

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

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# Squiresville Baptist Church

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by  
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### SQUIRESVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

There was a time sixty-five years ago when there was no house of worship in the little town of Squiresville, but in the spring of 1900 a group of seven courageous people, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Reeve, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Johnson, and Mrs. Sarah Ann Morgan, known as the seven charter members, banded themselves together to form a church.

During August of that same year 1900, Rev. W. T. Ellis and Rev. P. J. Conkwright held a meeting in Shelby Thomas' tobacco barn with the understanding that a church was to be organized in the near future. God blessed their efforts and fifteen others were added to the original seven making a total of 22 as being the number of members when the church was organized in the old school house on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1900.

The name of Squiresville Baptist Church was adopted and the members went to work to build a house of worship. During the winter and spring months the men took their teams into the woods to cut down and haul out suitable trees to be used as lumber in building the new church. The beautiful building site (just across the road from Squiresville Post Office) was donated by J. B. Mitchell and M. S. Thomas.

In January 1901, Rev. W. T. Ellis was called as pastor and S. C. Davis was elected church clerk.

Work began on the church building in the early spring of 1901. At last the building was ready and the dedication service was held on June 29, 1902, in the beautiful woods of John S. Morgan. The crowd came

in buggies, wagons, surreys, horseback and many on foot to have a part in the happy event. The noon meal was served on long wooden tables. Then the crowd went to the church for the dedication sermon by Rev. P. E. Burroughs, pastor of New Liberty Church. Squiresville Church was admitted as a member of Concord Association in October 1902.

The church made progress as the years went by and the membership increased. Some very good revivals are remembered.

1903 Pastor J. S. Ransdell; Sam Jones evangelist, 12 candidates for baptism.

1905 Pastor J. S. Ransdell; Rev. E. F. Wright evangelist, 15 for baptism, 16 by letter - total 31.

1913 Pastor W. R. Crume, T. C. Crume evangelist, 18 for baptism, 7 by letter - total 25.

1917 Pastor J. A. Lee was evangelist, 19 for baptism.

1924 Pastor J. G. Prather, Rev. D. H. Willett evangelist, 14 for baptism.

1927 Pastor J. G. Prather, Glen Eric Wiley evangelist, 19 for baptism.

1949 Pastor Herman Jacobs, Rev. George Hall evangelist, 5 for baptism. This was the last revival in the old church.

Much credit is due Rev. J. S. Ransdell (second pastor) for his continued interest in the growth and development of Squiresville for his wise counsel over the years. In 1930 he taught the church how to use the six point record system, and it is still being used. The church voted to give 25% of its budget to the co-operative program about the same time.

In 1943 the congregation at Squiresville realized the need for a better church building and a building fund was started. Extra land was bought for this purpose by the side of the old church lot. Work was started in 1949. Once again residents in the community watched with eager interest the building of another church.

In the spring of 1950, a grateful membership moved into the new church and the old building was sold. Dedication services were not held until Sunday, October 15, 1950, when the same clear toned bell that rang out a summons in 1902 calling the people together for the pur-



pose of dedicating the new building to a richer and fuller service. The dedication sermon was preached by Dr. R. C. Briggs of Jackson, Tennessee, a former pastor. Mrs. J. B. (Attie Reeve) Johnson was the only one of the seven charter members to be present for the second dedication service.

Also in the year 1950, Rev. Herman Jacobs, pastor, and other members at Squiresville saw the need of good wholesome books to be read by old and young, so there was discussion on starting a church library. Money was given to buy new books, and many other books contributed. Miss Thelma Hensley was appointed librarian, and Mrs. Ruby Frazier assistant. A committee composed of Mrs. I. L. Arnold, Charles Minch, and Rev. Ed. Thornton (new pastor) was appointed to work with the librarian and assistant in selecting books for the library. In October, a motion carried to take \$3.00 per month from the budget to buy books as needed. This continued for several years and now there are three well filled bookcases containing a choice selection of Children's books, inspirational books, Bible dictionary, and commentaries, good fiction, etc., approximately 175 books.

There were days of happy fellowship and glad reunions when old friends would return for a roll call. There are records of four of these special days, the first on June 2, 1924. Six years later on May 11, 1930, an invitation was sent to all former pastors to be present. Again in May 1939, all members were requested to meet for a roll call. The last roll call in the old church building was held on June 29, 1947.

During World War II, a very impressive service was held on February 18, 1945, to dedicate the service flag in honor of the twenty-four service men and one young woman from Squiresville Church. Later, three more young men's names were added to the list. There was gratitude in the hearts of these returning soldiers, and rejoicing in the hearts, of the mother, wives, and sweethearts when the flag was taken down at the end of the war with not one single gold star.

An all day meeting was held on May 16, 1953 for a note burning ceremony. The church was celebrating its first "debt free" Sunday since the final payment on its new, modern brick building. The pastor Rev. Edward Thornton brought the morning message. Rev. Herman Jacobs, a former pastor, delivered the afternoon message. Ira L. Arnold chairman of the board of deacons, told the story of the building program, then Carl Stivers treasurer of the building fund presented the note and it was burned before the congregation.

A parsonage was built in 1958 on the lot where the first church had stood. On Sunday, September 18, 1960, when the morning preaching service ended, the congregation gathered in the yard in front of the parsonage for the dedication of the home and a note burning ceremony. Rev. Bates, pastor, gave a short talk, I. L. Arnold gave the dedicatory

prayer, then Frank Frazier struck a match to the note and slowly it burned as the people watched. Another goal has been reached when this third building was dedicated and the debt paid.

Squiresville has had one young man called into the ministry. On Sunday afternoon, November 15, 1953, the Squiresville Baptist Church ordained Charles William Minch to the Gospel Ministry.

The first deacons to serve were J. S. Morgan, J. M. Davis, and W. C. Cull. Squiresville has ordained the following deacons: A. T. Morgan, C. F. Reeve, C. W. Arnold, Avery Ligon, H. W. Hearn, I. L. Arnold, H. L. Thomas, Chester Lusby, Jesse Morgan, Frank Frazier, and Ernest Cannon. The following ordained by other churches have served as deacons, Victor Roberts, R. G. Lusby, R. S. Minch, W. J. Stivers, and W. T. Devers.

During the sixty-five years since Squiresville Baptist Church was organized, the following have served as pastor: W. T. Ellis, John S. Ransdell, J. Frank Jones, J. W. Thompson, W. R. Crume, Louis Thomas, J. A. Lee, J. E. Enlow, Claud Boozer, J. G. Prather, W. F. McGibney, R. C. Briggs, Ralph Murray, Herman Jacobs, Edward Thornton, James McCluskey, John Redden, Jack Whitson, Maurice Bates, J. W. Dawson, Joe Simpson, Billy Beach, and J. D. Hyatt.

Approximately 340 have been baptized into church membership.

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