

A church history of Euclid
Avenue Baptist Church,
1928-1975

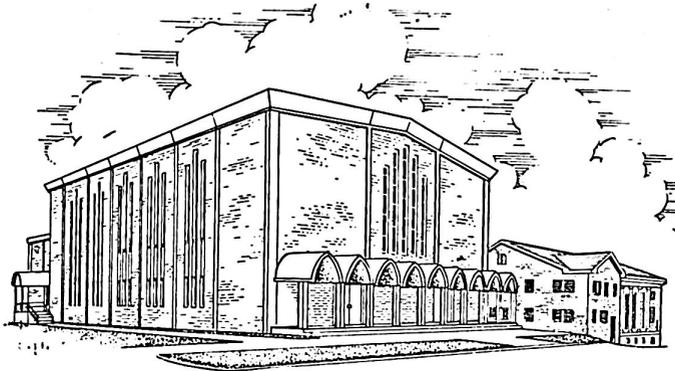
by

Mrs. James R. O'Dell

Bristol

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*A Church History
of*



*Euclid Avenue Baptist Church
Euclid at Park
Bristol, Virginia*

1928 - 1975

Compiled by Mrs. James R. O'Dell

Rich Liner, Pastor

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HISTORY OF EUCLID AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
Compiled by Mrs. James R. O'Dell

The following material relative to the beginning of Euclid Avenue Baptist Church was obtained by studying the comprehensive manuscript of the early history of Euclid prepared by Mr. Charles T. Kilgore, a charter member and former clerk of the church, reading through the minutes that are available and talking with charter members.

Euclid Avenue Baptist Church was first conceived in the minds of Mr. J. B. Denton and Mr. W. E. Glover, both of whom were members of Calvary Baptist Church at that time. Mr. Glover remarked to Mr. Denton that he had prayed for a long time for a church on the vacant lot at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Park Street. Mr. Denton harboured the same desire in his heart as there was not a Baptist Church in this section of the city. The first meeting relative to organizing a church was held in May 1928, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Glover with a few interested people attending. The second meeting was held on May 29, 1928 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Barker, 311 Park Street with a few more in attendance. The following were present at this meeting: Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Barker, James Barker, Junior Barker, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Beaver, C. C. Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Edwards, Rev. J. E. Felty, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Glover, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Denton, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Pratt, George Walker, H. H. Worrell, Mesdames Keelsing, Sharrett, and F. M. Worrell, Misses Margie Leonard and Wolford and Rev. and Mrs. I. S. Leonard.

Mr. C. C. Boyd was chosen moderator of the meeting, and on motion, duly seconded and carried, it was decided unanimously to organize the new church. Committees were appointed to solicit charter members, select a site for the building, and to procure a suitable place of worship until the proposed new building could be used. The following were appointed as Finance Committee: J. B. Denton, Chairman, W. E. Glover, C. F. Beaver and J. G. Barker. The ladies present were appointed as a committee to solicit additional or charter members. Mr. J. G. Barker was asked to try to secure the Virginia High Auditorium for a temporary meeting place.

THE FIRST PREACHING SERVICE was held on June 3, 1928 in the Virginia High School Auditorium with Rev. I. S. Leonard, a visitor from Green Cove Springs, Florida, bringing the message. The Sunday School was organized and Mr. George Walker was elected as the first Sunday School Superintendant. J. G. Barker was elected as the first Church Clerk and F. M. Worrell the first Church Treasurer.

After the evening service, there was a called meeting of the body, presided over by W. E. Glover. An invitation was extended for charter members and 84 persons expressed themselves as desiring to become members of the new church. There seems to be no record of these names.

A unanimous call was extended to Rev. Leonard to become the first pastor of this church at this meeting.

THE FIRST PRAYER MEETING was held on Wednesday, June 6, 1928, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Eastman, 501 Carolina Avenue, with Brother J. E. Felty as leader.

THE FIRST BUSINESS MEETING was held after prayer meeting on June 20, 1928 with 62 members present. Previously distributed pledge cards were turned in which resulted in \$5,731.00 in pledges and \$573.25 in cash received. Trustees appointed were: C. I. Miller, C. T. Kilgore, C. F. Beaver, W. E. Glover, J. H. Miller, W. H. Nave, and J. G. Barker. Building Committee appointed was: Chairman, C. F. Beaver, W. E. Glover, J. A. Poole, C. T. Kilgore, George W. Walker, C. C. Boyd, Mesdames Eastman, Keesling, Glover, and C. I. Miller. J. G. Barker was elected Treasurer of the Building Committee.

