

HAYMORE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH OBSERVES BIRTHDAY

Large Crowd Attends Service Held Last Sunday To Commemorate Twentieth Anniversary Of Laying Of Cornerstone For Church Structure.

HISTORY OF CHURCH

The twentieth anniversary of the Haymore Memorial Baptist church was observed at a special service held at the church on Rockford Street at 2:30 o'clock last Sunday afternoon. The service was attended by a large crowd and was marked by the attendance of friends from all denominations.

The occasion was not the twentieth anniversary of the organization of the church, for the church itself was organized on October 13, 1912. It was instead to commemorate the laying of the cornerstone of the present beautiful church structure, which was laid on Thanksgiving day back in 1922.

Rev. Charles E. Otey, present pastor of the church, was assisted in the service by a number of other Mount Airy ministers, with Rev. Albert S. Hale, pastor of the First Baptist church for the past three years, delivering the sermon. It was one of his final appearances in Mount Airy, since he left this week to take up new duties as pastor of the First Baptist church in Jefferson City, Tenn.

Other ministers in attendance for the services were Rev. C. N. Clark, of the Central Methodist church; Rev. E. M. Graham, of the Rockford Street Methodist church; Rev. E. B. Jeffress, pastor of the Trinity Episcopal church; Rev. J. W. Frank and Rev. Winslow, veteran Methodist ministers and missionaries; and Rev. A. Finch and Rev. D. D. Hodges, well known Baptist ministers.

The history of the Haymore Memorial church was read to the assembled crowd, dating back to its organization by the late Rev. C. C. Haymore on October 13, 1912, the outgrowth of a mission group that had been started sometime before in southern Mount Airy. The church had its home for ten years in a frame structure

that stood at the corner of Price and Marshall streets, a building now remodelled for use as a residence.

The church was formed with thirty-five charter members, and it was served for many years by Rev. Haymore, who had also been the founder of many other Baptist churches in this section of the state, among his other churches being the First Baptist here. The venerable founder's Bible was one of the relics placed in the cornerstone of the Haymore Memorial church when it was built.

Other pastors who have since served the congregation included Rev. J. H. Fulghum, Rev. R. N. Childress, Rev. W. P. McCarter, Rev. B. J. Willis, Rev. M. F. Booe, Rev. R. O. Lanier and Rev. C. E. Otey, the present pastor. The church has grown in the meantime from the original charter group to more than 600 members.

The present board of deacons includes W. W. Gough, B. F. Edwards, S. R. Shelton, J. C. Laughridge, G. C. Wright, Ernest Wood, Sam McKnight, Jesse Booker, Allen East, and Carl Griffith. H. L. Forbis is chairman of the church trustees.

Sam McKnight is the present superintendent of the active Sunday school, a post that was held for many years by his father, the late Steven A. McKnight, who also served the church as a deacon in its early years. Miss Mildred Edwards is the organist, Mrs. C. E. Otey is the choir director, and Miss Anne Booker is secretary to the pastor.

The Woman's Missionary Society was formed in 1915, with Mrs. L. W. Byrd as the first president. She held that post for seventeen years, except for a brief interval that the post was filled by Mrs. J. H. Fulghum. Others who have served the society as president are Mrs. B. F. Edwards, Mrs. A. C. Allman, Mrs. J. C. Laughridge, Mrs. William Newsome, Mrs. Vernon Laughridge, and Mrs. Marvin Wagoner.