



THE CROSS

The first meeting house of Mud Creek Baptist Church was the cotton warehouse on the Billie Wood plantation, circa 1824. There is nothing left of the old plantation now except a few rock piles. Several years ago, however, the remains of four ancient American Black Walnut trees were found in a small quadrangle next to the warehouse site. By the look of those trees, they were growing when Mud Creek Baptist Church was founded. The cross was cut from the trunk of the largest of the trees. *(compliments of and made by Bill Kitchens)*





Mud Creek Baptist Church
Established April, 1837
175th Celebration
Annual Homecoming
Saturday, May 12, 2012

Saturday, May 12, 2012, was really a very pleasant day. God blessed us with temperatures remaining in the low 70's for the entire celebration services, just as the church members had prayed for the last few weeks leading up to the big day. People gathered and decorated the cemetery with many beautiful flowers.

At 10:30 a.m., approximately one hundred church members along with family members, friends and guests assembled inside the Church to celebrate and honor this special occasion. Also, there were approximately 60, and probably more, individuals gathered outside for this celebration; they mingled around visiting with each other under the pavilion, while others looked around in the cemetery and visited family graves. I am sure we missed getting some of the attendees registered which might have possibly given us 175 attendees to celebrate the 175th, but the attendees we were able to register are as follows:

Hazel Peoples - 700 Corporate Ridge Drive - Birmingham, AL 35242
Sandra Jones - 169 Shore Front Land - Wilsonville, AL 35186
Vivian Johnson Hudson - 207 S. Mobile St. #115 - Fairhope, AL 36532
Sheila Hudson Quick, Kaylyn and Jerilyn - 25453 Overlook Drive - Loxley, AL 36551
Andrew & Jenna (Quick) Hahn - 2210 Meadow Circle Lane #4 - Memphis, TN 38154
Emogene Harmon - 9546 Mosley Road - Fairhope, AL 36532
Keith & Judy Ward - 1002 Eagle Pointe Road - Adger, AL 35006
Austin & Autumn Hall (Twins) - 3579C Bama Rock Garden Road - Vance, AL
Joe & Marie Parsons - 4320 Ridgewood Road - Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
Ken & Sandra (Staggs) Flowers - 1225 Clarendon Avenue, Bessemer, AL 35020
Claudette Nichols Foster - 507 Spring Garden Road - Birmingham, AL 35217
Susan White - 2810 Brooklane Drive - Hueytown, AL 35023
Brian White - 3477 Wildewood Drive - Pelham, AL 35126
Michael Howton - 2801 Mud Creek Road - Adger, AL 35006
Glyn Howton - 2630 Mud Creek Road - Adger, AL 35006
Rev. & Mrs. Ken Maddox - 447 River Drive - Quinton, AL 35130
(Rev. Ken-Director of Missions-Mud Creek Baptist Association)
Darlene Lawley - 1113 Johnston Road - Bessemer, AL 35023
Lura, Jane, Jennifer & Sara McBride - 12369 N. Fox Ave. Knoxville, TN 37934

