

Cross S. Perry
TO

Be it Remembered, That on the *15th* day of *April* - A. D. 1874 a Marriage License, of which the following is a correct copy, was issued by the Clerk of the District Court of Gregg County, to-wit:

The State of Texas, County of Gregg.

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

Know Ye, That any person legally authorized to celebrate the Rites of Matrimony, is hereby licensed to join in Marriage, as husband and wife, *Cross S. Perry* — and *Miss Eugenia S. Burke* and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the Town of Longview this *Fifteenth* day of *April* - 1874

R. B. Coyle
Clerk District Court Gregg County.

BE IT FURTHER REMEMBERED, That on the *Sixteenth* day of *April* - A. D. 1874 a certificate, of which the following is a correct copy, was filed in the office of the Clerk of the District Court of Gregg County, to-wit:

This is to Certify, That *D. S. Snodgrass* — being legally authorized by the laws of the State of Texas to celebrate the Rites of Matrimony, did join in marriage, as husband and wife *Cross S. Perry* — and *Miss Eugenia S. Burke* on the *Fifteenth* day of *April* — A. D. 1874.

D. S. Snodgrass, Baptist Minister of the Gospel.

The above Certificate must be returned to the Clerk's Office within sixty days, with the blanks filled with the names and dates and signed by the person solemnizing the marriage.

A true copy of the original on file in my office.

TESTE:

R. B. Coyle
Clerk District Court, Gregg County.

Always an affidavit of Nathan Bussey & Miss Annie Lingo

Nathan Bussey
TO
Miss Annie Lingo

Be it Remembered, That on the 28th
day of July — A. D. 1874

a Marriage License, of which the following is a correct copy, was issued by the
Clerk of the District Court of Gregg County, to-wit:

The State of Texas, County of Gregg.

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

Know Ye, That any person legally authorized to celebrate the Rites
of Matrimony, is hereby licensed to join in Marriage, as husband and wife,
Nathan Bussey and Miss Annie Lingo
and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the Town of Longview

this 28th day of July — 1874

M. B. Long
Clerk District Court, Gregg County.

BE IT FURTHER REMEMBERED, That on the 29th day
of July — A. D. 1874, a certificate, of which the following is a correct
copy, was filed in the office of the Clerk of the District Court of Gregg County,
to-wit:

This is to Certify, That I *D. S. Snodgrass*, being legally
authorized by the laws of the State of Texas to celebrate the Rites of Matrimony,
did join in marriage, as husband and wife *Nathan Bussey*
and *Miss Annie Lingo* on the twenty eighth day
of July — A. D. 1874

D. S. Snodgrass Baptist
Minister

20 The above Certificate must be returned to the Clerk's Office within sixty days, with the blanks filled with the names and dates and signed by
the person solemnizing the marriage.

A true copy of the original on file in my office.

TESTE:

R. B. Long
Clerk District Court, Gregg County.

R. L. Halsey Deputy

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LONGVIEW. HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION PROCEDURE

There was no written program of the outdoor portion of the dedication. Dr. Hall asked the congregation, at 11:45 AM, to move to the outdoor area in front on the sanctuary, in Fredonia Street. The large sound system and lecturn were already in place. Fredonia Street was previously closed from South to Cotton Streets by the Longview Police Department.

Dr. Hall introduced Dr. Black who made a brief statement. Dr. Black and Dr. Hall unveiled the historical marker, the text of which was read by Dr. Ken Durham. Mr. Harlan Hall led the congregation in a stanza of "On This Holy Ground I Stand". (End of H. M. Dedication)

Pacific
Railway Co.
Deed
B K Smith
W G Northcutt
L S Markham
F J Harrison
and
F S Whaley
Trustees of the Baptist Church of Longview
Gregg County Texas
(411)

The State of Texas } Know all men by these Presents
County of Harrison } That the Texas and Pacific Railway Company
in consideration of One Dollar paid
by B K Smith W G Northcutt L S Markham F J Harrison
and F S Whaley Trustees of the Baptist Church of Longview
Gregg County Texas the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,
have granted, bargained, sold, and by this
act do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said
B K Smith W G Northcutt L S Markham F J Harrison and
F S Whaley Trustees in Trust for the said Church and to their
successors in office all of its right and title in and to
that certain Land, lot and property, situate in the County
of Gregg in the State of Texas and known and described
as follows: Lots numbered Fifteen (15) and sixteen (16) in Block
number Thirty-three (33) as laid down and described in the
Plat of the Town of Longview, together with all and singular
the rights, members, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances
to the same, belonging, or in any wise appertaining

The said Company, in consideration of the foregoing
payment, does hereby bind itself to warrant and forever
defend the title hereby conveyed against the lawful claim
of all persons claiming the same or any part thereof, of,
from, by or through said Company

Witness, the Texas and Pacific Railway Company
by the Hand of its President, attested by the
Seal of said Company This first day of September
A D 1874

Attest E B Hart
Secy

William A Wallace
Vice President



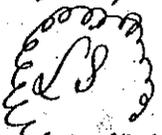
The State of Pennsylvania } Be it Remembered, that
City and County of Philadelphia } on this Ninth day of October
A D 1874 Before me, the Subscriber, (a Commissioner
for the State of Texas, duly qualified) personally came
Wm A Wallace Vice, President of the Texas & Pacific
Railway Company personally known to me, who being
duly sworn, said: That he was President of said Corporation,
That he knew the corporate seal of said Corporation,
That the seal affixed to the within conveyance
was such corporate seal That it was affixed
by order of the Board of Directors of said Corporation

and that he signed his name thereto by the like order
as President of said Corporation, for the consideration
and purposes therein stated

William A Wallace

Sworn and subscribed before
me at Philadelphia aforesaid

The day and year aforesaid



Chas H Krumphaar

A Comm^d for the State of Texas

The State of Pennsylvania } Be it Remembered, that
City and County of Philadelphia } on this Ninth day of October

A D 1874 Before me, the

Subscriber personally came E B Hart Secretary
of the Texas & Pacific Railway Company personally
known to me, who being duly sworn said that he
was Secretary of said Corporation, that he knew
the corporate seal of said Corporation, that the
seal affixed to the within conveyance was such
corporate seal, that it was so affixed by order of
the Board of Directors of said Corporation and that
he signed his name thereto by the like order as secretary
of said Corporation and the said E B Hart further
said that he was acquainted with W A Wallace and
knew him to be Vice President of the said Company
that the signature of the said W A Wallace subscribed
to said conveyance was in the genuine handwriting
of the said W A Wallace and was thereto subscribed by
the like order of aforesaid Board of Directors, for
the consideration and purposes therein stated.

E B Hart

Sworn and subscribed before me
at Philadelphia aforesaid, the day
and year aforesaid



