

Deep Springs Baptist Church Celebrated 150 Years on August 12

On August 12 Deep Springs Baptist Church celebrated 150 years of mission and ministry at their Homecoming with an over capacity crowd of between 250-300. That's a huge crowd for a medium-sized country church. Four former pastors, Rev. Bill Taylor, Rev. Larry Arrowood, Rev. Billy Crabtree and Rev. Brian Biggers, were in attendance. Also in attendance were two other pastors who are former members of Deep Springs, Rev. Steve Hill and Rev. Larry Allen, as well as Dr. Leon Smith who has served as interim pastor. The church has been blessed to have reared other ministers and missionaries - Rev. Bradley Phifer, Rev. Larry Austin, Rev. Randy Austin, Rev. Glenn Griffin, Ms. Sylvia Newton, Rev. Bill Harris, Danny and Sherry W. and Emily and Stephen C.



Richard Thomas is shown enjoying a rest on the Raymond Raye bench.

Each attendee was given a commemorative bulletin with artist Parks Manus' rendering of the renovated church on the cover, along with a fan which pictured the early church and one of the present church. The message was brought by Rev. Biggers. Other living former pastors were invited to attend or send a greeting. A greeting from Dr. Greg Drye was shared with the congregation as he and others reflected on their time of ministry at Deep Springs. Some made professions of faith following the message related to accepting people like they are and letting God do the changing.

Lori Cauthen introduced the event by elaborating a bit on the early days of the church which began during the Civil War. Special music was shared. Gifts were given to the couple married the longest (Elgie and Jean Sheppard who have been married 63 years and were also the first couple to be married in the church at Deep Springs), the member with the most generations present (Mildred Raye), the family with the most members in attendance (Robin Austin Waisner who represented the Austin Family), the person who had driven the farthest (Billy and Sharon Crabtree from Rocky Mount, NC), and to the oldest person in attendance (Gladys Wright).

Each family who stayed for the fellowship meal was given a copy of the church history, and memories, which were told about 15 years ago by the oldest living members. The Youth Department offered insulated drinking cups for sale which also had pictures of the old and new church building. There were eight long tables of food, four more tables of sweets and another table with beverages. During the meal a slideshow was running which was a collection of pictures from the past and present of people who were married in Deep Springs Church, those from Deep Springs who served in the Armed Services, pictures of baptisms, Vacation Bible School, and mission trips, etc.



Lynn Raye was in charge of preparing the Memorial Prayer Garden. He enjoyed touring folks around the garden...especially this young gentleman!

A dress made by Joanna Davis, which was like the design of those worn by ladies of the 1860's, was on display in the church foyer. The youngest person in attendance was one month old Remington Ohmann, son of Paul and Talisha (Taylor) Ohmann.

A Prayer Garden and Walking Trail, dedicated to Raymond Raye and grandson Dennis Perkins, was recently opened in the wooded area behind the church. The Walking Trail includes a walk by the "deep spring" from which the church received its name. The connotation also is that within a Christian is that spring of living water, which is the Lord Jesus Christ.



From left, Delores Thomas, Jackie Austin and Carole Wright are enjoying the new Memorial Prayer Garden at Deep Springs Baptist Church.

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