Ann Fields - 8913 Lock 17 Road - Adger, AL 35006
Jan Fields Chunn - 4865 Bethesda Duplex Road College Grove, TN 37046-9259
Elaine White - 1413 Dogwood Lane (Concord) - Bessemer, AL 35023
David Parsons and daughter, Marlee - 2812 North Dr. - Helena, AL 35080
Harold & Pat Whitlock - 1974 Alliance Road - Hueytown, AL 35023
Evelyn Reynolds - 700 Handley Drive - Bessemer, AL 35023
Virginia, Dave, Steve & Corey Reynolds - 2640 Mud Creek Road - Adger, AL 35006
John & Sue Crumpton - 240 Thataway Lane - Adger, AL 35006
Frances Vines McCraw - 1438 Alliance Road - Bessemer, AL 35023
Randy & Pam (McCraw) Vines - 103 Herb River Drive - Savannah, GA 31406
Ethel P. Vines - 1821 N. 29th Avenue - Hueytown, AL 35023
Jean P. Rawline - 2327 20th Street - Bessemer, AL 35020
Greg Parsons & Wendy Reed - 1520 Patrick Street - Waverly, AL 36879
Anniece Hughes Parsons - 2758 Mud Creek Road - Adger, AL 35006
James Parsons - 6165 Cathwick Dr. - McCalla, AL 35111
Buddy Gnann - 3593 Mud Creek Road - Adger, AL 35006
Dr. Lonnelle Berg - Alabama Baptist Historical Commission
Janet Bryant Smith & grandchild, Kyle Smith - 740 Milgray Lane-Bessemer, AL 35022
Harold Davis - 3100 Valley Ford Road - Adger, AL 35006
David & Joan Lee - 60 Oak Harbour Trail - Wilsonville, AL 35186
Steve W. Johnson - 3323 Westwood Circle - Adamsville, AL 35005
Brent & Brenda Gilbert - 1980 Sunview Drive - Bessemer, AL 35023
Helen & Embry Gowers - 1401 Highway 30 Columbiana, AL 35051
Charles & Linda Prince - 3117 Mud Creek Road - Adger, AL 35006
Vicky Marcum - 1426 Edgefield Lane - Hueytown, AL 35023
Charles & Billie Golden - 2 Toadvine Road - Bessemer, AL 35023
Carolyn Smith Wesson - 22474 Blacksmith Park Road - McCalla, AL 35111
George Amon & Dorothy Parsons - 1089 Townsend Road - Woodstock, AL 35188
Eulie Connell - 10811 Old Abbott Place -Woodstock, AL 35188
Terry, Sheila, Jacob Harmon - 2237 Rocky Creek Road - Lucedale, MS 39452
Mark, Susan & Eleanor McKay - 1259 Hueytown Road - Hueytown, AL 35023
Michael, Beth, Anna, & Adam Fritschi - 140 Russet Cove Dr. - Hoover, AL 35244
Gregory D. Keith - 2207A DeFue St. - Red Bank, TN 37415
Cora & J. D. Cowen - 738 Heatherwood Dr. - Birmingham, AL 35244
Mery Claire, Britt & Jeff Cowen - 348 Turnberry Road - Birmingham, AL 35244
Heidi Glaze & friend, Ryan
Edith Scales
Dianne Melton
Juanita Wyatt
Pete & Betty Nichols - 8501 Lock 17 Road - Bessemer, AL 35023
Samuel Kyle & Nancy Staggs
Dale Evans
Ronald Blair

Peggy Burchfield Horn and daughter - Galaxy Drive - Hueytown, AL 35023
Melba Johnson Odom
Celia Harmon Wallace
Carol Scales Collins
Cathe Harmon Stute - Sherhill, Alabama
Greg Sudge - Silverhill Alabama
Wayne Johnson
Mike & Angie Johnson
Robert Eugene Foster
Buddy & Sue Saxon - 1118 Westlake Blvd. - Bessemer, AL 35010
Paul & Michele Glaze
Shaun Prince, Rae' & Brayden
Dan & Billie Watkins - 7517 Lock 17 Road - Hueytown, AL 35023
Mary Sue Fields - 1556 Toadvine Road - Oak Grove - Bessemer, AL 35023
Bill, Jane, Elizabeth and Julie Kitchens
Nellie Stringfellow
Wade & Ryina Reynolds - 3192 Mud Creek Road - Adger, AL 35006
Holly McCraw Miles & daughter, Hannah Hooper (Annie Cowen Vines'
granddaughter and great granddaughter) - 9109 Camp Oliver Road -
Adger, AL 35006
Necole, Darryl & Stacey Carter - 9201 Todd Drive - Bessemer, AL 35023
Robert Fred Harmon III, 325 Overland Road Apt. #3A - Montevallo, AL 35115
Carl Logan McCraw
Michael Norris
Barbara Johnson Snow
Royal Masters:
James (Buck) & Helen Clifton Smith (with two guests)
Steve Johnson
Tommy Drew
Greg Carter
Roselyn (Rose) Parsons Lawley - 8968 Lock 17 Road - Adger, AL 35006
Rev. Billy & Carolyn Brewer - 422 Hillside Road - Bessemer, AL 35020-6013
Ann Parsons - 2784 Mud Creek Road Adger, AL 35006

After all had gathered inside and said their welcomes and hello's, the celebration proceeded as outlined in the following program schedule (program included the following four pages).

1837 to 2012
Mud Creek Baptist Church
is celebrating 175 years of history by giving a short
history of the people and events in its' past.



