



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SEVILLE, OHIO
175 years of church history consolidated from several documents

Compiled by Joyce Crislip
August, 2013

PREFACE

I would like to acknowledge the people who contributed and participated in creating this history. The chronological membership record says there have been 1,868 members (as of December 31, 2012) since the inception of the church in 1838. Each member and many other friends of the church contributed to its history. Thank you, every one!

Please note that the entire script herein has been copied from other documents. It was with great care that I typed, proofread, corrected and printed the words from these various records (see bibliography). In cases where there were errors in the original scripts, I have printed them verbatim. Being human, however, I acknowledge that there may also be errors of my own; I hope they are minimal.

Lastly, you may notice discrepancies among the scripts. This may be due to the loss of documents in the 1914 fire or, perhaps, the faulty memory of the writers. Regardless, the record stands as printed.

[] indicates material not in the original manuscript but found in a later copy of it, most likely added by a later unnamed historian.

Serving with a smile,
Joyce Crislip, Clerk
July, 2013

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From: SEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY 1838 TO 1938 & RECORD

“Standing there in the midst of the primeval forest, which seemed to be rejoicing in the glory of mid-summer, and gazing up and down the two streams whose waters went babbling and rippling on their way, with none save the denizens of the forest to hear, and listening to the songs of wild birds with which the forest seemed to be filled, I thought I had indeed found the paradise for which I had longed, and for which I had dreamed.”

Thus wrote a young man in his diary, who had journeyed from Connecticut on foot, to find the object of his dreams. The spot where he stood that day, a few years before our one hundred years' history begins, was in this valley of the Chippewa, a short distance west of the bridge on Center Street, that now spans Hubbard Creek, just about in the center of our little city of Seville. Here is where Henry Hosmer chose to make his future home, on the plot of ground where the Irene Crawford house now stands. His house was a large log house, well built and well planned. There were Indians still living in their villages when he settled here, but they were not hostile.

One hundred years ago the population of Ohio was about 900,000, and from facts obtained, we may say the Baptist played a large part in the early history of our state of Ohio.

A quotation from the history of “One Hundred Years of Seville village, 1816,” is pertinent in beginning the history of The First Baptist Church in Guilford. “Communities like men, have individuality and a study of the conditions that have contributed to the development of that individuality, must be both interesting and instructive.”

The early settlers of this section, a part of that- that later became the “Western Reserve,” were a sturdy band, loyal to their convictions, and courageous in their advance into a land unknown. During the years following the coming of Henry Hosmer to this location, up to the time of the conditions surrounding the organization of this church, there must have been quite an exodus from the eastern states, Connecticut and Massachusetts particularly for the community became individual, yet harmonious in its aggressiveness and loyal stability, for the three churches formed during these years are still almost on the same location, marching under the same Banner of the Cross, believing in the same God and Father, the same Lord and Saviour, and the indwelling of the same Holy Spirit. There were many obstacles to overcome, hardships to endure with small and inadequate means at hand to assist.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1826. The earliest record of the Presbyterian Church is 1831, when thirteen names are given as “Charter Members.” Thus, this community was not without Christian influence at the time of the organization of this church, which was completed with fifteen Charter Members, whose names have come down to us through many generations. One early member, Abner Johnson, who brought his letter from Massachusetts, has always had a representative on our church roll, through five generations. This geneology is—Abner Johnson, David Johnson, Datis Johnson, Eva Johnson Swagler and Elouise Swagler Rohrer, while both families are identified in the Sabbath School and other activities of the church. The two husbands are deacons, and one a member of the trustees. The daughter, Mrs. Rohrer, is organist, and the two Rohrer boys are in the Sunday School, so that some of the old spirit of bravery and loyalty permeates the life of the church today through these five generations.

The following quotation is like a “Preamble” to the Constitution By-Laws which were later adopted;---“After mature consideration and convention upon the subject before us, the people of the Baptist Denomination in Guilford met this day, June 15-1838, according to previous appointment to organize themselves into a church of the same order. After hearing the exorcises of the mind from the first operations of the Spirit of God upon the heart, until the found relief in Christ. We then adjourned and closed [by prayer.” “July 7, 1838 met again for the purpose of hearing the] state of mind among the brethren and sisters with regard to Fellowship, Articles of Faith and other points. The following Constitution and Articles of Faith were adopted.”

“As in the Providence of God, members of the professed disciples of the Lord Jesus have been drawn together in this place from different parts of Zion, and from different church connections, and feeling it to be a most solemn duty, as well as a delightful privilege to erect the standard of truth, to support the ministry of reconciliation, and the administering of the ordinances of the Gospel, we associate and covenant together in the bond of Christian fellowship under the name of “The Baptist Church in Guilford,” and for the information of the Christian public and of the world, we deem it proper to make the following declaration of our views on Divine Truth:---

Articles of Faith and Practice

- Art. 1 We believe in one self-existent God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one God, whose purposes are eternal, and his Providences universal, embracing all the events of Time and Eternity.
- Art. 2 We believe that man was created Holy, but by transgression fell into a state of sin, and his recovery is from God only.
- Art.3 We believe that God so loved the world that He gave his only Begotten Son, who by his Obedience, sufferings, death and resurrection has magnified the Law and opened the way for the exercise of Mercy, so that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life.
- Art. 4 We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the only direct rule of Faith and Practice.
- Art. 5 We believe that there will be a resurrection of the just and of the unjust, when all shall stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ, and that the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into Life Eternal.
- Art. 6 We believe that Christ has instituted water baptism, and the Lord’s supper to be observed by His followers to the end of the world, and those who profess faith in Christ, and give evidence of [a change of] heart are the only subjects of baptism, and immersion the only scripture mode, which is a figure of the death, burial and resurrection of our Redeemer, and of his members.
- Art. 7 We believe that baptism is a pre-requisite to communion.
- Art. 8 “We believe that those who have been duly baptized on their profession of their faith in Christ, and united in a body to maintain the visible cause of God in the world compose the Kingdom of Church of Jesus Christ, and that, when so embodied, they have full power to receive discipline and exclude their members agreeable to the Laws of Zion’s King.”

Jonathan S. Welch.

Jonathan Cotton.

Timothy Phelps.

Sidney S. Hastings.

Moses Greenwood.

Robert Sugart.

Benjamin H. Warren.

Harrison Greenwood.

Margaret Welch.

Polly Cotton.

Hulda Phelps.

Clarissa Hastings.

Sally Greenwood.

Susan Sugart.

Clarissa Greenwood.

Fifteen Connecticut Members

A call for a Council of sister Churches was sent to surrounding villages, which convened August 22, 1838, in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Guilford, by which name the village was then called, and after a simple order of exercises, the church was recognized as "The Guilford Baptist Church."

The pastors of the following churches were members of this council: Cleveland, Strongsville, Spencer, Lafayette, Medina, Wadsworth, Milton and Westfield. The pioneers thus recognized as a Baptist Church, expressed themselves as that the day was the "gladdest day of their lives." Surely such faith and loyalty, as well as joy in christian service is a heritage for which we ought to be very thankful, for we are not lacking a continuous line of ancestry to these early settlers and forefathers. A citizen of our town is a direct descendent of the Freeman family, which really was the founder of our denomination here, and had much to do in making the history of the Baptist constituency in this section of the country.

It is said, the first sermon preached in Seville was by Rev. Rufus Freeman, a great-great-grandfather or our townsman mentioned above. It was preached in a log cabin, which stood where the Gensemer Store is now located, the south-west corner of the square. Mr. Freeman was the progenitor of six Baptist ministers, one of whom, Rev. Allen B. Freeman preached the first sermon in Chicago, Ill., and organized the First Baptist Church in that city. Another was pastor of the church in Spencer, Ohio and a third in Strongsville, Ohio.

The Baptist in the United States one hundred years ago numbered about 370,000, while today they are numbered by millions. But the earlier Baptists did not look with much favor on Missionary Societies, Sunday Schools or Theological Education, yet, wonderful strides have been made, and at home and abroad much stress is laid upon the functions of the church, and an educated ministry is called for.

The Historian of the First Fifty Years of the Seville Baptist Church, gives a vivid picture of the condition of this section of the country. He says, speaking of one who has just arrived in the village;--- "Safely landed in Seville, one finds a scattered hamlet of perhaps a dozen or so log cabins, with a single central store, which served the triplicate purpose of commercial mart, post office and general news exchange." "There were hospitable folk in the cabins, and you would be asked to make yourself at home. You would be served with home made bread, made of flour which contained all the life-giving properties of the wheat; corn pones made of home grown and home ground corn, big potatoes boiled with their jackets on, side rashon of smoked bacon, and, according to the season, venison, wild duck, geese, turkey and partridge, a steak of bear meat, or a stew of rabbit or squirrel, many kinds of berries, plums and nuts. Your bed for the night might have been in the general family sleeping room, or, in the loft, to which you climbed on a ladder in one corner of the large room below. Heating arrangements beside the large fireplace, [consisted of warming pans, or portable braziers partly filled with live coals brought from the glowing fireplace.] Home spun garments and back wood's fashions prevailed, and no one felt better dressed than any one else.

Rev. B. F. Ashley was the writer of the earlier history, and at the close of the first fifty years was pastor of this church. More will be said of him when that time comes.

During the early months of 1838 several meetings were held in consideration of the advisability of organizing a Baptist Church here, and know the meetings of June 15 and July 7, above referred to were held in the home of Mr. B. H. Warren, where Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Swagler now live. Here the plans were all made toward having a church of their own, and Rev. Rufus Freeman was asked to "Draft a Constitution and Articles of Faith" which he did, copying very closely the Declaration of Faith of the First Baptist Church of Boston, which was the first Baptist Church in the United States. We have already referred to this Constitution and given the names of the signers.

The members of this early church were limited in their means, and the question of having a regular Meeting House of their own was quite a problem, and no doubt often a subject of conversation. There had been several additions; no home was large enough to accommodate the congregation, and they worshipped in a log school house, for one of which they paid five dollars a year rent; one dollar and a quarter every three months.

At another time they held their services in the loft of a wagon shop that stood near where the homes of Harry Long and J. T. Bonham are located. The Methodist people were very kind, and offered their building for special meetings conducted by the Baptist, and for other occasions when the largest homes of the village were not large enough to accommodate the people. After the "Recognition Service of August 22nd", the members were very happy, and all were looking forward to the time when they would have their own house of worship. Following the above date, the first business meeting was held September 8 in the home of Mr. Warren, at which time three trustees, a clerk and a treasurer were appointed for the coming year. The first Tuesday of January was selected as the Annual Meeting day, and a committee of two appointed to meet with the Missionary Board of Ohio, to ask for help. There is no record as to the outcome of this meeting. The first Covenant Meeting was held October 28, 1838, when three new members were received; two by experience and one by baptism. This meeting was held in the home of Mr. Warren, and his home seems to have been a regular meeting place when there was business to be attended to, that pertained to the church.

At one time a building committee was appointed, which was asked to submit a plan for the meeting house. This plan was submitted, which we believe was the original plan of this auditorium, it was returned to the committee with instructions to locate the pulpit and the gallery. The gallery was over the front entrance, and the pulpit at the south end of the room.

We are, perhaps, a little in advance of history in the foregoing paragraph, for the building is still only on paper. The project, however is under way, and although the records do not say, yet we believe the brethren were busy in preparing the lumber to be used in erecting their own house of worship.

During these years of preparation, the business and covenant meetings are held regularly, and the latter service is often spoken of, "as a time of refreshing and spiritual uplift." There have been no reports from the treasurer until at the Annual Meeting in January, 1840, when it is found that the church is in debt to the treasurer the sum of eighty-one cents. A committee was at once appointed to "draft and circulate a subscription, for the purpose of raising funds to discharge the present debt, and also to defray the expenses of the coming year. One thing is especially noticeable in the business practices of the early church; a committee is appointed to circulate a subscription to raise money to pay the debt. Perhaps through the years this has not always been attended to so promptly, but generally it is true that debts were not allowed to accumulate. The pastor's salary, sorry to say, was not so promptly paid, and sometimes he had to exert a great amount of faith, as he realized the immediate needs of himself and family, yet as the records go on, we read, "the pastor paid in full."

At this Annual Meeting in 1840, three trustees, a clerk and treasurer are elected by vote; Mr. Warren receiving majority of votes for reelection, and thus, again, for eleven consecutive years. In later years he was twice elected, rounding out a total of seventeen years in that office. Mr. H. E. Matteson, father of our late C. L. Matteson, and Mrs. Mary Matteson Wilbur, who is with us today, followed Mr. Warren's eleven years, serving for one year.

Mr. Russell J. Hastings was elected clerk for one year, 1856-1857, and then again in 1879 and re-elected until he had served thirty-two years, the longest period of any other clerk. In 1910 he insisted on being released, because of ill health, and very reluctantly, yet sympathetically his wish was granted, and tokens of regard given him upon this retirement.

The Covenant and business sessions were held in private homes, but more often in the home of Mr. Warren, and during these building plans (years) extra sessions were frequently called for. The membership was still small and the same men had to serve on several committees, and as they lived several miles apart, with the means of transportation so limited, and the roads often hub-deep in mud, it was difficult for committees to get together very often, so that the object for which they were appointed was sometimes slow in being gained or accomplished, but they were possessed with such a spirit of "stick-at-it-tive-ness, that in time they had a complete report to give, and were duly discharged. Sometimes it was necessary to appoint a second committee to attend to this particular business. In this way they finished what they started out to do.

The first deacons elected were Jonathan Cotton and Timothy Phelps, in February 1840, who were "to wait on the church," which we understand to mean in the observance of the Lord's Supper, as one was "to supply the table, and the other to serve."

In June of the year 1842 the church united with the Rocky River Association, which later became the Cleveland Association. This union lasted until 1927, a period of eighty-five years.

The first mention of the town of Seville appears in the report of February 12, 1842. During this winter a number of the members of the Milton Church transferred their membership to this church, and later twenty-five were received by baptism. This was the result of the labors of those who had so faithfully and earnestly carried on the work in the face of many obstacles and hindrances of various kinds. It was not always smooth sailing with this band of pioneer Christians, and cases of discipline sometimes hindered the progress of the work. So many new additions by baptism meant greater watch-care and admonitions, perhaps, to the new converts, and a more faithful training in the Christian life, and the adherence to the Church Covenant.

A "series of meetings" was conducted by Rev. A. Guernsey of Strongsville, Ohio in 1843, as a result of which, about thirty additions were made. The Methodist people kindly loaned the use of their building for these meetings. The ordinance of baptism was observed in Chippewa Creek, just north of the west bridge, or in Hubbard Creek, a little distance north of the tract of land deeded to the church by Timothy Phelps. In April of 1843 the deacons were elected by ballot, and names of Hastings and Barnard are well known to us all today. "A Church Building or our own" is a wish that is becoming more urgent, and July 3rd of this year a committee was appointed, with instructions to purchase lots 66 and 67 or Lots 80 and 81, which is the site of this building. A draft of the building was accepted, as already stated, and the desk and gallery given their proper places. This building committee consisted of Jonathan Cotton, Chairman; Timothy Phelps, Abner Johnson, B. H. Warren, Ebon Bingham, Chauncey Spear and Sidney S. Hastings. They were instructed to proceed with the building, and "if the several subscriptions fall short of defraying the expense of same, that the balance be raised by an average on the members of the church, according to their ability to pay." The house was built, and "was considered both commodious and respectable." The original building has never been moved, but various additions have been made which has changed the general appearance. The first house was of frame construction, and years later was veneered with brick, which were drawn from a brick kiln east of town at the first "Cross Roads." The lot was a gift from Henry Hosmer, who, when prospecting for a future home, decided this section of the country was an ideal place in which to live. He was not a professor of religion, but realized that churches in a community were a decided asset and added to the value of real estate, if not to the morals and well-being of the people who lived there.

Fifty years ago Chauncey Spear was the only one living of that early building committee, and there are some here who remember him with pleasure. The building is under construction, and in the meantime, Rev. Sampson came as supply pastor for a short time. His services resulted in a total of 79 accessions. Elder Rufus Freeman was called as pastor for half-time service, and later in this same year, 1843, Rev. E. T. Manning was called for half-time, but his term was less than a year. There were eight additions to the membership. In August the name of the church was changed to "The Baptist Church of Seville."

In 1844, a Rev. D. P. Maryotte became pastor for one-half time, but served only seven months with thirteen additions. The salary was small, and donations not very frequent, which may account for so many short pastorates.

In this year a Stage Coach Route was established between Cleveland and Columbus, making Seville one of the Mail Stations. In March of this year the church was incorporated by Special Act of the Legislature. The building committee was pushing on to the completion of their task and at last, January 29, 1845 the new building was dedicated.

Previous to this a choir had been organized, a leader appointed, books purchased from the former pastor, Elder Sampson, and rehearsals held in the preparation of the music for this longed-for occasion. The books became the property of the church, and Elder Sampson became pastor after the dedication. The

Dedicatory” sermon was preached by Rev. J. H. Walden of Cleveland, Ohio, with Rev. Mr. Bloom of Granville, Ohio, assisting in the further exercises of the day. Arrangements were made at once for a series of “Special Meetings” directed by Rev. Thomas Inman of Westfield, Ohio. The effort resulted in fourteen accessions to the church, and in March Rev. Inman Became pastor, remaining five years, and then severed the connection only because his property and previous relation with the Westfield people demanded more of his time. A baptismal robe was purchased during his stay for the pastor’s use.

The first death among the members occurred April 18, 1845. Mrs. Hulda Welch, one of the Charter members. Mrs. Welch was, no doubt, buried in Mound Hill Cemetery, which had been deeded to Seville in 1824.

Rev. A. S. Jones was called at the close of Rev. Inman’s term for full time, but eight months ended his stay. There were five additions. Other short pastorates followed, and the loyal Rufus Freeman filled the gaps between. The salary paid the pastor at this time was only one hundred and fifty dollars a year for half-time service.

In 1847 the Rocky River Association was entertained by this church and we find the first mention of a Missionary collection, which amounted to \$48.97 for Foreign and \$15.00 for Home Missions. It was a struggle to meet expenses, and outside calls that were becoming more numerous, so a committee was appointed to circulate a subscription list. This seems to be the way followed for raising all the money for salary, incidentals and missionary expenses, and a certain per cent of this was set aside for a specific purpose.

