

A History of First Baptist Church Albertville

In August of 1883, sixteen members met to organize Albertville's first Baptist church. For approximately seventeen years this growing congregation assembled in the church's first house of worship, located on West Main Street, near the Old Albertville Cemetery. The land for the first church was provided by its first pastor, S.T. Collier in 1901, the congregation moved into a new building at the present East Main Street Location. On the first Sunday in April of that year, a formal dedication was held.

In 1910, during the pastorate of Rev. A.B. Metcalfe, the Alabama Baptist Convention was held in the small town of Albertville. During the opening session of the convention, the congregation was led in singing the hymn "I Would Follow Jesus." For 125 years, the message of that song has been the church's singular goal.

With all the many forms of community outreach that the church has exercised throughout the years, there has been none more dear to the congregation's heart than the performance of the Lord's Great Commission. Beginning in 1907, the church began sending workers into the mission field. The first was Dr. T.O. Hearn, a medical missionary, who was dispatched to China. He would be followed by Clarabell Isdell McDonald, who was sent to China in 1936, and Dr. Martha Hagood, also a medical missionary, who was first sent to Japan in 1953, then later to Africa.

Since that time the church has sent out missionaries throughout the world, stretching from the Orient to the Mediterranean. Today, we, the spiritual heirs of these first sixteen members gather to celebrate this legacy of faith, knowing it is our responsibility to pass the work along to the generations that follow us.