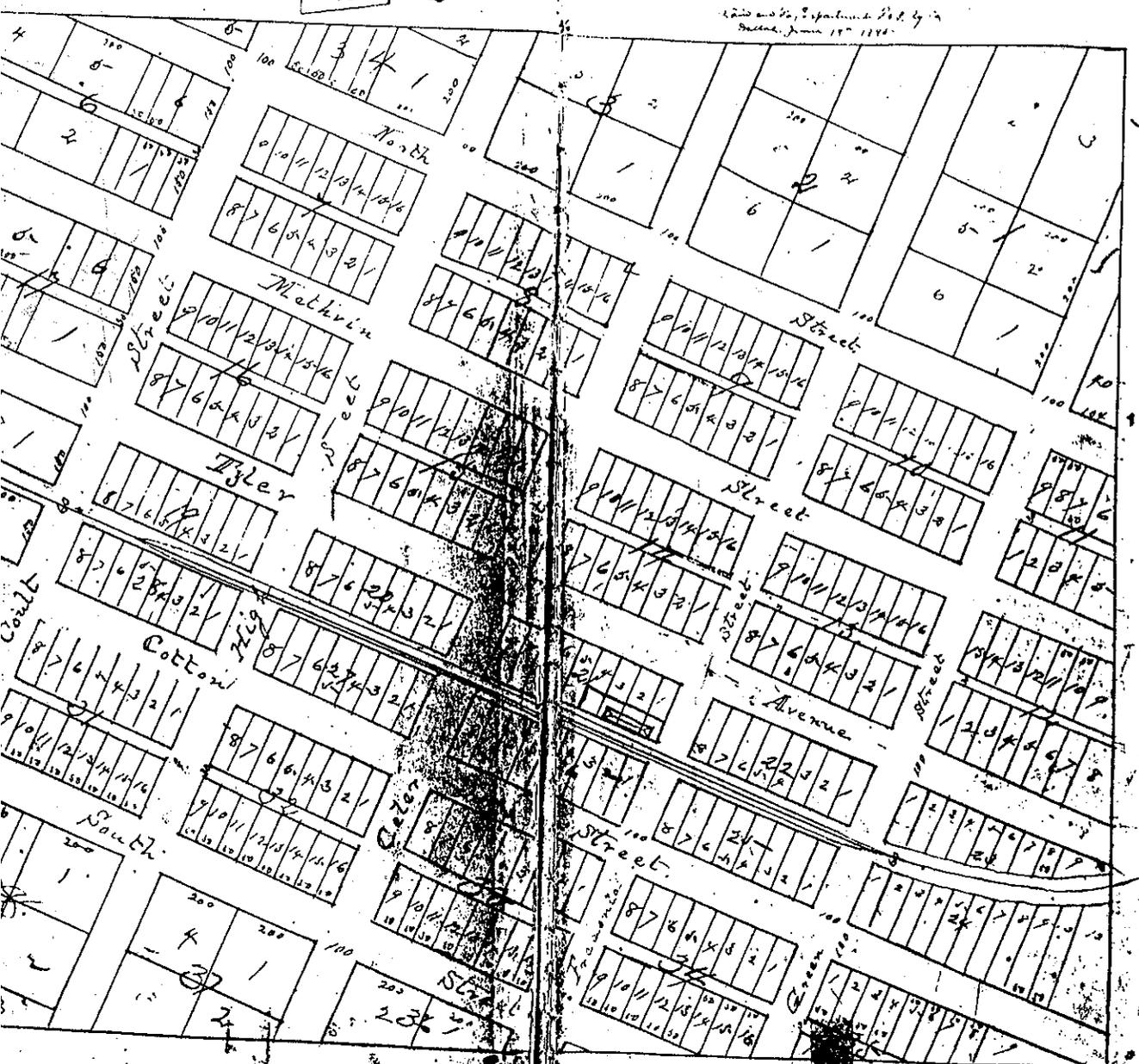
Chas H Krumphaar

A Comm^d for the State of Texas

The State of Texas } I do hereby certify that the above
County of Gregg } and foregoing is a true and
correct copy of the original Deed and Certificate
of Acknowledgment and Proof as filed for Record in my
Office the 21st day of December A D 1874 at 10⁴⁵ O'clock AM
this 21st day of December A D 1874 R B Levy Clerk D C G Co, F L Whaley Deputy

LONGVIEW June 19-1895

Scale 1" = 100' ...
 1200 and 120, Department of Pub. ...
 Dallas, June 19th 1895



certifies the above as a true and correct map of the town of Longview,
 in Tarrant County, Texas, as shown by the records of this office and

Record Commission in the Office of the
 said and the Commissioner at Dallas, Texas.

J. H. ...
 and ...

Given to ...
 by me this 31st day of June 1895
 E. M. ...
 ...

I hereby certify that the above map is a true
 and correct map of the town of Longview,
 in Tarrant County, Texas, as shown by the records of this office and
 the Record Commission in the Office of the
 said and the Commissioner at Dallas, Texas.
 ...

ADM. E. LEGAL
 INSURANCE
 5 MAPS

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
LONGVIEW, TEXAS

The history of the First Baptist Church of Longview stretches across 118 years. The church was founded by fifteen people in 1871 in a Longview residence (Northcutt, 10, 11). These charter members were Mr. and Mrs. William George Northcutt, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Lucius Whaley, Mr. and Mrs. Friley John Harrison, Rev. and Mrs. Louis S. Markham, Mr. and Mrs. Absolom B. Tankersley, Mrs. A. W. Morrison, Mrs. S. F. Young, Mrs. M. T. Jacobs, Dr. Thomas Marion Coleman, and a Dr. and Mrs. Snodgrass (Northcutt, 8 and a Church History included in the 1929 Church Business Minutes).

Dr. Snodgrass, an itinerant Baptist preacher, was the organizing minister, and, regrettably the church records do not reveal his full name or initials (Northcutt, 10). The name of the church was The Baptist Church of Longview, Upshur County, Texas, but in 1873 Gregg County was formed out of portions of Rusk and Upshur Counties, and the church members changed the name to reflect the new county designation (Northcutt, 10).

On September 1, 1874 the Texas and Pacific Railway Company donated to the Baptist Church lots number fifteen (15) and sixteen (16) in Block number thirty-three (33) of the Longview Town Plat (Vol. B, pp. 5 & 6, Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas). This property is the northwest corner at the intersection of South Fredonia and South Streets (Longview Town Plat, Vol. O, pp. 6 & 7, Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County Texas). Upon this property the members erected the first church building for the Baptist Church in late 1874. (Early

Church History, by Lucia Whaley, p. 1, MSS). This 40 x 75 foot simple frame building consisted of vestibules, clear glass windows, a baptistry, choir seats, and three sections of wooden pews (Church History in 1929 Church Minutes). In 1882 the building was dressed-up considerably by the addition of a portico, belfry, and a tin spire (Longview Democrat April 28, 1882, May 5, 1882).

In 1874 the church called its first pastor, Dr. A. Eagan Clemmons who served until 1881. In that year two of the farsighted men of the church, Mr. F. L. Whaley and Mr. F. J. Harrison purchased lot number fourteen (14) adjacent to the church property, and deeded it to the Church for future expansion (1929 Church History; and Book G, pp. 16 & 17, Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County Texas). Other pastors who preached in this original building were Dr. Albert Bell Vaughn (1881-1883), Dr. William Harrington Dodson (1883-1886), Dr. George Washington Griffin (1887-1890), Dr. Adoniram Judson Wharton (1890-1891), Rev. Robert Abner Lee (1892-1894), Dr. William Thomas Tardy (1894-1896), Rev. Franz Marshall McConnell (1896-1898), and Dr. Alexander Bowles MacCurdy (1899-1902)(Northcutt, 18-30).

Under Dr. MacCurdy's leadership the church built a handsome red brick structure with little Gothic-style stained-glass windows carpet, and electric lights. A moveable partition separated the main meeting room from the Sunday School room. It was built on the same site as the original frame building which was razed. The congregation met with the Presbyterian Church during the time that the new brick building was being erected

(1929 Church History). It was dedicated in January 1901 (Northcutt, 29 & 30). Pastors who preached in this building were Rev. Robert Winnifred Merrill (1902-1904), Rev. Asa A. Duncan (1904-1909), Rev. James Rankin Magill (1909- 1910), and Rev. James Eaton Hughes (1910-1914) (Northcutt, 31-37).

In a little over a decade the church outgrew the lovely little red-brick building, and Rev. Hughes led the congregation in erecting, on the same site, a magnificent neo-classical cream-colored brick building which also faced Fredonia. Wide concrete steps led to the high front porch which had four large Corinthian columns supporting the high porch roof. Twin double-door entrances flanked the Corinthian columns. Other unique features were the beautiful gold-colored dome, stained-glass windows, the a U-shaped balcony, and curved pews. (Photographs of both the interior and exterior of this building, Church History Room). During the period of construction the church met in a nearby movie theater. Dr. Hughes became seriously ill as the building neared completion, and he died in a Dallas hospital on the very day the new building was dedicated, Sunday, May 24, 1914 (Northcutt, 37). On October 21 of that same year the members of the Baptist Church of Longview incorporated themselves as the First Baptist Church of Longview (1929 Church History).

The spacious and stately new auditorium served both the Church and the city of Longview for thirty-seven years for both church and patriotic services during both World War I and World War II. Pastors who served during this thirty-seven year period were Dr. Russell Johnson Pirkey (1914-1917), Dr. A.A. Duncan (1917-1919), Rev. William Hutcheson Joyner (1919-1921), Rev. Oscar Lee Smith

(1921-1925), Rev. John L. Whorton (1925-1930 & 1932-1941), Rev. Arthur A. Dulaney (1931-1932), Rev. G. Kearnie Keegan (1941-1944), and Dr. W. Morris Ford (1945-1970) (Northcutt, 39-38).

Rev. Whorton was the most^s beloved pastor the church had ever had, and during his first pastorate of five years the church membership grew from 570 to 901 (Northcutt, 49). To meet the demands of this growth Rev. Whorton proposed building a large adjoining Christian educational and church office building on the north side of the auditorium. The church, however, preferred a smaller building which was completed in 1929 (Northcutt, 49). When Rev. Whorton returned in 1932 the East Texas oil boom was in progress, and church membership reached 4,000 (Northcutt, 52), necessitating the construction of additional Christian educational space. Ground breaking for a second building was held on July 15, 1933 (Church Bulletins for July 9 & 16, 1933) and the building was officially opened November 19 (Church Bulletins for November 5 & November 19, 1933). This building was constructed in front of the first unit (photographs of the building, Church History Room). A third building, located behind the first unit, was dedicated on November 11, 1940, the fifteenth anniversary of Dr. John L. Whorton's ministry (cornerstone, and photographs, Church History Room).

