

from Bob Gault.  
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## Hatcher 's Memorial Baptist Church

Hatcher's Memorial Baptist Church has an old and colorful history. It is one of the oldest churches in Prince William County, Virginia. The town of Brentsville was founded in 1820. In 1822, the Episcopalians built a small church in Brentsville. Brentsville was the center of Dettinger Parish and later became known as the county seat of Prince William County. The brown stone church was built in 1847 and named St. James. It was later used by the Episcopalians as the Prince William Academy and then by the church of the Brethren. At the time the two room brown stone church was built in Brentsville, Prince William County, had only one Baptist Church located in Occoquan with a thriving congregation of 69 members.

The flourishing town of Brentsville became the County Seat of Prince William County. During the Civil War the brown stone church was used as a hospital and barracks. By the War's end most of the church had been destroyed except for the sturdy brown stone walls. In a post Civil War Revival the Baptist Church was organized in 1866 under the able leadership of Reverend B.P. Dulin of Greenwich, Virginia, who became the first pastor and served the church in this capacity for 25 years. This most outstanding leader's obituary in 1895 states; Brother B.P. Dulin had many gifts that make the popular preacher. He had an attractive and commanding appearance a benevolent face, and a voice evining musical, and of great compass. He had a fluent speech, a ready command of language, and a sympathetic nature. He was a man of faith and hope. He was an evangelist and he magnified his gift.

The church suffered a severe blow when the county moved the Court House to Manassas in 1893. A number of members moved to the new county seat. Following the years of decline the church experienced a revival and bought the present building in 1897 at the price of \$350.00, Dr. W.E. Hatcher, D.D. Presided over the meeting called to raise that amount. After two roll calls members had pledged only \$220.00. A prominent layman, ~~XXX~~ John Kincheloe, offered to give one-half of the remainder. Another layman, Harris Fields, matched the amount given by Mr. Kincheloe and the building was bought.

Under the capable leadership of Reverend W.T. Wine of Orleans, the church gained slowly in members. Pastors following him are:

W.S. Jackson      Falmouth

W.E. Lowe	Haymarket
T.W. Noland	Falls Church
J.C. Bradford	Unknown

In 1916 Barnett Grimsley ~~XXX~~ of Castleton, Virginia became pastor. He held services the second, fourth and fifth sundays of the month. The cogregation continued to grow. Until in 1925, the church reported 49 members.

In 1926 Reverend J. Milton Frame became pastor and served until 1931. In 1931 to 1934 no record of pastors who served. In 1935 Reverend W.D. Estes became pastor. The church seemed to stabilize with slow growth under his leadership, he served until 1941 and he was from Bristow, Virginia.

In 1941 Pastor F.I. Griffith became pastor for six years, until 1949. In 1950 no report was filed.

In 1951 Rev. Garvin c. Martin of Richmond, Virginia, served until 1953.

In 1953 Rev. W.R. Jessup of Richmond, Virginia served as pastor.

In 1954 Rev. H.R. Getts served for two years.

In 1956 Rev. Virgil Wilson, of Richmond served until 1958.

In 1958 Rev. Malvin M. Utlege of Richmond became pastor and served until 1960

In 1960 Rev. Jack Bently of Manassas served as pastor, the church then became a full service church.

In 1961 Rev. John R. Reynolds became pastor and served for one year.

In 1962 Rev. Robert Tolbert of Alexandria served as pastor for two years.

In 1964 Rev. Norman Gooding became pastor in the month of January. He left this pastorate in may of 1971. While at Hatcher's Memorial Baptist Church, he was responsible for the complete restoration of the brown stone church, with the addition of an Educational wing to the north of the Sanctuary. The church grew and waxed rich in members and fellowship.

In 1971 (May) to 1973 (October) Rev. E. len Weston served as interim pastor.

In 1973 (October) Rev. Oscar Burnside became pastor.

In 1974 (July) Rev. Burnside resigned.

In 1974 (July to September) Interim pastors.

In 1974 (September) Reverend John Roy Reynolds became pastor.

Rev. Reynolds is serving as pastor at this reading. Under his capable leadership an adjacent Brentsville landmark has been purchased. The home has been restored and the lot made into a much needed parking space. The pastor now occupies the home which serves as our parsonage.

Though the church has had a Turbulant History it has remained steadfast in the faith remaining a strong christian witness in our community. May the reading of this church history be an inspiration to those who hear and strengthen them in our faith.

\*\*\* TO GOD BE THE GLORY \*\*\*