

MIDVALE BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

Submitted by: Cliff Hopper, Kathryn Hopper, Emma Battershell, Glenys Curts,
Rev. Mark Rhoadarmer

The first meeting for worship in Middle Valley was held in 1881 with Live people in attendance. This service was conducted by a Methodist Minister. At that time it was agreed to all attend one church regardless of what denomination was represented. After a few years, and probably some disagreements, the Church of Christ and the Baptists decided to each have their own Church. The Baptist Church was probably organized in 1889 and some of the charter members were Tom and Bill Mackay; Anderson, Milton, and Milford Hopper; Harvey and Francis Brittan and Charlie Reavis, all with large families.

At first they held their meetings in a saloon run by Mr. Reavis and in the homes of the people. The first Baptist Minister of this church was Anderson Hopper. The second pastor was a Mr. Ellion (or Elton) who lived in Salubria and came here for meetings. While he was minister, the First Baptist Church was built on the south east corner of the old Seid place; now Kenneth Seid's place. This building burned down and a new one was built a half mile farther north.

In about 1900 a man by the name of Chancy Lydston began promoting the idea of a Baptist Church in the village of Midvale. The three and one-half miles to the Keithley Creek Church was too far. He was successful and this building was built about 1905. Both churches held meetings for many years. As time went on a Rev. Ledger decided that it would be a better church if it was all one congregation, and naturally it should be in town. Finally, about 1917 he accomplished this, much to the disapproval of many of the congregation. Because of tense feelings created, very few of the Keithley Creek members ever had their letters moved to Midvale and the church Rev. R. W. Van Ladingham, 8 months.

Rev. William Cline was here four years. He was a hard worker and 28 more were baptized into the church. Rev. Arnold Well here for 2 years. We ordained

clerk refused to turn over the minutes or membership to the Midvale church. Therefore there is very little record of that church left.

Our church records start in 1920 with Rev. E. O. Otto as pastor.

Rev. J. N. Carl for three and one-half years.

Rev. W. R. Storms
Glen Garner

In 1927 Rev. W. S. Burchard built up a young people's group of forty. He was here two years.

Rev. A. L. Hendrix, two and a half years.

Rev. W. M. Platt, two years.

Rev. Minton Uzzell for a short time when we joined with Cambridge.

Rev. S. W. Hilton, two and a half years.

Rev. C. M. Cobb for about three years.

At the close of his ministry Cambridge and Midvale went their separate ways again and we called a retired man, Rev. W. F. Roberts, for our pastor. The church made a big growth under his three years of ministry and was organized into a Community Baptist Church. He baptized 28, 4 were received by letter, and 9 joined as associate members. During this time a building fund drive was started so we could add on to the church.

Rev. Edward Derbyshire, two and a half years. We continued to grow and add to the building fund.

In 1948 Rev. Andrew Hadsell came to us--one of the greatest personal workers this church ever had. During his three year leadership, 44 people were baptized and 8 received by letter. We also added an annex to the church for more Sunday School rooms and recreation hall.

him Apr. 16, '57.

Rev. Chester Sager here for 7 years. During his ministry we remodeled the sanctuary by lowering the ceiling, putting wallboard on new flooring, new pews, and

pulpit. We incorporated in 1964. During this time we had a very active young peoples group and choir.

Rev. Melvin Smith, 5 years. Again we shared a pastor with Cambridge. Also built the north addition, restrooms, kitchen, and installed adequate furnaces. Rev. E. James Cain, two years. Purchased an organ. Decided to have a pastor by ourselves.

Rev. Mark Rhoadarmer came to us in November, 1973. During his 2 ½ yrs. of service 19 people have been saved 9 people have been baptized, 9 came into the church fellowship by letter. The church has gone through some changes during his ministry. Annex floor tiled, lights changed, memorial gifts given to the Church, outside bulletin board, cross, memorial plaque given. Three home Bible studies have been started in the Community. The parsonage was remodeled.

We praise the Lord for the history of His church, the Midvale Community Baptist Church, serving the Lord faithfully since 1889. As we celebrate our nation's 200th birthday, let's also celebrate the faithfulness

of God to His people and His people to their God. May our church, the Midvale Community Baptist Church, be able to celebrate another 86 years of faithful service to their God.

OTHER PASTORS:

- John Baker - October 1976-August 1977
- Don Trent - Dec. 18, 1977-Fall of 1979
- Earl Grubb (Interim) - Oct. or early Nov. 1979-Sept. 1, 1980
- John Baker, Sept. 1, 1980-Sept. 30, 1981 (Ordained at Midvale, June 15, 1980)
- Clarke Wyly (Interim) - Nov. 8, 1981-May, 1982
- Fred Hawkins (Fern) - June, 1983
- Everett Berry (Interim) - Feb. 1, 1991-Feb. 23, 1992
- Ted Keck (Lorena) - March 1, 1992-