

First Church, Fannin, marks 175th anniversary

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

In 1848, two plantation families formed a community church in Fannin. The original name was Pelahatchie Baptist Church, after a nearby creek. The families signed a church covenant with 16 articles of faith.

On May 7, 175 years later, First Church, Fannin celebrated its founding. The program included Congregational Minister Steve Abercrombie presenting the history of the church with slides showing photographs of the first church, the red brick chapel, and the present facility.

Minister of Music Grey Johnson



175 YEARS OF MINISTRY – Present at the dedication of the historical marker from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History during the 175th anniversary celebration at First Church, Fannin, in May were (from left) Lynda Richardson, church historian; Martha Prince, church history committee; and Steve Abercrombie, congregational minister.

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During the celebration, the church unveiled a historic marker which shares the history of the church. The marker dedication in front of the chapel was accompanied by the ringing of the original church bell and a bagpiper playing Amazing Grace.

There were 1,100 people in attendance including Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves, whose father is a member of the church. After the services, attendees went to the fellowship hall for refreshments.

Each member was given a memory book and the opportunity to view church records, photos, and even a pew from 1855 carved for the church by farm workers.

The original white wood church and steeple were built in 1855 on the present site at the intersection of County Road 471 and Church Road. The church helped organize Rankin Association in 1893.

The church built what is now known as the red brick chapel in 1947, using the floors and bell from the first building. Stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ were added.

In 1870, the church gave their original name to a new church in Pelahatchie and renamed itself Fannin Baptist Church. In

1998, the church became First Baptist Church and celebrated its 150th anniversary.

The church moved into a \$1.7 sanctuary in 2020 that seats 1,000 to accommodate the growing Fannin community.



First Church, Fannin

The church's cemetery and the chapel were redesigned as Mississippi

Historic Landmarks
in 2022
by Mississippian
Department of
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For more information on First Church, Fannin, visit <https://www.fbcfannin.org/>.