

## **PURPOSE**

It shall be the purpose of this church to do the work committed to it by Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Every member shall seek to promote the spiritual life and growth of our members and to exemplify in his or her life the spirit of Christ and His teachings so that the unsaved may be won to Christ and His gospel may be preached throughout the world.

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We affirm the Holy Scriptures to be the inspired word of God and the basis for our beliefs. We affirm the historic and common principles of the Baptist faith as set forth in the "Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in its original statement.

## **CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT**

We at New Bessemer Baptist Church are a community of believers who are baptized into the grace of God and who gather around the table of the Lord's Supper to commemorate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Through the reverence and mystery of worship, we commit ourselves to the proclamation of the gospel, the outreach of evangelism, the social ministries of mercy, and the nurture of Christian discipleship. Drawing our inspiration from God's Word, we undertake to practice the presence of Jesus Christ through bold visions and ventures in ministry and missions.

In sharing the presence of Christ, we gladly welcome all, regardless of color, gender, and class, into our fellowship of servanthood. Under the lordship of Christ, we affirm the freedom and diversity of personal conviction. In spite of those differences which mark us, we see in every circumstance the Christian unity which strives to fulfill God's peaceful kingdom of justice, mercy, and kindness. In that oneness of trust, we resolve to appreciate the strengths coming from our differences.

With gratitude and hope, we accept the high calling to be God's church of open minds, open hearts, and open arms.

We are to *serve* through the example set by Jesus Christ.

We are to *proclaim* through worship, training, and missions the Good News that God is loving and forgiving in Jesus Christ.

We are to *care* through a fellowship of believers who support one another in joy and sorrow and help each other achieve Christian maturity through a life of prayer and Bible study.

We are to *share* our faith, the stewardship of who we are and what we have and to embody our faithfulness through a witness of words and actions.

We are to *grow* through Christian education and opportunities of training that better equip us to envision and pursue God's will.

We are to *remember* and *preserve* our Baptist heritage and distinctives: the practice of believer's baptism by immersion, the servanthood model of leadership, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, the priesthood of believers, the autonomy of the local church, the separation of church and state, the responsibility of missions, and the freedom of individual conscience.

## **DID YOU KNOW.....**

The Winsome Sunday School class was started in 1948 and is still active today.

Audrey Hutchison has been playing the piano and organ for the Church since 1955. She has retired from this position twice.

Marie Edwards has been a member of the Church since 1935

Marie Edwards' sister, Marion, carried Jim Bullard to Church when he was 2 years old. He called Marie "Ree" because he couldn't say Marie.

Audrey and Wilmer Hutchison were the first couple married in the new Church on Hines Chapel Road. Nobody knew Guilford County had not yet given final approval for occupancy of the building so they went ahead with the wedding as planned.

The first worship service at the new location was held the day after the wedding, still without permission from Guilford County to use the building. The following Sunday they had to move chairs and a piano outside to have the service in the parking lot.

Vic Dowd's hobby was making men's ties. He wore a new tie every Sunday, and after the service, he would take it off and give it to the man standing closest to him.

New Bessemer has sent "missionaries" to China, Nicaragua, and Honduras, as well as different mission fields in the United States.

At the end of each service, Otis Davis said, "Be Happy!"

New Bessemer currently has 278 active members, 22 non-resident members, and 352 inactive members.

The Young at Heart group likes to travel and makes an annual pilgrimage to Myrtle Beach. "Mr. Ed" Satterfield is our travel agent!

Brandon Eiker spent two years in Nicaragua working with Managua Christian Academy helping build the school and teaching. When he came home, he brought the love of his life, his bride.

Frances Funderburk's nickname was "French Fry".

Annie Bell Westcott's nickname was "Jingle Bell".

Vic Dowd led the Church for 32 years prior to his retirement in 1991. He was bestowed the title of "Pastor Emeritus" in 1996.

When Vic Dowd preached, he was careful to not point fingers at any specific person so he would refer to the person he was talking about as "Susie Peddlethumper".

Miriam Davis said, "I might be blind on this earth, but the first face I am going to see will be Jesus."

Our ladies have made 1,208 pillows and 288 hats and numerous shawls and angel pins for the cancer center. They have also made an unknown number of baby afghans for Women's Hospital.

Piedmont Baptist Association Director Larry Doyle and his wife, Becky, introduced Corey Teeters to Denise Amaya during a mission trip to Honduras; and the rest, as they say, is history!