

Bethel Baptist Church History and Facts

HISTORY

A look at the past reveals the handiwork of God as He began to weave together the lives of people to form a local body for His glory and purpose.

As the Lord began to “add to the church daily,” primarily through individual witness and discipleship, our assembly grew. The people were acutely aware of what God wanted to do through those who were but willing to let Him “live” through them.

TIMELINE OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

1959	Bethel Baptist Church was born with 13 people (3 families) on September 20, 1959. Sunday School, morning services were held at Sam Hoffman Grade School. Evening meetings were held weekly in the homes of members.
1960	Part-time Pastor Ken Knappen, Frank Bressen, and Art Hagstrom wrote the Constitution. The church was incorporated and adopted the constitution on January 10, 1960. In the fall of 1960, the church moved to the Blackhawk School. In November of 1960, nine families unanimously voted to call Rev. Frank Bumpus as pastor. He arrived in Schaumburg on December 11, 1960.
1962	The papers were signed for the purchase of the land at the corner of Roselle Road and Walnut Lane (now Bethel Lane) on July 12, 1962.
1963	Plans were started for Bethel’s first building; twenty-four families co-signed the loan. The church moved into the basement of their building on January 12, 1964, while the auditorium upstairs was being completed. The auditorium seating 150 was completed in February, and the building was dedicated on May 24, 1964, now called the A-Frame.
1966	On June 28, construction began on Bethel’s second building – a multi-purpose gymnasium on the north end of the auditorium, now called the small gymnasium.
1971	Construction on a new auditorium began in the summer of 1971. The church faced a crisis when the government shut down the general contractor. The members banded together and finished the project. The new auditorium seating 500 was dedicated on September 23, 1972, now called the Chapel.
1974	In 1971, Schaumburg Christian School began as a preschool ministry. In 1974, kindergarten and first grade classes were added. Additional grades were added each year and the first senior class graduated in 1981.
1980	As Bethel Baptist Church and Schaumburg Christian School grew, property was purchased for the construction of additional school facilities to the north of the auditorium. Plans for the new education wing (called the Daniel Building) started in 1977 and completed in January of 1980.
1983	Construction was completed for the Bethel Baptist Activity Center – a full-sized gymnasium, kitchen and six classrooms, now called the Middle Gymnasium.
1984	To help meet the needs of Christian workers and laymen for more extensive training in the Bible, practical Christian living, and Christian service, Schaumburg Bible Institute was started in the fall of 1984.
1993	On January 24, Bethel dedicated its current auditorium (seating 2,400). An additional eight classrooms, five nurseries and ten offices were part of the addition.
1998	In August, the pastor and deacons requested the church to allow them to submit a bid for the Schaumburg Township Library building. On August 12, our bid of \$3.2 million was accepted and the church began the process of retrofitting the building.

1999	On January 3, Rev. Bradley Smith became Senior Pastor and Dr. Frank Bumpus became Pastor Emeritus. On March 5, Pastor Bumpus went to be with the Lord. On September 5, the Annex was dedicated in memory of Pastor Bumpus.
2008	On July 20, 2008, the Life Center was dedicated. This facility added three full-sized basketball courts, two new locker rooms, a fully furnished weight room, and the Connections Café.
2013	On August 4, Pastor Alan Benson began his ministry as the Senior Pastor moving from Wilmington, NC, with his wife, Michelle, and their four daughters.

QUICK FACTS

- Church staff – 10
- School staff – 80
- Missionaries Supported - 50
- Average weekly Sunday morning attendance – 500
- Schaumburg Christian School Enrollment - 900
- Bible translation used – ESV
- Hymnal – Rejoice Hymns, also use songs from other sources
- Sunday School Curriculum – The Gospel Project
- Kids program – Kids 4 Truth
- Typical week has two services on Sunday and Wednesday night programs that include prayer meeting, youth group, kid's programs, and small groups that meet in homes
- Annual events: Easter program, Christmas program, fun fair, pine car race, golf outing, ladies retreat