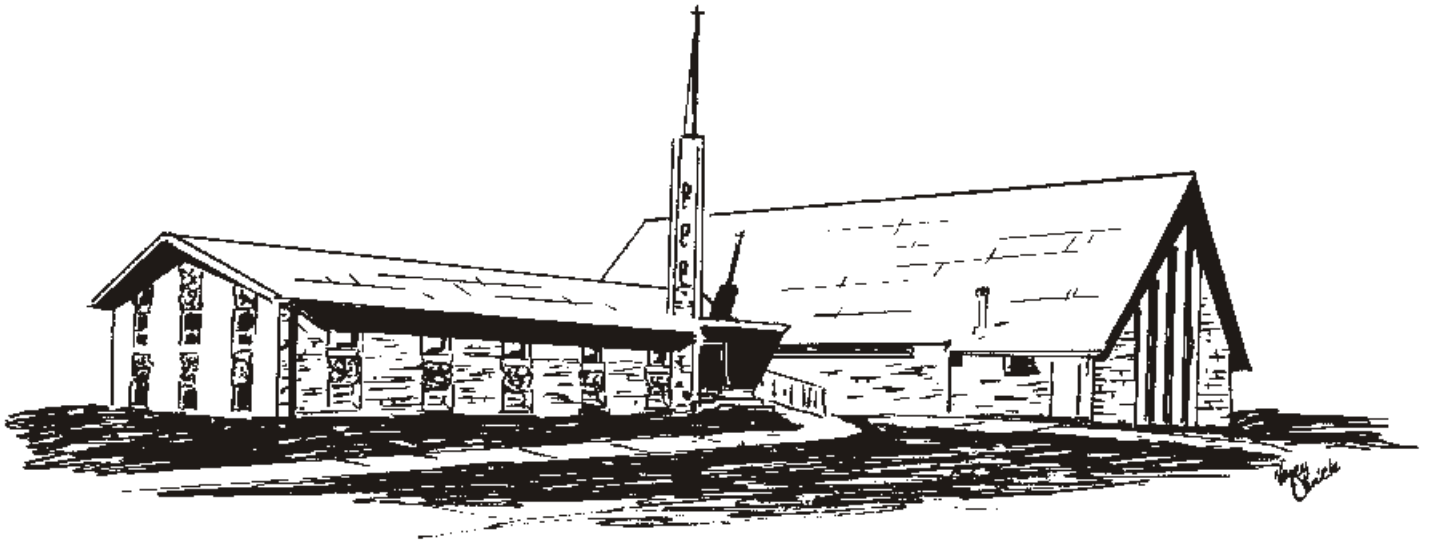


**The First Baptist Church
of Meade, Kansas
1893-1993**



*"Not unto us, O Lord, but unto they name give the glory."
Psalms 115:1*

**100 Year History
of
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
of Meade, Kansas
1893-1993**

**510 E. Rainbelt
Meade, Kansas**

Rev. Harry A. Fink, Pastor



Charter Members

George W. Potter
 Mrs. M.A. Williams
 Lucinda Potter
 Ella Montgomery
 Margaret Wilson

*This Building served the
 First Baptist Church from
 1899 to 1906*

Forward

*by Esther (Goodson) Feldman
 Historian for the
 Centennial Committee*

It is with a tremendous sense of gratitude and through much prayer that I have compiled this 100-year history of The First Baptist Church of Meade, Kansas, where I have worshiped and served for 46 years.

In 1947, I transferred my membership from the Missionary Baptist Church in Herple, Arkansas. Soon my husband, Robert (Bob) joined the church and was baptized, eventually so did our three children; David, Nancy and Alan. The children were active in Sunday School, Bible School, youth fel-

lowship, Guild and choir. Bob and I served on boards, committees and worked wherever we were needed in the church throughout the years, but it is what the church did for us that we think about as we come to this time of centennial celebration. Wonderful memories flood our minds of precious former members and friends that we have been privileged to fellowship with, as well as the many great Pastors who served us.

Several histories of the church have been written by different mem-

bers; most were unsigned. From these pages we have gratefully borrowed the data and some of the wording for our history of the first sixty years.

I am grateful to our present Pastor Harry Fink, for his prayers and support. Also to the other centennial committee members: Norman Haskins, Vashti Seybert, Faith Baughman and Florene Budde for their help and support. May God continue to bless us as we go forward toward the next 100 years.

*In 1906 the Church was
 remodeled; a belfry was
 build over the entrance
 and a baptistery was
 added.*

1906 to 1916



History of The First Baptist Church of Meade, Kansas

In the Beginning...

At the beginning of the 1890's, a small group of Baptist began holding prayer meetings in their homes. Many of the prayer meetings were held in the home of Mrs. M.A. Williams in the back of her dry goods and millinery store. Just as Jesus prayed for the work He was sent to earth to do, and, as Christ taught us to both pray and work to build His kingdom, so it was with those faithful "soldiers of the cross" in Meade, Kansas. God answered their prayers and a church was organized. Rev. P.G. Shanklin, a Baptist minister in Garden City, an evangelist, and a district Missionary, came to assist these courageous souls.

The first mention of the coming of Rev. Shanklin was in Meade's weekly newspaper *The Globe*, dated August 3, 1883. The news item read

Rev. Shanklin, a Baptist minister, preached at the Christian Church Monday night. He will begin a series of meetings next Sunday night at the same place. All are invited.

It was during these meetings a church was organized on August 17, 1893. *The Meade Globe* printed this item

A Baptist Church was organized last Wednesday by Rev. P.G. Shanklin.

It is assumed that the organization took place in the Christian Church since that was the building that Rev. Shanklin was using for the meetings. This building was financed by the Christian Church with a loan from the American Christian Missionary Society. In the hard times of the 1890's, some of the Christian congregation moved away and the loan became too heavy for the remaining members, so the title reverted

to the society. The site was the corner of North Fowler and Kansas Streets in Meade, and was the third location used by the church for worship.

