

Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, Inc.

Volume II, Issue 11, 2016

www.millcreek-graveyard.org

Nashville, Tennessee



Annual Meeting To Be Held November 19, 2016

The Board of Directors is convening the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, Inc. at the Buchanan House Craft Cabin at 10 AM on November 19th. This meeting is held each Fall to elect board members and to plan for the direction of the FOMCBCG, Inc. activities for the upcoming year.

We invite members to come to any of our meetings but the board members would especially like to extend an invitation to the members for THIS meeting. Please come to the meeting and visit with the board. We will adjourn promptly at 12 Noon.

THE FENCE PROJECT IS COMPLETED

The FOMCBCG, Inc. has completed the fence project!! Our site is much more attractive with the fence running along both street frontages, Old Glenrose Avenue & Dodge Drive. It is a black woven wire fence with black posts as shown in the picture on this page. The height of the fence is 60" and it has a 12' double gate installed on the Dodge Drive frontage. Clearing the property line turned out to be a difficult job for Kailey's Tree Service but they hung in there and got it done for the bid we originally received. After that was done we could see for the first time that the ground needed grading along both roads to make the new fence run smoothly with the contour of the ground without abrupt rising and falling which we could clearly see for the first time. This work took two more days and a small excavating machine to accomplish. The Board of Directors authorized the project at a total

cost of about \$13,000 including one board member's donation of \$1,350 of in kind grading done through a separate contractor named I DIG IT, Inc.

We saved for years to get this important project done. It demonstrates the board of directors' commitment to collecting money first – then making the planned expenditures.

Please remember it's nearing tax time, and contributions made to the FOMCBCG, Inc. by Dec 31, 2016, are 100% tax deductible on your 2016 tax returns since we are a 501(c) (13) organization, the "(13)" is for Cemeteries. We have sometimes referred to "501(c) (3)" as more people are familiar with this designation.

NEW FENCE ALONG OLD GLENROSE AVE



Evidence of the grading is clearly visible that allows the fence to run smoothly with the ground level. We will have weed maintenance to do to keep the fence clear of overgrowth but this activity will get easier with a season or two of weed control applications. See more pictures following in the newsletter.

Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, Inc. President's Report

The election of board members will be conducted at the annual meeting which has been announced on the web site www.millcreek-graveyard.org and will then be held at the Buchanan House Craft Cabin on November 19, 2016. Please remember the members of the board of directors volunteer their time for the work they perform on behalf of the organization.

As an organization, we still need more participation from established church organizations associated with the Mill Creek Graveyard as well as from existing members. We also need membership growth. It is difficult to say that most efforts to this end have not produced significant results. The people interested in preserving this historic graveyard are individual ancestors, the First Baptist Church History Committee, and folks generally interested in early Nashville historic organizations.

As always, the most important activity for our organization is to collect enough money each year from membership renewals, new memberships, and donations of monetary gifts to meet our annual expenses without withdrawing funds from the endowment. We have not always been able to meet this goal each year but the board of directors continues to act in ways that would help accomplish this goal if at all possible. As the organization enters the 2017 fiscal year, we reiterate that growth and protection of the endowment fund are top priorities. To accomplish both these goals we will need additional memberships, additional monetary gifts from members we already have, or hopefully both of these outcomes together.

The total funds accumulated by the Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, Inc. is apparent by looking at the graph where over the years the endowment fund has grown almost every year. There are the notable exceptions of 2002 and 2009 to observe in that data. The organization's investments are managed by the **Tennessee Baptist Foundation**. We have a constant goal of preserving and improving the historic Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard property dating back to the late 1700's. Please help us reach this goal on an annual basis by making your membership fee payment and if possible, by donating additional gifts however small, for improvements that will always be specifically identified. An example of this concept was fundraising for our newly completed fence project being completed prior to executing the project.

Sincerely,

O.W. Higley, Jr. (Whitsitt Descendant)
President FOMCBCG, Inc.