In the mid 1930s Dr. Whorton also established three mission congregations known as Northcutt Heights Mission, South Highlands Mission, and East Mooreland Mission. These became separate churches under the following names respectively in the years indicated, Northside Baptist Church (1949), Valley View Baptist Church (1941), and Mobberly Avenue Baptist Church (1938)

(Northcutt, 52). Rev. Kearnie Keegan led in honoring Dr. Wharton by naming the church library in his memory (Be^{re}atrice Northcutt, article on History of FBC, Longview News-Journal, April 11, 1948).

Under Dr. W. Morris Ford the church continued its interest in local missions and church growth. He led in establishing in 1957 Oak Lawn Chapel on the extreme northern edge of the city. The First Baptist Church voted in business session on October 19, 1960 that Oak Lawn Chapel could become Oakland Heights Baptist Church as of January 1, 1961. (FBC Business Minutes, October 19, 1960). Church attendance under Dr. Ford was so large that he began holding two services each Sunday morning, but this effort still could not accomodate the crowds. Consequently, he led the church in purchasing a quarter of a city block (lots nos. 9, 10, 11, & 12 in city block no. 34) on the east side of Fredonia Street, immediately across the street from the cream brick building (Northcutt, 60, and Longview Town Plat Map). On this site the church constructed a magnificent modified Gothic style sanctuary and chapel of pink sand brick with a rose blend and a copper roof. The most salient interior features of this 70 by 119 feet sanctuary are its 91 foot high vaulted ceiling, its seven stained-glass windows along the north wall, the beautiful stained glass 'Parable of the Sower' window filling the full height of the wall above the baptistry, the wide carpeted isles and platform, the large choir loft, the Aeolian-Skinner Organ, and the two sections of cushioned oak pews. The air-conditioned sanctuary was dedicated in December, 1951 (Sanctuary Dedication Booklet, Pastor's Office). On October 7, 1953 the church voted to name the old auditorium Memorial Auditorium in memory of all

church members since 1871 (Church Business Minutes, Oct. 7, 1953). It continued to serve as the meeting place for various church organizations and activities including Wednesday evening prayer service.

In 1952 Dr. Ford led the church in purchasing the two lots between the back of the new sanctuary and Green Street (lots nos. 15, & 16 in block no. 34), (Church Business Minutes, Jan. 8, 1952) and erecting on this site the Children's Building which was dedicated in May, 1955 (Northcutt, 62). Dr. Ford continued as pastor until June of 1971 for a total of twenty-six years; longer by far than any other pastor. Through his farsighted leadership the church purchased in three separate transactions the entire northern half of the city block just north of the new sanctuary (Church Business Minutes Oct. 5, 1952, June 28, 1961, and Deacons' Meeting Minutes Oct. 11 and Dec. 13, 1959). One of his last responsibilities was leading the church in celebrating the one hundredth anniversaries of both the Church and of Longview in 1971 (Miss Aurelia Northcutt, "A History of the Growth and Progress of First Baptist Church 1868-1968").

Pastors who have served since 1971 are Dr. William C. Everett (1972-1976), Dr. Charles Holland (1977-1987), and Dr. Kenneth Hall (1987 to the present). Under Dr. Holland's leadership the church honored Dr. and Mrs. Ford by naming the chapel Ford Chapel on September 21, 1977 (Church Business Minutes and Ford Chapel Resolution, Sept. 21, 1977).

In 1976 the church chose a building committee to study plans for a new Christian educational building to be built just north

of the new sanctuary. Construction began in October 1977 and the four story, 119,000 square foot edifice (Dedication Booklet for the Christian Education Building, 1979) was dedicated on November 11, 1979 (Church Bulletin, November 11, 1979). Most of the church offices remained in the old educational buildings until the Children's Building was renovated for church office space in 1980. After the church offices were removed from the old educational buildings they were no longer in active use, consequently, the first two units and Memorial Auditorium, which had been structurally condemned, were razed in the winter months of 1982-1983 (Photographs of the demolition, Church History Room). The third building then stood alone, serving as storage space and for a time as a youth center. The church considered erecting a family life center on the property, but the idea was dropped due to lack of strong support (Church Business Minutes, Sept. 18, 1985). The third old building was finally razed in 1988, and the church voted to build a ^a parking lot on this site where the original church building had stood (Church Business Minutes, Nov. 16, 1988).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Church Histories

Northcutt, Be^{rs}arnice, History of First Baptist Church Since 1871, Longview, Texas Longview: House of L & M, 1968.

Northcutt, Aurelia, "A History of the Growth and Progress of First Baptist Church, 1968-1985", an essay.

Whaley, Lucia, "Early Church History," a typed manuscript by the daughter of one of the founding couples.

Early Church History as recorded in the 1929 Church Business Minutes.

Church Records

Church Bulletins, selected dates, Church History Room and various church offices.

Church Business Minutes, annual bound volumes 1929-1971 Church History Room; 1971-current minutes, unbound, in various church offices.

Church Dedication Booklets: present sanctuary 1971, and Christian Education Building 1979, Church History Room.

Church Photographs, Church History Room.

County Records

Deed to Original Property from the Texas and Pacific Railway Co. Vol. B pp. 5 & 6 Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

Deed to initial property purchased, Book G pp. 16 & 17, Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

Old Longview Town Plat^(t), Vol. O, pp. 6 & 7, Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

Newspapers

Longview Democrat, April 28 and May 5, 1882

Longview News Journal April 11, 1948

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF LONGVIEW 1871 - 1989

AN APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
FOR A HISTORICAL MARKER
DESIGNATING THE SITE OF
THE ORIGINAL AND EARLY CHURCH BUILDINGS
OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LONGVIEW

Prepared at the Request of the Church
by
Dr. Ken Durham
15 Country Place
Longview, Texas 75601

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
LONGVIEW, TEXAS
by Ken Durham, Ph. D.

The history of the First Baptist Church of Longview stretches across 118 years. The church was founded by fifteen people in 1871 in a Longview residence.¹ These charter members were Mr. and Mrs. William George Northcutt, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Lucillius Whaley, Mr. and Mrs. Friley John Harrison, Rev. and Mrs. Louis S. Markham, Mr. and Mrs. Absalom B. Tankersley, Mrs. A. W. Morrison, Mrs. S. F. Young, Mrs. M. T. Jacobs, Dr. Thomas Marion Coleman, and a Dr. and Mrs. Snodgrass.² Dr. Snodgrass, an itinerant Baptist preacher, was the organizing minister, and, regretfully the church records do not reveal his full name or initials.³ The name of the church was The Baptist Church of Longview, Upshur County, Texas, but in 1873 Gregg County was formed out of portions of Rusk and Upshur Counties, and the church members changed the name to reflect the new county designation.⁴ On September 1, 1874 the Texas and Pacific Railway Company deeded to the Baptist Church lots number fifteen (15) and sixteen (16) in Block number thirty-three (33) of the Old [1895] Longview Town Plat.⁵ This property is the northwest corner at the intersection of South Fredonia and South Streets.⁶ Upon this property the members erected the first church building for the Baptist Church in late 1874.⁷ This 40 x 75 feet simple frame building consisted of vestibules, clear glass windows, a baptistry, choir seats, and three sections of wooden pews.⁸ In 1882 the building was dressed-up considerably by the addition of a portico, belfry, and a tin spire.⁹

In 1874 the church called its first pastor, Dr. A. Eagan Clemmons who served until 1881. In that year two of the farsighted men of the church, Mr. F. L. Whaley and Mr. F. J. Harrison purchased lot number fourteen (14) immediately east of the church property, and deeded it to the Church for future expansion.¹⁰ Other pastors who preached in this original building were Dr. Albert Bell Vaughn (1881-1883), Dr. William Harrington Dodson (1883-1886), Dr. George Washington Griffin (1887-1890), Dr. Adoniram Judson Wharton (1890-1891), Rev. Robert Abner Lee (1892-1894), Dr. William Thomas Tardy (1894-1896), Rev. Franz Marshall McConnell (1896-1898), and Dr. Alexander Bowles MacCurdy (1899-1902).¹¹

Under Dr. MacCurdy's leadership the church built a handsome red brick structure with little Gothic-style stained-glass windows, carpet, and electric lights. A moveable partition separated the main meeting room from the Sunday School room. It was built on the same site as the original frame building which was razed. The congregation met with the Presbyterian Church during the time that the new brick building was being erected.¹²

It was dedicated in January, 1901.¹³ Pastors who preached in this building were Rev. Robert Winnifred Merrill (1902-1904), Rev. A. A. Duncan (1904-1909), Rev. James Rankin Magill (1909-1910), and Rev. James Eaton Hughes (1910-1914).¹⁴

In a little over a decade the church outgrew the lovely little red-brick building, and Rev. Hughes led the congregation in erecting, on the same site, a magnificent neo-classical cream-colored brick building which also faced Fredonia. Wide concrete steps led to the high front porch which had four large

Corinthian columns supporting the high porch roof. Twin double door entrances with stained-glass transoms flanked the

Corinthian columns. Other unique features were the beautiful, large white dome, stained-glass windows, the a U-shaped balcony, and curved pews. ¹⁵ During the period of construction the church

met in a nearby movie theater. Dr. Hughes became seriously ill as the building neared completion, and he died in a Dallas hospital on the very day the new building was dedicated, Sunday, ¹⁶

May 24, 1914. On October 21 of that same year the members of the Baptist Church of Longview incorporated themselves as the ¹⁷ First Baptist Church of Longview.

