

Church Profile

I. Profile of Fairview Missionary Baptist Church

A. Introduction

There are reasons why hundreds of people attend Fairview worship services, Sunday School, activities, programs, and mission trips. For more than 135 years people have joined the Fairview Faith Family, who have persevered through wars, a depression, and a pandemic. The Holy Spirit has drawn a variety of people here both from rural areas and nearby towns. Those people are professionals, college graduates, teachers, farmers, factory workers, government employees, business owners, those looking for work, retirees, healthcare workers, and more. They are younger and older, providing a balance, where bridging the generations required generational ministries and engagement. We are a church of a blended worship, both traditional and contemporary, with a call to grow in faith while sharing the Good News with those who do not yet know Jesus. We are an Acts 1:8 church, accepting the challenge to be on mission at home and around the world. Our church participates in multiple local mission programs, as well as sending mission teams to nine states and two foreign countries. Individual members have engaged in missionary work in at least three foreign countries. We support from our budget, the Cooperative program at 5%, our local association at 5%, and Laurel Lake Baptist Camp at 2.5%. Fairview is well known for its financial generosity to local, national, and internationally disaster relief.

B. Our community

Fairview Missionary Baptist Church is located at 520 Fairview Loop Road Mt. Vernon, Kentucky 40456. Situated near the northern Rockcastle and southern Madison County line, it enjoys rural communities and small towns, with hospitals, top ranked schools, and nearby Berea College. The populations of Rockcastle County and Madison County is 17,000 and 93,000 respectively. The church is located between Berea and Mount Vernon in Central Kentucky. Berea (28th largest city in Kentucky) has a small-town atmosphere, is known for the arts and crafts festivals, historical places, and is home to Berea College. Mount Vernon (160th largest city in Kentucky) is a small town with historic entertainment complex Renfro Valley, a nationally renowned hospital, and lake Linville. Both towns are situated just off I-75 between Knoxville and Lexington.

For many years after the 1887 dedication, the growing congregation was primarily from the fields of agriculture, logging, sawmills, and farms. Under the leadership of local families, and influenced by Berea College founder, preacher, and abolitionist, John Fee, the church was formed to serve the community following reconstruction after the Civil War. Our mission field remains within the area, and in communities nearby, as well as several mission areas across the United States, and abroad. Our pastor search committee members are from varying occupations, and serve in several organizations within the church, including Trustees, youth, WMU, choir, and as Sunday School teachers. This committee was duly selected by the congregation, by ballot, to represent the church as a cross section of its membership. Given the opportunity to describe the church in one word, they said “welcoming”, “loving”, “family”, “inviting”, “intentional”, and “dynamic”.

The consensus of the committee is that Fairview demonstrates a deep, foundational, power of relationships that keeps people coming back.

C. Our Beginnings

Sometimes we look back. It has been said we might find who we are by remembering who we were. This is not to say we lose our individuality, but rather we share in a heritage. Our collective voices echo the lessons learned, not just those of today, but those of yesterday. The history of the beginnings of Fairview Missionary Baptist Church is unique in its creation as the times were that of great upheaval. Our nation had barely survived a great Civil War. Kentucky's neutrality notwithstanding, the times were wrought with violence, death, and families torn apart. In the years immediately before the Civil War, the community we know as Fairview, and surrounding area, suffered burnings of homes and schools. There were threats and beatings, dragging preachers from homes where worship services were being held and was, in most part, due to the ongoing animus regarding the issue of slavery. Abolitionist and founder of Berea College, John Fee, was one such preacher. A certain people of northern Rockcastle and southern Madison counties who were cut from the hardscrabble cloth of a peculiar faith became fearless church families in action. They refused to be bystanders. It was a journey of years, from meeting in homes, to meeting in School House no. 20 one mile north of its present location, to a church bell placed in a grove of trees, and finally to the refuge of a church dedicated in 1887 with the church building being completed around 1900. John Fee gave it the name Fairview, and as he was instrumental in the American Missionary Association, we were known as Fairview Missionary Baptist Church.

D. Worship

Fairview currently holds weekly worship services on Sunday mornings and nights, with a blended style of traditional and contemporary committed to the gospel. (We have Wednesday night prayer meetings) For the last couple of years we have provided our services online – YouTube. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, our church has significantly enhanced our online services, devotions, and special presentations.

In house we average 148 people attending on Sunday morning worship, with an average of 84 in Sunday School. (Total members 399; resident members 214) Before the pandemic our numbers were higher by about 20%.

In addition, we have a tradition of holding special services including but not limited to:

- Easter Sunrise
- Watch night on New Year's Eve
- Candlelight service near Christmas
- Thanksgiving supper service

E. Our Mission Statement (As set forth in our Constitution and Bylaws as "Objectives")

To be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit.

To share Christ with as many people as possible in our Church, community, and throughout the world as commissioned by Jesus (Matthew 28: 19-20, Mark 16:15, and Acts 1:8).

To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.

To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.

To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.

To be a Church that ministers unselfishly to people in the community and the world in Jesus' name.

To be a Church with the purpose of being Christ like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Christ.

F. Denominational Partnerships

- Rockcastle Baptist Association
- Kentucky Baptist Convention
- Southern Baptist Convention

G. Ministries and Missions

- Sunday School
- Quest (youth group)
- Acteens
- WMU
 - Lydia's Circle
 - Bean supper (Thanksgiving dinner)
 - Inasmuch Day (serve 75-100 people)
- Easter Sonrise
- Baby Dedication Service
- Graduates Sunday
- VBS (average 200-300)
- Annual Summer Mission Trip (about 40 in attendance)
- Laurel Lake Baptist Camp (average 10 sponsored kids with 1 or 2 adult counselors)
- Backpack Snack Program for local Elem. School
- Trunk of Treats (typically serve an average of 250-300)
- Operation Christmas Child
- Christmas Play (2 services with average of 300+ at each) at least 75 participants, including actors of all ages, set design, food preparation, sound booth, directors, donations, and prayer warriors
- Christmas Cantata
- Creative Ministries Team (average 5-6 participants)
- Annual 5k Run for Missions
- Christmas Candlelight Service (35-40 in attendance)
- New Year's Watch Night Service (20-25 in attendance)

Prior to Pandemic:

RA's, GA's, and Brotherhood