

HISTORY

Central Baptist Church began in 1865 as a result of a former pastor from First Baptist Church returning from the Civil War. The church then “lettered out” forty-nine people along with this former pastor to start Central Baptist Church.

During the 1880’s the church experienced great growth. In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s Central was the “large” church in town and was quite well known. In the late 1930’s it became an Independent Baptist Church.

In the early 1960’s Central Baptist Church began a kindergarten program, with a strong Christian emphasis, which ran for several years. This became an indicator for the beginning of a Christian School.

Central Baptist School was first verified in the hearts and minds of the pastor and several church members (some of whom were public school teachers) who were convicted by Scripture that the church needed to provide an opportunity for church families to send their children to a school with a quality academic educational program and a strong emphasis on Biblical training. This small group of people invested many hours in prayer and planning before the official announcement was made to the church. The church voted to start a Christian school in November 1970, expecting to limit enrollment to church members.

Central Baptist School was scheduled to begin classes in the fall of 1971. However the church then decided to relocate and purchased over 17 acres in northeast Memphis. With the move school did not begin until the fall of 1973. Central Baptist Church has been very supportive of this aspect of its ministry. They agreed to underwrite the school until it could become self-supporting. The school presently, uses buildings owned by the church. The first building was completed in the spring of 1974, with the church building being added in 1986. The gym / classroom building was occupied in August 1994.

The school started in 1974 with 17 students in K-4th grades. The first graduating class was in 1981. The school has grown to 300 students in K-5 through 12th grade.