

COMMITTEE ON ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM
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 Mrs. Mabel Alexander—Secretary
 Mrs. Nanie Wood—Chairlady on Programme
 Mrs. Marie Kenney—Chairlady on Publicity
 Mrs. Bessie Nicholas—Chairlady on Entertainment
 Reception—Usher Board
 Music—Choirs
 Decoration—Mr. James Carter

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 Mrs. Laura E. Gilmore
 Chairman Temporary
 Mrs. Rowland
 Mrs. McQueen
 Mrs. Jordan
 Reverend Peter G. Crawford
 Mr. M. W. Osborne
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THE ECHO

Keep history of church
 Announcing The

THE 86TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY—September

THE 56TH YEAR DEDICATION—March



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL

1953

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The ECHO, sponsored by the "We Dit It" Club is dedicated this month to the 56th year Dedication and the 86th year Anniversary Celebration.

The Echo was dedicated to serve the churches and community for just such occasions. We have done the best we could prayerfully to bring you the local news in our community and also, give you something worthwhile to read. It has been a pleasure to serve you in our small way, hoping with all our hearts we have been of some service. The next three months the ECHO will appear in the Lexington Gazette which has given space to the club. We will continue to do our best to serve our churches and community with God as our guide, your prayers and continued encouragements will help us overcome the hardships.

LIFE'S TESTS

If never a sorrow came to us, and never a care we knew;
If every hope were realized, and every dream came true;
If only joy were found on earth, and no one ever sighed,
And never a friend proved false to us, and never a loved one died,
And never a burden bore us down, soul-sick and weary, too,
We'd yearn for tests to prove our worth and tasks for us to do.

Edgar A. Guest

Our Motto: Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You.
We will practice this Golden Rule though oft times we are misunderstood but trusting in God, He will always make a way.

Lillian L. Clark, Leader
Kitola Pleasants, Editor

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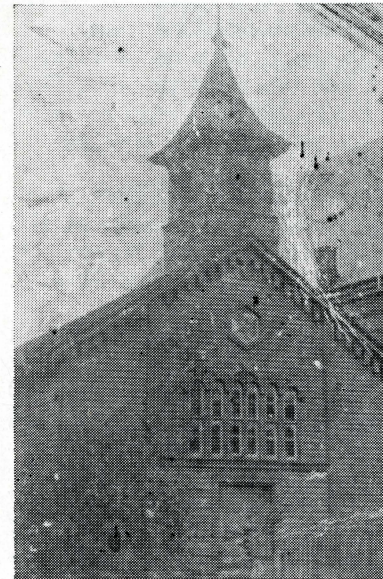
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A Brief History of The First Baptist Church
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA



The History Committee of the First Baptist Church, appointed to serve for 1953 will attempt to give you an idea of the beginning of the denomination and some of the achievements accomplished.

The First History Committee that we have been able to find record of, met in our present building March 6, 1905. Bro. Johnson A. Pettigrew was Chairman, Bro. William L. Price, Clerk, at the meeting. Scripture lesson was read from Romans 8th chapter and prayers were offered by Bro. Henry Baker and Bro. Matthew Osborne. The first deacons were: Brothers Jacob Bowyer, Armsted Holliway, John Jones, Jerry Myers, James Pleasants and Robert H. Price. The first clerk was Bro. John H. Henry; Assistant Clerk, Bro. Lylburn Downing. There were fifty-two male members and fifty-seven female members.

Morton, the author of the Rockbridge County History, published in 1920 states that the church was known as the First African Baptist Church started September 22, 1867.

Rev. Smith lead the members as Moses lead the children of Israel. Members and friends worshipped approximately thirty years in that building. During that time the members purchased the lot our present edifice is on.

- The following pastors served in the first building:
- * Rev. Milton Smith 1867-1872
 - * Rev. G. E. Elliot 1872-1875
 - * Rev. T. T. Jackson 1875-1880
 - * Dr. S. B. Howard 1880-1885
 - * Rev. W. M. Troy 1885-1886
 - * Rev. J. L. Barksdale 1886-1889
 - * Dr. W. M. Moss 1889-1893
 - * Dr. W. I. Johnson 1893-1902

Rev. Johnson served as pastor in both buildings. The corner stone of our present building was laid during his pastorage.

* Rev. P. S. Lewis 1902-1906, it was under his administration the mortage was lifted.

According to a June issue of the Rockbridge County News there was a headline that states: BOND BURNING Monday Night.

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Monday night May 29, 1905 was an interesting occasion at the First Baptist church, the time set for celebrating the full liquidation of all debts incident to their building enterprise. The congregation now possesses a modern handsome, and commodious church, modern in all appointments, which cost about \$25,000.

The enterprise was begun nearly twenty years ago, under Dr. G. B. Howard, it was completed under Dr. W. T. Johnson's administration.

A large crowd was present, possibly 1,400 persons; both races enjoyed the affair, Drs. Howard, Moss, and Johnson ex-pastors were present. Doctors James L. Howe, Sr., Charles Manly and Mr. B. E. Vaughan were among the guests. The addresses were all in happy vein and emphasized the pleasant relation existing between the races.

The burning of the bonds took place after the speaking. Rev. P. S. Lewis pastor and the following bondsmen and trustees had charge of the burning: Brothers Jefferson Anderson, W. Hayden Holmes, James A. Jackson, Parker Pendleton, Johnson A. Pettigrew and Jefferson Shields.

Special music was rendered.

