

A Glorious Celebration

Prelude.....	Instrumental
<i>"God of Grace and God of Glory"</i> Rhoda Green and Janet Jackson	
Responsive Reading	Pastor and Congregation
Hymn of Praise.....	Congregation
<i>"To God Be the Glory"</i> —No. 4	
Celebration Handbells.....	Handbell Choir
Hymns of Worship.....	Congregation
<i>"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"</i> —No. 54 <i>"Faith Is the Victory"</i> —No. 413	
Welcome and Introduction of Guests.....	Mark Lindsey
Message in Music.....	<i>"The Great Divide"</i>Sisters in Song Sharla Dunigan, Marla Moore, Fara Newkirk and Laura Patterson
Songs of Worship.....	Congregation
<i>"Nothing But the Blood"</i> - No. 135 <i>"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"</i> —No. 144	
Special Music.....	<i>"Sweet Beulah Land"</i>Sheridanaires Lynn Madden, Brandon Morrison, Doug West, Rick Balwanz, Charles Jones
Scripture and Prayer.....	Dr. Bob Harper
Choral Anthem.....	Celebration Choir
<i>"There Is Power In the Name of Jesus"</i> Soloist—Brandon Morrison	
Moments of Reflection.....	Special Guests
Prayer of Commitment.....	Dr. Ed Simpson
Hymn of Celebration.....	Congregation
<i>"Victory in Jesus"</i> —No. 426	
Postlude.....	Rhoda Green

Everyone is invited to tour our facilities and enjoy refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

A Glad Welcome



Welcome to the Sesquicentennial Celebration of First Baptist Church! God's abundant direction and provision have been evident in the one hundred and fifty years our church has served our Lord in Sheridan. Today we celebrate the past while we anticipate the days God has ordained for us till His triumphant return! Through the faithfulness of His people, First Baptist Church will continue to be a beacon for Christ from Sheridan to the ends of the earth. To Him alone be the glory forever and ever!

Mark Lindsey

Generous Memorials

Memorial gifts too numerous to list, have been made to the church over the years. The stained glass windows were all memorial gifts. They tell a picture story of the life of our Lord. The story begins with *"The Nativity"* and continues with *"The Boy Christ in the Temple," "Christ at the Door," The Baptism of Jesus," "Christ the Good Shepherd," "Christ in Gethsemane," "The Crucifixion,"* and *"The Ascension of the Risen Lord."*



Church History

On a crisp autumn day 150 years ago a small group of settlers recognizing the need for an organized house of worship in their little community met to form a church. With great faith and a commitment these sturdy pioneers started what we know today as First Baptist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas

No written history of the church has been saved from its organization in 1858 through the middle 1870's, but many happenings have been passed down by word of mouth and later recorded. The first church was called the Baptist Church of Christ at Big Creek, named for a creek that ran through the community located west of town. The first building, about 40 x 60 feet, stood on land donated by F. V. Mayfield. Reverend D. G. Barnett was the first pastor and the first deacons were Mike Shepherd, Jart Suddith and Nathan Nall. Furnishings of the church consisted of split logs with a pulpit of like material. Services were held on the second Sunday of each month, and conference on the Saturday before.

Other pastors during the early years were Joel Rushing, U. J. Newell and Joshua Halbert. The old bench in the Conference Room was brought from Alabama by the Rushing family, and this is the only known artifact from that first church.

Reading through the old books of minutes yields many interesting points—some strictly history, some sad, some amusing, some delightfully funny as viewed from 2008. But the spirit of progress and faith in the Lord's work was never missing. Many instances are recorded of dismissal from fellowship for dancing, swearing, drunkenness, or simply unbecoming conduct. Usually these persons were returned to the flock upon apologizing at the next conference.

In 1880 Mr. Dorough donated some land in the town of Sheridan to build a church. This building was built for \$350 and was located on the west side of the 300 block of South Spring Street. It was used until 1928, when a new building was erected on North Rose Street. The name was changed from Big Creek Baptist Church to First Baptist Church at that time. Rev. J. G. Murray was pastor. The initial cost was about \$30,000. The educational building was added in 1962 during the pastorate of Rev. Wendell Welch.

