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CHURCH SPOTLIGHT EDITION



THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



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"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"

JULY 20, 2000

Eldorado, a community of churches

**Westside
Church
of Christ**
...See Page 7

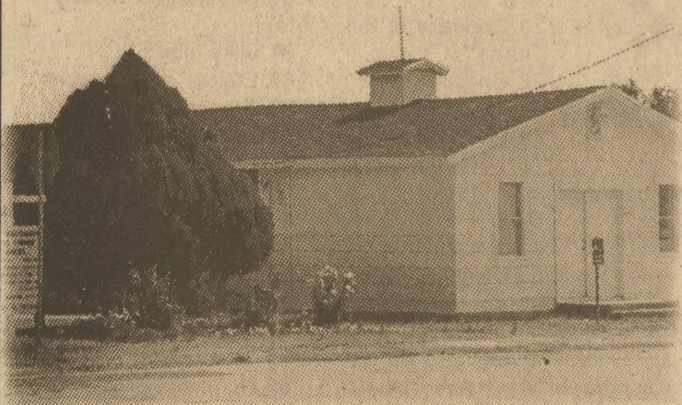
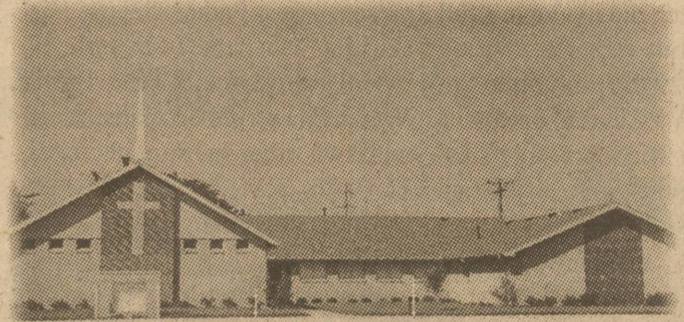


**Agape
Assembly
of God**
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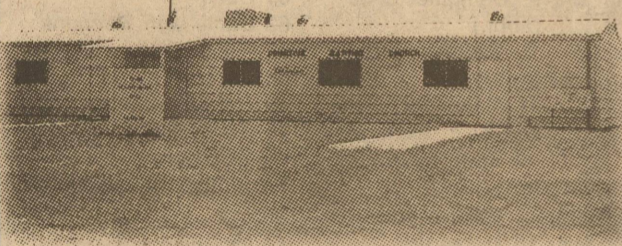
**Templo
Getsemani**
...See Page 6

**Community
Baptist
Church**
...See Page 7



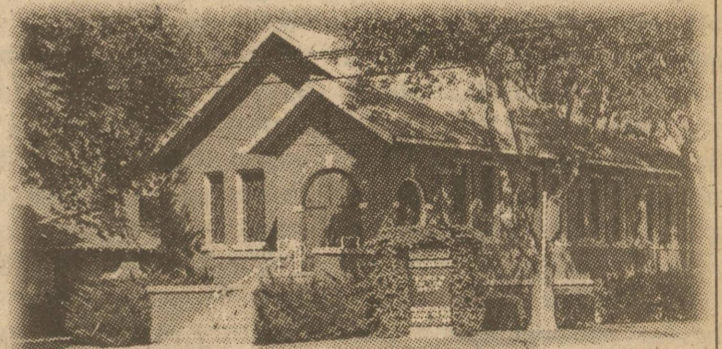
**St. Luke's
Missionary
Baptist Church**
...See Page 7