The past has much to contribute to the present



WELCOME TO MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
175TH ANNIVERSARY
ADGER, ALABAMA
May 12, 2012

Pastor	Bro. Bill Brewer
Minister of Music	Ann Parsons
Pianist	Carolyn Brewer

Call to Worship (Stand) We Have Come Into His House Page 361

Opening Prayer Bro. Dave Reynolds - Mud Creek Baptist

Welcome Bro. Billy Brewer - Pastor Mud Creek Baptist

The following Hymn was the first song that was sung in our Church in 1837

Hymn I Need The Every Hour Page 450

Rev. Kenneth Maddox Director of Missions - Mud Creek Baptist Association

Hymn Royal Masters

Brief Account of Church History - Bro. Bill Kitchens - Mud Creek Baptist

Dr. Lonette Berg, Executive Director - Alabama Baptist Historical Commission

Special Music **Royal Masters**

Message "Can the Church Make a Difference" Matthew 16: 13-18
Bro. Billy Brewer - Pastor Mud Creek Baptist

Invitation (Stand) Whiter Than Snow Page 307

Recognition of Decisions

Benediction

MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
1837 - 2012

Mud Creek Baptist Church would like to thank you for your presence today as we celebrate 175 years of blessings in serving the Lord and meeting the physical and spiritual needs of so many people.

We look back and see so many lives that have been changed and many who have surrendered their life to Christ in forgiveness of their sins.

The powerful presence of the Holy Spirit has resided within the confines of this church for many years. The faithfulness of Mud Creek Baptist Church must indeed make God proud today!

Now we look forward to the challenge of new and different needs of this church and community. Though smaller in number now than in past years, we still have a great core group of people who have a burning desire to serve God. The church members are a caring and praying group, like a close knit family, who still want to faithfully serve God.

Pray for us and with us that we will be that Church!

Thank you,

Mud Creek Baptist Church

May 12, 2012

Please join us for Dinner on the Ground under the pavilion which will be followed by a gospel singing with the "Royal Masters."

THE FAITHFUL CHURCH

A little church of no renown
Stands on a country road;
Faithfully God's people come
To hear the truth that's told.
Year by year the word goes out
Without great pomp or show,
But with concern that those who hear
In faith might stronger grow.
This little church of no renown;
Stands faithful to God's name;
Though small on earth, "twill one day stand
In God's own "Hall of Fame."

End church program bulletin.

Bro. Bill Brewer, Pastor, Welcomes everyone -



Pianist: Carolyn Brewer

Song Director: Ann Parsons





**Rev. Kenneth Maddox – Director of Missions
Mud Creek Baptist Association**

**Rev. Maddox recognized the 175 years of service here at
Mud Creek Baptist Church and gave his thoughts of how
we still need the song as first sung in our church in 1837 –**

“I Need The Every Hour”

Brief Account of Church History –
Bro. Bill Kitchens Mud Creek Baptist Church –



Remarks by Bill Kitchens at the 175th Anniversary of
Mud Creek Baptist Church, May 12, 2012

Let me add my welcome to all of you here at the homecoming and 175th anniversary of Mud Creek Baptist Church. We felt this was too much of a milestone to let go by without a little fanfare. When the call was made for a volunteer to give a brief history of Mud Creek Church, I was the one not paying attention when the rest of the line took a step backwards - so here I am. Before I

begin my brief remarks on the lengthy history of this church, I want to thank those who have provided me with the material.

Many of our church family have contributed to the history of the church we now have and I want to thank all of them. But I want to give special recognition to my wife Jane, who worked very hard researching and compiling the history of the church into a little book commemorating this anniversary. We had a limited number of copies of this book printed for members of the church, a few are still unclaimed. If there is sufficient demand we can have more copies printed. We endeavored to make the book as complete and correct as possible, but sb vthere are a few mistakes and omissions. For those we apologize. Perhaps Jane's greatest mistake was in trusting my skill as a proof-reader.

I also want to acknowledge my father, Fred Kitchens for his History of Mud Creek Church written around 1984; Mr. W. B. Parsons for his histories of Mud Creek Church and Mud Creek Association and his speech at the Centennial of Mud Creek Church in 1937; and his brother Mr. W.C. Parsons for preserving so much of the early history of the church and his presentation upon the 75th anniversary of the church in 1912.

Many of us, perhaps most all of us are related in some way to the long ago members of this church whose memories we honor today. Our folks began to settle this area, a wilderness then, around 1818. They came here from the more settled areas of the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia by foot, on horseback, and by ox drawn ground sled, even a wagon couldn't get here in those days.

