**ROSEWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**1949.2023**

**History Highlights**

**1949**

* The Rosewood Club Cottage was secured as a temporary location after Rev. E.L. Parker and Rev. Dean Bergen, Associational Missionary for the Neuse Baptist Association, surveyed the Rosewood Community to assess the need for a Baptist Church.
* August 7, first Sunday School meeting with approximately twenty members present (Sunday School Superintendent-L.J. Sasser, Asst. Superintendent, Bernice Sutton, Secretary-Marie Wadsworth, Asst. Secretary-Ruth Sasser)
* November, Sunday School membership: 74.
* Rosewood Baptist Church became a part of the Neuse Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of NC and the Southern Baptist Convention. Rev. Bergen called to serve as Supply Pastor. 35 Charter Members: Ivey Wadsworth, Bertie B. Wadsworth, Mr. and Ms. R.C. Oxford, Marie Wadsworth, Clarence and Lillian Sasser, Ms. A.H. Oxford, Bunion and Susie Newsome, L.J. Sasser, Jesse Paul Sasser, Ruth Sasser, Carolyn Sasser, Arnold and Hazel Newsome, Frances Newsome and Doris Newsome. Other Charter Members: Earl and Hilda Radford, Ms. A.L. Ingram, Milton (Buddy) Westbrook, Ms. J.L. Ingram, Bernice and Catherine Sutton, Helen Hodges, Peggy Mitchell, Marjorie Sasser, Frances Sutton, Ruth Sutton, Betty Clyde Newsome, Pat Bailey, Rebecca Newsome, Ms. Charles Edwards and Betty Grace Radford.

**1950**

* Officers elected: Trustees-Ivey Wadsworth and Arnold Newsome, Deacons- Clarence Sasser, Earl Radford and Bunyon Newsome, Church Clerk- Helen Hodges, Treasurer- R. C. Oxford, Assistant Treasurer-Rupert Creech, Pianist-Lois Gainey and Assistant Pianist-Ruth Sasser.
* Money from the Church Lot Fund (Cooperative Fund) from The Division of Missions of The Baptist State Convention of NC used to purchase the building site on the corner of NC 581 and State Road 1236. Building Committee Members were: IveyWadsworth, Clarence Sasser, Bunyon Newsome, R.C. Oxford and Arnold Newsome
* February 22, Women's Missionary Union organized. President-Hilda Radford, vice-President-Sally Smith and Secretary-Treasurer – Lillian Sasser.
* July, Rev. E.L. Parker called as the first pastor of Rosewood Baptist Church.
* September 28, groundbreaking ceremonies held with the foundation poured on September 30. Dedicated church members and friends (mostly members) did much of the construction on the building.

**1951**

* April 1, Training Union organized with thirty-seven members. Wednesday night prayers services began.
* August 5, Dedication service for Rosewood
* September, M. Lacy Coates and Ms. Hilda Radford organized GA’s (Girls in Action) and Ms. Mertie Hollowell was leader of Mission Friends and Sunbeams.

**1957**

* Added a two-story building with seven classrooms.

**1962**

* January, church became a full-time pastoral ministry.

**1972**

* The property south of church was purchased for a parsonage.

**1980**

* March, Golden Agers organized.

**1984**

* March 4, ground-breaking ceremony for a new sanctuary, office space, restrooms, fellowship hall and three classrooms.
* December 9, cornerstone laid and dedication of the new facilities celebrated.

**1987**

* March 1, Marshalle Lewis became Music Director and Judy Lewis

became volunteer pianist.

**1988**

* July 1, Rev. Vernon Braswell voted as the new pastor.
* September, Judy Lewis became Director of Music and Marshalle Lewis served as pianist.

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* Beverly Sager became church pianist.

**1993**

* Beverly Sager began Youth Music Ministry
* 6 acres of land east of the existing property purchased.
* October 24, Rev. Dave Fishman became Youth Minister and Associate Pastor.

**1996**

* Jean Alford resigned as church secretary after 26 years of service. Beverly Sager elected church secretary.

**1999**

* The church celebrated 50 years of ministry and out-reach.
* Rev. E.C. Mattocks called as Minister of Youth and Associate Pastor.

**2000**

* December, T.K. Holmes Scholarship Fund for undergraduate students started by the Men's Brotherhood.
* December 31, Rev. Vernon Braswell retired as Senior Pastor and became Associate Pastor.