After several years, or during the early pastorate of Rev. Noah Barrell, 1852-1854, a bell was purchased, and hung in the belfry, and the same tones ring out today over the town and country-side, calling the people to worship. One of the prescribed duties of the janitor, was to ring the bell at regularly appointed services, and on time. We do not find the names of any of the earlier janitors, but the office seems to be filled often. Perhaps love for the job was not strong enough to convince them there was glory in it, “if done unto the Lord heartily.” Fuel for heating the new church was furnished by Deacon S. S. Hastings at the first, “but the brethren were to turn out in a body, and haul the wood to the Meeting House. Down through the years some one has been appointed each year to secure the needed supply of wood or coal for the season, and the needed subscription paper has been circulated. When too much money was subscribed, the surplus was turned over to the treasurer for incidentals.

The original lighting plan consisted of tallow candles, and at the first, these were furnished by Abner Barnard, whom some of us well remember. Later this privilege was enjoyed by other brethren. A permanent choir was organized, and sustained by the church. No mention is made of any musical instrument being used, so we surmise the tuning-fork or pitch-fork was still in use. The church enjoyed a great revival during the pastorate of Rev. Barrell. Many were baptized, others came with their letters and still others were reclaimed making a total of sixty-one, while with others the “Right Hand of Fellowship” was withdrawn. During the revival for seven consecutive Sabbaths the ice was cut in Chippewa Creek, so that the ordinance of baptism might be administered.

About 1850 there was a “movement on foot” to unite the three churches into something like a Community Church, although not so named. The project failed, but out of it came, perhaps, the suggestion to unite with the Congregational Church, whose Meeting House stood close by, in organizing a Sunday School. Whether the union was accomplished or not, cannot be stated, but a Sunday School was organized in 1852, which is still in working order. Very substantial progress was made along this line, as well as in other branches of christian work. The first “Donation Party” was given for Rev. Barrell, when the “married people were invited to come at ten a.m., and the young people in the evening.” The first sidewalk was built of laid in front of the church building in 1854; the records do not say whether it was of wood or stone; this year the wood burning stoves were replaced with coal stoves, which stood in the north end of the room under the gallery, in each corner. The coal was hauled by the members from coal mines not so many miles away, yet it was not easy traveling those days, and men and women “had a mind to work. – one woman, an aunt of Mrs. Swagler, took her own one-horse wagon and did her part in hauling the coal. Miss Johnson

later became the wife of Charles Coulter, who was a pastor of churches in Ohio, Iowa, Kansas and at last in Long Beach, Cal. where after a long sickness he went Home to his Saviour. During at least forty years of active service, his wife, was his constant companion and helper, and where ever there was a need of help, she was there with whatever she had to help out.

There was quite a stir among the membership over the introduction of secret societies into the community, and rather drastic measures were taken to deny the members the privilege of joining if they so desired. A Preamble and Resolutions were drawn up, and presented to the members, but a large majority voted against it, so that is all there was to that. The Church still lives and the secret organizations flourish in the land.

Jennie L. Reader

Rev. Nelson Crandall of Hannibal, N. Y. became pastor in 1854, remaining two years. There were twenty-eight or more accessions to the church, among them being the mother or our Mrs. G. M. Taylor, who has been of much help in preparing this history. Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Bostwick brought their letters from the Baptist Church in Royalton, Ohio and representatives of the family are still with us. A son and daughter are here today; Mr. A. A. Bostwick and Mrs. F. P. Wideman. A grandson is Dean of Men in the State University of New Mexico in Albuquerque; another is located in St. Petersburg, Florida, a third is in Cleveland, Ohio, and a fourth in Government work in Vicksburg, Mississippi. All these held membership with us for many years, and we have been blessed in many ways, not only in their labor of love, but liberally in financial ways.

In 1855 mention is more often made of the work of the women. In the early years, they either followed the advice of Paul "to keep silence in the church" or, were reminded by the brethren to do so, for they do not seem to have had any active part to play. Now, however, we find their names on committees, especially if it is necessary to discipline some wayward member.

Following Elder Crandall, in 1856, came William E. Lyon, who had just finished his Seminary training, and was ordained to the ministry in this church. The service is said to have been a very impressive one. Mr. Lyon was a brother of Mrs. J. K. Caughey, who was a resident of Seville for many years. Her activities were with the Presbyterian Church, but she was [a public spirited women, and was] instrumental in organizing the Ladies Cemetery Association, which is still an active organization. Reverend Lyon baptized Judson Lyon, who later became pastor of the Baptist Church of Truxton, N.Y. A nephew of Reverend Lyon, Reverend Lyon Caughey, is now pastor of the Congregational Church of Glens Falls, New York. There were twelve additions under the pastorate of Reverend Lyon.

Evidently the bell in the Baptist steeple was the only one in the village, for the church was often asked to toll the bell at the death of one of the residents, and the church people decided to charge for this service for non-members. Perhaps this did not last long, as nothing further is recorded, but, we do know that bells have been tolled from other steeples for the past forty years or more.

A change in the lighting system is desired, and two ladies are appointed to solicit funds for the installation of side gas lamps. Coal oil lamps and chandeliers had been used for several years. There were two large lamps and chandeliers, one at each end of the center aisle, two hanging lamps over the pulpit and choir. This system was changed to an acetylene light plant, some time in the 80's which exploded in 1914 causing a fire which damaged the church to a great extent, destroying many books of record, the church organ and other furniture and belongings. This is going a few years ahead of church history, but electric lights were installed after the fire, which are still in use.

Now, going back to the years we digressed, we come to the pastorate of Reverend Lyman Whitney, who accepted the charge in the spring of 1858 at a salary of less than \$500.00 a year. Soon after his coming a committee was appointed to write to all members who had moved away, or otherwise had absented themselves from the regular services, to find out their wishes in regard to retaining membership with the

Church. This led to a revision of the church roll, which, while some letters were granted and other names dropped, tended to revive the remaining members into a more aggressive group of men and women working in the Lord's Vineyard. A revival resulted, and Reverend J. W. Weatherby came to assist Elder Whitney (his brother-in-law) in a series of meetings, which were very successful. Mr. Weatherby was the father of one of the members of this historical committee. We are introduced now to the "Female Sewing Society" which became active in many ways. Repairs were needed and the ladies raised money in some way to pay for the work. They purchased the table which still stands in front of the rostrum; the marble top was donated by a firm of Marble Workers in Cleveland, and Mr. John Martin, the grand-father of our Mrs. Taylor, gave the use of his team and sled and his own time in bringing the top from Cleveland, and placing it on the table frame. The total expense to the ladies for some repairs and the table frame was \$56.75. "A "Resolution" recognizing the services of Mr. Martin, and the donation of the top was presented to the society and unanimously adopted." Today, we are no less thankful for the table as it stands in its honored place, and is used in the observance of the Lord's Supper.

The members had long realized their need of a Pastorium, for suitable houses were usually occupied by the owners. The salary was small, and such houses as were available were inferior and many times too small to accommodate a pastor and his family. Two of the members did very much to change this condition. Deacon Timothy Phelps deeded to the church eight acres of land, about two squares east of the meeting house, for the pastorium, and soon an offer of one thousand dollars for the building was made by J. Ross, providing the church would pay to him, or his wife, during their lives, an annuity of seventy dollars, and place tombstones at their graves. The church accepted the offer, and proceeded at once to build. They built a two-story frame house of seven rooms, four below and three above, two of which were connected with double folding doors, thus affording a large room for social occasions; there was a hall and stairway, three small closets, a pantry and cellar under the entire house. The total cost thus far was \$979.00. Some time later a barn and outbuildings were put up, and a well dug, all at a cost of \$500.00, which included some finishing touches to the pastorium. The eight acres of land proved to be too large a territory for the usual run of ministers to care for in addition to the calls of the church, and the property began to look like a "corner of No-Man's Land" as the former historian expresses it. But, the pastors as they came and went continued to live in the pastorium, and the surrounding acres were "let out" to regular farmers, who tilled the land and gathered the crops in season, and thus better care was taken of the entire plot. The Whitney family consisted of the pastor and wife, two sons and their wives, all of whom were active in church affairs and the choir. They were the first to occupy the new pastorium. A system of assessments was adopted by the church, by which it was hoped the obligations could be more easily met and discharged. This system continued to work very well for a number of years. Playing checkers in a public place caused quite a disturbance among the members, and some were disciplined, even to exclusion. However, in time they were reinstated in "good and regular standing." But, there was a "Resolution" spread upon the minutes to the effect that "No person not in good standing with the church, and not of reputable character should be eligible for election to any of the offices of the church." No action is on record that this resolution or vote was ever rescinded. So, perhaps it behooves us to be careful of the games we play, if we aspire to an office in the church. A tax of twenty-five cents was levied upon each member to pay the salary of the sexton for a year. The amount raised in this way is not recorded. There were fifty-seven additions to the membership. In May of 1859 a fence was built around the Meeting House, "according to specifications." It was to be of "three rails; posts of swamp oak and rails of white oak. The work to be done by the brethren." Also, the privilege line [was granted to individuals to build nine horse and wagon sheds on the south line] and four or five on the east line of the property, to accommodate the members who drove to the services. After the "retirement" of many of the farmers, and the advent of the automobile, these sheds were taken down, the ground graded and seeded. This may become a "parking place" or the hopes of some members may be realized in a new "Church Home" modern in all respects, and larger in size. Reverend Whitney closed his relations with the church in 1863, after five years of labor with it.

Reverend W. E. Lyon was called to a second pastorate, at a salary of four hundred dollars and the pastorium. Out of this he had to continue paying the seventy dollars yearly on the Russ Annuity and the taxes which totaled about one hundred dollars. The taxes and annuity had to be paid regularly each year which sometimes stretched the amount paid to the pastor as salary almost to the breaking point. It looks to the writer as if this was hardly a fair deal with the pastor, for the money had not been loaned to him, but to the church as a body. But, the pastors lived, and after a time moved to another field, so reckon it worked all right. Thirty-four additions were made during Reverend Lyon's stay, among whom we would especially call attention to; D. Willey Hulburt, who was a native of Medina County, attending the common schools here, then to Oberlin, and Dennison at Granville, Ohio, finishing his seminary course at Morgan Park, which later became identified with the University of Chicago. His first pastorate was in Wisconsin, and following that he came back to Ohio, and took charge of the church in Circleville, Ohio. He has preached in our own pulpit several times, when home from duties on vacation, and was greatly disappointed the last time he was here, that the church was closed in August during vacation, as he wanted to "preach once more in the 'old home church.'" Dr. David Willey Hulbert heeded the call back in Wisconsin in 1886, and became an outstanding minister in that state. In 1896, he was elected to the presidency of the Wisconsin Baptist State Convention, which position he held for twenty-five years. At the close of this period, he again took up a pastor's work, and continued along this line until 1929, when he retired from such active work. The Baptist Missions is the outcome of his idea of having one instead of eight missionary periodicals. During these closing years he wrote Bible Story Courses, one to be mentioned, "The Great Teacher Training." "He was a preacher, an organizer, a tireless worker, a friend and a Christian gentleman." We are happy that his early christian training was given in this church. Dr. Hulburt passed to his great reward January 3, 1936. Another convert of Reverend Lyon's was Charles Bessy, who became professor in the Agricultural College in Lincoln, Nebraska. One of the college buildings was built in his honor, and named Bessy Hall.

Reverend M. Shank was called as supply pastor in 1866 for a few months.

In October 1866, Reverend J. B. Sutton came onto the field remaining three years. A great revival was experienced, and one hundred additions to the membership were made, seventy-two baptisms and twenty-eight by letter of experience. One of these was William Lyon, who later became Lieutenant-Governor of Ohio. This pastorate closed in 1869.

In the latter part of 1869, Reverend J. H. Gray was called to the pastorate, remaining until December, 1871. Seventy-eight were received into the membership; one hundred seventy names were on the roll when he left. The first record of the church floor being carpeted was during his stay. "Four ladies were appointed to buy it, and the brethren to pay for it." The carpet was "made and laid" so, evidently the brethren paid for it. The walls were also papered, and the sidewalk was laid east of the building.

Reverend John Hawker came in February, 1872, and was here about fourteen months. Thirty-four were received by baptism during that period, one of whom was a colored woman. The question of building a new house of worship had been discussed for several months previous to the coming of Reverend Hawker, and at last it was decided to veneer the original frame building. The brick was hauled from a brick kiln, about two miles east of the church, at the "first cross-roads". The old gallery over the front entrance to the auditorium [was removed, and a smaller vestibule built, which is the present front entrance to the auditorium]. A room was added to the south, which was used by the Primary Department of the S. S. on the Sabbath Day, and for prayer-meeting services, and choir practice during the week. An entrance was made to this room at the east end, with outside steps and boardwalk to the street sidewalk. Large folding doors separated this room from the Auditorium directly behind the pulpit desk. The cost of these additions and changes in the original building was \$300.00, and improved the appearance of the building, as well as giving greater convenience inside. The Baptist Hymn and Tune book was adopted by the church, and used until the present Hymnal was purchased.

In 1873 Reverend P. J. Ward, a student of the renowned C. H. Spurgeon, of London, England, got in touch with the Pulpit Committee, and was called by the church to become its pastor. He accepted, bringing

his wife and two children from England. A son, Alfred, was born here, and is now located in Toledo, Ohio. He, with Mrs. Kittie Ward-Brown, of Haskins, Ohio are the surviving members of this family and are with us during some part of this Centennial Celebration. It took the family some little time to adjust themselves to American ways, and then they were happy to be counted as one with us. For the first time a public collection was taken the first Sabbath of each month, to defray incidental expenses, and this, probably was the forerunner of the usual collection now taken every Sabbath, and decidedly a part of the program of the morning service. There was a time when the church voted to take a collection at the evening, but, this was discontinued a long time ago.

More room was needed in the building for the various activities of the members, especially among the young people, and steps were taken to raise funds for this purpose. The project was not given up when Elder Ward resigned in 1875. There were twelve additions during his stay.

The former pastor, Reverend Hawker was asked to come as supply pastor, and his labors resulted in the addition of twenty-one members. The building project was still under consideration. The need was greater than the amount of money on hand, or subscribed, and as the building committee was restricted in the expenditure with the admonition "not to go in debt," the project was "laid on the table"---but some repairs and improvements were made; a furnace was installed, and a baptistry built, which necessity called for the holding of regular services in the Congregational Church, the large building to the west, now owned and occupied as a home by Mr. and Mrs. George Carter. Just before these changes were made, a large number of members dismissed, to form a Baptist Church in Milton, now known as Sterling, Ohio. This organization did not prove successful, and many of these members came back to the Seville Church. Some have gone Home to Glory-Land, and Church Triumphant, while others are active here with us, or in the church where they have located.

Reverend F.J. Cather was called as pastor in 1877, at a salary of seven hundred dollars and the Pastorium. Thirty-eight new members were received. The frequent Rallies and Missionary Meetings held in the city of Cleveland, in connection with Associational work, proved of worth to this suburban church, for a broader outlook was gained, a greater interest in Missions, newer methods in S.S. work, and among the young people, and more of a general knowledge gained of Christian work in the world. Several times in the minutes of past years, a note has been made of this church entertaining the Association to which it belonged, and we remember when the Cleveland Association came down in almost overwhelming numbers. Two or three days in the country in June (the time of holding the yearly meetings then) with free lodging and meals furnished was too much of a good thing to let pass. We were truly an entertaining church, for the women were kept so busy, with two meals each [day] in the church dining room, and the home work with breakfast did not give them much time to attend any of the services, but they met a good many people. Reverend Ashley remained until early in 1880, and Reverend J. W. Weatherby followed as pastor in a short time. He remained four years, and this was his last pastorate. He supplied the pulpit very frequently in different places, but his increasing deafness made it impossible to enter into the social life of the church. He had served as pastor of several churches in Ohio for fifty years, with an interim of one or two years as Missionary Superintendent of the Ohio Baptist Convention. His closing years were lived in Seville, his death occurred in August of 1897, and Mrs. Weatherby passed on in 1898. Both were taken to Erie, Pa. for burial. A daughter, Mrs. A. L. Bates of Seville, and son Frank, of Columbus, are still living, and with us at this time. A large number of young people were baptized by Reverend Weatherby, twenty at one evening service, making a total of forty-five. Mr. Jerome Crites and Miss Alice Lance were the last couple married by him, and according to the number on the Certificate in the possession of Mr. Crites, this was the five hundred and fifty-fifth ceremony.

Reverend P. J. Ward returned for a second pastorate in 1884, remaining two years. A very intense revival resulted in the conversion of one hundred and twelve persons, and the spiritual uplift to the entire membership. In 1885 extensive additions and repairs were made to the church building. The room to the east was built, and basement finished for a dining room, so that social affairs might be accommodated within the church walls. Many are here today who recall with pleasure the get-together seasons, when old

and young, met for a social time; the Ladies' Aid and the Missionary Circle met regularly the first and last Wednesdays respectively, and all committees soon learned to make use of the room for the transaction of business. The curbing was set around the lot, and men old and young helped in filling in, grading and sowing grass seed. The gravel and top soil was hauled from the acreage around the Pastorium, and the laborers were handed receipts for the time spent, instead of the dollar and cent, that usually means "money received." The entire project had been made possible, by the splendid offer of Mr. Jabez A. Bostwick of New York City, a brother of our late Mr. Abner F. Bostwick to double the amount raised by the church. The total cost of this improvement was \$5235.50. The stone walks to the front doors of the building are included in this expenditure. The original steps to the auditorium have since been replaced by the concrete ones now in use.

Reverend B. F. Ashley was called to become pastor in 1887. Joseph H. Freeman and Russel J. Hastings were appointed a committee on the reception of candidates for baptism, who after examination, were brought before the church for acceptance, and after baptism to be received into full membership. This order seems to have gone out of use. At this time also, the envelope system of collecting money for salary and incidental expenses was introduced. This method is still in use.

In 1888 a decision was made to celebrate the Semi-Centennial of the church. This was carried out in a two-day program, September 4th & 5th, 1888. We are sorry not to re-produce this program. We have not been able to find a copy of it. Previous to the chosen dates, committees were appointed for different tasks and duties. We copy from the old records, "that the Ladies' Aid, or the cleaning brigade asked permission to clean the church, before the time of the Semi-Centennial." (They do not ask for such permission these days; they go ahead and do it.) The Ladies' Aid, Willing Workers, and members of the choir completed the job in time, not only the cleaning, but decorating in an appropriate manner for this joyous [occasion. There were several ex-pastors present, but names are not given;] others wrote letters of happy reminiscences, hearty congratulations and well-wishers for the future.

