

"A Historical Reflection"  
For The Centennial Celebration



"Rooted in the strength of our past . . . . .

Aspiring to reach new heights."

# SHAWNEE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH LOGO

(PICTURED ON FRONT COVER)

1. Rising from the past. Congerville/17th St. Baptist Church (On the lower left), Walnut Street Baptist Church (on the right) comes the Shawnee Heights Baptist Church of the present, sturdy, strong and active (bricks, stone, name).
2. Rooted in the strength and dedication of the founding and sustaining members' faith (heavy vertical lines); supported in present days by faith of present members (heavy horizontals).
3. Aspiring to reach above the worldly (inner circle) through the Father's covering of grace (clouds) to reach new heights (spire, cross, "heights") through Jesus Christ, and watched over and guided by the Holy Spirit (dove).



*The Shawnee Heights Baptist Church  
of Muncie as it stands in 1993*

*Dedicated to all the people, past, present and future,  
who were, are, and will be the church.*

## **The Shawnee Heights Baptist Church**

1600 East Fuson Road

Muncie, Indiana

1993

- Centennial logo created by *Alice Fritts Harrell*
- History compiled and written by the 1993 Centennial Committee  
*Delores Beard (ch.), Lelah White, Phyllis Lappin,  
Amy Wagner, Linda Longfellow, Michelle Longfellow,  
Nellrose Furrow, Mary Helen Baney, Wanda McKibben,  
Penny Carpenter, Jessline Champion*
- Special thanks to *Muncie Photo Lab, and NettleCreek  
Color Systems of Hagerstown, IN.*

# FORWARD

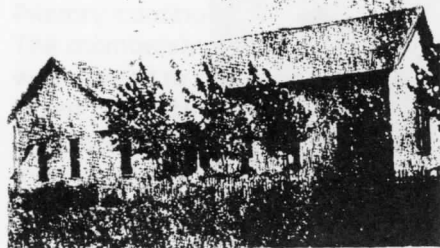
## GOD'S PURPOSE:

Have you ever stopped to contemplate on God's purpose for your life? He has one for you...that is certain, but you must be willing to allow Him to lead. Have you actively sought to understand His Will and taken steps to carry out His purpose?

One hundred years ago, a small group of Baptist believers felt the leading of God and His purpose for THEIR lives. Stepping forward in faith, they established a church that would serve the south section of Muncie. Others have served faithfully through the years to keep the witness alive. The scriptures tell us that "What God has done will be praised from one generation to the next." (Psalm 145) Thus, it is YOUR challenge and GOD'S purpose for you, the present-day believer, to keep the faith, serve the Lord, and then pass the torch on to future generations so that the work of promoting God's Kingdom will continue to thrive and grow from this corner of the world. Go ye forth to proclaim God's message and the victory will be His!

## AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING...

The year 1893 was the beginning...of what would be one hundred (100) years later the Shawnee Heights Baptist Church of Muncie, Indiana. From a meager beginning...in a room at the Congerville Public School and an attendance of seventeen (17) at the first service on January 1,... the membership has grown to 927, and an active membership of 356. "To God be the glory, great things HE has done!"



*The first church building called the "Congerville Baptist Church," completed in 1894.*

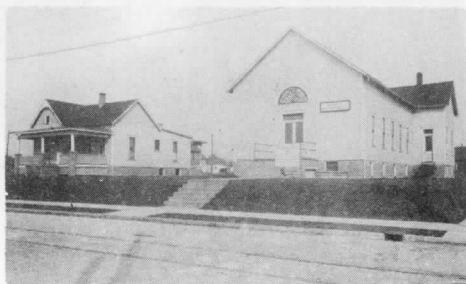
*The church's name was changed to the "Seventeenth Street Baptist Church" in 1897.*

