



THORNTOWN BAPTIST

CHURCH

120 S Powell St,
Thorntown, IN 46071

History



The history of the Baptist Church in Thorntown has many connections to the various branches of the Baptist denomination. The original church was founded by ten people in October 1832, as a Primitive Baptist church connected with the Danville Association. Between 1889 and 1892 a division occurred. Thorntown, Mount Union, Union, Eagle Creek, Mount's Run, Cynthiana, First Liberty, Big White Lick, Clear Creek and part of Mt. Tabor, left the Danville Association and organized the Mt. Tabor Means Baptist Association.

From The Thorntown Historian, August 2015, Vol. 1 Issue 2, Thorntown Churches-past and present.

History

The Thorntown Southern Baptist Chapel was created on January 3, 1966 as a fellowship Bible class. Northview Baptist Chapel, located in Lebanon, Indiana, was the sponsoring Church. Reverend Charles Smith was the missionary. Services were conducted in the town hall. On September 1, Joel Blanton Sr. began to pastor both chapels. He pastored them until January 30, 1968.

On October 16, 1966 the chapel moved to the Kiwanis Hall on Main Street.

From the 1966-1974 Thorntown Southern Baptist Church Directory.

Creasy Lane Baptist Church, Lafayette, Indiana took sponsorship and we became part of the Wabash Valley Southern Baptist Association. Jess Dittmar was the attending missionary. The attendance grew and so did the need for a church building. On September 1, 1967 property was purchased at 120 South Powell Street in Thorntown.

In February, 1969, sponsorship again transitioned and West Point Baptist Church in West Point, Indiana near Lafayette became our mother church. During that time, the chapel was without a regular pastor; however, progress was made toward a building. Ground was broken for the first unit building in December 1969.

History



Charles Ford, May Evelyn Altum, and John W Maiden stand in front of the Baptist Church in the early 1900's (on the lot where the telephone office is now located).

January 18, 1970, Leslie Vedito served as pastor through February of 1971. The Chapel was completed and in November of 1971 Lee Bailey accepted the call as our pastor. On March 12, 1972 the Chapel constituted into a New Testament Church. Brother Bailey resigned June 7, 1972 . Although we were without a pastor, the continued growth of the church required building on and this began in September.

History



The church in the mid 1970's

On November 8, 1972, Hallie Taylor was called to minister until June 1, 1974. Alan “Bud” Moody served as pastor from July 21, 1974 until November 20, 1977.

The parsonage on South “B” Street sold and the home at 715 West Main Street became our parsonage. Sheldon Meier answered our call March 12, 1978 and resigned September 12, 1980. Roy Huddleston served as our pastor from April 29, 1981 until August 14, 1985.

During his ministry the church held a three day revival that included a homecoming fellowship and church mortgage note burning service in April 1982.

History



The church in 1987

“On February 23, 1986 Rev. LeRoy Jennings came to be our pastor. In August 1987 he lead us into a goal of paying \$2,000 off on our parsonage note. In December 1987 we were able to clear that debt completely including an additional payment of \$4,000.”

