

Alcoa-Maryville Church of God History As of the 75th Anniversary on September 24, 1995

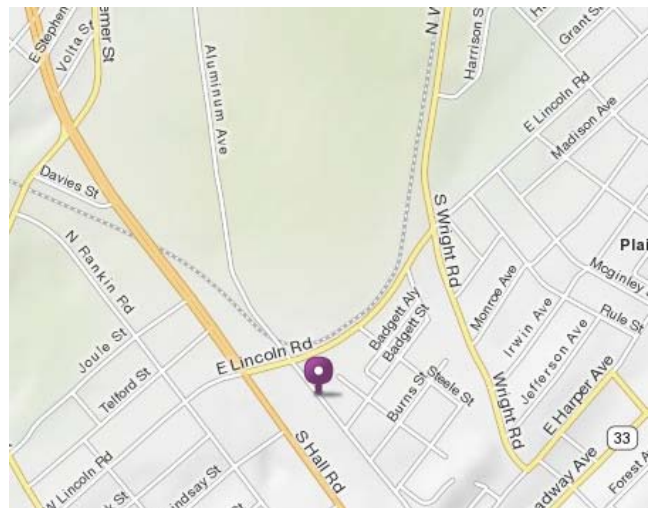
As far as can be determined, the Rev. L.B. Rouse became the pastor of what is known today as the Alcoa-Maryville Church of God in September 1920. The first church was started in a tent up on a hill just north of Aluminum Avenue in Alcoa. The 20's were everything but easy on the little Pentecostal group and saw only 47 members joining from 1920 to 1929. Some of those didn't stay for very long and some were disfellowshipped from the church for: non-attendance, undue reproach, using tobacco, snuff, chewing, disloyalty, bobbing hair, using profanity, denying faith, belonging to secret lodges or orders, railing, going to movies, not lining up with the church, sowing discord, backsliding and by request. It was a very slow beginning during the roaring 20's! Pastors included: L. G. Rouse, Frank Green, Rev. Sterns, W. H. Lively, John Stooksbury, Walter Anderson, and O.L. Williams. (There are gaps in the records, so there could have been others.)

The 30's were also hard years on the church. One page of the minutes showed that the church had received an offering and tithes of \$3.56. The pastor's salary was \$2.85 with \$0.71 going to headquarters. During 1931 the church purchased property on Hannum Street. Pastors included W. D. Childers, P. W. Myers, L. C. Barrett, George Britt, Rev. Mohead, P. F. Fritz, G. W. Hades, J. B. Cale and Rev. Baney.

By the 40's the church was rolling. No longer was the church a tiny organization and some of the hard persecutions had let up. They purchased a corner lot at Rankin Ferry Road and Gill Street for \$250. In 1941 the church purchased a lot on Cherokee Street in Maryville

for a parsonage. Pastors included: J. D. Wilson, Willie H Huddleston, B. L. Alford, C. W. Dempsey, C. C. McAfee, F. G. McAfee, and Howard McGee. The church property was paid off in 1947 and money borrowed to build a parsonage adjoin the church. The church continued to grow.

The great 50's came. Pastors included: C. T. Dunn, T. L. Phillips, C. J. Hindmon. These pastors were comers and stayers. Brother Dunn set up the bookkeeping system in the church. He knew the importance of taking care of the



“Greatest Business” in the world.

The 60's through the 80's brought Gordon Stallings, Randall Geren, Melvin Lonas, Larry Winters and John Massey.

In 1966 Brother Stallings immediately got the ball rolling for a new building. There was a lot of hard work, prayers, tears, anger, and laughter. In July 1967 the present building on Montvale Station was dedicated and became the home for the local church family. In 1975 Brother Geren served the church with love and compassion for his congregation. Brother “Pappy” Lonas came in 1978. He was a good preacher with a new message each time he came to the pulpit, but most important he was a pastor-shepherd and friend to the individual. With a handicap of 85% blindness, he resigned in March 1986.

In October 1992 the Rev. Fred S. Cook and wife Jeanette were sent to us by the Lord. The Cook's have brought the spiritual leadership that was need for the 90's. Through their love and dedication to the Lord, they have overseen several renovation projects for the repair and beautification of our church facilities. And, we thank them for their unselfishness time and effort given to these much needed projects.

Our attendance today has climbed to over 140 in Sunday School and approximately 165 in morning worship. We Praise the Lord for his continued blessings to our church family our intercessory prayer team has been praying and fasting for our 75th anniversary services, expecting a great work of the Spirit. May our goal be to stand up, move out of our comfort zone and serve the Lord by reaching out to our community to bring in the harvest for the Lord.

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Today we are honored to have as our special guest on our 75th Anniversary, our first assistant general overseer of the Church of God, Dr. Ray

H. Hughes. Dr. Hughes is recognized around the Christian world as an outstanding preacher and leader of our time. Dr. Hughes has served the Church of God in most of the leadership positions. He has been evangelist, pastor, youth director, state overseer, Lee College president, media speaker, camp meeting speaker, general executive committee and general overseer. He is an author and teacher. Dr. Hughes has served in leadership positions in international Pentecostal organization and has just return from the 17th Pentecostal World Conference in Jerusalem.

At the top of this list of accomplishments, Dr. Hughes is a preacher of the gospel. His book "The Anointing Make the Difference" stands as a master piece. He is anointed of God, prepared by study and prayer to preach the glorious gospel. We welcome him to Alcoa-Maryville.

"If my people, which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. My eyes will be opened and my ears attentive to their prayers."

II Chronicles 7:14-15

Alcoa-Maryville Church of God History Pastoral History

The following is a list of the pastor's that have served the Alcoa-Maryville Church of God from its inception until August 2011.¹

L. B. Rouse, 1920 –
Rev. Sterns ?
Frank Green, 1923 –
W. H. Lively, 1925 –
John Stooksbury, 1926
Walter Anderson, 1926 – 1928
O. L. Williams, 1929
W. D. Childers, 1930
P. W. Myers, 1931 – ?
I. C. Barrett, 1933
George Britt, 1934
Rev. Mohead, 1935
P. F. Fritz, 1936
G. W. Hodges, 1937
J. B. Cale, 1938
Rev. Baney, 1939 – 1940
J. D. Wilson, 1942
Willie H. Huddleston, 1943
B. L. Alford, 1944 – 1945
C. C. McAfee ?
F. G. McAfee 1946 - 1947
Howard McGee, 1948 – 1952
C. T. Dunn, 1953 – 1956
T. L. Phillips, 1956 – 1958
C. J. Hindmon, 1958 – 1966
Gordon Stallings, 1966 – 1975
Randall L. Green, 1975 – 1978
Melvin Lonas, 1978 – 1986
Larry Winters, 1986 – 1989
John Massey, 1989 – 1992
Fred Cook, 1992 – 1998
Sam Youngblood, 1998 – 2005
Hubert McGarity, 2006 - present

¹ There are gaps in the church records, so there may have been other pastors which have not been included.

