

HISTORY OF SHILOH METHODIST CHURCH

SHILOH METHODIST CHURCH WAS ORGANIZED IN THE YEAR 1900, BY THE REV. J. T. BROWNING, ALONG WITH THE HELP OF G. W. BENTON, J. W. MINTZ, AND A. S. BENTON, WHO WERE NAMED AS THE FIRST TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH.

THE PLOT OF LAND ON WHICH THE PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING STANDS WAS GIVEN TO THE CHURCH BY THE LATE DR. E. G. GOODMAN, SR., AND WIFE MARIA GOODMAN. MOST OF THE MATERIALS USED IN THE OLD CHURCH BUILDING HAD TO BE MANUFACTURED BY HAND -- SILLS WERE HEWN FROM ROUGH TIMBERS, AS WERE THE LUMBER AND SHINGLES WHICH WERE USED ON THE ORIGINAL BUILDING. ALL OF THIS WORK WAS DONE BY THE MEN OF THE COMMUNITY -- THE FOUNDATION WAS LAID BY A. S. BENTON, G. W. BENTON, AND JIM BENTON; MOST OF THE HEWING WAS DONE BY A. J. BENTON. A. S. BENTON, AND SON, THAD BENTON, WORKED EIGHTY EIGHT DAYS ON THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH. SINCE THIS WAY OF BUILDING, NATURALLY, WAS SLOW, IT WAS NECESSARY TO HOLD SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL HOUSE WHICH WAS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE FROM THE PRESENT SITE. AT THAT TIME, THE REV. BROWNING HELD SERVICES ONCE A MONTH. IT TOOK APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS TO BUILD THE CHURCH, AND SERVICES WERE HELD IN THE CHURCH BUILDING FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE SECOND SUNDAY IN JUNE OF THE YEAR 1902.

THERE WERE TEN CHARTER MEMBERS WHICH INCLUDED G. W. BENTON, A. S. BENTON, SARAH BENTON, THAD BENTON, JEAN BENTON, MARY BENTON, FRANCES BENTON, JENNIE MINTZ, ASA F. POTTER, AND J. W. MINTZ.

SHILOH SUNDAY SCHOOL WAS ORGANIZED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ZION METHODIST CHURCH UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LATE STEDMAN McKEITHAN. MR. GEORGE W. BENTON WAS THE FIRST CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, AND HELD THIS POSITION UNTIL HIS DEATH IN THE YEAR 1927, AT WHICH TIME, HIS SON, WILLIAM PENN BENTON WAS ELECTED SUPERINTENDENT. HE SERVED IN THIS CAPACITY FOR 25 YEARS, AND WAS TRULY ONE OF THE MOST DEVOTED MEMBERS OF THE SHILOH CHURCH. OTHER SUPERINTENDENTS INCLUDE MRS. VIOLA MINTZ

FREEMAN, J. R. SHEW, WILLIE MINTZ, J. B. SMITH, J. D. GORE, AND E. M. MCGEE, WHO IS THE PRESENT SUPERINTENDENT. ANOTHER DEVOTED MEMBER OF THE CHURCH WAS THE LATE O. J. MINTZ WHO SERVED AS SECRETARY-TREASURER FROM 1921 to 1935.

