

THE 75 -YEAR HISTORY *of* THIS CHURCH

JULY 30, 1944 TO JULY 28, 2019

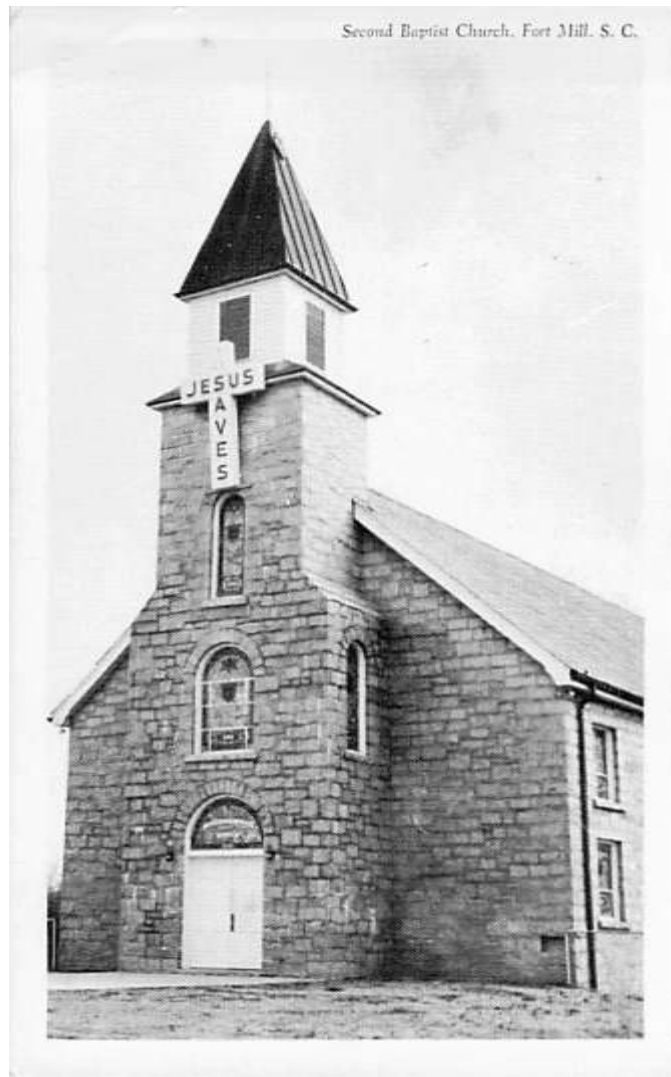


75th



Diamond

Anniversary



*little stone church house
dedicated April 11, 1948*

115 MASSEY STREET
FORT MILL, SOUTH CAROLINA
29715

2019

THE 75-YEAR HISTORY *of* THIS CHURCH

July 30, 1944 to July 28, 2019

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Down in the city of Jefferson, South Carolina, over an hour south of Fort Mill, lived a Reverend named Jasper Jewett. God's master plan brought Rev. Jewett to Fort Mill for a visit. After meeting some of the townsfolk, Jewett was introduced to SG Gordon, a resident of Fort Mill, and Gordon quickly recognized God's hand at work. The two men discussed, at length, the need for a Baptist church geared toward ministering to the community of cotton mill employees in the town, and soon God's plan began to unfold.

Arrangements were made to use the Young & Young Furniture Store warehouse on White Street as a place for the Church to gather. And on July 30, 1944 the Second Baptist Church of Fort Mill was officially organized and met in the Young & Young warehouse.



*Young & Young Furniture Store
warehouse building
White Street, Fort Mill*

Getting organized early on, the very first Deacon Ordination ceremony was held on August 25th. Also, during that inaugural year, Rev. Jewett asked to hold a revival, and Rev. Troy Griffin was invited to preach the first ever revival meeting for the church. But in October of 1945, Rev. Jewett resigned, and Rev. Grover Epps served as Interim Pastor. On the 21st of that same month, Second Baptist secured a lot on Massey Street where the first church house would be constructed, three years later. Until then, the warehouse was utilized for services, along with its old pot bellied stove used to furnish heat during the winter months. A church member named Mr. Bradley usually kept the stove full of wood and watched over it during services. Sweetly, many of the young children in the congregation thought that the long, gray beard of Mr. Bradley's made him a possibility for Moses. Either way, God kept, both, Moses and Mr. Bradley dry and warm.

