

**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 TBC and Knox County Association of Baptists shared the cost of purchase and renovation. 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 citywide director in Birmingham, Alabama and was also the campus minister at Troy State University, Troy, Alabama.

Dr. 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. The corpus of the fund steadily increased over the years, reaching a \$250,000.00 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.
9. The “Facilities Foundation” was established in 2001, the proceeds of which go to the maintenance and upkeep of the physical plant.

<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Service Completed</u>
Frank Gordon	2004
Rodney Griffin	2003
Chris Ogle	2002
Skip Ingle	2005
Dr. Greg Reed	
Joe Petre	
Dr. Stan Johnson	

10. In 2004, alumni and ministry supporters contributed \$44,000.00 to replace all of the old windows in the building with new insulated glass windows. The replacement windows were identical in appearance to the older windows and resulted in significant utility savings.
11. During January 2005, the ministry was incorporated into its own nonprofit entity, Knox Area Baptist Collegiate Ministries, with its own private nonprofit designation and its own Board of Directors. The first Chairman of the Board of Directors is Dr. Bill Acuff.
12. A third full-time staff member, Rev. Steve Hixson, began work during the 2005-2006 academic year. Steve's responsibilities also include work on the following area campuses: Pellissippi State Technical Community College, Maryville College, and Roane State Community College at Oak Ridge. Steve is the first President of Knox Area Baptist Collegiate Ministries.
13. From 2007 through 2009, a major ministry center addition and remodeling took place. This \$1,500,000.00 project was accomplished for \$900,000.00. Over 300 volunteers donated time and labor to the project. Alumni, churches, foundations and the Tennessee Baptist Convention provided funds. The new building dedication was held on Saturday, August 29, 2009.
14. BCM Wins the 2010 ACE Cup. The ACE Cup is the annual award given by the University to the top campus organization. Our BCM is the proud recipient of this year's honor. We also received the ACE Cup in 2004. Winning this award marks the only occasion when a non-Greek organization has been so honored by The University of Tennessee.

In 2010 the Facilities Foundation and the Foundation of Missions were merged into one entity. The trustees serve at their pleasure on a permanent basis. Permanent trustees of the new Foundation of Missions are: Tom Butler, Jim Darlington, Joe Petre, Greg Reed and Chris Yerger. The BCM Director is an ex-officio member of this endowment board.

15. A new parking lot was built in 2013 at a cost of \$174,000. The lot provides north and south access points to the property. All staff members and building residents have named reserved parking spaces. The paved and graded lot also provides ministry space for outdoor programs.

**BSU/BCM 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	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	Bob Entrekin	Later served as State Student Director for Illinois.
1948-50	Udell Smith	Served as State Student Director for Louisiana
1950-52	Griffin Henderson	Former Southern Baptist Missionary to Hong Kong
1952-61	Elbert Williams	Served as city-wide director in Birmingham and campus minister at Troy State University.
1961-69	Harold (Pete) Beard	Now a full professor of psychology at Central Missouri State University.
1969-78	William B. Lee	Current director of Student Summer Missions program for the Home Mission Board.
1978-2014	Bob Hall	Director of the BCM for 37 years; former Journeyman to Kenya with his wife, Suzanne.
2014 – Present	Rodney Norvell	Current Director of the BCM

**Associate BSU Directors**

1977-78	Bob Hall	First full-time associate campus minister position in TN was established at our center in 1977.
1979-81	Larry Alan Reeves	Later pastored the First Baptist Church Jacksboro, Tennessee and churches in North Carolina.

1982-85	Walter Wilson	Later served as BSU Director for Vanderbilt University.
1986-1989	William Choate	Graduate of Southern Seminary, Christian Brothers College and University of Tennessee. Later became Tennessee's State Director for Collegiate Ministry.
1989-2011	Betsy Adkins Ingle	Graduate of Southwestern Seminary. Extensive background in creative arts.
2005-2013	Steve Hixson	Southern Seminary Graduate. Also responsible to ministries at Maryville College and Pellissippi State Community College.
2011-2013	Mandy Trammell	Masters of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Present Theological Seminary
2013-Present	Samantha Hawes	Previously served on the BCM staffs of The University of Kentucky and Virginia Tech

**BSU/BCM Secretaries / Ministry Assistants**

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 Resseguie	2003-2008
Rosalie Hadley	2008 – 2014
Crystal Freeman	2014 – Present

### Graduate Interns

1970-71	Danny Mason	Later worked in various sales positions in Knoxville.
1971-72	Dr. Charlie Bogan Newport, TN.	Currently pastor of First Baptist Church
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	Associational worker in Knoxville.
1984	Bill Choate	Collegiate Ministries Group Leader, Tennessee Baptist Convention.
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	Roland "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	
2006	Kara Blankenship Jason Pisani Chris Kirby Bill Eubank Baolerhu Ligden Glenn Johnson	
2007	Jen Clark Bill Eubank Jessica Frick Carmel Hall Emily Kane Baolerhu Ligden	
2008	Jen Clark Carmel Hall Emily Kane	

2009	Kydon Bowen Emily Kane
2010	n/a
2011	Conan and Christy Sherlin
2012	n/a
2013	Michael A. (TJ) Earl
2014	Daniel Williams (Spring) Rachel Edonmi (Fall)
2015	Rachel Edonmi (Spring)
2015	Domini Yawn (Fall)
2016	Domini Yawn
2017	Domini Yawn (Spring)
2017	Johnny Short Jr. (Fall)



**BCM Presidents**  
**The University of Tennessee-Knoxville**

2017-18	Kelsey Phillips
2016-17	Tanner Owens
2015-16	Anna Newton
2014-15	Drew Holland
2013-14	Jake Darlington
2012-13	Caleb Thurman
2011-12	Mallory Young
2010-11	Clarissa Dufresne
2009-10	Lauren James
2008-09	Matt Brock
2007-08	Kydon Bowen and Jill Ogle
2006-07	Jeffrey Purtee
2005-06	Kristen Fischer and Matt Scheuneman
2004-05	Charles Hamrick and Krystal Werfel
2003-04	Rodney Arnold
2002-03	Craig Wells
2001-02	Julian Bryson
2000-01	Sharon Swinehart
1999-00	Daniel Miles
1998-99	Greg Savage
1997-98	Rachel McRae
1996-97	Ellen Forry
1995-96	Todd Gilbert
1994-95	Katie Estes
1993-94	Heather Guffee
1992-93	Rob Estes
1991-92	Kevin Thompson
1990-91	Denise Smallen
1989-90	Kevin Ledden
1988-89	Teresa Smith
1987-88	Paul Gunn
1986-87	Jeff Bohanan
1985-86	Mark Morgan
1984-85	Betsy Whaley
1983-84	Jeff Large
1982-83	Doug Vernon
1981-82	Mark Smith
1980-81	Winnie Wilson
1979-80	Joan Watts
1978-79	Chris Ogle
1977-78	Char Martin