**First
Baptist
Church**
...See Page 4



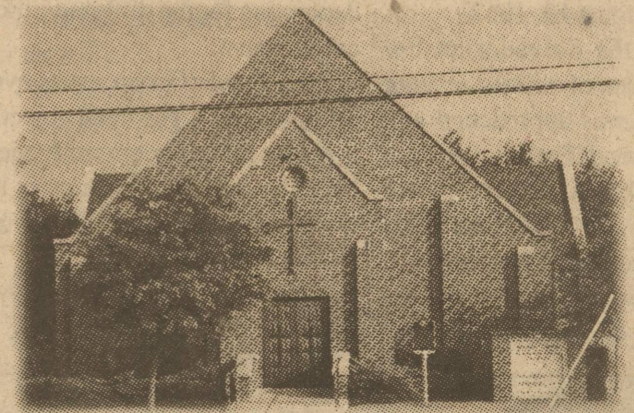
**Primitive
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**First
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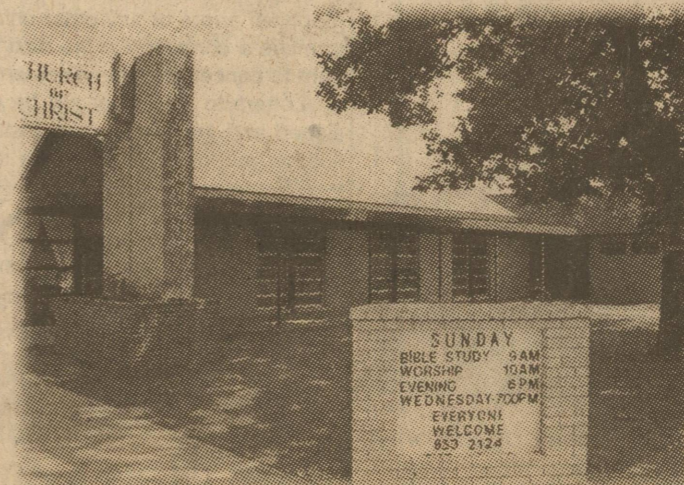
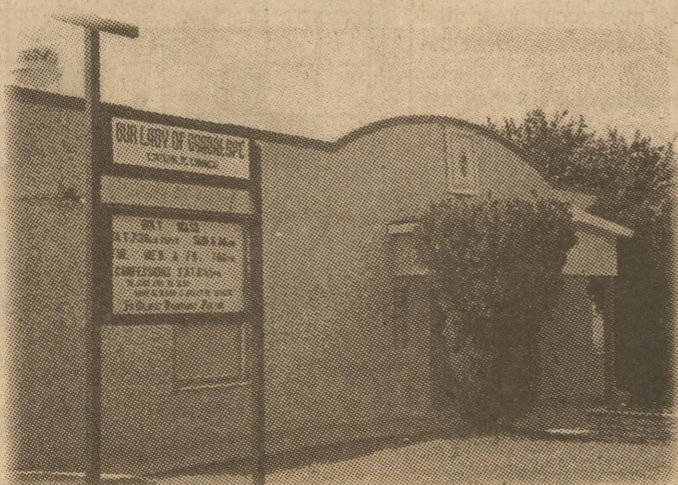


**Primera
Iglesia
Bautista**
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**First
United
Methodist
Church**
...See Page 3



**Our Lady of
Guadalupe
Catholic
Church**
...See Page 2



**Mertzon
Highway
Church
of Christ**
...See Page 5

J.P. Doodles



Eldorado's churches...proclaiming God's Word on top of the Divide

Within days of the founding of Eldorado in 1895, groups of Christians began meeting and holding worship services. At first, the meetings were held in a small frame building which housed W.B. Silliman's land office. That same building also served as the town's first school building, courthouse and community center. Though the building itself is lost to history, its location was well documented. The structure sat on the corner of Cottonwood Street and East Callender Avenue, where the old fire hall stands today (adjacent to Eldorado City Hall). In those days, visiting ministers of all denomina-

OVER THE BACK FENCE

by Randy Mankin

tions would hold services in the building and everyone would attend.

It didn't take long, however, for denominational loyalties to lead various believers to found their own churches. The first was the Methodist Church, now known as First United Methodist Church. That was quickly followed by First Baptist Church and the Church of Christ. Through the years those three churches were joined by several others.

The new churches weren't always successful and their buildings were claimed by other congregations. One such was East Side Baptist Church which once occupied the building that now houses Templo Getsemani. Another was the First Christian Church, which disbanded in the 1970's. That building was purchased in 1991 by Eldorado's newest congregation, Community Baptist Church.

On the west side of Eldorado, near the airport, the Episcopal Church building now serves as a Scout Building. On East Callender Avenue, the building once occupied by Antioch Baptist Church is now a private residence.

Eldorado's largest church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, began as a small mission in the Christian Addition. It moved to its current site in 1961 after the church purchased a travel court at the intersection of North Divide Street and Rudd Road.