THE FIRST MAJOR IMPROVEMENT TO THE CHURCH BUILDING WAS DURING THE MINISTRY OF D. D. TRAYNHAM, WHEN THE ROOF WAS REPLACED. MATERIAL FOR THIS WORK WAS DONATED BY THE LATE P. J. KLUTZ, SR., AND THE WORK WAS DONE BY THE MEN OF THE COMMUNITY. IN 1948, DURING THE MINISTRY OF REV. TRACIE VARNUM, THE CEILING IN THE CHURCH BUILDING WAS COMPLETED AND PAINTED. IN 1951 WHILE THE REV. R. H. CAUDILL WAS PASTOR, ASBESTOS SHINGLES WERE PURCHASED FOR THE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH. HOWEVER, THESE SHINGLES WERE NOT PUT ON UNTIL LATER DURING THE MINISTRY OF REV. C. L. WARREN. IT WAS THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF REV. CAUDILL THAT A PORTION OF THE MONEY NEEDED TO FINANCE THE BUILDING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS, WAS OBTAINED FROM THE METHODIST CONFERENCE. MUCH WORK WAS ACCOMPLISHED WHILE REV. C. L. WARREN WAS PASTOR—THREE VERY MUCH NEEDED SUNDAY SCHOOLS ROOMS WERE BUILT, AND ASBESTOS SIDING WAS PUT ON THE CHURCH. THIS WORK WAS DONE UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF MR. A. B. WARREN, FATHER OF REV. WARREN. HERE AGAIN, THE MEN FOLK OF THE COMMUNITY RALLIED TO THE AID OF THE CHURCH AND DID THE WORK. REV. WARREN WAS TRULY A DEDICATED PASTOR AND WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR THIS AND OTHER PHASES OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES. IN 1957 DURING THE MINISTRY OF REV. JOHN W. PFISTER, THE OLD WOODEN SHINGLES ON THE ORIGINAL CHURCH BUILDING WERE REMOVED AND ASPHALT SHINGLES WERE USED TO REPLACE THESE. HARDWOOD FLOORS WERE ALSO PUT IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.

DURING THE MINISTRY OF THE REV. CHARLES F. EAKIN, THE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING WAS STARTED AND COMPLETED AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$6,000.00. IT WAS DECIDED BY THE OFFICIAL BOARD TO USE THIS BUILDING FOR A SANCTUARY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A NEW SANCTUARY CAN BE BUILT. THIS WORK WAS DONE UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE PASTOR, WHO GAVE MANY HOURS OF TIME IN THE ACTUAL CARPENTRY. IN APPRECIATION OF THE TIME AND EFFORT GIVEN BY HIM, THE CONGREGATION OF SHILOH CHURCH NAMED THE NEW ANNEX "EAKIN BUILDING". THIS BUILDING WAS DEDICATED BY DR. J. E. GARLINGTON, DIST. SUPT. ON SEPT \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_. WE WELL REMEMBER THIS OCCASION FOR IT WAS DURING THE HEIGHT OF HURRICANE DONNA.

ANOTHER ACCOMPLISHMENT WHILE REV. EAKIN WAS PASTOR, WAS THE PURCHASE OF NEW PULPIT FURNITURE. REV. EAKIN MADE THE FIRST PAYMENT ON THIS FURNITURE. HOWEVER, PAYMENTS WERE NOT COMPLETED UNTIL THIS YEAR, DEDICATION SERVICES FOR THIS FURNITURE ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD DURING THIS HOMECOMING SERVICE.

SHILOH CHURCH HAS HAD OTHER VERY DEDICATED PASTORS WHO WORKED DILIGENTLY FOR EVERY PHASE OF THE CHURCH, AND ADDED MUCH TO THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE PEOPLE. THESE INCLUDE A. D. BETTS, C. T. ROGERS, C. P. SNOW, REV. BAINES, B. F. WATSON, W. R. ROYAL, <sup>DA Watson</sup> E. H. MEAMER, F. A. LUPTON, R. L. CARROWAY, E. W. GLASS, E. C. SELL, Z. V. FAISON, W. J. FREEMAN, M. D. McLAMB, J. C. HARMON, WALTER ~~XXXX~~ PAVY, W. B. GREGORY, ROBERT BLAKE, ALDEN HEMINGWAY, DAVID CONYERS, H. B. HARRELL, AND THE PRESENT PASTOR, ALLEN RICHARDSON, WHO IS TRULY A DEVOTED MINISTER AND LEADER.

SHILOH CHURCH HAS ~~XXXX~~ GROWN ~~XXXX~~ THROUGH THE YEARS, BUT THERE IS ROOM FOR MUCH MORE GROWING, AND WE ARE SURE THAT THE FUTURE HOLDS BIGGER THINGS FOR US, AS WE STRIVE TO LEAD MEN AND WOMEN TO CHRIST,

THIS HISTORY WAS COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY DOROTHY WATSON, AND MRS. W. J. FREEMAN, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A. J. BENTON, WHO GAVE US MUCH OF THE INFORMATION, HEREIN CONTAINED.

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