

and North Carolina.

Reedy Creek Baptist Church of Brunswick County was a member of this new association. One of its pastors, Zachariah Thompson, who was pastor of the church as early as 1772, began to preach in the area of what is now the southern section of Greenville County. From January to May of 1787, he preached in this community and his preaching resulted in one hundred and sixty members for a new church to be constituted.

The folks of this community had Quaker background, and being farmers, had their own doctrines of worship according to the dictates of their own conscience. Familiar last names among them were: Andrews, Atkinson, Briggs, Barnes, Bailey, Brantly, Chapman, Chappell, Cook, Jordon, Holloway, Harrell, Hicks, Hunnicutt, Gay, Godwin, Jones, Johnson, Newsum, Peebles, Pope, Robinson, Vick, Wrenn, Wyche, and Spivey. Out of some of these names came the members of the one hundred and sixty.

What did they name this church? Their meeting house was located near Fountain (Fountain's as was called in those days) Creek, so the name Fountain Creek Baptist Church was adopted. Where did the creek get its name? There are two theories. One, the creek was named after a free Negro slave trader named John Fountain, who traded with the Indians in early 1704. The other possibility centers around another free Negro trader, George Fountain. He is recorded to have traded among the Indians of the area in 1708. Many believe him to be the likely candidate for the creek's name.

So, between January and May, Fountain Creek Baptist Church was established. Not anything more exact than this can be given because of a mishap of John A. (Gus) Robinson, a clerk of the church in the late 1800 and early 1900's. It seems that he put the minutes of the church in his buggy chest,

where the feed for his horse from church, he had minutes, and his cows chewed with the feed. But records of the Reedy Creek Association do show that it was the host of an annual meeting thus indicating the existence of the church. Regretfully, due to the loss of the records of church go back to the date or month can be given.

William Garner was the first pastor of Fountain Creek. His tenure consisted of forty-one years. He took an active part in the organization, and under his leadership the church had its ebbs and floods, but was a prosperous church. In 1802, "the rich clouds and mercy showered down a pleasant shower," in other words, there was a great revival in the congregation.

Also, it is recorded that the church at Fountain Creek had "an arm of the" Kehukee Association Meeting House in North Carolina. This "arm" later became a separate church, and was organized in 1802. The congregation is presently located in Northhampton County, North Carolina, in Northhampton.

The church during the early years of its existence was associated with three associations. It was associated with the Kehukee Association until 1791, when the Virginia Association formed the Portsmouth Association. After the new association, there was no participation by the church to the annual meetings of the Kehukee Association. There was no representation at the gatherings due in part to the fact that the crops in spring, and such delayed the meetings in Portsmouth and Petersburg.