As we close the first fifty years of the progress of this church, we wish for the ready wit and keen perception of the former historian, Rev. B. F. Ashley, who at that time was pastor of the church. He could read only bare facts and figures from the meager reports of the business and social affairs of the church, yet he has given much interesting reading, and we have dared to use much of his material, feeling our own inability to juggle "facts and figures" as he did, and produce interesting reading. We know that with the advance of the years, the work of the Church of God has found more open doors and avenues of help and happiness, bigger things have been done, larger territories have been reached, and co-operation with other Christian bodies has been entered into so cordially, that the history of one church, in a general way has been [the history of the mass. Yet, there has been that "individuality" spoken] of in the beginning of this paper, that singles [out each church so that certain characteristics stand out above all others.] outsiders see these, and either commend or criticize. There have several times been made propositions and recommendations that there should be a union of churches in this section, one church being considered enough to accommodate the population, but, somehow, for some reason, the suggestion has failed to "go over," and a mighty tie has held us to the old "Home Church", and even though [all the older members have gone for their "Reward". There were many] cities in our country in 1888 that were very modern, and everywhere long strides were being made toward the betterment of roads and highways, housing comforts, school advantages and along many other lines, so that the "rural Community" began to "pick up." The schools of our village have always borne a fine reputation, and today rank high. Many have gone from graduation here to college or university, from which they have entered into positions of high honor and responsibility in our own United States as well as in foreign countries.

Pastor Ashley continued his ministrations here until 1890, when he declared the "pulpit vacant". Fourteen members were taken in the church while Rev. Ashley was here; among whom was John Owens, Judge John Owens now, of Medina, Lusian VanEpp, also of Medina, and our deacon, C. E. Swagler, also, Miss Julia Rice who was engaged in work among the Chinese in San Francisco, Calif. For a long time we were in need of a SUNDAY SCHOOL library, and in 1890 a purchase of thirty-four dollars worth of books was

made. From time to time new books, and books from private libraries were added, until there was a list of very acceptable books, and these were eagerly read by both young and old in the S. S. Of late years, however, this department has been neglected, and we are in need of an entire new set of books. A new order was adopted in regard to subscriptions and out of that is the system of notifying each member, each quarter as to his credits or debits, and thus the treasury is in a more healthful condition, even though at times the amount of money is very low.

While the pastorium was empty, the ladies cleaned, painted, and papered the inside, while the trustees painted the outside and built a new barn. In November of 1890, Rev. J. H. Palmer, of Bowling Green, Ohio, came as pastor, remaining four years, during which time fifty-four additions were made to the membership. In 1891, Mr. W. E. Barnard, who had been S. S. Superintendent for fourteen years, resigned the office, and it proved difficult to find someone to take his place. At last the new pastor consented to serve for a time and was duly elected. Later, Mr. Alva Foster was elected, but because of continued ill health, resigned, and Mr. E. A. Day came to the front. His term was also of only a few months, as his business relations called him to Wooster, Ohio, where he still holds forth as a printer. Miss Adly Coulter had served as Assistant Supt. with Mr. Foster as chief, and later Mr. Day, and now in 1893, is elected Chief herself—the first woman to hold an elective office. A few years later, Miss Coulter became the wife of Mr. Charles Gerred, of Ashtabula, Ohio, and moved to that city, where she has continued to be active in church affairs. Mr. J. D. Grissinger was unanimously elected S. S. Supt. in 1894, and held the office until 1903, when he moved to Granville, Ohio where he still resides. Mr. Grissinger was a fine bass singer, and a great addition to the choir. Mr. A. A. Bostwick succeeded Mr. Grissinger.

In January 1895 a call was extended to Rev. E. T. Derr, a resident of Cleveland, and a member of the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church. He accepted the call, and entered upon the work April 11, 1895. The first Advisory Board was appointed and recognized by the church. This was a new name perhaps for an old committee, but it exists now under that name. It is composed of the Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, Treasurer, Clerk, Superintendent and assistant of the S. S., President of the young Peoples Society, Chorister and Organist. This board advised a new order of things: first, The Church Roll be revised, and names be erased of those of whom no trace could be found, or, who, upon removal had united with some other church. Second, the S. S. to observe the National Annual Childrens' Day, the second Sabbath in June of each year, [and the Annual Bible Day in the fall. These "special days" were observed with] appropriate programs given by the scholars for many years, and the programs were enjoyed by young and old alike. Each class had some part on the program as well as individuals; the music was of a special nature, and the children, at least, realized that they were a part of the church. Of course it meant days of practice and drill, but all enjoyed it and did their best. The S. S. used to be called "The Child of the Church", but evidently that is only a tradition in these days.

During this pastorate the Board of Trustees was increased by two, and the Board of Deacons to five members. A gift of five hundred dollars was presented by the pastor from Deacon Joseph Robb. The purpose of the gift was toward a new organ for the auditorium, a need which had been felt for a long time. This gift was very thankfully accepted, and a letter written and sent to Brother Robb, thanking him for [this timely assistance, and prayers were offered to the Father for] the promptings of His Spirit toward this end. The money was used in the purchase of the Vocalion. This was later "turned in" toward the present pipe organ.

Mr Derr closed his service with us in January 1897. There were sixteen additions. The pulpit committee learned that Rev. P. J. Ward was again at liberty, and steps were taken at once to secure him as pastor, the third time. The call of the church was unanimous, but the minister decided to go to California instead. The congregation was greatly disappointed, but there was a sort of reaction show, that brought to the fire that courageous spirit of the pioneers, and the determination to go forward in the face of the disappointment became the actuating principle, and soon the unanimous call was extended to Rev. Harry D. Osborne of Haskins, Ohio, who responded favorably, and came upon the field April 18, 1897. Soon after he came, a council was called to ordain Rev. R. N. Sickler as a Baptist minister. He had united with the

church some time before, coming not only as a member of the Methodist Church, but as a minister in that denomination, for several years. [His ordination took place June 29, 1897, and not very long after, he was called to a Baptist church in the western part of the state.] A new plan for raising money for Missionary and Benevolent enterprises was suggested, and later adopted whereby a certain per cent of the pledged amount was to be sent to the different organizations. There were eight missionary objects, Foreign, Home, [Ohio State Convention, Educational Society, Publication Society, Ministers Home] and Associational Minutes, and eight per cent of the amount was to be retained in the treasury for special calls. The records do not say how well this plan worked out. [Today we are supposed to have a Missionary Budget, but during the past few years, the amount has grown less and less, and missionary giving is not very active.]

A new furnace was purchased and put in place, and a sidewalk laid in front of the property west of the parsonage; other extensive repairs were made, and all paid for. The story is not told so joyously every year, for not long after this a plea is made by the trustees for help, and the Ladies' Aid gives to the extent that the debt is reduced to ninety dollars. We cannot say what was done to create this debt, but several years ago a "slanting floor" was built in the auditorium, and it may be this was when the ladies helped out so generously. The treasurer's books are not in fault, only that the object for which the money is paid out is not specified, and only by knowing that certain things were done at certain times are we able to put "two and two" together, and this account for the expenditure. Outside lights were placed at the two front doors, and an Electric Bulletin Board was furnished by a friend near the main front entrance.

At the Annual Meeting, January 3, 1891, Dr. Daniel F. Shepherdson, the "wheelchair Evangelist", conducted a series of Bible Studies and Evangelistic meetings resulting in the salvation of souls. The spiritual uplift experienced by many members still bears testimony to his earnest and faithful interpretations of the Scriptures, and his zeal for souls. Mrs. Gertrude Loomis – Houghton was elected to an official position. She, however, refused to serve, and Percy Crites was re-elected. Mrs. Houghton moved to Michigan and has since passed on to her reward.

The pastorate of Rev. H. D. Osborne was the longest in the history of the church, nearly eight years, and when he left, Dec. 1st 1904, the church was in prosperous condition. There had been ninety-one accessions to the Church.

Rev. George L. Hart, of Cleveland, Ohio was called to the pastorate, and came with his family, May 7, 1905. A bequest of five hundred dollars was given to the church from the estate of Mrs. Sarah J. Stone, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Robb, above referred to. This money was to be used to keep the parsonage in proper repair. About this time, John C. Lee gave the beautiful shade trees on the church lawn. He brought them from his farm southeast of town, superintended seeding them in the ground, and cared for them until his death.

The question of uniting with the other churches in town in the Sabbath Evening Services, held in turn with each church, was presented, but no decision was made, other than to leave it in the hands of the pastor. Several years later, however, this plan was entered into, the pastor of each church conducting the service in his own church, and then again a change was made, and each church was open for a month, the pastors rotating in the program. This plan is still in use. A Baptist Young Peoples' Association was completed soon after Pastor Hart's coming, and flourished for many years. The records however are missing, and must have shared the fate of others in the fire. Both pastor and Mrs. Hart were very efficient in the work of the church. The serious illness and death of the eldest daughter made it impossible for Mrs. Hart to keep up with the work in the different organizations. The daughter was laid to rest in our own mound Hill Cemetery. Several years later, both the former pastor and his wife were brought back here for burial.

We cannot forget the very splendid work of Miss Florence Smith, a sister of Mrs. Hart who simply performed wonders with the Primary and Cradle Roll Departments of the S. S. Her work was marked in the growth in numbers, and the intense interest of the children. "Children's Day" was a delight to them, as well as a joy to the parents and older members of the school. Miss Smith is happily marching on in her interest in the work among the children, and all church advancement although confined to her bed or a wheel-chair

in the Baptist Home in Cleveland, Ohio. A little visit with her is a wonderful tonic; we wish we could see her more often. Giving nearly six years of acceptable service, Pastor Hart resigned in February, 1911, going to a church in Kansas City, Kansas. He came back to Ohio in a few years, and was located with the church in Washington C. H. when he died very suddenly in October of 1918. He gave the Dedicatory Address at the installation of the pipe organ, just a short time previous.

We were without a pastor for over a year, when Rev. Frank L. Knapp accepted the call, coming with his wife from Vermont in March, 1912, and remaining until June 1918. He was dearly beloved by the members and highly respected by the community, often called upon for public service not connected with the church but closely affiliated with it. There were seventy-nine additions to the membership during his stay. Pastor Knapp was greatly interested in the efforts being put forth in the raising of funds for the purchase of a pipe organ, and went with the committee to visit different churches, where an organ about the price we were able to pay could be seen and heard but, he had joined the Great Halleluiahs Chorus before the new organ was installed. The latter part of his second year the church sustained a great loss in the very sudden death of Claude L. Matteson, who had been leader of the choir for so many years, a trustee for twenty years, an assistant S. S. Supt. and earnestly interested in all the affairs of the church that meant for advancement. Mr. Matteson's death was a serious blow to the Pastor as well as the church, and it took some time to adjust ourselves to a new order. Pastor Knapp asked for a period of rest because of seemingly failing health. This was granted, and for a few months the pulpit was supplied temporarily, but when the pastor came back he found he could not carry on, and resigned. He and Mrs. Knapp returned to the Eastern home, but the following year, he yearned to make us a visit, and attend to the disposal of household goods. While here, he was taken seriously ill, and did not recover. His burial occurred in the east.

A call was extended to Rev. A. R. Woodworth, who had supplied for us in August, to become our pastor. He accepted and came in October, 1918, at a salary of fourteen hundred dollars, and the pastorium. The following year, 1919, after thorough investigation, it was found that the church could sell the eight acre property by retaining a portion of the land and putting the proceeds of the sale into other property to be used as a home for the pastor and his family. A sale was made, and two building lots on the west end were retained, upon which it was expected to build two houses, one for the pastor's use, and the other to be rented. This plan was given up when it was found that the George Taylor property could be bought. The sale purchase was made thus bringing the pastorium within a square of the church, but on the north side of East Main Street. The pastor and family were happy in making the change to a more modern house. In May, 1919, owing to the decision of the Cleveland City churches to form an association of their own, it was necessary for us to seek associational membership with other Baptist churches near by. The Akron churches had been dismissed likewise, and although invitations had come from both the Lorain and Wooster organizations, the majority were in favor of joining Akron, which we did, and are still associated with those churches. There were thirty-seven additions during Rev. Woodworth's stay, which closed in June, 1921.

In February 1922, Rev. W. F. Parmelee was called to the pastorate, remaining until April 1924. [There were sixteen additions during his stay. In the early history of the church the introduction of secret societies into the community, caused some dissatisfaction among the members, so now, the activities of the Ku Klux Klan brought trouble to us, and we were compelled to ask the pastor to resign. He complied after some time, and several members declined to work with the church. Efforts were made to win them back, through letters, but, when no attention was paid, the names were dropped from the roll.]

Rev. Hobbins of Dayton acted as supply until September 1924, when Rev. and Mrs. A. R. Toothacre came as temporary pastor, but, in a few months was asked to continue as regular pastor. His service was accepted, and we took courage to go on, in the "strength of the Lord." Reverend Toothacre was very desirous of rounding out a natural life of seventy years, and by remaining with us until October 1, 1927 would finish forty years as an active pastor. He lived to be over seventy years of age, and at the close of his

pastorate here, they moved to Haskins, Ohio, and after Mrs. Toothachre's death to Iowa. [to be near or with relatives. Both have since gone Home to Glory-Land.]

In 1927 another building proposition was made, with the notation that "No contracts for construction shall be awarded, or erecting begun, until an amount of funds sufficient to complete the proposition shall have been obtained." The building proposition covered the extension of the church building west of the Brotherhood room and south of the Primary and Library rooms, thus affording two rest rooms and a classroom, with stairway to basement providing another class room, and an addition to the kitchen there. The project was presented by Mr. & Mrs. F. P. Wideman and Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Bostwick, asking the church to add enough to their offer to pay for a completed addition. The church accepted the offer and we are glad for this up-to-date improvement. Since waterworks were introduced to the town, and the church building "hooked up" we feel we are well equipped so far as material advantages go. As we are the "Temple of God" it belongs to us to see that the spiritual life is manifest to all. In 1928 the church voted to add to the Board of Deacons, three Deaconesses, and the following were elected; Mrs. A. L. Bates, for one year; Mrs. J. W. Walker, for two years, and Mrs. Irene Crawford, three years. Owing to the death of Mrs. Walker, and the going of Mrs. Crawford to California, it has been necessary to appoint a new board, which is now composed of Mrs. George Taylor, Mrs. H. H. Kindig and Mrs. C. C. Crawford, with Mrs. Bates on the "Honorary List."

April 1st, 1928, Rev. E. F. Randall was called to minister to the church, and before his coming on to the field, the recently acquired Pastorium was extensively repaired and improved. An addition was made affording a larger dining room and more of an up-to-date kitchen. The filtered cistern was enlarged, and cellar partitioned into a laundry room, furnace-room, fruit and vegetable cupboards and coal bins. [City water has been connected, and the furnace and pipes re-arranged, and the entire building made more comfortable and convenient.] A new gas range was placed in the kitchen, and the old one repaired and set up in the small kitchen in the church building. Mrs. Randall was very active among the young people, and was instrumental in organizing a W. W. Guild, known as the Mary Matteson-Wilbur Chapter. There were forty members who carried on splendidly for a few years, and then merged into the Women's Missionary Circle. Several of the W. W. Guild members had moved to other places, and those who remained did not feel equal to the responsibility of carrying on the work, as a separate organization. In 1932, a change was made, in regard to receiving members from other churches, who brought letter of good standing: and whose experience and faithfulness to church activities could not be questioned in the least, but, who had not been immersed. It was voted to receive such into full fellowship, but, new converts, or those who had never made a profession of following Christ, and after conversion desired to unite, would be received only after baptism. All requests to be received and acted upon by the Advisory Board, before being presented to the church. For over seventy years the Annual Meeting was held the first Thursday after the first Sabbath in January, with a church dinner at noon. These meetings were always well attended, and after all reports were received, officers elected or appointed for the coming year, a season of prayer and fellowship was enjoyed, in which we gave thanks for the work accomplished during the past year, and prayed for the continuance of the blessings of our Father in Heaven, with the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. At this time the hour of the Annual Meeting was changed to 7:30 P.M., sometimes preceded by a church supper and the Communion service to be observed the first Sabbath of each month, but in December of 1934 this was again changed to the first Sabbath every alternate month.

The church received a bequest from Mrs. Hattie Bostwick of \$1000.00, the income to be used as the Trustees thought best. During these years about forty names were dropped from membership list for non-attendance and lack of interest or co-operation in any church appointments. It was decided to make a change in the fiscal year, so that our reports and dates would coincide with the State and National dates. This would mean a change from January 1 to December 31, to May 1, to April 30, the Annual Meeting occurring the first Thursday after the first Sabbath in May; the regular quarterly business meetings to be held the first Thursday after the first Sabbath in August, November, February and May. Forty-four were received into the church during this pastorate. Rev. Randall resigned June 4, 1933.

Rev. C. E. Bloor was called to the pastorate January 7, 1934, remaining a little over three years. Seven were received into the church. A very happy "Homecoming Sabbath" was observed in October of 1935, when members of former years came from distant cities to spend the day with us, and letters were read from former pastors and other friends who could not be here in person. Rev. Calvin, of Akron, who had supplied the pulpit for us many times, came with Mrs. Calvin, and thoroughly enjoyed the social privilege. There were two hundred registrations, and during the dinner, served in the church diningroom, many friendships were renewed and new ones formed. After the afternoon session supper was served to those who were driving back to their homes. "Good-byes" were said that will never be repeated on earth, but what a happy reunion it will be "when the roll is called, up yonder" and we'll be there to answer "Present". This pastorate was closed April 25th, 1937.

During the following months services were held regularly, and a few candidates came back the second time but the church was not united on any one until Rev. C. H. Kern of Thomastown, Ohio, preached for us, and after his second day and morning sermon, a unanimous call was extended to him, which he accepted, and began his pastorate the last Sabbath in September 1937. Rev. Kern was expecting to be married, and while waiting for that happy event, and the honeymoon" which followed, the Ladies' Aid and volunteer help by several of the brethren the pastorium was repapered, painted, new shades hung at the windows, heating and water systems put into order, the city water connections made, and the premises put into good condition, all in readiness for the bride and groom, who took full possession the latter part of October. A reception was tendered them in the church very soon, when the other pastors in town, and many of their parishioners happily extended their congratulations and best wishes.