**2001**

* January 1, Rev. E.C. Mattocks voted Senior Pastor. Rev. Steve Porter voted Youth Pastor

**2002**

* July, vote to construct a new a building with a multi-purpose room and Sunday School rooms and to have two worship services Sunday mornings.

**2003**

* September 21, eight charter members helped break ground for new-building,
* November, voted to incorporate.

**2004**

* August 29, Rev. E.C. Mattocks resigned.
* September 19, Rev Vernon Braswell became Interim Senior Pastor with Rev. Steve Porter assisting. Membership reached 941.
* October 17, first Sunday School Services and Orientation Day held in new facility. Multi-purpose room named Braswell Hall to honor Rev. Vernon and his wife, Janice.
* October 24, Dedication Services and Homecoming celebrated in new facility.
* December 5, new facility named Family Life Center.

**2005**

* April 3, Rev Braswell became Senior Pastor.
* September 30, church membership reached 943.

**2006**

* May 28, Rev. Braswell resigned.
* June 1, Rev. Larry Bostian became new pastor.

**2007**

* Spring Women's Conference, "Growing in Grace, held.
* July 1, Anne Herring became Financial Secretary and Administrative
* Assistant.

**2008**

* January 1, Donna Little began serving as Director of Family Ministries. RYSUP ONE 27 and Kidstyle Youth groups developed. The Media Ministry added 3 mounted screens in sanctuary, each with a projector and computer software.
* August 24, Contemporary Worship Service began.
* Church membership 933.

**2009**

* March 4, small group studies started Wednesday nights.
* July 8, the church voted for quarterly conferences rather than monthly.
* September 2009, Sunday School Emphasis Kickoff headed by Renee Parrish.
* October, church had 929 members. Fall Festival held with 500 attendees.
* December, Young Adult classes honored our senior citizens with a Christmas Celebration.
* Celebrated 60 Years in Christ.

**2010**

* January 17, Rev Bostian resigned effective February 21. Rev. Marty Gurganus filled in as pastor for six weeks.
* February 1, Deacons reorganized into gift based teams.
* May, Rev. Eddie Brackett became Interim Pastor.
* August 29, Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws approved.
* September 8, TeamKid (for children three years old through 4th grade) and experience 56 (Bible study program for 5th and 6th graders) began.
* September 12, Re-Dedication Service was held to acknowledge painting and renovating the Sanctuary and Narthex.
* Membership: 477 active members and 409 inactive members.
* October 17, Mary Bill became church administrator.
* October 30, Fall Festival held with approximately 500 in attendance.
* December 5, Hee Haw was the theme of the Senior Citizen's supper.

**2011**

* January, Rev. Eddie Brackett, interim pastor resigned.
* March 27, Rev Kent Boone became new Pastor.
* Heaven’s Gates and Hell's Flames production Presented April 10 through April 13. Approximately 900 people attended with 72 people accepting the Lord.
* June 5, thirteen new members baptized.
* Commissioned Women's activities included: cheer bags for in¬mates; blankets and socks for our military troops; lunch for Habi¬tat for Humanity workers; money and book bags to Heart and Soul Missions; Christmas stockings to troops; donations to Pen¬nies for Angels, supported a college student's mission trip to
* Kenya; cakes for the Soup Kitchen in Goldsboro and Health Kits for migrant workers.
* September 11, Radically Focused By Christ campaign, a strategy to help in Church growth and unity.
* October 2011 — Fall Festival.
* Current membership: 485 active members and 401 inactive members.
* RYSUPone27 youth group sponsored: a child from Kenya; the Angel Tree project (Christmas for 82 children); a 5k Run/Walk with 80+ participants; a putt-putt tournament; and the Sunday morning RYSUPone27 café. The Youth participated in a summer
* mission camp in Kentucky. They also collected canned food for the Kennedy Baptist home. 28 youth attended Camp Caswell in the fall.
* VBS theme was the Big Apple Adventure. The children presented a Christmas program on 12/18.
* Our choir presented a Christmas program in December.
* The Sunday School classes sponsored a Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner.