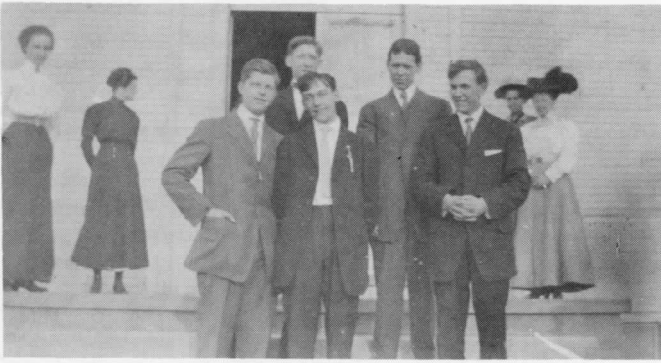
## HISTORY

A small group of Baptist believers who had come to Muncie, Indiana as employees of Midland Steel Company and had located near the factory in the south side district known as Congerville, felt the need to establish a place of worship in this newly developed area of the city. Although the population of Delaware County according to the 1890 census was 11,345 and there were a total of seventeen (17) churches at that time, the nearest Baptist church was more than a mile away.

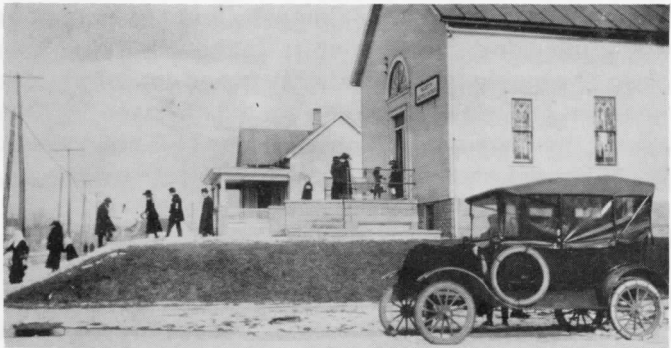
The endeavor began as a Mission Sunday School and flourished...thus it soon became apparent that expansion was needed and would thrive. Therefore, the Second Baptist Church was organized on April 16, 1893, with thirteen (13) charter members, most of whom had been members of the First Baptist Church of Muncie and were granted letters of dismission to establish the new church as an expansion ministry. They were: John H. Darrell (first Sunday School Superintendent) and wife, William A. Reese and wife, G. L. Bradway and wife, Albert Russell and wife, Margaret Reese, William Reese, Poly Reese, Jacob Lynn and I. J. Langdon. It should be noted that on the day of organization, four (4) members were added to the original 13 (names not available) and action was taken to adopt the church covenant. One week after organization, a motion was considered to change the name to Congerville Baptist Church.

*In 1909 three lots were purchased at Twelfth and Walnut Streets and the church and parsonage were moved to the new location, remodeled and dedicated in 1910. At that time the name was changed to Walnut Street Baptist Church.*





*The Church is the People!*



*Dismissal of Sunday morning Worship  
at Walnut Street Baptist Church in 1910.*



*The Ethel J. Wrichle "Young Women's Sunday School  
Class of 1912."*

(history continued)

The membership grew and with it came the realization that a building was needed to serve the expanding congregation, a special meeting was called to consider the question of building a church. Committees were appointed to first wait on the Muncie Land Company concerning a lot and then to solicit support from the people for the project. The Muncie Land Company responded with a donation of two (2) lots at the corner of 17th Street and Jefferson Street. There was a "condition" attached...not more than a year should elapse before the erection of the building.

The people of Congerville accepted the challenge with a generous response making it possible to break ground and lay the foundation in April, 1894, one (1) year after the church's organization. In July, as the weather warmed making use of the enclosed structure possible, services were held in the Sunday School rooms. Completion of the sanctuary occurred during the latter part of the year.

During the early struggling years, while worshipping without the services of a pastor, it became the privilege of the laymen of the church to lead the services. It should be noted that the records show the first convert for baptism was Helen Hurd who was baptised by I. J. Langdon. The first person to be baptised in the new church was Tom Reese.

A pastor was called to serve the church beginning in 1895 and by 1897 the membership had grown from the original 17 to 107 and, once again the name was changed, this time to Seventeenth Street Baptist Church.

In the Year 1899, being debt-free, a decision was reached to build a parsonage adjacent to the church.

The next "step in faith" came in 1909 when three (3) lots were purchased at Twelfth and Walnut Streets and the church and parsonage were moved to the new location, remodeled and dedicated in 1910. At that time, the name was changed to Walnut Street Baptist Church. Growth in membership continued as the church could now expand its services to those in an area a little more to the north and west.

Under the leadership of full-time pastors, the building debt was soon eliminated and a building fund was established in preparation for a new structure. The building was completely redone and was dedicated, debt free on April 22, 1934.