The church records dated August 8, 1893 stated, "*The following persons have entered into covenant to organize a Baptist Church at Meade, Kansas: Namely, George W. Potter and Lucinda Potter of the Island Grove Baptist Church of Missouri; Ella Montgomery of the Macomb Baptist Church of Illinois; Margaret Wilson of the Hartford Baptist Church of Iowa. These five became charter members. Rev. Wilbur was chosen as moderator and Rev. Shanklin as clerk. The articles of faith, church covenant and rules of order were compiled by J.M. Pendleton and were selected as the rules to govern the church in faith and practice. "The First Baptist Church of Meade" was chosen as the name.*

George W. Potter was elected clerk of the origination service. Prior to the service, Rev. Wilbur opened the Bible to Peter 4:18 which states, "*If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?*" This was the text of the original sermon. The meeting was adjourned following a prayer by Rev. Wilbur asking God's blessing on "this newly formed enterprise in the Kingdom of God."

Rev. Wm. Wilbur's name does not appear again in the records that are available. Rev. P.G. Shanklin continued coming to the church once a month. We should be very thankful for the energy and faithfulness of Rev. Shanklin. A copy of the minutes of the Southwestern Kansas Baptist Association, dated September 14-17, 1892, listed Rev. Shanklin as Pastor of four churches: Bucklin, Lakin, Manning and Meade. *The Meade Globe* paid tribute to Rev. Shanklin and the organizers of the

church in a news article dated August 24, 1892;

*Rev. Shanklin the Baptist preacher closed his meetings in this city Sunday evening. There were five additions to the church: Mrs. Hattie Dalgarn, Ora Williams, Nettie Bonham and Hattie Fee. A church was organized with twelve members and service will be held the last Sunday of each month. Rev. Shanklin is a devoted minister of the Master and labors unceasingly in behalf of the gospel of Christ. His meetings were well attended and a general good interest was manifested throughout. The Globe is glad of his success and hopes that the little Baptist Church of a dozen members will ever be filled with the spirit of true religion and that will enable it to grow, that many others may be added thereto and that it may be a potent influence for good and that the seed they sow may fall on good ground and spring up and bear much fruit." These are words of high tribute, **by their fruit Ye shall know them.***

If the *Globe* staff member that wrote those words were here today, would he feel that his hopes for The First Baptist Church of Meade, Kansas, had been fulfilled? We believe he would.

As The First Baptist Church of Meade was born of missionary parents, it naturally followed that it should be a missionary church. One of the first missionary projects was to establish an arm of the church in Fowler on October 7, 1906. Later, Gospel teams were sent out to hold services in country school houses. A letter from Merrit C. Reed to Bro. John Keith in 1943 states: "*It was Bro. Moore that organized our gospel teams and started us on our way to holding services in the country school*

houses and sharing the gospel message. The people in the country always turned out well and treated us fine." Some of the early Baptist that served on those gospel teams were: Mr. Reed, George Cones, Loren Southerland, J.O. Keith and Charlie Petefish. This gospel team work was practiced 1911, through 1914, and in 1916, Loren Southerland was given full charge of this phase of the ministry of the church.

The history committee for the fiftieth anniversary in 1943, wrote: "The newly organized Baptist Church prospered and began to grow from the start." However, they had their problems, as we find from reading some of the early minutes of the business meetings, perhaps they gained their strength from facing difficulties and finding a solution. Some excerpts from the early minutes—"Committee for raising Pastors back salary gave partial report, committee continued." "It was moved, seconded and carried that a special offering be taken for the Pastor's salary." Women's Missionary Society reported that their goal had been partly reached." A committee was appointed to fix the screens on the parsonage windows. At the next meeting, it was voted to "let the screens go until spring." One early entry in the church minutes really takes us back to early times. A committee was appointed to move the hitching racks from private property to the church property. Bro. Hanks and Wm. Dalgarn were appointed. Two men had been nominated to be Deacons. Their acceptance by the church was not unanimous. When agreement could not be reached, the subject was tabled. At a later meeting, the controversy was resolved by the two men stating that they did not want to be Deacons anyway.

Another important step taken by the church, under the leadership of Rev. Shanklin, was to identify itself with denominational affairs by joining the Southwest Kansas Baptist Association in September, 1893. Through the years it has cooperated with the Kansas Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Convention.

The history committee for the fiftieth anniversary of the church recorded the details: A new era in the life of the church began when Rev. J.M. Robinson became pastor in 1898. The church was reorganized and increased in strength and numbers. The church was now able to purchase a building to worship in. The purchase, at the price of \$300, was made February 14, 1899. The deed conveyed to M.A. Williams who deeded the property to The First Baptist Church October 25, 1889. The church was incorporated August 24, 1899 and granted a charter valid for 99 years.

Sometime in 1906, the building was remodeled. A belfry was erected over the front entrance, a baptistery was added on the east side of the sanctuary and a large stained glass window, picturing an organist at work, was presented to the church by Mrs. M.A. Williams, as a memorial to her daughter, Ora Williams Seigel, who was the first organist in the church.

Growing Pains...

In 1915, under the direction of Rev. Claude J. Spiers, the congregation decided it had outgrown the present church building and appointed a building committee to erect a new structure. The old building was to be torn down and the new building built in its place. The congregation faced the project with mixed emotions expressed in this excerpt from "Baptist Notes" in the *Meade Globe* of November 12, 1915:

"We had expected that last Sunday would be our last day in our church building, but a change in procedure has made it so we may continue our worship here for one or two more weeks.

The services were well attended, last Lord's day, and were of historical importance, especially the Young People's meeting.

Upon invitation the Presbyterian Endeavors united with us, in this service, inasmuch as the two societies were originally one and for years met in our church build-

ing. Several from both societies told of the Grand Old Days of the past and the memories of fellowship of those days and years was like sweet perfume brought to us from afar or the message of a friend that had been gone long.

