

JUBILEE MOMENT #2 1869-1893

During this trying time following the war, the Baptist Church of Christ at Black Springs faced many changes and hardships. Even through this the church remained strong in their faith, but they still held fast to the belief that they should hold each other accountable for their actions.

One of the changes which took place during this time frame was that the newly emancipated members asked to have their services separate which was approved. Brother J. A. Shivers who served as pastor during this time still served as their pastor. Approximately one year later they had completed their own building and asked for their letters to be moved to the new church. This could be said to be the first “planter church” for Black Springs. We have no record of the name of the newly formed body of Christ.

Other noted recordings include one member who brought himself before the church for “communing with Methodists,” but was later excluded from church fellowship. I guess he didn’t stop communing.

In 1872 two acres on the west side of the church was purchased to be used as the church cemetery. One woman was charged with dancing but made no apology because she felt she had done nothing wrong and asked to be erased from the roll book, the church building was to be enclosed underneath, a man and woman were excluded and not forgiven for adultery, “Prayer & Praise” was adopted as the church music, (they had praise hymns way back then). In December of 1889 a resolution was adopted which stated “We will not retain any person or persons that engage in the manufacture of spirituous liquors for gain.” In 1893 the church subscribed for song books at the cost of \$4.75, but no mention of how many this purchased.

In 1893 a discipline committee which consisted of five members was appointed. The rules to govern this committee were:

1. They shall take cognizance of all cases of absentees when said absence shall amount to three successive monthly meetings.
2. They shall hear reports of disorder, investigate the same and if said report is found to be false they shall report the same to the church together with their findings.
3. Should they find the report to be true, then they shall try to restore each one in the spirit of the Master and upon such times as will hold the spirit of a wholesome Christian discipline and should they succeed in so doing they shall report the whole matter to the church together with the results of their labors.

4. Should they fail in their efforts s defined above then they shall report the fact to the church together with such recommendations as in their judgement seems best for the cause of Christ.
5. It shall be the duty of every member of the church to acquaint said committee with any and all rumors derogatory to the character of any member.
6. No member shall be reported to the church for disorderly conduct until he or she first be reported to this committee.
7. It shall be the privilege of any member in good standing to complain to the church of any failure upon the part of said committee to discharge their duties as set forth provided they first make their report to said committee.
8. Should rumors or charges be preferred against any member of said committee then he shall be relieved from duty while investigating his own cause.

Prior to the formation of this committee reports of misconduct were heard at conference and individual members were appointed to look into each matter.

Grief swept the church body in June of 1893. S. C. Leonard who had served as a past pastor for many years died. It was resolved that the pulpit be draped in black for mourning for three months.

Eight pastors led the church during this 25 year period.