



**Camellia Baptist Church**

# HEARTBEAT

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

MARCH 2025



## History of Camellia

The vision for what would become Camellia Baptist Church began when Rev. Garner M. Clark saw the need to plant a church in one of the new residential areas of Prattville.

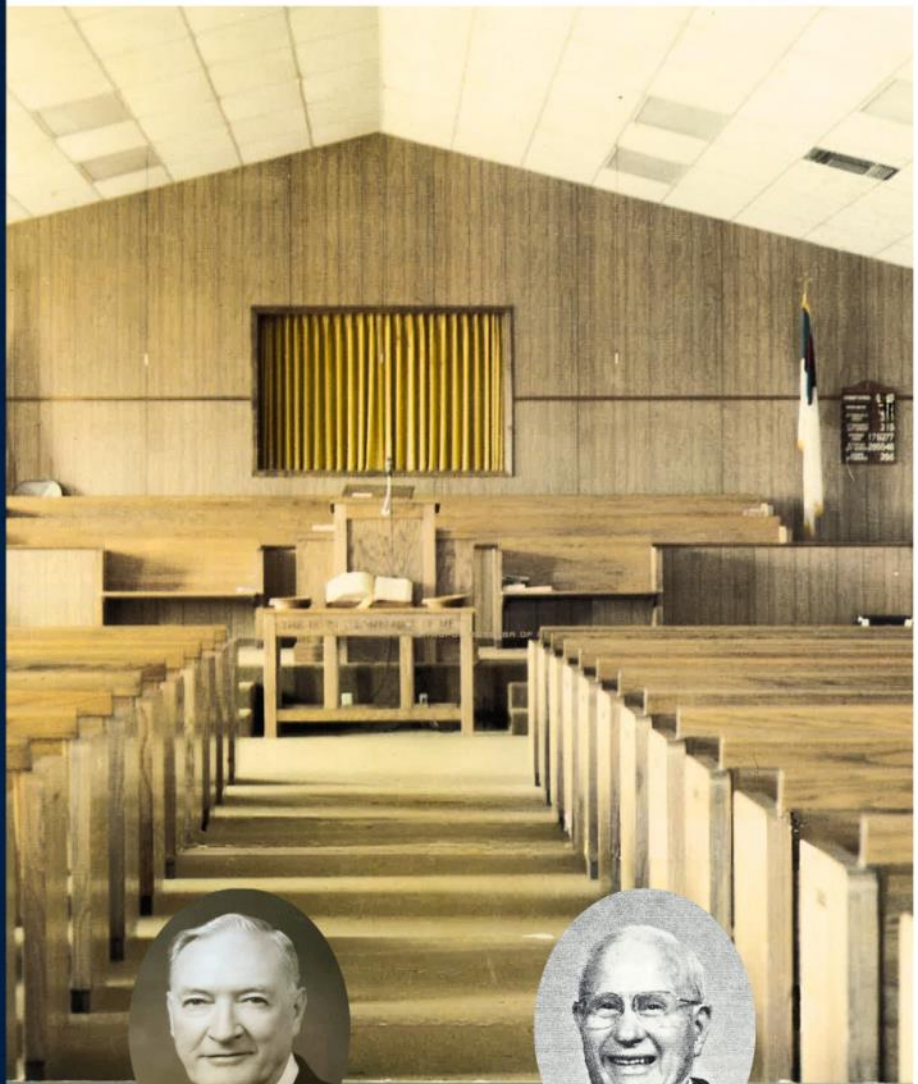
Following much prayer by Rev. Clark and the Deacons of Crestview Baptist Church, land was purchased on the corner of Woodvale and Sixth Streets.

On November 18, 1973, members of Crestview Baptist Church gathered on the newly purchased property, lifted a prayer of thanksgiving, and dedicated the property to God.

Committees were formed to plan for the first building, select officers, and call a pastor. On March 2, 1975 Reverend Clayton Shaw was called as Interim Pastor.

