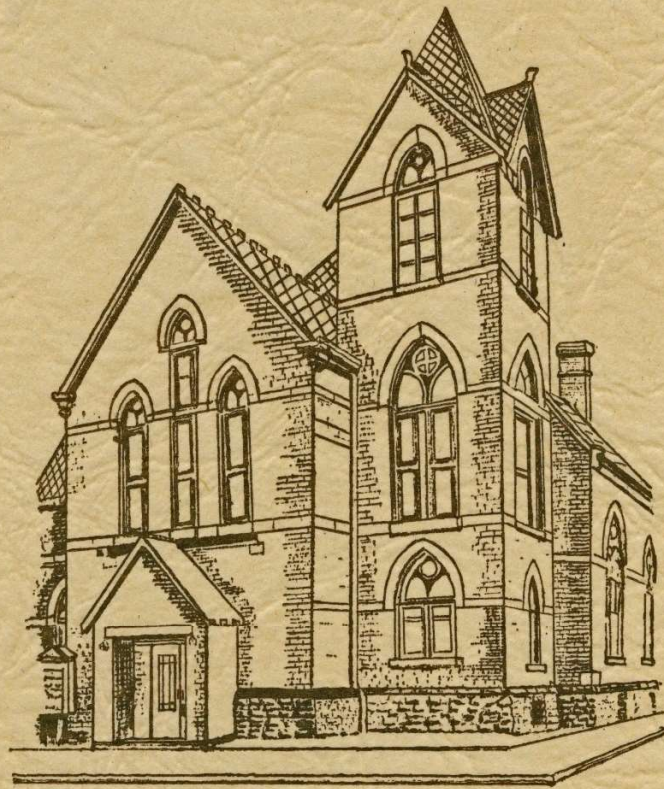


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# Centennial Anniversary

1852



1952

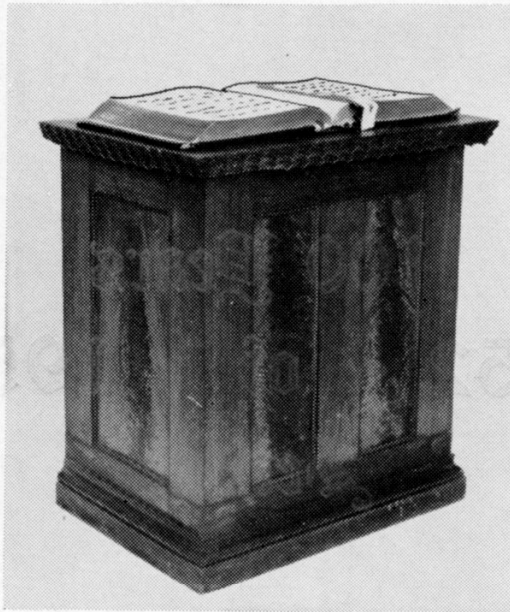
First Baptist Church  
Columbus, Indiana

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100 Years  
1852 of 1952  
Service





THE FIRST PULPIT  
1854 — 1890



History Prepared and Written by  
MR. AND MRS. DALE GREENLEE

Cover Sketch Prepared by  
HAROLD MUNDELL

Photographs by  
LOTUS W. ALEXANDER





PASTOR STANLEY E. MUGRIDGE

In New Study

Study Completed in April, 1952



# HISTORY

of

## THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Columbus, Indiana

### ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

The First Baptist Church, of Columbus, Indiana, belongs to what is known as the Flatrock Association, which was composed of churches in Bartholomew, Decatur, Johnson, Rush and Shelby Counties. The early settlers of these counties came into this territory soon after the Indian Titles were extinguished by the Treaty of 1820. They selected their lands in the unbroken wilderness and entered them at the Brookville Land Office, which was opened in 1820.

Bartholomew County was organized by the County Commissioners on February 15, 1821, and a permanent seat of justice was established at Tiptonia, now Columbus, and Colonel John Vawter, of Vernon, Indiana, was employed to survey and plat the old part of Columbus. As the settlements were formed Baptist Preachers were soon on the ground holding meetings in their log cabins. Many of the new settlers had been members of Baptist Churches in the States from whence they came. Among the early ministers who came to this part of the State were the following:

MIGNON BOAZ, JOHN B. POTTER, DANIEL STOGSDILL, JESSE VAWTER and JOSEPH FASSETT.

A little later came:

SAMUEL HARDING, JOHN PAVEY, BENJAMIN REESE, W. T. STOTT, Sr., THOMAS HILL, Jr., and JOHN VAWTER.

The first Baptist Church organized in what is now Bartholomew County was the Flatrock Baptist Church located approximately six miles north of Columbus. This church was organized February 10, 1821. Soon after a number of Baptist Churches were formed in the surrounding settlements and they united to form the Flatrock Association in September, 1823. No united effort was made to establish a Baptist Church in Columbus until the year 1852. In that year a number of people, who had been members of Baptist Churches in other communities and having moved to this community, held a number of meetings relative to the organization of a Baptist Church in Columbus. These meetings resulted in a group of people meeting in the Presbyterian Church, which was then located on the southwest corner of Third and Franklin Streets, for the purpose of forming a Baptist Church in the City of Columbus. This meeting was held on January 23, 1852. At this meeting a Church Covenant and Declaration of Faith were to be presented to a council composed of delegates from churches of the Flatrock and Madison Associations. This presentation to be on January 30, 1852.

### THE COUNCIL

The delegates to this Council were as follows:

From Flatrock Church—William C. Taylor, Benjamin Pence, Samuel Quick, Thomas Patram, Francis Fielding, John Wallace, Jr. and E. Richardson.

From Vernon Church—Rev. W. T. Stott, Sr., and Rev. M. B. Phares.

From Bethel Church—Moses Sweeny, Daniel Earhart and J. R. Sweeny.

From Sharon Church—D. R. Trotter, A. B. Trotter and A. R. Simmons.

From Friendship Church (Brownstown Association)—Rev. Frazier, R. Young and W. Wakefield.

Rev. John Stott and other visiting brethren were invited to seats in the Council. The Rev. W. T. Stotts, Sr., was chosen Moderator and Rev. M. B. Phares, Clerk. This Council met on January 30, 1852, and received the Church Covenant and Declaration of Faith and adjourned until the following day, January 31, 1852, to consider the application of these people for a Constitution in the Regular Baptist Church.



