

The auditorium of Little River Baptist Church has a gallery on three sides, with entrances formerly by stairway. The black members of the organization who came to worship in those days, seated themselves in the gallery. Some of the old benches still remain. Perhaps the most lavish expenditure was that of the chandelier which hung by a bronze rod from a plaster medallion in the ceiling. Chains of small gold leaves hung gracefully from the medallion to each of the eight lamps of the chandelier, and long crystal prisms dangled from the base of each lamp. In 1865, northern soldiers removed the chains of gold leaves and crystal prisms, along with the silver communion set.

The new house of worship was dedicated in May 1858. The organization was officially named LITTLE RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH because of the local post office of that time.

In 1915 it was decided to divide the congregation between the communities of Monticello and Jenkinsville. The church building at Little River was abandoned. It was used occasionally for funerals and homecomings, except for a period in the 1930's when the black Episcopal church of St. Barnabas used the building while their burned sanctuary was rebuilt.

In 1949, Rev. James Baker started a movement to restore the old building and return the Baptist congregations to their old home. Electric lights were installed, the old chandelier lamps were electrified, and gas heat was installed. On June 4, 1950 an organization of Jenkinsville, Monticello and Rion Baptists held their first service in the restored building.

During the mid 1950's and early 60's the following improvements were made: air conditioning units and a Baptistry were added; granite picnic tables were placed under the oak trees in the yard; and the gas heaters were replaced by electric ones. The Fellowship Hall was added in the late 50's, and the granite wall around the cemetery (replacing the old iron fence) was built in 1964.

In 1962, as a memorial for E. Claude Jeter, handsome new pulpit furniture and collection plates were purchased.

In 1973, ten monuments from the David-Furman private cemetery in Fairfield County, were moved to the Little River cemetery.

In July 1991, a stained glass window was installed over the baptismal pool. In April of 1999, stained glass windows in honor of Henry and Truitt Yarborough, were installed in the front of the church between the two entrance doors.

In 2012, the Five Loaves Food pantry was formed to serve the Jenkinsville, Monticello and Blair communities. In order to house this growing community outreach project, a separate building was purchased and moved onto the Church grounds in 2013.

Granite benches were added to the picnic tables in 2013.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The old "horse mount" consisting of several granite blocks still stands at the edge of the church yard, a memento of the early days when many worshippers came to service on horseback.

There are several graves under the oak trees in the yard, marked only with field rocks. One, it is said, is that of a so-called outlaw whose family requested only that he be laid to rest near the church, not within the cemetery proper.