Through the years, Eldorado's churches and their auxiliary organizations have labored hard to spread the Word of God in Schleicher County. Now, a Carmelite Convent is under construction on Pierce Holt's ranch in the Eastern part of the county. There, God's Word will be contemplated and studied.

In recent years, Eldorado's churches have come together again with the formation of the Eldorado Ministerial Alliance which carries out numerous ministries in the community. A Community-wide Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Alliance demonstrates that Eldorado's Christians, which began worshipping together under one roof, can still do so today.

Serving Schleicher County Parishoners...

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

submitted by Rachel Cuevas

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church has not always had a Highway 277 address. In 1925 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission was located in small wooden building on the corner of Concho Street and Laredo Street in the barrio. At that time the church did not have a full time priest but rather a visiting priest. In 1929 the mission in Sonora, St. Ann's Church, became a parish when Bishop Gerken assigned Fr. Paulus Sokol to take up residence in Sonora. From that time until 1969 Sonora's priests came on a regular basis for services.

In April 1961 the property known as the Rock Courts, a tourist motor court built in 1928 by C.C. West, went up for sale. The building with 4.18 acres of land located at the north edge of town was purchased for Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission from the C.C. West estate by The Most Rev. John L. Morkovsky D.D. Bishop Roman Catholic Diocese of Amarillo for the amount of \$12,500. A loan was secured from the Franciscan Mission Union of Cincinnati for the full amount with 3% interest. The small wooden church building previously used by the mission was sold to Fred Watson after the new property was ready to be used.

The first building committee was Tom Gausemeier, Jim Tom Roach, Frank San Miguel, Martin Garcia and Lupe Espinosa. The building was transformed into a church with the help of overseer, C.L. Martin, Sr., bricklayers Fred Smith and Jim Tom Roach. Santos Pina and many others devoted hours of labor to convert the building into a suitable place of worship.

The first Mass was offered in the renovated building on Sunday, May 13, 1962 by Father Hermann. Formal dedication ceremonies occurred on August 19, 1962.

In 1970 the Salvadorian Fathers, an order of priests serving the diocese, was approached and agreed to send Father Richard Gagnon, S.D.S., as resident pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This raised the mission to parish status.

In the mid 1970's the rectory was purchased under the leader-

ship of Father Mark Woodruff. In the 1980's an additional education building was built. This building is being used for the Head Start Program during the school year.

Today, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church has roughly 225 families which are served by our present priest Father George Varakukala, who came to us from the Tyler Diocese in July 1998. Father Varakukala serves this parish along with two other mission churches, St. Peter's in Mertzon and Immaculate Conception in Knickerbocker.

Current Parish Council members are Albert Torres, Nell Edmiston, Victor Belman, Rick Schwieng, Roland Vasquez, Roxanne Adame and Jessie Fuentes.

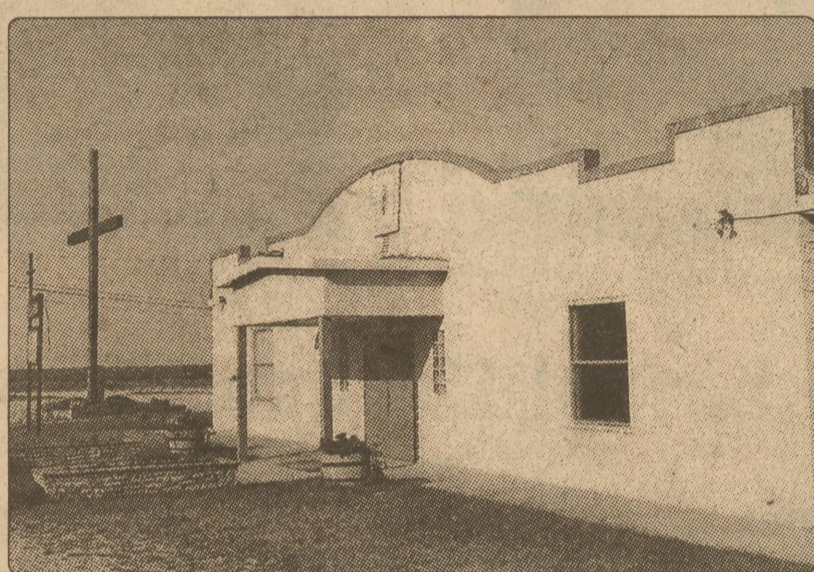
The Knights of Columbus Council 11282 was founded by Father Michael McGivney. The council has approximately 44 members. The Knights of Columbus is a group of men whose objective is to serve the church and acts of charity for their fellowman. The K of C Council 11282 sponsors several activities through out the year. The K of C Free Throw Tournament is held annually with school age children participating. They also sponsor two scholarships for graduating seniors each year. Members erected a 28 ft. wooden rail cross which was donated by Pierce Holt. The Knights meet monthly on each 3rd Wednesday.

