

Sunday, November 4, 2007

Haymore Memorial Baptist Church celebrates 95th anniversary

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LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Haymore Memorial Baptist Church doesn't look 95, but it is. That's why the membership had a celebration on Oct. 21 to commemorate its beginning from 1902.

The Rev. Roger McCrary, pastor, welcomed those attending the morning worship service on Oct. 21 and Betty Wright related facts about the church history. The Rev. Wayne Trexler delivered the morning message and revival services.

During the Sunday luncheon that followed, groups enjoyed looking at photos and memorabilia that had been accumulated during the years.

Brochures included facts about the Rev. J.E. Smith, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mount Airy, who realized the need for a mission in the southern section of Mount Airy as there was no ministry to the people of the area. That was in 1907.

With the help of his two sons and folks from the southern part of town, they erected a building on the corner of Price and Marshall streets and when finished, the mission was named Workers' Mission, which became the ward of the First Baptist Church.

According to church history, services were held each Sunday afternoon, being well attended by people of various faiths, as they could attend their own churches in the morning and the services of the Mission in the afternoon.

Then on Oct. 13, 1912, a congregation assembled at Workers' Mission for the purpose of organizing a Baptist church. The Baptist ministers present were C.C. Haymore, T.H. King, C.J. Fields, C.C. Arrington, Dr.T. J. Smith and William James. Along with these preachers, there were five deacons from First Baptist Church that formed the presbytery. With 40 members adopting the church covenant, the church was named Second Baptist Church. The church accepted the Mission house and agreed to buy it on April 13, 1913.

In 1922 the church voted to build a new church to be erected on the site of the Second Baptist parsonage on Rockford Street. The name of the new church was changed to Haymore Baptist Church in honor of the first pastor, the Rev. C. C. Haymore and his brother, Rufe Haymore.

Following C.C. Haymore as pastor were W.P. McCarter, J.H. Fulghum, R.N. Childress, Bishop J. Willis, M.F. Booe, Raymond C. Lanier, C.E. Otey, Roy Davis, Luther Morphis, Edward H. Daniel, Jim Burch and Edward Stiegel. The Rev. Robert McCrary has been pastor there since 1989.

Members declared it a glorious celebration for the church and their guests. Many said they are looking to be around for the 100th year celebration.

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Some members of the Workers' Mission on the corner of Price and Marshall Streets are shown on the front steps sometime around 1900. The mission would later become Haymore Memorial Baptist Church. Identified in the photo are Gabe Byrd, Etta Byrd Pennix, Sarah Puckett Byrd, Hessie Bumgardner Moody, Mary Bumgardner Williamson, Rev. C. C. Haymore, Mae Mose, Frances Harris Arrington, Jesse Byrd, Elizabeth Byrd, Tilda Byrd, Laura Rose Potts, James Inscore, Hattie Inscore Colbert, Nicholas "N.L." Hooker, Victoria "Vic" Byrd Chandler, S.A. McKnight, Jones Byrd, Charlie Byrd and Garnett Byrd. Persons who can identify others in this photo are asked to call the church office at 786-7435.



During the 95th anniversary celebration of Haymore Memorial Baptist Church, two of the oldest members were recognized. Bill Chandler, left, and Hylton Wright, stop to speak with Delsie Olsen, left, who is 95, and Frances Clifton, 98. Maxie East, who is 101, is the oldest church member.



The Rev. Roger McCrary, left, pastor of Haymore Memorial Baptist Church, and his wife Gayle, look at church memorabilia with the Rev. Wayne Trexler and his wife, Doris. Trexler delivered the Sunday morning message in celebration of Haymore's 95th anniversary and also lead the weekly revival services.