## **"CHURCH COVENANT"**

The Church Covenant presented to the Council was as follows:

Having been as we trust brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, and to give ourselves wholly to Him, we do now solmenly and jcyfully covenant with each other to walk together in Him with brotherly love to His glory as our Common Lord. We do therefore in His strength engage that we will exercise a mutual care as members one of another, to promote the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge, holiness and comfort, to the end that we may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God,

That to promote and secure their object we will uphold the public worship of God and Communion with each other. Therein that we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the support of the poor and for the maintenance of a faithful ministry of the Gospel among us,

That we will not omit closet and family religion at home nor allow ourselves in the too common neglect of the great duty of religiously training up our children, and those under our care with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of Heaven,

That we will walk circumspectly in the World, that we may win their Souls, remembering that God hath not given us the Spirit of fear, but of power and love, and of sound minds, that we are the light of the World, and the salt of the Earth and that a City set on a hill cannot be hid,

That we will frequently exhort, and if occasion shall require, admonish one another according to Matthew 18th, in the Spirit of Meekness considering ourselves lest we also be tempted, and that as in baptism we have been buried with Christ, and raised again, so there is on us a special obligation thenceforth to walk in newness of life,

And may the God of Peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the Sheep, through the blood of the everlasting Covenant make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us, that which is well and pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever.

AMEN.

## **"DECLARATION OF FAITH"**

### **I. Of the Scriptures,**

We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction; that it had God for its author, Salvation for its end, and Faith, without any mixture of error, for its matter; that it reveals principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the World, the true center of Christian Union, and the Supreme Standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

### **II. Of the true God,**

That there is one ond only one true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed under the personal and relative distinction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

### **III. Of the fall of Man,**

That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression from that holy and happy state. In consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the laws of God wholly given to the service of the World, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to all eternity without delay or excuse.

### **IV. Of the way of Salvation,**

That the way of Salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the Mediatorial Office of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins, by his death, being risen from the dead he is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, and is every way qualified to be a compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour.

#### V. Of justification,

That the great Gospel Blessing which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in Him is justification that justification consists in pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness that is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through His own redemption and righteousness, that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

#### VI Of the freeness of Salvation,

That the blessings of Salvation are made free to all by the Gospel, that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

#### VII. Of grace in regeneration,

That in order to be saved we must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a Holy disposition to the mind; and is effected in a manner above our comprehension, by the power of the Holy Spirit so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence is found in the Holy fruits which we bring forth to the Glory of God.

#### VIII. Of God's purpose of Grace,

That election is the gracious purpose of God according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end, that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, who is infinitely Holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayers, and praise, and trust in God, and active invitation of his free mercy. That it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe in the Gospel; is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regards to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

#### IX. Of the perseverance of Saints,

That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

#### X. Harmony of the Law and Gospel,

That the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government, that it is Holy, just and good, and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to the fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy Law, is one of the great ends of the Gospel and of the means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

#### XI. Of a Gospel Church,

That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers and associated by Covenant in the Faith and Fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His law; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are Bishop or Pastor and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistle of Timothy and Titus.

#### XII. Of baptism and the Lord's Supper,

That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our Faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its purifying power that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper in which the members of the church by the use of bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ preceded always by a solemn self-examination.



### XIII. Of the Christian Sabbath,

That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath; and it is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labors and recreations by the devout observance of all the means of Grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

### XIV. Of Civil Government,

That Civil Government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the Prince of the Kings of the Earth.

### XV. Of the righteous and the wicked,

That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through Faith are purified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; destination holds among men, both in and after death.

### XVI. Of the World to come,

That the end of the World is approaching, that at the last day Christ will descend from Heaven, and raise the dead from the graves to final retribution, that solemn separation then will take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment; and the righteous to endless joys; and that their judgment will fix forever the final state of men in Heaven or Hell, on principles of righteousness.

## CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

ELIZABETH DEVORE, REBECCA DEVORE, W. H. NADING, RUTH W. NADING, NANCY E. LACY, JOSHUA SIMS AGNES SIMS, JEREMIAH FUR, MARIAH FUR, SLY-VESTER FUR, BAKER FUR, KIRCHEVAL FUR, OBEDIAH SIMS, MARGARET SIMS, RUHAMAH SIMS, ISOPHANY SIMS, ELIZABETH GRIFFY, PERMELLA MATHEWS, and MARTHA E. EDMISTON.

The Church Covenant and Articles of Faith adopted were those commonly held by Baptist Churches of the country. The Declaration of Faith being taken from the Manual of the McFerron Memorial Baptist Church of Louisville, Kentucky. After the Church Covenant and Articles of Faith were presented and approved by the Council, the above named brethren and sisters were recognized as the First Regular Baptist Church of Columbus, Indiana. The Council then adjourned until the following day at 10:00 o'clock A. M., when the organization of the church was completed by the adoption of rules and the selection of a Pastor and other officers. Joshua Sims and wife were constituent members of the Flatrock Church in 1821, where they held their membership until they became constituent members of the Columbus Church in 1852. In this church they remained until their deaths in 1858. This church became a member of the Flatrock Association in August, 1852, and continues to hold this relationship until this day. The members of this church have always taken a deep interest in the work and prosperity of the association, and the Pastors and delegates have occupied a prominent place in the deliberations of this body.

The Church at its first business meeting January 31, 1852, after being constituted, elected two Deacons, three Trustees, a Treasurer, and a Church Clerk. The Pastor to serve as Moderator of the business meetings of the church.

Officers elected were as follows:

DEACONS: James Edmiston and W. H. Nading.

TRUSTEES: W. H. Nading, Obediah Sims and John Martin.

CHURCH CLERK: W. H. Nading.

TREASURER: Obediah Sims.

## THE RULES OF DECORUM ADOPTED BY THE CHURCH

The church agrees to commence its business at 11 o'clock A. M. on its days of business.

RESOLVED: that at all times the church shall commence and end their business with prayer. The church agrees to invite members of sister churches, if any be present in good standing, to sit with them in council but not allowed to vote. Next to inquire for the peace of the church, and if peace abounds then open a door for the reception of members. The church agrees now to attend to references or unfinished business of the church.

RESOLVED: that no business come before the church without the voice of the church first. No member shall be allowed to speak sitting, but shall rise and address the Moderator, and the first one rising shall have the preference of speech.

RESOLVED: that no member be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the church. Any member is at liberty to call to vote when they shall think the subject has been satisfactorily debated, or at liberty to make a motion when they think proper, but if not seconded such motion shall fall, but if seconded shall not fall without consent of the parties until debated on. The church agrees to give an opportunity for the reception of members when any member shall think it necessary. It shall be the privilege of the church to sight any member when she shall think their seat has been too long vacant.

RESOLVED: that if any member is grieved with another they shall try for a reconciliation agreeable to the 18th Chapter of St. Matthew Gospel before it shall be mentioned to the church.

RESOLVED: that if any member sin openly he shall be rebuked openly in the church. Any member shall have the privilege to call to order when he shall think it expedient, and the member called to order shall desist or appeal to the church.

RESOLVED: that no person be received into the full fellowship without the unanimous consent of the church then present. Should any member oppose the reception of one applying for membership a committee shall be appointed to investigate the cause of objection and report to the church. The church agrees that members shall be excluded by a majority vote.