The spacious and stately new auditorium served both the Church and the city of Longview for thirty-seven years for both church and patriotic services during both World War I and World War II. Pastors who served during this thirty-seven year period were Dr. Russell Johnson Pirkey (1914-1917), Dr. A. A. Duncan again (1917-1919), Rev. William Hutcheson Joyner (1919-1921), Rev. Oscar Lee Smith (1921-1925), Rev. John L. Whorton (1925-1930 & 1932-1941), Rev. Arthur A. Dulaney (1931-1932), Rev. G. Kearnie Keegan (1941-1944), and Dr. W. Morris Ford (1945-1971). ¹⁸

Rev. Whorton was the most beloved pastor the church had ever had, and during his first pastorate of five years the church ¹⁹ membership grew from 570 to 901. To meet the demands of this growth Rev. Whorton proposed building a large adjoining Christian educational and church office building on the north side of the auditorium. The church, however, preferred a smaller building ²⁰ which was completed in 1929. When Rev. Whorton returned in

1932 the East Texas oil boom was in progress and church membership reached 4,000, necessitating the construction of additional Christian educational space. Ground breaking for a second building was held on July 15, 1933, and the building was officially opened November 19. This building was constructed in front of the first unit. A third building, located behind the first unit, was dedicated on November 11, 1940, the fifteenth anniversary of Dr. John L. Whorton's ministry.

In the mid 1930s Dr. Whorton also established three mission congregations known as Northcutt Heights Mission, South Highlands Mission, and East Mooreland Mission. These became separate churches under the following names respectively in the years indicated, Northside Baptist Church (1949), Valley View Baptist Church (1941), and Mobberly Avenue Baptist Church (1938).

Rev. Kearnie Keegan led in honoring Dr. Whorton by naming the church library in his memory.

Under Dr. W. Morris Ford the church continued its interest in local missions and church growth. He led in establishing in 1957 Oak Lawn Chapel on the extreme northern edge of the city. The First Baptist Church voted in business session on October 19, 1960 that Oak Lawn Chapel could become Oakland Heights Baptist Church as of January 1, 1961. Church attendance under Dr. Ford was so large that he began holding two services each Sunday morning, but this effort still could not accomodate the crowds. Consequently, he led the church in purchasing six of the eight lots (lots nos. 9 - 14) in city block no. 159, (New City Lot & Block Map) on the east side of Fredonia Street, immediately across the street from the existing auditorium. On this site

the church constructed a magnificent modified Gothic style sanctuary and chapel of pink sand brick with a rose blend and a copper roof. The most salient interior features of this 70 by 119 feet sanctuary are its 91 feet high vaulted ceiling, its seven stained-glass windows along the north wall, the beautiful stained glass "Parable of the Sower" window filling the full height of the wall above the baptistry, the wide carpeted aisles and platform, the large choir loft, the eighty-six rank Aeolian-Skinner Organ, and the two sections of cushioned oak pews. The air-conditioned sanctuary was dedicated in December, 1951.³⁰ On October 7, 1953 the church voted to name the old auditorium Memorial Auditorium in memory of all church members since 1871.³¹ It continued to serve as the meeting place for various church organizations and activities including Wednesday evening prayer service.

In 1952 Dr. Ford led the church in purchasing the two other lots between the back of the new sanctuary and Green Street (lots nos. 15, & 16 in block no. 159),³² and erecting on this site the Children's Building which was dedicated in May, 1955.³³ Dr. Ford wisely led the church to purchase, in four separate transactions, the entire northern half of city block 159 (lots 1-8) just north of the new sanctuary.³⁴ Dr. Ford served as pastor until 1971, a total of twenty-six years, having the longest ministry of any other pastor. One of his last responsibilities was leading the church in celebrating the one hundredth anniversaries of both the Church and of Longview in 1971.³⁵

Pastors who have served since 1971 are Dr. William C. Everett

(1972-1976), Dr. Charles Holland (1977-1987), and Dr. Kenneth Hall (1987 to the present). Under Dr. Holland's leadership the church honored Dr. and Mrs. Ford by naming the chapel Ford Chapel on September 21, 1977.

In 1976 the church chose a building committee to study plans for a new Christian educational building to be built just north of the new sanctuary. Construction began in October 1977, and the four story, 119,000 square feet edifice was dedicated on November 11, 1979. Most of the church offices remained in the educational buildings until the Children's Building was renovated for church office space in 1980.

After the church offices were removed from the old educational buildings in February, 1980, the buildings were no longer in active use, consequently, the first two units and Memorial Auditorium, which had been structurally condemned, were razed in the winter months of 1982-1983. The third building then stood alone, serving as storage space and for a time as the youth center. The church considered erecting a family life center on the property, but the idea was dropped due to lack of strong support. The third old building was finally razed in 1988 to make room for a parking lot which the church voted to build on this site where its original and early church buildings had stood since 1874.

ENDNOTES

1 Berenice Northcutt, History of First Baptist Church Since 1871, Longview, Texas, Longview: House of L & M, 1968; Hereafter cited as Northcutt, pp. 10, 11.

2 Northcutt, p. 8; and Early Church History as recorded in the 1929 Church Business Minutes; hereafter cited as 1929 Church History.

3 Northcutt, p. 10.

4 Northcutt, p. 10.

5 Deed to Original Church property from the Texas and Pacific Railway Co. recorded in Vol. B pp. 5 & 6 of the Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

6 Old (1895) Longview Town Plat in Vol O, pp. 6 & 7 of the Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

7 Lucia Whaley, "Early Church History," typescript, p. 1.

8 1929 Church History.

9 Longview Democrat, April 28 and May 5, 1882.

10 1929 Church History; and Book G, pp 16 & 17 of the Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

11 Northcutt, pp. 18 - 30.

12 1929 Church History.

13 Northcutt, pp. 29 & 30.

14 Northcutt, pp. 31 - 37.

15 Photographs of both the interior and exterior of this building, Church History Room.

16 Northcutt, p. 37.

17 1929 Church History.

18 Northcutt, pp. 39 - 63.

19 Northcutt, p. 49.

20 Northcutt, p. 49.

21 Northcutt, p. 52

22 Church Bulletins for July 9 and 16, 1933, Church History

Room.

23 Church Bulletins for November 5 and 19, 1933, Church History Room.

24 Photographs of the building, Church History Room.

25 Cornerstone and photographs of the building, Church History Room.

26 Northcutt, p. 52.

27 Berenice Northcutt, "First Baptist Church Had Humble Beginning," Longview News-Journal, April 11, 1948.

28 Church Business Minutes, October 19, 1960.

29 Northcutt, p. 60; and New City of Longview Lot and Block Map, Office of the City Engineer, Longview City Hall.

30 Sanctuary Dedication Booklet, Church History Room.

31 Church Business Minutes, October 7, 1953.

32 Church Business Minutes, January 8, 1952.

33 Northcutt p. 62.

34 Church Business Minutes, October 5, 1952, June 28, 1961; and Deacons' Meeting Minutes, October 11 and December 13, 1959.

35 Aurelia Northcutt, "A History of the Growth and Progress of the First Baptist Church, 1968 - 1985," 1985.

36 Church Business Minutes and Ford Chapel Resolution, September 21, 1977.

37 Dedication Booklet for the Christian Education Building, 1979, Church History Room.

38 Church Bulletin, November 11, 1979.

39 Interview with Nell Secord, Pastor's Secretary, May 15, 1989; and Church Bulletin, February 24, 1980.

40 Photographs of the demolition taken in January, 1983, Church History Room.

41 Church Business Minutes, September 18, 1985.

42 Church Business Minutes, November 16, 1988.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Church Histories

Northcutt, Berenice, History of First Baptist Church Since 1871, Longview, Texas Longview: House of L & M, 1968.

