

A MEMOIR OF THE EARLIEST BAPTIST CHURCH

✓ The Baptist organized at Martinsville as early as 1850. The brick church (on the corner of Pike and Wayne Sts) was built in 1857, but for some reason was not finished. Families by the name of A.B.Alsip, the Frinks and others were members. The leading Baptists removed from the town, and the building was transformed into a school house, being thus used until after the Civil War, when it was purchased by the Catholics for \$ 700.00 and used by them until their present church was built in 1888.

In the early 80's a group of interested Baptists held meetings at times in the old Opera House, #####
which was over what is now Penny's store.
(That old building has been torn down and was replaced by Mr. Ed. Towner and was occupied by O.O. Toner then later by Penny's) They were served by circuit riders and later a Rev. Clevenger held a series of meetings and a few people joined at that time.

In about 1884,⁶⁷ the Old Presbyterian Church on the corner of Jefferson and Jackson streets was purchased from the Presbyterians. It was a one story, brick structure with a long colonial porch across the entire front. Four large pillars on this porch added to the dignity of the structure. The building was heated by two stoves. The organ and pulpit were situated at the West end of the building. This building was torned down in 1888 and the present Baptist church was built on it's site. The church was not finished until 1907. *material on file at Public Library.

Some of the first members were

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Russell

Dora Stewart (now Mrs. Helton)

Robert Dalton

John Walls and wife

Josiah Pollard

Robinson Dalton

Jonathan Johns

Sis Christy

Mr and Mrs. Storms

Nancy Griffin

The McGowns Nora Mc Gown was the organist.

The Sprags

The Squires.

J.B. Farr Family
Jack Watson and wife

Mr John + Mrs John Walls
Mrs. Utter

Mr + Mrs William M. Woodward

John Jones from Mahalasville used to hold Singing Classes

in the old church. He used a tuning fork.

While the church was in the process of building meetings were held in the Court House.

Mr. Milton Russell often preached when the church was without a minister.

The church was built by Mr, Storms and his sons.

The End

New Salem Baptist Church
Salem Hill Road - Baker Township

New Salem Baptist church was organized before the Civil War. The Baptists and Christian church met on alternate Sundays until the building burned down when the Christians rebuilt it.

It is said that a building was started and the carpenters went to Civil War so that someone else had to finish it. When the church finally burned the two congregations separated. In 1890 the Baptists started a new building which was dedicated June 3 1891. George Gosss was pastor then, K F Goodman moderator and H M Baker, Clerk. The oldest records show J M Brown pastor, Jefferson Farr moderator and Henry Miller Clerk.

It is said between 1885 and 1890 the New Salem people met with the Methodists or at Mt. Zion or Old Sodom three miles east of Union church.

In 1922 the church was raised and basement added. July 22 1962 New Salem and Zions Hill churches called Rev Robert Burbacher as pastor for both churches.

New Salem Baptist Church in Baker Township was organized before the Civil War and met in the log church at Union Christian Church, which burned before the Civil War and was in the process of re-building, but had to stop and the present Union Christian Church building was ^{finished} erected in 1867. New Salem congregation met for a time at Old Sodom Methodist church and the present New Salem Building was finished in 1890. It has been remodeled and added to and modernized since. The last major improvement was the installing of stained glass windows in 1987. They were gifts of families in memory of their ancestors.



* CHURCH STARTED BY:

PERRY BREWER

LORILLA BREWER

LEWIS BREWER

O. M. HAMMOND

JOHN H. NICHOLS

DR. H. H. DUTTON

D. F. BURKHART

ELLEN BURKHART

A. S. WRIGHT

MARY M. WRIGHT

MAE WRIGHT

W. H. ASHER

MRS W. H. ASHER

ZEPHA TURNER

T. J. LANGLEY

ABBIE BROWN

CLARA RANDALL

LEWIS BREWER GAVE THE GROUND
FOR THE CHURCH TO BE BUILT
ON.

