



# **New Hope Coal Valley Baptist Church**

by Pastor Jerry Higdon

# New Hope – Coal Valley Baptist Church

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## HISTORY OF NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH (Formerly, COAL VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH)

The Coal Valley Baptist Church was started as the result of many events and dedicated people seeing the need to reach out in a community where there was no Southern Baptist Church.

Dr. W.J. (Jack) Fritts was largely responsible for drawing people together, securing resources and starting mission services in Coal Valley. In the early 1970's, Bible Clubs were held in the community, surveys were taken and extensive visitation was done. In the late fall of 1974, Home Bible Study Fellowships were started by Dr. Fritts in the homes of David Newcom in Coal Valley and Clayton Cockerill in Orion.

On Sunday, July 27, 1975, First Baptist Church of Green Rock sent the Fritts, Newcom and Cockerill families to serve as workers for Coal Valley Baptist Chapel. Financial support was secured from Broadmoor Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee and Paradise Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. The first services were held in the Coal Valley Masonic Hall.

In March, 1976, Dr. Fritts resigned as pastor, and Brother Jim Collins of Moline served as interim pastor. Reverend Sam Duncan was called as pastor in August, 1976. On March 6, 1977, the chapel was constituted into Coal Valley Baptist Church. A year later, in October 1978, the church purchased 5.4 acres of land at what is now its present site. Work was begun with the Spanish speaking residents of Moline with the help of Brother Dean Pruitt.

Reverend Duncan resigned as pastor in November 1978. Reverend Henry Ramey was called as interim pastor the following January. In May, 1979, Rev. Ramey accepted the call as pastor. During the same year the church called Reverend John Luian of Texas to work with the Spanish speaking residents in Moline.

Work on leveling the church property in preparation for building began in November 1979. However, it was not until May 1982 that the church contracted for the new building. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on August 1, 1982, and the building was started in September.

The first service in the new building was held May 15, 1983. One hundred seven attended Sunday School this first Sunday, and 126 were present for worship services.

In later years the church installed a kitchen, sidewalks, and a handicapped parking area and entry ramp. During the economic crisis the Quad Cities experienced in the middle and late 1980's, the church struggled to maintain its programs and meet its financial obligations. However, the Lord continued to bless the church.

Reverend Ramey retired as pastor in May, 1989. Dr. Steven Smith accepted the call to the pastorate in June, 1989. He resigned from the church in January, 1992. In May, 1992, Reverend Byron Wooten was called as interim pastor in October of the same year and then accepted the call as pastor soon thereafter. Rev. Wooten resigned October 2, 1994.

Reverend Steve Williams was called as interim pastor November 20, 1995. In May 1996 the church decided to merge with Baptist Temple in Colona. At the time of the merger, Coal Valley Baptist Church remained at its current location but changed its name to New Hope Baptist Church. As a result of the merger, Reverend Edmon Clemmons, former pastor at Baptist Temple, became the first full time pastor for Coal Valley Baptist Church. Reverend Clemmons resigned on May 29, 2000.

Reverend Robert G. Poor was called as interim pastor on August 20, 2000 and served New Hope Baptist Church until Reverend James Grieme accepted the call in February, 2001. Reverend Grieme's first Sunday was April 15, 2001.

During the six and one-half years of Reverend Grieme's tenure as pastor, the Lord allowed many things to occur that enabled the church to be ready to minister in a rapidly changing culture. New Hope Baptist updated the interior of the church, both the foyer and the auditorium, and installed a state-of-the-art multimedia system. In November, 2005 the church ordained Reverend Jerry Higdon, and he became the Associate Pastor at that time. The Lord provided a worship/music leader, Ms. Kathy Cooper, in 2007. Reverend Grieme resigned in October, 2008. Pastor Jerry currently serves as interim pastor.

