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ANNIVERSARY 50th CELEBRATION

1891

1941

EAST BAPTIST CHURCH - PADUCAH, KY.

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FIFTY YEARS OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

THE STORY

of

East Baptist Church

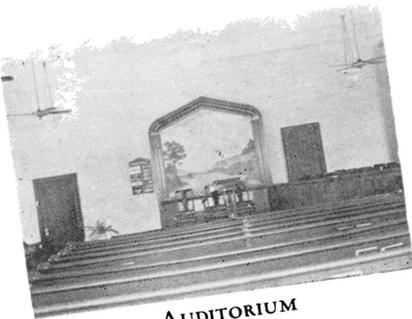
Paducah, Ky.



Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration ~ August 3-6, 1941



CHURCH BUILDING



AUDITORIUM



ANNEX



PASTOR'S HOME



MISSION

INTRODUCTION



"Fifty Years of God's Blessing" is an apt title for this little book for it is a record of the history of a church that has had the blessing of God from the day of its founding to the present. Beginning with a little band of pioneers the church has grown through fifty years to become the great institution of today, because God's blessing has been upon it all the way. The church owes much to those members of the early years whose faith, love, and loyalty to God made it possible for His blessing to be given.

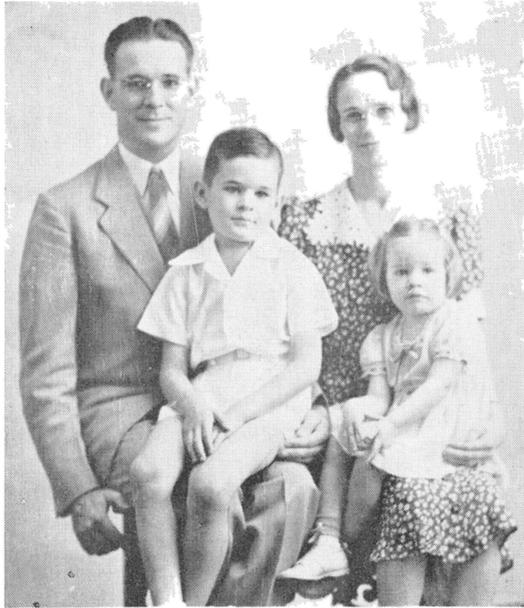
East Baptist Church is a great church today. It is great in numbers, with a membership of nearly 700, the third largest Baptist Church in Paducah; it is great in spirit with a christian fellowship and devotion to the Lord that is unsurpassed in the city; it is great in organization with every department functioning efficiently; it is great in evangelistic spirit, having led more than 500 persons to Christ in the past decade, and more than 100 to Him in the last year; it is great in stewardship having given more than \$50,000 to all causes in the past ten years; it is great in missionary spirit, having contributed more than \$7,500 to missions in the past nine years, and now (1941) erecting a mission building in an unchurched section of the city. In many other ways, too, this is a great church. Yet, not as great as it could be or should be or desires to be. Today it is praying and planning and working that it might do even more in the days to come, to honor its founder and head, The Lord Jesus Christ.

This book tells the story of East Church. We hope you will enjoy it and our prayer is that it may be a reminder of the past, a memory book of the present, and an inspiration for the future.

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Pastor and Family



Rev. and Mrs. Joe T. Odle began their ministry in East Church in July, 1932, and thus have served more than nine years, the longest pastorate in the history of the church.

Mr. Odle is a native of West Frankfort, Illinois, and a graduate of Union University at Jackson, Tenn. He also attended the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville. He pastored churches in Illinois and Tennessee, and at Barlow and Bandana, Ky., before coming to East Church.

Mrs. Odle is a native of Graves County, the daughter of a prominent minister, the Rev. L. R. Riley. She is also a graduate of Union University.

Joe Thomas, age 6, and Sarah Ann, age 2, were both born here in Paducah.

