

Goodwell Baptist Church – History – 1904 – Present

On August 20, 1904, charter members organized Goodwell Baptist Church. J.N. Marshall was called as the first pastor. He was a circuit rider and came only once a month, as did later preachers. It is not known where the meetings took place, but in April 1908, it was “moved and adopted that this church pay its part of the services of a janitor to sweep the house.”

Having two church buildings in Goodwell was one of the stipulations for the Panhandle Agriculture Institute (PAI) to build a school, so in June 1909, it was decided that the church proceed to build our own building. In the October 14, 1909 issue of the Goodwell News there is an article telling of a “Narrow Escape” by E.B. Baker, A.W. Boston, and Ed Geike falling when the scaffolding at the Baptist Church gave way.

At the January 10 meeting the church voted to go to two Sundays a month. The pastor at that time was J.H. McChristian. The church was completed in 1910 and the members were able to host the Texas-Cimarron County Association Annual Meeting August 1-3, 1911.

The first Sunday School was organized the 3rd Sunday of September, 1910. William Brisco was the newly called pastor.

In April 1920, there was a violent 2-day windstorm that did much destruction in the town – including demolishing the Baptist Church. At the 1921 Texas – Cimarron Baptist Association Annual Meeting, W.A. Strickland, the Associational Missionary, said “We now have a State College at Goodwell and no Baptist Church building there and no opportunities to win to Christ and train the best young people of our Association ... we recommend that this Association get behind the building of a new church at Goodwell and our Missionary be instructed to solicit money for this building.” During 1921-1922 a new house of worship was constructed on land that was donated by James M. Kelley. This was a basement, the same basement the church is built on today. Many Baptist churches in the Panhandle contributed to the building fund since their members’ children would be attending the church while in college at Goodwell. The cost of the church basement was about \$4,000. It was at this time that the Beaver County Association and the Texas-Cimarron County Association voted to combine as the Panhandle Baptist Association.

The Association continued to help, as noted in the 1925 minutes. In 1931 the church erected a modern parsonage. The Baptist Student Union is now in that location.

On June 17, 1940, five BSU alumni met at the church for the purpose of creating a building fund for a new church building through the payment of quarterly dues - \$3 to \$5 or as much as possible. In 1942 Mrs. Dodd, the Associational WMU President, reported that the WMU had given 5 bonds to the Goodwell Building fund. That encouraged a number of churches to pledge bonds. In 1946 the State Convention had agreed to match dollar for dollar all money raised that year up to \$25,000 to complete the building that was started in 1921. This would allow the Goodwell congregation to enlarge the basement and add two stories above it.

The churches in the Panhandle responded and the church building was completed in 1949. Goodwell Baptist now had a separate sanctuary, a baptistery, an office for the pastor, five additional classrooms, a balcony, and a bell tower with a steeple.

The Baptist Student Union (Baptist Collegiate Ministries today), has been an important part of the church. Until 1965, when the BCM building was constructed adjacent to the church, they would meet in the basement. Some great Sunday night fellowships were held there.

Sometimes during the '70s the steeple was damaged beyond repair during a bad storm. It has yet to be reinstalled. However, since that time there have been a long list of changes and improvements generously funded by loving congregation members and all have served to keep its ministry moving forward in the service of Jesus Christ!

Through it all Goodwell Baptist Church has seen many changes in its 100+ years of service! But, through it all, its congregation prays to be always found faithful in spreading the "Good News" that Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord!

**Copied from 100 year Anniversary, 2003
And submitted by Doug King, Pastor
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