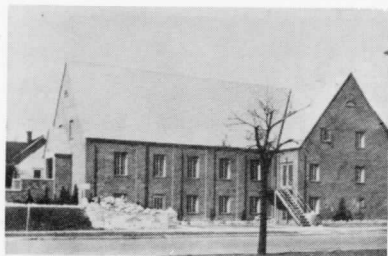
The Walnut Street Baptist Church was "on the move" spiritually and was continually looking to expand its facilities to better serve the needs of its ministry. A "wing" was added to the south in 1951, and a balancing "wing" on the north side was completed in 1956. The years between 1895-1915 and 1948-1962 presented special challenges as numerous pastors served short tenures. The church relied heavily on its strong laymen during these times and, with the Lord's blessing, the church continued to thrive.



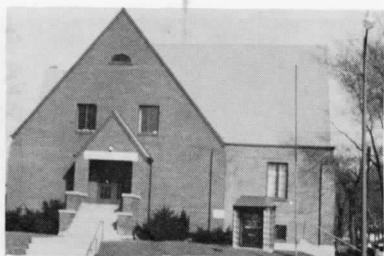
*The Junior, Baptist Young Peoples Fellowship of 1914*

In 1962 the church called a young minister who had been serving the First Baptist Church in Sullivan, Indiana. He brought with him a tremendous energy, innovative plans and an ability to motivate. Under his leadership the church set forth on a "charted" course that resulted in expanded activity in all phases of the ministry...mission giving...youth work...and Sunday School. Numerous committees were organized to plan and carry-out the work of the church. The choir continued to play an important role lending praise to the spiritual growth through its messages in song. Revival services brought outstanding evangelists who shared their inspired messages and challenged God's people to achieve greater things for His glory.





*Walnut Street Baptist Church  
after 1934 Remodeling*



*New south wing 1951. In 1956  
a north wing was added.*

A need was identified for an American Baptist Church in the west section of the city. Therefore, in 1962 several members of Walnut Street Baptist Church joined a sizable group from the First Baptist Church of Muncie, and accepting the challenge, combined their talents to establish the Riverside Fellowship. Services began in space provided at the West View Elementary School. History has recorded that this "step in faith" was blessed by God and that Riverside Baptist Church is today a very alive congregation having constructed a beautiful building in which to worship and witness.

Disaster struck Walnut Street Baptist Church in March, 1963, when lightning struck the building causing extensive damage to the sanctuary. This adversity was faced as just another challenge and the congregation set out to make things right again. Through the generosity of the Muncie Community Schools, church services were held in the nearby Wilson Jr. High School while the sanctuary was being restored.



*The church choir of Easter Sunday Morning, March 24, 1940*



*The 1950 Walnut Street Baptist Church Choir*

As the need for more classroom space for the Sunday School was identified, the good people of Walnut Street Baptist Church made a decision to purchase a split-level home on Maddox Drive, move the pastor and his family into it, and use the parsonage adjacent to the church for a Sunday School Annex. The new parsonage was dedicated on July 28, 1963. Also, a lot was purchased north of the Annex and converted to a parking lot in an attempt to ease the parking problem.

Early in 1967 a Study Committee was approved by the church to conduct an extensive study to determine the future direction of the church.

During the services celebrating the Diamond Anniversary "75 years", Dr. Dallas West, Executive Secretary of the Indiana Baptist Convention, spoke. His topic was "The Challenge of the Future." Reflecting this theme, the Study Committee at a special meeting presented to the church a challenge...to purchase a plot of ground located at the intersection of new Highway 3 and Fuson Road as the site for a new structure.



*Preschool Sunday School Class of 1956.  
Eleanor Collins (Lady to far left) was the teacher.*

After much prayerful consideration, on August 14, 1968, by a majority vote, the name Shawnee Heights Baptist Church was approved and plans were developed to build the new church. Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted on May 6, 1971.

Although some work remained to be done, Easter Sunrise Services were held at the new location on March 27, 1972. The Cornerstone-laying Ceremony took place on April 16, 1972...Seventy-nine (79) years to-the-day the church was founded.