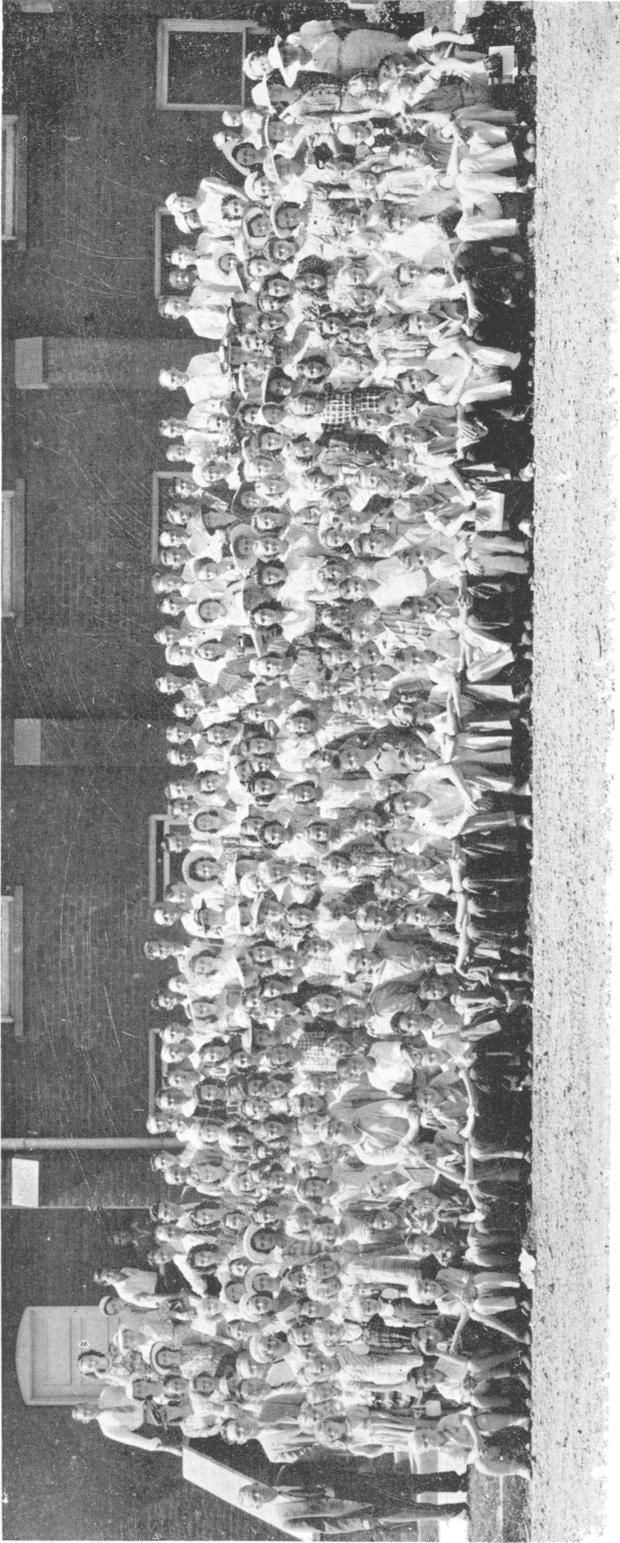


Deacons—Front Row (left to right): Rammage, Reeves, Futrell, Peak, W. Trevathan, Emerson, G. C. Sills, LeRoy. Back Row (left to right) Jones, Smith, H. Trevathan, M. K. Trevathan, Tutor, Fitch. B. D. Sills not in picture.

Church Directory



Pastor..... JOE T. ODLE, 1927 Bridge St.
Clerk..... LEON T. SMITH, Husbands Road, R. 3
Treasurer..... M. K. TREVATHAN, 300 Ashbrook Ave.
Trustees..... G. R. EMERSON, G. C. SILLS, M. K. TREVATHAN
Deacons...HUEL TREVATHAN, Chairman; A. W. TREVATHAN, M. K. TREVATHAN, G. R. EMERSON, G. C. SILLS, B. D. SILLS, J. H. FITCH, E. A. RAMMAGE, S. E. PEAK, A. M. TUTOR, GEORGE LEROY, DAN JONES, LEON SMITH, O. B. FUTRELL, I. S. REEVES
Chorister..... A. W. TREVATHAN
Pianist..... MRS. J. L. MUNAL, JR.
Assistant Pianist..... MRS. JOE T. ODLE



SUNDAY SCHOOL, 1941



SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

Sunday School

The Sunday School has been a part of the work of East Church since its organization. In 1892 (the earliest records) there were 5 teachers and 40 pupils. Bro. T. Reeder was superintendent. In 1898 the enrollment passed 100 for the first time. It reached 200 in 1912, 300 in 1926, 400 in 1933, 500 in 1934, and is now about 700.

We do not have a complete list of the superintendents available, but the following ones are listed in the records: T. Reeder, W. L. Sullivan, N. M. Reeder, L. E. Kelly, S. E. Peak, Russell Jones, J. H. Chaudet, F. H. Brien, G. R. Emerson, J. H. Fitch, T. L. Campbell, E. A. Rammage, Miss Helen Schnuck, Miss Dorothy Munal, B. D. Sills, Jr., and G. C. Sills.