It was unanimously decided to name the church EUCLID AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH.

PURCHASE OF BUILDING SITE: According to the deed dated June 28, 1929 the lot was purchased for the sum of \$5,700. \$2,984.67 was paid in cash and Mr. C. F. Beaver swapped two lots that he owned on Broad Street and applied this to the purchase. Through the effort of Mr. Kilgore the city gave the \$1,000 that was against this lot for street improvements. The lot was bought and paid for before the church was officially organized.

On July 2, 1928, the Building Committee met at the home of Mr. Beaver and appointed him Foreman of the construction of the church building at the salary of \$10.00 per day.

On July 4th, at the prayer meeting, the deacons were instructed to draw up Articles of Faith and Church Covenant and present them to the church for action at a later date.

FIRST BAPTISMAL SERVICE was held at Lake Sycamore near Sullins College with Pastor Leonard officiating. Mr. Martin Lytz, Ethel Lytz and Edith Curry were baptized.

FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF DEACONS was held at the home of J. B. Denton, July 8th, 1928, at 3:00 P.M. Mr. Denton was elected Chairman and the Pastor's salary was fixed at \$2,000 annually. The Treasurer was directed to pay \$45 for one month's use of the Virginia High Auditorium. Articles of Faith and Church Covenant were approved. A committee was appointed to draft by-laws.

On July 11th the Articles of Faith and Church Covenant were approved and adopted. A reception and pounding for the Pastor and Family followed the prayer meeting.

On July 12, 1928, the Building Committee met and decided to employ C. B. Kearfoot, architect, to draw plans for the building and supervise the work. The building to be erected was to cost approximately \$30,000.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH took place on Sunday afternoon, July 15, 1928, at 3:00 P.M. in the Virginia High Auditorium. Dr. H. G. Noffsinger, President of Virginia Intermont College, who was then moderator of the Lebanon Baptist Association presided. The meeting was attended by nearly all of the 117 charter members, many pastors of other Baptist Churches and a great number of visitors.

Rev. J. B. Thomas, Chairman of the Council of Ordained Ministers, reported approval of the Church Covenant and Articles of Faith adopted by the church.

After a short address and statement by Pastor I. S. Leonard, Dr. Noffsinger spoke to the group on the subject, "The Fundamental Principles of