RESOLVED: that all matters come before the church by a majority, except the reception of members, which shall be unanimous. The church agrees to settle with her Deacons or Treasurer all demands that the church has or shall make it their duty to receive, at such times as the church shall agree that payment shall be made, and it shall be the duty of the Deacon or Treasurer to make a report of the same to the church immediately. Any member striking at their brother or sister's feelings while on a debate shall be called to order.

RESOLVED: that all business done by the church shall be assigned by the Clerk or Moderator. Any member hearing an evil report of his brother, shall converse with him about it before he shall mention it to the church. The Rules of Decorum may be read at every church meeting, if requested.

RESOLVED: that the church have all power of gifts, and that no members be allowed to preach without leave of the church.

RESOLVED: that the church have the power to add or diminish her Rules of Decorum as she may think proper.

RESOLVED: that it be the duty of the church or her members to inquire of any strange Preacher for his authority before he shall be privileged to preach in her Meeting House.

RESOLVED: that this church will hereafter grant letters of dismissal to none of its members save for the purpose of uniting with other churches and that no letter thus granted shall be valid for a longer time than six months unless received by the church.



## PASTORS AND THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE

The first Pastor of the church was Rev. Jesse W. Robinson, who was chosen at the first business meeting and served for one year. Rev. Robinson served the church one quarter time, preaching one Sunday each month for the sum of \$150.00 per year.

Rev. Evan Sneed became Pastor of the church in 1853.	Rev. George Chittenden, 1890 to 1893.
Rev. E. S. Smith served from 1854 to 1855.	Rev. Gilbert Dobbs from 1893 to 1895.
Rev. J. M. Weaver from 1855 to 1857.	Rev. Fuller Swift from 1895 to 1899.
Rev. William Lyons from 1857 to 1858.	Rev. F. O. Lamoureaux from 1899 to 1903.
Rev. John Reece from 1858 to 1861.	Rev. Will G. Everson from 1903 to 1905.
Rev. J. D. Huston from 1861 to 1863.	Rev. Frank Batchelor—8 months, terminating in year 1905.
Rev. William Haw from 1863 to 1864.	Rev. Frank B. Neal from 1905 to 1909.
Rev. I. N. Clark from 1864 to 1867.	Rev. F. L. Hardy from 1909 to 1911.
Rev. W. T. Stott from 1867 to 1868.	Rev. J. O. Kirk, 1911 to 1912.
Rev. Frank Moro from 1868 to 1869.	Rev. Daniel Heitmeyer from 1912 to 1913.
Rev. W. Y. Monroe from 1869 to 1873.	Rev. D. G. Dunkin from 1913 to 1918.
Rev. G. H. Elgin from 1873 to 1876.	Rev. E. E. Valentine from 1918 to 1919.
Prof. C. H. Hall—8 months, terminating in 1876.	Rev. H. E. Wilson from 1919 to 1923.
Dr. F. R. Palmer from 1876 to 1878.	Rev. George T. King from 1924 to 1939.
Rev. Harry Smith from 1878 to 1882.	Rev. Frank Badgett from 1939 to 1944.
Prof. A. B. Chaffee, 1882—serving 6 months.	Rev. Albert Fauth from 1944 to 1945.
Rev. Noah Harper, 1882 to 1889.	Rev. John F. Knight from 1945 to 1951.
Rev. P. I. Lipsey, 1889 to 1890.	Rev. Stanley E. Mugridge from 1951 to ____.

Making a total of 37 Pastors who have served the church since its organization.

Rev. George T. King had the longest pastorate of all the above named Pastors. He served our church for 14½ years.

## FIRST PLACES OF WORSHIP

For sometime after the organization of the church, the church meetings were held in the Presbyterian Church, which was located on the Southwest corner of Third and Franklin Streets in Columbus. Following this the church met in the Old Courthouse until the County Commissioners ruled that no religious bodies could use the Courthouse as a place of meeting. The next place of meeting was a room on the third floor of a building belonging to Francis J. Crump. It is thought that this building was located somewhere between Sixth and Seventh Streets on the West side of Washington Street. The church paid Mr. Crump a rental of \$30.00 per year for this building, to be paid \$7.50 for each quarter of the year. These places of worship served the church for two years. During this time the church experienced many trying situations. Oft times it seemed that the best policy would be to disband the church and let the members affiliate with other churches, but they being staunch and steadfast in their Baptist Doctrine, at a business meeting held in May, 1854, appointed a committee to find a suitable lot on which to build a Church Home. The lot they selected has remained the Church Home to this day. This lot was bought at a cost of \$260.00 from Lewis Sims and Elijah Sims, and it is Lot No. 17 of Sims and Farley's Addition to the Town of Columbus. The Trustees of the church at the time of purchasing the lot were Joshua Sims, Stephen Van Cleve and Wesley Nading. The record state that much opposition to the location of the lot was voiced by some members of the church due to the fact that in that day the location was completely out of town, and in a cornfield.

During the pastorate of Rev. E. S. Smith plans were drawn for a plain but substantial brick meeting house 40 feet by 50 feet. Erection of the building was started late in 1854 and completed in 1855 at a total cost of \$3,000.00. This building, as well as its furnishings, was very simple. The building was heated by two large wood-burning stoves, one on the North side of the building and one on the South side of the building. No reference is made in any of the records of any provision for artificially lighting the building. It is presumed that they either used candles or kerosene lamps for the night services. This debt of \$3,000.00 does not seem large today, but to the congregation which at that time comprised 38 members,

it was a debt larger than the congregation was able to cope with. However, they had succeeded within the two-year period of reducing the debt to a balance of \$465.00, which they were unable to pay. This sum of \$465.00 was advanced by a Mr. G. G. Gabbart, who became a member of the church in 1857, he being a man of fair means and a generous heart, advanced the money to pay the debt and relieve the church from financial embarrassment.

### ORGANIZATION OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

In 1857, Mr. David Doll and his wife, Hester, who had become members of the church in 1856, organized the first Sunday School. He being its first Superintendent. It will be noted that the stained glass window in the Southeast corner of the present sanctuary is dedicated to their memory.

### GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

After the Sunday School was organized, the church records show a gradual but continual growth in numbers. At its 25th anniversary the church showed a membership of 138 with 93 enrolled in the Sunday School.

### CHURCH BUILDING

The old brick church was repaired and refitted several times and served the church until 1886. During the pastorate of the Rev. Noah Harper the beautiful new front of pressed brick was added to the old building at a cost of \$4,000.00. It consisted of a tower and belfry on one corner and a smaller tower on the other, with two parlors, one of which was used as a ladies' parlor, and the lower rooms were used for prayer meeting and business meetings. This gave an entrance at each front corner of the building. The windows of this new addition were of stained glass, and it was covered with a slate roof, all finished in modern style.

This new front was erected with a view of later adding a main auditorium room to complete the building. It will be noted that this front, which comprises the front of our church now, was later changed somewhat as enumerated later. It was built in front of and adjoining the original Meeting House. When the plans were first made in 1886, it was planned to build an entire new Meeting House, but upon canvassing the congregation for funds it was found that they could not raise enough money at that time, so the project was divided into two parts. The church continued to worship in the old Meeting House with the new front until the pastorate of Rev. George A. Chittenden, who became pastor in 1891.