At the evening service, the chairman of the finance committee announced that the full amount of \$5,000.00 had been provided for which caused great rejoicing in all our hearts.

We wish to thank those who worked so faithfully in making this report possible. Also, express our appreciation to each one who made a pledge for this new building.

Our new building committee; C.S. Hulburt, E.D. Kimber, M.C. Read, J.H. Perkins, and J.O. Keith, shall soon advertise for bids for the construction of our new edifice. Claude J. Spiers."

The congregation secured the room under the Masonic Hall to use for services while the new church was being built. The seats and other church furniture were moved there, and the wrecking of the building began the week of November 19, 1915. The building committee did not contract the erection of the new building, but engaged Mr. J.E. Riness as foreman, and the work was done under his direction. A hard, cold winter caused many delays in the construction of the church and it was August of the next year before the first services were held in the new building.

The dedication services for the new First Baptist Church building were held on Sunday, October 22, 1916, with several meetings the week before and a revival the week after. The *Meade Globe*, dated October 19, 1916, carried the following story:

***Dedicate Baptist Church
Rev. J.M. Robinson Will
Deliver Dedicatory Sermon
Sunday Morning
Evangelistic Services To
Begin Sunday Evening***

Conducted by Rev. Fred Berry, Supt. of Evangelism.

Services are being held at the First Baptist church each evening of this week, except tonight. Tomorrow evening, Dr. S.E. Price, president of Ottawa University, will deliver an address, and J. T. Crawford, Secretary of State Missions, will be here Saturday evening.

The new church building will be dedicated Sunday morning. Rev. J.M. Robinson, of Fruita, Colo., delivering the dedicatorial address. Rev. Robinson was instrumental in the establishing of the Baptist church in this city many years ago of which he was pastor for several years.

The new church building is modern in every respect, with large auditorium, several class rooms, pastor's study, and large social room and kitchen in the basement. The building will be heated by hot air furnace.

Revival meetings will be held by Rev. Fred Berry, evangelist, beginning Sunday evening.

The public is cordially invited to attend these services."

In the late 1920's the men of the congregation built a new parsonage just to the east of the church. The Rev. T.D. Franklin and his family were the first family to live in the new parsonage.

In January, 1930, the interior of the church was damaged extensively by fire. Since this was during the hard economic times of the Great Depression it was a difficult decision about repairing the sanctuary; and it was necessary to go into debt to do so.

Invitations from sister churches in the area were extended to the congregation, to worship with them until the building could be repaired. Juanita Beard recalls that her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Cooper opened their home on North Springlake to the church to hold Sunday School. She said, "The house was large enough that opening exercises could be held in the living room and

classes were held in the bedrooms, both upstairs and down. It was quite an experience having Sunday School in my own bedroom." As soon as the basement could be cleared of water and dried out, all Sunday School and church services were held there until the sanctuary could be restored.

The large iron bell that had been in the belfry of the old church was later given to Camp Cristy of Scott County, where it is used regularly to call the various camp assemblies.

One of the highlights in the life of The First Baptist Church of Meade was the golden anniversary celebration and mortgage burning for the debt incurred to repair the church following the fire it sustained in the 30's. This event took place August 8, 1943. Rev. T.R. Layton was Pastor at this time. An all-day service and basket dinner was held. Letters were read from former members. Congratulations from other churches were offered. Rev. Layton preached the anniversary sermon, "Forward with Christ." He challenged the church to renewed loyalty and dedication to Christ. He said, "If ever there was a time when the church of the living God should move forward, as it has never done before, that time has come in the life of The First Baptist Church of Meade."

Time for a Change...

When Rev. T.R. Layton preached that anniversary sermon, the church had an average attendance of 80 for Sunday morning worship and close to 100 in Sunday school. The church building that had seemed so large to the congregation of 50 years ago now seemed cramped, especially for Sunday school and vacation bible school. Within the next few years serious consideration was given to expansion.

Records show that a building fund was in effect as early as 1934. Extra efforts soon began to "build up" the fund, such as a special offering at Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving service was a very special with a offering plate placed on the communion table at

the pulpit, as a hymn was sung or played, the congregation, from young to old filed down to place their offering in the plate. Members gave generously and the fund grew. The need for space and the worry that the present building was too old to remodel and expand were factors in the decision to build a new church in 1966. This was a huge task, but one that then pastor Earle C. Reynolds and the church with her dedicated leaders felt equal to.

In a business meeting held on July 7, 1966, George Roberts reported to the church that the one-half block to include lots 13-24, block 7, McGowan place an addition to the city of Meade, could be purchased for \$5,000.00. Brother George, who at first had opposed building a new church building told the group of members assembled for the monthly business meeting "I could just see that beautiful church on that hill as I drove by." The vote was unanimous to buy the lots. The address would 510 East Rainbelt.

In a business meeting August 3, 1966, it was reported by E. Keith Beard that the property on E. Rainbelt had been purchased with the necessary legal contract with E. Justina Welk of Meade, Kansas, for the sum of \$5,000.00. Let it be noted here that E. Keith Beard, attorney who practiced law in Meade for many years in the firm of Wilson & Beard, along with his wife, Juanita (Cooper) Beard, was for many years one of the driving forces in the advancement of the Lords work in The First Baptist Church of Meade. Keith was always there for the church when there was a need for legal service. He was especially appreciated in the planning and executing of the building program as were so many other dedicated members.

The first step the church took toward the building of the new church was to hire Rev. Robert Wood of Wichita, Kansas to manage the fund raising for the project. Then the following committees were appointed: Building Committee: Rev. Earl E. Reynolds-Ex Officio; E. Keith Beard-Chairman; Clarence Rexroad-Co Chairman; Trustees, Art Eads, George Roberts, Ben Reiss, Nor-

man Haskins, John Homer, Bill Painter, Howard Weller; General Contractor-Pyle Construction Company, McPherson, Kansas; Architect, Robert E. Marr, McPherson, Kansas; Sub Contractors, Eads Plumbing and Heating, Meade Floor Covering, Western Concrete, Imperial Wood Works, Waco, Texas.

