

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 was. When he came home from church, he forgot to take the minutes, and his cows chewed up the feed. But records of the Association do show that in 1787, Fountain Creek was the host of an association, thus indicating the existence of the church. Regretfully, due to the loss of records of church go back to 1787, no date or month can be given.

William Garner was the first pastor of Fountain Creek. His tenure consisted of forty-one years. He took the church through its organization, and under his leadership it had its ebbs and floods of prosperity. In 1800, "the rich clouds and mercy of heaven poured a pleasant shower," in other words, there was a great revival in the congregation.

Also, it is recorded that Fountain Creek had "an arm of the church" in North Carolina. This "arm" later became the North Carolina Baptist Church, and was organized in 1791. The congregation is presently located in North Carolina, in Northham.

The church during the 18th century was associated with three associations: the Virginia Association, the Kehukee Association, and the Portsmouth Association. Until 1791, when the Virginia Association formed the Portsmouth Association, there was no participation due to the great distance from the church to the annual meeting. There was no representation at the gatherings due in part to the late crops in spring, and such was the case with meetings in Portsmouth and P.