

# DIXON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

## HISTORY/50 YEAR CELEBRATION

by Susan E. Hohman

**O**n December 2, 2018, the Dixon Assembly of God hosted a 50 Year Anniversary and Homecoming Celebration. However, the church has actually been in existence for 77 years, and the recent celebration was specifically in honor of the church's 50-year anniversary at its current location.

Over the course of nearly eight decades, the church has seen a lot of changes, and a total of 22 pastors who led the flock. One charter member, Opal Sheppard, has been attending the Dixon assembly for all of those 77 years, and wrote a history of the church from its inception in 1941 until the mortgage burning in 1973. Following is her account:

*"The Dixon Assembly of God Church began as a result of a series of outdoor revivals held in the Dixon City Park with Rev. C.C. Helvey of Dallas, Texas. He was assisted by his wife and three talented children who ministered to the big crowds each night with their special singing and music."*

She continued, "Brother Helvey, burdened for the city of Dixon, returned to Dallas, resigned his pastorate there and moved his family to Dixon in 1941 to assume the task of pioneering an Assembly of God church in Dixon."

She recalls the next steps in the church's foundation, "With a small nucleus of Pentecostal believers, steps were taken to establish and build a church. Brother Floyd Crawford donated a lot at the end of North Pine Street and work was begun to construct a white block church building."

*"After the church was built and somewhat established, Brother C.C. Helvey resigned to accept pastoral duties in North Kansas City, Missouri. Louis Smith and Clem Pankey, students at CBC, served as church pastors during the summer of 1943."*

In her account of the history from 1941 to 1973, Mrs. Sheppard listed the other pastors and the length of time each served. She also mentioned times when expansions both of building space and land took place. Arvel J. and Irene Barrett served as pastors from the fall of 1943 until 1946, followed by Rev. Milton Holmes, who served until March 1948.

Rev. Billy Hale pastored for one year (April 1948-April 1949), followed by Rev. James Doyle, who served until March 25, 1951. It was during his pastorate that the church was able to burn the mortgage on the first building. Rev. Dale Barton was elected and served after the Doyles until August 1952. Bro. Marvin Nichols and his wife then served as pastors until August 1955.

During the pastorate of Rev. Carl Hancock, from September, 1955 until February, 1957, land was purchased behind the church building for future construction of a parsonage. Prior to this, the pastoral family would live in the rear of the church building in tiny quarters which also served as Sunday school classrooms! During the pastorate of Rev. Donald and Regina Nye, who resigned in 1959, a two-bedroom parsonage was constructed. In July, 1959, Rev. Dale Barton returned to Dixon to assume the pastorate for the second time, and stayed until June, 1964.

Continuing the history in Mrs. Sheppard's words, "After Pastor Barton's resignation, Rev. M.J. Boulware, wife Ina and son Tharell came to serve as pastor of Dixon Assembly. During his pastorate, three

acres were purchased on Highway C and a new brick building was constructed. Then, the first service was held in the new building the Sunday before Christmas 1968. They served the church until April 1973. At that time, ill health hindered his serving any longer as pastor."

She concludes, "In June, 1973, Rev. J.R. Ballard was elected to pastor Dixon Assembly. He and his family assumed that duty July 2, 1973. During the year 1973, the church finished paying off its indebtedness and purchased a church bus to initiate a strong outreach program."

Since 1973, eleven men have served as pastor of Dixon Assembly of God for various amounts of time. They are: Kenneth Best (1974-1977), Chet Fahrmeier served as youth pastor - 1976, Randy Mahurin (1977-1981), Ray Farris (1981-1982), Albert Pette Jr. (1982-1984), Edward Pierce (1985-1987), Youth pastors - 1985-1986 - Jerry and Jeannie Dooley; 1986-1987 Youth Pastors Richard and Teresa Baker; Roy Rogers (1987-1992), Tharell Boulware (1993-1996), Ray Caringer (1997-2001) Phillip Tanner (2001-2003), Larry Albertson (2004-2015), and Scott Ballard (2015-Present).

Dixon Assembly of God, located at 810 West 4th St. (Hwy. C), has various ministries geared to varying age groups. Sunday

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### Welcome Everyone! Come Worship With Us!



#### Ministries:

Childrens Church  
Kids & Youth Camps  
Youth Group  
Women's Ministries  
Missions Supporter  
Outreach Program

Van Ministry - Call  
Church @ 759-7290 or  
Jim @ 573-619-2038



## Dixon Assembly of God

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573-759-6526 (Fax)

**Pastor – Scott Ballard, Sr.**

SERVICES: Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Evening - 6:00 p.m.  
• Wednesday Bible and Youth - 6:30 p.m.