After Rev. P. S. Lewis left our community the following ministers served:

Rev. J. W. Lucas 1906-1906	* Rev. P. W. Cook 1927-1930
* Rev. J. Carruthers 1907-1908	The lot on the corner of Main and
Rev. J. W. Tynes 1909-1912	Henry Streets was purchased dur-
Dr. J. A. Brinkley 1912-1915	ing his administration.
Rev. S. A. Thurston ... 1915-1920	Rev. J. W. Goodgame ... 1930-1937
Our present organ was installed	Rev. C. O. Mitchell 1937-1947
under his administration.	The interior of our main auditor-
Rev. N. J. L. Gonsalves 1920-1927	ium was decorated and new carpet
The parsonage was erected dur-	laid.
ing his administration.	Rev. E. L. Green 1947-1952
	The basement was renovated dur-
	ing this administration.

Rev. P. G. Crawford - 1952 -

A new furnace was installed in the fall of 1952 under the present administration.

Many souls have been saved under our pastors.

It is the desire of our present membership that our present pastor will labor well and his stay will be harmonious.

Long hours of toil and hard labor have been spent over the years that we might enjoy an attractive Christian home.

Mrs. Laura Etta P. Gilmore, Chairman.

* Deceased

The Ladies Auxilliary of the First Baptist Church is prayerfully aware of our great heritage, the Christian Church. We humbly pay our respects to those who labored, that this be made possible. May we ever be mindful of our responsibility.

Mrs. M. F. Kenny, President

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THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNOUNCING THE SERVICES OF

The 86th Year Anniversary

The 56th Year Dedication

Lexington, Virginia

APRIL 14TH THRU APRIL 19TH, 1953

PROGRAM

TUESDAY	8:30 P. M.	April 14th
MUSIC	Choir of Baptist Church, Buena Vista, Va.	
SPEAKER	Rev. G. W. Bolen, Baptist Church	
	Presented by Mr. Shedrick Nicholas	

WEDNESDAY	8:30 P. M.	April 15th
MUSIC	Choir Randolph Street Methodist Church, Lexington, Va.	
SPEAKER	Rev. D. W. Williams, Randolph Street Methodist Church	
	Presented by Mrs. Alice Moore	

THURSDAY	6:00 P. M.	April 16th
BAZZAR NIGHT: Each Department will sponsor a booth. home cooked food, surprise packages, ice cream, soft drinks and hand work will be on sale. Come and enjoy a delightful evening.		

SUNDAY	11:00 A. M.	April 19th
MUSIC	Choir of The First Baptist Church, Lexington, Va.	
SPEAKER	Rev. Peter G. Crawford, Pastor	

SUNDAY	3:30 P. M.	April 29th
MUSIC	Choir of The First Baptist Church, Covington, Va.	
SPEAKER	Rev. Marshall F. Robinson, The First Baptist Church, Covington, Va.	

Introduced by Mrs. Lauretta Gilmore

Social Hour in Lecture Room following program. All are invited to attend.

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Baptist Church

The Anniversary and Dedication year of the church is now being observed which will end the third Sunday with a Spring Rally. Each Adult member is asked to give \$5.00 and each department of the church \$25.00. All interested persons and friends are asked to take part.

The Sunday School will observe the 2nd Sunday in May Mother's Day along with the Cradle roll day.

The Ladies Auxilliary is sponsoring Women's Day May 17th. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Luella Goff who is president of the Federation clubs of the South Eastern District of the United States. Participants from various churches in the county will take part. The theme: "Women's responsibility in the world today."

Women's club, Special Day program Sunday, April 26 at 3:30 P. M. The Star City Pilgrim Gospel Chours of Roanoke, Virginia. Everyone is Welcomed.

The Training Union is glad indeed, to see some of its member put on the full Armor of God. We welcome all of the new members to our department which teaches how to become better members of the church. Sunday afternoon at 6 P. M.

PAST NEWS

Many things have been happening in our church during the Lenten season which resulted in 23 persons being baptised on Easter Sunday. Hoping our church will grow stronger with the true spirit of God.

A POEM

WHEN YOU KNOW A FELLOW

When you get to know a fellow, know his joys and know his cares,
When you've come to understand him and the burdens that he bears,
When you've learned the fight he's making and the troubles in his way,
Then you find that he is different than you thought him yesterday.
You find his faults are trivial and there's not much to blame
In the brother that you jeered at when you only knew his name.

You are quick to see the blemish in the distant neighbor's style,
You can point to all his errors and may sneer at him the while,
And your prejudices fatten and your hates more violent grow
As you talk about the failures of the man you do not know,
But when drawn a little closer, and your hands and shoulders touch,
You find the traits you hated really don't amount to much.

Edgar A. Guest

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Methodist Church

The Randolph Methodist Church has been enjoying many religious offerings throughout the past month of March.

We were host to the Women's Society of Christian Service of Virginia Washington District. The president Mrs. Robert Miles, Jr. played a great part in making the program a success with services and group meetings held in various departments of the church. Luncheon was served by the women, the club and leading church men.

Revival was held from March 23rd through 27th conducted by the Rev. Beatrice Baker, pastor of the Methodist Church of Covington, Va. The services were very inspirational to all who attended.

One correction to be made: The Bingo party given by Mrs. Ruth Barbour last month was not given for the Young Women's Interest Grou.

Closing Thought:

Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness,
God be merciful unto us and bless us
Show the light of his countenance
That Thy may be known upon earth,
Thy saving health among all nations
"Let us praise Thee."

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