It was decided early in the year that the auditorium must be built and the building completed. Subscriptions deemed sufficient for the purpose were made and the contract for the erection of the building was let to the firm of Dunlap & Coates in the beginning of the year 1892. The last services were held in the old room, which had served as a meeting place for the church body since its organization for almost 40 years. The last prayer was made and the last song was sung, and with a solemn farewell they passed out of the consecrated place.

When the old walls had been torn down and the foundation completed on the 8th day of May, 1892, an open-air meeting was held and the cornerstone was laid. It was the gift of Mr. George Clutch and was laid by Pastor Chittenden and the Official Board, with the assistance of Dr. W. T. Stott, a former Pastor. At the cornerstone laying Pastor Chittenden delivered an able doctrinal sermon, emphasizing what "Baptists Believe and Stand For." Dr. W. T. Stott delivered a reminiscent address. Following the "History of the Church" names of the Pastors, the Official Board, and the contractors were all placed in a tin box and deposited in the cornerstone. A copy of newspapers containing an account of the exercises and roster of the church members, with some silver coins and other articles, were also deposited.

A note of interest to all of us is the fact that the George Clutch, who donated the cornerstone, was the father of one of our 50-year members, Mrs. Georgia Williams, and Mr. Clutch was a stone cutter.



## DEDICATION

On the completion of the building an interesting all-day service was held on March 27, 1893, in the new auditorium. Dr. T. T. Eaton, D.D., Pastor of the Walnut Street Church of Louisville, Kentucky, preached the dedicatory sermon Sunday morning. Rev. Noah Harper, a former Pastor then living at Warsaw, Indiana, preached Sunday afternoon at 3 P. M. Rev. W. F. Taylor, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana, delivered the sermon in the evening at 7:30 P. M.

At the close of the morning services Dr. Eaton took pledges from the members of the congregation amounting to \$3,500.00. After the sermon in the evening Mr. C. F. Remy, a member of the church solicitation committee, took subscriptions for about \$700.00, which was added to the amount secured in the morning. The building as it now stands at this time is 105 feet in length and 60 feet in its extreme width. It consists of the pressed brick front, parlors serving as a gallery and the lower portion of the front is connected with the auditorium by folding doors. The pulpit platform, the baptistry, the recess for the organ and the choir occupy space about 15 by 35 feet with dressing rooms on either side, and also a large room in the rear with side entrance suitable for prayer meeting and Sunday School use; all conveniently arranged for easy access. The sanctuary is lighted by a large gas light reflector in the center with side jets for use of the organist and choir. The sanctuary is seated with 450 upholstered opera chairs. The windows were of stained glass and the accoustic properties of the auditorium when the house was filled were excellent.

The building, lot and furnishings are estimated to be worth \$20,000.00. Included in this remodeling was the installation of the first mechanical pipe organ. The two previous organs having been the manually pumped type. This mechanical pipe organ installed at this time served the church until the year 1924. An interesting note contained in the record of one of the business meetings sets forth that one of the present 50-year members of our church, Mr. Dan Greenfield, as a young man, had the job of pumping one of the hand pumped organs. It further states that his salary of \$1.25 per month could not be met by the church due to insufficient funds, whereupon he graciously donated his services.

Included in this second remodeling was a warm-air furnace for the heating of the building. This marked the first departure from the wood stoves mentioned earlier. Electric lights were installed in the church soon after the remodeling. According to the record the electric lights which were installed were the same lights which were removed from the church at our most recent redecorating of the sanctuary. This second remodeling, namely, the building of the present auditorium, was dedicated on March 27, 1893. The debt that was incurred in this second remodeling was found to be a very difficult debt to pay off. It was not until the third year of Rev. Fuller Swift's ministry in 1898 that the debt was paid off. Rev. Fuller Swift is remembered by many of the older members of the church as being a very striking man physically, tall and well built and very handsome. One of his outstanding features was the large white horse that he always rode in making all of his pastoral calls.

Many of the older members remember the "Mortgage Burning" and the very fine way in which Rev. Fuller Swift freed the church from debt. He said at the conclusion of his sermon after the burning of the mortgage, "We now owe no man a dollar."

## CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

At this period in the Church History we find several auxiliary church organizations playing a very important part in the carrying on of the church work. One of the first auxiliary organizations to function was the Ladies Aid Society. We do not have in the record the date of its organization, but judge that it was in the very early years of the church's existence. We find the first young people's organization in the church to have been an organization of young men, who called themselves "The Yoke Fellows" and the stained glass window in the Northwest corner of the present sanctuary formerly was dedicated to this organization, but necessary repairs has removed the glass bearing the name of the organization. This organization was organized primarily for the purpose of paying a very large electric bill, which the church had been unable to pay. It is said that this organization paid off over \$200.00 of the electric bill in three years time. It had been allowed to be in arrears. We find the B.Y.P.U. or the first young people's organization, which admitted both young men and young women upon an equal status, to have been organized during the pastorate of Rev. Noah Harper in 1885. This organization continues to function to this day, al-

though now it goes by the name of Baptist Youth Fellowship, but its purpose remains the same, that of training young people for leadership. Many of our present day leaders in church life received their training and experiences first in the B.Y.P.U. This has been a most helpful organization to the church.

We find such names as: Walter Wallace, T. J. Quick, H. B. Essex, H. S. Quick, Virgil Harper, C. F. Remy, Gorrel Quick and Ezra Quick, as being among the first members of the B.Y.P.U.

Among the young women, we find the names of: Mary Clark, Kate Quick, Ruth McCoy, Minnie Woody, Cora Elston (who was the sister-in-law of Addie Elston, one of the oldest members living at this time) and Lillie M. Quick.

The officers of the B.Y.P.U. during the 50th year were: Miss Bertha Wallace, president; Georgia Bush, secretary; Cora Elston, treasurer.

The first Women's Home and Foreign Mission Society was organized about 1876. The church has had a strong Ladies' Missionary Society throughout all the following years. At the time of the 50th year we find the officers of the Missionary Society to be: Miss Mary Clark, president; Mrs. P. W. Randall, vice-president; Mrs. Elmer Dunlap, secretary; Miss Kate Quick, treasurer.

### FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

In 1902 the church observed its 50th Anniversary. This was a time of much rejoicing on the part of the church members, for the church had come a long way since its humble beginning in 1852. From the original 19 constituent members, the church now boasted a membership of 250. Rev. F. O. Lamoureux was Pastor of the church during the celebration of the 50th Anniversary. Rev. Lamoureux will be remembered by many of the present day members of the church as having conducted a revival in the spring of 1936, while Rev. George T. King was Pastor of the church. At this 50th Anniversary we find prominent men of the church to be:

M. J. QUICK, deacon; J. M. WALLACE, deacon and trustee; (Mr. Wallace also prepared and read the history of the church at the 50th Anniversary celebration); DAVID J. STILLINGER, deacon and trustee; DAN F. BEATTY, deacon; L. C. SEAL, deacon, (Mr. Seal was the father of Virgil Seal and grandfather of Clyde Seal, who are active members of the church today); J. E. COLEMAN, trustee; FRANK McNEAL, trustee; J. R. DUNLAP, trustee and treasurer, (Mr. Dunlap was the father of Elmer Dunlap, who owns the Dunlap Lumber Company in this city; he was also a part owner of the firm of Dunlap & Coates, who had the contract to construct the auditorium in the second remodeling program of the church); and EZRA QUICK, church clerk, (to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for the fine records that were kept of the activities of the church, as well as to the other clerks who so diligently kept the records of the church's business).

The next milestone in the church's life was the installation of the present pipe organ in the year 1924. At the beginning of the pastorate of the Rev. George T. King this organ was installed. It was a Richard Mathers organ and was installed at a cost of \$3,500.00. It still continues to give very good service to the church, although it has been repaired and re-worked a number of times.

The following names are some who have served as organists during the past 100 years:

Kate Mothershead, Florence Stillinger, Lo'la Branham, Byrd Faulconer (who is still living) (the preceding organists played the hand-pumped organ); Prof. Tull and Donald Dunkin (who played the first mechanical organ); Mrs. Clifford Reminger, Mrs. Grace Neal, Mr. Robert Stofer, Mrs. Thelma Burnett, Mrs. Pauline McMahan, Mrs. Dwight Noblitt, Mrs. Russell Goucher, Miss Betty Davis, Mrs. Mary K. Nichols and Mrs. Florence Ponsler (all who played the present organ).



## PAST MINISTERS



REV. WILLIAM G. EVERSON  
1903 - 1905



REV. GEORGE T. KING  
1924 - 1939

## SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The 75th Anniversary celebration was held during the week of January 24, 1927. Rev. George T. King was Pastor of the church at this time. During the week three former Columbus pastors were speakers. They were the Rev. Charles P. Greenfield (a brother of Mr. Dan Greenfield, who at that time was Pastor of the Garfield Park Baptist Church). Rev. Greenfield did not pastor the Columbus church, but he grew up in the church as a boy and is one of the three men who grew up in the church as boys and later became pastors. The other two were Homer Kent (a brother of Mrs. Raymond Boll) and James Spicer (the son of Mrs. Cullie Spicer).

Another speaker was the former Pastor, Rev. William G. Everson, who at that time was Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Muncie, Indiana. Rev. William G. Everson is now a professor in the Baptist Seminary in Portland, Oregon, and is active as head of the Oregon Heart Foundation.

The other former Pastor was the Rev. F. O. Lamoureux of Abbeyville, S. C. It will be remembered that the Rev. Lamoureux was Pastor of the church during its 50th Anniversary celebration.

The subjects used by the different Pastors were:

"The Word of the Church Outside Its Own Community," by Rev. Greenfield.

"Essentials of Success in Church Work," by Rev. Everson.

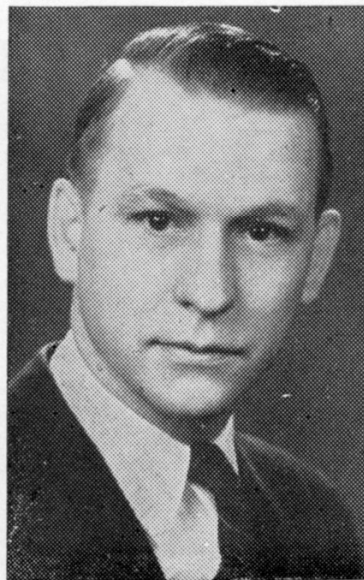
"The Invincible Church," by Rev. Lamoureux.

Also present at this 75th Anniversary celebration was the Rev. T. J. Parsons, editor of the Baptist Observer, who spoke briefly at the Sunday morning services. The membership of the church at the 75th year was approximately 500.

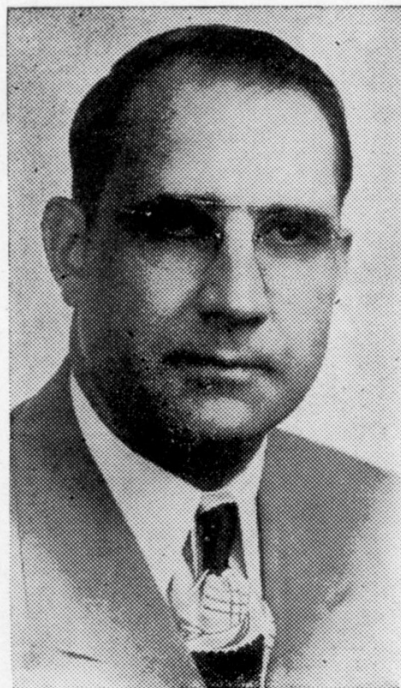
## PAST MINISTERS



REV. FRANK BADGETT  
1939 - 1944



REV. ALBERT FAUTH  
1944 - 1945



REV. JOHN KNIGHT  
1945 - 1951





THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

### THE THIRD REMODELING

In 1928 the front of the church was remodeled, eliminating the two side doors and placing the door in the center of the structure, as it now stands. This necessitated removing the folding doors which separated the primary department from the church sanctuary proper. At this time the basement was excavated under the church and divided into class rooms, part of it being made into a kitchen. There was a complete new heating plant installed. There was a rearrangement of the seating, so that the church now has a large aisle running down the center of the auditorium and two small aisles on each side instead of two aisles on each side as was previously the case. This third remodeling also included the building of the present baptistry, which replaced the old baptistry that was located in the center of the rostrum near the spot where the minister now stands when delivering his sermon. This third remodeling was done at a cost of \$9,100.00. This sum of money was found very difficult to raise due to the depression of 1929, 1930, and 1931. It was not until the year 1936 that the debt was finally paid and the mortgage burned. The Rev. George T. King was Pastor of the church at the time of this third remodeling and continued his successful pastorate for some 11 years after this remodeling.

