
The History of the Antioch Baptist Church
1866 - 1970

By

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1866 - 1970

INTRODUCTION

The intention of the following paper is to relate the history of the Antioch Baptist Church located in Trimble County, Kentucky. It must be acknowledged from the outset that it is impossible to present a complete history of the church due to the lack of sufficient data from the earliest period of the church's history. Having made this acknowledgement it is hoped that the following historical presentation will serve to reveal the outstanding factors in the history of the church.

It is also the hope of the writer that any person having any document or other source of information that would help in recounting the history of the church would contact the church clerk so that a copy could be secured for the revision and future writing of a history of the church.

EARLY HISTORY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

The date of the constituting of the Baptist Church of Jesus Christ at Antioch, later known as the Antioch Baptist Church, can be documented as September, 1866. It is known from the minutes of the Sulphur Fork Association for this year that the church entered the association during September of 1866. At this time the membership was given as being sixty-two. J.W. Lee, James Stratton, and Jno. Peak were sent to this meeting as messengers from the church. These three men appear to have provided leadership for the church during these formative years. The Minutes of the Church for a period beginning in 1885 list the first pastor as Wm. Smith in 1866. The minutes imply that the church met during these early years on the second Saturday of each month for worship. It is not definitely known where the church met prior to the erection of the present house of worship but it was probably in the Ewings Ford School; it was in this building that the church was constituted.

The present building used for worship was built in the year 1870. The land was deeded to the church on October 14, 1870. The land was deeded by W. A. Miles and John D. Miles. It was deeded to J.W. Lee, W.O. Coleman, and other trustees of the Baptist Church at Antioch.

One interesting feature of the deed is the inclusion of the provision allowing transcend preachers of other demoninations to preach in said house occasionally but not to have contrcl of said house and not to interfere with the Baptists.

It is difficult to state who was responsible for the gathering of the Antioch Baptist. It is known that some of the most prominent contributors and workers of the young church were former members of the Baptist Church at Sulphur. One outstanding example was Dr. F.J. Yager who gave a substantial amount of the \$800.00 to build the church. The minutes of the Sulphur Fork Baptist Association for 1922 in giving a brief history of the churches state that the church was gathered by W. B. Smith and J.F. Martin through the Missionary Society of Henry and Trimble Counties in 1866.

It is interesting to note that the associational minutes list the Antioch Church as being in other counties at times. During the earlier days it was said to be in Trimble County at times while other Minutes stated it was located in Oldham County or Henry County.

It is also interesting to note that during the earlier years of the church members were added by baptism, letter, and by being restored to the fellowship. Members were lost by means of dismissal by letter, exclusion, and death.

Another evidence of the early history of the Antioch Church is that it was represented not only at the annual meetings but also at the council during the constituting of the Milton Baptist Church on June 25, 1870.

During the earlier days of the church, the church met on one Saturday per month for preaching and later on a Saturday and Sunday with a Sunday School. In 1895, the Minutes mention that the

church was meeting on the second Saturday and Sunday. During this early period one preacher served more than one church. The Antioch pastor frequently pastored other churches in the association at the same time. Andrew Jackson pastored the Antioch Church for a total of eight years but he also served as pastor of the Middle Creek Church and preached there on the fourth Saturday and as pastor of the Popular Ridge Church and preached there on the first Saturday of each month.

The date of the origin of the church has been confused during the years. This is evidenced by the references in the associational minutes to the date of constitution having been as early as 1865 and as late as 1872. It seems that the Minutes of 1866 should be considered more reliable since they report the specific date of entry into the association and the fact that the minutes citing a different date are from a period decades later and were not apparently aware of the existence of the earlier minutes.

A very praise-worthy feature in the earlier history of the church was its willingness to cooperate with those of like faith which is evidenced by their entry into the association which at that time was known as an association of United Baptists since the distinction between between Northern Baptists or American Baptist and Southern Baptist were not as widely used during the early period.

The story of the early days of the Sunday School at the Antioch Church is also interesting. W.O. Coleman is the first superintendent that is mentioned. His interest in the work of the Sunday School transcended the years. The school met for six months,

twelve months, and eight months before it finally became a twelve month school. In the field of education in the scriptures and in the things of God it is interesting to note that the concept of a church library is not new. Antioch list that it had one hundred books in its library during 1882.

It is not definitely known whether any men have been ordained into the gospel ministry from the Antioch Baptist Church. During the year 1907, there was one licentiate from the church; he was Grover Mitchell. He later went to seminary.

The Women's Missionary Society also was a history at the Antioch Baptist Church. The first reference found of the W.M.S. was 1922, with Mrs. Nettie Goode as its president. The history of the church is not only marked with the God-fearing men of the years gone by and of the present but also by faithful women who promoted and still promote the cause of missions. Some of those who have served as president of the W.M.S. are Mrs. Nettie Goode, Mrs. Ruth Colbert, Mrs. Leslie Roberts, Mrs. Tony Staples who has served off and on since 1939, Mrs. E.B. Taylor, Mrs. Merchant Colbert, Mrs. Roberta Simmons, Mrs. Eugene Milby, and Mrs. Hubert Ball. There have been two former pastors of the Antioch Church to go to mission fields; John R. Issacs and Eugene Milby.