One Thomas H. Clarke received a federal patent in 1824 on the land where this building stands. The patent process was rather involved and Clarke certainly settled on this 80 acre parcel well before 1824. Clarke was attracted to this site by the good farmland and the year-round spring located about a hundred yards almost due north of us and just off to the west of the road. I'm guessing Clarke built a home just uphill of the spring on the west side on a site later known as the "Raney old place".

Originally known as the Clarke Spring, this spring is better known to us as the Church Spring. Somewhere along the way, a brick spring box was installed to collect and protect the spring water. The church, too, needed a good source of water in those days. "CHURCH" wasn't just a couple of hours on Sunday. Church was an all day affair with preaching, singing, fellowship, and dinner on the grounds - something like we are having today. Or, it might even have been protracted meetings and revivals lasting several days. In the span of my own recollection, people depended on the spring when wells went dry or pumps failed.

Unfortunately, the Church Spring went dry after underground coal mining a few years ago. The spring box can still be seen, however. Youth from Liberty Church generously donated time and labor cleaning up around here for our anniversary and a couple of young men cleared out the old trail to the spring. If you want to take that trail, however, watch your step. It begins just past the turn off to the old cemetery.

Across the road to the east is another parcel of land, and another spring, the Wood Spring. In 1823, John Wood was granted a patent on that property. Shortly afterwards, John sold the property to his brother William, or Billie, Wood. The

Wood family was well-to-do, and both brothers were planters and land speculators. John also had commercial interests in Fort Jonesboro, the first settlement in Jefferson County and lived there. Billie Wood built his home next to the spring, however. Later, he built a cotton warehouse.

For some reason Clarke did not continue here and he faded out of Mud Creek history. By 1837, the date of the Church founding, Billie Wood had acquired, or was in the process of acquiring, the Clarke property. He gave the Church a reservation of some 7 acres for a church. A reservation is not a deed, but was a common enough conveyance for church properties. If the church folded, or moved, the use of the land reverted to the owner. Whether he didn't expect the church to continue, or he didn't have a clear title at the time is unknown. If he expected the church would not last long, he was badly mistaken however. He did later give a deed to the church for most of the original reservation, and the generosity of several members over the years has restored most of the remainder - But I'm getting ahead of myself.

By the late 1830's, Mud Creek was a bustling community with homes and farms, water mills, a blacksmith shop off back behind the church on the old road to Tuscaloosa, and other businesses. In fact, the US Census of 1840 shows Mud Creek to be one of the main communities of Jefferson County. But they lacked one important amenity - a place of worship. Our ancestors did not venture into the wilderness alone, and they were not backward in giving thanks to the Hand that guided and preserved them.

Canaan Baptist Church was founded in Jonesboro in 1818. Canaan was a missionary minded church and planted churches in this new American country wherever needed. They helped establish Rock Creek Church (now known as "Old

Rock Creek Church") in 1824, and of course, Mud Creek Baptist Church in 1837. Most of the founders of Mud Creek Church had been members of one or both churches. It took dedication, and probably at least a full day, to travel the 10 to 12 miles (as the crow flies) between Mud Creek and Jonesboro in those days. Church services were often held only monthly for that reason, and because preachers were scarce and had to ride, or walk, circuits between churches.

Canaan Church records show that Mud Creek community asked help from Canaan in establishing their own local church. Billie Wood offered the use of his cotton warehouse for the meetings wherein Mud Creek Baptist Church was organized and initial worship services held. A small grove of ancient Black Walnut trees marked the site of Billie Wood's place for many years. They were undoubtedly there when Mud Creek Church was organized. The cross on the wall was cut from the trunk of one of the trees as a link to those early days.

That warehouse was not the "Mud Creek Church" we understand; nor was the log church house or any of the other structures built to house the church. Even this fine old building, dating to 1906 (106 years ago), is not Mud Creek Baptist Church. Mud Creek Baptist Church is the baptized body of believers meeting in this local, visible assembly - a part of a far older and far larger body.

We wonder about those long ago ancestors - what were they like. We can answer that, in part, by looking at ourselves. They were people like us, sinners in need of a savior, some who perhaps walked more closely with their savior than others, often seeing things differently, some perhaps who were trusting to good works for their salvation, rather than in trusting the nail scared hands.

If people were much the same, it stands to reason that the world they lived in was much the same also, only names and faces were different. The year 1837 had its share of wars, earthquakes, famines, riots, plagues. Our 7th President, Andrew Jackson, had just left office in March, being succeeded by Martin van Buren. The Seminole War was raging in Florida. Just a year after the Alamo, the Republic of Texas was getting on its feet. A French separatist uprising in Canada was suppressed by the British Army. Queen Victoria began her long reign.

