

General Information About the Baptist Student Center at The University of Tennessee

1. The Baptist Student Center at 1637 W. Cumberland Avenue was purchased in 1942 for \$12,000.00 under the leadership of Dr. John Freeman, Executive Secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Dr. Fred Brown, First Baptist Church, Knoxville. In the spring of 1962, new property was purchased at 1811 Melrose Avenue for \$50,000.00, and the old property was sold to the University for an equal amount. The cost of purchase and renovation was shared by TBC and Knox County Association of Baptists. The center is owned by the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and is a direct part of the State Mission Program.

2. The first part-time director was former Knoxville Mayor, Leonard Rogers, in 1937.

The first full-time student director was Frank Grubb - 1937-1940.

In 1940, Dr. Rogers M. Smith, who later served as an administrative assistant in our Baptist Foreign Mission Board, became director. Rogers Smith later became the first State Student Director for Tennessee.

Mr. V.E. (Bob) Entrekin was the director from 1946-1949. He later served as State Student Director for Illinois.

Dr. Udell Smith was the director from 1948-1950. He finished his career in Student Ministry as the State Student Director for Louisiana.

Dr. Griffin Henderson was the director from 1950-1952. He served as pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida and was a missionary to Hong Kong.

Mr. Elbert Williams came on May 1, 1952 and left July 13, 1961. He served as city-wide director in Birmingham, Alabama and was also the campus minister at Troy State University, Troy, Alabama.

Mr. Harold (Pete) Beard came in August of 1961, serving until July of 1969. He went on to become a full professor of psychology at the Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, MO.

Rev. Bill Lee assumed duties in December, 1969. He previously served as director in Memphis from 1964-69.

A position of graduate student assistant was initiated in 1967. A Southern Baptist Theological Seminary student or U.T. graduate student served an internship as the graduate assistant.

In 1971, the residence of 1815 Melrose was purchased by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Knox County Association of Baptists. It served as a missionary residence for a furloughing missionary family each year from 1971-1977. This person served on the staff of the BSU as international student minister and associate.

3. A Black Student Fellowship of the BSU was established in the spring of 1977. This is the first such organization on a predominately white campus in the country.
4. The first full time associate campus minister position in Tennessee was established in 1977 here at U.T. Dr. Bob Hall assumed the responsibilities of this position in September of 1977.
5. Extensive renovation of the Center took place from 1973-76. Again the cost of the project was shared by the T.B.C. and K.C.A.B.
6. The “Foundation of Missions” was established in 1989. This was the first campus-based student missions endowment established in the United States. The fund has experienced steady growth over its first 8 years to a \$85,000.00 level of investment.

<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Service Completed</u>
Marion Pickle	1990
Chan Wilbourn	1991
Chris Ogle	1992
Chris Hodges	1993
Betty Mirts	1994
Steve Johnson	1995
Debra Simerly	1996
Earl Martin	1996
Jim Darlington	1997

Bill Acuff	1997
Chris Yerger	1998
Joan Cronan	1999
Cliff Shirley	1999

7. The Baptist Student Center building was completely rewired and received new heating and cooling systems during 1996 and 1997. This project was completed with over 2,200 volunteer hours of labor.
8. During several years of the 1990's the UT-Knoxville BSU had more student mission volunteers serving through the Foreign Mission Board than any other campus in the United States.

BSU Directors
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1937	Leonard Rogers	First part-time student director; later became mayor of Knoxville,
1937-40	Frank Grubb	First full-time student director.
1940-45	Dr. Rogers M. Smith	Became first full-time director for TN State Student Department. Served as administrator for Foreign Mission Board until his death in 1982.
1946-48	Rev. Bob Entekin	Later served as State Student Director for Illinois.
1948-50 Louisiana	Dr. Udell Smith	Served as State Student Director for
1950-52	Dr. Griffin Henderson	Former Southern Baptist Missionary to Hong Kong
1952-61	Rev. Elbert Williams	Served as city-wide director in Birmingham and campus minister at Troy State University.

1961-69	Dr. Harold (Pete) Beard	Now a full professor of psychology at Central Missouri State University.
1969-78	Rev. William B. Lee	Current director of Student Summer Missions program for the Home Mission Board.
1978- Present	Dr. Bob Hall	

Associate BSU Directors

1977-78	Dr. Bob Hall	First full-time associate campus minister position in TN was established at our center in 1977.
1979-81	Rev. Larry Alan Reeves	Later pastored the First Baptist Church Jacksboro, Tennessee and churches in North Carolina.
1982-85	Rev. Walter Wilson	Later served as BSU Director for Vanderbilt University.
1986-1989	Rev. William Chote	Graduate of Southern Seminary, Christian Brothers College and University of Tennessee. Later became the Baptist Campus Minister at Vanderbilt University.
1989- Present	Betsy Adkins Ingle	Graduate of Southwestern Seminary. Extensive background in creative arts.

BSU Secretaries

Priscilla Kirby	1961-70
Ruth Adams	1971-88
Ellen Burnette	1988-90
Kelly Rose	1990-91

Dot Mills	1991-92
Janice Lewelling	1992-2003
Haley Chastain	2003-present

Graduate Interns

1970-71	Danny Mason	Later worked in various sales positions in Knoxville.
1971-72	Dr. Charlie Bogan	Currently pastor of First Baptist Church Newport, TN.
1972-73	Rev. Sam Carothers	Present campus minister of Meredith College in Raleigh, NC.
1973-74	Rev. Ray Wheatley	Present campus minister of the Oklahoma Technical School of Okmulgee, OK.
1974-75	Rev. Bobby Waddail	Now campus minister of Towson State University in Baltimore, MD.
1975-76	Rev. Wil McCall	Later became BSU director at the University of Southern Mississippi and Walters State Community College.
1976-77	Becky Hayes-Matheny	Presently campus minister of the University of Georgia-Athens.
1977-78	Rev. Chris Jackson	Later became campus minister of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO and Tennessee State University in Nashville.
1978-79	Willie Ann Patterson	Studied at American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville.
1979-81	Lee Arthur Montgomery	Later served as engineer in Tennessee and South Carolina.

1982-83	Travis Crutchfield	A social worker in Knoxville.
1984	Bill Choate	Campus minister at Vanderbilt University.
1985	Winnie Wilson	Former BSU president and director at Roane State Community College BSU.
1986-87	Rev. Jeff Roberts	Later pastored churches in Niota, TN and Middlesboro, KY.
1988	Betsy Whaley	Later graduated from Southern Seminary and served as Minister of Counseling.
1989	Rick Burnette	Current missionary to rural hills tribes in Thailand.
1993	Buddy Harrell	
1996	Brian Whaley	
1997	Buzz Jellett Brian Whaley	
1998	Cherie Cruze	
1999	Molly Crawford Warren	
2000	Rodney Griffin	
2001	Daniel Willis	
2002	Allison Farr	
2003	Darren Mooney	
2004	Rodney Arnold	
2005	Chris Kirby	