

NOLANVILLE METHODIST CHURCH MEMORIES

The Nolanville Methodist Church was organized in the log cabin school house before 1860. It was located west of Pleasant Hill Cemetery on Post Oak Branch and was served by Circuit Rider preachers.

A few years later, Uncle Sam Cox used the log cabin for a barn. A frame building was built southeast of the cemetery in the northwest corner of the Allen Rodger farm for purposes of a school and Methodist worship services. The building was later moved due east about 1 1/2 miles and located in the southeast corner of the Ike Shriver farm. Methodist worship services were held here until 1880. A new two-story school was built southeast of the above school. It served as a school house, place of worship for the Methodist, Baptist and Church of Christ. The second floor was used by the Modern Woodman of the World Lodge.

The Baptist Church was built in the late 1880's with the Methodist men assisting by giving their labor. The Baptists shared their new Church with the Methodists for worship services until the Methodist Church was built in 1891 with the assistance of the Baptist men. The Church was built with a belfrey tower. The Young people gathered here on New Years Eve to ring out the old and ring in the New Year. This was a big event for the community.

The first wedding performed in the new Methodist Church was that of Eula Wood and Scoggin French. The Baptist minister, Rev. St. Clair Lawrence officiated. The late Mrs. Davie (Bowles) Glazener and a group of young people from the McDowell community came by wagon to attend the wedding. There were no pews, only board seats.

Peg Leg Harris was one of the first Circuit Riding preachers of the new Church. Mrs. Polly Bailey, as a little girl and now deceased, remembered him.

Summer revivals were held under brush arbors on the Methodist Campground which was located on Nolan Creek approximately 2 miles west of Nolanville. It was a sight to behold at night with flickering torch lights under the brush arbor and the lantern lit camps of the many campers. Water was carried from a spring up several steps to the tents. Glorious revivals and great sermons from evangelists resulted in several young men being called to the ministry. Among those were Ernest Hambrick who answered the call in 1915 and Guy G. Tharp in 1917. Miss Mamie Robinson from Brookhaven Church answered the call for special service in 1915. She received her training from Scarriett College in Missouri, and became a Deaconess in the Methodist Church and serving in various Texas cities and Old Mexico. In the Revival of 1915, fifty persons were converted in one night's worship service on the Methodist Campground, this service lasting until midnight. Rev. L.B. Sawyer was pastor of the Nolanville Charge and Rev. C.O. Hightower was the evangelist. There was much shouting as remembered by Mrs. Jessie Cox Glazener.

In 1920, Will Justice and the Cox brothers - Bruce, Arthur and Theo, answered the call to the ministry. Rev. Tom Patterson was the pastor and Rev. Jack Adams was the Evangelist when these boys answered the call, not forgetting those who professed faith.

The Tabernacle was moved to the Church grounds in Nolanville in 1921. It was torn down in approximately the year of 1955 by the late Bill Millsap, Sr.

According to the Church Records of 1907 to 1908, the Nolanville Charge was formed November 15, 1907 with the following appointments: Rev. Fred Pilley, pastor in charge and J.M. Sherman Presiding Elder in charge of Nolanville - Half Station; Brookhaven and Sugar Loaf - one fourth station each; Keys Valley, Hay Branch and Sparta - one Sunday afternoon each.

Trustees elected were: S.H. Cox, W.M. Cox, W.C. Carmack; C.H. Robertson, J.R. Smith; and J.E. Parks. Stewards were: Tom Carmack, C.L. Cox, W.H. Cox, W.F. Cowan for Nolanville; J.A. Hall and H.D. Wood for Sugar Loaf; J.W. Thompson for Keys Valley; C.H. Robertson for Brookhaven. W.F. Cowan was elected Recording Steward and Secretary.

Rev. Fred Pilley was the last Circuit pastor. Mrs. Jessie (Cox) Glazener remembers him, riding his little black horse from Waco on Saturday evening for worship services on Sunday. He stayed in the homes of members on Saturday nights.

There was an active Ladies Missionary Society in 1915. The Society furnished the parsonage with new bed springs and a pounding. Also the Acetyline lights were installed in the Church and fire wood was hauled by the members.

Thomas J. Justice (Uncle of Pauline Bailey) answered the call to the ministry while living at Brookhaven and was licensed to preach around 1910. He taught in Nolanville School and was pastor of the Church in 1918 - 1919.

