

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

Monterey
Baptist Church

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THE MONTEREY BAPTIST CHURCH

In the year 1867, the Concord Association appointed a board to conduct its Associational mission work. Several mission points were established. Monterey became a mission point of the Concord Association in that year.

Truthfully, we could say "Once upon a time" or "Long long ago", because no one actually knows where the Monterey Baptist Church first started. Some say the first church was a small log structure, located on the Pond Branch road, at Monterey, to the left of the Old River road. This location was often inundated by river floods, and not a desirable location. But we do know that convictions began to grow in the hearts of men and women, the need for a place to worship.

The mission church where ever it might have been, was replaced by a large frame building, at a different location. In the late eighteen hundreds, it was called the Union Church, because the other denominations existing in Monterey at the time, all worshiped there, on their designated Sunday to worship.

Deed Book T page 223 and 224, at the Owen County Court House, shows the transfer of land was made Oct. 28, 1867. Lot 34....in Monterey, for purpose of erecting a church. This building burned in October 1953, after having served this area, eighty odd years. The Baptist met here from 1871 thru 1900, as an organized church, with forty-six charter members and was admitted into the Concord Association.

John Alfred Head, at age thirty, was the first pastor of the church. He was born Feb. 12, 1841 and died Oct. 31, 1918. He was the son of Thomas Jefferson Head and Harriet Duvall Head. Born in Franklin, Ky. He attended Georgetown College, was licensed Sept. 1860, by the Buck Run Church, and was ordained Nov. 19, 1867 at the Old Cedar Baptist Church. He was the pastor a total of seven years, 1871-72-75-88-89-90 and 1891. Bro. Head married Alice Hardin, a local girl. They had no children.

The pastors that served the Lord in the Old Union Church were as follows: 1871-1872 John Alfred Head, 1873-1874 James E. Duvall, 1875 John Alfred Head, 1876 James E. Duvall, 1877-1878 Frank H. Hodges, 1879-1880 James E. Duvall, 1881-1882 A. F. Baker, 1883-1884 John Thomas Burton, 1885-1886 Lewis Henry Salin, 1887 William McMillen, 1888-1889-1890-1891 John Alfred Head, 1892-1893-1894-1895 Lewis Henry Salin, 1896 Clark Monroe Riley, 1897 William Jesse Agee, 1898 Beeler Thomas Vincent also 1899, and 1900 S. W. Smith. The church membership in 1900 was 156.

During the pastorates of B. F. Vincents 1898-1899 and S. W. Smith 1900, plans were made to build a Baptist Church. The land was donated by Mrs. Mat Hardin Hughes.

In the shadows of the beautiful Owen County hills and in a lovely valley near the Kentucky River stands the Monterey Baptist Church, a witness to the goodness of God, and the faithfulness of a dedicated people for a near century.

At the turn of the century it must have been quite a challenge and with much prayer, to have gone into the adventure of building a church. "Grace had brought them safe thus far and grace would lead them on". The foundation was laid with love, hope, and faith in Jesus Christ. The new church was dedicated in June 1901. Records do not show that there was a pastor in 1901. The first pastor in the new edifice was Thomas C. Ecton.

To learn of the noble deeds and sacrifices of our early members, is to appreciate more justly, how precious, and dearly bought, is the heritage we have from them.

A. B. Y. P. U. was organized in 1907. A Sunbeam Band was organized in 1907, with 18 members. Records show a Womans Missionary Society in 1917, however there was a Ladies Aid Society earlier.

In the year 1923 the church went full time, with Claude D. Boozer as pastor, but was unable to remain so, because finances fell short. The church again went full time, under the pastorate of K. Alvin Pitt, in 1947, and has remained so ever since.

Otto Pierson was licensed to preach in April 1930, by the church, and was ordained Feb. 10, 1935.

The members considered it a notable occasion and a time of celebration when the new educational unit was completed in 1950. It was also the fiftieth anniversary of the building of the church.

In 1957 the parsonage was built. Pastor, William B. Webb and family were the first to live there. The new Church Library was opened August 1961.

Pastors who have served the Lord in the Monterey Baptist Church, as we know it today, are: 1902-1903 Thomas Christopher Ecton, 1904 William Elbert Brittan, 1905 Neeley Forsyth Jones, 1906 (no pastor), 1907-1908-1909-1910-1911 John Samuel Ransdell, 1912 Thomas Clinton Crume, also 1913, 1914-1915-1916-1917-1918 A. G. Prestage, 1919 Ernest Guilford Hancock, 1920-1921-1922-1923-1924 Claud Dow Boozer, 1925 J. H. Roberts, 1926-1927-1928-1929 Irving Eldridge Rouse, 1930-1931-1933 Joseph E. Fulton, 1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941 J. S. Thompson, 1942 (no pastor), 1943-1944 L. E. Aldridge, 1945-1946 E. E. Poston, 1947-1948 Kermit Alvin Pitt, 1949-1950 William T. Robertson, 1951 Monroe Billington, 1952-1953-1954, Dwight Long, 1955-1956-1957-1958-1959 William B. Webb, 1960-1961 Hobart Vann, 1962-1963-1964 Ross Edward Lishen 1965 Kenneth Underwood, pastor at the present time. The Church membership now stands at 267.

We have followed the footsteps of our forefathers, by their planting the standards of the cross in our town and community, we are preserving this heritage and will continue to witness to the lost, as Our Saviour commissioned us to do. In this land of beauty, which reveals the love of God, our own homes are today. Our churches are made glad with the singing of God's praises, echoing from them.

Margaret Murphy