

History of Central Baptist Church- Ashdown, AR

On July 14, 1940, fourteen Baptists joined together in the Community Building in Ashdown to form a New Testament Baptist Church. In that meeting the church elected Mr. C.D. Franks and Mr. H.E. Barnwell to serve as her first ordained deacons. Central Baptist Church was selected as her name.

Rev. T.L. Epton was called as first pastor, preaching on the 4th Sunday or once a month. Later he began preaching twice a month with a salary of \$30.00 monthly.

Sunday, November 21, 1943, the church approved plans for a new building. Almost one year later, having purchased lots at the present building location, dedication of the new building was held. Rev. W.H. Snead was the pastor during this time.

Rev. A.R Reddin came to serve the church as her third pastor in 1947 and continued until 1951. The education building was added during his ministry and named the Reddin Annex. Most of this work was done by the men of the church.

C.B.C. continued to grow under the leadership of her God called pastors and faithful members. Rev. C.O. Strong, Rev. Edwin Peters, and Rev. J.P. Jones, in succession, led the church until 1960 when Rev. Paul Bearfield was called as pastor. During his pastorate, C.B.C. celebrated her 25th anniversary, July 11, 1965, with record attendance and all day fellowship, including sermons, lunch, special music, and testimonies.

Bro. Hall, Bro. Crawford, and Bro. Guthrie, each will be remembered for their years of service at Central, for their love for the Lord and His people.

Much progress has been made since that time; having remodeled the original building, adding a beautiful sanctuary, building a family life center, purchasing a parsonage and additional lands. God has blessed abundantly.

C.B.C. has always been known as a family church, welcoming people from all walks of life. From her very beginning in 1940. She has been a mission minded and practicing church supporting local, state and world missions.

Rev. Don Embry is current pastor at C.B.C. having served as associate pastor and music/youth director before being elected pastor.

Central extends a hearty invitation to come and worship.

14 Charter Members:

Mr. & Mrs. C.D. Franks

Claud J. Franks

Mrs. Laverne (Waddell) Cowling

Mrs. Fair Ferguson

Mr. H.E. Barnwell

Mr. & Mrs. J.H. Boggan

Mrs. Albert Burnes

Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Gammill

Mrs. C.J. Klikes

Mrs. Grace Millican
Mrs. Lula Searles