

## Union Baptist Church of Rembert SC Inc. History

Union Baptist church was founded in 1880. The first members of the church held services under a bush arbor, with Rev. Hunter serving as the first pastor. The conception of these services began with Janie Boykin (great-grandmother of Daisy Boykin). The land on which these services were held was owned by Jimmy DuPree. After observing the group holding its worship services, Mr. DuPree deeded an acre of land to Sandy Holiday, Sr. (grandfather of Nancy Bennett). A church building was erected on the site and the name Union Baptist Church was suggested by Millie Boykin (wife of Henry Boykin) and agreed to by the congregation. Rev. Hunter continued to serve as pastor after the building was completed. The Rev. Simon Taylor served as the second pastor, followed Reverends Friday Kershaw, and Isaac Taylor. Under Rev. Taylor's pastorate, the first church building was torn down and a new one erected. He was succeeded by Rev. Lewis W. Cuttino who served for 18 years, until his death. The size of the congregation increased significantly under his leadership. Upon the death of Rev. Cuttino, Rev. Henry W. White became pastor and served for 11 years. Rev. J. C. McGill succeeded Rev. White and served for 3 years. Rev. Hasco A. Alexander served as pastor for 28 years, until his death in March, 1974. During his leadership the church building was remodeled, a Sunday school building was built and the membership continued to grow and the church continued to progress. In August 1974, Rev. Willie Dennis began serving as pastor of Union Baptist Church and we have seen the church continue to progress. The church building was completely remodeled to increase the size of the sanctuary, add a dining room, fellowship hall and classrooms for our Sunday school. The membership steadily increased during Rev. Dennis' leadership.

The Deacon and Trustee Boards has long been a part of the Church and have contributed to the administrative and financial leadership of Union Baptist Church. There are many organizations within the Church and they have made noteworthy contributions to the life and operation of the Union. Some of the ministries/organizations and their year of organization are: Sr. Missionary, 1926; Sr. Ushers, 1933; Jr. Missionary, 1951; Young Adult Choir, 1959; Trustees Wives, 1961; Junior Choir, 1968; Gospel choir, 1969; Youth Dept., 1972; Adult Choir, 1972; Deacon Wives, 1972; Y.W.A., 1975; Pastor's Aide, 1977; Sunbeam choir, 1977; B.T.U., 1977.

Our Church building was completely destroyed by fire on April 18, 1987. On Easter Sunday, April 19, 1987, we held church services and partook of Holy Communion under tents on the site where our Church once stood. The church building was destroyed; But, not Union Baptist Church. **"The people are the church"** and we have been working hard to rebuild our Church home. During the time we were without a physical building, special services were held at our neighboring churches (Pine Grove AME church, Mt. Pisgah, and Mt. Bethel

Baptist Churches and we held our regular Sunday services at Rafting Creek Elementary School. The Lord continued to bless us and we started celebrating "Homecoming on the first Sunday in July because we officially marched into our new church building on July 3, 1988.

The church was erected on property donated by Mr. Jimmy Dupree; but, as the years has gone by Mr. Patrick Dennis and his family has sold land to the church below market value as well as donated property and cleared trees from the property free of charge.

The above history ended almost 26 years ago. Since that time (under Pastor Dennis' leadership) the church has made many improvement. The largest improvement to date is the addition of the Union Baptist Church's Family Life Center (FLC). The center was erected to provide a place for the congregation and community to meet and fellowship. In addition to a fellowship hall the FLC has a regulation size gym and the outside is equipped with a regulation size baseball/softball diamond.

Still under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Willie Dennis, The membership saw the need to have restrooms and a wheelchair ramp located in the front of the church. After much prayer and supplication and with the approval of the church membership, in May 2015 the renovation project was completed.

Rev. Dennis officially retired from being the Under-Shepherd of Union Baptist Church on the 1st Sunday in September, 2014 and the church elected Rev. Walter Robertson III as its 10th pastor in July 2015. In just a few short months the spiritual and physical growth of the church is evident under Pastor Robertson's leadership.

On Saturday, June 4, 2016 the church building was completely destroyed by fire for the second time in less than 30 years; but, in the mist of the storm we still rejoice. After many tears and continued praises to God for His continued mercies and while the first responders were still fighting the blaze, members of the congregation worked together preparing the Family Life Center for Sunday morning services.

It's been a little over a year since the fire and on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at 3:00 in the afternoon under the leadership of Pastor Walter Robertson, III the groundbreaking ceremony for the new sanctuary of the Union Baptist Church of Rembert SC Inc. was held.

**WE PRAY GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSINGS ON ALL OUR LIVES**