Special recognition went to the W.M.S. of the church for their many hours of planning and work on the draperies and floor covering.

The beautiful pulpit furniture that was purchased by the adult women's Sunday school class in the mid '50s was moved to the new church. Also the pianos were moved, the many pieces of antique furniture and dishes that were gifts to the church over the years.

The beautiful Carillon bells placed in the bell tower were donated to the church in memory of Lydia Leslie, one of the pioneer members of the church, by her daughter, Mourine Hendrickson.

In 1976, Floyd Pennington donated the organ, now in use to the church, in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Pennington, who were dedicated members for many years.

Let it be noted here that Sharon (Merkle) Stockton has faithfully played the organ and piano for the church as "her contribution" for the past 25 years and before.

"The Church on the Hill", as the new First Baptist house of worship became known, took nearly two years to build. It seats 300 with an overflow and nursery that is designed so that the attendant can see the speaker and congregation and hear the services. There are twenty classrooms, a spacious kitchen and fellowship hall in the basement, which can be entered without steps to climb. There is a 20 ton air conditioner. The pews are padded and the sanctuary halls and Sunday school rooms are fully carpeted.

Rev. Reynolds, his wife, Velda, members and many in the community watched the construction of the beautiful Baptist Church building with great anticipation and continued prayer for the Lords guidance. Rosalyn Eads re-

calls the inspirational experience of the church gathering at the site of the new church for Easter services in April 1967. There was some walls but no roof. We are grateful to Velda Reynolds for the many photographs she took of the building under construction. Let it be noted here that Mrs. Reynolds donated the pictures of the church under construction, and many others taken during the time Rev. Reynolds pastored here, to the church. We are very grateful for this contribution to the church history.

On October 6, 1968, a very impressive service was held in the new building. The church was observing its seventy-fifth anniversary in conjunction with the dedication of the building. An estimated 500 people crowded into the church at 2 p.m. that Sunday afternoon for the special service. The opening hymn was "Holy, Holy, Holy". Invocation by Rev. Harry Opperman, area minister, Garden City. Welcome and visitor recognition by Pastor Earle C. Reynolds. Presentation of the church keys by Pyle Construction Co. Acceptance of the church keys, Clarence Rexroad, Trustee Board Chairman. Dedication address by Dr. William F. Keucher, Executive Minister of Kansas Baptist Convention. Prayer of dedication, Rev. Henry Bondurant, former area minister, Garden City, Kansas. Benediction, Rev. Robert L. Wood, Wichita, Kansas.

After so ably leading the church through the construction of our new building, Rev. Reynolds now felt that it was time to move on to a new field. Having accepted a call to pastor The First Baptist Church of Torrington, Wyoming, he resigned as our pastor December 8, 1968.

On January 1, 1969, the church extended a call to Rev. Rex Bear to be our pastor. Rev. Bear accepted and took the helm March 1, 1969.

Our work was not finished as there was still a financial debt to be paid on the new church. The dedicated members and pastor continued to pray and work. Within two years following the Thanksgiving offering in 1970, we were

able to retire the debt on the new building.

On May 2, 1971, a mortgage burning service was held at the church. Judy Haskins was pianist for the service. Rev. and Mrs. Earl C. Reynolds returned to take part in the service. Rev. Reynolds spoke on "looking back." The state convention speaker was acting executive coordinator, Dr. Roy Paslay, Mr. E.E. Innis presented the mortgage. Receiving and burning the mortgage, E. Keith Beard and Arthur Eads. Following the congregational hymn "Shepherd Like A Shepherd Lead Us", Rev. Rex Bear gave the message, looking to the future. Following the service, refreshments were served in the fellowship hall to all present by the W.M.S. ladies, assisted by the Girls Guild.

The total cost to build the new church building was \$130,000. Today, August 30, 1993, the value is set at \$275,000.

In May of 1970, the church sold the old church property to the Community Church of Meade, not to include the parsonage. It was decided due to the age and condition of the church building to sell it to the Community Church for the sum of \$6,000.00. The purchasing contract was as follows: beginning May 1, 1970, the buyer would pay \$50.00 per month for one year, with the balance to be paid on May 1, 1971. The buyer to take immediate possession. The Community Church was able to meet the obligation and retire the debt on schedule.

In 1974, Rev. Rex Bear resigned. Shortly thereafter the church called Rev. Robert Snyder to be our pastor. At this time the church was considering building a new parsonage. The decision was made to build a parsonage just east of the church and the following planning committee was appointed: Richard Boyd, chairman; Rosalyn Eads; Bob Feldman; Rick Duggan; Vashti Seybert and Eleanor Finlay.

The same love and dedication that carried the First Baptist congregation through the building of the new church took form now as they began planning and building the house that would be home for our pastors. Although most of



The First Baptist Church of Meade, as it stands today, in 1993.

the labor and materials were paid, a lot was donated. Total cost of the new parsonage was \$55,045.00. A dedication service was held on Sunday afternoon July 27, 1975. That same year, the old parsonage located at 111 E. Kansas St. was sold to Larry and Kay Classen, for the sum of \$18,000.00.

Rev. Bob Snyder, his wife, Carrie, and small daughter, Sarah, were the first to occupy the new parsonage. Rev. Snyder pastored the church for five years during that time their son, Shawn, was born.

Rev. Bob Snyder resigned as our pastor in 1979 and in 1980 Rev. Earl Reynolds returned as pastor. Rev. Reynolds was the only pastor to serve our church more than one term. Rev. Reynolds and his wife, Velda, retired in 1982, to make their home in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1983, the church extended a call to Rev. Harry Fink. Rev. Fink, his wife, Barb, daughter, Stacy and son Kevin, joined us in April, 1983. Rev. Fink is our twenty-seventh pastor and has served the church longer than any.