Baptist Doctrine". He then extended the right hand of fellowship to the Pastor and seven Deacons. The session was dismissed after prayer offered by Rev. Wyatt.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF EUCLID AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. D. L. Ailshie | 57. Aylene Leonard |
| 2. Mrs. D. L. Ailshie | 58. Rev. E. A. Leonard |
| 3. Mrs. Paul Ault (Oma Felty) | 59. Mrs. I. B. Leonard |
| 4. J. G. Barker | 60. Rev. I. S. Leonard |
| 5. Mrs. J. G. Barker | 61. Mrs. I. S. Leonard |
| 6. J. G. Barker, Jr. | 62. Miss Margie Leonard |
| 7. James Barker | 63. Mary Leonard |
| 8. Lewis Barnes | 64. Ruth Leonard |
| 9. Mrs. Lewis Barnes | 65. Mrs. Emma Laird |
| 10. Mrs. W. W. Barnes | 66. Mrs. Bradley Lewis (Pearl Pitts) |
| 11. C. F. Beaver | 67. Martin Lytz |
| 12. Mrs. C. F. Beaver | 68. Mrs. Martin Lytz |
| 13. Gammon Beaver | 69. Ethel Lytz |
| 14. Jewel Beaver | 70. Mrs. Roy McDaniel (Mary M. Boyd) |
| 15. Laura Beaver | 71. Mrs. Ples Manley (Genevieve Manley) |
| 16. Ralph Beaver | 72. J. Ed Marion |
| 17. C. C. Boyd | 73. Mrs. J. Ed Marion |
| 18. C. C. Boyd, Jr. | 74. C. I. Miller |
| 19. Lillian Boyd | 75. Mrs. C. I. Miller |
| 20. Mildred Boyd | 76. Clarence I. Miller |
| 21. Ruth Boyd | 77. Charles D. Miller |
| 22. William Boyd | 78. Mrs. Charles D. Miller |
| 23. W. E. Caldwell | 79. J. Howard Miller |
| 24. Mrs. W. E. (Ida) Caldwell | 80. Mrs. J. Howard Miller |
| 25. Mrs. T. L. Cate | 81. Marion Velen Miller |
| 26. Helen Cate | 82. Preston Miller |
| 27. Paul Cate | 83. Mrs. Edith Curry Moyer |
| 28. W. O. Conley | 84. C. W. Nave |
| 29. J. B. Denton | 85. Homer Nave, Jr. |
| 30. Mrs. J. B. Denton | 86. W. H. Nave |
| 31. Mrs. Bill Dickenson (Ruby Marion) | 87. Mrs. W. H. Nave |
| 32. Mrs. Margaret Dixson (Margaret Plaskie) | 88. Mrs. Robert Pearson (Bernice Pitts) |
| 33. Irwin M. Eastman | 89. Lennie Mae Pitts |
| 34. Mrs. Irwin M. Eastman | 90. Lewis Pitts |
| 35. C. M. Edwards | 91. Mrs. Lewis Pitts |
| 37. Mrs. Carl Emmert (Mary Keesling) | 92. George Pitts |
| 38. P. C. Fallin | 93. Herbert Pitts |
| 39. Rev. J. C. Felty | 94. Woodrow Pitts |
| 40. J. E. Felty, Jr. | 95. J. E. Plaskie |
| 41. R. G. Felty | 96. Mrs. J. E. Plaskie |
| 42. Mrs. Dean Frey (Otis Booth) | 97. J. A. Poole |
| 43. E. A. Glover | 98. Mrs. J. A. Poole |
| 44. Mrs. E. A. Glover | 99. Wm. Pratt |
| 45. W. E. Glover | 100. Mrs. Wm. Pratt |
| 46. Mrs. W. E. Glover | 101. P. D. Rutherford |
| 47. Mrs. Kathryn Helton (Keesling) | 102. R. S. Shaffer |
| 48. G. B. Jones | 103. Mrs. O. S. Sharrett |
| 49. Mrs. G. B. Jones | 104. L. W. Smith |
| 50. George Jones | 105. Anette Walker |
| 51. Margaret Jones | 106. Edith Walker |
| 52. Mrs. G. W. Keesling | 107. George W. Walker |
| 53. Charles T. Kilgore | 108. Mrs. George W. Walker |
| 54. Mrs. Charles T. (Alice S.) Kilgore | 109. C. M. Wheatley |
| 55. Robert Kilgore | 110. Mrs. C. M. Wheatley |
| 56. Wm. S. Kilgore | 111. J. W. Wheeler |

CHARTER MEMBERS OF EUCLID AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH (continued)

112. Mrs. Edward Witt (Helen Ailshie)
113. Eugene Worrell
114. F. M. Worrell
115. Mrs. F. M. Worrell
116. H. H. Worrell
117. Mrs. H. H. Worrell

On July 23, 1928, H. H. Worrell, Charles T. Kilgore and J. G. Barker were appointed as a special Finance Committee to negotiate for a loan on the church building. On July 31st it was recommended and approved to secure a \$5,000 loan for initial work.

AN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEBANON ASSOCIATION was prepared and adopted by the church at a meeting held August 1, 1928. On August 17, 1928, the church was received into the association.

October 28. The deacons agreed to pay FIRST CHOIR DIRECTOR, I. M. Eastman, \$25 per month.

CHURCH MORTGAGE of \$20,000 was placed on the building and lot. Twenty male members endorsed this note.

FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW CHURCH WAS prayer meeting, December 19, 1928. A business session was held and the above mentioned loan was approved.

FIRST PREACHING AND COMMUNION SERVICE was held on the first floor of the church building at 11:00 O'Clock, January 6, 1929. The ladies of the church presented the Communion Service to the church. This beautiful silver service is still being used when we observe the Lord's Supper.

FIRST SERVICE IN AUDITORIUM was held February 17, 1929 at 11:00 O'Clock.

FIRST BAPTISMAL SERVICE WAS HELD IN THE NEW AUDITORIUM on Sunday evening February 24, 1929, when Mary Barham, Gordon Kilgore and Hester Cothron were baptized.

FIRST REVIVAL MEETING conducted by pastor from March 10 - March 24, 1929.

FIRST LETTER OF DISMISSAL was granted to Mrs. Mary Margaret McDaniel.

THE FIRST FUNERAL was the mother of J. B. Denton, Mrs. G. W. Denton, who died on January 23, 1929, and was buried on January 24, 1929.

FIRST COUPLE TO GET MARRIED in the new church were Miss Ruby Giles and S. E. McCormick.

THE FIRST BABY, Boyd Lee Barnes, was born to Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Barnes on February 3, 1929.

FIRST CHURCH SECRETARY, Miss Helen Cate, was paid \$15.00 per month.