As we write this bit of history at the beginning of Rev. Kerns work with us, we are rejoicing in reporting a very marked increase in attendance at the mid-week service, and the interest deepened in the Bible subjects presented. The Sabbath School is showing an advancement in attendance and interest. A new order of exercises has been introduced, whereby the Primary Dept. has its own program under a new organization, having the opening exercise by itself, and the children are enjoying a little Sunday School of their own. The classes return to the auditorium for the closing service of the hour. Twenty have already been received into church membership, thirteen through baptism, and seven by letter; these are nearly all adults, only three or four of teen-age.

We look forward to such a growth of Grace in our midst, that it will extend into the community, and result in the salvation of souls; the reclaiming of others who have grown cold and indifferent to the calls of the church, and the receiving and strengthening of the saints still on earth, who have "stood by the stuff," and who will greatly rejoice and be very courageous as Israel goes forward."

Ann Elizabeth Shaffer

This ends the original text from the Red Book. The following continues in the first typewritten document entitled One Hundred Years' History of the Seville Baptist Church. The Author is unknown.

Before we finish this Church History, we wish to express our sincere regard and appreciation of the labors of those who have "Gone on before", who have "entered their rest," and have received their reward for faithfulness here. To the loyalty and fidelity of the "Charter Members" whose influence is still active in our midst, and during the time of our own recollection the "Mothers in Israel" who have been unflinching in their examples of faith and earnestness in advancing the cause of Christ in this community, who have given so liberally of their wealth, when they had it to give, or of their time and ability, using the God-given talents in a way that meant Glory to His Name, and the strengthening of those who were left to "carry on." We do not see the faces of our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters, or of those of younger years, but we remember their kindly deeds and helpful words and the cheerfulness with which they entered into the activities of the church. As they followed Christ, so may we always have our faces turned toward our Great Leader, and follow where He leads.

IN MEMORIAM

Now we come to the close of one hundred years of living. Looking back over these years of struggle and hardship, we are seriously impressed with the thought that, "Thus far the Lord has led us on." The written words of record have been so few and inadequate in expressing all the trials and discouragements that had to be overcome and vanquished, by our forefathers and mothers, that as we have met like experiences during our lifetime, under different circumstances, and in different surroundings, we are able to enter into the inner life of those faithful souls, and realize perhaps to only a small degree their implicit reliance in the "One in Whom they had believed," that He would "never leave nor forsake them," but would accomplish to which He had called them," and as we pass over to those who are looking out over a new one hundred years, the responsibility of the "Great Commission", we will bid them to look for their help to the same God and Father, who provides the only salvation from eternal death, through the life, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, that they may go forth with the "Battle Cry" against sin, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life." To Whom be Honor and Glory and Praise forever.

The cause of Missions, both Home and Foreign, has long been recognized by the church, but there was no distinctive organization until the women formed a "Missionary Circle," and this group of women, changing once in a while, is still in active work. Many barrels and boxes of clothing have been sent to those in frontier work in our own land, and these boxes have not been filled with any old thing we might pick, but many times new garments, bedding, sheets, pillowcases and towels with clothing that could be used, picture books for the children, candy and nuts, and ready cash. Contributions are sent every year, fruits and vegetables, canned and raw, to the Baptist Home in Cleveland. The contributions of money to General Headquarters has not been up to our hopes, but we are thankful for all we have been able to do. Reporting for the years since 1925, we have sent to Granville, O. through the church missionary treasurer over \$2300.00, and this sum does not include that sent by the church.

To this budget the circle has given the amount collected in the general fund every month, and the "Nest Egg" fund has met all the local calls and needs. The "Over Sea" and "Overland" and the White Cross calls have been met every time. The membership of the Missionary Circle is largely composed of the same women who constitute the Ladies' Aid, so that these material supplies have gone from both organizations. The Aid Society however, has taken care of the needs of both church and parsonage in the way of repairs and decorations, such as carpets in the church building and wall decorations. The painting in the arc back of the pulpit platform was largely the work of Mrs. Marie Josephine Noble-Stanhope of Westfield. In 1826, six years after her birth, she came with her parents to Seville, and lived in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Will Cotton, until a short time before her death in 1897. Her last days were in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Matteson. Mrs. Stanhope was assisted in the above mentioned painting by Mrs. John Dyer-Hastings, Mrs. Mary Matteson, deceased, and Burt Matteson. Mrs. Stanhope was assisted in the above

mentioned painting by Mrs. John Dyer-Hastings, Mrs. Mary Matteson, deceased, and Burt Matteson. Mrs. Stanhope loved the out-of-doors, and her favorite occupation was landscape painting. The "Stanhope" park, the triangle in west part of Seville, is the outcome of her careful planting and nursing of the young trees which, today are such monarchs, so magnificent in their wonderful growth, and her influence is seen in the beautiful trees that line a few of our streets. A tree that stood on the original Baptist property, that was cut down about seventeen years ago, showed one hundred and eight rings in the stump.

As mentioned above, the Aid Society has helped in the missionary work in the boxes and barrels sent to the workers in the pioneer fields of our country, as well as local needs among our members. The same can be said of the work and results of the branch of the women's work, as has been said before, many of our records were burned, and only from annual Reports, which simply deals with figures, are we able to "make up a story," but we know and our eyes can see the results of our labors. The first mention we find of the effort of the women was in 1856, when an Oyster Supper was given with returns of \$89.50, from which \$22.50 was paid on the balance due on an organ. The sum of \$152.50 had been paid, so that the original cost must have been \$175.00. This is the first mention of any kind of musical instrument, so that previously the "tuning fork" must have been used to "set" the tunes. Our work has largely been to care for the interior of the church building and the pastorium. In the latter, painting, papering, light fixture for dining room, (this was a special gift from the Friendship Class), and at one time a kitchen cook stove was furnished. This is now in use in the church kitchen. From such records as are available, a conservative estimate of \$10,000.00 has passed thru the Aid treasury since 1920. We have contributed money to two or three of the churches in our own Association, and have helped in the City Mission Work in Akron. In the early history of the church, four women were chosen to select a carpet for the auditorium, and the men to pay for it, but, that is past history, for we have selected and paid for the carpets in the church building, for at least, the past fifty years, and are very happy at this time to begin the new century with a new carpet in vestry and runners in auditorium, and refinished floor. The women have worked faithfully and cooperatively, and above all, very harmoniously. One of the former deacons in the church, who has gone to join the throng "over there", used to "rise in meetin" and thank the women for the work of their hands in the beautifying of the interior of the church building. "e earned the money to do this by giving public dinners, festivals, apron sales, making quilts and "comfortables", and for the past forty years have served Waffle Suppers in the Spring, when the first new maple syrup could be obtained. The younger women and the lassies of teen age have always been so ready to help, and are entitled to a generous share of praise for making these affairs so successful. The responsibility will fall on their shoulders in a few more years, and while there may be, and will be new ways and new methods of taking care of the temporal House of God, we can heartily wish for them such success and satisfaction as has been ours of "The Ladies Aid."

The young people have been organized in the various unions of the day. A large and very enthusiastic Christian Endeavor Society, both Senior and Junior divisions flourished for many years, and then became affiliated with the B.Y.P.U. Association, which was very active for a time. There was also a Willing Workers Society, a King's Daughters' Circle, and the World Wide Guild. At present there are no organized groups of young people, either boys or girls, but we are hoping there will be as we begin the new hundred years.

We do rejoice in the coming of Rev. C. H. Kern and his bride into our midst. There are evidences already of his earnest work, and his supreme desire to see souls saved and the Kingdom of God built up in this place, and it behooves us as members of this century-old church to renew our faith in Jesus our Lord, and trust to the promises of the Father who will "never leave or forsake" those who believe on His Son and

try to do His Will. The Lord is "counting on us" to help in redeeming the lost world, and so also is our pastor needing the help of every one of our members, in bringing this section to a personal knowledge of the saving power of Jesus' name, and accepting His offer of Salvation. We "can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth" us.

In the Church History not much has been said in regard to the Program of Music always maintained by the church. From the early years we do not gain much information as to the way such programs were carried out, but choirs were formed and leaders chosen to prepare the music for special occasions. There were in the community quite a number of good musicians, and some of them were identified with this church, perhaps the first leader we may mention was the late Horace E. Matteson. We recollect an "Old Folks Concert" which he conducted toward the close of his musical activities. He drilled us in the old hymns and anthems, many times using the tuning fork, and lining the hymns to us. This concert was held in the Town Hall, which is still a place where various entertainments are given. The first organ was a small cabinet Estey Organ, and during many years of its use here, Mr. William E. Barnard was the efficient leader. Sometime in the early "80's", this was sold to Mr. Datis Johnson, and a Clough & Warren church organ was purchased by the church, and Mr. Claude L. Matteson became the leader until his death in 1913. Mrs. Bates served as organist under the latter part of Mr. Barnard's term, and all through the time of Mr. Matteson's leadership. Mrs. Bares began playing the organ in the Sunday School of the First Baptist Church of Springfield, Ol., when she was about thirteen years old, and was active along that line for over fifty years, either as accompanist, singer or leader. During the leadership of Mr. Matteson, it became evident that a larger instrument was needed, and efforts were made to raise the funds to purchase one. A gift of five hundred dollars from the late Joseph Robb gave quite a boost to the amount in hand, and the fire in the church which damaged the old organ beyond repairs, made it necessary to purchase the new one at once. The Vocalion was purchased, and used until the Pipe organ was installed in the fall of 1918. This instrument is largely a "memorial" to the late Mrs. A. F. Bostwick, whose \$2,000.00 legacy to the church was put into the hands of the organ committee. The Chimes is the gift of three of Mrs. Bostwick's children, A. A. Bostwick, Mrs. Mary Squires and Mrs. Clara Wideman, while another gift of two hundred and fifty dollars came from Mr. & Mrs. R. I. Bostwick, a grandson and his wife. A new Console has just been installed, and the entire organ cleaned and tuned, and all needed repairs made, so that we have practically a new instrument, and half of this cost has been met by Mr. A. A. Bostwick, while the other half has been covered by generous subscriptions and cash; about two-thirds of the total cost coming from the Bostwick family.

For several years there was a quartet choir, composed of Miss Hallie Bell, soprano, Jabez Bostwick, tenor, Mrs. Harold Cook, alto, and Mr. Cook, bass, with Irene Crawford at the organ and Mrs. Jabez Bostwick at the piano, (or the other way round, as both are accomplished musicians on either instrument) The music rendered was fine, equal to many of the city "paid choirs" And now not just a word, but many words of praise and thanks for the service given by our present choir of twenty or more mixed voices, with Mrs. Calvin McCoy as leader, Mrs. Carl Rohrer at the organ, and Miss Ann Shaffer at the piano. Not all these voices have been trained, but they are receiving a training now, that is showing splendid results every time, and we are happy in introducing this surpliced choir to the new leaders in the church, who are beginning the history of a second hundred years in the life of this church, still marching under the same old, yet ever new, "Banner" of our Captain, The Lord Jesus Christ.

The square piano, in the Vestry was a gift from the late Abner Barnard and wife, in "memory" of their daughter, Jennie, who was the leading soprano for many years. The purchase of the Grand Piano was started when the "Claude Lorraine" class laid aside the sum of fifty dollars towards the full amount needed. In due time this piano was placed upon our rostrum. The organ used in Primary Department was a gift of the George P. Lee family through the Daughter, Miss Grace Lee, who until her death within the past two years was one of our most faithful and tireless workers in other branches of church work. Putting aside fifty dollars "to grow" was successfully accomplished by the Claude Lorraine Class and the Ladies' Aid, in giving to us such beautiful instruments of music. Not many small churches have been as blest as has this church in Seville. Those who have handled the instruments for many years past, have been fine musicians, not simply

playing the keys as the notes indicated, but have put soul and life into everything they played, and with this same conscientious singing and playing, we are going on until we join the Great Choir, over the River.

Following Mr. Matteson, Mr. Louie Secrist became leader, and when he moved to the west, Mr. Horace Dix led for several years, when he also moved to Akron, then Mrs. Bates and O'Neil Nowell served for a time. After the pipe organ was installed by the Schantz Brothers of Orrville, O. Mrs. Irene Crawford became organist and leader, continuing for sixteen years, followed by Mrs. J. L. Bostwick, later by Mrs. Harold Cook, and the present organist, Mrs. Carl Rohrer, with Mrs. Calvin McCoy as director.

We are happy and grateful for our choir, and the service that is being rendered today.

The present pulpit desk was built by Clarence A. Martin, a brother of Mrs. Alva Foster, Mrs. Homer Hude, and Mrs. Leslie Welday. He also laid out the elliptical half dome at the back of the pulpit platform-- Mr. Martin says "it was an exceedingly difficult piece of work" -- and wonders how he had ever been able to figure it out at that stage of his development—but he did it, and did it correctly. Mr. Martin was for many years a professor in Cornell University in Ithaca, N. Y. He has retired from that work and is now living in Sarasota, Florida.

There are so many items of interest that ought to have been a part of this history, but because of space were omitted. We hope to have the records of the past hundred years put into such condition that those who wish, may have the privilege of reading them. It has not always been smooth sailing, and there have been "rifts" because we are human, but the Spirit of Christ has prevailed; the unhappy experiences have not existed long, and now have been forgotten. There have been 1122 names on the Church Roll, and another cause of rejoicing is in the fact that many who have gone out from us have entered into service for the King and the advancement of His Kingdom at home and abroad; others have occupied positions of high honor among educators and businessmen of the world. Some of these have said of the "Old Home Church" that when problems have presented themselves that were hard to solve, they have returned in imagination to this building and waited until the way was made plain. How we

This ends the documents entitled SEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY 1838 TO 1938 & RECORD and ONE HUNDRED YEARS' HISTORY OF THE SEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH. It would seem, considering the last two words above, that there was more; but it has apparently been lost.

THE YEARS FROM 1938 TO 1988 (50 Years)

First Baptist Church

Seville, Ohio

By Sally Blake

Rev. Charles H. Kern is the minister as the fifty-year history (1938-1988) is prepared.

In the 1890 minutes of our church, business meetings were organized with prayer by the pastor. Today (1988) our business meetings are still opened with prayer by our pastor or, in the pastor's absence, someone chosen by our moderator.

In 1938 the missionary society sent canned fruit and vegetables to the Cleveland Baptist Home. Also money was given toward expenses of a girl in college. In 1988, our missionary society is still sending clothing to Baptist homes. Within the Women's Missionary Society of the Ohio Baptist Convention, our women help support a college student; fill our White Cross quota (Overseas and Overland); collect money for The Annual Love Gift.

Fellowship dinners have always had a place in our church. In 1938 annual dinners such as Harvest and Waffle suppers were held.

In 1938, in anticipation of Rev. and Mrs. Kern returning from their honeymoon, one of the members offered to paint the entire inside of the parsonage at his expense; a new furnace was installed in the parsonage. New carpeting was laid in the Sunday School rooms and in the aisles of the Auditorium as well as new drapes for the Baptistry were donated.

On August 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th, 1939 the 100th year celebration of the church was held. It was reported to be an outstanding success with many of the church members putting their shoulders to the wheel and with God's leadership, the days of celebration were completed.

Enrollment as of May 1, 1938 was 130. Total attendance for 11 months was 3,189 with the largest attendance being 100; smallest attendance being 53 and averaging 70.

On May 29th a motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Carl Rohrer to purchase a new console for the organ from the A. Schantz Organ Company of Orrville. This motion was passed. Mr. Bostwick offered to pay half of the cost with the church paying the balance.

In 1940 the church members voted to add enough to Rev. Kern's salary to make it \$100.00 per month, including the amount received from Granville. The organist and choir director were each given \$10.00 for services rendered. A \$5.00 donation was given to the local Boy Scout Organization.

During March 2 through March 16, 1941, a two week revival was held, with an addition of nine new members.

Throughout these minutes were also included the minutes of the missionary society. The society reported to have held 10 meetings (7 regular; one luncheon; a guest tea and a picnic,) with an average attendance of 14.

In 1942, the Ladies Aid Society purchased new hymnals for the church. The old hymnals were given to the colored church in Wadsworth, Ohio. A rummage sale, a bake sale and bazaar were held during the year as well as serving the annual dinner to the Seville Elevator Company stockholders.

Rev. Kern resigned as of 10/1/1942 after 6 years of seeing the church grow and prosper. In January, 1943, Rev. John H. Bradbury from Radnor, Ohio accepted the call of the Seville Church.

On June 10, 1945, Rev. Bradbury performed the marriage of Raymond Rohrer and Iris Immel. Another wedding was performed by Rev. Bradbury on August 7, 1945 for Glen Tisher and Edith Dyke.

After two years, Rev. Bradbury presented his resignation as pastor effective November 25, 1945.

During the months of December, 1945 and January and February, 1946 the pulpit was filled by supply ministers, one of which, was Rev. William E. Bridge, who agreed to come for three months. During a May 13th, 1946 meeting of the Advisory Board, it was unanimously decided to extend a call to Rev. Bridge to fill the pulpit as pastor.

Three weddings were held: July 20, 1946 for Miss Marjorie Luikart and Mr. Leonard Foster; February 15, 1947 Miss Evelyn Ringler and Mr. James Archer; April 4, 1947 Miss Jewel Bistor and Mr. Carl Still.

During 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Martin; Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Critz and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Swagler celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries.

On October 21st, 1945 during the church service, a vote was taken to dispose of two lots belonging to the church and a part of the old parsonage property. This property was considered to be an expense to the church.

In 1946 the Board of Trustees established four regular quarterly meetings of the Advisory Board to be held the first Friday evening following the last Sunday of each quarter.

On July 7, 1946 the members of the church voted to sell the parsonage. It was sold September 5, 1946.

The Junior Children designated their Sunday School offering of \$5.24 to the Children's Home at Kodiak, Alaska.

In 1947 The World Mission Crusade Committee of the Northern Baptist Convention issued a Citation to the church for paying, in full, the quota of \$1,512. The convention reported pledges of 14 million dollars for the crusade. On a vote, the Citation was framed and hung in the church.

Rev. Bridge preached the Baccalaureate Sermon for the Class of 1947. Rev. Bridge wrote a letter to the members saying; "The association of Mrs. Bridge and myself have been especially pleasant, and we have enjoyed the fine cooperation and fellowship of the people. We believe the time is ripe for advance steps on the part of the church: that of locating a full time pastor; the purchase of a parsonage and an increased budget for the local expense and missions." Although the records do not say but apparently Rev. Bridge remained as pastor until a committee headed by William Sharp reported a Rev. Lewis Hunt was available. This was favorably received by the church members and on May 15, 1949, Rev. Hunt became the pastor at an annual salary of \$1,800 and a parsonage was furnished. Rev. Hunt remained until May 27, 1951 when he opted to attend Seminary. On April 15th, 1950, Ruth Winkler and Claude Moss were married.