In November, 1990, a faithful member of the church, Floyd Penning-

ton, passed away. The church was named in Floyd Pennington's will to receive a sizeable portion of his estate. The following committee was appointed to compile ideas for handling the income from the Pennington Estate: Joe Walter (Chairman), Pastor Harry Fink, Norman Haskins, Joe Robbins, Fred Garrison, Roy Seybert, Josie McDowell, Mary Lou Underwood, and Esther Feldman. Receiving this wonderful contribution has, and will continue to be, a great help to the church in our work for the advancement of the cause of Christ.

In November, 1991, once again The First Baptist Church of Meade had to deal with damage from a fire. The fire was in the tank of the baptistery caused by a switch being accidentally turned on to the empty baptistery while a meeting was in progress in the fellowship hall. The fiberglass baptistery tank burned enough to cause extensive smoke damage to the interior of the ground level of the church building. The church was very grateful that Pastor Fink discovered the fire before anything except the baptistery tank was destroyed. We were also thankful for insurance to cover the

restoration. The local carpet cleaning firm Berryman and Company responded quickly and did a great job cleaning the church. It was only necessary to hold one Sunday morning worship service in the fellowship hall downstairs while the church was being cleaned.

In 1985, the old mimeograph machine was replaced by a copy machine in the church office.

In 1986, a food bank was organized by the Meade Ministerial Alliance. The First Baptist Church voted to house the food bank in the northwest Sunday school room near the west entrance of the church basement. Temporary shelves were installed along two walls. The participating churches contribute staple groceries to stock the food bank and take turns working in the food bank which is opened to the needy of the community each second and fourth Friday.

Recent additions to the church are the purchase of 200 new hymnals and 100 pew Bibles for the sanctuary.

In August, 1993, the vinyl floor covering in the church foyer was re-

placed. This was the first major repair needed on the church building.

The church newsletter titled "The Church on the Hill" initiated by Rev. Robert Snyder in 1975, and edited by church secretary, Floreine Budde, was discontinued in 1987. On recommendation of the board of trustees in April, 1993, the church letter was reinstated. Titled "Visions and Dreams," the monthly newsletter is edited by Robert McDowell, assisted by his wife, Loni.

The Work of the Women...

The First Baptist Church of Meade has had a woman's missionary organization almost as long as it has been in existence. Throughout the years it was a very strong force in the church with their focus on missions. In the beginning it was known as the Ladies Aide. Then changed to The Ladies Missionary Society, then to American Baptist Women. In 1993, a major reorganization took place in the American Baptist Women's Organization, they are now American Baptist Women Missions. This title was chosen because of the large volume of missionary work, both local and foreign, done by the organization. The Ladies A.B.W.M. Group in The First Baptist Church of Meade is no exception. Our ladies contribute much in funds, hospital supplies, patch work pieces, clothing and much more to foreign fields and community centers, orphans homes, etc. in the United States. Locally the A.B.W.M. ministers to shut-ins and bereaved families with a food service.

Early Members

A roster of those who have been members of The First Baptist Church of Meade, Kansas would be far too long, however, because of the interesting historical content some must be mentioned in this history. Mrs. M.A. Williams, one of the charter members and Christian extraordinary, was a great aunt of Ed-

ward Boyer, who along with his wife, Reva (Whitehead Boyer), were very active in the church. Their children, Boyd and twin daughters, Betty and Bea, grew up in the church. Both Reva and son, Boyd, are deceased. Edward Boyer, at age 90, is at this time the oldest member of The First Baptist Church of Meade, Kansas. Let it be noted here that the youngest member of the church is Ashley Houser, age 14. Ashley attends church with her parents, Dennis and Beverly and her brother, Clay.

Edward Boyer's great aunt, Mrs. M.A. Williams, was the mother of Ora Seygel, who was the first organist of the church. Mrs. Williams later donated the beautiful stained glass window, depicting an organist at work, to the church in memory of her daughter who died in 1903 at the early age of 22 years. The aforementioned window was first placed in the church building, the First Baptist Church purchased from the Christian Missionary Society, February 14, 1899, located in the 300 block of North Fowler Street in Meade, Kansas. The window was later placed in the brick building the church built in the same location in 1916. The building and window still stand. Edward Boyer's parents were very active and both sang in the choir. Mr. Boyer was an usher.

We do not have anything about charter members, Margaret Wilson or Ella Montgomery. George W. and Loucenda Potter sold the G.G. Whiteheads their first home in Meade. Rev. Robinson, the second pastor, officiated when John and Grace Painter were married and were parents of Fred and Bill Painter and V. Seybert. He also married Nettie Bowen and Dick Brown, who were the parents of Mrs. (Gerald) Haskins. Gerald and Pattie Haskins had two sons, Norman and Kenneth. Norman Haskins joined the church at a very early age and has been very active along with his wife, Arlene (Little) Haskins. To the present time, their children, David, Judy, Dean and Dinah grew up in the church. Dinah (Haskins) Mellard, husband, Ron and daughters reside on the Haskins farm near Meade. Dinah is very active in the church, as is their

daughter Jessica. This makes six generations of Haskins who have served God in The First Baptist Church of Meade, Kansas. Gerald Haskins also had early beginnings in the church, as his mother was a member, as well as her mother. Pattie Haskins is remembered for her many years of service as church pianist and in many other areas of the work.

Lizzie Tackenhurst, though single throughout her life, was not alone. The church was her family. She faithfully served the Lord through teaching, serving on committees and as a deaconess. Lizzie was very active in the Ladies Missionary Society. She could be seen walking the streets of Meade as she called on shut-ins, delivering the mail, and sharing food.

