

## ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

Rev. R. T. Huffman organized the Zion Baptist Church, October 1878. Rev. Huffman had been pastor of the First Baptist Church for two years before he resigned. Following his resignation (From the history of First Baptist Church) the following statement was published. "Any member of good standing, upon request was given a letter of dismissal."

Thus, the Zion Baptist Church was organized under the leadership of Rev. Huffman. Official organizers were Rev. Rhodes Hines, Rev. John Morgan and Rev. R. T. Huffman. The first meetings were held in the old schoolhouse, one half block from the present Church building in what was known as the Worthington Building. Some of the members in the organization were William Arrington, Emily Tarlton, Tom Steward, Richard Stewart, John Beddford, John K. Smith and Leah Smith.

The first church building was a framed. Rev. D. W. Seals was elected Pastor in 1886. When Rev. Seals was in his third year, his salary was raised to \$460.00 a year and a new suit. At the October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1888 business meeting it was voted to have services at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. The first recorded Deacons from 1888 recorded were: Bros. Sonnie Thomas, Ruben Thomas, Charley Tarlton, James Jackson, Marr Thomas, John Davis, Henry Neal, and Wash Cook. The Trustees were Bro. Henry Tarlton, Moses Arrington and Richard Stewart. On May 28, 1890, Rev. Seals presented a plan to raise money for a new Church building. He was given the fourth Sunday in each month to execute his program, and the building, a new brick 60' x 40' was completed in 1897.

January 25, 1889 it was voted that a Mission Club (Missionary Society) be established. From 1900-1914 the following served as Pastors: Revs. W. J. M. Price, E. W. Hawthorne, H. E. Baker, James Miller. May 1, 1914, a call was extended to Rev. T. H. Smith; he served as Pastor the first time until 1919. Rev. M. D. Purdue served as pastor in 1920. Other pastors include Rev. J. W. Haywood and Rev. A. L. Pearson. During the pastorage of Rev. Haywood, (reported from the business meeting of January 22, 1923), a house and lot, owned by J. P. Donavan, was purchased for the sum of \$1,200.00 cash in hand. To do this the committee was compelled to negotiate a loan from Georgetown National Bank for \$400.00 and a loan of \$50.00 from Pastor Haywood. The committee was Bros. Moses Arrington, Jake Middleton, Horase Reece, Ruben Wheeler and B. F. Patterson.

January 29, 1926, a call was extended unanimously to Rev. T. H. Smith for the second time. The First Sunday in March of that year Rev. Smith took charge. The outlook for the future was indeed bright; the church had a membership of about 300. During the Pastorate of Rev. Smith, property (house and lot) at the rear of the church were purchased and built into our first annex. The building was composed of a kitchen, dining room, two Sunday School rooms, and restrooms. The second Sunday in February 1932, was Rev. Smith's last Sunday to serve as pastor of Zion.

August 18, 1932 recommendation from the board was to extend a call to Rev. A. L. Pearson of La Grange, Kentucky, to become Pastor. Rev. Pearson accepted the call and moved to Georgetown, September 1932. Some to the accomplishments of Rev. Pearson: The Church was cleared of all indebtedness and the present Educational Building was erected. Rev. Pearson organized the Church Family convention, which had its first session the Wednesday before the second Sunday in June, beginning in 1943.

April 26, 1953 first "One Day Revival," Rev. J. A. Taylor was the Evangelist. There were 10 for baptism. Rev. Pearson recommended to the Church to buy Ben Sauders property from the Second Christian Church for the sum of \$500.00. To claim full ownership of the property, the Pastor and

Deacons were given power to buy said property and it was later remodeled and made into the (Zion Baptist Church Rest Home.) Rev. Pearson resigned as Pastor of the church in 1969.

During the early years of the Howard's Creek District Association the Zion Baptist Church was host the following years, 1900, 1912, 1924. The following have acknowledged their call to the ministry: Clarence Roberts (ordained), John W. Kirtley (licensed), J. D. Conner (ordained), W. P. Relford and Ravon Washington (licensed).

The sincerity of purpose, the warmth of their motives, with the strength of their support has made out of a few boards, some brick and a few small windows, a great temple of worship for rich, the poor and even the wayfaring who pass this way. We pause to salute the pioneers of this effort, who without a doubt put God in front and in spite of small financial gain were able to hold on, to carry on and push forward.

There wasn't much fashion, but much devoutness. There wasn't much light, but the Bible gave light for the way. There was vary little warmth except for maybe one stove, but there was deep in their hearts the warmth of God's love and the love they had for each other.

Rev. H. M. Dailey was extended a call, he accepted in 1970. Rev. Dailey through the guidance of the Holy Spirit remolded and beautified the Sanctuary. The church purchased property including two homes for rental and two lots for parking. Remolded the choir room, pastor's study, kitchen, and purchased hymnbooks, a Lord's Supper Table, chairs and serving sets. Pastor and Sister Dailey also donated a baby grand piano. As blessings continued to flow we have purchased a church bus and van, established a bus ministry, installed new lighting, upgraded the heating and cooling systems, and created a budget and finance committee to enhance fiscal responsibility. For the past 10 years the church has charted a bus for a week long fellowship vacation.

Rev. H. M. Dailey and the Zion Baptist Church hosted the first outdoor Youth Revival in 1976. The revival ran for five consecutive years and was held at the community Ed Davis Park. The Evangelist have been Rev. Jerry W. Dailey (nephew of the pastor) and Rev. Henry Jones, formally of Consolidated Baptist Church and Rev. Gregory Smith. For 10 years Pastor Dailey has served as the Moderator of the Howard's Creek District Association Convention. Pastor Dailey has continued to encourage all youth to strive to complete their education. Knowing that our young people need guidance and opportunity, Pastor Dailey established the first Scholarship Fund. This fund is a gift to provide students with assistance when entering college. Having been recognized for untiring church and community leadership, Pastor Dailey was granted an Honorary Doctorate by Simmons Bible College.

Those called into the ministry under Pastor Dailey are; Rev. James Ingram (ordained), Rev. Larry Wilson (licensed), the late Rev. Leslie Wilkins (ordained), Rev. John Travis (ordained). Each one of these has accepted calls to Pastor Churches.

As proud as we are of our Church, we are constantly praying to keep humble enough to be of service. We want the Master to be able to point with pride to us, as those who have kept the faith, who've stayed in the fight for right and righteousness. One by one, we will answer to the higher call from a righteous Father.