Northcutt, Aurelia, "A History of the Growth and Progress of First Baptist Church, 1968-1985", 1985, an essay, Church Library.

Whaley, Lucia, "Early Church History," n.d., a typed manuscript by the daughter of one of the founding couples.

Early Church History as recorded in the 1929 Church Business Minutes.

Church Records

Church Bulletins, selected dates, Church History Room and various church offices.

Church Business Minutes, annual bound volumes 1929 - 1971 Church History Room; 1971-current minutes, unbound, in various church offices.

Church Deacons' Minutes, annual bound volumes 1929 - 1971 Church History Room; 1971 - current minutes, unbound, in various church offices.

Church Dedication Booklets: present sanctuary 1971, and Christian Education Building 1979, Church History Room.

Church Photographs, Church History Room.

Public Records

Deed to Original Property from the Texas and Pacific Railway Co. Vol. B pp. 5 & 6 Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

Deed to initial property purchased, Book G pp. 16 & 17, Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

Old Longview Town Plat, Vol. O, pp. 6 & 7, Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

New City of Longview Lot and Block Map, Office of the City Engineer, City Hall.

Newspapers

Longview Democrat, April 28 and May 5, 1882.

Longview News-Journal April 11, 1948.



Gregg County Historical Commission

NORMAN W. BLACK
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
214-757-2261

May 19, 1989

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: Application for Official Texas Historical Marker: First Baptist
Church of Longview, Texas.

Dear Frances:

Enclosed is the above named application. It was prepared by Ken Durham,
Ph. D., who is head of the history department of LeTourneau University.
The 1979 Dedicatory Booklet has many old photographs concerning the
church history.

The date of the Historical Marker Dedication is December 10, 1989.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Enc. - 6.
Application
History
1979 Dedicatory Booklet
4 - 8X10 B&W historical photographs
Copy of deed
3 - maps



Gregg County Historical Commission

NORMAN W. BLACK
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
214-757-2261

June 6, 1989

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: Historical Marker application for the First Baptist Church - Longview.

Dear Frances:

Enclosed are four B&W prints denoting the site of the above proposed historical marker. Incidentally, the church plans to place the corner stones of all demolished buildings in a grouping around or with the new H. M. It should look very nice.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Enc.



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

September 7, 1989

Dr. Norman Black, Chairman
Gregg County Historical Commission
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, TX 75602

RE: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LONGVIEW
27"X42" subject marker w/post
(Job #32289)

Dear Dr. Black:

This letter is to notify you that the State Marker Committee has reviewed and approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

At this time, payment for the marker is due. A check in the amount of \$702.00 (\$650.00 if paid for by a tax-exempt organization,) should be made payable to the Texas Historical Commission and sent to the letterhead address as soon as possible.

Once payment is received, the application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be written until after funds have been received. When the text is prepared, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review and approval.

The Texas Historical Commission wishes to congratulate you for your efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

FR/bb

cc: Dr. Kenneth Hall
P.S. Payment must be made immediately if we are to try and meet the December deadline. Thank you.

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



Gregg County Historical Commission

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
214-757-2261

NORMAN W. BLACK
Chairman

June 15, 1989

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: H. M. Application for the First Baptist Church, Longview, Texas.

Dear Frances:

Recent research has revealed the initials of the organizing minister of the above church: Rev. D. S. Snodgrass. This may be found in the Marriage Records of Gregg County, Vol. A., p. 38, April 15, 1874; p. 59, July 28, 1874.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Job #32289)

Location: 200 block, S. Fredonia Street, Longview

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LONGVIEW*

THIS CONGREGATION HAS BEEN IN CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE
SINCE 1871, WHEN FIFTEEN PEOPLE LED BY THE REV. D. S.
SNODGRASS GATHERED TOGETHER TO FORM A NEW CHURCH.
IN 1874 THE TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY DEEDED
TWO TOWN LOTS TO THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT THE CORNER
OF FREDONIA AND SOUTH STREETS. THE FIRST SANCTUARY,
A SMALL FRAME BUILDING, WAS ERECTED LATE THAT YEAR.
ALSO IN 1874, THE CONGREGATION CALLED ITS FIRST FULL-
TIME PASTOR, THE REV. DR. A. EAGAN CLEMONS.

OVER THE YEARS, THE CHURCH PURCHASED ADDITIONAL
PROPERTY ADJACENT TO ITS ORIGINAL TWO LOTS. AS THE
CONGREGATION GREW, MORE CHURCH BUILDINGS WERE ERECTED
AND LATER REPLACED WITH LARGER STRUCTURES. A RED
BRICK SANCTUARY WHICH REPLACED THE ORIGINAL FRAME
STRUCTURE IN 1901 WAS IN TURN REPLACED BY A LARGER
BUILDING IN 1914. CONTINUED EXPANSION LED TO FURTHER
BUILDING PROGRAMS OVER THE YEARS.

IN ADDITION TO SERVING ITS OWN MEMBERS, THE FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHING
NEW CONGREGATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING NORTH-
SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, VALLEY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, MOB-
BERLY AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, AND OAKLAND HEIGHTS
BAPTIST CHURCH. IT CONTINUES TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

WITH A VARIETY OF RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.**

(1989)***

*3/4 inch lettering

**1/2 inch lettering

***1/4 inch lettering

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Job #32289)

Location: 200 block, S. Fredonia Street, Longview

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LONGVIEW*

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(1989)***

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**1/2 inch lettering
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(1989)***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

September 25, 1989

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
417 Mobberly Ave.
Longview, TX 75602

RE: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LONGVIEW
27"X42" subject marker w/post

Dear Dr. Black:

Enclosed is the proposed inscription for the above referenced marker. Please review and verify the information contained in the inscription. In particular, be sure to check all names and dates, and make certain we have used the correct marker location. Please contact other sponsors of this application to discuss the wording of the marker. If you approve the inscription, sign and return your own enclosed card.

If you have corrections or changes to suggest, please make a copy of the inscription and return it to us with the marked corrections. Please do not type a new version of the inscription. We will make changes to meet our style and spacing requirements. Documentation of any changes in this inscription, particularly of names and dates, is required for our permanent file.

Note that this is a working copy, including filing and foundry instructions. The right-hand margin is uneven on this copy, but will be justified on the finished marker.

The marker will not be ordered for casting until the county historical commission and other persons or groups listed below have approved the inscription. You may retain this inscription copy for your files.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian
State Marker Program

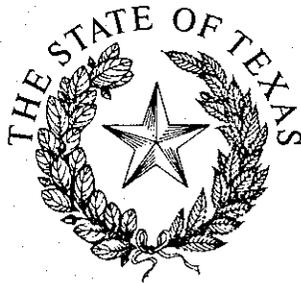
CJB/bjb

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Kenneth Hall

P.S. In order to meet your December deadline, we need approval of final inscription from all parties no later than October 6th. Thank you.

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

October 4, 1989

Dr. Norman Black, D.D.S.
417 Mobberly Ave.
Longview, TX 75602

RE: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LONGVIEW
27"X42" subject marker w/post

Dear Dr. Black:

This is to advise you that we have ordered the above referenced marker for casting. The completed marker should be ready for shipment within eight to ten weeks. A copy of the final inscription as it was sent to the foundry is enclosed for your files.

If you have not already done so, this would be a good time to begin planning the marker dedication ceremony. We would advise you, however, to avoid setting the dedication date to coincide with the shipment date as estimated above. That estimate does not take into account potential shipping errors or other unforeseeable delays, which might upset the best laid dedication plans. A guide to assist you with your dedication plans is available upon request from our office. Since this is a state program, we suggest your state representative and/or senator be included in the program as well as your county judge and commissioners who have appointed your commission.

Enclosed please find a form for announcing the date of your marker dedication ceremony in the THC's monthly newsletter, The Medallion. Please read the form carefully, as notice must be made well in advance of the scheduled dedication in order to appear in the preservation calendar.

We would appreciate having copies of any publicity, programs, photos, or other memorabilia from the ceremony to complete our file on this marker. Thank you for your continued support and good work toward the preservation of the history of our state.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

FR/bb

cc: Dr. Kenneth Hall
P.S. We have asked that the foundry ship the completed marker no later than November 24, so you should have it well before the proposed marker dedication date of December 10.

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
of
LONGVIEW, TEXAS

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

Sunday, December 10, 1989 12:00 Noon

The County Historical Commission is an arm of the county government appointed by the County Judge and the Commissioners Court. It is the responsibility of the Historical Commission to protect the county's historical heritage and to cooperate with and encourage others in any activity concerning the preservation of local history.

Probably the most visible of the efforts of the historical commission are the historical markers such as this one we are dedicating today. These markers serve as reminders of our history and heritage.