Rev. Donald Hoffman came to the church on October, 1951 at an annual salary of \$2400 and the use of the parsonage.

Nineteen members names were added to the church roll. Six members died and four left by letter.

In 1952 the church, accepted the proposal by Dr. A. F. Wolf to purchase the strip of land between the church and Dr. Wolf's office.

On a request by Mrs. Chudar, In January, 1953 the church voted to send clothing to people in Europe, who were suffering from the effects of a recent flood.

On April 23, 1953 the missionary circle hosted the Spring Rally of The Akron Baptist Association with 200 present. The luncheon was served in the Town Hall. The Akron Association sent this word back to the church: They enjoyed the day very much and the drive to Seville through such pretty countryside was truly gratifying. They hoped to do it again sometime.

Rev. Hoffman read his letter of resignation as church pastor effective November 1, 1953.

On November 22, 1953 Rev. Larry Chapman was voted, by unanimous ballot, as pastor of our church. His annual salary was set at \$2,750 plus the parsonage. He and his family will be with us January 1, 1954. (the record read).

On October 4, 1953, a resolution was passed. On a motion by Mrs. Evelyn Detwiler and seconded by John Churdar, the trustees were given the go-a-head to borrow \$2,200 from the Old Phoenix Bank in Seville for a period of 5 years at 5% interest, per annum. This was to be paid in equal monthly payments with the bank holding a mortgage on the parsonage. This money was for extensive repairs on the church exterior such as repointing of the bricks and replacing some of them. The steeple needed repair and the Roof also needed repair. This resolution was signed by Sarah Over, Clerk; and Trustees: Edward Gibbs, Jean Ferguson, Ivan Over, Lucy G. McClintick and Keith Immel.

On May 6, 1954 the church voted to increase the pastor's salary by \$100.

On August 5, 1954 a supply of Communion envelopes were ordered for use by The Deacon's Fellowship Fund. The trustees were given the okay to purchase an addressograph machine.

On November 11, 1954 the loan with the Old Phoenix Bank was paid-in-full. The trustees burned the mortgage before the congregation.

The church agreed to sponsor an Explorer Post of Boy Scouts.

The membership of the church was increased by 31. Three members were lost by death and two by letters to another church.

1955

In May, on a motion by Mrs. Carl Rohrer, the church voted to send \$25. To Mr. Lewis D. Feesler, Cairo, Egypt for servations to The Baptist World Alliance in London, England.

In June, the members agreed to observe the Lord's supper on the first Sunday of alternate months on a trial basis for one year. Fellowship Fund envelopes will be available at all services.

Virgil Kimble motioned to increase Rev. Chapmen's salary to \$3,000 per year. This was seconded by Ivan Over. The members agreed.

On a need for additional classrooms, the trustees presented a plan to excavate under the sanctuary making the space available for a Fellowship Hall and the needed classrooms. The members voted to accept this challenge by donating as much of the labor as possible.

Any amount in the church treasury over \$1,000 is to be put into a building fund. The loose offerings on Comminion Sunday mornings will go to the Fellowship Fund.

Nineteen names were added to the Membership Rolls.

The excavation progress of the church basement was given. The members voted to enter into a contract with Swagler's, Inc. to install a new heating system.

Again the church will sponsor The Boy Scout Explorer Troop.

The members voted to incorporate the church as a "Religious Non-Profit Organization.

1956

On May 2, 1956 the congregation expressed their appreciation and pride for the new Fellowship Hall and Sunday School Classrooms. The clerk was instructed to record a vote of thanks to all those who had worked so hard to make this possible.

After several months of speaking at many church functions, On July 15th the church members voted to grant Mr. Charles Perkins a license to preach. This license is effective for two years.

In November, the church voted to purchase red carpeting from the William Annat Company in Wooster for \$3,000 to be used in the Sanctuary and Sunday School Room.

Following a vote of 48-36 the congregation preferred the Worship Service before Sunday School.

Average attendance for 1956 was 120 plus.

1957

At the January 10th annual meeting the church treasurer, Ruth Moss submitted her report showing expenditures amounting to \$9,201.52 with a balance of \$3,195.75.

During the first part of 1957 a need for a Youth Center was discussed several times. On July 18th a request that our church give a quota of \$720 for the development of a Youth Camp at Loudonville. The church members agreed to send \$500 and the Sunday School to send the remainder immediately.

On August 25th the members agreed to raise Rev. Chapman's salary to \$3600 per year. Fred Willis was hired as custodian.

28 names were added to the Membership roll in 1957.

1958

On March 31st the church members voted to send 1/2 of the loose offering on Easter Sunday morning to the America For Christ Offering.

The leaders of our church have always been alert to the needs of our church and parsonage and others. Under new business it was voted to paint the outside of our church and put up a new bulletin board.

Annual revivals have always been important and a 10 day revival is planned.

The Round Table Class took on the project of purchasing new choir robes. Anyone wishing to contribute to the cost may do so.

A revised constitution was presented for approval.

The JOY Class served a Thanksgiving Dinner to 150 persons with the proceeds going to The Larry Still Heart Fund.

In January, Rev. Chapman was recognized as having been our minister for five years.

The revised version of the church constitution was accepted.

On October 11th, the Advisory Board met to discuss the request of two grocery businessmen applying for a C-2 Carry-out license. On November 8th the recommendation to go on with the court procedure was passed. Five days later on November 13th fifty members went to the Medina County Court House to present the case of these license Carry-outs.

1960

On June 19th, after a discussion of requests for permits of a night club and sale of liquor within the Village of Seville, the Advisory Board approved a motion to prepare a petition for a local option election to be on the ballot in the fall of the year. Also to seek help from sister churches. In October the church members voted to arrange for the proper publicity in connection with the local liquor option to be on the ballot in the coming November election. This would enlighten the voters as to the proper way to mark their ballots. The liquor permits were defeated in the November election.

On an idea by Rev. Chapman to expand the church for future growth years, a motion was made to explore the possibilities of purchasing the lot back of the church.

It was decided to tile the Fellowship Hall floor. John Burton donated a new bulletinboard.

1961

On August, \$1,000 was put in the Church Building Fund for future use.

On September 24th, a new communion table was dedicated to the church by Mrs. Sarah Over, Joanne Townsend, John and Paul Churdar in memory of their parents, Rev. John and Adie Churdar. In many of the minutes of the church business meetings, Rev. and Mrs. Churdar names were mentioned quite often. They certainly were a very viable force in the various church decisions.

On October 5th, the church members voted to accept these needs of the church and parsonage to be completed over a two-year period: For the Church: booster furnace for the East Wing; Sewer Connections; roof on West side. For the parsonage: Painted outside; Kitchen enlargement and improvement; sewer connections. Total estimated are \$2,550. No estimate of the New Heating Unit.

The trustees asked if any class or group would help by taking on any of these projects: Paint and varnish several class rooms areas; Paint church kitchen area; install tile; Varnish kitchen cabinets; Improve wiring conditions at the church and parsonage; trim trees at parsonage; Finish church basement area. While the work was being done on enlarging the improving the kitchen at the parsonage, the women of the church took in various baked goodies and food to the workers.

The pastor was granted a four week vacation during the year to be taken when he saw fit.

Carl Rohrer was made an Honorary Deacon. Following a fellowship dinner, Carl and Elouise Rohrer were honored for 25 years of service. The church presented them with a gift.

1962-1963

The sewer projects for the church and parsonage were completed as well as many of the proposed projects previously listed.

The JOY Class accepted the responsibility of heading up the project to raise \$650 over a three year period for the Cleveland, Akron and Ashtabula Camp Project.

A pension fund was established with the premiums to be paid quarterly by the church.

Representatives to the Akron Baptist Association Executive Body were appointed.

The church members voted to take an offering for The Hunt family.

Plans were proposed for a progressive New Years Eve Party and Watch Night Service beginning with a time of fellowship in homes of the church people.

1964

Preceding the January 12th annual meeting a fellowship dinner was held honoring Rev. and Mrs. Chapman and family with 10 years of being at the helm of our church. An Anniversary Cake and gifts were given to them.

The membership list of our church was divided into two categories: Active and Inactive.

In less than two years the Camp Fund of \$650 was raised through Congregational dinners and contributions.

Church members were invited to the Open House for retiring minister, Rev. M. G. Bishop of the Acme Lutheran Church.

On October 15th, additional insurance was purchased for the parsonage. Rev. Cahpman repaired the chimes on the organ; painted the baptistery and made a new door for the bulletin board.

1965

The church members voted to accept the proposed budget for Missions and the work of the American Baptist Convention and The Ohio Baptist Convention. The total annual mission budget was set at \$2,028 which is 30 cents per member, per week (25 cents going to the American Baptist Convention and the remaining 5 cents to the Ohio Baptist Convention). This is based on 130 active members.

Bids were let to paint the East Room and The Sanctuary.

The Sunday morning services were changed to Sunday School at 10 am followed by Worship Service at 11am.

The members voted to designate 1/3 of our monies going to The Ohio Baptist Forward Fund be changed to Camp Koinonia.

New projects for the church by the trustees consist of: New sidewalks; repair chimney and new lights for the Sanctuary and East Room.

\$65 From the JOY Class and \$30 from the Round Table Class was designated for new cots at Camp Koinonia.

Insulation was done over the Sanctuary and East Room and 25 feet of sliding doors was purchased to be installed in the Fellowship Hall.

1966

On January 7th, it was voted by the members to borrow \$1,500, if necessary, to guarantee payment on new sidewalks, sandblasting and pointing of exterior bricks and new steps. These projects were completed by May 1st at a cost of \$4,718.85 with no need for borrowing from a bank. The church was also waterproofed and safety hand rails installed.

Rev. Chapman tendered his resignation effective April 30th. After 13 years of growth, both spiritually and in membership, and effective leadership and ministry, Rev. Chapman felt compelled to follow God's direction to accept the call to the Perrysville Baptist Church at Perrysville, Ohio. With regret this resignation was accepted. A farewell dinner and Love Gift was presented to the Chapman family.

A pulpit committee was appointed to secure a new minister.

Our church received a first place trophy for its display in the parade for the Seville Village Sesquicentennial Celebration.

We had several ministers as interim preachers and those who came as Candidates.

1967

On April 2, Rev. James Robison came as our minister. After a complete going over by the members of the church, the parsonage was made ready for our new minister and his family. Plans were made for a reception for Rev. and Mrs. Robinson to be held on April 30th. The community was invited.

It was agreed to change Sunday School time to 9:30am for the summer months. A floor polisher for the church was purchased. The Round Table Class is purchasing new lights, costing \$1,819.60, for the Sanctuary and East Room with a large part of the cost coming from money donated by some of our senior members. New wiring for these lights will cost \$1,080.

On October 8th the members voted, by ballot, to begin Sunday School at 9:30am and Church at 10:30am.

1968

On April 18th, the new lights are in the Sanctuary and East Room. All the special electrical wiring, with separate switches, have been completed.

The old Church Bible has been reconditioned and placed on a special base made by Rev. Robison. A donation of \$25. For the Ohio Dormitory at Judson College.

A Day Center has been established for the senior citizens of the Seville Village by The Association of Seville Churches held in The Seville Presbyterian Church.

The church was given a good spring cleaning under the guidance of Mrs. Robison. The woodwork was washed and polished as well as the church pews. The drapes were taken down, cleaned and rehung and the windows washed. Also, the American flag and The Christian flag were cleaned and returned to the Sanctuary.

On November 18th the church agreed to let the Cloverleaf School Board rent space in the Fellowship Hall for one class room, probably 2nd or 3rd Grade. The lunch, recesses and bathroom periods will be held in the Seville Elementary School, which is across from our church. Mrs. Sarah Over is the teacher.

The Missionary Budget was increased to 35 cents per member, per week (an increase of 5 cents). Of this among 1/3 is still to be designated for Camp Koinonia.

1969

On June 26th, a Junior Superintendent was appointed for our Junior Church.

A committee was appointed to erect signs at various places within The Seville Village designating the where-abouts of our church.

On Sunday, September 29th an anniversary dinner was held in The Fellowship Hall of the church honoring Mr. and Mrs. Roy Swainhart, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rohrer, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fraunfelder, Mr. and Mrs. John Bistor for their 50th Wedding Anniversaries and Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Jarvis on their 63rd Wedding Anniversary. Each participant was given a lovely floral arrangement and special music just for them.

The Seville Ministerial Association has changed its name to The Association of Seville Churches. A representative from each of the Seville Churches along with the respective ministers to comprise this group. On October 9th our first representative was appointed. For the support of this group each church is assessed 10 cents per member. Our church members voted to comply based on the membership as of 12/31 of the previous year.

A salary increase was favorably voted for Rev. Robison including a salary support from The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of the Ohio Baptist Convention.

1970

Mrs. William Eby was hired as the church custodian during the January 10th meeting.

On April 9 Rev. James Robison tendered an oral resignation, after three years as our pastor. On April 19th a pulpit committee was appointed. The Robison family was given permission to store their furnishings at the parsonage for two months or longer, if necessary.

Rev. Phil Newhart of the Ohio Baptist Convention suggested our church make some revisions to our Constitution. It was decided to do a general revision and a revision committee was appointed and they will get constitutions from other churches equal to our size. Also, help will be asked from Granville and Valley Forge.

At the April 19th business meeting, the members voted to approve the general revision of our constitution.

A \$50 donation was sent to the Institutional Support of Judson College.

A 30-day option was taken to buy the property directly behind the church for \$12,500. The buyer is asking \$13,500.

During the July 5th meeting a letter was sent to the State Liquor Control Board to request a hearing to object to the Issuance of C1 and C2 liquor permits for the Open Pantry Food Mart #34. The State Liquor Control Board had advised us, at an earlier date, that our church is within 500 feet of this food mart and we had a right to object. 15 members attended a hearing on Wednesday, August 26th in the Seville Library. On September 23rd, The Department of Liquor Control for the State of Ohio ruled that the burden of showing substantial prejudice was not met and overruled the objections of the C1 and C2 liquor permits.

During 1970 our church gained 5 members and lost seven (5 by letter, 2 by death).

1971

On January 10th, Rev. L. Milton Hankins was installed as our pastor by Rev. Joseph I. Chapman, Executive Minister of the Ohio Baptist Convention. The ministers from the Seville Village Churches attended a reception in our Fellowship Hall, following. Also Rev. Larry Chapman drove up from Perrysville Baptist Church in Perrysville, Ohio.

During January, the Seville Town Council installed new curbs at the side of our church. Our church clerk wrote a thank you letter to the Seville Council.

On February 11th an adding machine was purchased for church use.

The Schantz Organ Company was contracted to tune the organ on a regular basis of two times a year.

Trustees purchased storm windows for the upstairs at the parsonage.

A new piano was purchased for the Fellowship Hall. On May 30th the scene painted on our Baptism backdrop was dedicated with the local artist, Mrs. Eugene Drogell, present to explain each portion of the scene.

On September 16th, the church agreed to purchase the property back of the church for \$13,500. From Ed Roth of Sterling, Ohio. Sixty Bonds were cashed for a down payment. The trustees have borrowed \$8,200. Payable at \$99.49 a month for 10 years. The house on the property is rented for \$60 per month. Harley Fetzer worked very hard executing this option.

On October 17th, Rev. Hankins resigned after one year as our pastor. Mrs. Lehanna Riedel was hired at \$15 a week as Church Secretary to answer correspondence and type church bulletins in the absence of a pastor.

1972

On Sunday, January 9th, Rev. L. E. Hunter from Brunswick First Baptist Church filled our pulpit as a candidate. He accepted the call as our minister on January 17th. His installation was held on April 23rd.

On April 23rd the church went on record as being against the State Lottery and against the lottery being legalized. This decision was forwarded to the Ohio Baptist Convention. Pastor Hunter reported the Association of Seville Churches is also against the State Lottery.

The members voted to join The Northern Ohio Sunday School Association for \$25 per year.

On a request by the church treasurer, the members voted to permit her to put the Building Fund; the Organ Fund; Cash reserve Fund and Kitchen Fund into a Savings Account. As of April 13th the Church Treasurer and the Financial Secretary have been bonded.

The trustees reported the Public Address system was replaced; Cleaned gutters and closed off the stage platform in the Fellowship Hall to hold our business machines and make an office for the church secretary.

In 1972, 29 members names were added to our church membership with 3 losses (1 by letter and 3 by death).

1973

On June 26th the members voted to tear down the house on the newly acquired property directly back of the church, due to the fact it would cost more to fix it up than the trustees thought was feasible. A registered letter will be sent to the renters telling they have 30 days to vacate the premises. This letter was delivered by Herman Perry, Chief of Seville Police. No more rent to be paid.

The Church is trying new Baptist Curriculum for three months. On October 11th the Church members voted to switch over to Baptist Publications curriculum for our Sunday School.

Rev. L. E. Hunter resigned on November 1st, after a little over a year as our pastor.

Rev. Frederick Harrold of Akron came to fill our pulpit as Interim Pastor.

The Akron Baptist Convention voted to start a new church in Canton. This Church Community is in Willshire Hills. Our church voted to designate \$300 from the Ohio Baptist Forward Fund to help this church get started. The new church is named Willshire Hills Baptist Church, Canton.

1974

The Leib Plumbing and Heating were given the go-ahead to insulate and completely cover the heating pipes in the Fellowship Hall at a bid of \$400.

The church paid the Seville Fire Department \$25 for burning down the house behind the church. Mr. Lawrence Bartter was paid \$175 for filling in the foundation where the house stood and for leveling the ground.

The members voted to purchase a new movie projector, screen and reel for use in the church wherever needed.

The parsonage was given another good going over including new carpeting upstairs and down; new wallpaper over the entire house. The outside of the parsonage was painted at a cost of \$650.

Rev. David Dodridge accepted our call as pastor and took over our pulpit in August, 1974.

1975

The Church Secretary was asked to prepare a list of members and their addresses.

For many years our church has helped support an oriental girl. This year our child is a boy named Chan Ho Ping at \$14. per month.

The time for Sunday Evening Service was changed from 8 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A parking spot was set aside, along the street, for the pastor and 4 parking spaces on our own property, one of which is for our church secretary.