FIRST LOTTIE MOON OFFERING was \$2.50. (The pastor gave \$.50 of that.)

TOTAL BUDGET FOR 1929 was \$7,440.

The ladies of the church have always been a strong undergirding force throughout its history. Mrs. L. E. Barnes has compiled a complete W. M. U. history which is filed in the Church Library.

The ladies purchased pulpit furniture, light fixtures for original auditorium, furniture for ladies parlor, paid for the memorial window to Rev. I. S. Leonard among their many projects.

On May 1, 1929, Pastor Leonard became suddenly ill and was later removed to King Mountain Hospital where an operation was performed. He passed away on Sunday afternoon, May 19th, at 4:00 P.M. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. B. Thomas, Rev. F. E. Warren, Dr. H. G. Noffsinger, and Professor E. L. Roberts. On Tuesday morning his remains were taken to his home at Lafayette, Georgia for interment.

Rev. O. G. Poarch was called to serve as second pastor on July 28, 1929. His first sermon was preached on September 15, 1929. He served well and the church showed a remarkable growth in every way under his leadership. He resigned on November 15, 1937.

Dr. B. R. Lakin was extended a call to be the third pastor January 1, 1938. He was engaged in full time evangelistic work at the time that he accepted the pastorate. His 18 months as pastor was a period of constant revival. The Sunday School tripled and prayer services grew so that the basement no longer could hold the prayer meeting crowd. He started the "Back Home Hour" and the "Sunrise Prayer Period". He resigned to accept the Associate Pastorate of Cadle Tabernacle in October 1939. The blueprints of the church were completed during Dr. Lakin's pastorate.

Dr. Paul R. Roberts served as the fourth pastor for five years, coming here from a very successful pastorate in Johnson City, Tennessee. Euclid continued a very successful phase and many young men answered the call to the ministry during these five years. The first educational wing of the church completed during Dr. Robert's ministry. He resigned in December 1944 to go to the Central Baptist Church, Decatur, Alabama.

Rev. Garrett R. Graham accepted the call to be the fifth pastor on April 1, 1945. Rev. Graham enjoyed a fruitful ministry for four and a half years. A steady growth and progress was seen in all departments. During his ministry the idea of a Mission church in West Bristol took form. Much prayer and planning with the deacons resulted with the building of the Bradley Street Baptist Church. Rev. Graham resigned September 1949 to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Anniston, Alabama.

Rev. Raymond Smith preached his first sermon as sixth pastor on December 16, 1949. A steady growth and much progress continued the pace of Euclid. The Youth Annex and a daily radio program "Call the Pastor" were added. Bradley Street Baptist Church was officially organized as a separate Baptist Church. Needed property was purchased and much planning toward the ultimate building program was accomplished during Rev. Smith's ministry. He preached his last sermon in July 1958 and ended eight and a half glorious, fruitful and God blessed years with Euclid Avenue. He left us to become pastor of the Norview Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia.

Rev. Calvin Bailey, preached his first sermon as seventh pastor on August 16, 1959. The building became a reality under Rev. Bailey's leadership. The ground breaking service for our lovely auditorium and educational plant took place on June 25, 1961. On August 13, 1961, a campaign was

launched to raise \$40,000 for the building program. An impressive Dedication Service was held on May 20, 1962. Euclid shared Rev. Bailey in five World Evangelistic Crusades; Scotland, Alaska twice, Australia and India. Rev. Bailey conducted a weekly Sunday morning forty-five minute radio devotional program. The Sunday evening worship service is broadcast each Sunday over W.O.P.I. Euclid continues to give a positive and effective witness to the Power of the Gospel with the Bible-centered preaching that has always characterized its ministry. Rev. Bailey resigned March 31, 1972 to become pastor of the Pittsburgh Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Pastor Rich Liner accepted the call to be the eighth pastor of Euclid June 18, 1972. One of the big highlights that took place shortly after Rev. Liner became our pastor was the burning of the \$300,000 mortgage on our sanctuary and educational building. Phase I of the long range building and renovating program has been completed. Three houses have been purchased and a large parking lot made where two of the houses once stood. A church van has been purchased for the use of the church and different organizations in the church. Every Sunday morning at 8:45 a 30 minute devotional "Victory in Jesus Hour" is sponsored by the church. A Sunday School class is conducted each Sunday morning by our pastor at the Holiday Inn West. "Daily Devotions" by our pastor can be viewed twice daily over WCYB Channel 5 T.V. The Sunday evening service "Victory in Jesus Hour" can be heard every Sunday at 7:30 P.M. over W.O.P.I. Pastor Liner has held many revivals. He is the official Chaplain of the Holiday Inns of Bristol. A one hour "Insight" (indepth Bible study for young people) is conducted every Thursday night at the pastor's home by Mrs. Liner. Many have been blessed in our church and also in revivals that Pastor Liner has conducted by the "Happy Home Seminars" that Mrs. Liner teaches.

