



The Second Baptist Church - name later changed to Calvary Baptist was organized in a little chapel standing on south Main at the intersection of 4th Street on December 16, 1900.

Two of the first pastors were the Rev. Spinner and a Rev. Moore. Early members first used nail kegs for benches. Later, modern furnishings were added. (This information was taken from a Fannin County History book.)

The presbytery was composed of Rev.'s J.L. Simpson, D.G. Whittinghill, J.R. Ridling and E.B. Hardil.

The following were charter members: J.L. Simpson (also called as the first pastor), G.M. Trout, G.I. Crittenden, Bacon Merideth, J.H. Barlow, Mrs. B.A. Stevens, Mrs. Thomas Gates, Mrs. M.E. Crittenden and Laura Crittenden.

Although small in numbers they carried on sometimes under hardships, but shouts of joy and praise were heard for the blessings of God.

They worshipped in this chapel for some few months, when the place of worship was moved to Clark Memorial Church. Each church had services twice monthly.

1/21/1948: Church votes to accept contract as made to purchase barracks at Camp Maxey, to build pastors home and enlarge church building.

When the church was being built some of the men from the church went to Camp Maxey and tore down the barracks and brought the wood back to build the church. While some of the men were tearing down the barracks at Camp Maxey, some of the other men from the church were building the church. They would go after they got off work at 2:00 p.m. at the Cotton Mill. Bascom Wilson and James Bowen were two that helped. Red Acree furnished the gas to go get the wood because he couldn't leave his business to go help. (This information provided by Ivy Loy Bowen).

In about 18 months the church building on the present lot was near enough complete to hold services so they moved into it. The church was dedicated on the 5th Sunday in November, 1903. A Rev. Gaddy of Greenville preached the dedication sermon.

This building served several years before it was torn down and one with Sunday School rooms was erected. The rooms upstairs were added to this building later.

Then as we all know the old building was pulled back and the present building we now occupy was added.

Organized with only 10 members - God's work has moved on until we now have a membership of 292.

2/3/1991: Church called into special conference by a motion of Rayphord Ragan, 2nd by J.R. Davis for the purpose of voting on building a fellowship hall with Texas Baptist Builders doing the building free, with the church furnishing the material and Lanney Davis helping get started on the concrete foundation. Motion by J.R. Davis, 2nd by Bill Johnson that we build. Motion carried.

3/13/1991: Deacons recommend we name our new fellowship hall "Kelly Hall" in honor of Mrs. Era Kelly. Motion by Jane Adcock, 2nd by Weldon Stevens we do this and that we dedicate the building on Mrs. Kelly's birthday. Motion carried.

3/6/1995: Texas Baptist Builders return to help construct a new parsonage. Approximately 60 members of the group, also know as the Hammering Grandpa's and the Traveling Grandma's will converge on Calvary. (Taking from the Bonham Daily Favorite, Friday, February 17, 1995)

God is always on the side of right and al long as our faith is in Him, our church will prosper.

DEDICATION

The History of Calvary Baptist Church is dedicated to those faithful, dedicated Christians of yesterday, today and the future who serve as a lighthouse, pointing people to Jesus Christ.

Pastors

J.L. Simpson	
Rev. Spinner	
Rev. Moore	
J.E. Fender	1933-1938
C.P. Sansom	1939-1940
Charlie Douglas	1941
L.A. Johnson	1943-1946
C.R. Brown	1947-1949
S.B. Erwin	1949
J.E. Fender	1950-1956
Charles Russell	1957-1958
Claude Hunt	1959-1961
George Griffin	1962-1963
G.B. Bailey	1964-1966
Gerald Watson	1967
Donald Cox	1968-1971
Lonnie Murphy	1972-1973
Harold Hicks	1974
Bob Cody	1975-1976
George Griffin	1977-1979
Ted White	1980-1984
Dickey Golden	1985-1992
Brett Castle	1993-1996
Terry Backen	1998-1999
Ron Cooper	2000-2002
Adam Barker	2002-Present