

## **HISTORY OF ASHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**

(Taken from New Salem Church Record – Compiled by J. W. Sappington)

The town of Ashland was not settled until 1853, or approximately twenty-five years after New Salem, our mother church, was organized in 1828. New Salem people had previously belonged to Little Bonne Femme Church which was organized in 1819.

On the second Saturday in March 1897, Salem granted a joint letter of dismissal to the following members for the purpose of constituting a church in Ashland, Missouri, to-wit: J. S. Johnston; L. H. Burks; Jas. T. Jamison; John C. Wilcox; Sue Grannis; Lucy G. Hubbard; Sallie A. Tuttle; John T. Johnston; Nancy S. Wilcox; Eva Johnston; Annie Harrington; Maggie Harrington; William E. Payne; Julia M. Edwards; Mollie Steward; B. P. Mathews; Elizabeth Mathews; Eliza G. Burnham; Ollie Roberts; Amanda Johnson; R. T. Nichols; Mary A. Nichols; Richard Coone; Sarah P. Callaway; Margaret A. Payton; J. F. Howell; Margaret A. Daws; Dr. J. A. Keer; Sophia Keer.

(Recorded in a Boone County history book owned by C.D. Rice and now in possession of Howard Rice)

“As indicated by its name, this church is situated in the town of Ashland, its immediate location being Lot No. 1 of Block No 2 Broadway Street. The date of its organization was April 19, 1879. About 40 members being named on its charter roll. The church, which is a neat and commodious frame building, was erected in 1880 at a cost of about twenty-five hundred dollars. It was dedicated by the Reverend Joseph C. Maple, in November 1881. The names of the pastors are Jonathan M. McGuire who served the church a short time after it was constituted and Reverend E. D. Isbell, D.D. who succeeded Reverend McGuire, and is still the preacher in charge at this writing. The present membership is seventy, and the church bids fair to be a power for good in the community.”

As recorded in the history of New Salem, Reverend T. D. Penn was pastor at Ashland in the year of 1893. There are no other records found until 1920.

On May 2, 1920, Reverend C. C. Hatcher was elected pastor until a regular pastor could be secured.

On January 2, 1921, Reverend C. C. Hatcher was called to preach for the following year.

In August 1922, to our surprise and regret, Brother Hatcher tendered his resignation, effective September 1, 1922

On November 15, 1922, Brother Eddie Calvin made a touching statement of his call to enter the gospel ministry. A motion was made and seconded that he be granted a license to preach. Also, at this meeting, Brother H. P. Cheavens was unanimously called as pastor for the church.

Brother Cheavens preached his first sermon on January 7, 1923.

Church business meetings were held directly following church on Sunday mornings. On December 23, 1922, it was voted to start having Prayer Meeting and Bible Study each Wednesday evening.

At a regular business meeting on September 1, 1923, the church accepted a proposition to install electric lights, and Brother H. J. Sapp was appointed chairman to solicit the funds for the lights.

On October 17, 1923, Eddie Calvin was ordained for the ministry to preach at Barnes Chapel Church.

On January 4, 1925, Brother J. M. Roberts offered all the wood the men could cut in one day for the church. A wood chopping day was set for Tuesday, January 6. The women kindly offered to assist Mrs. Roberts in serving lunch.

From a United States Census of Religious Bodies Report, which was taken in 1936, the total number of members was thirty-four. The value of the church was two thousand dollars. The number of Sunday School teachers was four. The number of Sunday School officers was four. The pastor at this time was Reverend H. P. Cheavens, who was also serving as pastor of New Salem, Hartsburg and Dry Fork Churches. The church clerk was Mrs. J. M. Roberts.

In 1939, the Little Bonne Femme Association met with the Ashland church for the first time in forty-five years. They had previously met with us in 1894. The association met with us again in 1952 and in 1960.

According to the minutes of the Little Bonne Femme association, Reverend Cheavens was pastor for twenty years. He was called to preach in 1922 and then he resigned in 1942. During one of his years at Little Bonne Femme, his salary was only sixty-five dollars for the entire year. In 1942, his salary for the year was one hundred ninety-nine dollars. This was during the depression years when money was very scarce.