REVEREND SISK & THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH HOUSE

On January 6, 1946, Rev. John Thomas (JT) Sisk, Sr. was called to serve as Pastor. Sisk had previously been the Pastor of Statesville Avenue Baptist in Charlotte and, prior to that, South China Grove Baptist Church in China Grove, NC. Before being ordained as a Baptist Minister in 1938, though, Sisk had entered the Methodist ministry, serving a number of Methodist churches in North Carolina and Zoar Methodist Church in Fort Mill, South Carolina. An attendee of High Point College, Sisk had been a school teacher prior to entering the ministry. While serving as a pastor, he was also a vocal teacher, and he lead a daily devotional radio program called "Morning Devotion", broadcast from station WTYC out of Rock Hill.

*JT Sisk on air during his time at WEGO 1410 AM
radio broadcast from Concord, NC*



Central Baptist Church News

FORT MILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

A
Spiritual
Church



For
Hungry
People

J. T. SISK Pastor
Residence Clebourne St. — Telephone 53-J
JESSE HAFNER Church Clerk
T. R. FOSTER Church Treasurer
CARL LAMBERT Sunday School Supt.
GRADY PARKS B. T. U. Director
MRS. J. T. SISK W. M. U. President
MRS. CARL LAMBERT Pianist
LESTER JONES Choir Director

WELCOME!

This is your Father's house and we rejoice
To welcome you, another child of His.
Sit with us at His feet, while His sweet voice
Shall stir our souls to world-wide sympathies,
And pray with us, as we with you will pray,
That side by side God's hosts shall battle strong,
'Til all the sin-cursed earth shall own the away
Of our Lord Christ, whose love shall vanquish wrong.

*Second Baptist Church became Central Baptist Church
from September of 1946 to September of 1947*

On September 1, 1946, under Pastor Sisk, Second Baptist Church changed its name to Central Baptist Church of Fort Mill. In the autumn of that same year, construction began

on the new church house for Central Baptist and the budding congregation. Williams Construction Company of Charlotte was selected as the General Contractor, with Jesse Hafner as Foreman. Mr. Hafner employed Charles Hafner, JT Sisk, Jr. and TR Foster to work on the project. For the next year, Central Baptist began growing and expanding under the leadership of Rev. Sisk. But in September of 1947, the name was changed back to Second Baptist Church because of a name conflict with a Central Baptist Church located in York, South Carolina.

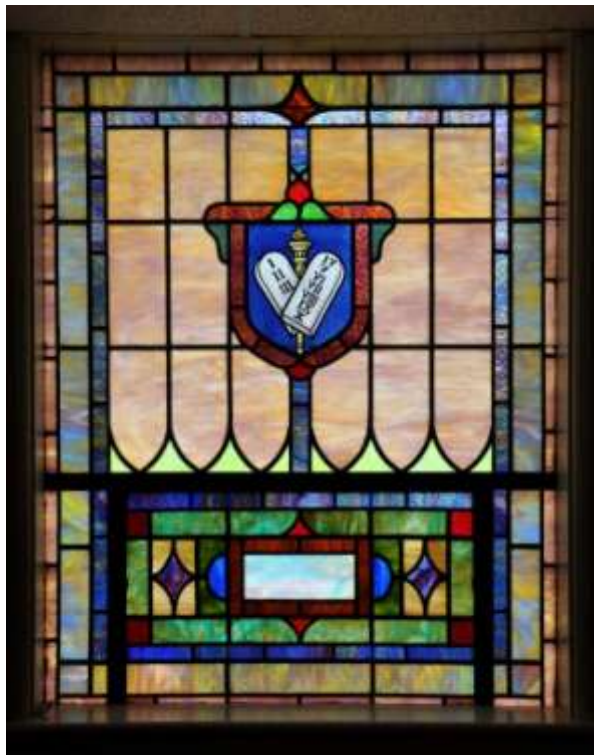


*the original sanctuary of the church house, completed in 1948
A handwritten note shows Rev. JT Sisk's place in the photo.*

The stone for, once again, Second Baptist Church came from the city of Faith, North Carolina, over an hour north of Fort Mill. It was brought to Fort Mill by freight train, and a church member named William Surratt used his truck to help haul the stone from the freight yard over to the construction site where the stone was cut right on the church

property. There was a passionate excitement and willingness to help within the congregation, so many men of the church spent numerous hours helping with carpentry, stone hauling, concrete mixing, etc. to aid in the construction of the beautiful stone church house. It was JT Sisk, Jr. who laid the final stone on the building, located up behind the steeple. Over the following years, Northside Baptist Church of Rock Hill donated a bell for the church steeple, and the pulpit furniture was donated by the First Baptist Church of Fort Mill.

