

Muldraugh Hill feels spirit with tent revival

By CHIP HUTCHESON, Kentucky Today
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Muldraugh Hill tent revival has church excited and revived.

LEBANON, Ky. (KT) — A year ago, a member of Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church suggested the church host a tent revival. That suggestion led to a successful four-day revival effort last week, and Pastor Billy Compton is optimistic that it will be the momentum to see more people finding new life in Christ.

“I think our church has been in revival,” Compton said, noting there have been 20 additions since June. “We were on a roll having somebody join the church every month leading up to revival,” he noted. The tent revival had a high attendance one evening of 215 and a low of 128. “We averaged about 175 people or so, and it was comfortably full with 200 chairs under the tent. We wanted to make it a community event.”

The revival culminated with four people being baptized in a watering tank.

“A lot of churches haven’t had revivals in a long time, and it’s probably been 15 years since I led one,” Compton said. “We started planning this one last fall and we got the tent in the spring. We have a nice big area to put the tent, and we wanted to make it visible. We had perfect weather — only God could do that for us.”

The revival effort started Sept. 18 with Steve Skaggs, a retired preacher from the church, bringing the message. That evening’s preacher was James Jones, who pastors at nearby Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, and he brought his congregation on that evening. On Monday night Dan Durham, from Stewart’s Creek Baptist Church in Marion County, was the preacher. On Tuesday night, GenZ was the targeted audience with Christian Naylor, pastor of First Baptist in Russell Springs,

being the preacher. The final night featured Kenny Rager, KBC church evangelism strategist, as the preacher.

We had a guy at the revival who used to work at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and they had a tent they would let churches use. He told Compton he wished churches would think about doing tent meetings again because it gives visibility in the community. “I’m glad we did it,” Compton said. “Who knows, we may do it again — for this day in time, it was a grand experience.”

Prior to COVID, the church had worship attendance in the 200 range, and like most churches found its attendance decreased when the pandemic subsided. But Compton says Muldraugh Hill is poised to make a strong rebound— already having 80-85 percent of its congregation return.

“We’re a two-town church,” Compton observed. “Muldraugh Hill is between Lebanon and Campbellsville, so it is not a typical country church because it draws people from both communities.”

Also, the church is undergoing major renovation, so the use of a watering tank to baptize four people was a unique feature of the revival.

“My son-in-law, David Atcher, is worship pastor at Westport Road Baptist in Louisville, and two years ago they had an outdoor service and my granddaughter had made a profession of faith, and I baptized her outside in that watering tank. My son-in-law took the tank home to store it.” Compton said that is the tank that was used to baptize four people during the revival.

“I had led a lady to the Lord in a gym, then she brought her mother to see me. She told me her mother had never been baptized.” So those two, along with two students who made professions of faith, were baptized in the tank.

On the last night of the revival, those who were baptized were given certificates and prayed over. Also, deacons, Sunday school teachers and other church leaders were brought to the front and prayed over.

Compton noted that people were faithful to giving. “Our people gave over \$5,000 from Sunday to Wednesday in a revival offering. For a church our size, that is over \$1,000 a day. God was working in it and it created a great sense of getting past COVID and moving toward the future — a future of new life, of people getting saved.”



Under the lights at the tent revival at Muldraugh Hill.