

Gibson Baptist's first church building constructed in 1879

In the early year of 1877, 23 people came together and met in the Gibson School at Gibson, Tenn. for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. Deacons, clerk and treasurer were elected and the members agreed that the church should be called Gibson Baptist.

The first church building was built in 1879. It was a white frame building near the present site. A fence was built around the church. This was to "keep the hogs out". The church bell was bought in 1888 and still stands beside the present church.

Services were held once a month, with the pastor's salary being \$150 a month. The lot adjacent to the church was purchased and the frame church was torn down and a brick building was built, with the first assembly being in 1912. Electric lights were installed in 1920. Before the baptistery was built in 1933, baptisms were held in local ponds. The first pastor's home was built in 1923 and was used until 1973 when it was sold and the present pastorium located adjacent to the church was purchased.

In 1942, the brick building that was built in 1912 burned. In 1943, it was voted on to build a basement and wait until World War II ended to finish the building. The basement was used until 1949 when the church was finished and the first service held. The steeple and sign were added in 1997 with the lights of the steeple and sign being a witness and light in the community.

Gibson Baptist is just finishing the completion of a new 8,200 sq. ft. Life Center. The center includes three classrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, gymnasium and much more. The center will be named the Walker Ministry Building, named after the late Rev. Max and Ann Walker, who were instrumental in

getting the building started.

"We pray this building can and will be used for the ongoing work of the Lord," said interim pastor, Bro. Darryl Marcle.

Gibson Baptist continues to have a strong outreach program. At Christmas, gifts are delivered to each home in Gibson. Baskets are taken to senior citizens at Thanksgiving and Easter. A food pantry is available for those in need in the community. A prayer box is located beside the entrance to the church, as well as a weekly updated prayer list available each Sunday. Gibson Baptist

also has a prayer blanket ministry. A bus ministry, Wednesday night children and youth program, Sunday children's church, vacation Bible school and Christmas children's program are all designed to teach children the Word of God. The church will regularly fill 100-plus backpacks at Christmas for distribution to local children in need. The adults have Wednesday Night Bible Study for all and the ladies of the church have a Tuesday Night Bible Study.

Over the years, Gibson has been blessed

to have many good pastors who have faithfully preached God's word. At the present time, the church has an excellent interim pastor in Bro. Marcle.

"We are looking for God's direction and blessing as we look for a new Pastor in the future," said Bro. Marcle. "We welcome you to join us in service to the Lord and to learn His word."

Service times are: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Night 6:30 p.m.; and Tuesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.



Gibson Baptist Church