The church continued to prosper. Budgets that at first were thought to be unrealistic, were realized with the initiation of two (2) special yearly offerings of \$5,000 each (Easter Sacrifice and Harvest Thanksgiving). These special days always include a carry-in dinner and activities that emphasize the effort.



*The 1963 ground-breaking ceremony for the new church parsonage on Maddox Street for Rev. Earl and Faye Vaughn.*

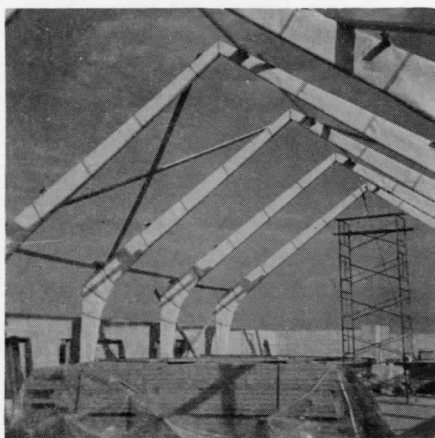
In 1976, at the request of the pastor, the church parsonage was sold and the church assisted with a plan that would allow the pastor to become a homeowner. Money from the sale of the parsonage was placed in a savings plan to remain available for future property needs.

In 1977 an Assistant Pastor was added to the professional staff. His duties included assisting with visitation and filling the pulpit one (1) Sunday a month and in the absence of the Senior Pastor. This proved to be a very successful move and the Lord blessed this ministry. Another position, Director of Youth Work, was also added.

*May 6, 1971 ground breaking ceremonies for the construction of the new "Shawnee Heights Baptist Church," located on New State Road 3 South at the 67 Bypass.*



*Construction of the New Shawnee Heights Baptist Church Sanctuary in 1971.*



*The Cornerstone-laying ceremony of April 16, 1972 (79 years to-the-day the church was founded).*



Due to the efforts of the Senior Pastor, a wooded area west of the church property was given to the church as a gift from Mr. Paul E. McGill, owner of Delaware Homes, Inc. Trees to be kept were marked and the area was cleared making possible the addition of a baseball diamond and space for future development.

As the church prospered, the building debt was paid off in just twelve (12) years and the mortgage was burned in a ceremony on June 24, 1984.

In December, 1989, the Senior Pastor retired after having served the church for more than twenty-seven (27) years...the longest tenure of any of its pastors. He was named "Pastor Emeritus" at the time of his retirement.

A Pulpit Committee was appointed and, with assistance from the State affiliate, began its work of determining the qualities the church considered important in the person who would be chosen to serve and lead into the 21st century.

An Interim Pastor was named to carry on while the search was in progress. The prayers of the people focused on divine leadership of the committee that it would find "the one" that God would have for the task ahead.

Following an intensive search that lasted for several months, the Pulpit Committee presented its chosen candidate ...another young energetic, and talented minister of the Gospel...one who would bring a renewed vitality to Shawnee Heights Baptist Church. The vote to call him was taken at a special business meeting on July 11, 1990. The vote was unanimous.

During the interim period, through the determined efforts of the Interim Pastor and the Administrative Assistants the work continued and many special activities were carried out. The programs escalated under the direction of the new Senior Pastor and resulted in Shawnee Heights Baptist Church being named "Church of the Year" by the American Baptist Churches of Indiana in 1991.

Within the last two years a playground and a Shelter House have been added on the property west of the church building. These were made possible through generous memorial donations, and by the monies, love and labors of Sunday School classes and by other members of the church.

On July 28, 1991, a Parsonage was purchased at 5004 S. Breezewood as a home for the Senior Pastor and his family .



In June of 1992, the church had a rare privilege of honoring the church organist who had served Walnut Street Baptist and Shawnee Heights Baptist for fifty (50) years...and also to recognize one of its members for fifty (50) years in the ministry...quite an accomplishment!

### Challenge

On this date, April 16, 1993, we have reached a milestone worthy of jubilant celebration and humble thanksgiving...100 years of service to our Lord and God! One theme which is

notable throughout the history of this church is..."continued to grow, thrive and prosper". This could only have been possible through the constant presence with us of our Lord in whom we believe, trust, and serve.