Initially, services were held in the basement of the new church house until construction on the sanctuary was completed. But on April 11, 1948, the Church moved into the new sanctuary, where an all-day dedication service was held in honor of the momentous occasion. The special day consisted of a regular



*just one of the many, beautiful
stained-glass windows installed
in the 1948 church house*

morning service, and a singing service took place throughout the afternoon, hosting all the different churches of the city. Reverend John White, the York Baptist Association Missionary, delivered the evening message. In addition, all the pastors of the city stood to say a few words of inspiration and encouragement to Second Baptist Church and their new, little, stone church house on the hill.

SERVICE & GROWTH; DISASTER & HEARTACHE

The next five years of the Church saw significant increase in membership, ministries, and service to the community. On June 28, 1953, member Carl Lambert was ordained into the ministry. He served as Associate Pastor until December 1954 when he was called to pastor Temple Baptist Church in Rock Hill.

Sadly, on May 26, 1957, the church house was damaged by fire. A large portion of the interior of the sanctuary was burned and suffered subsequent water damage. Church services were held in the AO Jones Middle School, on Tom Hall Street, until the church building was rebuilt. The outpouring of love from the community helped encourage Rev. Sisk and the church family to carry on until they were back in their church house on Massey Street. The building underwent reconstruction and renovation, with the introduction of carpet and air conditioning. St. John's United Methodist Church of Fort Mill presented the church with a new pulpit Bible to replace the one lost in the fire, and this historic Bible is still on display in the Sanctuary, to date.



*historic Bible donated to Second Baptist Church
by St. John's United Methodist Church, Fort Mill, in 1957*

Second Baptist Church continued to see growth in every aspect. In March of 1958, the church called Norman Willie as Minister of Music and Minister of Education. The church was experiencing growth and excitement as never before, with new members, new staff, and a great music program.

But on the morning of July 13, 1960, tragedy struck. Reverend Sisk died of a heart attack at the age of 68. He was a true and devoted servant of God and had faithfully served Second Baptist Church for fourteen years. The congregation deeply mourned their loss.

PRESSING ON & CHANGING NAMES

With the help of Music Minister LF Crocker and the leadership of the church, they continued on, just as Rev. Sisk would have wanted. For a short time, Russell Wimmer, a ministerial student from Fort Mill, served as the Interim Pastor. But a Pulpit Committee called Rev. Lowell Ramsey on November 20, 1960 to pastor Second Baptist. Reverend Ramsey brought to the church his youthful enthusiasm and a wonderful, compassionate love for the church family. He was known throughout the York Baptist Association for his evangelistic sermons. Prior to his coming, the church purchased a new parsonage at 307 Harris Street. The original church parsonage, located beside the church house on Massey Street, was then designated for the Church Office, the Nursery and Beginner Departments, and the Pastor's Study.

During the pastorate of Rev. Ramsey, Second Baptist Church voted, again, to change their name. They wanted to honor their last beloved pastor, so they chose Sisk Memorial Baptist Church, in memoriam of Rev. JT Sisk.

Development and growth continued throughout the 1960s, with the addition of various new staff members and with church members being called into the ministry, away from Sisk Memorial. In 1961, the Church voted to employ Mrs. Juanita McDaniel as organist. She became a wonderful addition to the Church staff and worked faithfully until her death in 1985. In the same year of 1961, member Randolph Carnes was ordained as a minister. And Sisk Memorial organized a Baptist Mission in the Fort Mill community of Glen Rock, voting to have Carnes pastor the Mission. The small congregation began meeting in the workshop of Mrs. Mary Lee Ward, on Doby's Bridge Road, on September 24, 1961. And in August of 1962, Rev. Ramsey turned the first shovel of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Mission's future church house.