Life in this area was roiled by religious controversy, sometimes violently, between so-called "Old Baptists" who opposed missions, Sunday Schools and ministerial education and those who supported them. Canaan and Mud Creek threw in with the pro-missions group.

Slavery was another source of controversy and heart-ache to blacks and whites. Sometimes called "the peculiar institution", slavery was certainly that, and difficult for us to understand. Several early members of the church were slaves. I have always heard that a slave pastored this church for a time during the Civil War but the records of that period are incomplete and it can't be confirmed. The records do show a "colored" preacher, who would have been a slave, preaching here after the war.

When Billie Wood made the reservation for the Church, he also made reservations for separate cemeteries for whites and slaves. Neither were specifically made to the church, but reserved for community use as cemeteries. We believe that they were existing cemeteries before the reservations. Mr. G. W. Raney later gave a deed to the Church for the old white cemetery, known as Cemetery 1. As far as we can tell, Mud Creek Baptist Church has never had title to

the old slave cemetery. We have done a little cleaning up around it, thanks to the Liberty youth group. It is now marked with a Jefferson County historical marker.

Many of the charter members and other early members of this church are buried in those cemeteries. Many are in graves marked only by rude stones with no inscription; some have no marker at all. Billie Wood however, has an elaborate marble tomb. The inscription on it reads:

“In Memory of William Wood, Son of Captain Moses Wood of the Revolutionary War, Born in S. Carolina, Died in Jefferson County, Alabama 1861, Age about 85 years”

If we do a little math, subtracting 85 from 1861, we discover that Billie Wood was born about 1776. Talk about a link with history! But as much as we love the heritage we have of American pioneers and patriots, it is the heritage we have in Jesus Christ that is of utmost importance to us, as it was to the founding fathers of our nation and our church.

Sixty-one years after America's Founding Fathers issued the Declaration of Independence, a small group of men and women met about a hundred yards from here and issued another declaration. I want us to take a couple of minutes now to remember that statement. There are a few copies here and there if you want to follow along.

Solemn Covenant of Mud Creek Church of Christ of United Baptist*

Abstract of Principles: Articles of Faith Adopted April, 1837

(* name changed on second day)

Whereas, it is the incumbent duty of those who are favored with a dispensation of the Grace of God, to embrace His Covenant, acknowledge His Government, profess His name, and unite in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, we whose names are hereunto annexed do now in the presence of the Great Eternal God who knows the secrets of all hearts and in the presence of angels and men acknowledge ourselves under the most solemn obligation to be the Lord's and do solemnly agree to keep up and maintain a regular Gospel Discipline among ourselves by the help and assistance of the Holy Spirit. And we further pledge ourselves to attend to the following Abstract of Principles.

1. We believe in the only true and living God and that there are three persons in the Godhead, i.e., The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. John 5:7.
2. We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the words of God and the only words of Faith and Life. 2 Timothy 3:16, Isaiah 8:20.
3. We believe in God's free Electing Love through Jesus Christ and that all God's chosen people shall be called regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:4-5.
4. We believe in the Doctrine of Original Sin. Isaiah 51, Romans 3:11.
5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will and ability.
John 6:44, Ephesians 2:8.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Romans 4:6
7. We believe that the saints shall persevere in Grace and never fall finally away. John 6:39, I Peter 1:5.
8. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Gospel Ordinances and that true believers are the subjects of these Ordinances and that the only Gospel mode of Baptism is by immersion and that no person has a right to the Lord's Supper until he has been regularly baptized on profession of his faith. Acts 8:38, Acts 10:47.
9. We believe in the resurrection of the Dead and in a general Judgment. John 5:28-29.
10. We believe that the punishment of the wicked and the joys of the righteous saint will be eternal. Matthew 25:46.
11. We believe it right to assemble ourselves together often to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Hebrews 10:25.
12. We believe it right to maintain the Gospel by supporting the ministers and setting them at liberty. 1 Corinthians 9:14, Leviticus 10:7.
13. We believe it to be our duty particularly to respect and submit to civil government as an ordinance of God. *Romans 13:1-7
(* scripture reference left off of record, I added in this scripture as one probably included in the original)

14. We believe in the observance of the Sabbath day to be of moral obligation and that it is our indispensable duty to lay aside all unnecessary secular concerns, restraining our families from profaning that Holy Day and instruct them to attend to the duties of religion. Exodus 20:8, Isaiah 50:2.