**2012**

* Steak Valentine Dinner sponsored by the Sunday School in February 2012
* (approximately 300 attended)
* Cardboard ministry 3-11-12
* Covenant Sunday School class sponsored Socks for Soldier mission project
* Dinner Theater Show April 28, 2012
* Intensify, a contemporary worship service, began in Braswell Hall on Sunday evenings 4-29-12
* Pastor Kent Boone resigned Sunday, July 1, 2012
* Sunday School Breakfast on 9-9-12 to welcome new teachers and show appreciation for last years Sunday School teachers
* Dr Mike Codgill began serving as Interim Pastor on Sept 16, 2012
* Gospel Sing with Southern Ambassadors.9-30-12
* The youth sponsored SHOES FOR AFRICA; Mission projects for the House of Fordham; RYSUP and RUN 5K (125+ runners) in May 2012; and The Giving Tree fundraiser for camps. Youth went to Winter Jam; to the youth fest in Zebulon and to the Proof of Your Love tour. 22 Youth went to summer mission camp in Charleston, SC.
* Children: Easter Egg Hunt in March; Easter program on Palm Sunday; VBS June 18-21 (134 average attendance); Book Bag Blessing was in August.
* Commissioned Women: blankets, throws and socks to troops; cheer bags to the prison ministry; supported the Christmas fund at Cherry Hospital; McDonald's gift cards and money to Heart & Soul Ministry; contributions to the church food pantry; shipped shoes to Africa; used clothing and money to the Street Church Ministry; supplies for children's church; Annie Armstrong Easter offering; money for FLC sound system; book bags for Rosewood Middle School; money for VBS; Lottie Moon offering; Health Kits to the Migrant Ministry.
* Rev Vernon Braswell was named Pastor Emeritus on 10-28-12
* Membership as of 9-16-12 is 486 active members and 397 inactive members for a total of 883
* 12/6/12 - Senior Citizens' Dinner
* The Adult Christmas Cantata was presented 12/15 and 12/16

**2013**

* 1/5 - Deacon Retreat at Campbell University
* Ice Skating excursion on 1/21
* Steak Valentine Dinner sponsored by the Sunday School February 9th
* Golden Agers visited Campbell University on February 12th
* The Second Edition Gospel Sing was February 24th
* Children: Easter Egg Hunt in March; the Easter program was March 24th; End of Year celebration was June 5 at Larry Bill's Funtime Golf. VBS was June 17-20 with 7 professions of faith.
* The church collected supplies for the Campbell Divinity School's trip to the Holy Land in May.
* July of 2013 — a new sound system was installed in the church sanctuary.
* 7/28/13 — The Pastor Search Committee presented Dr. Michael (Mike) Collier, pastoral candidate. The church, in conference, voted by a vast majority to call Dr. Collier.
* August — Teachers & Staff Luncheon at RFBC. We adopted the Rosewood Elementary School staff & teachers and provided supplies for them.
* Book Bag Blessing in August 2013. RFBC also participated in a prayer walk around RHS, RMS and RES.
* Sunday School Beginnings Breakfast on 9-8-13 to welcome new teachers
* The Youth sponsored: missionaries in Africa and RYSUP and RUN 5 K in
* May. Summer Missions Programs included outreach at Herman Park, Woodard Retirement/Nursing Facility, & the House of Fordham and cookies for SJAFB airmen. Youth went to summer mission camp n Charleston, SC (2 youth rededicated their lives in summer camp).
* Commissioned Women: McDonald's gift cards, book bags, and Valentine candy •
* for Heart & Soul Ministry; McDonald's gift cards for Street Church Ministry; Val¬entine bags for Cherry Hospital; shampoo to Kennedy Baptist Children's Home; contributions to the RFBC food pantry; blankets for our troops. Offerings to churchlhospital in North India; NC Baptist Men; Lottie Moon; Annie Armstrong
* There were 8 children/youth baptized in 2013.
* Total membership as of 9/8/13 is 494 active members and 393 inactive mem¬bers for a total of 887
* Homecoming was 10-27-13 with Dr. Mike Codgill as guest speaker.
* A Community Thanksgiving Service was held on 11-24-13
* Choir presented the Christmas Cantata on 12-14 and 12-15
* Children's Christmas Program was 12-8-13