From the Thorntown Southern Baptist Church Directory Pastor LeRoy Jennings
1987

History

Page 2 • The Reporter, Lebanon, Ind., Monday, September 29, 1997

INFORMATION FILE : Boone County - Wedding



The Reporter

Lifestyles

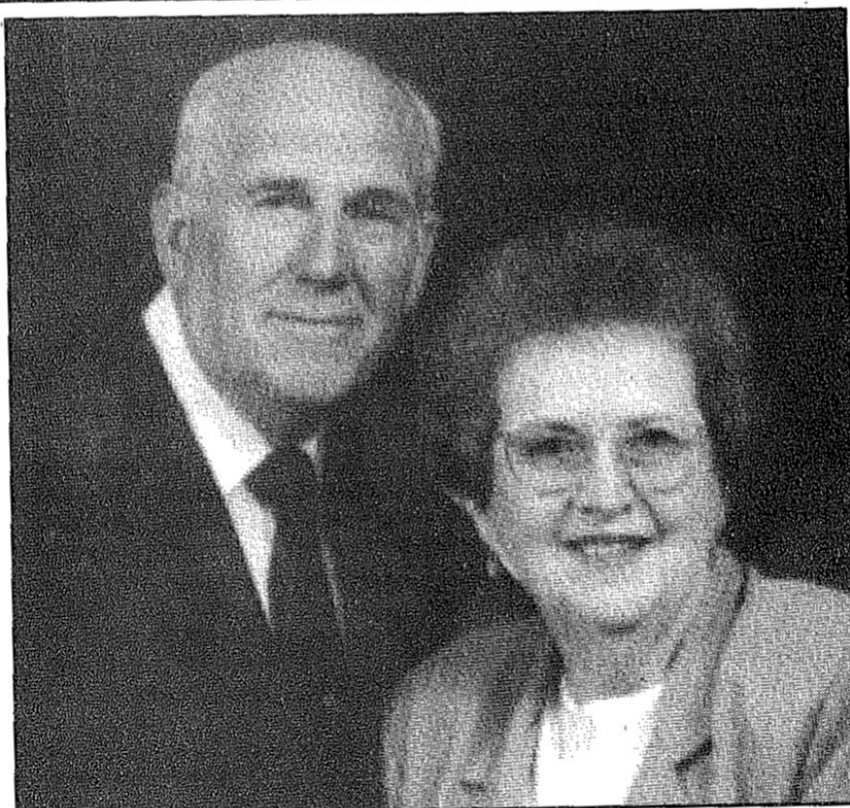
Thorntown church to honor minister on retirement

The Rev. Lawrence Fairfield and his wife, Wilma Fairfield, will be honored by the Thorntown Baptist Church with a retirement reception Oct. 12.

The Rev. Fairfield has been a minister for 13 years, first in Middlefork, then in Thorntown. He has also worked with Thrine Construction for eight years.

Mrs. Fairfield retired from Home National Bank of Thorntown after 34 years.

Friends and neighbors are invited to attend the reception from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Thorntown Baptist Church, 120 S. Powell St. in Thorntown. The couple asks that gifts be omitted from the celebration.



The Rev. Lawrence and Wilma Fairfield

Article from the Lebanon Reporter in 1997 about the retirement of Rev. Lawrence Fairfield from Thorntown Baptist.

The Thorntown Historian, August 2015, Vol. 1 Issue 2 states, "Other pastors were Lawrence Fairfield and Denver Fields. Rev. Fields resigned 2014. Rev. Don Moran is the present pastor." Lawrence Fairfield was a minister for 13 years in Middlefork and Thorntown. He retired in 1997.

Primitive Baptist Background



Thorntown Baptist Church in the early 1900's. It was located next to the old Thorntown Grade School (visible behind the tree on the left of photo) on Bow St. East at that time.

For the Primitive Baptist, the church as an independent body symbolized the freedom of an individual believer before God. This freedom was founded in each person's capacity to understand the divine through direct revelation from the Spirit. There was no place in a Primitive Baptist church for titles or a special hierarchy. They chose their leaders from their own ranks, from "those of their number whom they perceived to be already qualified by the Spirit of God."

The only officers positions allowed were those found in the Scriptures, those of Elder, Pastor, and Deacons. After the division of the Danville and Mt. Tabor Associations occurred Thorntown Baptist adopted the Primitive Baptist practice of foot-washing.

Articles of Faith

When Thorntown Baptist left the Danville Association and joined Mr. Tabor Association there were major doctrinal changes that contributed to the separations.

Mt. Tabor's articles of faith stated:

Articles 1 and 2 state the doctrine of the Trinity and accept the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God and only rule of faith and practice.

Article 3 declares God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world and predestined them unto the adoption of children article.

