



Little River
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Serving The Church. Serving The Kingdom.

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Wendell Holmes McRidley

Although largely forgotten today, this giant of the faith was one of the most outstanding Kentucky Baptist ministers in the early 20th century.

Born as a slave around Davidson County, Tenn., in 1842, McRidley began preaching after the Civil War ended. The Nashville Normal and Theological Institute had been founded in 1866 to provide education for African-Americans. After graduating from this school, McRidley preached throughout Tennessee and Kentucky. Though the records are scarce during this period, we know he served at Portland Memorial Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville in 1880.

In 1881, McRidley began his life's work when he was called to be the pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Cadiz, Ky. This congregation was started in 1870 with 40 members. In 1881, the membership remained small and without a permanent home.

Within a short time, 250 new members had been added. A new sanctuary was built in 1884. The growth remained steady through the years. In 1913, McRidley reported Second Baptist had received 1,120 new members during his pastorate. What makes this even more amazing is during these years, Second Baptist regularly practiced church discipline. McRidley was known for his staunch doctrinal convictions — the *American Baptist* newspaper called him an “uncompromising Baptist preacher ... striving to lift up our people and broaden Baptist influence.”

With so many new converts in his congregation, McRidley realized that Christian education was essential. In 1884 he established the Cadiz Normal and Theological Institute. The school provided elementary education for African-American children in Cadiz and helped “to educate preachers and teachers who are not able to make long expensive trips to acquire education elsewhere.” While the buildings are gone today, the school was located near his home on McRidley Street.

With limited resources available, McRidley appealed to his friends and fellow believers for financial assistance. In 1893, he attended the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention (then called the General Association), and shared his vision of the Cadiz Normal and Theological School. John A. Broadus, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was so moved by McRidley's speech that he personally walked among the messengers using his own hat as an offering plate to receive a collection.

By 1913 the school had 247 graduates. Included among these were more than 40 Baptist pastors and several missionaries to Africa. It comes as no surprise that in 1911, National Baptist historian Nathaniel H. Pius listed the Cadiz Normal and Theological Institute as one of the 13 “most prominent Negro Baptist universities, colleges and seminaries” in America.

So much more could be said about this amazing individual. McRidley edited a Baptist newspaper, *The Cadiz Informer*, that had a circulation of 10,000. He was a practicing lawyer for a time and served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. While his age and the advent of free public education forced the Cadiz Normal and Theological Institute to close in 1915, McRidley remained faithful at Second Baptist. In 1931, his friend, H. Boyce Taylor of Murray, wrote that McRidley, at the age of 91, was likely the oldest active Baptist pastor in Kentucky.

On Sunday, Feb. 21, 1932, W.H. McRidley passed away near the altar of his beloved Second Baptist Church. He had preached that morning and was preparing to enter the pulpit for the evening message when he died. Wendell Holmes McRidley and his wife, Annie, are buried in unmarked graves in the United Brotherhood Federation Cemetery in Cadiz. “Well done, thou good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21). By *Ben Stratton, pastor Farmington Baptist Church in Graves County KY.*

Mev Fredenburg Mission Fund 2021		(Former Associational Missions Fund)		
Donations as of 7/25/21				
	Camp Cadiz	Mev Fredenburg Mission Offering	Other	
Bethany	\$ 160.00			
Blue Spring	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 975.00		\$ 50.00
Buffalo Lick				
Cadiz	\$ 1,366.20			
Canton				
Cerulean				\$ 30.00
Crossroads Fellowship	\$ 1,410.00			
Delmont				
Donaldson Creek	\$ 250.00			
East Cadiz	\$ 400.00			
Hurricane		\$ 555.00		
Liberty Point	\$ 3,395.20			
Locust Grove	\$ 1,000.00			
Maple Grove	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,000.00		
New Hope	\$ 750.00			
New Jerusalem				
New Light				
Oak Grove		\$ 328.00		
Ponderosa	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,300.00		
Rock Front				
Rocky Ridge		\$ 187.00		
South Union				
Wallonia	\$ 4,004.37			\$ 30.00
Other	\$ 14,520.00			\$ 12.00
Total	\$ 29,955.77	\$ 4,345.00		\$ 122.00
2021 Totals as of 7/25/21	\$ 34,422.77			


FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY



Church	Regular	Special
Bethany	252.00	
Blue Spring	2,285.64	
Buffalo	0	
Cadiz	1,185.97	
Canton	992.72	250.00
Cerulean	472.00	
Crossroads		
Delmont	280.32	
Donaldson Creek	777.00	
East Cadiz	676.98	
Hurricane	400.00	
Liberty Point	749.24	
Locust Grove	787.00	
Maple Grove	450.00	
New Hope	243.69	
New Jerusalem	0	
New Light	50.00	
Oak Grove	463.71	
Ponderosa	525.04	
Rock Front	200.00	
Rocky Ridge	198.00	
South Union	131.00	
Wallonia	0	
Misc. Income	800.00	1,826.00
Total	11,920.31	2,076.00
		13996.31



Interest NOW Acc.	3.78	
Deaf Ministry		250.00
Mev Fredenburg Assoc. Missions Fund		1,826.00

Subtotals	11,924.09	2,076.00
Total income		\$14,000.09
Monthly expense		\$21,258.72

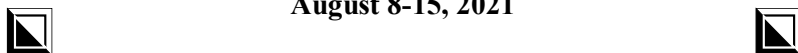

Regular Fund		
Beginning Balance		42,668.25
Interest Received		3.78
Gifts		11,920.31
Trans- Contingency Fund		(100.00)
Trans- OMC		
Trans- Building Maintenance Fund		(100.00)
Trans- Mev Fredenburg Fund		
Expense Checks Written		(10,258.57)
Ending Balance		\$44,133.77
Treasurer: Louise Fuller 7/25/21		






THE GOSPEL FOR ALL



Week of Prayer for Your Local Baptist Association


August 8-15, 2021


Prayer Guides Available at the Baptist Center






August

Calendar Of Events

2- Executive Team Mtg., 6 p.m., Mission Board Mtg., 7 p.m., Crossroads Fellowship

8-15- Week of Prayer for Baptist Associations



Happy Birthday

Mike Rust- 8/8
Steven Nichols- 8/11
Jeremiah Swaw- 8/11
Debra Hardy- 8/15
Debbie Rust- 8/19
Norman Cotton- 8/20