

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

The Dallasburg Baptist Church

by
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**A History of Owen County Baptist
Association and Its Churches**

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A Condensed History of the Dallasburg Baptist Church

Pastor Charles M. Dupier, Jr.

This church is located on Highway 227 at Wheatley, Kentucky, which is in the North West corner of Owen County. On February 22nd, 1851, the church was organized and given the name Dallasburg, the same as that of the village. When the Post Office was established about 1885 the town's name was changed to Wheatley because of the similarity of Dallasburg to that of another Kentucky town. Thus a citizen and beloved pastor, George W. Wheatley, was honored.

The first pastor was Lewis D. Alexander whose pious Baptist parents came with their family to Kentucky from North Carolina about 1800. The first officers of the church were John D. Alexander, Moderator; John M. Reed, Clerk; Pleasant Gentry and Samuel Riley, Deacons. A lot was purchased and a brick house of worship 40 x 60 ft. was constructed the same year of the organization, 1851. In later years the edifice was remodeled. Stained glass windows replaced the old ones. These same windows are in the present main building which was dedicated in 1912. The Educational addition was dedicated in 1948.

A Bible and twelve hymnals were purchased by the new church. If musical instruments, which are now a part of worship, had been available there were those of the by gone days who would have objected, considering the use unscriptural.

In the rules of Decorum, you find: "Should a difficulty arise that might mar the fellowship the 18th chapter of Matthew was to be strictly observed." Further: Any member guilty of drunkenness who is brought before the church a second time shall be put from among us as directed by I Corinthians, Chapter 5.

Dallasburg sent its first letter to the Concord Association August 1851 and six years later agreed to help support an Associational Missionary. On various occasions committees were appointed to assist in organizing new churches, or to lend aid to those near by as well as neighboring associations. Aid was given to the Baptist Mission work in Louisville, also to the Kentucky Baptist Children's Home.

Thru a revival in 1908 the members received a spiritual uplift and the church began a forward movement. Shortly after, a full time pastorate began with a yearly salary of \$1,000.00. A fund was designated for Rev. Edgar Morgan, a missionary to China. Beginning in 1950 the church pledged to pay, for a period of time, part of the salary of Rev. Neville Claxon, a missionary to Nigeria. State, Home, and Foreign Missions are stressed and supported with gifts. When a missionary came on the Owen County Associational field Dallasburg agreed to contribute to his salary.

Regarding the almost daily activities of the church

A Sunday School was organized in 1885. Early in the 1900's the first B.Y.P.U. and Library were established and the Woman's Missionary Union followed in 1916. The Auxiliaries, Sunbeam, G.A., R.A., and Y.W.A. have functioned, as the need became apparent, to the present date. The first Vacation Bible School was held in 1934. Two years later the G.A.'s had their first camp on nearby Eagle Creek. With help from the church, various youth organizations have been in camp at Bethany and in assemblies at Cedarmore, Clear Creek and Ridgecrest. Also, at opportune times, the church has sponsored a Boy Scout Troop.

No doubt individual members have had mountain top experiences, but in 1872 the entire congregation was lifted to the mountain top. A nineteen-day revival saw twenty-four white and eleven colored persons added to the church. Again in the mid 1890's a stirring revival came. Twenty-nine persons accepted Christ as their Savior.

The late Dr. W. B. Riley of Minneapolis, Minn., a nationally known Baptist minister, returned in 1937 to his birthplace, the Wheatley Community, and led a revival in the Dallasburg church where he was ordained Dec. 19th, 1883. Dr. R. Paul Caudill, a former pastor, led a 5 day revival March 1946.

After due consideration, the church decided to sell the pastorium in 1949 and then build a modern brick one on the lot adjoining the church edifice.

The Centennial Anniversary was appropriately observed October 14th 1951.

As a memorial to the late Victoria Van Doren Thompson, her grandchildren presented an electric organ to the church. A matching piano was purchased to be used with the organ in the Sanctuary.

Three young men, born and reared in the community, became members of Dallasburg and were ordained as ministers. Namely: the late Ernest Davis, whose pastorates were all in Kentucky, served as Clerk of the Kentucky Baptist Convention 25 years; James R. Thompson is a District Missionary on the east coast of Florida; and William G. Webster is presently pastor at Oak Ridge Church, Covington, Kentucky.

The young women of the church have not been reluctant in giving their time, talent and training to Christian service at home and on other fields.

During Rev. Ernest Wilson's pastorate he was notified by the Foreign Mission Board that he and Mrs. Wilson were accepted as missionaries to Brazil beginning in 1960. Bro. Peter Kraak was summoned, while serving here, to report for duty as a Chaplain in the Army. He and his family are in Hawaii but retain their membership at Dallasburg.

A church is a testimony that there are those who are interested in Man's Spiritual life. This church has been "THE LIGHT" more than a hundred years to men and women and wherever their paths have led they have found a place for Christian service.

Mabel Alexander-Mar. 1965
Ch. of museum Committee