Article 4 that man is a sinner and consequently in a lost condition.

Article 5 he has no power of his own free will and ability to recover himself from his fallen state.

Article 6 sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Articles of Faith

Article 7 the elect are called and regenerated by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel.

Article 8 nothing can separate true believers from the love of God and that they be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

These changes in doctrine were in conflict with Primitive Baptists beliefs.

From The Thorntown Historian, August 2015, Vol. 1 Issue 2, Thorntown Churches-past and present.

Directory

Introduction

In the introduction to the 1966-1974 Thorntown Southern Baptist Church Directory by Rev. Hallie Taylor, the pastor wrote,

“As a pastor, I believe on the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. This is why I am a Southern Baptist. The following is a copy of our Church Covenant. I urge each of you to read it with the leadership of the Lord and may he speak to you through it.

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, and most solemnly and joyfully enter in to covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.”

Directory

Introduction

Continued

"We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay. We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word"

From the 1966-1974 Thorntown Southern Baptist Church Directory by Rev. Hallie Taylor

Previous Pastors



Rev. Hallie Taylor



Pastor Alan "Bud" Moody



Pastor Leroy Jennings



First Deacon
Lawrence Fairfield

Pages From Directory

Church

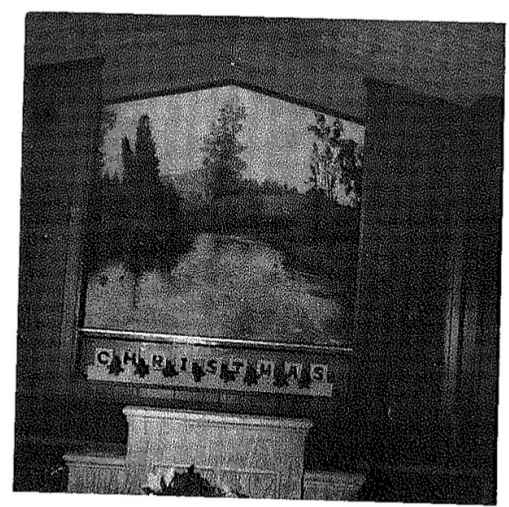


Staff

Don Merrill, Sup't. Nola Jesse, W.M.W. Pres.
Sharon Merrill, Clerk Loureide Kinslow, S.S. Sec'y.
Wilma Fairfield, Treasurer



CHOIR



BAPISTRY



Adult Class
Lawrence Fairfield, Teacher

Pages From Directory

Sunday School Officers and Classes



Lester Aaron, Sunday School Superintendent



Evelyn Carter, Sunday School Secretary



Pages From Directory

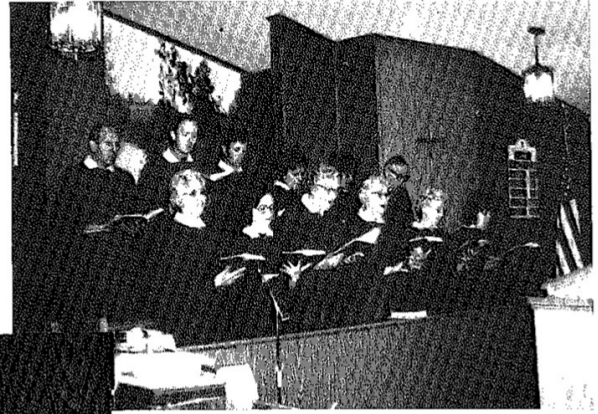
Church Ministries



Lawrence Fairfield Song Leader

So we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Romans 12:5



Adult Choir

Having then gifts differing according to the grade that is given to us . . .