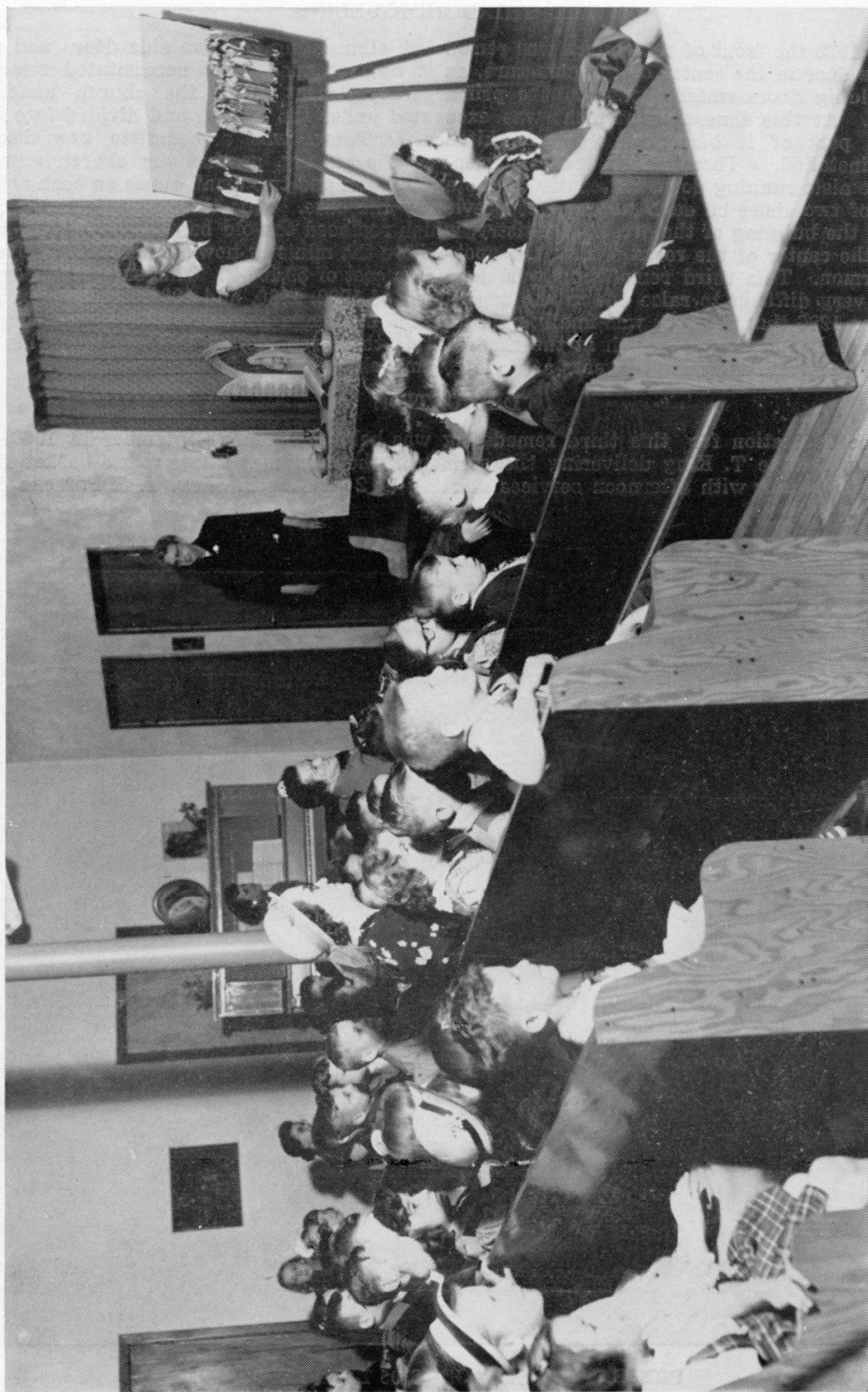
### DEDICATION

The dedication for this third remodeling was held on Sunday, September 23, 1928, with the Rev. George T. King delivering the sermon in the morning. There was a basket dinner at the noon hour with afternoon services starting at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. T. J. Parsons deliv-



PRESENT PARSONAGE—2305 LAFAYETTE AVE.





PRIMARY DEPARTMENT—FIRST FLOOR ANNEX



100TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET—JANUARY 23, 1952

ered the dedicatory sermon. Dr. Alexander Sharp, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of this city, expressed greetings from the ministerial association. Rev. L. O. Blake, Pastor of Wertz Memorial United Brethren Church, read the Scripture and Rev. A. A. Cohn of Seymour, Indiana, gave the rededication prayer. The evening address was delivered by Dr. C. M. Dinsmore, state superintendent.

The building committee for this third remodeling was composed of: Dr. E. U. Wood, chairman (one of our present 50-year members); Perry Wooden and David Stillinger.

The contractor of this remodeling was the late David Robertson, a former member of the church.

In the year 1938 the church sanctuary was redecorated, also the adjoining choir room and pastor's study. This was done at a cost of \$2,400.00. At the completion of this redecorating program the Rev. King resigned the pastorate of the church to become pastor of the Emerson Avenue Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. The Rev. Frank Badgett was then called as the new Pastor. It was during the second year of his pastorate, in the year 1941, that the present pews were installed, replacing the old opera chairs which had been used by the church since the auditorium was first built in 1893.

The present parsonage located at 2305 Lafayette Avenue was purchased at the beginning of the ministry of Rev. Albert Fauth, in the year 1944. This parsonage was bought at a cost of \$10,000.00. The Rev. Fauth served one year as Pastor of the church, from 1944 to 1945. In the year 1945 the Rev. John F. Knight became Pastor. It was during his third year, in the year 1948, that the construction of the new Primary Annex to the rear of the church was begun.

#### THE FOURTH REMODELING

The building of this Annex provided a very modern new Primary Department for the church, which was very badly needed. Up to this time the primary children had been meeting in the large basement room, which also served as a church dining room. This new Annex covers all of the ground owned by the church. It is built in such a manner that a third story may be added at any time with practically no structural changes. The entire basement of the new Annex is used as a church dining room. Almost 300 people can be seated in this dining room at one time. This new Annex has its own heating plant and oil-burning hot-air heating plant. At the time of the building of this Annex a new kitchen was built in





#### CHURCH SANCTUARY—1952

the basement. This is a very modern kitchen with built-in cabinets, three gas stoves, and a large cabinet sink. Also at this time a great deal of rebuilding was done in the old part of the basement, converting it into some very fine Sunday School class rooms. During this fourth remodeling the prayer meeting room of the church, which also is used by the Junior Department, was remodeled to a considerable extent. Two class rooms were built at the North end of the room and the floor was refinished. The cost of this fourth remodeling was approximately \$33,000.00. At the writing of this history this debt has been liquidated with the exception of \$3,200.00. It is hoped that this soon can be liquidated, possibly before the end of the Centennial Year. A very novel plan of raising this money is being used. This plan places the responsibility for the raising of the money upon each individual Sunday School class. Four times each year, namely: Easter, Children's Day, Rally Day, and Christmas, each class or department turns in the amount of money that is collected by them to that date. This plan has been most successful.

The building committee for this fourth remodeling was composed of: Dale Greenlee, chairman; Mrs. Georgia Williams, Ralph Ponsler, Dr. E. U. Wood and Norman C. Devening.

The contractor for this fourth remodeling was Ralph Ponsler, a former member of the church.