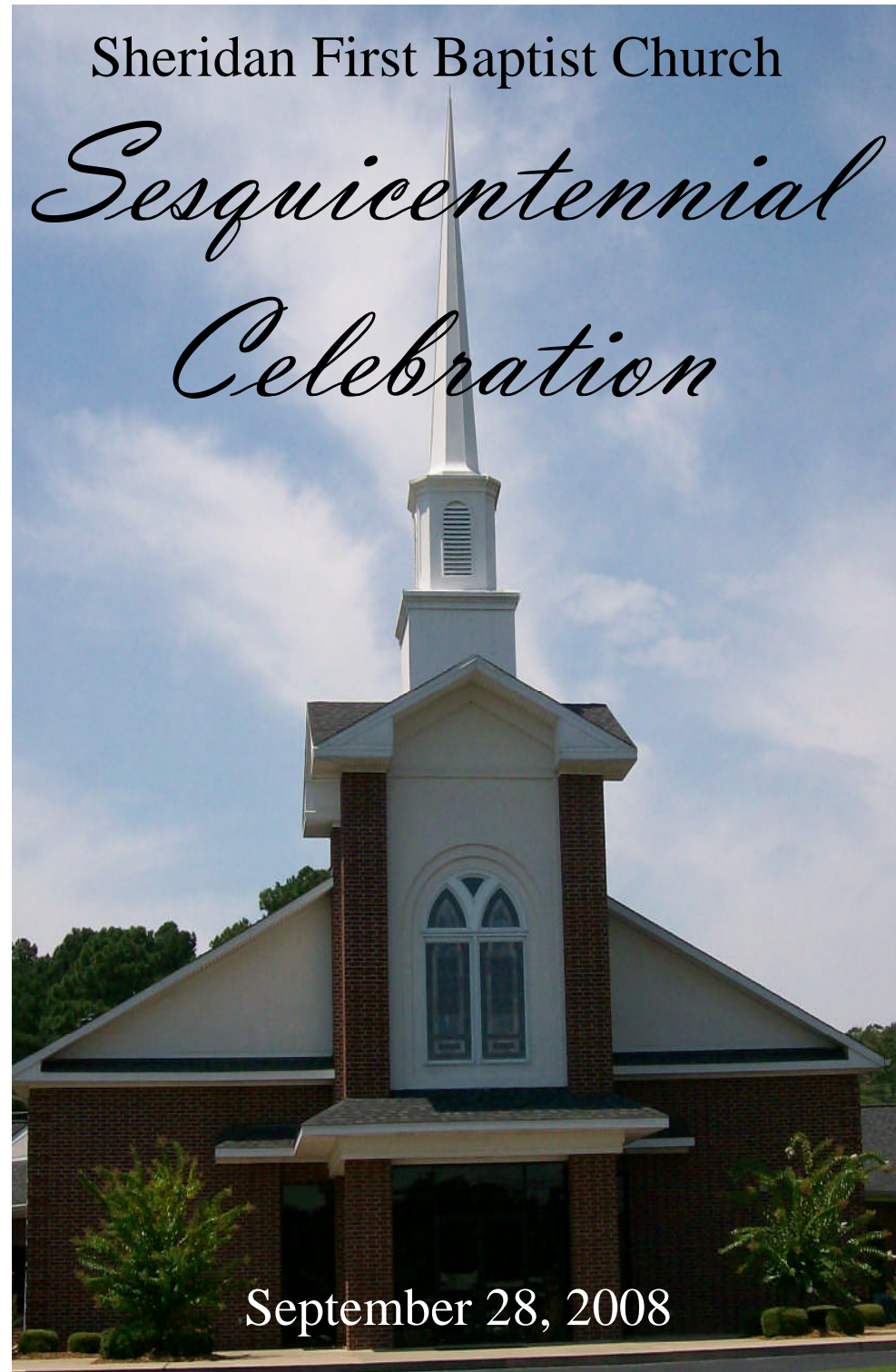
After several years of study, the congregation in 1993 launched a bold plan of advancement called Vision 2000, under the leadership of Rev. Ed Simpson. Ten acres was purchased on Highway 167 South. In the spring of 1996 construction began on a new facility that cost over \$1,400,000. On November 17, 1997, the church had its first service in the new church. In 2004, under the pastorate of Rev. Mark Lindsey, the church voted to add children and youth wings to the building, at a cost of \$1,100,000. This project was completed in 2006.

First Baptist Church was affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist Convention from 1862 until 1901, when it went with other churches in the area to the Missionary Baptist Association organized that year. First Baptist Church affiliated with the North American Baptist Association in 1950, and in 1956 reestablished its ties with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Arkansas Baptist Convention and the Pulaski County Baptist Association, where it remains today.

For one hundred and fifty years this church has ministered to the people of Sheridan and throughout the world through its various programs and mission emphases. We are grateful for what the Lord has done for First Baptist Church, and for all those gallant and devoted people who have lived before us.

Sheridan First Baptist Church

Sesquicentennial Celebration



September 28, 2008