Romans 12:6



Ann St. Germain
Deaf Interpreter



Mary Thrasher Church Pianist



Wilma Fairfield Church Pianist



Jackie Young and Youth Choir



Beverly Bowen W.M.U. Director

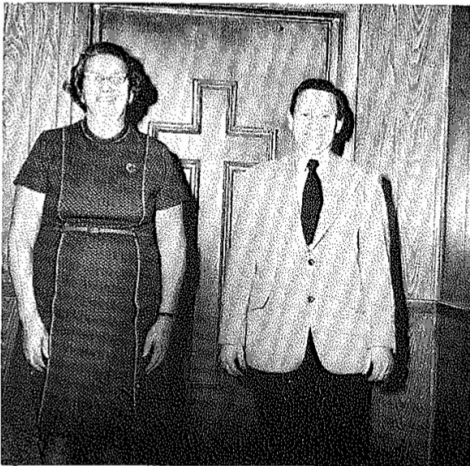
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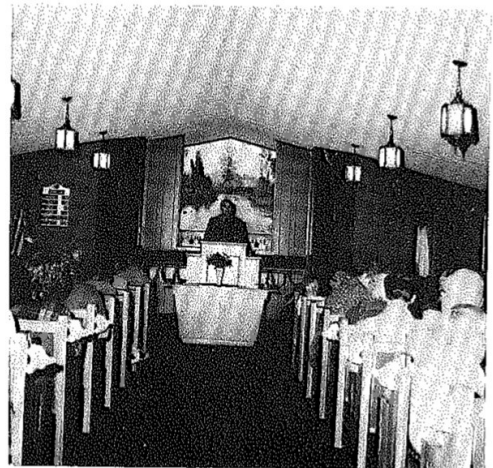
Welcome



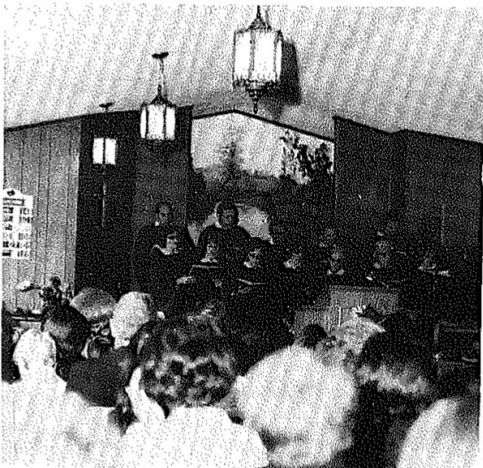
Greetings



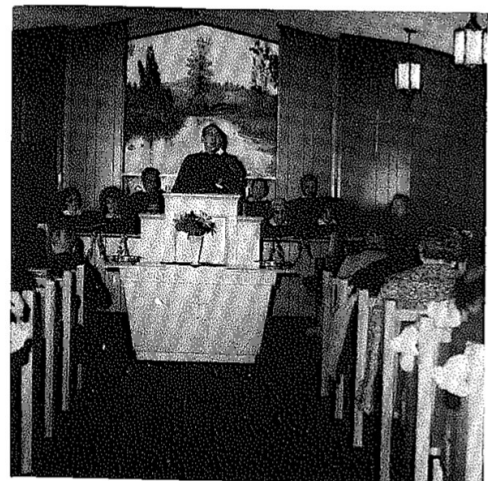
Laureide Kinslow, Sunday School Secretary
Don Merrill, Sup't.