Elmer Glazener was called to the ministry while stationed in the Air Force in Anchorage, Alaska in 1948 to 1950.

The fellowship building was once the Jonah Methodist Church which was moved to the Church grounds in 1960 when Rev. Guy Wilson was pastor.

The first parsonage was purchased from Mrs. Donia Cox in January 9, 1909 for \$740.00. The parsonage was used until 1955 when a new parsonage was built. Rev. & Mrs. Lawrence Herbert were the first occupants of the new parsonage. Pastors and families continued to live in it until 1967 at which time Nolanville and Harker Heights became one Charge. Jerry Weaver was the first pastor to serve this Charge. Rev. Weaver joined the military to serve as a Chaplain and is still serving in that capacity, at present, in Hawaii. Nolanville and Harker Heights were then separated at which time Nolanville was put on with Belton in 1974-75 with Rev. Bill Fisher as pastor. Later in 1975, Nolanville and Harker Heights again became one Charge and continues as such today. Rev. Claude Davison is our present pastor, serving Nolanville and Harker Heights, residing in the parsonage in Harker Heights.

The Church pictures show the changes made in the first Church which is the present brick building with the new stained glass windows and a new front porch. We have come a long way from the steepled Church to the brick Church. New Church pews and a carpeted Sanctuary which was accomplished in late July of this year has changed it to make one feel more reverent. From the pump organ to our piano and electronic organ, electric lights and gas heat makes all the difference.

Although she is not the oldest member, at age 85, Mrs. Jessie Glazener has seniority in membership in the Nolanville Methodist Church. She was baptized in this Church in 1900 and became a member in 1908-09 and has been an active member of this Church from then to this date.

Adam Lynn Glazener is the newest addition to our flock. He entered this world on October 15th, 1984 and is the youngest son of Jay and Dorothy (Breitkreutz) Glazener.

According to available records, these are just a few memories of the years in the Nolanville Methodist Church as shared by Mrs. Pauline Bailey and Mrs. Jessie Glazener.

PASTORS SINCE 1907

1907 - 1908 Fred Pilley
1908 - 1910 N.G. Peoples
1910 - 1911 L.G. Grimes
1911 - 1913 L.E. Hill
1913 - 1916 L.B. Sawyer
1916 - 1918 W.L. Connell
1918 - 1919 (John Palmer
" " (Thomas Justice
1919 - 1921 Tom W. Patterson
1921 - 1923 J.M. Armstrong
1923 - 1925 Paul Utley
1925 - 1926 J. Frank Clark
1926 - 1927 Will J. Justice
1927 - 1929 R.H. Heizer
1929 -(short time) H.W. Gaston
1929 - 1930 George G. Smith
1930 - 1932 H.B. Loyd
1932 - 1935 Lawrence Greenhaw
1935 - 1939 Earl Martin
1939 - 1941 Peyton Goodman
1941 - 1942 R.B. James
1942 -(short time) W.A. Clark
1942 - 1943 B.E. Kimbrow
1943 - 1944 Homer S. Cox
1945 - 1946 Allen Joe Moore
1946 - 1947 Richard R. Smith
1947 - 1948 Bill Finch
1948 - 1949 E.M. Dailey
1949 - 1950 Coy D. Ellis
1950 - 1952 Wayne Parsons
1952 - 1953 Jimmy Riddle
1953 - 1955 Bob Briles
1955 Lawrence Herbert
1955 - 1957 Stanley Goad
1957 - 1958 Bob Billingsley
1958 - 1959 Milton Killebrew
1959 - 1960 Guy Wilson
1960 - 1961 Norman Bufford
1961 - 1963 W.H. Kincaid
1963 - 1965 W.W. Pittman
1965 - 1967 Jerry Weaver
1967 - 1968 John Lanier
1968 - 1970 Shawn Wicker
1970 - 1972 Eric McKinney
1972 - 1973 (Howard Savage
(Rodney Nickelson
1973 (June & July) Gene Marsh
1973 - 1974 Francis Workman
1974 - 1975 W.S. Fisher
1975 - 1978 Marc Childress
1978 - 1981 Ken Marrs
1981 Vernon Whittington
1981 - 1982 John McKee
1982 - 1984 Johnny Miller
1984 ----- Claude Davison