1976

The Round Table Class had new blue drapes and the arm chair back of the pulpit reupholstered in the same blue material for the Sanctuary.

Our church will have a float in the Seville Village Bi-Centennial Parade.

New outside doors with safety features as required for public buildings by the State of Ohio were installed. These doors were painted along with the trim of the church and caulking of the windows and the spouting painted.

A Building Improvement Fund was started for any future improvements on the church property.

The Church members appointed a committee to pursue the possibilities of purchasing the property on the Corner of Market and Liberty Streets which is directly adjacent to our parking lot.

1977

A baby nursery shower is planned for items needed in our Church nursery.

A program within the Village of Seville named, "Meals on Wheels" was received favorably by our members. This program would provide meals at a nominal fee, for folks unable to prepare nourishing meals for themselves. The members voted to set aside \$50. In the 1978 budget for this program.

William Bordacs was made an Honorary Deacon following his resignation as Deacon due to ill health.

The church monthly newsletter will be named "SBC Express" (Seville Baptist Church Express). Sally Blake is the editor and Richard White will design the letterhead.

On February 27th the members voted to buy the property at the Corner of Market and Liberty Streets for \$4,500. The money is to be taken out of the Building Fund.

1978

Our church treasurer was given the okay to pay the increase in Medina County taxes for any amount over the above that set aside in the budget. Also, the Oriental Child we are supporting is 6 years old.

The members voted to purchase shirts for our often winning bowling team at \$10 per shirt for the six regular bowlers.

The photographer for our Pictorial Record of our members will be here on March 10th to discuss the particulars of the program. The picture taking will take place in April.

A compassion Fund was set up with the Board of Deacons deciding just where it is needed.

Our treasurer reported \$274 was added to the organ fund. This money is generated from the share of Woolworth Stock left us by the Bostwick family to take care of the organ.

New steps and sidewalks around the church costing \$1,348 will be started in Mid-October. Contractor is Jack Anello, Wadsworth.

The members voted to charge outside groups \$40 to use our church and \$55 to use our church and kitchen facilities.

Spouting and gutters were repaired and new storm windows were put on at the parsonage.

8 inch insulation for the church and parsonage costing \$3,139.62 and \$852 respectively was completed.

1980

The Korean Child's support has gone to \$16 per month and this was agreed to by the church members.

1981 and 1982

The choir has new blue robes. The old robes are being sent to Nigerian Baptist Church costing the church \$75 for postage.

1983

Our church was used to display the Seville Village Bates items with Joyce Crislip taking charge.

Ceiling fans were put up in The Sanctuary and The East Room. The newly enlarged nursery has been completed.

New church hymnals have been purchased with a blue cover and the church's name and address on the front cover. Many of our families donated money in memory of loved ones and had their names put on the inside cover.

The interior of the church was painted.

The members voted to give \$60 per month to Camp Koinonia.

1984

A candleabra was purchased for use in the Church with part of the money from the James McCormick Estate.

1985

New hardwood flooring and Blue Heather Carpeting were put down in the sanctuary, The East Room and the Pastor's study costing \$5,500. A lot of donated labor and time went into the completion of this task.

1986

Rev. David Dodridge resigned effective June 15th

The trustees recommended the parsonage be sold; deposit the money and the interest be put toward a housing allowance for the pastor. The members voted to give the trustees the go-ahead to sell the parsonage in whatever manner they saw fit. The parsonage was sold and the money invested.

On July 20, 1986, Rev. John McDanel became our minister.

1987

Mike Daniele is our Youth Director.

A celebration is being planned for our church's 150th Anniversary on June 19, 1988.

There is a desire among the members to add an Education Building to the church. This possibility is being explored by the various leaders of our church.

A total of 11 members have been received into the membership of the church. A high of 102 were in attendance during some of our Sunday morning services.

On May 27th the Bea Anderson Missionary Circle decided to disband. Many of the members had passed away and the several left were free to join the Eva Swagler Missionary Circle. These two circles have been active in the affairs of the church for many years.

1988

On March 21st, Rev. John McDanel died after heart surgery in the Cleveland Clinic. This was a sad time for the members. On a recommendation by Rev. [Phil Newhart] of the Ohio Baptist Convention, Mike Daniele was unanimously voted, by the church members, on May 15th as our pastor.

The committee for the 150th Birthday of our Church's existence has purchased plates with the church name, picture and dates for sale. Also, our Young Married Adult Class has a recipe book for sale, in which, many favorite recipes of our members has been compiled.

The members had their pictures taken earlier in 1987 for a new Pictorial Review. That has been completed and each member, will receive a copy.

IN RETROSPECT

In going over the minutes of the business meetings, of our church, not too many names were mentioned. However, such groups as: The Trustees; The Board of Deacons(or Diaconate Board); Advisory

Board; Music Board and many others were mentioned. The notation, "Motion carried by the vote of the members" was also mentioned many times.

Those of these various boards and the voting members know who you are but more importantly, God knows who you are.

God bless each and every one of you who have put your shoulder to the wheel and pushed many programs and plans to a successful completion.

There have been good times and bad times; rough seas and calm rivers; turbulent winds and calm breezes throughout the 150 years of our church. With strong leadership, looking to God for His divine guidance, the task has been done.

Can the young leaders coming along do any less? Of course they can't and nor would they want to.

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HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of SEVILLE, OHIO

1988 – 2013

By Sally Blake

1988

175 years have passed since in 1838 a group of dedicated Baptists were meeting in each others' homes. They probably envisioned a regular church building.

And in 1845 this church was built on a tract of land donated by Henry Hosmer, one of the original founders of the Village of Seville.

As our 1988 history begins Rev. John McDanel is our pastor. He initiated a discussion of how our church could support Mike and Lori Daniele in their Trans World Radio mission. \$1000 was motioned and passed to be put into the Trans World Radio Mission.

The church was saddened by the death of Pastor John McDanel. Floral arrangements were prepared as a memorial to Pastor McDanel.

Following the death of Pastor McDanel, on May 15, 1988, Mike Daniele became our pastor. He had been our Youth Pastor along with his wife Lori.

A sample of a commemorative plate for the 150 years of our church was presented with prepay money to be taken from the interest paid on the sale of our parsonage and deposited in the general fund of the church. The cost is 100 plates at \$9.50 each.

1989

Discussions were made as to the feasibility of an addition to our church. A questionnaire was prepared for each member to express their thoughts and needs of our church for such an undertaking.

1990

At a church business meeting Bill Starkey reported the building committee will have a recommendation for the building of the addition by April. In the April 22, 1990 during a business meeting a workable plan by architect, Bill Kinkopf was presented. The total cost was set at \$260,000. But with the donation of the excavating and our members doing the demolition that was needed to proceed the price could be even less.

At a vote by ballot the members at this meeting voted 20 in favor of proceeding with the structure of the addition – 5 against. Motion passed. The final drawings by the architect will be forthcoming. The S.O.S. class volunteered to head up this building project.

Pastor Mike Daniele was considered as a candidate for further education to Ashland Theological Seminary.

In October our Marlene Berger (Leidy) became our church organist.

1991

A television and VCR was purchased for the Fellowship Hall.

Adam Vetter became groundskeeper—doing routine maintenance throughout the church.

One hundred seven inquiry-pledge packets were sent out. A total of \$112,960 has been received from these pledges for the addition of our church. An additional \$32,000 from others and memorials.

Building Committee chairman, Bill Starkey, reported the building committee prefers a sub-contractor rather than a general contractor thus some of the expenses could be less as some of our members can do finishing work, plumbing and electrical work. Also some are qualified to do finish carpentry and clean-up.

A loan of \$50,000. was secured from Old Phoenix Bank in Seville using our churches \$40,000 as collateral.

Plans were received from William Kinkoph (architect) for \$71,545.00. A loan of "A line of credit" with Old Phoenix Bank in Seville for \$35,000 at 7 3/4 % was secured.

The Seville School gave permission to use their building and bathrooms as needed for youth activities at a regular fee.

It was noted our organ was built in 1918 by the Schantz Organ Company in Orrville. In 1938 a new console was done costing \$115,000.

Adam Riedel is working to achieve his God & Country Award in Scouting.

2

Our church pledged \$500 towards a new water well at Camp Koinonia (our church camp)

On Sunday morning, August 4, 1991, during the worship service, Pastor Mike Daniele led the congregation in a ground-breaking ceremony for the new addition. Also David Carper, area minister for the Ohio Baptist Convention and building committee chairman, Bill Starkey taking part. This addition will house Sunday school classrooms, secretary's office, Pastor's study, bathrooms, fellowship hall and an elevator encompassing two floors.

1992

A Pastoral Relations Committee was formed.

The building committee was disbanded due to the fact the Medina County Building Department on their final inspection of the building passed with flying colors.

We will continue to support "Our Child" through World Vision.

A new furnace was purchased costing \$4500.

A communion tray and 2 bread trays were donated to the church by the Jarvis family.

1993

Seville School was paid \$372.00 for rental of some of its facilities used for recreation for our youth.

Bibles were purchased for gifts to our young people.

It was voted to reinstate the \$35,000 loan with Old Phoenix in Seville to pay for the repairs on the steeple and grounds finishing.

The moderator appointed Laura Cullop, Brian Starkey and Thor Larson as the Pastoral Relations Committee.

The budget for Pastor Mike Daniele's continuing education was set at \$1,000 (more if he requests it). The Pastor was given an extra week of vacation.

Ruth Gilson presented the church with a Gold Bible Stand in memory of her husband, Dave Gilson.

Total cost of our new building addition is \$208,624.34.

Martha Pope has been cleaning our church for a year. A motion was passed to extend to her a week's vacation with pay.

A church Pictorial Directory for 1993 is being prepared with Sally Blake in charge.

A new copy machine is in the church office. The church is to consider whether to buy, rent or lease it.

The church is giving \$.50 cents per member to The Baptist Akron Area Association.

A changing table was donated to our nursery.

1994

The piano in the East Room was moved to the New Fellowship Hall.

The loan at the bank was paid off as of February 7, 1994.

Transportation is available for those wishing to attend the Billy Graham Crusade in Cleveland June 8th through June 12th.

Vacation Bible School will be "A Country Farm Fair" as its theme, to be held August 15th – 19th from 6:00 to 8:30pm.

1995

A piano for the choir room was donated by Stan Scheetz.

The responsive reading was reinstated for the morning worship service with Frank Potts doing the presentation.

Melinda Moss was accepted as substitute pianist and organist.

New rails were installed in the Baptistery.

The concrete addition to the church Parking Lot was done costing \$5,892.

This year's Vacation Bible School theme will be "Sontown" for the week of August 14th – 18th from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

The Constitution changes the regular business meetings of the church from Wednesdays to Sundays.

After 8 ½ years Pastor Mike Daniele announced his resignation in a letter on July 7, 1995. His final day is September 3, 1995

West of the Sanctuary, a tree that is showing deterioration in the center was removed costing \$900.00

3

The Salvation Army representative from Cleveland met with Roger Crislip, Don Graves, Bill Starkey and Sally Blake. They will take care of the needs of The Salvation Army until a permanent representative is available.

Rev. Kidwell and his wife Murleen, our interim pastor will fill out pulpit on October 15th. The Kidwells will be residing with Bill and Garnet Starkey until spring.

Melanie Edmonds and Tammy Starkey are helping to start a Children's Choir.

1996

Rev. Terry N. Tareila and his wife MaryAnn along with their daughter, Dawn, began his ministry with us on June 9th.

From June 30th to July 6th Bill and Garnet Starkey, Brian Starkey, Rick Fargo, Daryll McAviney, Roger and Joyce Crislip went on a mission trip to Neon, Kentucky in Bill Starkey's van to work on a house for underprivileged residents. The men finished the roof, built a front porch, a back deck and put up drywall in the living/dining area. They installed insulation throughout the interior. Our church provided \$1107. For the trip -- \$200 was used for food, the remainder sent to Homes, Inc. While the men worked, the women prepared meals, did clean-up, took pictures and kept a log of the day's activities. Also drove into town to do laundry and purchased needed items. On the way home, several side trips were taken.

The copy machine was rented for office use.

The S.O.S. class was given permission to use the church parking lot during the Seville Annual Yard Sale for parking of cars.

A dishwasher was donated to our church.

A farewell was given to Rev. Kidwell and Murlene as they are leaving our church after serving as our Interim pastoral family.,

The Tareila's were moved from Pennsylvania into their home in Seville and into the pastor's study at church.

The west roof of the church was finished.

Air conditioning for the entire church building was done with money from the Esther Gibbs will.

A mission trip to "The Ohio Haiti Project" was planned. In October of 1996 Bill Starkey went from our church with Christians from other churches to Haiti. With the temperature at 95 degrees the work was difficult for the Ohio group. The Haitians were used to the heat. With the language in Creole (French) in a lot of cases an interrupter was needed. Arriving at Cape Haitian our house was also used by our cooks as they prepared our meals. They also did our laundry by hand. Thirteen days were spent here, work was done by replacing a rotten roof with a new one; for 1,000 children at a retreat camp 40 bunk beds built; a latrine.

The group spent 3 days Port au Prince in a university more bunk beds built & latrine. Built a computer center. Beautiful flowers, palms and fruit trees were everywhere. Matchbox cars were given as gifts to the children for Christmas. No Birthday celebrations. Just guessed at their ages. We all need to remember of how much the Haitian people need to know about Jesus Christ because of Voodoo.

1997

Seven adults and four children from our church including Bob and Lou Banther; Lee and Melanie Edmonds and their children Rachel, Ginger, Emily and Tyler; Roger and Joyce Crislip and Bill Starkey went to Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Our church purchased \$1100.00 for building materials, nails, paint, wood, curtain rods. The work done was removing the roof of one house and carport and replacing sheathing and trim, shingles on the roof. The trim was painted, shutters removed cleaned and painted. The entire house was cleaned and painted and made ready for the next teacher coming to Bacone College. At our home church, under the leadership of Garnet Starkey, the women made drapes with white curtain linings for the dormitories at Bacone College.

1998

A new copy machine was purchased for the church office.
The east side of the church parking lot was graveled. The sidewalks and retaining walls on the east side were done. Hand rails were installed on the front entrance steps of the church.
Frank Potts was honored for 14 years' service on the Diaconate Board.
Our church sponsored the Salvation Army bell ringer activities in Seville this Christmas.
Doug Morrison is providing professional guidance for the review and upgrading our church library.

4

Our youth group finished painting and redecorating the Old Fellowship Hall. The trustees put in a new floor, new baseboards and removed old carpeting costing \$3,060. It was moved and seconded to purchase new tables for the New Fellowship Hall.

The landscaping was finished.

Our church will host the Akron Area Baptist Association's Fall Rally on September 20th.

Marlene and Ed Leidy built and painted the new shutters for the steeple. Now the pigeons can no longer roost there.

Eighty chairs have been purchased for the new fellowship hall. Garnet Starkey made pads for them.

The "Word of Life" Club in our church is alive and well.

The repointing of the bricks around the outside of the church by Seaboard Restoration costing \$4,000 was done.

Signs for "Handicapped Parking" and "Parking for Church Members only" and church property.

The church donated money for the Child Safety and Drug Education program conducted by the Seville Police Department.

1999

Ed Leidy built the sound system cabinet. Rick Fargo does snow removable.

The church purchased a copyright license in order to copy music for use in our worship service.

Bob Banther is our moderator.

The church parking lot was waterproofed.

Laura and Walt Cullop painted another classroom. They had painted other classrooms.

2000

The Seville Elementary School and our church will split the cost of the chip-and-seal the area on the east side of our church at a cost of \$650 each.

It was agreed in a business meeting that 13 shares of the G. E. stock be sold. The money given to Koinonia Missions.

Work was done on a cabin by our church members at Camp Koinonia.

Rick Fargo reported his employer Union Gospel Press has put a picture of our church on the 2001 spring edition of the "Bible Expositor and Illuminator" which has a worldwide circulation.

\$6,000 was put into the Sanctuary Renovation Fund. The renovations have begun.

Refurbishing of our piano – total cost \$5,000 plus shipping.

The Seville Elementary School will continue snow plowing maintenance of all our parking areas for the winter season. In exchange our church agreed to permit the school to park their cars in these parking areas except if our church has special activities.

A "male cake bake" and talent night was held on a Sunday evening.

2001

"Feed a Child" program has been active with offerings on the third Sunday of each month.

Eight puppets were purchased for the "Word of Life" group costing \$300.

Sunday school picnics have been a vital part of our church and still are.

Bill Starkey reported on the progress of the sanctuary renovation – drywall, shutters, lights, painting, sanding of hardwood floors and then 5 coats of varnish, trim, baseboards. Goal for completion is Sept. 1st.

Church mugs are given to visitors.

Jerry Armentrout, Tim Keith, Debbie Stepleton, and Melanie Edmonds make up The Guilford Gospel quartet. We all have enjoyed their singing.

Bill Starkey announced the renovation of the Sanctuary is complete. He thanked all who helped with the project.

New chairs were purchased for the Pastor's study.

A computer printer and computer desk were installed in the Secretary's office.

5

2002

Glass block windows for our church were paid for.

Lehanna Riedel reported the dinners at 5:30pm on Wednesday evenings have been a success.

The women trace, cut out, sew and stuff bunnies for the children in the emergency room at Lodi Hospital.

Roof repairs that need to be done, the trustees will take of this.

The Seville Cabin at Camp Koinonia is nearing completion. This year's project is to build a multi-purpose shelter at the camp at a cost of \$1100. The church agreed.

Easter services included Maundy Thursday with "The Lord's Table," Sunrise services, and Sunday morning services.

The new sound system was installed.

During a lightning strike on our church the phone, blower for the organ and sound system were taken out. Insurance will cover most of the cost of replacement and repair.

The "Feed a Child" program was discontinued.

2003

The project to build a shelter at Camp Koinonia was completed.

Choir robes were cleaned. Choir room cleaned out. Old hymnals and music were given away to members that wanted them. The rest were sent to a Baptist Church in Southern Ohio. New hymnals were purchased. Members can help with the cost by writing in them "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" someone dear to them at a donation of \$10. each.

A monthly mission offering on the third Sunday will go to Camp Koinonia to help pay for the new swimming pool. To date \$1,605.63 was sent.

The Guilford Gospel Quartet is busy cutting their first CD; they sang at Meadowview Care Center and our Sunday night service.

Bill Starkey will have an AARP driving class called "55 Alive" to be held in our church. The cost is \$10.00 per person to AARP. Fifteen attended the 2 day class and all passed.