When asked about his greatest legacy during his time at New Hope Baptist, Reverend Grieme said, "I would like to think that lives were changed through God's Word and that the church was prepared for the growth I know God will send after I leave. I am thankful that God used me while here, but my desire is for whatever was accomplished during my time to be incomparable to what God is going to do through the people of the church in the future! This church gave me the opportunity to grow and mature as a pastor. I will never forget that in my future ministry. Without the education I received and the friendship I was given at New Hope, I would have no future ministry at all."

New Hope Baptist Church has been sharing God's love with the Coal Valley and surrounding area for over 25 years. Its members seek to win the lost to Christ and to nurture the saved to become more



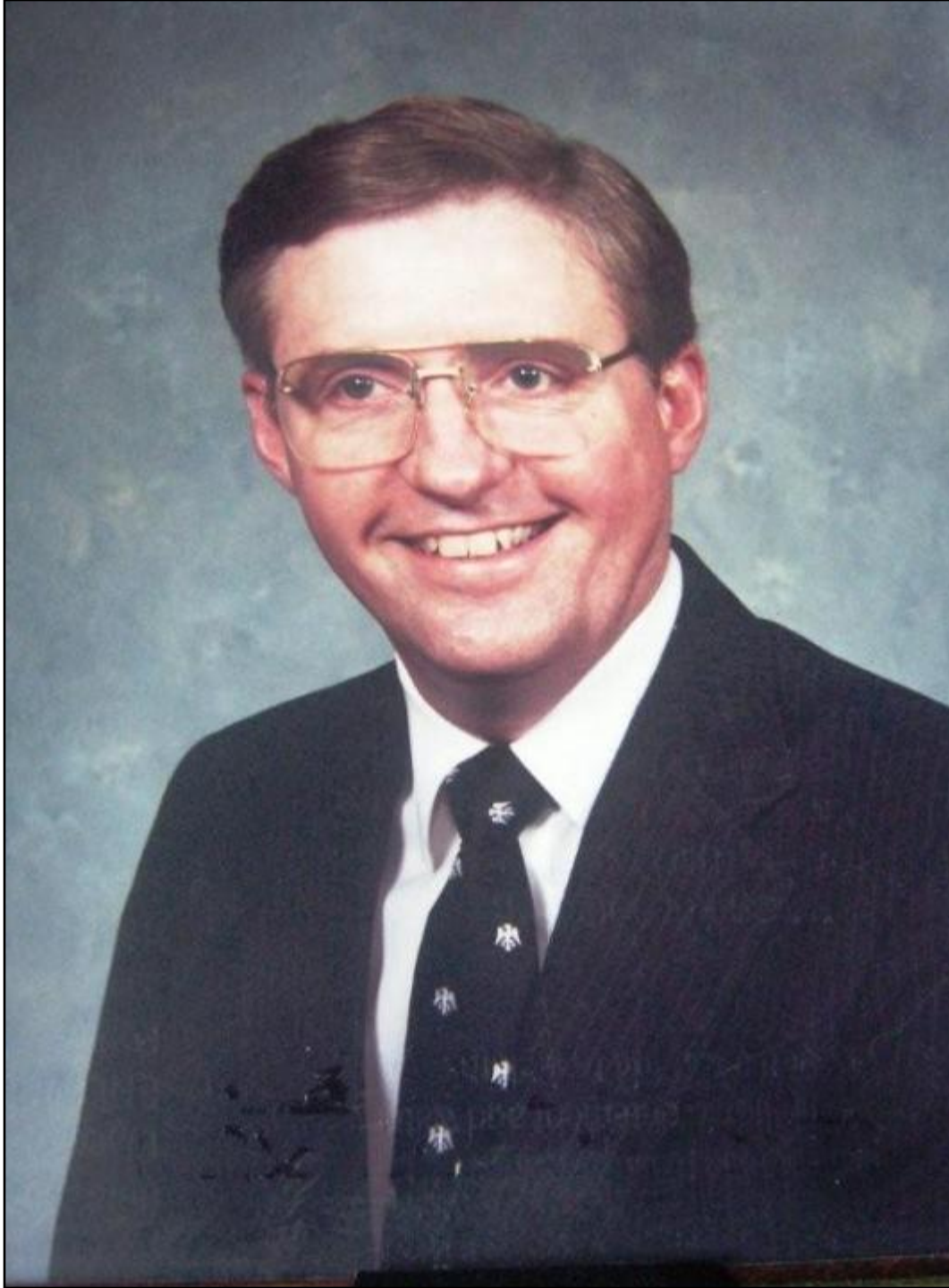
**Coal Valley  
Baptist Church**



*Sharing the Joy!*







1975-1976

Rev Jack Fritts



1976-1978

Rev Sam Duncan



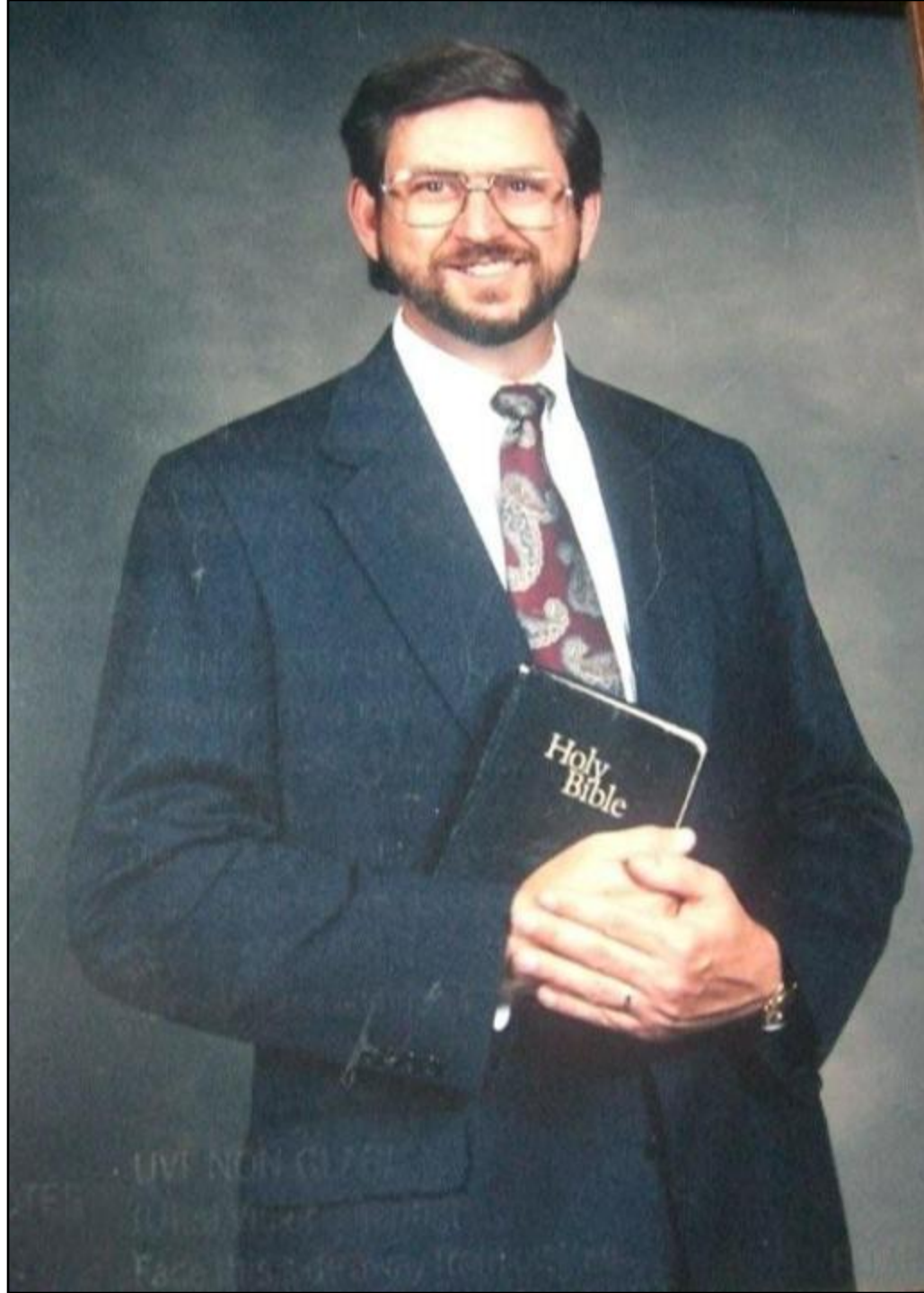
1979-1989