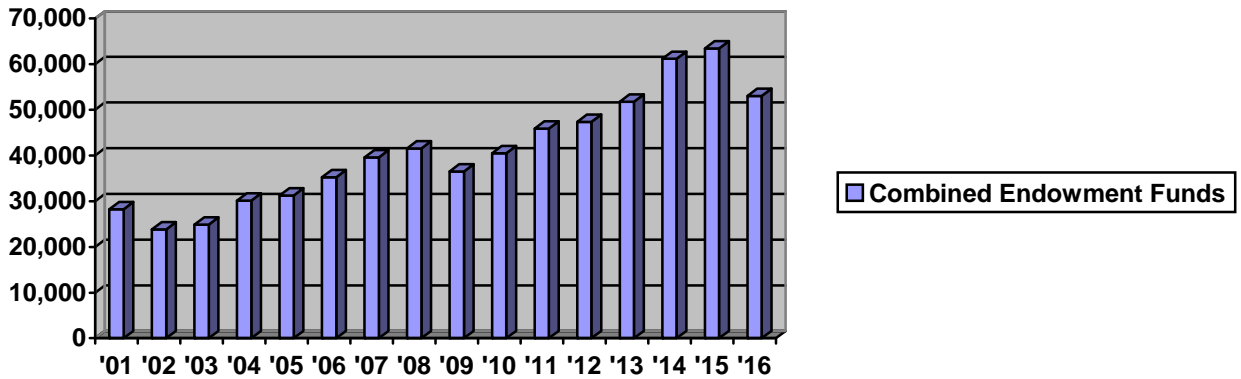
Web Sites for FOMCBCG, Inc.

The Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, Inc. has several web addresses to make finding our site easier. **Main Site** - www.millcreek-graveyard.org ; **Additional Site Addresses:** www.millcreekgraveyard.org and www.millcreekgraveyard.com . Also we have a Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Mill-Creek-Baptist-Church-Graveyard-Inc-200355786666792/>

For the last several years the website has been the creation of **James Goodrich**. We decided to move all of our files and our website to Google in particular because of it being a no cost solution for the organization. Jim continues to make this important contribution to our efforts and we owe him many thanks!

ENDOWMENT FUNDS OVER TIME

Date	Mill Creek Endowment Fund	Amelia Whitsitt Edwards Fund
10/31/2011	\$34,614	\$11,277
8/31/2012	\$35,832	\$11,535
9/30/2013	\$41,125	\$12,430
9/30/2014	\$47,967	\$13,212
9/30/2015	\$49,982	\$13,484
9/30/2016	\$40,836	\$12,194



Fluctuations in the amounts indicated above are mainly due to declines in U.S. stock market activity in 2002 and 2009 and the fence project execution in 2016..

FOMCBCG, Inc. Maintenance Activities at the Graveyard

The central focus of the FOMCBCG, Inc. Board of Directors is the maintenance of the graveyard to ensure it is kept in good order. Maintenance activities are supported by your **membership fees and contributions**. This work does not have an end as the care and maintenance of the graveyard requires consistent efforts year after year. In 2016 we had the grass cut on 4 acres of grounds more than in 2015 due again to more rain. The budget for grass cutting was again supplemented by extra donations mostly from the board members. We generally pay approximately \$2,000 per year for the graveyard’s basic lawn maintenance. We need your 2017 membership fees and any donations you can afford to send for this work. We do not want to withdraw funds from investments to meet our basic maintenance costs. The Old Gate Entrance – now relocated. It was all one could see inside!!



Some Photos of Fence Project 2016





The FOMCBCG, Inc. Historical Commission Sign In Front of the Graveyard Erected in 1995 – One of the First Improvements to the Site



Never Too Early To Plan

Giving a little can last a lifetime. Your tax deductible contributions to the Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, Inc. leave a legacy for future generations while preserving our past. Significant tax incentives make gift planning attractive. You can make a difference by making a charitable gift a part of your overall estate plan; your continued support of the Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, Inc. ensures our history is preserved for future generations. **You can make a difference.**

BOARD MEMBERS

The 2015 Board of Directors* of the FOMCBCG, Inc. are:

Otho Whitsitt Higley, Jr.	President
Lu Whitworth	Vice-President
William Heath Edwards	Treasurer
Harriet Jewell	Secretary
James Goodrich	Membership
John F. Eldredge	Marketing
Dr. Albert Wardin	Treasurer Emeritus (October 2010)

*All the board members were re-nominated for 2016.

Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, Inc.

Organized in 1993 – Send 2017 Dues and/or Donations to:

C/O William Heath Edwards, Treasurer, 504 Jefferson Davis Drive, Franklin, TN 37069-6212

Remember We Will Always Use Your Donations For The Good Of The Organization

Thank you for your interest in our organization. We want you to be aware that all donations to this effort are fully **TAX DEDUCTIBLE**. You may also designate funds to be used for specific purposes. The **ENDOWMENT FUND** was created to provide long-term support for the upkeep of the site. We encourage most of our donors to select this fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

Amount Enclosed: Individual (\$25.00) __ Lifetime (\$200.00) __ Endowment \$ _____

Church Grant: \$ _____ Fence Fund: \$ _____

If Church Grant, please give the name of the church _____

Descendants: Please name your ancestor(s) who are buried at Mill Creek Graveyard and/or who were members of the original Mill Creek Baptist Church: _____