This was followed by the election of church officers, teachers, trustees, and committees. The adoption of The Constitution and By-Laws was established.

On Easter Sunday, March 30, 1975, the first worship service was held in the new building with 219 in attendance. At 3:00 pm that day, the church was constituted as Camellia Baptist Church.



REV. GARNER CLARK



REV. CLAYTON SHAW





# Charter Members

## March 30, 1975 - April 30, 1975

Alice Baker  
James Baker  
Calvin Barnes  
Gayla Barnes

### **Oma Barnes**

Gina Barnes  
Jack Battle  
Marie Battle  
Deborah Beasley  
Catherine Beasley  
Clynon Berry  
Charlene Berry  
Beverly Berry (Kohn)  
Marti Berry  
David Blackwell

### **Betty Blackwell**

### **Cyndi Blackwell (Freeman)**

Patti Blackwell (McKinney)  
Sid Blackwell  
Jerry Bloodsworth  
Becky Boles  
Bill Boles, Sr.  
Bobo Boles  
Terri Boles (McCreless)

### **Debbie Bowen**

Essie Boyette  
Buddy Cabiness  
Earlene Cabiness  
Billie Cothron  
Bob Cothron  
Fred Cothron  
Guy Cothron

### **Patti Cothron (Smith)**

F. E. Chapman  
Gloria Chapman  
Hattie Chapman  
Pat L. Chapman  
Terry Chapman  
W. L. Chapman  
David Coleman  
James Coleman  
Jan Coleman (Bellflower)  
Mike Coleman  
A. R. Colley, Jr.  
Judy Colley  
Marc Colley  
Tammy Davis  
Evelyn Dawson  
Hurshell Dawson  
Dallas Dunlap  
Mary Dunlap  
Nell Foust  
Vergil G. Foust  
Clara Gaylor  
John F. Gaylor

Catherine Gibbons

Bobbie Gray

Joel Gray

Joey Gray

### **Kim Gray (Harris)**

Edwin Geoghegan

### **Hilda Geoghegan**

Paul Hall  
Rick Hammond  
Deborah Lynn Henson  
George Henson  
Charley Hester  
Danny Hester  
Frank Hester  
Thomas Hester  
Una Hester

Dorothy Hill McClary

### **Janice Holmes (Miller)**

Wayne Holmes

### **Becky Jackson**

Horace Jackson  
Levi John  
Gladys Johns  
Linda Jones  
Loette Jones  
Robert Jones  
Edward Kelley  
Larry Kelley  
Margaret Kelley  
Marie Kelley  
Peggy Kelley  
David Knight  
Dena Knight  
Jane Knight

### **Billie Joyce Lazenby**

### **Lamar Lazenby**

Dr. Boude Leavel  
Cindy Leavel  
Edith Leavel  
Danny Lynn  
Judy Lynn (Gay)  
Andy McNeal  
Charlene McNeal  
Clyde McNeal, Sr.  
David McNeal  
Debbie McNeal  
Diane McNeal (Hall)  
Douglas McNeal  
Janelle McNeal

### **Joe McNeal**

Mack McNeal

### **Marie McNeal**

Melody McNeal

Sharon McNeal

### **Thomas McNeal**

Violet McNeal

William McNeal

Fletcher Martin  
Brenda Matthews  
Jerry B. Matthews  
Elizabeth Matthews  
George Mayo  
Oma Mayo (Glenn)  
Faye Minor (Sledge)  
Joyce Minor

### **Ross Minor**

Betty Joe Morris  
Joseph Morris, II  
Mrs. Joseph Morris  
Joseph Morris, III  
Harold Morrow  
Jackie Morrow  
Ricky Morrow  
Terri Morrow  
Bettye Norris  
Joel Norris  
Lawrence E. Norris (Sarge)