East Church Sunday school in 1941 is well organized and completely departmentized and has more than fifty officers and teachers. The enrollment is nearly 700 and the average attendance is more than 300.

The organization is as follows:

Superintendent, G. C. Sills; Assistant Superintendent, I. S. Reeves; Secretary, Frank Park; Assistant Secretaries, M. K. Trevathan, Robert Emerson, George Troutman, Mrs. George Troutman.

Adult Department—Supt., A. M. Tutor; Ass't Supt., H. L. Travis; Teachers, Joe T. Odle, Mrs. H. G. McClure, Mrs. Huel Trevathan, Mrs. G. R. Emerson; Assistant Teachers, H. L. Travis, Mrs. Bert Lambert, Mrs. O. B. Futrell.

Young People's Department—Supt., Mrs. Boyce Jones. Teachers, I. S. Reeves, Mrs. Boyce Jones, Mrs. T. E. Shaw. Assistant Teacher, Mrs. Lew Reed.

(Continued on bottom Page 11)



TRAINING UNION LEADERS

Baptist Training Union

The first B. Y. P. U. work in East Church seems to have been begun during the pastorate of J. P. Riley about 1911 or 1912. This was short-lived, however, and the permanent organization was not effected until 1920. On December 27, 1919, B. Y. P. U. work was authorized by the church and a committee on the work was appointed. The committee consisted of Mr. Warren, Smith Hopgood, Miss Helen Schnuck, and Miss Lula McElyea. In April, 1920, the B. Y. P. U. reported 22 members. In 1922 there were two unions, the Junior and the Senior, with 42 enrolled. Among those who were leaders in the work in those early days were the four named above, Miss Helen Schnuck, Miss Dorothy Munal, Miss Thelma Sills, and Wayne Trevathan. In 1926 the general B. Y. P. U. department was formed with James E. Bouland as director. Others who have served as director have been J. H. Fitch, Terry Sills, Frank Park, Dorothy Munal, B. D. Sills and the present director, Frank Park.

At the present time there are six unions with 150 enrolled. The organization is as follows:

Director, Frank Park; Secretary, William Gamblin; Chorister, Barner D. Sills; Pianist, Juanita Sills; Story Hour Leader, Miss Eddie Noles; Junior Leader, Miss Dorothy Munal; Intermediate Leader, Mrs. Boyce Jones; B. A. U. Presidents, O. B. Futrell and Dan Jones; B. Y. P. U. President, Eugene Richardson.



WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Woman's Missionary Union

The first record of special women's work in the church is the approval given the organization of a Ladies Aid in January, 1908. The Ladies Aid functioned actively until about 1920, and raised much money to help the church in the financial struggles of that early period. In 1917 a Woman's League is reported in the minutes. This seems to have been the forerunner of the Woman's Missionary Society, as it disappears in 1918 and reports of the W. M. S. are given.

Presidents who have served since the organization of the W. M. S. are: Mrs. H. C. Hopewell, Mrs. R. F. McClure, Mrs. J. E. Cothran, Mrs. G. W. Turner, Mrs. Mamie Goodman, Mrs. Edith Trevathan, Mrs. L. T. Lindsay, Mrs. Boyce Jones and Mrs. M. K. Trevathan.

The W. M. U. of today is one of the most active departments of the church and has 7 organizations with an enrollment of 140.

The officers of the Woman's Missionary Society are: President, Mrs. M. K. Trevathan; 1st Vice President, Mrs. C. W. Berry; 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Leon Smith; 3rd Vice President, Mrs. Boyce Jones; Sec'y-Treas., Mrs. A. L. Wallace; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. R. S. Buckingham; Mission Study Chairman, Mrs. Myrtle McBride; Personal Service Chairman, Mrs. Joe T. Odle; Stewardship Chairman, Mrs. Corbett Collie; Publicity Chairman, Mrs. F. C. Bryan; Training School Chairman, Mrs. George Troutman; Orphanage Committee Chairman, Mrs. O. B. Futrell.

Leaders of the Young People's organizations are as follows: Y. W. A., Mrs. Joe T. Odle; Intermediate G. A., Mrs. J. D. Brame; Junior G. A., Mrs. Ben Wright and Mrs. George Troutman; Intermediate R. A., Mr. Lamar Wallace; Junior R. A., Mrs. Charles Lynn and Mr. Eugene Richardson; Sunbeams, Mrs. B. D. Sills and Miss Eris Russell.

