



Somerville (Florette), Alabama
A Historical Thumbnail Summary

- Location:** 8 miles south of Somerville on Highway 67 in the town of Florette on what used to be known as Grape Hollow Road (now Blue Springs Road) in Eastern Morgan County, Alabama.
- The initial church building was built on a hill northwest of an underground spring that was said to hold a 25-foot-wide, 10-foot-deep pool of azure-blue water.
- The present church building sits on 5 ½ acres of land. It sits adjacent to a cemetery that contains both Confederate as well as Northern soldiers along with many who have attended and lived near Blue Springs Baptist Church.
- Founding:** 1846 – By the Jethro Judson Weaver Family along with help from the nearby Shiloh Baptist Church following several years of meeting in members’ homes.
- The Weaver family were settlers from Georgia.
- Church Buildings:** There have been three church buildings in the church’s history:
- The initial building was a wooden, box-like structure made of hewn white oak sills. That building was occupied by Northern troops for about two months during the Civil War (circa 1861-1865). The building was moved 90° by the troops to make the main entrance perpendicular to the road. Worship services were interrupted for several years during the war. After the Civil War, a twenty-foot extension was added to the north end of the building.
 - A second building was built on land deeded to the church by Billy Joe Weaver, around 1886, to replace the rapidly deteriorating initial building & addition. That building survived until 1960 when it was torn down.
 - The third church building (brick, current building) was built in 1961 under Pastor Lee Roy Champion. From 1990-92, a 24’x36’ addition was attached to the 1961 building with two basement and two ground-level classrooms, restrooms, an elevator to the basement, and a handicapped ramp.
 - A “Fellowship Hall Building” with office space, storage, and bathrooms was added to join the third church building in 2008-9 under the leadership of Pastor Ralph McCollum.
 - Numerous renovations and improvements have been made to all of the church buildings during the years to beautify and make these buildings more functional and useful.

Associations: Muscle Shoals Baptist Association (1856-59, 1873-1919)
Warrior River Association (1859-1872)
Morgan Baptist Association (1919-Present)
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (Convention) (??-Present)
Southern Baptist Convention (??-Present)

Church Theme: “Where Living Waters Flow” based on John 7:38 and numerous other Scriptures found in both the Old and New Testaments referring to Jesus, the Living Water, to whom all people should turn and place their faith and trust for salvation.

Church Legacy:

- A warm, loving, caring, praying, & giving (very generous) fellowship of believers.
- A significant influencer for evangelism, spiritual growth, missions giving, and missions and ministry work.
- The “Heart of the Florette Community”
- Benevolence-giver providing food, finances, & provisions to the needy.
- Helped re-birth Shiloh Baptist Church in 1947 who helped found Blue Springs in 1846.
- The church was used as a school for the community until an addition on Florette School was built.
- During the depression (1930’s), members raised needed funds by planting, harvesting, & selling cotton on eight acres of land.
- Incorporated in 1960.
- Celebrated its 150th Anniversary on Sunday, June 9, 1996
- Has enjoyed many years of numeric and spiritual growth for all ages.
- Believes its best days lie ahead.

Current Pastor: Rev. Richard L. Richie – (256) 303-9602 – RLRichie@hotmail.com



2nd Church Building



3rd & Current Church Building

**385 Blue Springs Road
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