The histories of Texas and the Baptist Church have been intertwined since the earliest days of the Republic of Texas. It is only fitting that, we, today, dedicate a memorial in the form of an Official Texas Historical Marker to this Church which has contributed so much to the history of Texas and the Baptist Church.

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 8:15 a.m. – EARLY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
- 8:45 a.m. – Media Center open until 9:30 a.m.
- 9:30 a.m. – SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 10:30 a.m. – Deacons meet for prayer
- 10:50 a.m. – MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
- 11:00 a.m. – (Broadcast on KFRO 1370)
- 12:00 p.m. – Texas Historical Marker Dedication
Fredonia Street Parking Lot
- 4:00 p.m. – Woodwind Ensemble – Sanctuary
- 4:15 p.m. – Youth Ensemble
- 4:40 p.m. – MasterLife – Second Floor Lounge
- 5:00 p.m. – Youth Choir – Rehearsal Room
Ladies' Ensemble – Music Office
- 5:30 p.m. – First Family Players – Room 301
- 6:00 p.m. – DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING
Celebration – Rooms 303 and 320
- 7:00 p.m. – EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE
(Broadcast on KFRO 1370)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 9:00 a.m. – Media Center open Monday through Thursday until 12:00 noon
- 10:30 a.m. – WEE Field Trip – Lively Olds
- 6:00 p.m. – Tallant Sunday School Class Party
- 6:30 p.m. – Saints Alive Singers – Room 105
- 7:00 p.m. – WEE Learn Staff Christmas Party
2315 Kentucky

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 6:45 a.m. – Men's Prayer Breakfast – Dining Hall
- 8:45 a.m. – Ladies' Handbells – Handbell Room
- 10:00 a.m. – Church-wide Visitation – Dining Hall
- 12:00 p.m. – Budget Control Meeting/Lunch – D-1
- 2:00 p.m. – Esther Sunday School Class Party
1600 McCann Road Borders
- 6:00 p.m. – Visitation Supper – Dining Hall
- 6:30 p.m. – Visitation – Dining Hall

WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNER

5:00-5:50 p.m.

Menu:

- Italian Spaghetti
- French Bread
- Mozzarella Stix
- Salad
- OR
- Salad Plate

Children's Line: Pizza

(Tear, put in offering plate)

Please reserve:

- _____ Adult Regular Plate \$2.50
- _____ Adult Salad Plate \$2.50
- _____ Child's Plate \$1.25

Name _____

(Reservations and cancellations must be called in to the church office by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 6:00 a.m. – INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY
Prayer Room
- 10:00 a.m. – WEE Field Trip – Lively Olds
- 12:00 p.m. – Deacon Executive Meeting – D1
- 5:00 p.m. – Fellowship Dinner – Dining Hall
- 5:45 p.m. – MID-WEEK PRAYER SERVICE
Dining Hall
- Children's Choirs Program
Preschool/Children's Choirs
Young Musicians
Half-Time (7th-12th Grades)
Room 320
- 6:15 p.m. – Media Center open until 7:30 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. – SS Faculty Meetings
Children's Choirs/Preschool
Young Musicians
- 7:30 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Rehearsal Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 6:00 a.m. – Intercessory Prayer Ministry
- 9:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out until 3:00 p.m.
(Call church office for cancellations)
- 6:30 p.m. – Night BXYZ – Dining Hall
- 6:55 p.m. – Youth Prayer Group
641 Baylor Drive

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 12:00 p.m. – Day BXYZ Banquet – Dining Hall
- 12:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir Banquet

Reservation for Day BXYZ

Date: Friday, December 15 Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Dining Hall Cost: \$4.00

Name _____

Number of Reservations _____

Reservation for Night BXYZ

Date: Thursday, December 14 Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Dining Hall Cost: \$4.00

Name _____

Number of Reservations _____

CHURCH-WIDE VISITATION

Tuesday, December 12

Childcare 10:00 a.m. _____ 6:00 p.m. _____

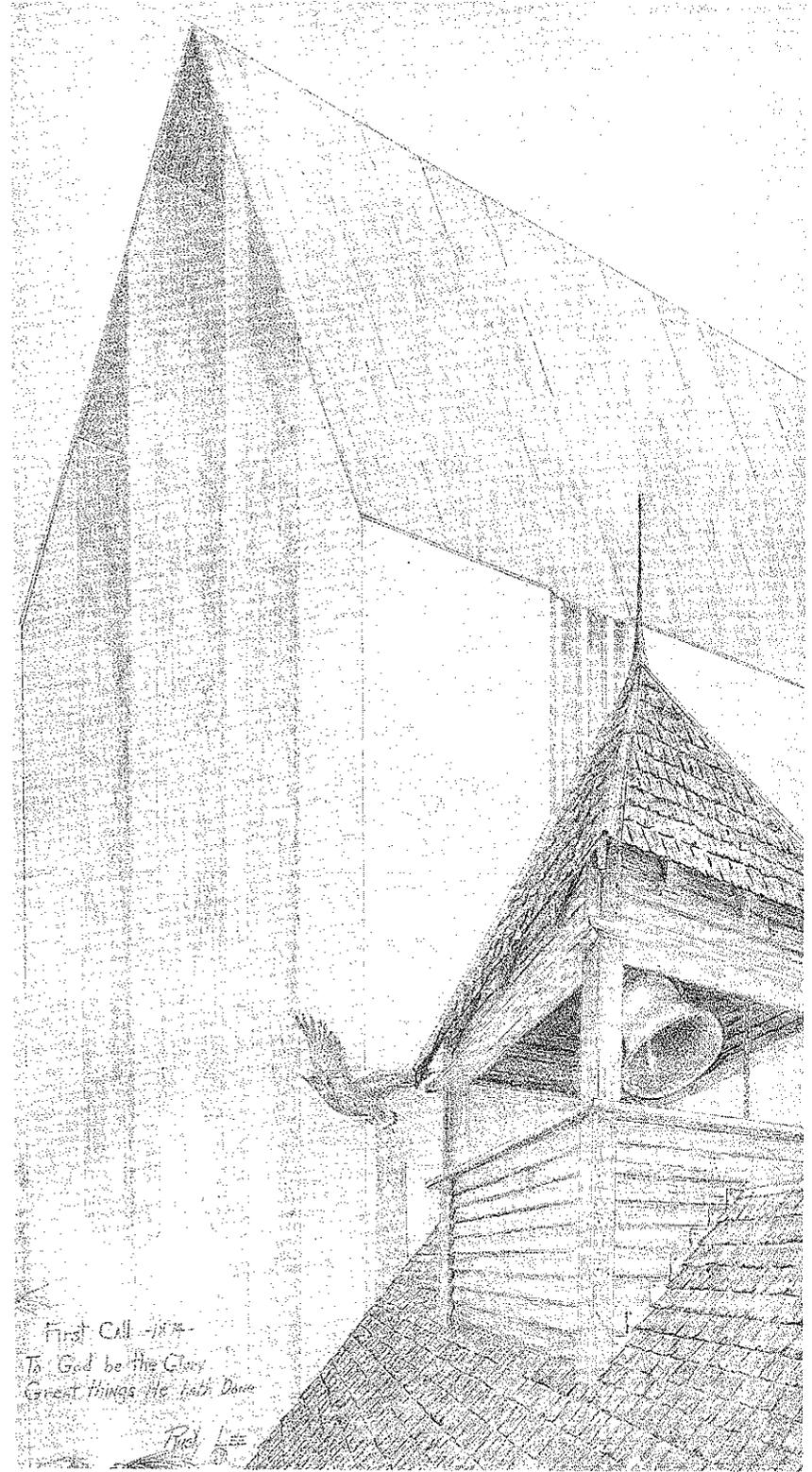
Ages _____

Supper 6:00 p.m. Number _____

Name _____

BUDGET UPDATE

Budget for Month of December \$227,720.00



The First Baptist Church

Fredonia at South Street
Longview, Texas
758-0681

DR. KENNETH HALL, PASTOR

December 10, 1989

The Worship of God

8:15 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.