Rev. Ramsey resigned from Sisk Memorial Baptist in November of '62 to pastor a church in Knoxville, Tennessee while furthering his education. Upon his leaving, Rev. Raymond Long served as the Interim until SMBC called Rev. LV Bryson as Pastor on January 17, 1963.

Reverend Bryson came to Sisk Memorial from the town of Six Mile, South Carolina and had a great deal of energy and desire to see the Church succeed. He was instrumental in seeing that Sisk's finances were increased, enabling the Church to pay off such debts as the mortgage of an annex building they owned at the time. He also encouraged the SMBC Mission to become an independent church that would operate on its own budget. So on December 1, 1963, Sisk voted to officially organize the Mission into a church. In addition, there was a local church that needed space to worship. So the two combined their memberships and budgets to form Glen Rock Baptist Church. It was constituted into an official church on January 19, 1964.

During the 1960s, several ministers left Sisk to serve at other churches, including Rev. Terry Rogers, who pastored Roddey Baptist Church in Catawba until his death in 1968, and Rev. Randolph Carnes who moved to pastor Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Pageland, SC.

Years later, one of Sisk Memorial's own lay ministers, Gene Flack, went to work at Glen Rock. He became an ordained minister, and on Father's Day of 1992 Rev. Flack became Pastor of Glen Rock Baptist. To this day, Flack is still working in a marvelous way for the Lord with the good people of GRBC.

BECOMING DEBT-FREE & BUILDING UPWARD

On Homecoming Day, September 20, 1964, a special service was held. The Reverend Jasper (JJ) Jewett, the Church's first pastor, participated in the program as well as Chairman of Deacons Dencil Alsup, Treasurer Frank Stamper, Jr, and the church's youngest member, Kenny Broome. This service centered around a celebratory burning of the mortgage. By January of '65, the entire debt for the original church house was paid off, and Sisk Memorial began looking toward paying off the mortgage on the Parsonage, as well. The congregation also anticipated beginning new projects, such as constructing a building for education and the Sunday School program. By the next Homecoming Day, in 1965, yet another mortgage- burning ceremony was held; this time for the Parsonage, leaving the Church debt-free. The York Association Missionary, Rev. John White, brought the message, that day. A dedicatory plaque was placed on the front of the church house, and the service ended with the congregation singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".

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Blest Be the Tie that Binds.

JOHN FAWCETT.

HANS GEORGI NABORRE.

1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris-tian love;
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne, We pour our ar - dent pray'rs;
 3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear;
 4. When we a - sun - der part, It gives us in - ward pain;

The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
 And oft - en for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - this - ing tear.
 But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet a - gain.

*"Blest Be the Tie that Binds" was sung at the closing of
the mortgage-burning ceremony in 1964*

When Rev. Bryson resigned from being Pastor on July 18, 1965, Rev. JH Barrett from Rock Hill was called to serve as the Interim Pastor. His old fashioned style of preaching quickly won the hearts of the congregation.

Reverend Barrett served until the Rev. BA Cooper became the Pastor on December 1, 1965. Rev. Cooper had been the Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Gastonia, NC. His immense love for the congregation was very evident during his ministry at Sisk.

Throughout the following year of 1966, under Rev. Cooper, the church experienced a tremendous time of spiritual growth and awakening. A revival was held in March of that year. The Rev. Ronnie Bishop was the visiting evangelist who brought God's message, and 12 people were won to the Lord.

In June of 1966, it was voted to purchase adjoining property at a cost of \$4000. The church grounds were expanding, and so was the congregation. By the end of the year, 52 new members had joined Sisk Memorial. For the next two years, the considerable growth continued, and the ever-increasing congregation had their first Church directory to include photography; it was evident the Church family was bigger than ever.

More of the Church family was also leaving, though, and going out into full-time ministry. Among the several that left were Dennis Ellis and Norman Philbeck. Rev. Cooper also left. He resigned in October of 1968 to return back to his home community of Forest City, North Carolina.

After Rev. Cooper, then came Rev. Guy Heyl as Interim Pastor. Reverend Heyl was a retired minister from Rock Hill. And even though he and his wife only ministered at Sisk Memorial for nine months, their outstanding leadership was a great contribution to the church.