Worship Service



Choir in Worship Service

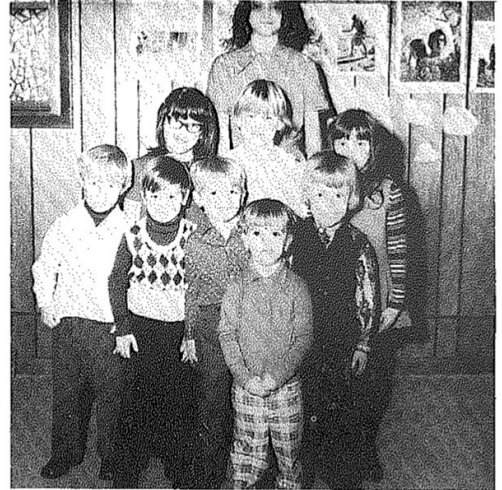


Lawrence Fairfield

Pages From Directory



Nursery Class
Linda Billingsley, Teacher



Kindergarten and First Grades
Monica Strahm, Teacher



Second and Third Grades
Wilma Fairfield and Margaret Baer, Teachers



Fourth and Fifth Grades
Pat Fairfield, Teacher

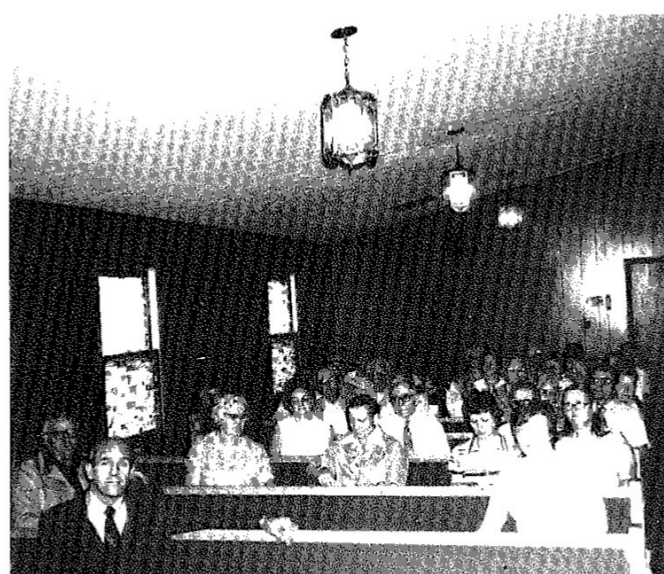


Sixth and Seventh Grades
Karen Marvin, Teacher



Youth Class
Bill Fairfield, Teacher

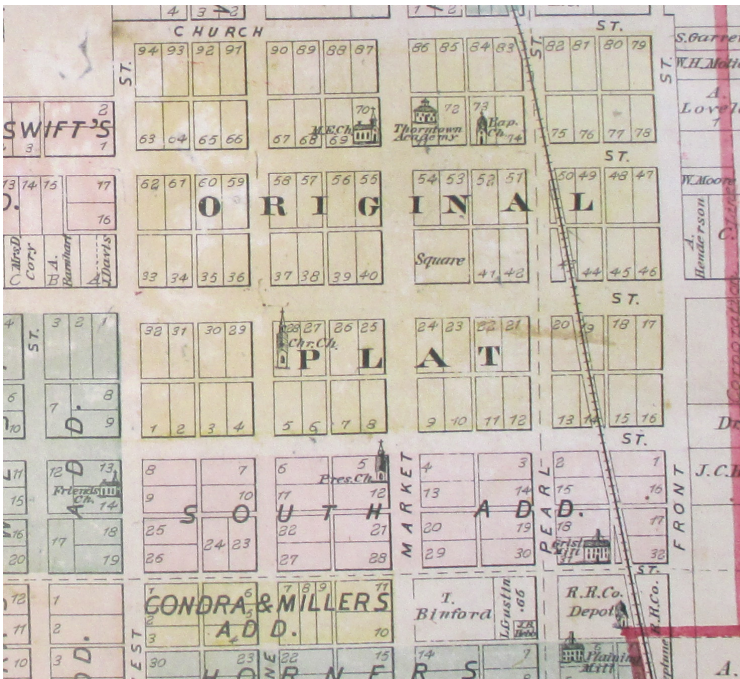
Pages From Directory



Additional Photos



"One Lord, one faith, one Baptism"
Eph. 4:5



Plat of Thorntown
from Thorntown Centurial Book



Zoom in on Baptist Church
from Plat of Thorntown

Photos of the Church-2015



Photos of the Church-2015



Photos of the Church-2015



Photos of the Church-2015



Photos of the Church-2015