IN HIS PRESENCE, THERE IS JOY BEYOND MEASURE

*Organ Prelude (8:15) – "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" German tune

*Handbell Prelude (10:50) – "Come On, Ring Those Bells" Culverwell
Handbell Harmonies – Mike Turpin, Director

Ministry Opportunities Rev. Moon

Call to Worship (8:15) – "Joy to the World" Handel

Choral Call to Worship (10:50) – "Song for the Nations" Christenson

Invocation Rev. Stone

**Hymn of Praise No. 87 – "Angels From the Realm of Glory" Smart

AND AT HIS FEET, PEACE OF MIND CAN STILL BE FOUND

Welcome of Guests Dr. Hall

Children's Time

Official Proclamation (10:50) Mayor Lou Galosy

**Hymn of the Nativity No. 83 – "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Wesley

IF YOU HAVE A NEED...HE HAS THE ANSWER

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving (8:15) Mr. Neal Schreiner
(10:50) Dr. Ken Durham

Handbell Offertory – "Nowell Fanfare" arr. Hermany

Instrumental Praise (8:15) – "Come On, Ring Those Bells"

Handbell Harmonies

Choral Worship (10:50) – "Holy Ground" Davis/Ferrin

Sanctuary Choir

(Alma Ruth Willeford, soloist)

REACH OUT AND CLAIM THE BLESSING

Sermon – A GENEALOGY OF FAITH Dr. Hall
(Matthew 1:1-17)

*Ushers will seat those standing

**The congregation standing

INVITATION

**Hymn of Invitation No. 379 – "I Need Thee Every Hour" Lowry

Introduction and Reception of New Members

Choral Benediction (8:15) – "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; Sweetest name I know;
Fills my every longing; Keeps me singing as I go."

Historical Marker Dedication (10:50)

Choral Benediction (10:50) – "Holy Ground"

* * * * *

CHORAL WORSHIP – "Holy Ground"

1. As I walked through the door, I sensed His presence.

And I knew this was the place where love abounds,

For this is the temple, Jehovah God abides here.

We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

2. In His presence, there is joy beyond measure

And at His feet, peace of mind can still be found.

If you have the need I know He has the answer.

Reach out and claim it, child, you're standing on holy ground!

Chorus:

We are standing on holy ground.

And I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now.

We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

Pastor's Sermon Notes

A GENEALOGY OF FAITH

Text: Matthew 1:1-17

I. God will always have righteous seed through whom he will reach out to the world (Romans 10:13-15).

II. God's blessings are extended to those who are righteous and faithful (II Peter 1:3-4)

III. God is concerned about individual Godliness and not just great movements of man (I Peter 2:12).

* * * * *

Evening Worship Service

7 o'clock

THE LIVING WORD



**DEDICATION
of an
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

211 S. Fredonia Street
Longview, Texas

Dr. Kenneth Hall, Pastor

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1989

10:50 A.M.

Sponsored By

**THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
and
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mrs. Mildred Wood Barker
Mrs. Sally Gossett Barron
Mrs. Amelia Belding
Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman
Mr. Jack Buchanan
Mrs. Pauline Cox
Mrs. B. W. Crain, Jr.
Sondra Daniel
Mrs. Bill W. Dodson
Dr. Ken R. Durham
Mrs. Helen McHaney Griffin
Mrs. Nelda Lewis

Mrs. H. L. Long
Mrs. Douglas Mackenzie
Mrs. Gordon J. Mayer
Mr. Eugene R. McWhorter
Dr. W. D. Northcutt, III
Mrs. John W. Osteen
Mrs. Amanda Pratt
Mrs. Nancy Ruff
Mr. John Ben Shepperd
Mrs. Charlotte Teske
Mr. Joe L. White

First Baptist Church

EDITION OF THE

Baptist Standard

Longview, Texas



Three of the actors in THE LIVING WORD are: Ben Johnston, Cindy Godsey, and Wayman Norman.

The Living Word

Sunday, December 10, 1989
7:00 p.m.

THE LIVING WORD is a music drama depicting the life of Christ from birth through resurrection. The presentation will center around the giant Bible out of which will step Dr. Luke, Mary, the Shepherd, the Innkeeper, and the Roman Soldier. Each will speak or sing of their personal encounter with Jesus. The principal actors are Wayman Norman, Cindy Godsey, John Whitehead, Ben Johnston, and John Secord. Alma Ruth Willeford is the choir soloist.

Sanctuary Choir selections will include "Arise! Shine!," "Gloria in Excelsis," "That Night," "Love Came Down at Christmas," "They Could Not," and "I Am."

Plan now for your family and guests to be present for this powerful and unique program.

Churchwide Visitation
Tuesday, December 12



Texas Historical Marker Dedication

Sunday, December 10

Mayor Lou Galosy will deliver a proclamation during the 10:50 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday, December 10.

Following the Worship Service we will adjourn to the Fredonia Street site of the original First Baptist Church building. At this point the Historical Society will conduct the official dedication ceremony, and the marker will be unveiled. You will certainly want to be a part of this!

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions
December 3-10
1989

Our Goal for the
Lottie Moon Christmas
Offering is \$56,000.00

Sent . . . to
Serve

Town meeting set Tuesday

By Michael Ramey
Staff Writer

Residents of Longview City Council District 2 will have a chance Tuesday to discuss their ideas and problems with their councilman during the first in a series of town hall meetings.

Councilman G.A. McLaughlin says the 7-9 p.m. meeting at the Longview Public Library will allow him to assess what his constituents believe needs to be done in the district and what their feelings are concerning the city's present and upcoming budgets.

The meeting is the first of six forums scheduled during the next two months. One will be conducted for each of the council districts, says city Public Information Officer Trish Brown.

"It is difficult to hear and communicate with constituents, and I hope this will open better channels between the council and the residents," McLaughlin said Friday.

The first-term councilman says he expects major topics during the town meeting to be drainage, present tax rollback petitions, city budget and streets.

Other town hall meetings are scheduled through Feb 6, and residents will be advised soon regarding dates for all planned district.

Weather Temperatures

East Texas

Texas

Sunday

Lows for the past 18 hours, highs for the past 12 hours and precipitation for 24 hours ending at 6 p.m.

	Hi	Lo	Pcp.
Abilene	79	42	
Alice	76	39	
Alpine	74	45	
Amarillo	48	33	
Austin	74	39	
Beaumont-Port Arthur	70	39	
Beeville	78	41	
Brownsville	74	43	
Bryan-College Station	72	43	
Childress	61	34	
Corpus Christi	75	40	
Coitulla	75	38	
Dalhart	47	29	
Dallas Love Field	75	42	
Del Rio	69	34	
El Paso	73	41	
Fort Worth	75	40	
Galveston	67	50	
Honda	70	33	
Houston Hobby Airport	72	42	
Junction	81	31	
Kingsville	77	39	
Lajitas	72	27	
Laredo	79	46	
Lubbock	72	32	
Lufkin	72	32	
Marfa	69	20	
McAllen	75	44	
Midland Odessa	79	37	
Mineral Wells	80	36	
Palacios	70	39	
Presidio	76	28	
San Angelo	83	38	
San Antonio	71	33	
Stephenville	79	40	
Texarkana, Ark.	69	38	
Victoria	71	44	
Waco	78	42	
Wichita Falls	65	33	
Wink	76	32	

Texas

The National warning issued and in much of snow today.

There also m East Texas an weather service And the plac will be getting s

Nation

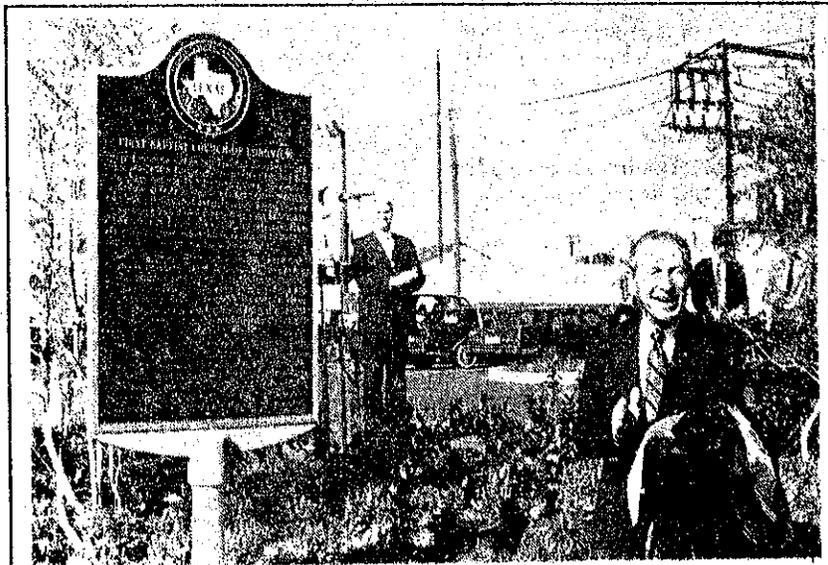
Snow in the ice storms in Georgia, blam deaths over the other states S storms and chill Heavy snow caused delays International A