A LOVE FOR HOME MISSIONS & WITNESSING

In June of 1970, Rev. Robert Lawson was chosen to be Pastor of SMBC, bringing with him a love for home missions and witnessing. Formerly, he had been a York Baptist Association Missionary and was skilled in training people to witness. His ministry opened the eyes of the congregation to the earnest need for witnessing to anyone and everyone with whom they came in contact. His love for the people of SMBC and the community, as well as his teaching abilities, helped the church understand the importance and power of sharing the Gospel. Due to health problems, though, Reverend Lawson had to resign in August of '73.

Reverend MJ Campbell from Rock Hill served SMBC as the Interim Pastor after Rev. Lawson had to leave. Reverend Campbell worked faithfully with the church family until a new pastor could be found.

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF DEDICATION

On June 3, 1974, the Rev. Roland Dry came from Race Path Baptist Church in Ellenboro, North Carolina to pastor SMBC for the next quarter of a century. The 25 years that Rev.

Dry served at Sisk were, also, years of significant physical and spiritual advance within the congregation. His outstanding preaching and his musical talents sustained an excitement and energy for the folks on the hill. Dry and his musical family even had a singing group called The Melody Singers who performed, regularly, at SMBC. Into the next year, it was clear, there was no slowing down; this Church was growing, and they were physically running out of room.

So in 1975, plans began for construction of an adjoining church house to connect with the existing 1948 structure. Buice Construction was hired for the project, and Sisk members such as Roger Broom and Waldon Suratt volunteered innumerable hours to help with carpentry and various other tasks on the job. The Level One, Basement Floor which was used, primarily, as an educational space was fully completed, including a finished flat roof, before any further floors were added. The Church did not want to incur a large debt, so they had construction performed and completed as they could afford it.



*concrete block masonry
work for the
1977 church house*

New Educational Building



Plans are in progress to complete this structure with a new auditorium.

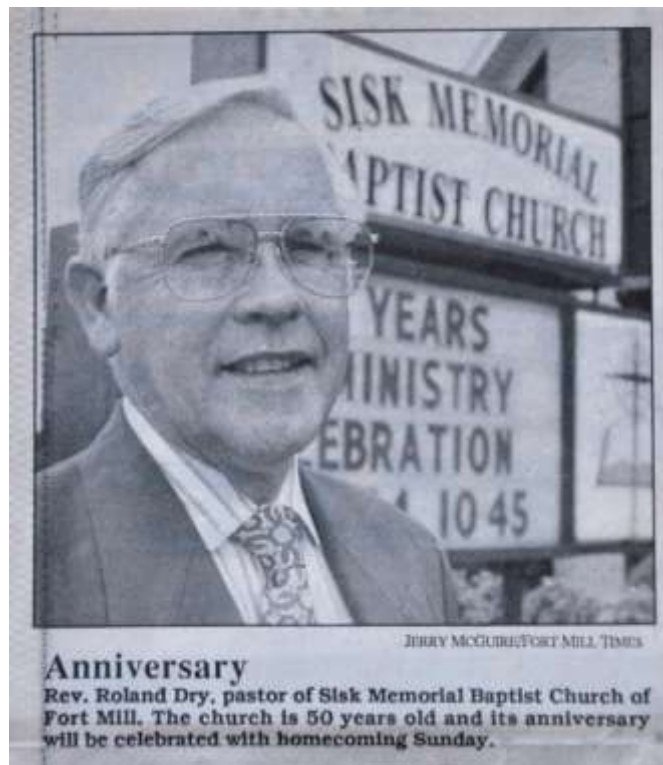
The Levels Two and Three (Floors 1 and 2) were completed in 1977, and the congregation finally had room to accommodate the vast growth they were, gratefully, experiencing. Church member Roger Broome drove the last board into place, during construction. A dedication ceremony was held on Sunday, November 20, 1977 in honor of completion of the new church house on the hill.

The passion for home missions and witnessing that Rev. Lawson had brought to the congregation was still apparent, even on into the time that Rev. Dry was at Sisk. Many ministries were started within the church in order to take the Good News of Jesus Christ out of the church house walls and into the town of Fort Mill, to other cities in South Carolina, and even to other states in the U.S. Among these were the Youth Group Choir, under Sam Goins; the Puppet Ministry; the Senior Adult Keenagers; the Clown



interior construction of the sanctuary for the 1977 church house

Ministry; and the Drama Team. This Church was definitely not sitting still or staying hidden behind their church house walls. They were getting out of their comfort zones and ministering like never before.