The minutes of September 1, 1929 read as follows, "Pastor offered his usual 50-50 pledge; the church paying \$10.00, the pastor \$10.00 to district missions for the ensuing year."

During the time of his ministry here, our membership rose from twenty-nine to seventy-five. One of the business meetings began as follows, "Ashland Baptist Church met in regular business session Sunday morning, February 7, 1937, following a splendid sermon on 'Christian Love' by the Pastor."

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have lived during his ministry have counted it to be a privilege and blessing to have known such a dedicated Christian man.

Reverend C. C. Hatcher became our pastor again in 1943. In 1947 Brother Travis John supplied for us until we secured Brother Milton Windham. Brother Windham was with us only one year, and then Brother Travis John was elected to minister the next year.

On November 10, 1949, the church called Brother Ellery Young as pastor. His first sermon was on January 1, 1950. In February the church voted to have its first full-time preaching services. Brother Young's salary was fifteen hundred dollars, and the total budget for the year was two thousand two hundred twenty dollars and eighty cents.

A dedication service was held on April 29, 1951, to dedicate six new Sunday School rooms. Two of the Sunday School rooms were in the balcony. The next year the church was further remodeled by adding a furnace, new floor and raising the pulpit.

Brother Harold Renfrow began a two-week revival on October 16, 1951. A love offering of three hundred twenty-four dollars and fifty-nine cents was taken for Brother Renfrow.

In 1952 a nursery and cradle roll was started. A call meeting was held March 5, 1952. The purpose of this meeting was to vote on a pastor, and Brother Otis Mosley was selected as the pastor at this meeting. Since Brother Mosley was going to medical school, he was forced to resign as pastor on August 12, 1953. His resignation became effective on September 16, 1953.

In October 1953, the church voted to borrow five thousand dollars to buy a Parsonage. Reverend Allen Emmerson was then called as the pastor of Ashland Baptist Church.

In May 1954 Sunday School Superintendent Billy Thomas reported an average attendance of one hundred fifty two for that month. During this year we organized the first Brotherhood, Y.W.A.'s, Sunbeams, Sunday School Extension and R.A.'s. The church had already organized a Junior and Intermediate G.A.'s and W.M.U. The church was sent a pulpit by Mr. and Mrs. Middlebush in memory of one of the church's Junior boys, Michael Bullard who was killed in a tragic tractor accident.

In June 1955, Reverend Allen Emmerson resigned as pastor. Reverend Emmerson had served one year and nine months. In July of the same year, Reverend Oriece Hartman became our new pastor. In 1955 Bernard Lewis resigned as Deacon. Ashland Baptist Church purchased the Adkins property next to the church for four thousand dollars. The property was converted into Sunday School rooms and later torn down when the basement was completed.

In June 1957, Reverend Harold Smith came as our pastor. Brother Palmer Forbis, a faithful deacon of the church for the past ten years, passed away. The church bought the Carroll Richardson property for a Parsonage for seven thousand five hundred dollars.

In 1958 Brother C. D. Rice passed away. Brother Rice had been a deacon in the church for thirty years. Noah Edwards also resigned as deacon during this same year.

In 1960 Ralph Mountjoy and family gave the chairs for the pulpit in memory of his wife, Stella Mountjoy.

By 1961 the records show the pastor's salary to be three thousand nine hundred dollars. We received a check for one thousand dollars from the Julia Sapp estate. The next year money was received from Joella Ellis, in memory of her mother Mary Martin, to buy the Lord's Supper table.

On July 10, 1963, building plans for the construction of a basement to be used for educational building were presented to the church by Reverend Harold Smith. The building plans were accepted and in July 1964, a basement was completed at a cost of nine thousand three hundred three dollars and thirty-five cents. Mr. Lloyd A. Pauley, a local merchant and very community-minded person, presented the furnace to heat the education building.

According to our church minutes, at least one revival was held every year and many years two revivals were held. In 1964, Eddie Calvin, whom we ordained in 1923, was our evangelist.

In 1965, Reverend Harold Smith brought a request from Reverend Wallace Johnson that he be dis-aligned from the church. His ordination papers were invalidated because of his having changed his views on Bible doctrine.

