



The longest look back that we have been able to take lets us see a group of believers meeting in homes for worship, who decided to form themselves into a Baptist congregation.

The earliest records we have been able to find has them meeting in conference on March 3, 1883. E. W. Owens was re-elected as pastor at that time so the church was meeting some time before that. How long the church had been in existence and how it actually came into existence we have no record to show.

It wasn't long after the church was formally organized that plans for a building to worship in began to fall in place. On December 1, 1883, J. G. Phillips deeded some land located east of Telephone near where the Stanley Waldrop home is now located, to the church.

The early records refer to the church as the "Missionary Baptist Church of Christ meeting at High Prairie". Around the turn of the century it was called simply "High Prairie Missionary Baptist Church". In 1935 the name was changed from "High Prairie" to "Telephone" Baptist Church.

The first major change made on the building was in 1902 when the church added a room to their original building. Outside of replacing the revival Brush Arbor with a more modern shed in 1928, there seems to have been no major changes until 1936 when after much discussion and controversy, the church voted 32 to 13 to move to the Gin lot in Telephone. The move was made and the building dedicated at its new location in 1937.

The earliest records speak of electing messengers to the associational annual meeting. From this it seems evident that the church was associated with the Southern Baptist Convention from its earliest beginnings.

The church began a Spanish Mission in May 1986, investing land and a building; culminating in 1991 when we became the "Mother Church", having provided a place of worship for many new arrivals in our area.

1983-2008 has been a time of building, expanding and growing. We began in 1985 with a bid on a lot for a new parsonage. A work force led by church members began construction in July 1987, the project was finished in December that same year. On August 12, 1998, a fire almost destroyed the parsonage. Again, volunteers rolled up their sleeves, strengthened the frame, added a metal roof and rebuilt the structure.

Expansion continued in 1988 when the educational building was given a face lift and a new fellowship hall was begun. In May 1989 the fellowship hall and new Sunday School rooms were completed. As our building expanded and more renovations were done on older classrooms in early 1990, Calvin Felts donated footage on the south side of the church for additional parking. In 19913, Sammie and Joyce donated the old post office building to the church for the use of youth activities.

In January 1994 a committee was appointed to begin a new building program in in April 1994 plans were submitted for a new auditorium and classroom. Construction began in 1995 as our very talented volunteer members joined together to erect a building to honor our Heavenly Father. By late 1995, the finished steeple led all eyes heavenward. On Sunday, December 10, 1995, the congregation, joyfully praising the Lord with the uplifting strains of "Victory in Jesus" marched from the old auditorium the the new. The new sanctuary and classrooms were dedicated on April 28, 1996. The church incorporated in 1998, adopting by-laws and a constitution.

In January 1998, the church purchase the Cloves Long property west of the church, where on Sundays, cars line up like soldiers in formation as families gather to worship the Lord. The Polly Moore house was a gift to the church in 1999. Polly was a life long member of our congregation and taught Sunday School for many years. This gift became a home for our youth director and his family.

Improvements were continued in 2001 when the old sanctuary was renovated for use as a youth facility. In 2003 the entire structure was covered with a metal roof and a carport was built for the church van. Finally, in 2007, a chain link fence was installed around the back yard of the parsonage and new tables were purchased for the fellowship hall.

As we rejoice in our blessings, we acknowledge the set backs that have occurred. 1998-parsonage fire; 2007-vandals shattered the plate glass doors in the church foyer and broke one of the stained glass windows on the west side of the sanctuary. Water pooled beneath the building at e southwest corner floor and floor joists had to be replaced in September and October 2007. We thank the Lord for His Grace that allows us to overcome each problem -to continue forward as we strive to serve Him in all we do.

Pastors

1883-1890	E. W. Owens
1890-1894	J. P. Morris
1894-1899	P. H. Swenny
1899-1903	C. B. Hammett
1903-1905	Bro. Peppins
1905-1906	J. Jentry
1906-1910	R. L. Keene
1910-1912	Ben H. Milam
1912	W. E. Davis
1914	G. C. Jenkins
1916-1917	E. E. Fincher
1918-1920	B. F. Milam
1921	W. L. Brumlo
1921-1923	G. C. Jenkins
1923	W. J. Cunningham
1924-1929	Thomas Reece
1930-1931	T. B. Randolph
1932-1933	C. E. Fite
1934-1935	J. M. Simmons
1936-1937	I. A. Bentley
1938	A. T. Willis
1939-1941	W. P. Cure
1942-1943	Reginald D. Washington
1944	W. L. Howell
1947	Ivan L. Paulk
1948-1949	D. J. Williams
1950	Jim Cunningham
1951	R. E. Prince
1953-1955	Harold Johnson

Telephone Baptist Church_Organized in 1883

1956-1957	W. F. Thornton
1958-1961	Jess Bigbee
1962-1964	Harry McKain
1965-1968	Robert Clement
1969-1970	Sam Burnett
1971-1972	James Seigler
1973-1975	Robert D. Witt
1976	Harold Hicks
1977-1979	James O. Henry
1980	Milton Kressee (Interim)
1981-1986	Dwayne Mitchell
1986	Preston Manley (Interim)
1986-1987	Dale Berry
1987-1990	Jerry Faught
1990-1993	Jackie Stanfield
1993	Bill Beasley
1993-1996	Kenny Ballard
1997-2000	W. F. Thornton
2001-2006	Don Gallatin
2006-2007	Jeff Johnson (Interim)
2007-present	Brian Everett

REMEMBER WHEN...