#### DEDICATION

On April 8, 1949, our church dedicated this new annex. The dinner was served in the new dining room in the basement. The service was attended by more than 300. Two former pastors, the Rev. George T. King of Crawfordsville, Indiana, and Rev. W. Frank Badgett of Richmond, Indiana, were present and brought greetings. Another former pastor, Rev. Albert Fauth of Salisbury, Mo., sent a letter of congratulation. The Rev. John F. Knight, the Pastor, led in the dedicatory service. Rev. King offered the dedicatory prayer. Rev.

Harold W. Turpin of the Presbyterian Church, Dr. T. K. Smith of the Christian Church, and Rev. A. R. Jansen of the Evangelical United Brethren Church represented the Bartholomew County Minsiterial Association. Dr. J. M. Horton, executive secretary of the Indiana Baptist Convention, gave the address of the evening. Other guests included: Mrs. J. M. Horton, Dr. and Mrs. G. C. Mitchell, Dr. and Mrs. Walter Hand, Dr. A. A. Cohn, Rev. and Mrs. Jesse J. McKenny, and Miss Jane Funkhauser.

In 1950 the Church Sanctuary was redecorated and the present very fine lighting system was installed. Mr. Harmon Ponsler, a member of the church, was the contractor.

The Rev. John F. Knight resigned the pastorate of the church in May, 1951, to become field secretary for the Indiana Baptist Convention, which position he now holds.

In June, 1951, the church called the Rev. Stanley E. Mugridge to become its Pastor and he is our Pastor at the writing of this history.



REV. and MRS. STANLEY E. MUGRIDGE  
MARY ELIZABETH and SUSAN ELAINE



## SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION



Corner of Clifty and Ross Streets, East Columbus

In December of 1951 plans were approved for the building of a new Sunday School plant in East Columbus as a branch of the First Baptist Church in Columbus. The lot on which the new structure is erected and the new building are gifts to the church by an anonymous donor. The new structure erected so that it can be converted into a full church later. There are three lots available for the complete structure. Present plans call for the one-story Sunday School building to be of stone. The structure will be 24 by 40 feet with a full basement. In the construction of this new place of worship, mothered by the Columbus church, we are taking a step in the spreading of religious training, thereby keeping pace with the expansion of the city and our local church. The building is being constructed at the writing of this history and will cost approximately \$20,000.00.

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The opening observance of the Centennial Year of the church was held January 23, 1952, with a banquet at 6:30 P. M. in the new Church Annex basement. Approximately 275 people attended this banquet. Many of the people were dressed in 18th Century costumes. Special recognition was given to the 19 members who have been members of the church for 50 years or more. They were all seated at a special table and their picture was taken together.

Following the banquet the group assembled in the Church Sanctuary where the address of the evening was given by Rev. William Breedlove, president of the Indiana Baptist Convention.

Plans are now in progress for a Centennial Week to be observed the week of May 11th to the 18th, 1952.

The membership of the church at the 100-year mark is 940 with 675 resident members.

### MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH FOR FIFTY YEARS OR MORE

Mrs. Addie Elston	- - - - -	1877	Mrs. Jesse Moore	- - - - -	1899
Mrs. Byrd Faulcner	- - - - -	1887	Dr. E. U. Wood	- - - - -	1899
Dan Greenfield	- - - - -	1893	David Silver	- - - - -	1899
Mr. and Mrs. Ed H. Everroad	- - - - -	1894	Mrs. Elizabeth Salsbury	- - - - -	1900
Mrs. Delilah Harvey	- - - - -	1895	(In Nursing Home, Seymour)		
(In Maywood Home)			Mrs. Elizabeth Beatty	- - - - -	1900
Mrs. Ed Williams	- - - - -	1896	Mrs. Mattie Doss	- - - - -	1902
Miss Elizabeth Bond	- - - - -	1896	Mrs. E. U. Wood	- - - - -	1902
Miss Edna Elston	- - - - -	1896	Mr. William Temple	- - - - -	1902
Mrs. Flora Shumway	- - - - -	1897	Walter H. Rice	- - - - -	1902
Herschel Prather	- - - - -	1898			

## ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR OFFICERS

1951 - 1952

### Baptist Youth Fellowship

PRESIDENT: Donna Jagers.  
 VICE-PRESIDENT: Betty Hollenbeck.  
 TREASURER: Judy Eckles.  
 SECRETARY: Max Joslin.  
 SPONSORS: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene E. Finchum, Mr. and Mrs. Arvine Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. Don Kreinop, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Condon.  
 Average Attendance—18.

### Ladies Aid Society

PRESIDENT: Mrs. Harmon Ponsler.  
 SEC'Y-TREASURER: Mrs. Jess Thompson.  
 (Mrs. Lula Tanner and Mrs. Ida Blocher are the oldest active members of this organization.)

### The Woman's Mission Society

PRESIDENT: Mrs. Harley Lockman.  
 VICE-PRESIDENT: Mrs. Ralph Pickens.  
 MISSIONS VICE-PRESIDENT: Miss Christine Sharp.  
 SECRETARY: Mrs. Lyman Ponsler.  
 TREASURER: Mrs. Morris Bradley.  
 Active Membership—100.

### Circle Chairmen.

GRACE SEAGRAVE: Mrs. Dale Greenlee.  
 MILDRED TICE: Mrs. Geneva Kern.  
 THOMASINE ALLEN: Mrs. Herman Wolbers.  
 MARY KATOW: Mrs. Ted Tobias.  
 MARY JESSEE: Mrs. Junius Nichols.





BOARD OF DEACONS—1951-1952

Seated, left to right—Charles Bradley, Daniel Greenfield. Standing, left to right—Thomas Horn, Arvine Leslie, Earl Carson, Edward Denny, Robert Wood, Jess Bottorff, Rex Hill, Hubert Jessee, Harmon Ponsler, Stanley E. Mugridge, Carl Dutro and Harold Mundell, chairman.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES—1951-1952

Kenneth Kent, J. K. Nichols and Ted Tobias. Not pictured, Lloyd Armstrong, Harry McClellan and William Burt.

## CHURCH OFFICERS

1951 - 1952

PASTOR: Stanley E. Mugridge.

DEACONS: Harold Mundell, Chairman;  
Harmon Ponsler, Carl Dutro, Rex Hill,  
Daniel Greenfield, Norman Devening,  
Frank Phillips, Robert Wood, Jesse Bot-  
torff, Earl Carson, Edward Denny, Tho-  
mas Horn, Hubert Jessee, Arvine Leslie,  
Charles Bradley.

TRUSTEES: Junius Nichols, Chairman;  
Kenneth Kent, Ted Tobias, Lloyd Arm-  
strong, Harry McClellan, William Burt.

MODERATOR: Walter Rice.

CLERK: Miss Vanelia Brooks.

ASS'T CLERK: Mrs. Lyman Ponsler.

TREASURER: Fred Miles.

FINANCIAL SEC'Y: Thomas Fulkerson.

ASS't FINANCIAL SEC'Y: Arthur Brown.

PRAYER MEETING PIANIST: Mrs. Lyman  
Ponsler.