Margaret Norris  
Phillip Joel Norris  
Jane Northington (Baker)  
Sue Northington  
Wanda Northington (Gause)  
Walter Northington  
Elton W. Norwood  
Phillip D. Norwood  
Timothy W. Norwood  
Era Pruitt  
Esther Raines  
Lucious G. Raines  
Gerald Ratliff

### **Johnny Ratliff**

Kandy Ratliff

Mark Ratliff

### **Maurine Ratliff**

Nancy Ratliff  
Paul Ratliff  
Camellia Ray  
Donald Ray, Jr.  
Donald Ray, III  
Mildred Ray  
Scott Ray  
Frances Roberts  
Otis Roberts  
Elza E. Rollan, Jr.  
Norma Ruth Rollan

Robert Morgan Rollan  
Karen Sampley  
Rev. Clayton Shaw  
Opal Shaw  
Pat Shipp

### **Cindy Shugart**

### **Martha Shugart**

Wayne Shugart  
Bill J. Smith  
Carlton Smith  
Christopher J. Smith  
Mary Ellen Smith  
Pam Smith  
Diane Sowell

### **Helen Sowell**

### **Jack C. Sowell, Sr.**

J. C. Sowell, Jr. (Rusty)  
Randy Sowell  
William Sowell  
Rev. Dewey Spradlin  
Mrs. Dewey Spradlin  
Donna Sparks  
Larry Sparks  
Linda Sparks  
Gwyn Stieringer  
Joe Stieringer  
Joe Stieringer, Jr.  
Lynn Stieringer  
Peggy Stieringer  
Gertie Stripling  
William Raymond Stripling  
Jean Towns  
Tony Towns  
Marilyn Walker  
Ray Walker

### **Mary Warren**

Rosa Warren  
Troy Warren  
Vesta Warren  
Henry Louis Webb  
Jimmie Lou Webb  
Barbara Williams  
Jeanette Williams  
Lester Williams  
Louise Wilson  
Gathel Wynn  
Peggy Wynn

### History of Camellia (Cont.)

The charter members of Camellia Baptist Church totaled 207 with 183 members transferring from Crestview Baptist Church and 24 members from other churches.





### History of Camellia (Cont.)

Rev. Clayton Shaw served as interim pastor until July 23, 1975, when he was called as the first Senior Pastor of Camellia Baptist Church. He served in that role until his retirement in March 1977.

God's continued faithfulness is seen through the provision of senior leadership. Throughout the life of Camellia, she has called 5 Senior Pastors: Rev. Clayton Shaw, Rev. Charles Freeman, Rev. Glenn Brock, Rev. Mark Stokes, and Rev. James Taylor.



**Rev. Clayton Shaw**  
(March 1975 – March 1977)



**Rev. Charles Freeman**  
(July 1977 – October 1982)



**Rev. Glenn Brock**  
(July 1983 – July 2006)



**Rev. Mark Stokes**  
(August 2007 – July 2017)



**Rev. James Taylor**  
(September 2020 – Present)





Norma Rollan - Librarian



Mullet Gibbons - Pianist



Hilda Geoghegan - Organist



Deacons (1977)



Margaret Norris  
Clerk & Secretary  
(1977)



Jim Minor  
Minister of Youth  
& Music



# The First Few Years



## History of Camellia (Cont.)

For 50 years, God has faithfully provided leadership in the ministries of Music, Youth, Children, and Senior Adults (Young at Heart). Through the years, Camellia has taken the gospel to the nations through local missions, international mission trips, and Operation Christmas Child. In 1984, Camellia began ministering to families and children through the Weekday Education Ministry's Kindergarten program. This ministry is now known as Camellia School.

