

Bethel Baptist Church – History – 1926 to Present

In 1926 a small group of nine dedicated Christians felt that God was leading them to establish a church in the community. Under the leadership of Rev. Ray Lamberson the church was established and called New Bethel Baptist Church. They met in the Camrick School House located one mile north of the present church site. Charter members were: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Murray, Mrs. Mae Dillard, Matt Henderson, Rev. S J. Prewitt, Mrs. Anna Barker, and Mrs. C. F. Cagle. Others followed immediately by letter or Baptism. On October 20, 1934, the name of the church was changed from New Bethel Baptist Church to Bethel Baptist Church. On August 8, 1942, the church became a part of the Panhandle Baptist Association.

In 1945, during services conducted by Rev. Atherton of Adams, Bob Johnson and James Blair each pledged \$25.00 to a building fund toward a new church building. It wasn't until almost a year later that a canvas of members was made and with their giving or pledging, plus the help of friends in the community, a total of \$11,319.70 was raised and plans for the building got under way.

On August 8, 1946, Rev. M. C. Smith of Driftwood, Oklahoma, was called as Pastor and Supervisor of the building project. Work immediately started on the building on land donated by Harry Cable and previously dedicated July 1, 1946, as the site of the Bethel Baptist Church.

The first services were conducted in the present building on July 13, 1947, by the Pastor, Rev. Smith. The church building and parsonage were dedicated March 28, 1948, with Rev. Sam Scantlin of Oklahoma City preaching the dedication sermon. Bro. Smith lived less than a year after completion of the buildings and was the first funeral to be held in Bethel Baptist Church.

On October 14, 2001, Bethel Baptist Church celebrated its 75th Anniversary with Brother Anthony Jordan of Oklahoma City as our speaker. Two former pastors, Rev. Bill Mayo and Rev. Melvin Jester were in attendance. The oldest living member was Myrtle Doshier, 93, having been a member since 1936 and living most of her life in the community.

When the church was first organized, the members could only afford a part-time pastor, one who preached only once or twice a month. These part-time pastors were: Rev. Ray Lamberson, 1934-1936, A.B. Fleming, November 1, 1942 –

December 31, 1943, and Bro. Lukehart, December 12, 1945, to June 16, 1946. Numerous part-time pastors filled in from 1936 – 1942. Full-time pastors, but always bi-vocational, began with : Rev. M. C. Smith, August 8, 1946 until his death in 1948; David Burkhalter, June 1, 1948 to September 30, 1951; J. E. Burkham, November 4, 1951 to December 3, 1952; Charlie Henderson, February 4, 1953 to September 4, 1955; C. W. Henson, December 2, 1955 to December 30, 1956; John Goss, Jr., February 27, 1957 to January 11, 1965; Roy Moody, January 26, 1967 to May 4, 1969; Ed Minars, Interim, May 1969 to November 1969; Bill Mayo, November 11, 1969 to November 14, 1971; Kenny Porter, May 21, 1972 to September 24, 1974; Finis Marchman, December 1974 to December 14, 1975; Jimmie Dan Spruill, May 23, 1976 to October 3, 1978; Melvin Jester, January 28, 1979 to July 6, 1981; Horace Tyson, November 1, 1981, until his death, October 7, 2001; Associate Pastor Warren Gillilan, October 8, 1995 to August 1, 1998, Jim Maynard, Associate Pastor, April 20, 2003 to October 7, 2003. Jim Maynard, Pastor, November 16, 2003 to March 29, 2009; Jaydan Roseboro, June 5, 2011 to September 22, 2013.

Many of God's saints who so faithfully served have gone on to be with the Lord. Others who have grown in the Word have moved on to other places to carry on God's work. Six men have been ordained to the ministry of the Gospel by Bethel Baptist Church: Chester Beck, Bobby Blair, Bill Mayo, Jimmie Dan Spruill, Melvin Jester and Jaydan Roseboro.

Deacons ordained and faithfully serving have been: Bob Johnson, Elmer Cagle, Will Burton, James Blair, J. D. McDonald, Ronnie Leatherman, Leon Gibson, Cecil Watson, Arlo Gibson, Waldo Buschman, Bill Benton, Stanley Ray Cook, and Dennis Gibson.

There have been good times and bad times, good crops and no crops, rainy weather and lack of rain, but through it all the message preached at Bethel Baptist Church has always been the same: That of a living, loving Lord who is still in control and offers salvation and eternal life to all who believe and accept Him.

Copied from 100 year Anniversary, 2003
Submitted by Martha Gibson
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