History of East Baptist Church



East Baptist Church was organized on a summer night in the year 1891. An open air revival meeting was in progress in the yard of Mrs. G. W. Starrett, on the Benton Road (now Clements St.) in Mechanicsburg. Rev. G. H. Powell was doing the preaching in the meeting and two other ministers were present in the service that evening. They were a Bro. Nowlin and Bro. L. B. Duncan. During the service Bro. Powell stated that they would that night organize a Baptist Church, and asked those who desired to enter into the organization to come forward. About 14 persons walked down the aisle and were united into a church. Several others came in the following days and weeks, and by the time the Association met in October the membership was 37. The church adopted the name Island Creek Baptist Church and called Rev. G. H. Powell as pastor.

Thus was East Baptist Church of Paducah begun, but actual foundations of the organization were laid much earlier. The First Baptist Church of Paducah has always been active in city mission work and as early as the 1850's was holding mission services in the southern part of the city. About 1875 regular mission services were begun in Mechanicsburg and this work continued intermittently until about the time the new church was formed. Also each summer for several years before the organization various Baptist preachers conducted revival meetings in the vicinity, sometimes in the open air and sometimes in available buildings. All of these activities laid the foundations for the church which came into existence in 1891. First Baptist Church not only helped before the organization, but also continued to befriend the little church long after it was formed, often helping to support the pastor, and in other ways lending financial and other assistance.

A list of the charter members is not now available, but among those who were charter members or who joined soon after the organization were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones, Mr. and Mrs. John Rammage, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Park, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Smith, Mr. and Mrs. John Moore, Mr. and Mrs. David Moore, Mr. and Mrs. James Wood, Mrs. Eliza Byerly, Mrs. Elconie Medley, Mrs. Catherine Shores, Mrs. Rachel Russell, Mrs. G. W. Starrett, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brame, and Mr. W. L. Sullivan. Four of the charter members, Mrs. J. A.

Park, Mrs. James Wood, Mrs. Elconie Medley and Mr. W. L. Sullivan, are still living. A number of the children and grandchildren of these pioneers are still active in the church life.

The first services of the new church were held in the old Soap Factory which stood near the banks of Island Creek. The church wanted a new building of its own, however, so when someone gave a lot at the corner of Ashbrook and Yeiser Sts., a move was started to raise funds for the erection of a building. This building was erected in the fall of 1891. It was a small frame structure and was used by the church the first sixteen years of its existence. It was valued at \$700.



*Old Mechanicsburg (Langstaff) School Used as
Church Building From 1907-1911*

The growth of the church was rather slow in the beginning and at the 1892 Association it reported a membership the same as the year before, 37. There was a Sunday school with 40 enrolled and Bro. T. Reeder was superintendent. The pastor's salary was \$60.00 per year and \$13.85 was given for missions. A great revival was experienced in 1893 and the membership increased to 70. The pastor's salary that year was \$100.00 and \$5.00 was given to missions. Bro. G. H. Powell served as pastor for the first three years of the church's existence.

In 1894 Bro. C. C. Bussell was pastor at a salary of \$200.00 per year. The membership had dropped to 62.

In 1895 the church changed its name from Island Creek Baptist Church to East Baptist Church. Bro. L. B. Duncan was called as pastor that year and served until 1901. During his pastorate the membership reached 92. In 1898 the total gifts for local expenses was \$130.00 and \$2.30 was given for missions.

In the fall of 1902, Rev. J. L. Perryman was called as pastor and served for one year. His salary was supplemented by the First Baptist

Church and the State Mission Board. During the year the Sunday school was taken under the jurisdiction of the church.

In November, 1903, Bro. L. B. Duncan was again called as pastor and served for one year. In 1904, Bro. T. E. Richie was called and served one year. The church enjoyed a good revival that year with 33 new members coming into the fellowship. The pastor's salary given by the church was \$59.05 and \$10.85 was given to Missions. The Sunday school had four classes with an enrollment of 65. Bro. N. M. Reeder was superintendent.

In the fall of 1905, Bro. S. H. Allen was called as pastor and served three years. He was a good preacher and a fine leader and the church experienced great growth during his pastorate. In 1906, there was a revival with more than 80 additions and the membership grew to 163. In 1907 it reached 194. In the spring of 1907, a committee was appointed to plan for a new church building and in June of that year the Langstaff school house, which stood on the site of the present church building, was purchased. Bro. Allen resigned in August 1908.