The old education building houses the St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store. Mrs. Carolina Gonzales is in charge of this society. Items are donated and are given or sold to the needy by donation.

The Altar Society, headed by Emma Torres and Emma Espinosa, perform a vital role by providing care for the altar coverings, vestments, cleaning of the church and decorating for the different liturgical seasons.

The Prayer Group meets every Tuesday night. The main objective is prayer for our community members, the sick, for our farmers and ranchers, for rain, the needy and for our parish.

The Prayer Group along with the Guadalupanas Society provide



Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church serves 225 local families in its parish. Established as a mission in 1929, the church moved to its current location in 1961 after purchasing the tourist court that once operated there.

luncheons after funeral services and purchases flowers for the church. The Prayer Group is headed by Juanita Arispe.

Our Altar Servers are instructed by Deborah Neil. These are boys and girls that have already received their first communion, and assist the priest during the Eucharist.

Religious education coordinators for our youth are Deborah Neil for grades 1st through 5th and Sylvia Belman for grades 6th through 12th. Victor Belman has recently become the Youth Activities Director.

Ministers of the church are Hospitality Greeters which usher the parishioners and present the gifts. Our Eucharistic Ministers serve during the Eucharist and also visit the homebound members. Lec-

tors read the scripture during the Eucharist.

The choir is directed by Albert Martin with several members that include Sylvia Belman, Angela Case, Mary Ann Gonzalez, Rikki Bosmans, Mondee Whitten, Vanessa Gonzalez, Martha Diaz, Maria Hernandez, Felipe Pina and Kayla Case.

The church has a yearly festival to raise funds for special church projects.

Services are held on Saturday night in Spanish at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday morning in English at 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Confessions are by appointment and at 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays. CCD classes are held on Sunday's at 10:00 a.m.