By 1966, our church budget had been raised to twelve thousand dollars. A new Hammond organ was bought during this year.

On June 7, 1967, minutes of the church read as follows: "With regret we accept the resignation of our beloved minister, Reverend Harold Smith, who has so faithfully served us for the past ten years."

On Sunday, July 16, 1967, the church had a short business meeting to ballot on our new minister. Brother Gary Payne was called at this time. Brother Payne attended the Southwest Baptist College for two years and then graduated from Warrensburg State College with a degree in Speech.

Brother Payne's present salary is five thousand two hundred dollars a year, plus a furnished parsonage, two revivals yearly and annuity.

Under Brother Payne's dedicated Christian leadership, the church on April 9, 1969, voted to build a new church at the cost of seventy-eight thousand dollars.

Work has started on the new church on June 2 and the completion date is set for December 1, 1969.

The budget for 1969 is twenty-one thousand dollars.

Since our music program of the church has grown steadily through the past years, we have been able to secure a music director. Mr. Lynn Green was called for his position. Mr. Green has helped our choir grown to an average attendance of fifteen members.

The present deacons on the board of the Ashland Baptist Church in 1969-70 are: Page Pendleton, chairman; Wallace Edwards; John Old; Frank Branson; Elwood Purcell; and Max Bowden.

On September 10, 1969, Max Bowden submitted his resignation from the board of deacons.

From a membership roll of twenty-nine in 1926, our membership has increased to two hundred and seventy members.

The following named deacons are some of those serving through the years from what records we have:

<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Ordained</u>
C. D. Rice	1928
S. L. Jenkins	1920
N. A. Baumgartner	1947
Palmer Forbis	1947
Bernard Lewis	1947
Noah Edwards	1950
Forrest Dexter	1950
Wallace Johnson	1950
Ralph Braswell	Accepted from another church
Leroy Calvin	1954

Continued....

Deacons

Ordained

Eldo Branson

1950

Horace Sappington

Accepted from another church

Elwood Purcell

1956

Justin John

1956

Monroe Edwards

1956

Tom Anderson

Accepted from another church

Page Pendleton

1967

John Old

1967

Wallace Edwards

1967

The following people served as treasurer of the church:

H. J. Sapp

C. D. Rice

Ella Hickam

Mary Lewis

Nellie Branson

Doris Calvin

Norma Lloyd

Frances Bowden

The following people were clerks for the church:

Mrs. J. M. Roberts

Joella Martin

G. A. John

Hazel Martin

Lillian Arnold

Gladys Sapp

Jimmy Taylor

Ruth Harmon

Pansa Pendleton

The following people served as Sunday School Superintendents:

F. R. Davis

J. M. Roberts

Floyd Forsee

G. A. John

Marvin W. Jones

Billy Thomas

Allen Old

Max Bowden

Billy Thomas

Pastors which were ordained at Ashland Baptist Church were:

Eddie Calvin – October 17, 1923

Marvin W. Jones – November 29, 1953

Wallace Johnson – January 2, 1955



We have attached an article concerning the church bell which has proven to be of such interest to the members of this church and other citizens in Boone County. The bell which will be placed near the new church will ring again to beckon God's people to worship. Also, a few clippings from the "Word & Way" and some photos will be left for a memorial for younger generations to enjoy.

This is just a brief sketch of the history and growth of our church. All through the years our records have shown this church to be a firm supporter of missionary work and we are contributing at this writing twelve percent to the Cooperative program and two percent to the Associational missions. Since the beginning of this church in 1879, many faithful members have gone on to be with God, but we feel indebted to them for having kept us under the Grace of God and His Holy Spirit, laboring for the upbuilding of his kingdom. This is the past. Now we look to the future earnestly praying that God, the ever loving and forgiving father, will be our guide through every step to the future as he has in the past. That we may set our hearts and minds in Christian love and fellowship to face the task that lie ahead. That this church might be a beacon light in this community until God shall come again.

Dated: November 3, 1969

Signed by:

Mrs. Hazel Martin

Mrs. Pansa Pendleton

Mrs. Jimmy Taylor