ASS'T PRAYER MEETING PIANIST: Mrs.  
Rex Hill.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Mrs. Archie Cosby,  
Chairman; Mrs. Wilber Hern, Lyman  
Ponsler.



Seated, left to right—Clerk, Miss Vanelia Brooks; moderator, Walter Rice; treasurer, Fred Miles.  
Standing—Assistant financial secretary, Arthur Brown; financial secretary, Thomas Fulkerson.





ADULT CHOIR

Music has always been a vital part of the worship services of the church. In the fall of 1950 the church voted to secure the services of a professional choir director. Mr. R. J. Williams of the high school faculty accepted this position.

At the present time he is directing the adult choir (pictured above) that sings at the Sunday morning services. A recently organized high school age choir rehearses each week and sings at various services of the church. The informal men's chorus choir and the singspiration of the congregation makes the Sunday evening service a fine time of praise in song.





Seated, left to right—Mrs. Ed. Williams, Mrs. John Gillaspy. Standing, left to right—Harley Lockman, Gene Whitehorn, Oscar Snyder, John Spicer, Joe Denney.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS

1951 - 1952

SUPERINTENDENT: Harley Lockman.  
 ASS'T SUPT.: Kermit Boultinghouse.  
 SECRETARY: John Spicer.  
 ASS'T SECRETARY: Wayne Meyer.  
 SUPT. CRADLE ROLL: Mrs. John Gillaspy.  
 SUPT. PRIMARY DEPT.: Mrs. Ed Williams.

SUPT. JUNIOR DEPT.: Mrs. John Harper.  
 SUPT. INTERMEDIATE DEPT.: Oscar Snyder.  
 Enrollment—664.  
 Average Attendance—363.

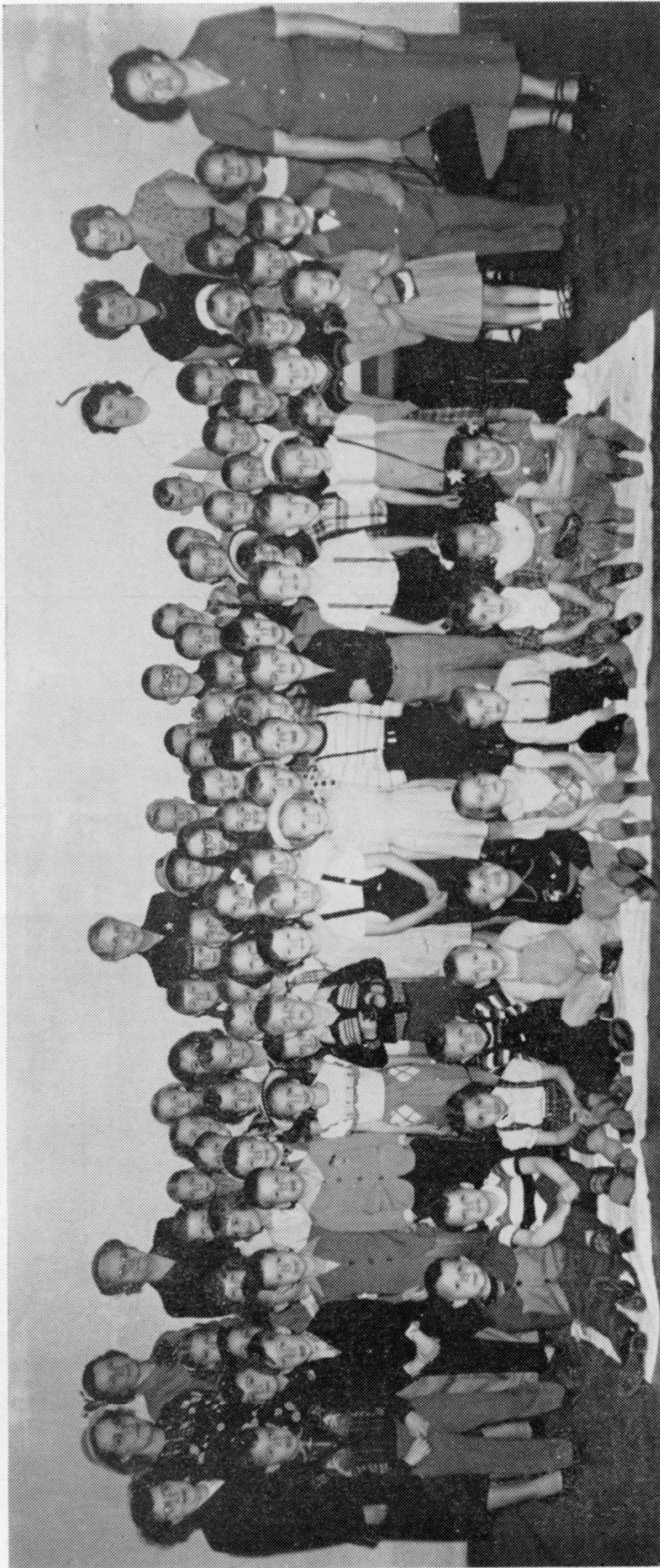




CRADLE ROLL and NURSERY DEPARTMENT

The Nursery Department is one of the fastest growing groups in our entire church school. Since the above picture was taken it has been necessary to remove the west wall and take in another room for the department. The average attendance during the past year was 32 and the record attendance was 62.

Here in this department the youngest members of our church school learn of God's love and care. A well rounded program keeps the children happy from the 9:30 A. M. opening to the 11:15 A. M. closing bell.



#### PRIMARY and KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT

At 9:30 A. M. each Sunday morning the Primary and Kindergarten Departments meet for their Church School lesson. At the 10:30 hour this same group reassembles for Primary Church. Here visual aids, such as the flannel-graph, colored slides, film strips and sound films are used to portray the Word of God to our growing children. Each Sunday morning the Pastor meets with this group for a brief worship service.

In spite of the fine class rooms and assembly room provided in the Annex for this department, it is rapidly growing out of its space and will soon need more rooms.





JUNIOR DEPARTMENT



SENIOR HIGH CLASS



JUNIOR HIGH BOYS



Y. W. PHILATHEA CLASS





JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS



YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES CLASS



MEN'S BIBLE CLASS



HOMEBUILDERS CLASS





GRACE PHILATHEA CLASS



VICTORY CLASS



DORCAS CLASS

Planted in Christ, the living vine,  
 This day, with one accord,  
 Ourselves, with humble faith and joy,  
 We yield to thee, O Lord.

Joined in one body may we be;  
 One inward life partake;  
 One be our heart; one heavenly hope  
 In every bosom wake.

In prayer, in effort, tears, and toils,  
 One wisdom be our guide;  
 Taught by one Spirit from above,  
 In thee may we abide.

Complete in us, whom grace hath called,  
 Thy glorious work begun,  
 O thou, in whom the church on earth  
 And church in heaven are one.

—From The Baptist Hymnal.