Rev Henry Ramey

1989-1992

Rev Steve Smith

No Photo Available



1992-1994

Rev Byron Wooten



1994-2000

Rev Edmond Clemmons



2001-2007

Rev Jim Grieme



Barbra Ramos, John & Regina Joyner, Rick & Joyce Cook, Tom & Diana Cotton, Gary Kempmann (teacher) - 1985



Larry McNew (teacher), Merle Norberg, Pat Higbee, Oren Bilbruck, Janice Kampmann, Henry & Carolyn Lowery, Sue Mason, Pat & Larry Taylor- 1985



John & Mary Stone, Tom McClure, Leonard & Burnie Buccholz, Rosalee Boens & sister, Ruth Green, May McNew, Joe Sifford, Janice Ramer (teacher) - 1985



Linda Norberg (teacher), Carrie Cook, SueEllen Meridith, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, Eli & Areana Soliz (left) - 1985



John Griffin & Becky Roe (pregnant with Melissa), girl?, Erica Mason, Becky Dietz, Chris Cook, George Lowery, Drew Kampmann, Justin Norberg - 1985

Connie Dietz (teacher), Barbra  
Edmunds, \_\_Higbee, Ian Soliz,  
Johnny Griffin, Doug Mason -  
1985





Ruth Lees, Lou McClure, Pam Cotton? - 1985



Robert Lowery, Mary Stone, Kathy Smith, ?, Matthew Roe, Brittany Smith - 1985