**2014**

* Youth volunteered at Winter Jam (1/3/14) as Holt International representatives
* Deacons' Retreat 1/11/14
* Old church bus was sold on 3-1-2014
* Women attended Joyce Meyer & 3/15, 3/21-3/23
* Spring Retreat in Charlotte: 24 youth attei.ided
* Dinner Theatre 4-5-14, 300 people attended
* Spring Fling — Community Easter Egg Hunt — at RFBC on 4/19
* Youth sponsored the church directory fund raiser and donated $1000 to the church bus fund
* Youth donated $200 to Camp Derby Autism Camp at East Carolina
* Children: End Of Year Blast was 6/4. VBS was 6/16-6/18. The children prepared meal bags for Meals on Wheels, hygiene kits for the House of Fordham, collected shoes for Harvesters International, and collected money for an orphan in India. The average attendance was 126.
* Special Called Church Conference on 6-22-14 to alter Church by-laws relating to Deacon Election
* 22 Youth attended M-Fuge 6/23-6/28 in Philadelphia with 2 rededications
* The youth organized & participated in service projects during the summer at House of Fordham and Herman Park
* Commissioned Women: McDonald's gift cards and money for Heart & Soul Ministry; items to Somerset Court; Easter Baskets for shut-ins; health items to Kennedy Children's Home; Cheer Bags to Migrant Workers; school supplies for Rosewood Elementary teacher. Offerings: needy families, Church Street Ministry, Angel Tree gifts, Lottie Moon, Family Life Center supplies; NC Baptist Men, church member's mission trip, Annie Armstrong, RFBC bus fund.
* New Bus purchased July 29, 2014
* August: King.s Dominion trip; bus dedication and prayer walk around schools on 8/17; Teacher Appreciation Lunch at RFBC on 8/21; Book Bag Blessing on 8/24
* The youth provided snacks and sound for See You At The Pole events at RMS and RHS
* The youth provided equipment & resourses for missionary Doug Johnson with B2BU ministries 5k
* 22 youth attended Camp Caswell
* The youth supported the Wounded Warrior 5k at RHS

**2015**

* Special Called Business meeting (June 14) to remove all items pertaining to non-pastoral staff from the Bylaws and place them in PFBC Personnel Manual,
* New metal roof installed on sanctuary and steeple cleaned and painted.
* 22 youth attended Camp Caswell
* Monthly Business Meeting to every other month in a Special Called Business meeting (8/16).
* 9-13-15 Building and Grounds Committee recommended that the Original Church sanctuary and Sunday School Classes be demolished due to structural damage. Recommendation was passed by majority vote.
* As of 9-13-15 membership is 335 Active members; 548 inactive for a total of 883
* Commissioned Women: Anniversary party to House of Fordham; McDonald's gift cards and money for Heart & Soul Ministry; socks to troops; food boxes for Rosewood Middle School; sponsored a child to MFuge; Easter baskets for shut-ins; sponsored member for WMU Retreat; towels and wash cloths for migrant workers; school supplies for teachers. Offerings: Cherry Hospital; Lottie Moon, needy family, Annie Armstrong, Church Street Ministry, Angel Tree gifts, Family Life Center supplies; NC Baptist Men, RFBC roof fund.

**2016**

* New metal roof installed on sanctuary and steeple cleaned and painted.
* 66th Homecoming was held 10-25-15 with Rev. Vernon Braswell bringing the morning message.
* Christmas Cantata was presented on December 12th and 13th.
* Constitution changes no longer require a special called business meeting; instead changes can be made at Business Meetings.
* Deacons are addressing issues of security and keys to Church Buildings have been replaced
* Motion made and carried 9-11-16 for the Hispanic group presently meeting at the Church to become a part of FRBC ministry.
* Demolition of the original church sanctuary and Sunday School class rooms is scheduled for October 2016.
* As of 9-11-16 memberships is 345 active members and 541 inactive mem¬bers fora total of 886.

**2017**

* The 67th homecoming for Rosewood Baptist Church was held on 10-23-16 with Caroline Tart giving her testimony in regards to her heart replacement surgery.
* The original sanctuary and additional classrooms and kitchen were demolished on December 2016. A replacement wall was completed in the Spring of 2017. Landscape and shrubbery completed.
* Our Church hosted 29 young people from New Jersey who were in this area to assist Habitat for Humanity.
* Our current active members are 352 and inactive members are 539.
* December 17, 2017- A Christmas play, Warmwater, Illinois: the Christmas Edition, was presented in the morning worship by an adult drama group, directed by Beverly Sager.