PASTORS, CLERKS, SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS AND MEMBERSHIP
OF THE ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

The following information was secured from the copies of the Minutes of the Sulphur Fork Association which are on file in the rear book section of the library at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>CLERK</u>	<u>S.S. SUPT.</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>
1866	William B. Smith			62
1867				81
1868				77
1869				85
1870				76
1871				81
1872				75
1873				93
1874				90
1875	Andrew Jackson	G.W. Dawkins	W.O. Coleman	85
1876	" "	" "		97
1877	" "	" "	J. Hancock	103
1878	" "	" "		49
1879	" "	" "		57
1880	" "	" "	J.C. Rogers	
1881	" "	" "	W.O. Peak	110
1882	" "	" "	" "	85
1883	G. W. Thompson	" "	W.O. Coleman	88
1884	" "	" "	A.S. Lee	128

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>CLERK</u>	<u>S.S. SUPT.</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>
1911	J.S. Satchwell	T.O. Mc Clellan	T.G. Sibley	99
1912	" "	" "	" "	75
1913	J.M. Walker	S.S. Hunter		75
1914	J.M. Nicholson	T.O. Mc Clellan	T.G. Sibley	75
1915	" "	" "		77
1916	J.T. McGee	" "	T.O. McClellan	93
1917	" "	" "	" "	108
1918	" "	" "	" "	101
1919	" "	" "	Clarence Ransdell	98
1920	Jas. M. McGavock	" "		60
1921	E.L. Jenkins	" "	W.O. Colbert	73
1922		" "	" "	76
1923	W.E. Hardy	" "		71
1924				
1925				
1926				
1927				
1928				
1929		T.O. McClellan	W.O. Colbert	80
1930				
1931	No Pastor	" "		
1932	No Pastor	" "		
1933	L.E. Gallagher	" "		
1934	" "	Jesse Colbert	Walton McClellan	80
1935	W.J. Cordwell	Albert Proctor	Mrs. W.L. Taylor	76
1936	No Pastor	Marvin Tingle	Howard Roberts	76

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>CLERK</u>	<u>S.S. SUPT.</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>
1937	John R. Issacs	Marvin Tingle	Howard Roberts	75
1938	" "	" "	" "	
1939	James B. High	Blanche Burton	L.C. Roberts	47
1940	" "	" "	" "	
1941	Raymond Foree	" "	Frank Chandler	
1942	" "	Mary Jo Staples	J.W. Lawson	69
1943	James Havens	" "	" "	69
1944	" "	Roberta Simmons	" "	96
1945	Wade Hale	" "	Walton McClellan	95
1946	" "	" "	" "	95
1947	Troy G. Robbins	" "	M. L. Colbert	93
1948	Arnold Williams Graydon Dukes	" "	" "	
1949	Marcus R. Jowers	M.L. Colbert	J.W. Lawson	90
1950	" "	" "	" "	90
1951	F. Eugene Milby	Frank Chandler	Webb Dunn	97
1952	" "	Mrs. M.L. Colbert	" "	100
1953	" "	" "	" "	90
1954	R.A. Bell	Elmer Quire	Elmer Quire	96
1955	" "	" "	" "	89
1956	John Dunaway	" "	" "	84
1957	" "	" "	Webb Dunn	89
1958	Frank Martin	" "	" "	97
1959	Leon Shoemaker	Mrs. P.K. Wallace	Philip Wallace	100
1960	R. Elwood Sims	" "	Elmer Quire	131
1961	Vance Cloud	" "	" "	128
1962	" "	" "	" "	125

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>CLERK</u>	<u>S.S. SUPT.</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>
1963	Wallace Beecham	Mrs. P.K. Wallace	Leon Taylor	129
1964	" "	" "	" "	128
1965	Joe D. Conner	" "	" "	118
1966	" "	" "	Philip Wallace	117
1967	" "	" "	" "	115
1968	" "	" "	Harold Jones	118
1969	Jerry M. Wolfe	" "	" "	118
1970	" "	" "	Philip Wallace	118

The first Vacation Bible School of which there is record at the Antioch Baptist Church was held in 1939. There was an enrollment of forty. The first reference to the Cooperative Program is in 1944. Since the year 1944, the Antioch Baptist Church has participated through the Cooperative Program in the various ministries around the world.

It is with a deep sense of respect and gratitude to God for his servants of the past that we approach October 4, 1970, to celebrate the 100th year in this building and over a 100 years of history of the church. Only God can reward those who have served through the years in various roles and those who have used diverse means and sacrificial giving to bring about an on going ministry to those whom Jesus came to seek and to save. It is our prayer that God will continue to sustain us and those who follow in the years ahead that glory and honor may be brought Him as women and men turn to the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is regretful that a more through history can not be given. It is with the hope that we may realize that we are but fellow-workers with those whom have gone before and those who follow that this brief history is presented. It is my hope that it will be corrected where correction is needed and completed where completion is needed and amended as the future years roll by.

Jerry M. Wolfe

JMW/odw