In September, 1908, Bro. J. P. Riley was called as pastor and served for more than four years. The church prospered under his leadership. In 1909 Southern Baptist Sunday School literature was adopted and the first Ladies Aid was authorized. The first minister ordained by the church was Bro. N. M. Reeder whose ordination took place in February, 1909. In June, 1910, a building fund committee to raise funds for a new building was appointed. The committee at first consisted of W. R. Jones and Mrs. M. E. Scott, but later Clarence Kelly, Mrs. Ablett, Mrs. Bennett, and Mrs. Hattie McClure were added to it. On March 8, 1911, a committee composed of W. R. Jones, S. E. Peak, J. W. Moore, L. E. Kelly and George LeRoy was appointed to draw up plans and specifications for a new building, and its report was accepted on April 5. Contract for the new building was let on September 6, 1911, the cost to be \$5,385.00. The old building was torn down the first of September and erection of the new building began on Monday morning, September 11, 1911. The church worshipped in a tent erected at the corner of Bridge and Clements (where Seventh Day Adventist Church now stands) until December, and then moved its services to the rooms upstairs over Cartee's grocery at corner of Bridge and Clements. The new building was finished early in January and first services in it were held on January 14, 1912. At this time the membership of the church was

nearly 200 and the Sunday school had an enrollment of about 180. Bro. Riley continued to serve the church until the spring of 1913, when he resigned to accept the pastorate of the Benton Church.



Building From 1912-1928

The decade 1913 to 1923 was a period of varying prosperity and decline for the church. The world war affected all church work at that time and East Church felt a decline because of that. Five pastors served during this period. They were H. K. Thomas, 1914; O. J. Taylor, 1915-1916; H. C. Hopewell, 1917-1918; Terry Martin, 1919-1920; and A. E. Lassiter, 1921-1923. They were all good men and served well in the difficult times. The highest membership during the decade was 238 reached in 1915. During this period the Sunday school and the women's work made fine progress and the B. Y. P. U. was established. The church took a part in the Seventy-Five Million Campaign of Southern Baptists and made a good showing in mission gifts in those years. Financial help from the State Mission Board to help pay the pastor was received through part of this decade, but was stopped by the church in the early twenties. The membership in 1923 was 137.

On October 10, 1923, Rev. A. W. Leigh was called as pastor and served for nearly nine years. During this period the church made fine progress. The membership reached a high of 390 in 1929. The Sunday school average attendance during most of the period was about 150, and it reached 189 one year, 1927. In 1927 a frame Sunday school building was erected and in 1928 the church building was remodeled by the addition of a basement at a cost of about \$7,500.00. During the nine-year pastorate 186 persons were baptized and the membership rose from 137 in 1923 to 315 in 1932. During these

years a total of about \$35,000.00 was given for all causes, with \$2,831.49 going for missions. Fine progress was made in all departments of the work especially in the Sunday school and the B. Y. P. U. departments. Bro. Leigh resigned in May 1932.

In June 1932 Rev. Joe T. Odle was called and he began his work in July. Difficult problems faced the church as those were the darkest days of the depression, but the people had a mind to work and pray and give and move forward for the Lord. In October 1932 a great revival meeting with 73 additions was experienced and in the first year of the pastorate 146 members were added to the church. Every department of the church work prospered in the revival spirit that prevailed. The evangelistic spirit continued through the years that followed and during the nine years (July 1932-July 1941) nearly 700 new members have been received into the church and more than 400 have been baptized. The membership has grown from 315 to 675. All departments of the work have prospered in like manner.

In January 1937 the church, along with the rest of Paducah was engulfed by the Ohio River Flood. Last services before the flood were on January 17. By the following Sunday the angry waters had filled the city and the building stood in several feet of muddy water and the auditorium was the haven of safety for more than a hundred refugees. Water reached a height of about 8 feet in the church basement but did not reach the auditorium. Damage was about \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00 and the church received a flood relief check for \$625.00 from the Baptist Flood Relief Committee.

Most of the members of the church lost nearly everything they had, and nearly all were driven from their homes. First services after the flood were held on Sunday, March 7. Just the preaching service was held, but it will always be remembered by those who attended as a great hour of praise and thanksgiving to God. Plans for a revival meeting in April had been made in the fall of 1936, and the church decided to go ahead with them. A good revival was held and East Church was one of the first churches in the city to recover from the flood.