Pearl Sifford, Brian Roe (far right), Lori Cook (white tights) - 1985



\_\_\_\_?, Andrea Taylor, Stephanie Norberg, Alicia Kampmann, Chris Dietz, Brett Kampmann, \_\_\_\_McNew, Michael Swemline, Diane Swemline - 1985



Norma McCoy, Wanda Lowery, Stephanie Edmunds, Brott Kempmann, Kristine Swemline, Missy Taylor, \_\_\_McNew - 1985



Lee McCoy, Edna Green, Bob Dietz (teacher), Roger Bilbruck, Marilyn Green - 1985

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## NEW HOPE STATISTICAL DOWNLOAD

New Hope

Baptist Church	Sunday AM Worship Att	Total Members	Resident Members	Total Baptisms
2007	-	-	-	
2006	58	160	66	7
2005	50	180	65	3
2004	60	180	55	2
2003	60	210	70	3
2002	55	80	80	5
2001	-	180	-	6
2000	60	300	150	5
1999	74	386	368	6
1998	76	376	358	1
1997	58	343	325	4
1996	64	332	314	1
1995	83	328	310	5
1994	50	166	152	2
1993	55	169	166	6
1992	53	159	152	2
1991	76	192	150	5
1990	68	179	144	1
1989	*	180	145	8
1988	*	178	140	4
1987	*	172	137	7
1986	93	177	148	1
1985	*	146	130	1
1984	*	148	135	1
1983	*	137	134	1
1982	*	121	116	1
1981	*	99	65	1
1980	*	89	63	2



New Hope Future?

It's up to You!