

Soon a new church building was finished, complete with electrical wiring, with the first services being held July 13, 1913. The church grew under Pastor Watkins with services held the second Sunday of each month.



Baptism service circa 1930.



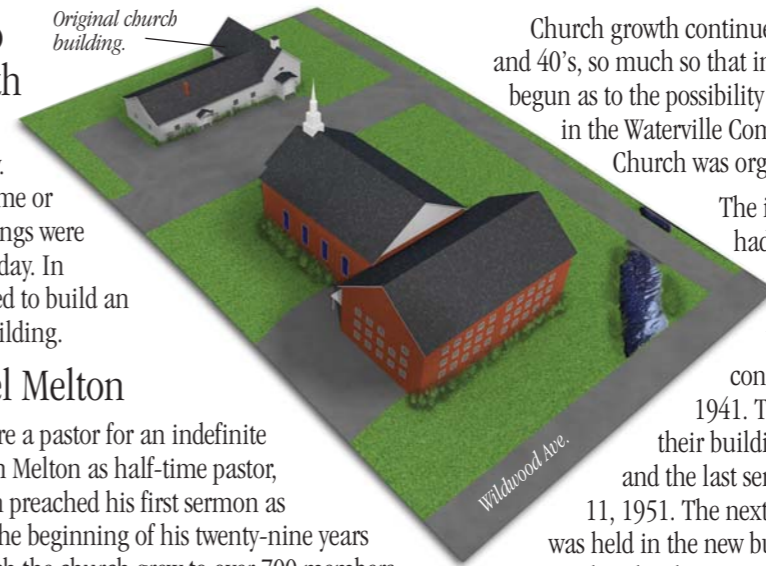
Worship in the old church.

Half-Time - Two Sundays a Month

In 1919, the church voted to call Rev. J.A. Roberson for half-time or two Sundays a month. These meetings were held on the second and fourth Sunday. In September of 1924, the church voted to build an addition to the south side of the building.

Full Time - Rev. Samuel Melton

The church in 1925 voted to hire a pastor for an indefinite period of time and elected Rev. Sam Melton as half-time pastor, salary \$45.00 a month. Rev. Melton preached his first sermon as pastor October 25, 1925. This was the beginning of his twenty-nine years as pastor of Big Spring during which the church grew to over 700 members. In August of 1926, there was a very successful revival that lasted seventeen days. This same year, the church voted to hold regular services each Sunday and elected Rev. Melton as its first full-time pastor.



Church growth continued throughout the 1930's and 40's, so much so that in 1949 an investigation begun as to the possibility of establishing a mission in the Waterville Community. Waterville Baptist Church was organized April 23, 1950.

The ideas for a new building had been discussed for a few years and in August, 1950, the church agreed to borrow \$20,000 to begin construction on a lot they had purchased in 1941. This land was directly across the street from their building of 1913. Construction progressed rapidly and the last service in the old building was held November 11, 1951. The next Sunday, November 18, 1951, the first service was held in the new building. After the service, the cornerstone was put in place by charter members George Weaver and B. N. Cecil.

Rev. Melton resigned August 4, 1954, having served as pastor for 29 years. The Lord had richly blessed Big Spring during those years.



Long-time Music Minister Raymond Hooker and the "Big Spring Trio" from the 60's.