PARAGON BAPTIST CHURCH

ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1912, REVEREND CHARLES SIGMAN, WHO WAS THE FIRST PREACHER OF THE PARAGON BAPTIST CHURCH, MET WITH BAPTISTS OF AND AROUND PARAGON TO DISCUSS ORGANIZING A BAPTIST CHURCH IN PARAGON. THE DISCUSSION WAS LED BY PERRY BREWER, H.H. DUTTON, LEWIS BREWER, AND A.S. WRIGHT. AFTER AN UNANIMOUS DECISION, THE PARAGON BAPTIST CHURCH STARTED. PERRY BREWER WAS ELECTED MODERATER, AND MAY WRIGHT WAS ELECTED CLERK. LEWIS BREWER WAS ELECTED TREASURER. THE FIRST SERVICE WAS HELD IN THE HOME OF PERRY BREWER ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1912. FIRST SERVICE HELD IN THE NEW BUILDING WAS PREACHED BY REVEREND AGRON. THE CHURCH ONLY HELD COMMUNION TWICE A YEAR, ONCE IN JANUARY AND ONCE IN JULY. THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WERE LEWIS BREWER, D.F. BURKHART, DR. HARRY DUTTON, JOHN NICHOLS, CALARA RANDELL, ZEPHA TURNER, A.S. WRIGHT, MARY WRIGHT, MAY WRIGHT, W.H. ASHER, T.J. LANGLEY, ABBIS BROWN, AND JOHN NICHOLS. THE PREACHER OF THE PARAGON BAPTIST CHURCH NOW IS REVEREND ARNOLD SPIVEY OF INDIANAPOLIS. HE HAS PREACHED AT THE CHURCH FOR SEVEN YEARS. THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH NOW IS 248. IN 1987 THE CHURCH WILL BE 75 YEARS OLD.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PARAGON

In reading over the history of the Paragon First Baptist Church, one finds many many things went into the making. The vision was caught and a few people working very hard for this dedicated cause, brought into existence ~~what is now our~~ church.

On September 11, 1912, the Baptists in and around Paragon, met in the neighboring church, the Disciples of Christ, to consider the advisability of organizing a Baptist Church in Paragon.

After an open and free discussion led by Dr. H.H. Dutton, Lewis Brewer and A. S. Wright, it was unanimously voted to enter into a tentative organization.

The officers elected for this tentative plan were:

Moderator-Dr. H. H. Dutton, Treasurer-Louis ~~Brown~~ and Clerk-W.H.Asher. *Brewer*

Charter members were: Perry Brewer, Lorella Brewer, Lewis Brewer, O. M. Hammond, J. H. Nichols, Dr. H.H.Dutton, D. F. Burkhardt, Ellen Burkhardt, A. S. Wright, Mary M. Wright, Mae Wright, W. H. Asher, Mrs. W. H. Asher, Zelpha Turner, T. J. Langley, Abbie Brown, Clara Randall, Mr. & Mrs. James Warthen, Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Warthen and Mrs. John Nichols.

The church was officially organized January 14, 1913, at the home of Perry Brewer.

The first officers elected after the organization were:

Moderator-Dr. H. H. Dutton, Treasurer-Louis ~~Brown~~, Clerk-W. H. Asher. Deacons were: J. Wright, Perry Brewer and Dr. H. H. Dutton. *Brewer*

A building committee was appointed February 1913. Many solicited funds, many pledged and most of the labor was donated. Nearby towns helped in many capacities, giving materials, money and time.

On November 2, 1913, a dedication was held for the new church now completed. The dedication service was well attended in spite of a Diphtheria scare.

March 19th, 1914, came the ordination of the deacons. Several nearby churches participated in this service.

On March 26, 1915 the church note was paid off and the mortgage burned, just three years after the first beginning of the church.

From time to time, a number of improvements have been made. Sunday school rooms have been added, stained glass windows put in and the interior was redecorated just this spring.

Ours have been a dedicated people who along with our different pastors have gone forward.

Fifty three years have gone by and we who are carrying on feel the privilege of our heritage and the challenge then and now of the First Baptist Church of Paragon.

NEW SALEM CHURCH

The Baptist of Christ called New Salem was organized before the Civil War.

The Baptist and Christian Church had started to build the Union Church. The carpenters enlisted in the army. Later on others took up the work and finished the church. They used this until the church burned.

Oldest record 1873 gave Elder J. M. Barrow as pastor. Jim Farr gave the ground for the church and cemetery. It came off of track now owned by Emmet Stenat.

From 1885 till 1890 they held their meetings at Mt. Zion or Old Sodam as we call it.

In 1890 on three Saturdays of February they had business meetings for talk about a new church. T.J. Goodman, John Turner, and Bill Corns were elected trustees. The Building Committee was J. B. Farr, Smith Corns, W.H. Farr, W. B. Hicks, and H. M. Baker. The Elders W.H. Hicks, Ed Bales and W. H. Farr were elected to get subscriptions for the new church.