

Many Impressive Churches In Area

Prominent among the dignified buildings located in Gladewater are the impressive church buildings, a large number of which are brick construction and all of which are located in the most attractive sites in the city. Practically every church building in the city has been constructed since the oil boom days of 1931, however, there were a number of churches in the area before that time.

Four of the oldest church organizations in the city are the Church of Christ, First Baptist church, Methodist church and the First Presbyterian church. The First Baptist church, organized between 1849 and 1853, was first known as the Bethel Baptist church and was built of logs. About 1869, the church was moved to its present location on U. S. Highway 89, or Upshur, and a frame building constructed. In 1931, the old frame building was moved and the present auditorium constructed.

The late Dr. G. E. Ellis was the first full-time pastor of the church and he served from October of 1931 until 1944 when he was succeeded by Dr. Ben R. Stripling who is the present pastor. Members of the church expect to begin construction of a new auditorium during 1957.

Methodist Church
The First Methodist Church in Gladewater had its beginning

Two Private Clinics Located In Gladewater

In addition to the two privately owned hospitals-clinics in Gladewater there are two other modern-clinics serving the sick and injured of the city. The two clinics are operated by Dr. J. C. McKean and Dr. Charles Bloom.

McKean clinic was opened in 1950 and Dr. Bloom opened Bloom clinic in 1953. Both are modern in architectural design and contain the latest facilities available for clinics.

about eight years before the lowering pines in the area were pushed aside to make way for wooden oil derricks, and later massive steel structures. A small group of people with vision for the upward movement of Methodism, met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Godfrey to organize what is now known as the First Methodist church.

Presbyterian Church
The home mission committee of Paris, Presbyteria, with the late Dr. A. F. Cunningham as chairman, recognized the need of a Presbyterian church to care for the influx of people in Gladewater in the spring of 1922.

In April of 1922, the roster of charter members was completed. The present building was completed about 18 years ago and many improvements have been made to the church facilities since that time.

Pastor of the First Presbyterian church is the Rev. Allen Guthrie, Church of Christ.

Another of the most historical churches in Gladewater is the Church of Christ which was organized more than 44 years ago. This church is widely known for its interest in missionary work in foreign countries and for its interest in Boles Orphan home. Minister of the church is Robert F. Turner.

Other Churches
There are a large number of other churches in the Gladewater area which are not all old as the ones mentioned above, but they are showing progress each year both in church facilities and membership.

They are St. Theresa's Catholic church, Father Thomas R. Leary; Greenway Baptist church, the Rev. J. W. Best; Assembly of God, the Rev. E. A. Gruver; St. Mark's Episcopal church, the Rev. Harold E. Bates; Calvary Temple, the Rev. M. A. Brasel; Church of the Nazarene, the Rev. W. A. Wagstaff; First Christian church, the Rev. David Mills.



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH—One of the oldest churches in the Gladewater area is the First Methodist church, located at 217 West Quitman, which was organized long before oil derricks crowded out many of the lowering pines. An educational building at its rear of this building provides a large fellowship hall where church groups hold socials, and the building is used to a great extent by various groups within the city. (News-Journal staff photo.)



HANCOCK CLINIC-HOSPITAL—Dr. A. B. Hancock operates one of two privately owned clinic-hospitals in Gladewater. The clinic-hospital is located on U.S. Highway 89 east of the city's business district.



BLOOM CLINIC IN GLADEWATER—Dr. Charles Bloom opened this modern and beautiful clinic in Gladewater several years ago. The building is located on U.S. Highway 89, or Upshur avenue. (News-Journal staff photo.)



May the New Year bring you a bountiful harvest of the things most worth while... health, friendship, love, happiness... and bring to fulfillment your most cherished desires. May your every venture be crowned with success and good fortune surround you throughout the year. This is our sincere New Year's wish for you and yours.

W. M. DAY
GLADEWATER, TEXAS