Adopted by members of the church, whose names are hereunto annexed:

Names of Males:

John P. Woodson

Wych Goodwin

Joseph M. Brown

W.D.T. Culbertson

Randolph Johnson

Curtis Howton

Thomas Birchfield Sr.

Mark Goodwin

William Wood

Names of Females:

Nancy Woodson

Tabitha Goodwin

Jane Brown

Narcissa Culbertson

Elizabeth Johnson

Dorcus Howton

I am just about to the end of my remarks, but I want to close out with a brief quote from Mr. W. B. Parsons who spoke here at the centenary of Mud Creek Baptist Church in 1937 – 75 years ago.

“A century may be a short time in the history of the universe; but this has been a century of great change and progress in economical and temporal (worldly) development. Sad, indeed, it is

that our spiritual development has not kept pace with our temporal development. This is why our world affairs are so much unbalanced.

Several churches in Alabama have recently celebrated their Centennial years. It is a fact worth more than passing notice that our churches are among our oldest institutions. They surely have been founded on the Rock of Ages.

It was upon the Rock of the Bible that this nation was founded. Usually the first building in a community has been a church where the people might study the Bible. The first literature in this country was religious, and the first education was by the church.

Now, we have been looking back over the past hundred years. But we should be looking both ways in time in celebrating this centennial. And, perhaps, as Mud Creek extends one hand to the past and the other to the future, the spirits of the pioneers may be looking on and approving that while the one hand is pointing to the past, the other has been joined in its gesture to the future.

There are those who wonder if this country will continue to prosper and progress unless it keeps close to that Book of Books, which has played so far such an important part in our history.

What will the next one hundred years bring? Who knows?

Let us adjourn to April 18, 2037, 100 years from now. No one present today will be there. Or will this be the last Centennial meeting?

Well, we are 3/4 of the way there now, but the question still remains - will there be another centennial? I hope so, and I hope to see some of you here; after all, I will be only 89. If not, hopefully our children and grandchildren will meet here while we celebrate the second centennial of Mud Creek Baptist Church along with all those members who have gone on before.

Thank you for granting me a little of your time this morning,

God Bless



End Bill Kitchen's Brief Account of Church History

Following Bill Kitchen's Church History, Dr. Lonette Berg, Executive Director-Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, presented a plaque to Brother Bill Brewer recognizing the great and powerful blessings of the church through the many years of witness and service.



Morning Message delivered by Brother Billy Brewer:



Message For:

Homecoming – Saturday, May 12, 2012

175th Anniversary of

Mud Creek Baptist Church

“Can The Church Make A Difference Today?”

Can the Church Make an Impact? Can it change people; re-kindle the Spirit and Fire in people’s hearts? Matthew 16: 13-18. Has the Impression of the Church changed?

In the summer of 29-30 A.D., Jesus called His disciples together for an inventory of their effectiveness, as churches today take inventory every so often. Jesus drew from them the answer to two major questions. This is the same questions that might be asked of the church today.

1. Are we making any difference as we minister today?
2. Will we make any difference in the future?

As my Disciples, do You believe in the message? Jesus knew for His ministry to be effective/change people, the disciples must believe in Him.

Are we really making any difference to people in the World today? Is our ministry really important to us? With years of Christian history behind us, this is a legitimate question for the church to ask today. Are we just existing and biding time? Are we making a difference? For our church's ministry to be effective now and in the future, we must believe in God's Plan of Salvation thru Jesus.

1. Believe in the Power of Prayer (personal relationship).
2. Believe in Power of the Holy Spirit to Convict.
3. Believe in God's Word, the Holy Bible to allow God to speak to us and direct our paths of ministry and path of Life!

As the Church of 2012 takes a long look at its self here in Matt. 16:13-18, Jesus and His Disciples were searching for an answer! Can the Church make a difference? I say YES!

I SAY YES; I base my answer on the fact. God is still the same, He has not changed. He is able and sufficient to work through us to make a change in the Hearts and Lives of people. His plan of Redemption through Jesus Christ has not changed! Question – same as always, are we ready and willing to allow God to Use Us?

Matt. 16:13-18, 21-24; 'CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE'? Jesus and His Disciples were searching to find the significance and impact of their ministry. In the summer, 29-30 AD; what was the world having to say about their work and ministry? View the church and its ministry today!