Mary Apple was one of the faithful workers and supporters of The First Baptist Church in the early years and continuing through the building of the present church. She was a devoted teacher and very active in the Womens Missionary Society. Faye Apple Hardaway remembers helping her mother wipe the dust off the church pews during the dust bowl days of the '30s. As the members took turns cleaning the church each Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Cooper were great supporters of the church for at least five decades. A lot could be written about their contributions to the Lords work through the church if space would permit in this brief history. The Coopers had three daughters, Evelyn, Madline and Juanita (Cooper) Beard.

Glenn and Alberta Pennington were very faithful members of the church. Alberta sang in the choir from early on and continued until she moved from Meade in 1992. Alberta will be remembered especially for her willingness to play the piano for any service at any time. The Glen Pennington children, Glenda and David, grew up in the church.

Ben and Ruby Reiss and sons, Loren, Norman and Clifford were faithful members. Ben ushered for many years, Ruby was active in Womens Missionary Society and served as church clerk for many years. Loren's tenor

voice was a contribution to the church choir.

George and Judy Roberts, Clarence and Peggy Rexroad, Effie Whitehead, Amanda Black, Don and Virginia Rosenberry, Bill and Blanch Painter, Eleanor Finlay, John Homer, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Budde, daughters, Louise and Nelda, John and Elsie Counts and son Tommy, Mr. and Mrs. Will Budde (parents of Floreine Budde), Mrs. Fred Dahm (mother of Faith Bachman), Bertha Martin, Mrs. Howard Miller, Jeanette and Kenneth are some of the many great contributors to the work in The First Baptist Church of Meade. Again, space does not permit a summary of each one. We remember them fondly and thank God for each of their contributions.

Teachers

“In the Church God has put all in place: in the first place apostles, in the second place prophets, and in the third place teachers.”

1 Corinthians 12:28

Over the years many faithful members of The First Baptist Church of Meade have moved away. Many have gone onto their heavenly home. We praise God for each of these wonderful teachers He has sent to lead us. Each in their labor in this place has planted seeds that has produced an harvest for the Lord. We could not possibly pay tribute to each of them, however, the teachers who served from two to four decades should be listed in this history—Praying that we have not left anyone out, they are as follows: Lydia Leslie (from the early years); G.W. Pennington; Mrs. Jake Neufeld; Nettie Boyd (the mother of Clyd Boyd). We recall in the mid-'50s when Mrs. Boyd's doctor had forbid her to climb the basement stairs because of a heart condition, she could no longer go to the basement and teach. She missed the children and

teaching so much she would attend every Sunday and sit on the basement landing and listen to the children.

Reva Boyer was a great favorite of the 3rd and 4th graders that she taught. The children looked forward to the picnics at the Boyer farm.

Grace Weller was a great favorite, she took lots of pictures of her classes. Elsie Counts was primary superintendent for many years. Her opening exercises were very special. There was always lots of singing. Each birthday student was recognized and an offering was taken, teaching the children the blessing of giving.

Elsie Counts also taught in the primary department at different times.

Esther Feldman taught junior high for several years with an average of fourteen students. There was always good singers in the group and they often did special numbers for worship service and went caroling at Christmas time. Later in the new church, Esther taught adults.

Gladys Hartley taught the adult womens class and was a very special teacher.

Floreine Budde started as the adult womens class teacher and for the past decade or more she has taught a mixed adult group. Florene is one of the extraordinary teachers and workers in the church.

Vashti Seybert spent many years in the nursery department of the Sunday school. It takes a special person to keep those little ones content while their parents attended classes.

Howard Weller taught the adult men's class for many years, Howard exhibited a special kind of dedication to teaching and anything else he could do in the work of the Lord.

Voncille (Mrs. Alfred) Marrs truly “bloomed where she was planted” having moved to Meade from far away Clumbia, Louisiana and joining The First Baptist Church of Meade, Kansas in 1948, Voncille went right to work even though she had two small children of her own, she held her small son, Denton, on her lap as she taught the kindergarten class. Her sojourn as teacher

of that class spanned thirty-five years. She loved the children and they loved her. What a witness!!

Mary Lou Underwood was another long-time primary teacher, bringing with her teaching a profound love and dedication to the cause of Christ.

Sondra Walter is one of our great primary teachers now passing from two decades of service into a third. A primary teacher by profession, teaching Sunday school came easy, except for the time one must give to preparing and being there, we thank God for willingness and dedication such as Saundra's.

Art and Rosalyn Eads were not long term teachers, although they have each taught at different times. The Eads membership and unlimited service to the Kingdom spans four decades. The Eads children, Marilyn, Darwin and Cathy were gifted in music and were always willing to contribute when needed. We think of Art and Rosalyn as ambassadors, as they were always willing to drive or fly to be delegates to conventions and other meetings conserving the work. They were always ready to serve and give of their means, often opening their home to visitors to the church, to be their guests. At the time of this writing, Art and Rosalyn have sold their home and will be moving from Meade and The First Baptist Church.

Juanita Beard taught Sunday school in the primary department at a early age and beyond. Her musical talents was evident in her Sunday school teaching especially in Christmas programs. She also took lots of pictures of her classes, which are a great contribution to our history.

Members Through the Years...

We feel that members and families still active in the church from two to five decades should be mentioned in this history—again, praying that we do not omit anyone.

Faith (Dome, Vought) Baughman attended with her parents then with her

husband, Elmer Vought. The Voughts' had two children, Sheri and David. Soon after David was born Elmer died a very untimely death. Faith raised the two children in the church, later marrying Leo Baughman, who has been a wonderful friend to the church. Faith has served in many capacities, the longer being church clerk, a position she holds at the present time.

Robert (Bob) and Esther Feldman, members for over four decades are mentioned elsewhere in this history.

Dorothy (Mrs. Phill) Fleener joined the church in 1956. Dr. Phill Fleener, though not a member of The First Baptist Church, has always taken part in many areas. He has served as substitute teacher in the Sunday school class. Both he and Dorothy attended. Dorothy Fleener was choir director for the church for many years. She is active in the women's work and for several years served on the flower committee. The Fleeners' have three sons, Mike, Mark and Tom.