The church debt made in 1928 in remodeling the building was still about \$5,400.00 in 1932, and because of the depression, bank failures, etc., nothing had been paid on it in about a year. In the fall of 1932 small payments on it were started and as the church grew these payments became larger. The flood caused payments to cease for a few months but by the summer of 1939 the debt had been

cut down to \$2,300. A campaign was then launched to finish paying the debt. This was completed on the last Sunday in March, 1940, and the bonds were burned in a great praise service early in April.

Several building and remodeling projects have been carried out in recent years. In 1937 the auditorium was beautified and a baptistry added. In 1938 a frame Sunday school annex was erected. In 1940 the auditorium was redecorated, the woodwork refinished, and new rugs laid. The parsonage at 1927 Bridge Street was purchased in 1940. In the summer of 1941 the church erected a mission building at the corner of Sowell and Ewing Streets in the Tyler section of the city.

During all this period of depression, flood, debt paying and building programs, the church has been thoroughly missionary in spirit, giving 20% of its income to missions for the past several years. During the last nine years a total of more than \$7,500.00 has been given to missions. The offerings for all causes during this period have totaled about \$47,000.00.

Several men have entered the ministry from East Church. Among those ordained in the earlier years of the church were N. M. Reeder, H. L. Travis, Sam Walker, and F. H. Brien. In the past decade Marvin Hines, W. T. Pepper, Jr., Roscoe Halliman, F. T. Goode, and Robert Covington have answered God's call to preach His Word.

As East Baptist Church observes its fiftieth birthday its future outlook is bright. With a membership of nearly 700, and an organization that is functioning well in all departments, and with a fellowship that is truly Christian, it has a determination of purpose to make the future even more glorious than the past, to the honor of those who laid the early foundations, and to the glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

(Continued from Sunday School Page)

Intermediate Department—Supt., Huel Trevathan; Ass't Supt., Leon Smith. Teachers, Dan Jones, Leon T. Smith, Miss Dorothy Munal, Mrs. A. L. Wallace. Assistant Teachers, Mrs. Jewell Brown, Eugene Richardson.

Junior Department—Supt., Mrs. M. K. Trevathan; Ass't Supt., O. B. Futrell. Teachers, Othel Walters, B. D. Sills, Roscoe Halliman, O. B. Futrell, Mrs. Wayne Trevathan, Mrs. R. S. Buckingham, Mrs. Luther Lowery. Assistant Teachers, Mrs. Harlon Fitch, Corbett Collie, Mrs. Corbett Collie.

Primary Department—Supt., Mrs. C. W. Berry; Ass't Supt., Mrs. Edward Rodocker. Teachers, Mrs. Edward Rodocker, Mrs. G. C. Sills, Mrs. Herbert Surratt, Miss Eddie Noles, Mrs. Othel Walters, Mrs. J. L. Munal, Jr. Ass't Teachers, Miss Ruth Noles, Miss Verba Sledd.

Beginners Department—Supt., Mrs. B. D. Sills; Ass't Supt., Miss Evelyn Shaw.

Cradle Roll Department—Supt., Mrs. Joe T. Odle; Ass't., Mrs. Charles Lynn. Visitors, Mrs. Ewell Cole, Mrs. A. M. Tutor, Mrs. Glenn Gallimore, Mrs. Corbett Collie, Mrs. John Lowe, Mrs. Burley Griffin.

PROGRAM



GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

August 3-6, 1941

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 *HOME COMING DAY*

- 9:30 a. m. Sunday School with special program honoring all Sunday School workers of the past.
- 10:45 a. m. Worship Service. Special Sermon by Pastor. Period of Thanksgiving for Fifty Years of Blessing.
- 12:00 Noon Basket Dinner.
- 2:00 p. m. Special service honoring charter members. Reading of Church history. Presentation of charter members and other old members. Reminiscences of the past. Sermon by A. W. Leigh, pastor from 1923-1932.
- 6:30 p. m. Baptist Training Union with special program honoring former B. Y. P. U. workers and leaders.
- 7:45 p. m. Evangelistic Service. Baptizing.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4—7:45 p. m. *PADUCAH NIGHT*

Greetings from Paducah Baptist Churches.
Showing of Pictures.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5—7:45 p. m. *FORMER PASTOR NIGHT*

Greetings from Former Pastors.
Sermon by A. E. Lassiter, pastor from 1921-1923.
Pictures.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6—7:45 p. m. *SOUTHERN BAPTIST NIGHT*

Pictures.
Message by Rev. Roy E. Harlan, Jr.
Closing of Anniversary Celebration.