

THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

July 14, 2019

We gather today as “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant ... ” Hebrews 12:23-24a

A Time for Preparation

Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship

O THOU GIVING GOD,

My heart is drawn out in thankfulness to you, for your amazing grace and condescension to me in influences and assistances of your Spirit, for special help in prayer, for the sweetness of Christian service, for the thoughts of arriving in heaven, for always sending me needful supplies, for raising me to new life when I am like one dead. I want not the favor of man to lean upon for your favor is infinitely better. You are eternal wisdom in dispensations towards me; and it matters not when, nor where, nor how I serve you, nor what trials I am exercised with, if I might but be prepared for your work and will. No poor creature stands in need of divine grace more than I do, and yet none abuses it more than I have done, and still do. How heartless and dull I am! Humble me in the dust for not loving you more. Every time I exercise any grace renewedly, I am renewedly indebted to you, the God of all grace, for special assistance. I cannot boast when I think how dependent I am upon you for the being and every act of grace. I never do anything else but depart from you, and if ever I get to heaven it will be because you willed it and for no reason beside. I love, as a feeble, afflicted, despised creature, to cast myself on your infinite grace and goodness, hoping for no happiness but from you. Give me special grace to fit me for special services, and keep me calm and resigned at all times; humble, solemn, mortified, and conformed to your will.
-- (Valley of Vision Prayer Book)

Ring of Bell Judah & Felicity Gosnell

Announcements..... Deacon

A Time for Praise:

Prelude

Call to Worship

Scripture and Prayer Worship Leader

- *Hymn of Praise* *To God Be the Glory* Hymn # 56

A Time for Offering:

- *Offertory Hymn* *Faith of Our Fathers* Hymn #404

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings Ushers

A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

Choral Message *Have Your Way in Us* Arr. Haygood

Message Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

A Time for Surrender:

- *Closing Hymn* *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* Hymn #591

- *Benediction*

“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.” Deuteronomy 32:7

“Eternal God, our dwelling place in all generations, under whose guidance our fathers walked, by whom they were strengthened and sustained, and in whom they found life eternal, we pray that the spirit which kindled their faith may descend upon us this day. We thank Thee for every memory which this day revives, and for the cloud of witnesses who make this day sacred for us. Deepen within us the sense of gratitude for sacrifices made for us by those who have gone the way of life before us and found this house at Poplar Springs a place of renewal and strength. Father, as we look back on our spiritual ancestors with thankfulness, we pray that generations yet to come will be thankful that we, too, were faithful in our day. Grant Thy church with power so that we, Thy servants at Poplar Springs, may meet effectively the urgent needs of this generation. Enable us to be in flesh and blood and spirit, the extension of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Help us to see by faith the needs of those who shall come after us, and to bequeath to them, as a rich heritage of the spirit, our witness in life and deed to the unsearchable riches of the life with Thee. Make us faithful in all things by Thy grace that both this sanctuary and our souls may be a light in which men shall see Thee and glorify Thy name. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

– Morgan Phelps Noyes

Opportunities of the Week

Sunday, July 14

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice
7:00 p.m. Evening Worship
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry
7:00 p.m. Children’s Ministry

Wednesday, July 17

7:00 p.m. Bible Study/Prayer Meeting
The London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689

Church Watch this month: Tommy Bryant

Senior Adult of the Month: Sue Elledge

Brief History of Poplar Springs Baptist Church

TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO on July 14, 1794, nine men and six women met in a small log building in western Laurens County, South Carolina and constituted Poplar Springs Baptist Church. These Christian brothers and sisters, along with others, had been worshipping in the community since 1787. In June, 1794, Arthur Durham and David McGladery, members of Turkey Creek Church in Abbeville District, asked the privilege of “collecting the number of members about them to see whether they be ripe for constitution or not.” Turkey Creek Church granted their request and one month later, these 15 people joined together and organized Poplar Springs Church.

In August of 1794, the church entered the Bethel Association under the name “*Durham Church*” – evidently named for Arthur Durham, one of the founders and the first deacon. The name Poplar Springs was given to the church at the suggestion of Mrs. Rosannah Baugh for the beautiful spring over which grew numerous poplar trees. In 1795, it was entered in the association as “*Poplar Springs*” and has continued with that name for almost 225 years.

At the first meeting following constitution, the church met and ruled “*that there should be quarterly meetings to hold three days (viz) Friday, Saturday & Lord’s Day; that the members, according to their several ability, and respective freedom should communicate their mites quarterly, into the had of the Deacon to defray the necessary expenses of the church.*” All church business was transacted on Saturdays and this practice was continued for more than a hundred years; the Lord’s Day was kept for worship and preaching.

The first building, a log structure, burned in 1801 while being used as a school house. Another small house was immediately built for worship and schooling. A large log house for a meeting house was built in 1802. This log structure was pulled down about 1816 and a frame building erected. It served the Poplar Springs congregation until 1854.