We are so grateful for the wonderful leadership that the Lord has given Euclid Avenue Baptist Church down through the years. Many of the pastors and leaders in the past have planted and some have watered, but God gave the increase. I Cor. 3:6-7. Euclid is so proud of the many God has called out of her midst into special Christian Service. We have tried to compile a list of Euclid's Special Servants and if a name has been omitted it was not an intentional error. Please report any name overlooked to the church office.

The following men have served Euclid in the Music and Education Ministry: Rev. Herman Mauch, Rev. Russell Case, Mr. Wally Dahlquist, Mr. Carl D. Mauzy, Mr. G. Wayne Buck, Dr. Raymond Kreiner, Mr. E. Ralph Davidson, Mr. Harry Lee Cowan, Mr. Eldon Boone, Mr. John Atwood, Rev. Kenneth Archer, Mr. E. Eugene Spencer, Mr. James L. Murphy, Mr. Tom Elam, Mr. Julian P. Clark, Mr. Tal Thompson.

The following ladies have served Euclid as Church Secretary: Miss Helen Cate, Miss Margaret Talley, Miss Henerietta Jenkins, Mrs. James R. (Frances Sivley) O'Dell, Mrs. Ellogene VanHook Sweeney, Mrs. Ackie Feathers, Mrs. John L. Clark, Mrs. B. M. Crabtree, Mrs. Carolyn Boyd Johnson, Mrs. Birdie Scypher Stewart, Mrs. Norman Num, Mrs. Pat Gibbs, Mrs. Bob O'Dell, Mrs. Hazel Pendergrass, Mrs. Rich Liner, Mrs. Tim Jones (Yvonne Baker), Miss Wanda Cox, Mrs. Willard (Jean) Hancock.

The following ladies have served as Financial Secretary: Mrs. James R. (Frances Sivley) O'Dell, Mrs. Vaughn W. Morris, Mrs. C. Lee Cowan, Mrs. L. A. Cook, Mrs. John L. Clark, Mrs. Rouse Fleenor, Mrs. Gene Fox, Mrs. Marshall (Jo) Davis.

The following ladies have served as Educational Secretary: Mrs. Pete Horton, Mrs. Don (Sherry) Sanderson.

MEMBERS AND FORMERS OF EUCLID COMMITTED TO FULL TIME CHRISTIAN SERVICE

1. *Gerald Martens, Pastor*
2. *Harry Cowan, Minister of Music*
3. *George Blaylock, Minister of Music*
4. *Don Blaylock, Minister, Pastor, Campus Minister*
5. *Dr. Eugene Ruble, Medical Missionary*
6. *Mrs. George Brice (Judy Hutton), Missionary*
7. *Gene and Jane Eller, Educational Missionaries*
8. *John Keller, Pastor*
9. *Mrs. John Keller (Beverly Leonard), Pastor's Wife*
10. *Douglas Cather, Missionary, Pastor, Superintendent of Missions*
11. *Dr. Hugh R. Horne, Minister, Writer, Author*
12. *Mrs. Janice VanHook Drenth, Minister's Wife*
13. *W. B. "Bill" Cather, Jr., Minister, College Administrator*
14. *Roger Duff, Minister of Music*
15. *Rev. Richard (Dick) Cassidy, Minister, Pastor*
16. *Margaret Talley, Church Secretary*
17. *Margaret Leonard, Church Secretary*
18. *Rev. Bill Smith, Pastor*
19. *Mrs. Larry Jones (Jenny Smith), Wife of Minister of Education*
20. *Mike Lovett, Minister of Music*
21. *Mrs. Mike Lovett (Sylvia Bailey), Church Pianist*
22. *Mrs. Kenneth Burke (Mary Blevins), Secretary in Baptist Offices in Richmond*
23. *Mrs. Tal Thompson (Elizabeth Graves), Wife of Minister of Education*
24. *Larry Fowlkes, Chaplain and Counseling Ministry in New Orleans*
25. *Mrs. Charles E. Dickerson (Doris Weaver), Pastor's Wife*
26. *Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Bragg, Self-supporting Missionaries*

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