Sisk Memorial Baptist celebrated their 50th Anniversary on July 24, 1994

On July 24, 1994, Sisk Memorial Baptist Church celebrated their 50th Jubilee Anniversary and Homecoming. Services were lead by Reverend Dry, and the Tim Madaris Family brought the special music. Member Sylvia Stallings and her history team provided a written history of the Church, celebrating a half of a century, with copies for all to enjoy.

EXPLORING NEW MINISTRIES

Reverend Dr. Ronald Daves, originally from St. Louis, Missouri, came to Sisk Memorial as Senior Pastor on November 19, 2000 from Friendship Baptist Church in North Charleston, South Carolina. Reverend Daves was ordained into the ministry in 1985 by First Baptist Church of Gray Summit, Missouri. After completing his BA in Biblical Education at Columbia Bible College in Columbia, SC, Daves received his Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC and, in addition, went on to receive his Doctorate from SBT, as well. After preaching at a number of

churches in Arkansas and South Carolina, God brought Dr. Daves to Fort Mill to lead the SMBC congregation as Pastor. He was a doctrinally-sound teacher of the Bible, and participated in ministry activities such as the Community Outreach Team drama "Abortion Hurts Women". Reverend Daves was at SMBC until October of 2002, and Reverend Jim Herron was the Interim Pastor after Rev. Daves left Sisk.

The Reverend Dr. Larry Harrison was called to be the Senior Pastor of SMBC in November of 2004. Dr. Harrison came to Sisk from Hillcrest Baptist Church in Monroe, North Carolina. After receiving his Bachelor's from Piedmont Bible College in 1978, Harrison went on to receive, both, his Master's Degree and his Doctorate from Clarksville Theological Seminary. After being the pastor at several churches in North Carolina, Dr. Harrison and his family moved to South Carolina to be a part of the SMBC family.

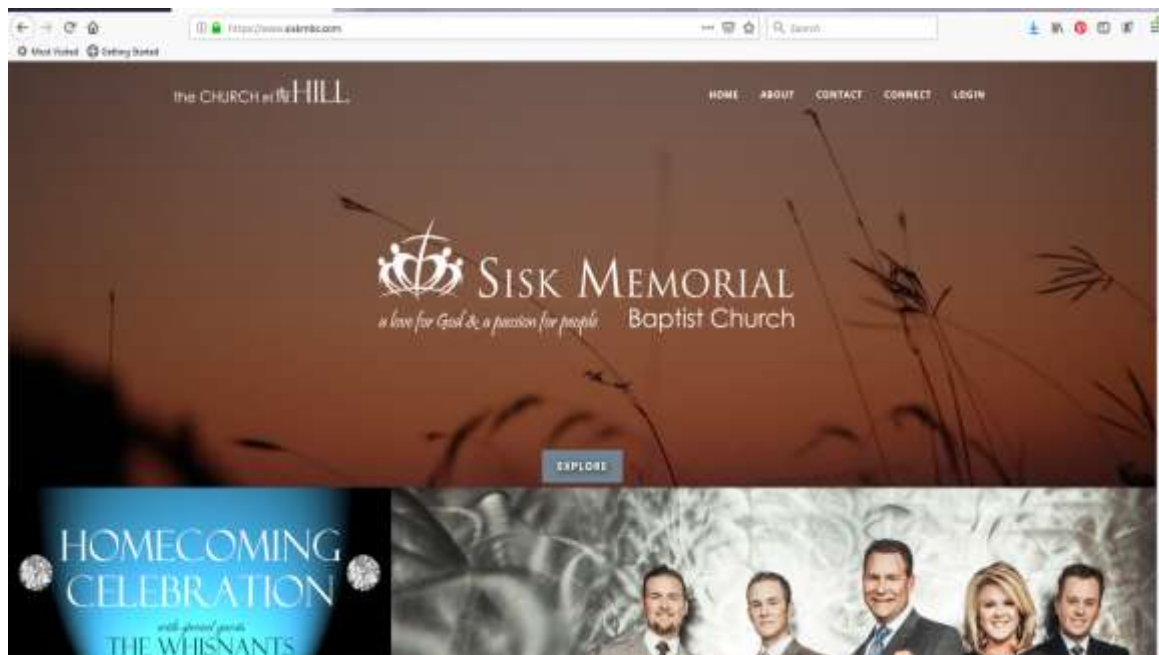
Harrison's passion for home missions was a good fit with the Church on the Hill, and the already missions-minded congregation went on to do even more work outside of their church house by hosting what they referred to as "Block Parties". Over the years, this missions venture has brought food, music, games, entertainment, witnessing, and the Word of God, all in the name and love of Christ, to Fort Mill and different cities across