1. Does the world even know about the church's ministry?
2. Are people excited about it? Are people willing to sacrifice and give up something to come and listen?
3. Do people know the message the church has for them?

4. Is the church making a difference? Most people say the church is just doing enough to APPEASE GOD!

We need to be changing people's hearts and re-kindling the spirit and fire in the heart and soul of people!

1. Are we making an impact or are we slowly dying?
2. We need to make an immediate change.
3. People are still seeking God.
4. Create a revival spirit among people
5. Do an about face from SIN to SECURITY IN JESUS!
6. We should be causing people to evaluate their HEART AND SOUL!

And YES, We here at Mud Creek Baptist Church after 175 years are not too old to not make a difference! But before we can make a difference, we who compose the fellowship called Church, must understand that the Church is something we are and not just something to which we belong. We are not just four walls of a building. We must be alive in the community. WE MUST BE ALIVE! An example as related in Mark; Jesus was walking one day by the Sea of Galilee when He spotted some men who were mending their nets and complaining about how difficult it had been to 'catch' fish. As Jesus approached them, He said "Come, follow me and I will make you to become fishers of men". Immediately, without hesitation, they left their fishing business and did as Christ asked. In different ways, all of Jesus' disciples were called forth from various Walks of Life! There they go – a foolish looking group, small in number but to make a difference in their day and time. They had no written creed or organization to fall back on. They had no education, no finances and no building to meet in. All they had was a man called Jesus who had asked them to help Him redeem the time in which they lived. As they committed themselves to His person, they became something! They were living testimonies to compassion, understanding, patience, caring, and forgiveness!

A Church in the Eyes of the World! Today, in the eyes of the world, we are just like these men – Foolish (you and I). Wasting our time seeking to change a society that is unconcerned, too deep in sin, and saying by their actions "Leave us alone", we don't need you or your way of life! "Leave me alone"! Because of this, many say the Church has more or less conformed to the ways of the world and simply do just enough to appease God. As Jesus and His Disciples made a difference in their day – we must commit ourselves to make that difference that will change

Lives today. In 2012, we cannot be a church that: 1. Conforms, 2. Appeases the listening ear, 3. Gives over to worldly ways and standards, 4. We cannot be embarrassed to boldly take our stand for Jesus each day, 5. We cannot be a church that teaches and preaches what the world wants to hear!

Edgar A. Guest: renowned Biblical scholar said “God sends no churches from the skies – out of our hearts they must arise”. The church can really make a difference when we decide to become Men and Women of GOD!

End of Message Delivered by:

Rev. Billy R. Brewer

Pastor: Mud Creek Baptist Church

From 2007 till Present



MCBC 175th Celebration Dinner under the pavilion.









Julie Kitchens

(Daughter of Bill & Jane Kitchens)

After spending the day enjoying all the festivities of our 175th anniversary, Julie returned for a visit with us on Sunday, June 17th, and gave us a brief announcement of her future plans to travel to American Samoa to work in foreign missions teaching of Christ's love and also to teach academics in the schools. The Church presented her with a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to help in her endeavors in foreign missions.





May 12, 2012, Annual Homecoming, George Amon Parsons
arriving to place flags on Veterans' graves

Royal Masters



Cemetery No. 1



Curtis & Dorcas Howton (founding members)

Cemetery #1 – Wm. (Billy) Wood’s Crypt, one of the founding members



Cemetery No. 2



Dan & Billie Watkins arriving to attend church services.



Pictures displayed on porch Homecoming Saturday May 12, 2012. Top left Thomas Melvin Parsons, Top right Dorcas Howton.



We want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all the workers that helped to clean the church, church grounds and cemetery for the couple of months leading up to the 175th anniversary – just to name a few:

Bro. Billy Brewer, Brent Gilbert, Corey and Dave Reynolds, Keith Ward, Bill Kitchens, Terry Harmon, Rickey Scales, Liberty Baptist Church (Alliance) Youth Group, Carolyn Brewer, Ann Parsons, Virginia Reynolds, Jane Kitchens, Brenda Gilbert, Anniece Parsons, Lizzie Kitchens, Rose Lawley; we apologize if we have missed anyone.



Keith Ward Dave Reynolds Brent Gilbert

The above are additional active Mud Creek Baptist Church members that participated to help to make the 175th Celebration a success.