

# Keltys First Baptist Church: 100+ years of worship

By STEVE KNIGHT

The Lufkin News

In 1900, faithful believers of an East Texas logging community gathered to form Keltys First Baptist Church.

The logging community, then known as the Keltys community, named after the logging boss (pronounced Kel-tiss), was an outlying area on the borders of the East Texas city of Lufkin.

In 2000, the church celebrated 100 years and relocated their facilities to the loop of Lufkin. The new property at 2402 N. John Redditt Drive includes eight acres of land, three buildings and ample parking. The church is debt free in all its endeavors.

Aaron Wilson, pastor of families and administration, said the mission of the 350-member church is to be a healthy church that proclaims God's glory through the preaching of God's word.

"Because we believe worship is a response to God's revelation, we desire to make God's Word central in all that we do during a worship service," Wilson said. "Our singing, praying and preaching seek to faithfully proclaim the God of Scripture and His good news of redemption for fallen mankind. This biblical philosophy allows us to design our services around substance rather than style."

Wilson said the pastoral staff desires a healthy church that is growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"We believe in expository preaching, that is, teaching verse by verse through books of the Bible to discover God's original intent in any given passage," Wilson said. "We believe this to be the best way to feed God's people for spiritual growth."

According to Wilson, the church maintains ministries for all ages. Awana Clubs meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings to encourage scripture memory for children from toddler ages through 6th-grade led by Wilson.

The youth ministry meets at 6:30



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**AARON WILSON**

PASTOR OF FAMILIES AND ADMINISTRATION

p.m. on Wednesday and is structured around biblical teaching and fellowship under the leadership of Dave Vandergriff, pastor of youth and worship. During these ministries to children and youth, adults gather for worship and Bible study, led by Senior Pastor Mark Livingston, the church's 33rd pastor who has served since 2006.

Jerry Browning, pastor of counseling and evangelism, is involved throughout the week either counseling or training counselors using biblical counseling methods, that is, bringing God's Word to address the needs of others.

The church also has a ministry to Senior Saints that meets at 10

a.m. on Tuesday mornings for Bible study and fellowship led by Gene Elrod.

The church also recently started home group fellowships at 6 p.m. on Sunday that meet in homes around the Lufkin area for the purpose of mutual edification, prayer and to discuss the morning's sermon.

The church staff also includes Erin Siber, nursery director, and

Vercie McMullen, women's ministry director.

Sunday school starts at 9 a.m. and worship begins at 10 a.m.

The church also supports international missionaries in Mexico, Thailand and Peru and national church plants in Memphis, Tenn., Chicago and Kaufmann.

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**To find out more about the church's philosophy, visit [www.9marks.org](http://www.9marks.org). For more information about the church, visit [keltys.org](http://keltys.org). The church's phone number is (936) 634-4019.**