

# **HISTORY OF LEAWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **3638 Macon Rd. at Homer, Memphis, Tennessee**

### **Written by Mrs. Vivian Landreth**

On the night of July 30, 1946, a group of 28 Baptists met in the home of Mr. & Mrs. E. R. McCall to lay plans for the establishment of a new Baptist church. This church was to be located as near the corner of Homer & Macon as possible. A moderator and clerk were elected, and a committee was appointed to investigate possible sites for the location of the proposed church.

One week later, August 7, 1946, the group met again and further plans were made. The first collection was taken and it amounted to \$125. It was reported that the civic club building at 3460 Buchanan had been made available as a temporary meeting place for the proposed church. On Sunday, August 15, 1946, all services were conducted at the Civic Club Building, where services were continued until the church moved to its present location.

Three months later, November 10, 1946, a group of 10 pastors met with the Leawood congregation; at which time the congregation was organized into a regular Missionary Baptist Church. These pastors were: Reverends J. G. Lott, James Oakley, Earl Warford, Brooks Ramsey, Charles L. Morgan, Teddy Evans, W. F. Carlton, Tom Brandon, Drs. Mark Harris and D. A. Ellis. Bro. Tom Brandon was called as the church's first pastor on this date. Articles of Faith and the church covenant accepted by the church. 43 people had letters in hand, 3 came by letter and 10 upon profession of faith at the end of the service. At the night service following the organization of the church, it was voted that the charter be left open for a period of two additional months. The charter was closed January 6, 1947 with a total charter membership of 97.

A highlight of the church's history came on March 30, 1947, when the church moved from its temporary meeting place on Buchanan to its converted and remodeled church building at Macon and Homer. The months that followed were months of struggle and sacrifice as the infant church sought to provide the facilities and equipment necessary to carry on the work of the Lord.

Bro. Tom Brandon's ministry came to a close in May, 1948, and the Rev. R. J. Sedberry was soon called to pastor the church. Under his leadership a pastorium at 3706 Buchanan was purchased. A wooden SS building, known now as the Barracks building, was constructed with the members of the church doing the work; the building cost \$2,634.

In July, 1949, the church voted to issue \$50,000 worth of Broadway bonds. A portion of this was used to pay off indebtedness against the church property, and the balance was used to construct the building which did serve as an auditorium, but presently serves as an educational, dining and recreational area.

Bro. Sedberry served as pastor 3 years with Dr. T.T. Crabtree succeeding him Oct-1957. The church continued to grow in a marvelous manner. The need of an additional building was evident, and on July 12, 1953, ground was broken for a new educational building. This is the building that was constructed. Still feeling the need of additional space, in Dec, 1954, the church purchased four brick duplexes at 1152 Homer, 1160 Homer, 1151 Dyer and 1157 Dyer, along with the residence at 1148 Dyer.

These properties provided additional educational facilities and parking space. This gave us 18,200 sq. ft. of educational space. The old pastorium on Buchanan was sold, and a new pastorium at 831 Dilworth was completed in March 1956. The beautiful home is valued at \$22,000.

Dr. T.T. Crabtree felt led to a new field of service, and in March, 1956, Dr. Jerry L. Glisson succeeded him. Under his leadership, Leawood has continued to make great strides. Our four organizations have continued to experience growth. Stewardship of time, talents, and gifts have taken on new meaning for our membership. Remarkable changes in our church property have been made.

In July, 1957, Baptist security bonds were sold in the amount of \$180,000. This auditorium was completed and placed in use April 13, 1958.

The dwelling at 1149 Homer was purchased so that we might have additional educational and parking space. This building is directly across the street from the auditorium. The parking lot is hard surfaced and will park about 52 cars.

A wrecking company removed the first building at the front of our property as a step toward providing additional parking and beautification. The wooden building was moved across the street to rear of 1148 Dyer and joined to the house for better use of the two buildings. The duplex 1152 Homer was moved from its location and joined to the 1157 Dyer duplex so that the auditorium could be located where the Homer duplex once stood.

The ground floor of the two-story old auditorium-educational building was remodeled and modern-fold doors tracked throughout to provide for more classroom space. A new kitchen was provided. The dining area will accommodate 250 people.

We now have a new office and educational building just north of this auditorium, which was completed and moved into in December, 1961.

It has been voted by the church to have the parking lot next to Macon Rd. hard-surfaced.

Today we are a dynamic and growing church in a growing population area, and it is imperative that we keep faith in the challenge of the present hour.

Our church is one of the fastest growing churches in the city. This is as it should be, due to the type of community in which we are located. We have a great work to do. It is a task so great that it calls for the aid and assistance of all our members and friends. We should thank God for the opportunity which He has placed before us.

The church has experienced a phenomenal growth since its organization, and it is believed that its future is unlimited. Let us pray together and stay together in a sweet Christian fellowship under the leadership of our pastor and our Lord.

Our present church staff and officers:

Pastor – Dr. Jerry L. Glisson

Minister of Education – Mr. Malcom Sample

Minister of Music & Youth – Mr. Terry Turney

Pastor's Secretary – Mrs. Mary Ann Knable

Education & Music Secretary – Mrs. Judy Roaten

Financial Secretary – Mrs. Pat Burross

Brotherhood Director – Mr. Harold Rhodes

Brotherhood President – Mr. Roy Rye

SS Superintendent – Leland Proctor

Training Union Director – Joe Hunter

WMU President – Mrs. Betty Riley

WMS President – Rosa Dennis

Chairman of Deacons – Amos Sides