Honoring high school graduates has always been a privilege for us and still is.

From the Roy Winter Memorial Fund \$400 went for chairs and the rest toward new tables for our new Fellowship Hall.

We are helping to support a first grade child in Cambodia through World Vision from the Children Church Sponsors. Pam Winter takes care of this.

New labels and our Church Covenant were placed in the new hymnals.

2004

After we had our new church hymnals, we sent our former ones to the Unity Baptist Church in Monroe County, Ohio. This church sent their heartfelt appreciation for our hymnals and say they will put them to good use.

Our church members rang the bells again for The Seville Unit of The Salvation Army during December. The money collected will help those in need under the Seville Unit umbrella.

The Home of Don and Eileen Hinkle was a project for the year. The old roof of the house was removed and replaced with a new one. The garage and house were painted. Thanks to Bill Starkey and Roger Crislip who led this effort.

An outside ramp was built for another family.

New posts and handrails were installed for the East Room entrance at church.

Using Memorial funds ten chairs were purchased for the Faith Classroom. Also nine tables were bought for the new Fellowship Hall.

The Guilford Gospel Quartet has been busy singing at various functions and for our shut-ins. They sang at the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. They are also cutting a cd.

With the White Cross Quota, our women's group helped with items and money needed to support our missionaries both national and international.

Michael Jones is our youth leader. The Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups are using the old fellowship hall for some of their activities.

The Seville Cabin at Camp Koinonia is an ongoing mission project.

Pastor Terry Tareila is now the President of The Akron Area of ABC Pastor's group.

Summer electives are very much a part of our Sunday school.

6

A phone was installed in the church sanctuary, if needed.

A gospel sing was held on the steps of our church during the Seville Village Yard Sale on June 19th, 2004.

2005

Our piano and organ was tuned on regular times of the year. Also the organ motor repaired.

Humming Hands are still meeting on Wednesday evenings to stuff bunnies for the children in the Emergency Room at Lodi Hospital. Also the White Cross Quotas included was collected.

The Seville Food Pantry is alive and well at our church.

Doug Morrison was named our Church Librarian.

The Word of Life Groups are very active in various church activities.

Mike Jones was a camp Counselor for the senior camp at Camp Koinonia.

The church had a float in the Seville Memorial Day Parade to promote Vacation Bible School.

The trustees bought and installed a new dehumidifier for the Fellowship Hall.

Lou Banther is moving ahead with the project of two stained glass windows for the front of our church in memory of her husband, Bob Banther.

The church celebrated the 80th birthday of Helen Murrey by sending her flowers and a card signed by all our members.

2006

Secured the Master Puppet team from Cedarville College to lead our Vacation Bible School.

Under Mike Jones, the youth director, the youth once a month are in charge of the entire morning worship with Mike preaching.

The Quarter dinners are held in our church for various projects.

In a letter to Thomas Huffman, District representative to the General Board of ABC-USA our church stated "Our church does not believe that the Homosexual Lifestyle is Biblical and we do not condone such activity."

Mike Oxendine was called to fill our pulpit. An Open House was held for the Oxendine family.

The church was opened for the Seville Giant Fest for two Historical presentations. It was well attended.

No Skate Boarding and Handicapped signs were erected.

2007

Combining the churches four lots into one for tax purposes was completed.
A Harvest Fest including a hayride and game night was held at the Riedel farm.
An All Sons Banquet was held with Auctioneer Harold Farnsworth as main speaker. Dinner followed.
Denise Fargo will head up "Supplies for Seville School" with our members donating items.
The Youth Group is busy with providing parking spaces for various Seville activities.
The Multi-media/sound system was installed and is being used.
The church voted to give money for The World Mission offering to The Karen refugees in the Akron Area Association.

2008

Most of the exterior doors of the church were installed. The front double doors are on order.
The Treasurer's books for 2006 and 2007 were audited. Good report.
The Church will send \$100 twice a year for our Cambodian Child through World Vision for school supplies rather than sending them as postage is expensive.
Tammy Starkey is our Sunday School Superintendent.
Pam Winter was recognized for her many years as Church Treasurer. Refreshment were served.
\$11,000 was raised for The Lyndhurst Challenge at Camp Koinonia. A goal of \$75,000 by July 2009.
Walt and Laura Cullop are cleaning our church.
The trustees purchased a new vacuum cleaner.
Money was set aside for Pastor Mike Oxendine's furthering education.

7

2009

Lou Banther and Melanie Edmonds are serving as the Constitution Committee.
Roger and Joyce Crislip were appointed as delegates to ABC/Ohio with voting rights.
Wanda Ratliff organized the annual "Christmas Tea."
A bell choir was started.
The Karen Refugees are worshipping each Sunday at The Springfield Baptist Church.
Our Church withdrew our relationship with ABC/USA over the Homosexual issue. We are still with ABC/Ohio churches and the Akron Area Association of ABC Churches.

2010

In a letter from the Ohio Department of Taxation that exempted our church from taxation, stated "The monies collected from taxes, penalties and interest for tax years of 2006, 2007 and 2008 will be remitted to our church."
Mike Oxendine left as our pastor July 11, 2010.
Our pulpit is filled by Pastor Tom Chmura through January 2011.
"Beyond Calvary" gospel singers will perform in our church November 14, 2010 through the efforts of Wanda Ratliff.
The painting and cleaning of church windows was done.
Monies from Sunday school offerings are designated for the Seville Food Pantry that is stationed in our church.
The New Revised Constitution was adopted by secret ballot during the business meeting.
In July the New Fellowship hall and Kitchen floors was stripped and rewaxed.
The Bell Choir performed for Easter.

2011

Pastor Tom and Sharon Chmura are our ministering family as of October 23, 2011
The monies from the Sunday school offerings previously going to The Seville Food Pantry are now designated for The Seville Unit of The Salvation Army. Through no fault of those taking care of the Seville Food Pantry it was closed December 31, 2010 and moved elsewhere.
Two new hot water tanks were installed.

Trustee Jim Winter thanked the volunteers doing weekly cleaning of the church; secretarial work and other work.

Meghan Johnson is our pianist on Sunday each month.

Amanda Krohne is directing the cantata "Amazing Grace" for Easter worship service.

Our former VBS material was given to the Race Track Missions.

Frank Potts was honored at church on his 90th birthday with an ice cream cake.

Camp points are again available for our children to earn money for their time at Camp Koinonia.

Church Picnic was held again in Cy Hewit Park just as in the past.

The hallways in our education wing were painted by Roger Crislip.

A 3 year contract with Time Warner for internet access and phone combination was purchased.

2012

The mission goal was set for \$8,000.

We have a new Cambodian child, Menea Na. Our church will send \$35.00 once a month and an extra \$100 per quarter for her needs.

Dorothy Groover became a deaconess.

A new class for graduates and older teenagers was started with Joyce Crislip as teacher.

Tim Fargo and Dusty Riedel were honored as high school graduates with a book and a gift certificate.

Special singing groups, "The Copenhavers," "Beyond Calvary," Elaine and Mary Grable, The Akron Songster Quartet have been with us.

Our church's ad is in The Post newspaper.

2013

The ABWM hosted the Seville Historical Society Christmas dinner as well as packing and delivering fourteen Thanksgiving baskets for shut-ins; sent nineteen tins of cookies to those in college and the military; made eighty table decorations for the Meadowview Nursing Home in Seville. And each month sent twenty-five stuffed bunnies to the Emergency Room at Lodi Hospital for children there.

Pastor Tom Chmura is busy with many avenues of our church even though his primary job is with The Cleveland Salvation Army.

Our church is gearing up for our church's 175th celebration.

A new computer was purchased for our church office.

Joyce Crislip is playing our piano for church services with Marlene Leidy-Berger still playing our organ.

The Audit Committee found the church's checks and receipts in good order.

Six new members were added to our congregation.

The Seville United Methodist Church thanked our church for the money and food for their food pantry.

Wanda Ratliff did the Christmas Tea and Testimony again.

As the year unfolds our church is moving ahead with Pastor Tom Chmura and Sharon at the helm as our ministering family.

Under the leadership of Garnet Starkey and Joyce Crislip many of our members are making time and effort to carry out the plans for the 175th anniversary of our church for June 15th and 16th. Included is a quilt of squares with names of our congregation written on them with a message and/or verses of scriptures; pictures of present and past years. This quilt was put together by Pam Winter and Laura Cullopp. There will be a display about Captain Bates and his wife Anna. All of this will be available for our Open House on Saturday and an old fashioned worship service on Sunday.

Can we reminisce a bit?

Over the years our great and awesome God has cleared the way for our congregation to purchase the two properties behind our church building and a strip of land between our church and Dr. Wolf's building. That makes our church property to extend from East Main Street back to Market Street. Several additions have been added to the original building.

With God as our Pilot and Guide and the congregation putting their shoulder to the wheel the work was done and our church is debt free. Praise God.

Sally Blake

EXERPTS FROM
1816 SEVILLE 1916 – THE EVOLUTION OF A RURAL COMMUNITY

Page 47-54

In the unfolding of a rural community no force is so effective or permanent as that of the Christian Church, and it is fitting that a community history should give a large place to the records of the churches.

Seville may fairly be called a Christian Community. A large majority of its people are church going people. It is an interesting task to chronicle the progress of one of the important organizations that has done its part to make it so.

Early in the century the Seville people felt the need of the church, and the first settler, Mr. Henry Hosmer, though not a church man himself, expressed his conviction by donating to the Baptist Church the very desirable corner lot which has since been occupied as their church home.

It is said that the first sermon ever preached in Seville was by Rev. Rufus Freeman, Senior, a Baptist minister who took for his text, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life."

It was delivered in a little log cabin which stood about in the center of what is now the business part of the village. Mr. Freeman had four sons and two grandsons in the Baptist ministry, several of whom have had part in the history of the Seville Church. The sons were Rev. Allen B. Freeman, who preached the first sermon ever delivered in Chicago, and who organized the first Baptist Church in that city, as well as many other churches in Illinois. Frederic Freeman for some time pastor in Spencer, Ohio, Joseph Freeman, of Vermont, and Rufus Freeman, Junior, long known as a pioneer preacher in this section, and who was instrumental in the organization of the Seville Baptist Church. The grandsons were Rev. Frederic Freeman, Junior, and Rev. Elijah Freeman who was once pastor at Strongsville.

As stated above the Rev. Rufus Freeman, Junior, was virtually the founder of the Seville Baptist Church. There had been meetings for worship occasionally and in the early part of the summer of 1838, aroused by his counsel there was developed a strong desire for the organization of a Baptist Church and on June 15th of that year a meeting was held at the home of Benjamin H. Warren to further plans toward that end. At that meeting Rev. Mr. Freeman was asked to draw up a constitution and articles of faith and present them at a future meeting.

This meeting was held on July 7th. A declaration of faith consisting of only eight articles was adopted which was evidently copied from the articles of the First Baptist Church of Boston.

The papers were immediately signed by the following fifteen persons who thus became the constituent members of the church: John S. Welch and Margaret Welch, Moses Greenwood and Sally Greenwood, Jonathan Cotton and Polly Cotton, Timothy Phelps and Huldah Phelps, Robert Sugget and Susan Sugget, Harrison Greenwood and Clarissa Greenwood, Sidney S. Hastings and Clarissa Hastings, and Benjamin H. Warren.

Though this was only twenty-two years after the first settler came to Seville, the Presbyterian and Methodist churches were already formed and had houses of worship, so that the Baptist Church was the third to be organized in this small community.

On August 22nd a council was convened at the call of the newly formed church, which recognized it as a regular Baptist church. The Methodist Church courteously gave the use of their house for the gathering of the council and the services of recognition. Delegates came from eight churches as follows: Medina, Milton, Strongsville, Cleveland, Wadsworth, Spencer, Lafayette and Westfield. Of these eight churches six have ceased to exist, while the little band of fifteen which they recognized that day has grown to considerable strength.

The council organized by the choice of Rev. Levi Tucker, of Cleveland, for Moderator and Stephen Bonnell of Medina for clerk. Rev. Mr. Freeman read the call and request of the church for recognition which was unanimously voted after careful examination of the constitution and articles of faith, and they began their career as the Guilford Baptist church. Public services were held in the afternoon, the moderator preaching the sermon from Micah 11:13—"The breaker is come up before them, they have broken up, they have passed through the gates and are gone out by it; and their king shall pass before them, and the Lord on the head of them." A former historian has spoken of these words as prophetic of the future of the church as well as characteristic of existing conditions.

Rev. Rufus Freeman of Spencer, gave the right hand of fellowship, Rev. Elijah W. Freeman of Strongsville, the charge to the church, and Rev. Solomon Dimmick of Wadsworth, offered the prayer of Recognition.

Having no house of worship, and being very limited both in numbers and in financial ability, they worshiped for a few years in such places as the meager accommodations of Seville furnished. They met in the loft of a wagon shop, and in school houses. Prayer, Covenant and business meetings were held in the homes of the members and seemed to have been well sustained, the beginning of that loyalty to the church and its meetings which has seemed to be characteristic of the church through its history.

On September 8, 1838, Timothy Phelps, Moses Greenwood, and Benjamin Warren were elected the first Trustees of the church.

On October 27, 1838 Sarah Phelps was baptized into the fellowship of the church, the first baptism and on October 26th Mr. A. Barnard and a Mrs. Spear were accepted on their experience. They had been organized more than a year and only three additions.

The beginnings of growth were small and came slowly; but in 1842 a number from the Milton church transferred their membership to Seville, and during the same year twenty-five were baptized by Mr. Freeman who served the church very faithfully doing the work of a pastor, though he never seems to have been called to the office.

In January 1843 a series of meetings were held under the leadership of Rev. A. Emerson of Strongsville, when the Methodist people again offered the use of their house to the church. About thirty were added to the membership as the fruit of this revival and at its close Rev. E. T. Manning was called to its pulpit to serve one half of his time. In August of this year the name of the church was changed from The Guilford Baptist Church to the Seville Baptist Church.

In less than a year the church was again without a pastor, and in July 1844 Rev. D. P. Maryott began a pastorate of only six months, serving only half time. During these years the question of building a house of worship came to be seriously considered and in 1844 they erected their first building on the very desirable corner lot given by Mr. Hosmer where the Baptist church now stands. The house was dedicated Jan. 29, 1845, Rev. J. H. Walden of Cleveland preaching the sermon. Immediately after entering their new home special meetings were held with Rev. Thomas Inman as leader. The revival was reported quite successful, but no record of the number of additions to the church has been preserved.

In March of the same year Mr. Inman became pastor of the church on half time and remained five years, dividing his services between them and the church at Westfield, and only closed his relations with them because his duties at Westfield made it imperative.

In 1848 Eben Bingham was licensed to preach. In January 1850 the church decided to secure the full time of a pastor and called Rev. A. S. Jones to what proved a very brief service for after only eight months the church and pastor parted, and another still shorter pastorate followed, Rev. F. S. Collins coming in January, 1851 to stay only six months.

These were troublous times. Almost every business meeting had some question of discipline to consider. Several councils were called to settle differences. Several prominent officials of the church were involved in these trials. The examination of two leading members for personal difficulties lasted nearly five years. It was the test period of the church. The hand of fellowship was withdrawn from several for all kinds of misdemeanors from gross immorality to non-attendance at service, a hasty word of injudicious criticism or some questionable amusement. One wonders that the young church survived. Two things which have characterized it from the beginning held the church together. A firm faith in the teachings of the gospel and love and loyalty to the church. They were almost disheartened but God had His man for the emergency and Rev. Noah Barrell came to the rescue, entering upon his labors in 1851 and remaining three years. He has been characterized by one writer as being a "Noah for righteousness and having Barrels of prudence." At all events he was able to quiet the contentions and another period of prosperity came to the struggling band. A great awakening followed and for seven Sundays the ordinance of baptism was administered in the creek, a Bible school was started and progress made along many lines.

Mr. Barrell closed his labors in Seville in 1854 to do missionary work among the churches of the Cleveland Association. In April 1854 Jonas Brown was licensed by this church and entered Hamilton Theological Seminary to prepare himself for the gospel ministry.

Following his graduation he settled in Painesville where after a brief but successful pastorate he died.

The next to come to the leadership of the church was Rev. Nelson Crandall who began his term of service in the fall of 1854 and closed it in October 1856. His work was a good supplement to that of Father Barrell as his predecessor was affectionately called, and the church made wholesome growth. More than twenty were baptized.

With only a month's intermission Mr. Crandall was followed by Mr. W. S. Lyon, a young man coming to his first pastorate, who was here ordained to the work of the ministry. He stayed only one year but baptized seven, among them young Judson Lyon who afterward became a Baptist Minister, the third to be licensed by this church.

After three months Rev. Lyman Whitney came to the vacant pulpit, and stayed five years, baptizing about forty persons. During his administration a system of assessments was introduced which improved the financial condition of the church for a time. In the later years of his stay many cases of discipline were administered, two brethren being expelled for playing checkers. It was also at this time that deacon Timothy Phelps gave the church eight acres of land in the east part of the village, and Joseph Ross, one thousand dollars to build a house upon it for a parsonage on condition that the church pay him or his wife so long as either of them should live an annuity of seventy dollars. The offer was accepted and a part of the present house was built at a cost of nine hundred and seventy-nine dollars.

Mr. Whitney went away in February 1863 and in May Rev. W. E. Lyon returned for a second term of service on a salary of four hundred dollars and the use of the parsonage upon condition that he pay the annuity to Mr. and Mrs. Ross and the taxes amounting to about one hundred dollars in all. A church historian of this period says that the annuity was paid promptly but the salary was not. Fourteen were baptized during his stay of three years, among them Rev. D. D. Hulbert for a time pastor of the South Baptist Church of Milwaukee, Wis., and Professor Charles Bessey, some time professor in the agricultural college in Lincoln, Nebraska.

From October, 1866 to October, 1869 the church was served by Rev. J. B. Sutton. Seventy-six were baptized by him, most of them the result of a series of meetings held in the early part of 1867.

Mr. Wm. Lyon, once Lieutenant Governor of Ohio, was baptized at this time.

Rev. J. B. Gray followed Mr. Sutton and remained two years closing his labors in December 1871. Ten were baptized but a large number dropped from the roll reducing the membership to one hundred and seventy.

After the departure of Mr. Gray Rev. J. B. Hawker came to stay but one year, but as a fruit of a gracious revival thirty were baptized but because of the continued exercise of severe discipline the net gain was only seven.

