

Shawnee Heights plans to mark 100th anniversary

By ED SATTERFIELD

The Star's religion writer

Members of Shawnee Heights Baptist Church have announced plans to celebrate the church's 100th anniversary in 1993.

The committee in charge would like to borrow any pictures or mementoes of the church's past history to use during the celebration. Members of the celebration committee are:

Delores Beard, chairman; Lelah White, Nellrose Furrow, Mary Helen Baney, Amy Wagner and Michelle Longfellow. Beard's telephone number is 288-3049.

Shawnee Heights (then called the Second Baptist Church of South Muncie) was organized April 16, 1893, with 13 charter members.

The first members came to Muncie from Pennsylvania to work in steel mills then located here. They felt that the First Baptist Church downtown was too far away, who they built their own church.

On Nov. 3, 1893, the name of the church was changed to Congerville Baptist Church. In the meantime, it was voted to take up an offering each Sunday. The total amount raised the first year was \$796.78.

Rev. J.P. Green, the first of 17 ministers in the history of the church, was hired in 1895.

The Muncie Land Company donated two lots to the church at

Harriet (now Jefferson) and 17th Street in 1895. The church had to be built in a year or the property would have reverted to the land company.

In 1906, a new church was dedicated at 17th and Jefferson Streets and renamed 17th Street Baptist Church. In 1910, three lots were bought at 12th Street (Memorial Drive) and Walnut Street.

The church and parsonage were moved from 17th and Jefferson Streets the same year and the name was changed to Walnut Street Baptist Church.

The name remained until the church moved to its present location at 1600 E. Fuson Road, at which time it became Shawnee Heights Baptist Church.

Reason for the change of church location was twofold:

■ The name "Shawnee Heights" was the result of a housing development that was proposed for the area.

■ The move was necessitated by the increase in church membership and the lack of room to expand facilities at Memorial Drive and Walnut Street.

Plans for moving to the new location were made under the leadership of former pastor Z. Earl Vaughn. Vaughn came to Muncie in 1962 and retired in 1989, after 27 years' service to the church and community.

Rev. Stuart D. Jones became senior pastor in 1990.