Mary Hickey, whose husband, Ted, passed away in 1960, has been a member for more than three decades. Mary's son, Jerry Hickey, was baptized at the same time that she was in 1961. Mary Lou Underwood is her daughter. Mary has been very faithful to the church.

Mary Lou (Hickey) Underwood and Harvey have a son, Tracy and a daughter, Susan. The Underwoods have worshipped and worked in the church for four decades, bringing up their children and grandchildren in the service of the Lord.

Fred and Opal Painter have been a part of The First Baptist Church of Meade for more than three decades. Fred passed away in 1990, Opal still drives in from the Painter farm, south of Meade, to attend.

It could be said of Roy and Vashti Seybert, "If the Baptist Church doors are open," the Seyberts are there. They have both served where and when needed for over four decades. Vasti has contributed in music and in the kitchen, and Roy will be remembered for his willingness to serve as pulpit speaker.

Their children, Glenn, Alice, Charles and Ross grew up in the church.

Max and Josie McDowell have been a part of The First Baptist Church for more than two decades. Their dedication and faithfulness, like so many others, has meant much to the church. Their children, Robert and Rhonda have followed in their parents' footsteps and are very active in the church work. Max has been a church usher almost as many years as he has been a member. Josie has served as church treasurer for the past fifteen years. On August 24, 1993, Robert and wife, Loni, presented the McDowells with their first grandchild, Alexander Joseph.

R.W. (Rich) and Elsie Boyd have been in the church for three decades. They were always ready to contribute wherever needed. Rich helped build the present parsonage. Elsie served as white cross chairman in A.B.W. for many years. At this time the Boyds are confined due to age and failing health, but remain in the hearts of the members of The First Baptist Church.

Alfred and Voncille Marrs have been a part of The First Baptist Church since 1948, though not a member, Alfred has been a good friend of the church. Their children, Joette and Denton, grew up in the church. Voncille has served on boards and committees and taught Sunday school for many years.

Joe and Sandra Walter have been a part of The First Baptist Church for more than two decades, serving on the various boards and committees. Their children are Judy, Eric and Clay. Judy and Eric are also members of the church.

Our Pastors...

"How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?"

And how shall they hear without a Preacher?"

Romans 10:14

Pastors of First Baptist Church

1893- ?	Rev. P.G. Shanklin
1898-1907	Rev. J.M. Robinson
1907-1908	Rev. J.J. Griffin
1908-1909	Rev. B.E. Antrobus
1909-1910	Rev. T. F. Hanks
1911-1914	Rev. J.A. Moore
1915-1916	Rev. C.J. Spires
1917-1918	Rev. H.G. Philips
1919	Rev. E.H. Barb
1919-1921	Rev. W.G. Pumphry
1921-1924	Rev. A.C. Downing
1924- ?	Rev. D.H. Mueller
? -1931	Rev. A.M. Horan
1928-1931	Rev. T.D. Franklin
1932-1933	Rev. F. L. Rose
1934-1936	Rev. G.G. Wiens
1937-1938	Rev. O.R. Powell
1938-1941	Rev. R.W. Shaw
1942	Rev. I.C. King
1942-	Rev. T.R. Layton
1949-1951	Rev. Jean Saltzman
1951-1954	Rev. Geo. Hutto
1954-1958	Rev. Harold Trevolt
1958-1963	Rev. Howard Sorenson
1963-1969	Rev. Earle C. Reynolds
1969-1974	Rev. Rex R. Bear
1974-1979	Rev. Robert Snyder
1980-1982	Rev. Earl C. Reynolds
1983-	Rev. Harry A. Fink

Four men have been ordained to the ministry from The First Baptist Church of Meade. Rev. H.M. Thompson, Rev. H.H. Gilchrist, Rev. L.B. Sutherland and Rev. G.G. Wiens. Rev. Tommy Counts is a product of this church, though ordained elsewhere. Rev. G.G. Wiens served as pastor during the depression years of the thirties. He agreed to serve for whatever the offering was.

Twenty-seven pastors have served The First Baptist Church in the past 100 years. Above is a list of the pastors with the dates they served, and we will conclude with a short summary of each one for which data and memory permits.

Rev. J.J. Griffin, the third pastor, was remember by Pattie Haskins, he had two boys and Mrs. Haskins remembered playing with them as children.

Rev. B.E. Antrobus wife was a sister of Mrs. Thacker, an aunt of Ruby Cobb. Mrs. Thacker, her daughters, Francis and Esther, were pianist in the church for many years.

Rev. J.A. Moore was pastor when the Whiteheads moved to town. The Moores had one son and was well liked by the church and community.

Rev. Spires was pastor when the church was built in 1916. He was small in stature, had red hair and was very energetic. The Spires had twin daughters. One child died before they came to Meade and the other one, Rudy, died while they were here.

Rev. Philips was a favorite pastor. There were five Philips children, described as "full of life."

Rev. Barb had worked with railroad men. He liked the song, "Life is Like a Mountain Railroad," and sang it often. He officiated at the wedding of Gerald and Pattie Haskins.

Rev. Pumphry. The only thing written about this pastor was that he had two daughters.

Rev. Downing was English. Edward Boyer and Reva Whitehead were married in the church parsonage by Rev. Downing. Reva recalled that Edward stuttered when he said his vows and when it came Reva's turn she also stuttered. Juanita Beard recalled sitting in church with the Downing daughter as a child and sharing the crackers, etc. she brought to nibble on during church.

Rev. Horan had two sons, Shirley and Roger. Juanita Beard recalled liking the boys. The entire Horan family was talented. There were lots of church parties at the parsonage.

Rev. Rose was very well liked by the church and community. There was nothing recorded about the Rose family.