During the first 25 years the congregation was small. A proposal was made in 1812 to dissolve the church, membership having dropped to a low of 12. Beginning with the 1820’s, membership increased rapidly and by 1833 the members was at 125.

On the Sixtieth Anniversary, July 16, 1854, Poplar Springs dedicated a new frame building. Rev. W. P. Martin preached the dedication sermon. Friends donated a Bible, a cushion for the Bible and a table. The ladies of the church contributed the pulpit. The cost of the church was \$1,444.08. The church was built well, constructed with wooden pegs, and served the congregation for ninety-five years.

A Sunday school was established in the church as early as 1833 under the leadership of Rev. David Simmons. Early mission endeavors included contributions to the traveling ministers, charity cases in the community, small churches just constituted, Furman University and The Seminary. The Women’s Missionary Society was organized in 1881.

At various times, Poplar Springs has dismissed members to go out and form new churches. In 1834, nineteen members from this church and two from Chestnut Ridge formed Friendship Baptist Church. In the early 1840's a group from this church migrated to Mississippi and joined in the organization of Cherry Creek Baptist Church near Pontotoc. In 1892 a large group became charter members of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and in 1895 a larger group organized Mr. Gallagher Church.

As early as 1940, a committee was appointed to consider plans for looking to the erection of a new church building. Ground was broken for the present sanctuary on July 3, 1949 during the pastorate of Rev. H. W. Granger. The school house across the road was used as a place of worship until December 11, 1949, when the first service was held in the new church. Total cost of the church was \$58,278.92.

The first parsonage was built in the winter of 1920-21, during the pastorate of Rev. J. P. Coleman. This house was replaced in 1967 by a modern brick building and was dedicated on September 22, 1968 under the pastorate of Rev. J. C. Rice, Jr. On Sunday, April 23, 1972, ground was broken again for a Fellowship Building at the rear of the church. It was dedicated at a Homecoming Service on September 17, 1972.

Thirty-seven ministers have served the congregation of Poplar Springs Baptist Church, several serving more than one pastorate. The present pastor, Pastor Lucas Mann, began his duties on May 12, 2019. As Poplar Springs celebrates its **225th Anniversary**, it continues to move forward in ministry and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Serving Jesus Christ ... Yesterday, Today, and Forever
1794 – 2019

Charter Members Of Poplar Springs Baptist Church

Rosannah Baugh
Arthur Durham
Elizabeth Durham
Elizabeth Gafford
Thomas Gafford
Henry Gaines
Mary Gaines
Michael Henderson

David McGladery
Martha Norris
Thomas Norris
William Norris
John Williams, Jr.
John Williams, Sr.
Rachel Williams

We thank you for worshipping with us today. We trust that your heart has been encouraged, your spirit filled, and that you will leave here equipped for the work to which God has called you. If you would like to find out more information about Poplar Springs Baptist Church, please visit our website: www.poplarspringsws.org or call (864) 861-2196.

THE FOLLOWING SONG entitled "*Poplar Springs Baptist Church*" was written by Barbara Norris Martin of Houston, Texas, as a tribute to the church on its 200th anniversary. She is a great, great, great granddaughter of Thomas Norris, one of the charter members.

Poplar Springs Baptist Church

They gathered in a little log house, there to worship,
Near a beautiful spring, shaded by a large poplar tree.
In sacred covenant signed their names, to forever
Serve Almighty God, His strength their victory.

Two hundred years have come and gone since they planted
This church near the beautiful spring, 'neath the poplar tree.
Thru the years many souls were saved, they were faithful.
Now the Gospel Torch is passed to you and me.

CHORUS

Come and worship with me, the one who died on Calvary
The battle for my soul is won. God sacrificed His only Son.
Holy God of Israel, hath condemned Satan to hell,
Jesus lives and all is well, in Him my soul doth safely dwell.
– Barbara Norris Martin

Church Contact Information:

Church/Fellowship Building: (864) 861-2190
Office/Parsonage: (864) 861-2196
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 124, Ware Shoals, SC 29692
Church Office: 6466 Poplar Springs Road, Ware Shoals, SC 29692
Hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 8-4
Email: balentine@poplarspringsws.org
Pastor: Lucas Mann
(864) 909-7564
Youth Pastor: Travis Gosnell
Music Leader: Deck Balentine
Pianist: Jean Powell
Website: www.poplarspringsws.org

Poplar Springs Baptist Church

225th
Anniversary
1794 – 2019



"For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants; and they will spring up among the grass like poplars by streams of water."
Isaiah 44:3-4 (NASB)

THE LORD'S DAY, JULY 14, 2019

6000 Poplar Springs Road
Ware Shoals, SC 29692
(864) 861-2196
www.poplarspringsws.org

Pastor Lucas Mann

Sunday School: 10:00 am

Worship: 11:00 am