Nation

Burlington, Vt.	25	02	sn
Casper	26	19	cdy
Charleston, S.C.	54	36	rn
Charleston, W. Va.	41	30	sn
Charlotte, N.C.	40	24	rn
Cheyenne	23	12	03 cdy
Chicago	35	27	cdy
Cincinnati	33	25	cdy
Denver	27	21	43 cdy
Des Moines	25	21	06 cdy
Detroit	35	22	cdy
Evansville	43	24	cdy
Fairbanks	21	-08	cdy
Fargo	09	-01	sn
Flagstaff	47	23	clr
Grand Rapids	33	29	cdy
Great Falls	08	-05	24 sn
Greensboro, N.C.	40	21	rn
Hartford	32	13	cdy
Helena	18	03	02 cdy
Honolulu	78	63	clr
Indianapolis	34	21	cdy
Jackson, Miss.	63	28	sn
Jacksonville	46	42	cdy
Juneau	36	22	rn
Kansas City	40	28	cdy
Las Vegas	59	33	clr
Milwaukee	31	27	cdy
Mpls St Paul	19	15	cdy
Nashville	34	29	sn
New Orleans	61	31	cdy
New York City	35	23	cdy
Oklahoma City	50	30	cdy
Omaha	28	16	03 cdy
Orlando	54	41	cdy
Philadelphia	33	16	cdy
Phoenix	71	43	clr
Portland, Ore.	46	39	01 clr
Providence	33	16	cdy
Raleigh	41	22	rn
Rapid City	25	19	25 cdy
Reno	44	23	cdy
Richmond	41	21	12 cdy
Sacramento	61	32	clr
San Diego	64	47	clr
San Francisco	65	46	clr
San Juan, P.R.	87	71	clr
St. Louis	25	11	12 sn
St. Louis, Mo.	25	11	12 sn
Seattle	46	35	clr
Shreveport	70	33	cdy
Sioux Falls	17	11	04 cdy
Spokane	38	24	cdy
Syracuse	33	10	sn
Tampa-St. Petersburg	59	44	cdy
Topeka	41	24	cdy
Tucson	75	36	clr
Tulsa	56	33	cdy
Washington, D.C.	36	19	cdy

Temperatures indicate previous day's high and overnight low to 7 p.m.

	Hi	Lo	Prc	Clk
Albany, N.Y.	28	11		sn
Albuquerque	59	34		cdy
Atlanta	50	35		rn
Atlantic City	38	15		cdy
Birmingham	50	33		cdy
Bismarck	17	04		sn
Boise	38	17		cdy



Historical marker unveiled By Dale Ruff/chief photographer

Dr. Norman Black, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, stands back after unveiling a historical marker during a ceremony Sunday morning at the First Baptist Church of Longview. The church has been in continuous existence since 1871, when it was started by 15 people.



Gregg County Historical Commission

NORMAN W. BLACK
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
214-757-2261

December 14, 1989

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LONGVIEW H. M. Dedication, Dec. 10, 1989.

Dear Frances:

This was a very nice dedicatory service, conducted both inside the church sanctuary and out of doors, and attended by approximately 1,800 people. The H. M. was set on a level 22" above sidewalk level in a planting area constructed partly for this purpose. In the wall (brick) dividing the two areas are three cornerstones from three demolished buildings of the church. It all looks quite nice.

The service was broadcast, as always, on KFRO, 1370 kc. AM. It was also video taped in both locations by members of the GCHC and the Gregg Co. Historical Foundation for our files.

Unfortunately, there was very little media publicity of the event but I believe this is what the church wished. I am enclosing the program and what clippings I have.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Enc. - 3.



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

December 21, 1989

Norman W. Black, D.D.S
417 Mobberly Ave.
Longview, TX 75602

RE: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LONGVIEW
27"X42" subject marker w/ post

Dear Dr. Black:

The above referenced marker has been shipped as indicated below. If this marker is not received within one week from the date of this notice, please contact Sylvia at the Southwell Company at 512/223-1831, immediately, so it can be traced. Please be prepared to give her the following information:

Job No. 32289 Date Shipped 10/31/89 Via CENTRAL

Shipped to: Dr. Kenneth Hall
209 E. South St.
Longview, TX 75601

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard
Director
State Marker Program

FR/bjb

cc: Dr. Kenneth Hall

P.S. We were just recently notified of this shipment. If you have not received your marker, please notify my office and the Southwell Company immediately. Thank you.

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

First Baptist Church's history spans 118 years in community

The history of the First Baptist Church of Longview encompasses 118 years. The church, organized by Dr. Snodgrass, a traveling Baptist preacher, was founded in 1871.

On Sept. 1, 1874 the Texas and Pacific Railway Company deeded two lots at the intersection of South Fredonia and South Streets where members built the first church building for the Baptist Church that year.

The first pastor, Dr. A. Clemmons served from 1874-1881. Another pastor who preached in the original building was Dr. A. MacCurdy (1899-1902).

Under MacCurdy's leadership, the church built a brick structure on the same site as the original frame building which had been destroyed. The new church was dedicated in January 1901.

Gradually the congregation outgrew the red building. On the same site, the Rev. J. Hughes led the congregation in building a neo-classical brick building which faced Fredonia. Coincidentally, Hughes, who became seriously ill as the building neared completion, died on the same day the new building was dedicated in 1914.

On Oct. 21 that same year, the Baptist Church of Longview incorporated themselves as the First

Baptist Church of Longview.

The spacious new auditorium served both the Church and the city of Longview for 37 years during World War I and II.

Rev. J. Whorton served as pastor from 1925-1930 and 1932-1941. During his first five year pastorate the church membership grew from 570 to 901. Whorton returned in 1932 during the East Texas oil boom and church membership reached 4,000, necessitating the construction of additional Christian educational space.

In the mid-1930s Whorton also established three mission congregations which eventually became separate churches: Mobberly Avenue Baptist Church (1938), Valley View Baptist Church (1941) and Northside Baptist Church (1949). The First Baptist Church honored Whorton by naming the church library in his memory.

Dr. W. Ford, pastor from 1945-1971, continued an interest in local missions and church growth. He led in establishing Oak Lawn Chapel which became Oakland Heights Baptist Church Jan. 1, 1961.

Church attendance under Ford was so high that during his 26 years as pastor, the church constructed a 70 by 119 feet sanctuary

with 91 feet high vaulted ceilings and the Children's Building which was dedicated in 1955.

One of his last responsibilities was leading the celebrations for the one hundredth anniversaries of the church and of Longview. In 1977, the church honored Ford by naming the chapel Ford Chapel.

The church began construction on a new educational building in 1977. The 119,000 square feet edifice was dedicated in Nov. 1979 under Dr. C. Holland's leadership. The Children's Building was renovated for church offices.

The first three units and Memorial Auditorium, which were structurally condemned were destroyed to make room for a parking lot built on the site where the original church buildings stood in 1874.

First Baptist Church of Longview held dedication ceremonies in December to mark the site of the original sanctuary with an official Texas Historical Marker. First Baptist has been in continuous existence in downtown Longview since 1871 when 15 people started the church under the leadership of Dr. D. S. Snodgrass.

The first sanctuary was erected in 1874 after the Texas and Pacific Railroad deeded 2 lots to the church. A red brick sanctuary



Dr. Norman Black, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, unveils a historical marker granted in 1989 tracing the history of First Baptist Church.

replaced the original frame building in 1901, which, in turn, was replaced with a larger building in 1914. Continued expansion has led to more growth and more buildings. First Baptist membership is now at a total of 3,500. In a low wall behind the historical marker are three cornerstones from the three educational buildings previously

on the site, built during the pastorate of Dr. John L. Wharton.

First Baptist Church has been instrumental in starting four other Baptist churches in Longview and has been influential throughout the Southern Baptist Convention in World Missions.

A sense of family dominates the church through a love for one

another. This love expresses itself in ministry and continuous opportunities to improve skills, understanding and practice of family living, both on the family level and on the level of the church family.

Dr. Kenneth Hall is pastor of First Baptist.



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone 903-757-2261
Fax # 903-753-5337

November 26, 2001

To Guardians of Official Texas Historical Markers in Gregg County

RE: Official Texas Historical Marker : **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LONGVIEW**

There have been very few instances in Gregg County in which markers have been stolen, vandalized or accidentally damaged. When such incidences are first discovered, after reporting this to the appropriate law enforcement agencies, please contact me. The chances of recovery are improved if the incident is reported promptly. In the case of vandalism or damage I will see that repairs are made as soon as possible. Also, if other signs such as informational and directional signs are missing please report these to me.

Also, a **very important reminder**: as owners of historical properties it is necessary that if you are contemplating any changes to the structure, changes in ownership or the location of the marker that you contact me or Larry Oaks, Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, well in advance. Mr. Oaks may be contacted at P.O Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711, telephone 512-463-6100.

Thank you for your attention to these matters in the interest of the protection of our historical heritage.

Sincerely,

Norman Black, D.D.S.