After it's establishment on March 30, 1975, Camellia continued to grow:  
1975: first building with education space, fellowship hall, and kitchen  
1977: Auxiliary Building for Administration  
1979-1980: Two story education space  
1985-1986: Sanctuary Building  
2005: Christian Life Center



# Camellia School





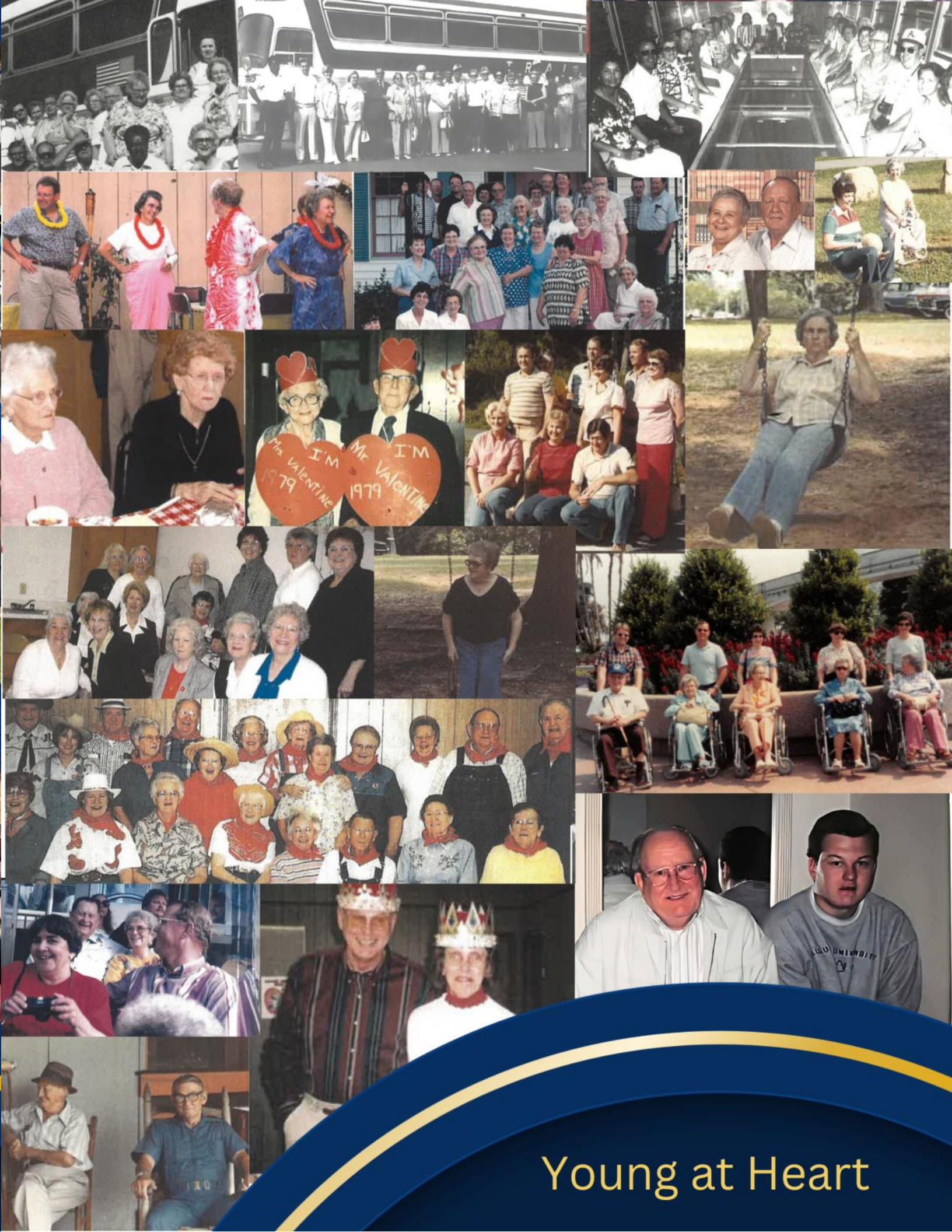
Children's Ministry





# Student Ministry





Young at Heart









## Other Ministries