

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

The Cedar Hill Baptist Church

by
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CEDAR HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Cedar Hill Baptist Church was organized in 1876 as a mission station by the church at Mussel Shoals. There were 75 members when it became a separate church, and the value of the church property was \$1,000.00.

The first pastor, according to present records, was W. J. Agee who was called in 1893.

In 1896, J. H. Anderson became pastor and his salary plus other church expenses amounted to \$100.00 that year.

The pastor from 1900 to 1909 was J. W. Waldrop, and in 1910, J. S. Ransdell became the pastor, staying for two years. The church called J. W. Thompson in 1912. He was pastor at Owenton First Baptist and came to Cedar Hill on Sunday afternoons until 1915.

In 1916, S. A. Cooper became pastor and conducted services once a month on the second Sunday. This plan continued for four years.

W. C. Sale was pastor from 1920 to 1923 when Rev. W. W. Oliver became the pastor. Cedar Hill was a member of the Concord Association until 1924 when the Owen County Baptist Association was first organized.

Brother Levi Kemper was called as pastor in 1925 and he remained, preaching on the first and third Sundays, until 1941. During a part of this period, Brother Kemper had to be away because of his health and his brother, Rev. Willie Kemper, served as his substitute.

In 1941, Rev. L. E. Aldridge came as pastor for two years, and when he left the church called J. R. Masterson. He stayed for two years and Bro. W. W. Stevens came in 1947. The church grew under the leadership of Bro. Stevens and during the three years he was pastor, there were 56 additions by baptism. Cedar Hill called Bro. William A. Hull as pastor in 1952, and when he resigned, Rev. J. W. Holland was called. Bro. Holland stayed until 1959. There were 37 baptisms during this time, and the church budget more than doubled. The church completed a building program, adding the Sunday school rooms and the basement.

From 1959 to 1961, Bro. Ronald Hanie was pastor, and when he resigned to take a pastorate in Georgia, the church called Bro. Maurice DeFoor. Bro. DeFoor remained until September 1964, and Bro. Al. Craft became the pastor in October 1964.

The church now has 157 resident members and 98 non-resident. The early records were accidentally lost when dropped in Severn Creek, as the clerk was on his way to a business meeting, however, there are records dating back to 1891. Most of these are written in very beautiful script and the phrasing is interesting. It is also interesting to observe that some family names occur from the earliest records, the Bournes and Leakes, for instance date back to 1891. Much space is given to problems of church discipline, covenant breaking, and fellowship of the members. There is also recorded many instances of restoration and forgiveness.

Cedar Hill engaged in mission work in 1925 by maintaining a preaching station on Severn Creek and in the 1930's a Sunday School service was conducted in the afternoons at the Kenny School House on the Old Monterey Road.

The church had its first Vacation Bible School in 1938, and the first W. M. U. was organized in 1940 with Mrs. Preston Donavent As President.

In May 1938, the church granted a ministerial license to Vivian Paul Hill, and in August 1944 to I. T. Gibson. James Hammond was ordained to the ministry in March 1947. The Cedar Hill Church purchased a house and lot on Highway 227 near Owenton in March 1962 to be used as a parsonage.

A highlight of recent history occurred on August 19, 1962 when Cedar Hill observed "Boozier Day" in honor of Rev. C. D. Boozier's Golden Anniversary in the ministry. The program was planned as a surprise for Brother Boozier and letters were sent to his many friends and relatives requesting them to take part in "This is Your Life, Claude D. Boozier." Visitors came from Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and many of the Kentucky counties where Brother Boozier had served as pastor. Brother Boozier was called as pastor of Cedar Hill in 1929, but he refused the call. However, the Lord moves in strange

ways, Brother and Mrs. Boozer are both members at Cedar Hill now and are a blessing to the church. He has had charge of Prayer meetings, and recently made a request that all remain after the benediction for a special service. With much curiosity, the group followed him to the Sunday School room where he served a basket of fresh roasted peanuts. He had grown and roasted them himself at his "Dun-Rovin" farm on Highway 127.

During 1964, Cedar Hill had an average Sunday School attendance of 70 and an average of 35 in Training Union. The W. M. S. has 19 members and Y. W. A., G. A., Sunbeam and Brotherhood organizations are active. These groups meet once a month in the church basement for a pot-luck supper and their regular programs follow the meal.

Cedar Hill has endured some hardships and weathered some storms during the past 89 years, but there has been much love and good fellowship along with many wonderful blessings from God on this church.

Mrs. Marion Gaines