

Bethel Baptist Adds Building

Bethel Baptist Church, which began at the Southwest Baptist Mission in 1963, has added a new children's building to the church plant due to increased growth over the past few years.

The new facility houses four nursery departments for children from birth to three years of age, two beginner departments for four- and five-year olds and a primary department for first graders.

Dedication Held

A dedication service was held for the building on April 16, 1967, with Dr. Tom Carter as guest speaker. He represented the Oklahoma Baptist Foundation with which the church has had a loan on its facilities. The Rev. E. F. Hallock, pastor of Rev. E. F. Hallock, pastor of the First Baptist Church, also was a guest speaker at the dedication.

The Bethel Baptist Church, located on West Lindsey Street, at present will provide for approximately 250 persons in Sunday school. The church has a membership of 370 with a Sunday school enrollment of 499 and Training Union enrollment of 40.

Outreach Extended

The church has extended its outreach to the Brookhaven Addition by purchasing a mission site on the end of Country Club Drive. Plans are now under way to develop the area with a Pleasant Valley Baptist church sponsoring the work.

The long-range building plans Bethel itself call for a plant that eventually would house a congregation of 1,200 people. The plan was adopted by the church and still stands as the projected plan of church building growth.

Move Finished By Central Church

The past year was one of annual progress for Central Church of Christ. The congregation completed a \$300,000 building program and relocated its place of worship from the corner of Crawford and Tonhawa, where the congregation had met since statehood, to 301 E. Alameda St.

The completion of the building and relocation of the congregation culminated six years of planning which began with the purchase of an 8 1/2-acre site. The groundbreaking ceremony was March 23, 1966, and construction began the following day.

Leaders Listed

The building program was planned and carried out by a committee headed by Joe Curry. Lester Walker was the construction superintendent, and William Kaign was the architect. Roy D. Risley, who now serves a congregation in Nashville, Tenn., was minister during the project.

The building was completed in November 1967. Paul F. Johnston, minister of the Capital Hill Church in Oklahoma City, gave the dedicatory sermon. Johnston served the Central congregation for a number of years. Other former ministers taking part in the service were Roy Lanier Jr., minister of the East Side Church in Midwest City, and T. Ray Finley, who served as interim minister prior to Risley's appointment.

Seats 616

The auditorium of the new building seats 616, and an overflow of 200 can be accommodated by adjustment of moveable classroom partitions located to the rear of the auditorium. The new building includes 22 classrooms, a nursery, a fellowship area and edison and library. Ample parking is provided.

The new building is the first phase in the church's anticipated development of the 8 1/2-acre tract. Eventual plans call for an

auditorium for 2,000, additional classrooms and parking areas and development of the wooded portion of the site for recreation.

Following its relocation the congregation has conducted two gospel meetings, one with the minister as speaker and one with a guest minister, Cecil Lyles, of Little Rock, Ark.

School Reorganized

The church has reorganized its Bible school under the direction of Roy Hollingsworth Jr. Committees were busy reorganizing the curriculum, updating the preparation of teachers and developing plans for improving Bible school attendance. The school was conducted Aug. 14-15 under the leadership of Hollingsworth and Gene Talbert.

A visitation program is directed by Jaim Draggio, one of the deacons of the congregation. Robert Martin, another deacon, with Royal Wight and Harry Daugherty, also a deacon, have conducted a number of cottage Bible study groups.

In July the congregation employed Walter Bryan as its minister. Bryan, his wife, Ruth and their three children reside at 1225 Windsor Way.

More Than Moving

Bryan attended Abilene Christian College, Central State College and Phillips University. He has served congregations in Oklahoma City, Enid and Clinton.

Dr. Jess Burkett, one of its members, offered the following view. "We are not merely moving an 'old' congregation from Crawford and Tonhawa. We are starting a 'new' congregation at 301 E. Alameda St. We are, of course, more fortunate than most 'new' congregations in that we have a nucleus of more than 300 active members at the outset to insure success. We anticipate that our membership will double in the new location within a period of two to three years."

(Picture on Page 1E)

Henschel Cites Church Gains

The past year was most eventful for Trinity Lutheran Church, said the Rev. Marvin Henschel, pastor.

"Besides realizing a net gain of 68 souls, in view of the constant change in membership worship, communion and Sunday school attendance continued to increase proportionately," he commented.

Classrooms Added

The highlight of the past year centered on a project which added eight new classrooms to the upstairs of the education building.

Aware of the need for expansion the men of the congregation decided to "do it themselves," said the pastor. After receiving some cash donations, 60 men contributed some 1,449 man-hours in bringing the classroom project to completion. The rooms are air-conditioned and are ready for use this fall.

More Changes Due

The physical appearance of the church will continue to undergo major change as 1967 ends. The congregation is planning to quadruple its parking facilities and late this year to renovate the existing church facility. The expansion program will increase the seating capacity from the present 170 to 400.

"The volunteer building program was a tremendous blessing to our parish," said Henschel. "Besides saving us thousands of dollars, the project enabled the men of the church to get to know one another and express their needs, love and concern for God's kingdom. I feel that it laid some important groundwork upon which we may build as we move into the church expansion program."

McFarlin's Minister Cites Strides

The fiscal year 1967-68 strides have made in several areas, according to McFarlin's minister, Wayne Coffin, pastor.

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