Rev. T.D. Franklin and family was well liked by the church and community. Their daughter Bessie died the first year Rev. Franklin pastored The First Baptist Church and was buried in Graceland Cemetery. Rev. Franklin re-

tired in 1931, and remained in Meade. Both Rev. Franklin and his wife, Lena, were buried in Graceland Cemetery. Mary Apple cared for the Franklin graves through the years.

Rev. Wiens pastored the church during the hard times of the Great Depression. He lived in Oklahoma and only came up for occasional services. Juanita Beard was baptized by Rev. Wiens and recalls that she had a fractured arm with a cast on at the time.

Rev. O.R. Powell was a real favorite. Juanita Beard wrote that she asked Rev. Powell to return from Garden City, Kansas, to officiate at her wedding to E. Keith Beard. Later the other Cooper girls, Evelyn and Madeline, had Rev. Powell perform their wedding ceremonies.

Rev. Shaw served the church three years and retired while here. There is no account of the Shaw family.

Rev. King served the church a very short time. There is nothing recorded about him or his family.

Rev. Layton came to the church at a very crucial time, with World War II still in progress and the ending of the war, and soldiers and families returning to reconstruct their lives. He was especially good with youth. Strong on music, his family lent their talents to that part of the work.

Rev. Saltzman was very young and energetic. He was a good teacher and gave great sermons. The Saltzmans had one son.

Rev. Hutto came to pastor The First Baptist Church in the later years of his ministry, but he certainly was not winding down. Both he and Mrs. Hutto were full of energy. They worked very hard in choir, vacation bible school, calling, or wherever there was work to do. The church grew under Rev. Hutto's experienced guidance.

Rev. Trevolt was a great pastor. His family was especially appreciated. If we had to label Rev. Trevolt it might be "the singing pastor." He loved music and even sang in the choir. The Trevolts had a son, Robert and a daughter, Irene.

Rev. Sorensen was an evangelist, the church grew under his leadership.

The Sorensens had three sons, Conner, Garth and Nathan. Mrs. Sorensen was a great help in the church work. Claire and the boys were gifted in music and sang in the choir. Claire reorganized the girls guild and helped start the mother and daughter banquets that were so enjoyable for the women and girls of the church. Rev. Sorensen worked tirelessly at calling and had a great relationship with the church members and community as well.

Rev. Reynolds and wife, Velda, immediately embraced not only the church family, but the community as well. Rev. Earle was quick to recognize and praise anyone for what ever they did. He made you want to do more because you were pleasing to God. Velda was ever by Rev. Earle's side. Walking on most of their many calls, they were loved by the entire community. Rev. Earle was a scholar; he read countless books and reviewed them readily. As mentioned in another part of this history, Rev. Reynolds led the church in building the new church in 1968, and resigned in December of that year. Rev. Reynolds returned to pastor The First Baptist Church for two more years in 1980-1982, then they returned to Kansas City and Rev. Earle passed away April 13, 1987.

Rev. Rex Bear served the church for five years. He was especially good to minister to the sick and call on shut-ins. The Bears' had three children, David, Janice and Phillip.

Rev. Snyder, wife, Carrie and small daughter, Sarah, came to The First Baptist Church of Meade in 1974, and was with us for five years. This was Rev. Snyder's first church to pastor and the Snyders were the first to live in the new parsonage. Rev. Bob, as he soon became known was a great teacher, as was his wife, Carrie. Mrs. Snyder sang in the choir, had a "fun club" for the youth to come to the church after school to do crafts and fellowship. Some of the ideas Rev. Bob introduced to the church was a "share the faith" team exchange with other churches, cottage prayer meetings in the homes, and Friday morning prayer at the church. He insisted on a

pastoral relations committee so that the church could offer suggestions to him and he to us. The Snyder's son, Shawn, was born while they were in Meade.

Rev. Harry Fink, our present pastor, wife, Barb, daughter, Stacy and son, Kevin, took the helm at The First Baptist Church of Meade in May, 1983. Rev. Harry has served the church longer than any other of the twenty-seven pastors. As far as special gifts or abilities it would be hard to choose between prayer and preaching, for he has led us to a greater appreciation of prayer. Rev. Harry is also a powerful preacher, and does a special service in ministering to the sick and dying. He was instrumental in organizing the local food bank and works untold hours with it. He has reached out to the Meade community in many ways, his work with the local library and school system has been outstanding. Rev. Fink loves to cook, he often prepares entire meals when the family entertains church members and boards.

Mrs. Fink, Stacy and Kevin, have also given a lot to the work of the Lord at The First Baptist Church, with their musical talents. Barb has taught classes and served on boards and committees. Kevin, who just this year entered high school, has served as usher for Sunday morning worship for two years. Stacy has been active in C.Y.F. and Y.C.L., and is currently on the board of Christian Education.

“And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are

the feed of thee that preach the gospel.

Romans 10:15

You and I need the church.

When we marry we seek out the minister that we might have the blessing of God and the church upon our union. When illness comes we ask for prayers from the people of the church. When death enters the family circle, we turn to the church again for comfort and hope. At each turn in the road, the church ministers to our deepest needs.

We lose something precious when we turn aside from the church. The finest friends we have are those in the church as we share our faith and support for one another in times of trouble. The church offers us opportunity for expression of our faith in worship and study. No solo voice, however beautiful, is more uplifting than a Christian congregation singing one of the great hymns of the church. We bow our heads in prayer and know the meaning of the promise of our Lord; “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

In the church we make our greatest witness against evil. The church stands for right and against wrong. One stick is easy to break, but a bundle of sticks cannot be broken. Christ loves the church and gave His life for it.

May we each resolve to attend the church and give of our time, talents and

earthly means, as did the many wonderful members and pastors recorded in this centennial history. First to serve and glorify God, then for our own edification and to preserve it for the generations that come after us.

Esther Feldman

CREDITS

We sincerely appreciate the help we have received in compiling this history from the centennial committee, Pastor Harry Fink, Norman Haskins, Floreine Budde, Faith Bachman, and Vashti Seybert.

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