**2018**

* The 68th homecoming for Rosewood Baptist Church was held on 10-22-17. Gospel Music by Legacy was enjoyed rather than inviting guest speaker.
* Ms. Donna Little, Youth director fol. past ten years has resigned. A reception was held in her honor on her last Sunday 8-26-18.
* Our current active members are 356 and inactive members are 536.

**2019**

* 3-19 A Strategy Team was formed to address issues regarding the Church growth and budget. A survey was given to each member for their input and suggestions.
* 5-19 Sherry Jones accepted position of Children and Youth Director.
* 9-19 Rev. Vernon Braswell accepted the position as Chairman of the Debt Retirement Committee. This committee was formed because of the survey completed by members. Rev. Braswell has proposed that each member be contacted and asked to attend Homecoming and give as much as possible to retire our Church debt.
* 9-22-19 Preacher Vernon Braswell, Pastor Emeritus, Chairman of Debt Retirement Committee urged each of us to give faithfully and generously to a special offering to retire the remaining debt on the Family Life Center. The special offering to retire the remaining debt on the Family Life Center. The special offering will conclude on Homecoming Sunday. Since 9-22-19 a total of $165,962.33 has been given toward retiring the debt. Praises to our Lord thru his faithful servants.
* 10-27-19 Our Church celebration 70 years of service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at our annual homecoming. Music was provided by Judy and Marshalle Lewis and former members Jerry and Mary Lyall.
* Current Active membership is 349 and inactive membership is 534.
* Rev. Vernon Braswell accepted the office of Church Chairman of Outreach.

**2020**

* On March 15, 2020 all Church services and activities were cancelled due to Covid-19. Prayer requests were shared via the phone tree and weekly sermon via Church website. Outdoorv services began in July. Later we began having Sunday Worship in the Braswell Hall following all guidelines/restrictions due to Covid-19. virus. Some Sunday School lessons were also conducted virtually.
* Again, this year, Preacher Vernon Braswell, Pastor E-rneritus, Chairman of Debt Retirement Committee urged each of us to give faithfully and generously to a special offering to retire the remaining debt on the Family Life Center. Since September 22, 2019 a total of $158,962.33 has been given toward retiring this debt. Praises to our Lord through His faithful servants.
* 10-25-20 Homecoming Service was also held in Braswell Hall rather than the sanctuary due to Covid restrictions.
* Our active membership is 356 and nonactive membership is 530.

**2021**

* 5-2021 Pastor Mike Collier announced his impending retirement effective 8-31-21. He served as pastor from September 8,2013-August 31, 2021.
* 8-31-21 Dr. Mike & Kathy Collier were given a retirement reception, and presented them with a $5,000 appreciation gift.
* 8-31-21 A pastor search committee was appointed.
* 9-1-21- Dr. Cameron Jorgenson began serving as Interim Pastor
* 10-3-21 Active membership is 349 and nonactive membership is 515

**2022**

* 10-24-21 Homecoming Debt for Family Life Center Paid in Full. Chairman Rev. Vernon Braswell reported HALLELUJAH!!!
* 11-21-21 Burning the cancelled Note for The Family Life Center was completed by Chairman Rev. Vernon Braswell
* 3-31-31-22 Sherry Jones resigned as Youth Director
* 4-1-22 Stacy Holtman began serving as Youth Director
* 7-24-22 Henry Braswell, JB Grantham, RH Mason and Rex Sasser were recognized as Deacon Emeritus
* 9-18-22 Pastor Search Team presented updates to find a Pastor.
* 9-18-22 Active membership is 242 and inactive membership is 575

**2023**

* 1-22-23 Dr. Timothy Lipp was acce4,t9d as Pastor.
* 6-1-23 Anna Bass joins staff a. ,-,Iriffinancial Assistant.
* 6-18-23 Beverly Sager, Church last Sunday after 31 years of service.
* 9-10-23 Active membership 246 - !!active membership 571.
* 9-17-23 Judy Lewis, Music Director resigned effective 1-28-2024 after 37 years of service.

**2024**

* 1-7-24 Judy Lewis, Church Music Director for the past 37 years, was honored in the Morning Worship Service with a Reception in the afternoon.
* 1--7-2024 Jamie Hopper began as Church Music Director
* 2-6-24 Security Cameras were installed in the Church Sanctuary and Family Life Center
* 3-31-24 Sharon Caughron began as pianist
* 10/3/2024 Active membership is 247 and 568 inactive membership