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Tishomingo Baptist Church, 10 Jackson Street, Tishomingo, MS 38873

The date the Tishomingo Baptist Church was founded is not known; however, records of sister churches show the church was functioning before 1908. In 1908, because of a small number of members, the congregation of the Highland Baptist Church decided to attend the Tishomingo church. During the five years that they were there, several joined the church. These members included Charlie D. McRae, Belvie Hill, Myrtle Hill, Betty Long, Bro. and Mrs. Dan Harland, Bro. and Mrs. S. E. McDougal, Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Arnold, and Irene Arnold.

In 1912, the church boasted a total membership of 33, and Charles McRae served as the church clerk. The value of the church property was \$936.80, and the mission offering was \$1.52. Pastor M. L. Lennon served the church at an annual salary of \$120, preaching once a month.

A devastating storm came through Tishomingo on March 13, 1913, and the church building was destroyed. The structure of the Highland Baptist Church, however, was left unharmed. The Highland group moved back and re-organized the Highland Church on October 12, 1913. The loss of the church building and perhaps over one-half of the membership was a severe blow to the Tishomingo Baptist Church. The congregation continued to meet in the homes of members, particularly in the home of Mrs. Loris Long. Also during this period, before building another structure, the church members met for a while in other Tishomingo churches and the Highland Baptist Church for services. Before his death, John Trimm reported that in 1918, the church still existed without a church building. However, the 1918-1919 Tishomingo Agricultural High School catalog stated that a building was available for services. This would indicate that a new church building was constructed by 1919.

In 1922, seven new members joined the congregation; this brought the total membership to 24. The Sunday School enrollment was 44, and John B. McRae served as the Sunday School superintendent. The church property was valued at \$2,150, and J. W. Gray served as the church clerk. Rev. A. M. Nix served as pastor with an annual salary of \$150. Rev. Nix also served as Pastor of the Highland Baptist Church and continued until 1926 when he moved to Guin, Alabama.

In 1927, the church membership increased to 37. The Sunday School enrollment was 52, and J. M. Long served as church clerk. The church grew slowly over the years with a member of 31 in 1929.

In 1929, Rev. Clarence L. Palmer from Rienzi was the pastor, and he received a salary of \$84. Membership was now 31, and the Sunday School enrollment was 25. Mrs. Dan B. Delp was the church clerk.

In 1937, with no available records for the intervening years, C. L. Palmer was recorded as the pastor at an annual salary of \$103.95. Membership had reached 42. The church clerk was L. L. Magers. It is not known whether Rev. Palmer was the pastor during the years when no records were kept.

The first Bible School held at the church was in 1951. A Brotherhood was organized in 1957, and Homer Meeks presided as president. There was a Women's Missionary Union (WMU) in 1937, but no president was listed. The next recorded WMU was in 1947 with Mrs. Bob Wood as president.

In 1957, the Southward property next door to the church was purchased. In November 1965, the church voted to build a new building, and it was completed the following year. The facility built in 1966 still stands today. Then in July 1988, with God's help, the old Southward home was moved; construction then began on an educational building which had been a dream of many in the church for a long time. The new building was dedicated on January 29, 1989. On October 14, 1990, the debt on the building was paid off, and it was named the Eugene Tennison Educational Building. This name, in honor of a pastor that had served so faithfully for 17 ½ years from its pulpit, seemed very appropriate. God has richly blessed this church.

On May 31, 1998, the church voted to build six new Sunday School rooms to the south end of the church. With 94 percent of the church in agreement, this construction became the first of a three-phase expansion plan for the church. The second phase was to purchase the adjoining Trimm property and possibly the Leonard Byram property which adjoins Highway 25. The third phase was to open up the sanctuary and increase its size.

The Byram property was purchased in 1999. The Byram house was removed, and the property was cleaned up. Ila Trimm will continue to live in her house on the property until her death; at that time, it will be the property of the Tishomingo Baptist Church.

In December 1999, the men of the church began removing walls to expand the church sanctuary. This was the beginning of the third phase of the church expansion. The plan was to turn half of the pastor's study into a ladies bathroom so that the old ladies bathroom could be used in the sanctuary's enlargement. Oswalt Construction was contracted to construct the frame of the new structure in 2000. Then the men of the church performed all the finishing work to beautify the sanctuary. The church praises God for all His blessings. Member in 2001 had reached 394.

Having experienced more growth, the Tishomingo Baptist Church added two large rooms onto the existing fellowship hall in 2005. Remodeling was also performed in the fellowship hall, and more space was added to the nursery and pre-school departments.

A partial list of pastors of the Tishomingo Baptist Church is as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| M. L. Lennon—1912 | J. A. Blunt, Jr.—1962-1965 |
| A. M. Nix—1922, 1961-1962 | Bill Langley—1979-1982 |
| Clarence L. Palmer—1929, 1937 | Randy Bostick—1983-1984 |
| R. E. Pate—1940-1941 | Chester Harrison—1985-1986 |
| W. C. Hamilton—1943 | Randy Bynum—1986-1987 |
| W. A. Hamilton—1947-1949 | Bob Watkins—1987-1989 |
| Raymond M. Buchanan—1951-1955 | Terry Ledbetter—1989-1991 |
| James L. Brown—1955 | Ed Johnson—1992-1993 |
| Eugene Tennison—1956-60, 1965-78 | Billy Burge—1994-1998 |
| Ormond Barnes—1960 | James Pinkerton—1998-2001 |

The Tishomingo Baptist Church continues to grow under the leadership of Rev. Robbie Crane.
The church continues to add new souls to the Kingdom of God.

Some pastors of the Tishomingo Baptist Church include:

| Date | Pastor's Name |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1912 | M. L. Lennon |
| 1922, and 1961–1962 | A. M. Nix |
| 1929 and 1937 | Clarence L. Palmer |
| 1940–1941 | R. E. Pate |
| 1943 | W. C. Hamilton |
| 1947–1949 | W. Albert Hamilton |
| 1951–1955 | Raymond M. Buchanan |
| 1955 | James L. Brown |
| 1956–1960, and 1965–1978 | Eugene Tennison |
| 1960 | Ormond Barnes |
| 1962–1965 | J. A. Blunt, Jr. |
| 1979–1982 | Bill Langley |
| 1983–1984 | Randy Bostick |
| 1985–1986 | Chester Harrison |
| 1986–1987 | Randy Bynum |
| 1987–1989 | Bob Watkins |
| 1989–1991 | Terry Ledbetter |
| 1992–1993 | Ed Johnson |
| 1994–1998 | Billy Burge |
| 1998–2003 | James Pinkerton |
| 2004–present | Robbie Crane |

Compiled and submitted by Nelda McRae, P.O. Box 78, Tishomingo, MS 38873