The Block Party ministry has been taken out to, not only Fort Mill, but also to various cities and states and has reached hundreds of thousands of people.

South Carolina and various other states including Mississippi, Kentucky, and Ohio. SMBC even held joint Block Parties with other churches in the area, including Temple Baptist Church where Rev. Walter (Wally) Buchanan was Pastor.

Under Harrison, Sisk Memorial developed their first website in 2005, a wonderful tool for advertising the Church on the World Wide Web, the first of online-based advertising for Sisk. Harrison left SMBC in November of 2009 and went on to become Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gaston, SC.



The Church had their first website created in 2005. The current SMBC website is www.siskmbc.com.

A LOVE FOR GOD & A PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Before becoming Senior Pastor of Sisk Memorial in March of 2010, Rev. Tom Tucker served as Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Rock Hill. Pastor Tom attended Campbell University and Covington Theological Seminary. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1990 and served as pastor of churches in North Carolina and South Carolina before becoming the Senior Pastor of Sisk. Upon arriving to SMBC, he brought with him a spirit of evangelism and a commitment to the Word of God. His passions were in teaching young ministers, preaching revivals, and supporting foreign missions, especially in the country of South Africa. While Pastor Tom served at Sisk, the first broadcasting of televised sermons from SMBC began in April of 2013, and ran until September of 2017, with the help of the audio/visual team lead by church member Chris Chapman. Services were televised on the "GracePoint TV" program and aired Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings, reaching a 3-county area of York, Lancaster, and Chester. Chapman also began Sisk's first Facebook LIVESTREAM, having 400 to 500 weekly views. It began in January of 2015 and is still running strong. A worldwide radio ministry through Universal Christian Radio aired services from 2014 to 2015. SMBC services were heard by people in countries around the globe, and weekly emails were received from listeners all over the world responding to how their hearts and lives had been touched by this ministry.



Sisk Memorial Baptist Church televised services on the "GracePoint TV" program. It aired Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings, from April 2013 to September 2017, reaching a 3-county area of York, Lancaster, and Chester.

Pastor Tom served on numerous York Baptist Association and South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC) committees. In 2013, he was Chairman of the SCBC Executive Board; from 2014 to 2015 he served as the first Vice President of the SCBC. And from '15 to '16, he served as President of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Tucker was also the guest Chaplain at the House of Representatives in Washington, DC on April 22, 2015. He is a featured devotional speaker at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association offices. He also served as Dean of the Fort Mill extension of Covington Theological Seminary, which operated out of Sisk Memorial Baptist Church, before resigning in April of 2019 to devote his time to Tom Tucker Ministries.

UNTIL CHRIST RETURNS

This little church on the hill in Fort Mill, South Carolina has been through a lot in its 75-year history. It's been "on the mountain top", and it's been "down in the valley". But it has a solid foundation in the holy, immutable, infallible, indisputable Word of the one, true, matchless, divine God. Its mindset of servitude and great love for missions has touched countless lives in, not only, South Carolina but in countries across the globe. And this Church, this group of brothers and sisters in Christ, will remain strong until our Lord returns to take His children home. Because it is not the name of the church, because the name has changed over the years; nor the walls of the church house, for those have burned down; nor is it the pastors who have stood to preach, for those have come and gone... no, it is none of those that make this the Church it is. For the true Church is in the members, the body of believers. And as long as Jesus Christ tarries, the Church will still be standing in the hearts of all those who have confessed with their mouths the Lord Jesus and have believed in their hearts that God has raised Him from the dead. Those are the saved in Christ, and those are The Church.