

## Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

**Smith Creek Regular Baptist Church**  
9312 N Congress St  
New Market, VA 22844



### A brief History

Smith Creek Baptist Church was constituted on August 6, 1756, before the United States was a country (1776) and before New Market was a town, incorporated (1796). The area was originally known as the Cross Roads as two well-known Indian trails crossed here. It appears to be the third Baptist church started in Virginia. The charter members were the Aldersons, Newmans, and Harrisons. The church at Smith Creek was built on an acre of property donated by John Alderson and Samuel Newman northeast of Cross Roads and near the Smith Creek. The church having been built near Smith Creek, and that they used the creek for immersion, explains our name. This early church was in the wilderness then, and withstood Indian raids, and imprisoned ministers. The record book of the Smith Creek Church and Linville Creek Church "is the oldest such volume found among the Baptists west of the

Church website: [www.smithcreekbaptistchurch.com](http://www.smithcreekbaptistchurch.com)

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Blue Ridge."

Around 1778, Edwin Young donated one acre for a Meeting House on the west side of the junction of Valley Pike, known as Cross Roads, where the town of New Market was laid out in 1783. (on Abram Street, now Seminary Lane). About 1778, there was a division among the members, and a log building was built on this property for a new meeting house.

In 1833, a new brick building was built on the eastern portion of the Abram Street property. This building gained notoriety as it was used during the Battle of New Market, May 15, 1864 as a hospital for both Confederate and Union soldiers. The building was torn down in 1918, and the original foundation is still visible under the current garage which sits on its site.

The building in which we currently meet was begun in 1899 and completed in 1902. Pastor Howard Barnes led in an addition off the back of this building for classrooms and bathrooms in 1955, and Pastor Jack Masquelier led the construction out the side of the building in 1967 for the current auditorium and additional Sunday school rooms.

The large stained glass window in the building is given in memory of Anderson Moffett, the second pastor. He was born in Fauquier August 28, 1746 and is best-known here because he began preaching at 17 years of age and preached for 70 years, of which 50 were as Pastor at Smith Creek. It is documented that he began preaching in the Valley in 1781. He spent some time in the Culpeper jail as an unregistered preacher. Pastor Moffett is buried in the family cemetery on Plains Mill Road, approximately 1.7 miles West from I-81 down highway 211 on Plains Mill Road. The Baptist History Preservation Society has restored his headstone with a beautiful piece of marble.

In the words of William Good, this is not a story about logs and brick, but a story of faith, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and a faith which is alive today, in the little church by the old wagon road.

*Written by Pastor Brent Hockema, Sept 2011*



*First brick Church constructed 1833*

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*Rear of original church on east side of Congress Street*



*Original Rear Door*



*1957 addition*



*The 1967 Sunday School addition*