In April 1873 Rev. Philip J. Ward, a student of Spurgeons College in London accepted the call of the church and entered immediately upon his labours, staying until December, 1875. There were few additions at this time but the church edifice was greatly improved, being enclosed in brick, new roofed and generally repaired. In May 1875 twenty-one members were dismissed by letter to form a new church in Amwell after known as the Sterling Baptist church.

At the completion of Mr. Ward's term of service the church recalled Mr. Hawker as supply. He served the church from January to October, 1876 greatly aiding the church to bear its burden in the loss of so many members and the raising of what was to them a large sum for the rebuilding of their house. During his stay eight were baptized and the church was rededicated.

Rev. J. H. Cather began his ministry to the church in December 1876, and closed it in April, 1880, baptizing twenty-seven, but by another period of discipline the membership was reduced to one hundred and forty-nine.

The next to serve the church as pastor was Rev. J. W. Weatherby from May, 1880 to January, 1884. Thirty-five were baptized by him twenty-four after a revival held in 1883 in which the pastor was aided by Rev. C. A. Palmer of Columbus. At the close of this pastorate Rev. Mr. Ward was recalled, coming back in May 1884.

In the early part of 1885 the church was much quickened and permitted to enjoy the greatest revival in its history, at least in the number of additions to the church. The pastor was assisted by Dr. Hildreth of Cleveland, and as a result of this revival eighty-seven were added to the church by baptism. More room was needed for the growing Sunday School and plans were made for the building of a wing on the east side of the church.

Mr. J. A. Bostwick of New York, a former resident of Seville and a brother of A. F. Bostwick, so long a member of the church, offered to furnish money enough to complete the proposed addition on condition that the church raise two thousand dollars. The amount was at once raised and the work completed at a cost of five thousand two hundred and thirty-five dollars and fifty cents, so that Mr. Bostwick's gift amounted to three thousand two hundred and thirty-five dollars and fifty cents.

The house was dedicated for the third time December 31st, 1885, the sermon being preached by Rev. G. O. King of Cleveland. A series of revival services followed, and thirteen were baptized, making one hundred and three during his stay of a little more than two years, the largest number baptized during any pastorate in the history of the church. Mr. Ward closed his services in December 1886, to be succeeded immediately by Rev. B. F. Ashley, who remained three years. Six were baptized and five letters received. While he was pastor the church celebrated its semi-centennial in a two days meeting during which addresses were delivered by Rev.'s J. H. Hartman, H. H. Brotherton, P. J. Ward, and Geo. Thomas Dowling, D. D., and a historical sketch of the church read by the pastor to which this writer is greatly indebted to for many facts. More than a score were dropped from the church during this period.

The next pastor was Rev. J. N. Palmer, who came in 1890 and went in 1894. Thirty-five were baptized and seventeen received by letter.

After the departure of Mr. Palmer Rev. E. L. Derr came to stay two years. Ten were baptized and eight added by letter. It is worthy of note that at this time the church called Rev. P. J. Ward for a third time. The call was not accepted but it is significant of the appreciation of the church of a good pastor.

Rev. H. D. Osborne was soon settled, who remained between seven and eight years, the longest pastorate in the history of the church. Sixty-five united with the church by baptism and fifteen by letter. On June 6, 1897, Rev. R. N. Sickler who came from the Methodist Church was ordained to the Baptist ministry. The sermon was preached by Rev. H. H. Brotherton, and the prayer of ordination offered by Rev. Frank S. Lyon.

In May 1905, Rev. G. L. Hart became pastor and served the church very acceptably for nearly six years, resigning his charge in February, 1911. He baptized fifty-three, and welcomed eleven by letter. During his stay five hundred dollars was received by the will of Mrs. Sarah J. Stone, twenty-five hundred, seventy-nine dollars and sixteen cents from the estate of Mr. A. F. Bostwick from whom and from whose family the church has received so much, and three hundred dollars by gift from Deacon Joseph Freeman.

After Mr. Hart went away there followed the longest interregnum in the history of the church. For just one year the church was served by supplies, Rev. A. H. Mavis of Cleveland filling the pulpit a large part of the time.

The present pastor, Rev. F. L. Knapp began his labors on this field March 1st, 1912. Seventy-six have been received into the membership of the church, fifty by baptism, twenty-five by letter, and one by experience, bringing the present membership to two hundred and forty-five, the largest in the history of the church.

A small addition has been made to the church home for a room for the brotherhood, an indirect electric lighting system has been installed and the property improved in other ways. In all the church has received into its membership ten hundred and forty seven, six hundred and twenty-two by baptism.

Sixteen deacons have served the church, Jonathan Cotton, Timothy Phelps, Abner Barnard, Sydney Hastings, Eben Bigham, David Johnson, Austin Holmes, Joseph Robb, Joseph Freeman, Henry Welday, Russell Hastings, A. A. Bostwick, P. W. Crawford, A. S. Foster, Calvin Swagler and John Walker, the last five serving at the present time.

The Sunday School has had nine Superintendents, Abner Barnard, Rev. Lyman Whitney, David Johnson, Eli Barnard, Rev. John Hawker, Henry Welday, W. E. Barnard, J. D. Grisinger and A. A. Bostwick, the present incumbent.

There have been twenty-five pastorates, two of them second pastorates, averaging less than three years, the longest that of Rev. H. D. Osborne, between seven and eight years and the shortest that of Rev. F. S. Collins only six months.

Space will not permit a record of all who have served the church in other official positions but the present trustees are E. O. Geisinger, A. A. Bostwick, E. M. Colburn, John Walker, and George Taylor, the present clerk is P. W. Crawford, and the Treasurer, George Taylor.

The Woman's Missionary Society, The Ladies Aid and the Baptist Young People's Union have been highly valued aids in the work of the church. The president of the Ladies Aid is Mrs. P. E. Cross; of the Woman's Missionary Society, Mrs. F. L. Knapp, and of the Young People's Union, Mr. Frank Dennis.

During the first years of its history the church was small and poor and with great difficulty met its own financial needs, and salaries were small, and benevolences very limited, but during the later years the church has been a generous contributor to the benevolent work of the denomination, as well as of outside philanthropy.

The church has always stood for the best things in the community and taken an active part in every reform, or progressive movement. It has sent out a large number of people to useful and honorable positions and many to become strong pillars in other churches and has now as it has always had a good company of young people fitting for useful service both in higher institutions of learning and in good work at home.

Loyalty to truth, united interest in all good things, generosity and a spirit of brotherhood, are some of its leading characteristics, and it has had a large part in making the community a wholesome and delightful place of residence.

APPENDIX I

This was found in the old Clerk's book (1920-1980)

The First Regular Baptist Church at Seville Ohio to the Akron Baptist Association. May 12-13, 1925

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.” These words of the Wise Man are an epitome of the life of this church during the past year and because we have believed in God’s blessings on the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Spirit in the establishing of the works of His children and the salvation of souls in our midst, we are glad to send greetings in His name to the Akron Baptist Association. We were wonderfully blessed in the services of Rev. James Hobbins of Granville during the summer and early fall. An invitation was extended to Rev. A R Toothacre to serve us as supply pastor which he accepted and began his work Nov. 1st, 1924. The work of Rev. Toothacre and his splendid wife has been most gratifying and we rejoice in that we are so fortunate in having them come to us at this time. The different series of sermons presented by him have been helpful and uplifting. Interest in the prayer meetings has been very marked and the average attendance at the present time is nearly 30. Increase in the Sunday School has not been as great but there has been a high average in attendance and contributions. Classes have been reorganized and a spirit of willingness to be used in the work of the Kingdom has been manifest. Our annual meeting held in Jan. was a most harmonious one. The election of all officers was unanimous, splendid reports were given of the different dept’s of the church and SS. All financial reports showed a bal. on the credit side of the ledger. That of the church revealed a bal. on hand of over \$500.00 and all bills paid. Passion week was observed by a series of meetings. The other pastors of the village assisted in these meetings. We are pleased to note the addition of 15 members to the church in past year. May the Lord continue to bless the Association in all its work and may there be great advancement in the cause of Christ in the year before us.

Respectfully,

L J Easton, Clerk

APPENDIX II
THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN GUILFORD
1838
(from The First Hundred Years)

Preamble to the Constitution By-Laws

After mature consideration and convention upon the subject before us, the people of the Baptist Denomination in Guilford met this day, June 15, 1838, according to previous appointment to organize themselves into a church of the same order. After hearing the exorcises of the mind from the first operations of the Spirit of God upon the heart, until they found relief in Christ.

As in the Providence of God, members of the professed disciples of the Lord Jesus have been drawn together in this place from different parts of Zion, and from different church connections, and feeling it to be a most solemn duty, as well as a delightful privilege to erect the standard of truth, to support the ministry of reconciliation, and administering the ordinances of the Gospel, we associate and covenant together in the bond of Christian fellowship under the name of "The Baptist Church in Guilford," and for the information of the Christian public and of the world, we deem it proper to make the following declaration of our views on Divine Truth:

Articles of Faith and Practice

- Art. I We believe in one self-existent God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one God, whose purposes are eternal, and His Providences universal, embracing all the events of Time and eternity.
- Art. II We believe that man was created Holy, but by transgression fell into a state of sin, and his recovery is from God only.
- Art. III We believe that God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, Who by His obedience, sufferings, death and resurrection has magnified the Law and opened the way for the exorcise of Mercy, so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life.
- Art. IV We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the only direct rule of Faith and Practice.
- Art. V We believe that there will be a resurrection of the just and of the unjust, when all shall stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, and that the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into Life Eternal.
- Art. VI We believe that Christ has instituted water baptism, and the Lord's Supper to be observed by His followers to the end of the world, and those who profess faith in Christ, and give evidence of a change of heart are the only subjects of baptism, and immersion the only scripture mode, which is a figure of the death, burial and resurrection of our Redeemer, and of His members.
- Art. VII We believe that baptism is a pre-requisite to communion.
- Art. VIII We believe that those who have been duly baptized on their profession of their faith in Christ, and united in a body to maintain the visible cause of God in the world compose the Kingdom of Church of Jesus Christ, and that, when so embodied, they have full power to receive discipline and exclude their members agreeable to the laws of Zion's King."

John S. Welch	Margaret Welch
Jonathan Cotton	Polly Cotton
Timothy Phelps	Huldah Phelps
Sidney S. Hastings	Clarrisa Hastings
Moses Greenwood	Sally Greenwood
Robert Suggitt	Susan Suggitt
Harrison Greenwood	Clarrissa Greenwood
Benjamin H. Warren	

Fifteen Connecticut Members

APPENDIX III

PASTORS

NOTES AND EVENTS DURING PASTOR'S TENURE

Rev. Rufus Freeman	1838	preached first sermon in a log cabin; served as interim several times
Rev. E T Manning	1843 – 1844	church's name changed to "Baptist Church of Seville"
Rev. D S Maryotte	1844 – 1845	served less than a year
Rev. Thomas Inman	1845 – 1849	performed first funeral
Rev. A S Jones	1850 – 1851	served less than a year
Rev. L S Collins	1851 – 1851	
Rev. Rufus Freeman	1852 – 1852	filled the gaps between regular pastors
Rev. Noah Barrell	1852 – 1854	church bell was purchased
Rev. Nelson Crandal	1854 – 1856	
Rev. W E Lyon	1856 – 1857	just finished seminary training
Rev. Lyman Whitney	1858 – 1862	membership records updated/first to occupy new 50astorium
Rev. WE Lyon	1863 – 1866	
Rev. J B Sutton	1866 – 1869	great revival during this time
Rev. J H Gray	1869 – 1871	170 members on the roll when he left
Rev. John Hawker	1872 – 1873	
Rev. P J Ward	1873 – 1875	student of C H Spurgeon; came from London, England
Rev. F J Cather	1876 – 1880	greater interest in missions/worked with Cleveland Association
Rev. J W Weatherby	1880 – 1884	this was his last pastorate/died in 1897
Rev. Phillip James Ward	1884 – 1886	extensive remodeling to building
Rev. B F Ashley	1887 – 1890	wrote much of the early history of the church
Rev. J H Palmer	1890 – 1894	
Rev. E T Derr	1895 – 1897	from Cleveland/established the Advisory Board
Rev. Harry D Osborn	1897 – 1904	
Rev. S L Hart	1905 – 1911	began Baptist Youth People's Assoc./returned in 1918 to dedicate the organ
Rev. Frank L Knapp	1912 – 1918	dearly beloved by members/highly respected in community
Rev. A R Woodworth	1918 – 1921	church joined the Akron Association
Rev. W T Parmelee	1922 – 1924	asked to resign due to activity of KKK in the area
Rev. A R Toothacre	1924 – 1927	finished 40 years as an active pastor/retired to Iowa
Rev. E F Randall	1928 – 1933	very active with young people's program
Rev. C E Bloor	1934 – 1937	
Rev. Charles H. Kern	1937 – 1942	newly wed/wedding reception held after arrival
Rev. John H Bradbury	1943 – 1945	
Rev. William E Bridge	1946 – 1949	gave Baccalaureate sermon for Class of 1947
Rev. Lewis Hunt	1949 – 1951	resigned to attend seminary
Rev. Donald Hoffman	1951 – 1953	
Rev. Larry Chapman	1953 – 1966	extensive repairs & remodel of building
Rev. James Robinson	1967 – 1970	built the base for the old church Bible
Rev. L Milton Hankins	1971 – 1971	
Rev. L E Hunter	1972 – 1973	
Rev. David Dodridge	1974 – 1986	church participated in US bi-centennial with float in parade
Rev. John McDanel	1986 – 1988	lost by death
Rev. Mike Daniele	1988 – 1995	served as youth pastor prior to becoming pastor
Rev. Terry Tareila	1996 – 2006	
Rev. Mike Oxendine	2006 – 2010	
Rev. Tom Chmura	2010 --	

INTERIM PASTORS-- SERVED LESS THAN A YEAR

Rev. Sampson	1840
Rev. M. Shank	1866

Rev. John Hawker 1875-1876
Rev. Hobbins 1924
Rev. Fredrick Harrold 1973
Rev. Kidwell 1995-1996

APPENDIX IV

CHARTER MEMBERS

(called "Fifteen Connecticut Members" in First One Hundred Years history publication)

- 1 John S. Welch
- 2 Margaret Welch
- 3 Jonathan Cotton
- 4 Polly Cotton
- 5 Timothy Phelps
- 6 Huldah Phelps
- 7 Sidney S Hastings
- 8 Clarissa Hastings
- 9 Moses Greenwood
- 10 Sally Greenwood
- 11 Robert Suggitt
- 12 Susan Suggitt
- 13 Benjamin H Warren
- 14 Harrison Greenwood
- 15 Clarissa Greenwood

APPENDIX V

INFORMATION ABOUT CAPTAIN BATES

Captain Martin VanBuren Bates
Born November 9, 1845 in Whitesburg, Kentucky
Died January, 1919 in Seville, Ohio
Buried in Seville Cemetery

Anna Swan Bates
Born November 6, 18—
Died August 5, 1888
Buried in Seville Cemetery

Couple was married on June 17, 1871 in London, England

Captain Bates remarried in 1901 to LaVonne Weatherby, daughter of the pastor of First Baptist Church in Seville

1861 – Martin enlisted with the Fifth Kentucky Infantry, Confederate

1872 – First child born and died in Scotland

1874 – bought land and built house near Seville

1970 – second child born and died in Seville

APPENDIX VI

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

(possibly prepared for the 150th anniversary of the church)

On June 15, 1838, fifteen Christian men and women met in a home in Guilford to organize a Baptist Church. The following July 7, another meeting was held to adopt a Constitution and Articles of Faith. Sister churches were called from surrounding villages and, on August 22, 1838, the Church was recognized as the Guilford Baptist Church, a name which was changed to The Baptist Church of Seville in August of 1843.

It was said the first sermon was preached by Rev. Rufus Freeman in a log cabin which stood on the southwest corner of the square in Seville.

A building committee was appointed in 1843 to furnish a “church of our own.” On January 29, 1845, the new structure was dedicated to God’s work. Parts of that original structure still stand today.

The first building was wood and in 1872 was veneered with brick from a brick kiln east of town. The original lot, on which the building still sits today, was a gift from Henry Hosmer and sometime between 1852 and 1854, a bell was purchased for the belfry. The same bell calls people to worship today.

The original building had no baptistery and frequently ice was broken in Cheippewa Creek for baptisms. A baptistery was build in 1876.

The East room and basement dining room were finished in 1885; another addition was added in 1927 which held a classroom, two restrooms, and the kitchen; and in 1959, the Fellowship Hall was added.

The beautiful shade trees in front of the church were donated by John C. Lee in 1905.

A fire in 1914, caused by an acetylene light explosion damaged the church greatly, destroying books, furniture, and the organ. However, on June 18, 1918, the pipe organ now in use was installed in memory of Mrs. A. F. Bostwich. The chimes were a gift from her children.

The pulpit and elliptical half-dome behind it were designed and build by Clarence A. Martin.

Captain and Mrs. Martin VanBuren Bates, the giants of Seville, were members of the church from the 1880s until their deaths. One pew located in the third row was larger to accommodate the couple.

Thus, the First Baptist church of Seville has stood for 150 years, a public beacon pointing the way to God; a private shelter were men, women, boys and girls come to know Jesus Christ as saviour.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

SEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY 1838 TO 1938 & RECORD

This is a red leger-style leather-bound book in which the first hundred years history is hand written in two parts. Part One is signed at the end by Jennie L. Reader. Part Two is signed by Ann Elizabeth Shaffer. This historical record covers merely sixty-one pages of the book. The rest of the book is empty. It is currently (2013) stored in a glass-front case in the East Room of the church.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS' HISTORY OF THE SEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

This is type-written and is very similar to the document mentioned above, with several paragraphs added at the end. This document is currently (2013) stored in a blue notebook with the red leger-style book.

THE YEARS FROM 1938 TO 1988 (50 YEARS) FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SEVILLE, OHIO

by Sally Blake

This is a type-written sixteen-page document that is stored in the blue notebook with the red leger-style book.

THE HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SEVILLE, OHIO 1988 – 2013

by Sally Blake.

This type-written document is also stored in the blue notebook with the red leger-style book.

1816 SEVILLE 1916 – THE EVOLUTION OF A RURAL COMMUNITY

I understand there are very few copies of this publication around. There is no author, publisher or date of publication.