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Southwest Baptist Church, Burnsville, Mississippi

On November 12, 2003, a group of 22 believers came together to meet and worship for the cause of Christ. Bobby Johnson and Larry Cox led the first meeting together. Larry Cox led the song service, and Bobby Johnson preached from the eighth chapter of Romans. The sermon was on the "Purity of the Church and of Worship." With Bobby Johnson serving as the minister, some of the 22 believers have continued to stay and support this endeavor. Other individuals have come before the group of believers and became a part of the church body as well.

From the inception of the church, God provided the group of believers with what He knew was needed. Whether it was through purchasing songbooks, Sunday school books, refrigerators, microwave ovens, bathroom supplies, or monetary needs for utilities, the church has been consistently blessed. A church van, a piano, and pews were donated. Other activities in which the church has been involved include blackberries, fried pies, fundraisers, gospel singings, donated curtains, and building additions for Sunday School rooms.

One November 16, 2003, one individual was saved in the worship service. Many people were placed on the prayer list. On February 18, 2004, the possibility of land to purchase was brought before the church. The land, owned by Butch Hatcher, consisted of seven acres, and the selling price was \$14,000. A map of the property was shown to the church congregation, and a discussion was held to formally name the church. Jim Harvey made a motion to call the church Southside Baptist Church. The motion was seconded by Wayne Seay. Larry Cox made a motion to call the church Redemption Baptist. That motion did not carry. The motion Jim Harvey made was voted on unanimously, and the church was named Southside Baptist Church. An "open" note for one year was voted on and approved by the church. When the bank drew up the deed and title for the church, the church's name was changed to Southwest Baptist Church.

On January 2, 2005, Tim Puckett and his wife, Debbie Puckett, joined the church body while the church still met for worship services in the old Hebron Church building, located on Mt. Gilead Road in Iuka, Mississippi. On July 24, 2005, Becky Lambert accepted Christ as her Savior. She came before the church body wanting to unite with the group of believers, and she was accepted.

On Sunday, August 7, 2005, Southwest Baptist Church met for the first time for morning worship at 10 a.m. in its new church building, located on Highway 365 South in Burnsville, Mississippi. A total of 24 people were in attendance for Sunday School, and 26 were in attendance for the worship service. The devotional was given by Larry Cox; he also served as the song leader. Rita McCoy was the pianist. Dakota Tucker served as usher. Bobby Johnson taught the Adult Class, and the children's classes were taught by Pat Cox and Diana Johnson. Allegra Green was in charge of children's church. Lauren Elizabeth Tucker was the youngest person in attendance; she was eight weeks old. The eldest person in the congregation was Marie Barnes who was 77 years of age. While the church group met in the old Hebron Church building, the congregation first sang "Happy Birthday" to T. J. Moody; his sister, Katie Moody, was the last person that the church group sang "Happy Birthday" to while in that facility. After services, a pot luck dinner was enjoyed by everyone.

The Southwest Baptist Church participated in its first community service project in October 2005 with "Trunk of Treats" for Halloween. In December 2005, the church participated in the Christmas parades, winning a couple of trophies for the church's float displays. In January 2006, the church helped some individuals in the community pay their electric bills to maintain their warmth during the winter months.

On January 1, 2006, the men of the church cooked breakfast for the church congregation. Goals and dreams from the previous year were read. The fact that many had been fulfilled demonstrated faith that the congregation had in God and the church leadership. Regular business meetings were set to be held the first Wednesday night after the first Sunday night of each month.

During February 2006, Donna Bain accepted Christ as her Savior. She was baptized on March 5, 2006.

In April 2006, the church began the idea of having its first Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the community. Approved during the church's May business meeting, VBS was planned for the third week in July. Plans were continued, and VBS was held July 17-21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Plans were also made for the dedication of the Southwest Baptist Church and its first annual homecoming. The church was dedicated to God on August 6, 2006.

Trustees of the Southwest Baptist Church are Tim Puckett, A. T. Marlar, and Larry Cox. Bobby Johnson is the pastor. Deborah Puckett is the church's secretary/church clerk, and Dwayne Weathers serves as the church treasurer. The church recognized 37 people as charter members of the Southwest Baptist Church on August 7, 2006. They are: Donna Bain, Wayne Bain, Dustin Bain, Marie Barnes, John Bates, Tracy Bates, Dylan Bates, Danielle Bates, Diane Bates, Larry Cox, Patricia Cox, Shelia Crawford, Kayla Crawford, Magdelene Epperson, Sadie Gist, Daniel Gray, Linda Gray, Thomas Mauney, Justin Mauney, Allegra Green, Bobby Johnson, Diana Johnson, Ellen Julen, Becky Lambert, A. T. Marlar, Boysie Mathis, Jewnell Mathis, Ricky Moody, Margarette Moody, Ben Wells, Tim Puckett, Deborah Puckett, Wayne Seay, Bonnie Stricklin, Monica Tucker, Dwayne Weathers, and Naomi Whitaker.