*Morgage Burning  
on June 24, 1984.*



*September, 1990 Installation Service for Rev. Stuart Jones (center), Rev. Philip Robinson (left) served as Asst. Pastor from 1988 to 1992. And served as Interim Pastor from January, 1990 to August of the same year. Rev. Raymond Pavy (right) served as Asst. Pastor from 1977 to 1987.*

## OUR PASTORS AND THE YEARS OF THEIR MINISTRY

*Photographs were unavailable for:*

Rev. J.P. Green	1895-1899
Rev. John H. Hayes	1899-1900
Rev. I.W. Martin	1900-1903
Rev. J.H. Schenck	1903-1905
Rev. H.H. Gibson	1912-1913
Rev. Arthur Chasey	1913-1915
Rev. David Davisson	1959-1962



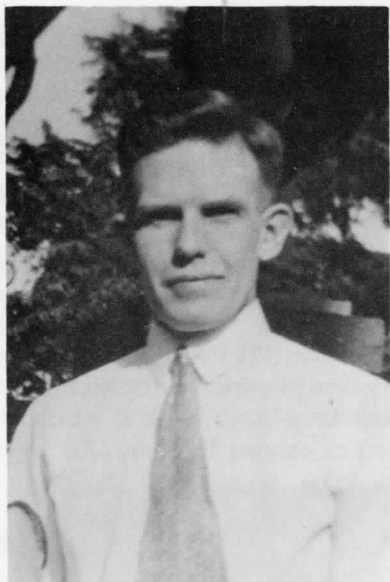
*Rev. Charles E. Watkins*  
1906-1912



*Rev. Reno Tacoma*  
1915-1920



*Rev. J.H. Mitchell*  
1921-1929



*Rev. Frank Kerner*  
1929-1938



*Rev. Edgar L. Hamilton*  
1938-1948



*Rev. Charles Jones*  
1949-1952

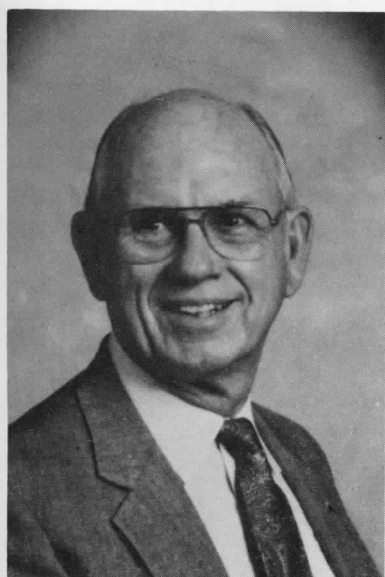




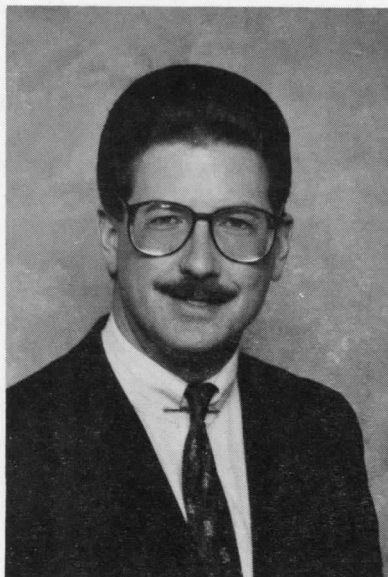
*Rev. Randall Corkern  
1952-1956*



*Rev. Grady Dukes  
1956-1958*



*Rev. Z. Earl Vaughn  
1962-1989  
Pastor Emeritus*



*Rev. Stuart D. Jones  
1990-Present*

## CHALLENGE

The world has experienced many changes during the past century...perhaps most notable of these being the mode of transportation. We have advanced from the horse-and-buggy, which made even one mile prove to be a long journey, to space travel which has placed men on the moon. Those of you who carry the banner of Shawnee Heights Baptist Church into the next 100 years and toward a Bicentennial may live to see an "outreach" church established in a "space city"...or even witness the second coming of Christ. What glorious opportunities and events may be ahead for you! Whatever is in God's plan, one thing is certain...the witness of this church must continue to be a lighthouse to lead lost souls to God's Kingdom. YOU must be His voice, His hands, His feet. "Work for the night is coming" ...Plant the seed and prepare for an abundant harvest!

"As It was in the beginning" ...it will be in the end...GOD with us.