

Bethlehem Church

Science Hill, KY
(Pulaski County)

37°08.538' N 84°40.428' W
Organized 1839
First pastor Jonas Wilson
Current pastor Gary Evans

Minutes of Fishing Creek Baptist Church state that in 1836 Jonas Wilson began preaching and later in 1839 after being ordained, he with 21 or 22 other members were dismissed to form a church at Bethlehem meeting house. Also, the minutes of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church state they sent official aid to help constitute a church at the Jonas Wilson School House.

The official aid included Elder Richard Collier. Bro. Collier was moderator of this association 1842-1862. He was moderator in 1861 when the associations were divided over how mission work was to be done, not over whether or not mission work was to be supported. He stayed with the original Cumberland River Association.

Bethlehem has had 34 pastors, some having served several times. Seven former pastors served as moderator of this association. Our association was held at Bethlehem in 1850, 1864, 1873, 1883, 1892, 1901, 1914, and 1928. I feel something should be said of two members who served this association during very difficult times in the late 1800s and the early 1900s, Elder J. Mart Shadoan, moderator and W. M. Roy as clerk. Jonas D. Wilson was the first pastor. This church continues as a strong missionary Baptist church.

The following served as pastor: Jonas Wilson, Tandy James, R. J. Shadoan, John Nelson, Joe Mart Shadoan (3 times), G. A. Sears (3 times), John Alexander, J. W. Colyer (2 times); L. B. Whiles, B. L. Bradley(2 times), W. M. Adams, U. P. Harp, W. A. Reese (2 times), Rufus Godby, Roscoe Stringer, Lonnie Meece, Lester Phelps, Wildrew Cottongim, Warren Carroll, McKinley Sears (2 times), Edmond Vanhook, Wendell Butte, Millard Drushall, Joe Gay, Pat Lawson, Michael Palmar, Edward Bray, Phillip Roy, Ernest Warren, Walter Jones, Lonnie Sewell, Lynn Shadoan, Raymond Hail, and Gary Evans.



Current Building