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

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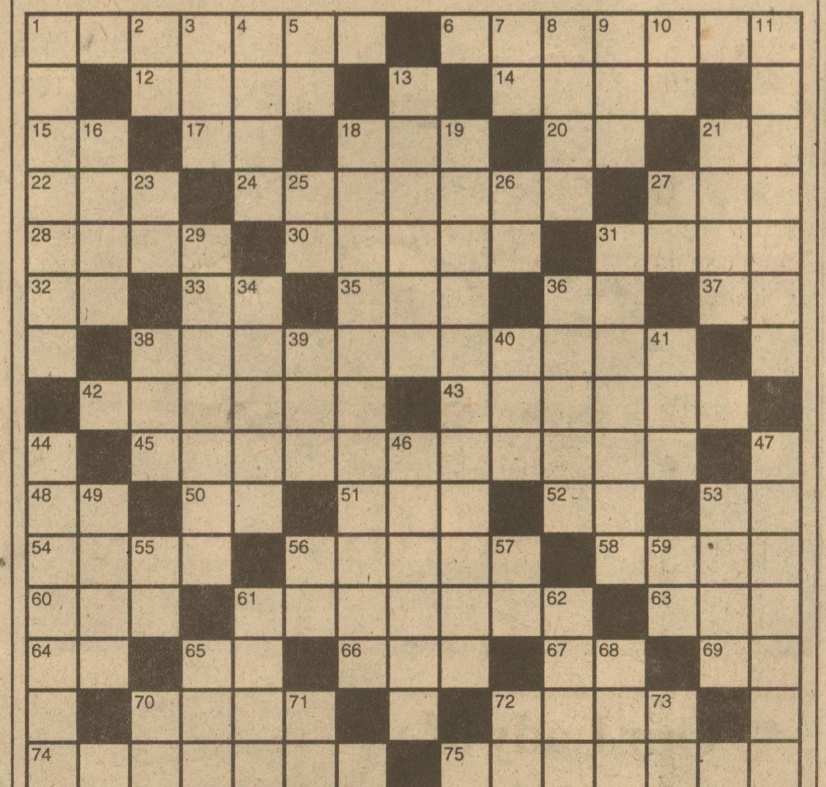
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 61 Honored a superior | 19 Frontier garment |
| 1 Anti-perspirant | 63 PC's counterpart | 21 Recite |
| 6 Type of tea | 64 You and I and others | 23 Interjection expressing surprise |
| 12 Scintilla | 65 Just you and I | 25 Depart |
| 14 Focal points | 66 Kilometers per hour (abbr.) | 26 Heavy metallic element akin to platinum (abbr.) |
| 15 Reno's title (abbr.) | 67 United Nations (abbr.) | 27 Bivalent and trivalent metallic element |
| 17 Actor Bridges | 69 Objective form of "I" | 29 Plane staff |
| 18 Rabble | 70 Goddess of the Titans | 31 Checked for mistakes |
| 20 Climate control (abbr.) | 72 Gnostic's view of divine power | 34 Silky fabric |
| 21 In the direction of | 74 Goalie's armour | 36 Ethical and principled |
| 22 Couple | 75 Some youngsters sow these | 38 Breach |
| 24 Self-aggrandisement | | 39 John's last name |
| 27 Soft-finned fish | | 40 Female preposition |
| 28 Horselaugh | | 41 Rent |
| 30 Mustelid | | 44 Knuckle under |
| 31 Whimper | | 46 Standstills in basketball |
| 32 Alternative conjunction | | 47 Teaching |
| 33 Exists | | 49 Alternatives to cons |
| 35 Garden tool | | 53 1/16 ounce |
| 36 Mrs. mate | | 55 North South counterparts (abbr.) |
| 37 Measurement of light (abbr.) | | 56 Hard gray lustrous metallic element (abbr.) |
| 38 Grammar school | | 57 Compass point |
| 42 Element | | 59 I am (contraction) |
| 43 Champions | | 61 Ooze |
| 45 Parish skills | | 62 Battle with weapons |
| 48 Astir | | 65 A journey or passage |
| 50 Nut | | 68 Doze off |
| 51 One thousandth of a dollar | | 70 Gadolinite (abbr.) |
| 52 Connective tissue disease (abbr.) | | 71 Alcoholics Anonymous (abbr.) |
| 53 MD | | 72 Artificial insemination (abbr.) |
| 54 Work party | | 73 Negative |
| 56 Attachable | | |
| 58 Desperate | | |
| 60 Overcome by affecting with a feeling of awe | | |
| | 16 Cluster bean | |
| | 18 Necessity | |

This week's solution on Page 6



This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by:

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Early day photo — Young parishoners posed for the camera after taking First Communion at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission which was located at the corner of Concho and Laredo Streets.

99 years and going strong...

First United Methodist Church of Eldorado

submitted by Jim Martin

The Eldorado Methodist Church was the first religious group to organize in the new town Eldorado and the and newly organized county of Schleicher. This took place in July 1901. For two years preceding the organization, 1899 and 1900, the Rev. J.N. Broyles, who was stationed at Sherwood, preached in Eldorado one Sunday in each month.

In the summer of 1901 Rev. Broyles was brought over from San Angelo in a big hack, the mode of travel at that time, to begin meeting in a temporary tabernacle on the ground just east of Main Street and south of the courthouse square about 600 feet. The Rev. Broyles was assisted in the meeting by a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Mobley. The meeting began on Saturday night, and on the following Tuesday the Rev. Nath Thompson of Ozona came over to assist in the meeting also. The meeting continued three weeks, and at the close the Methodist Church was organized. Rev. Broyles became its first pastor, the Rev. Theophilus Lee its first Presiding Elder, and the Rev. W.A. Chandler its first Bishop.

The first marriage placed on the register was that of Eckie Brooks and Jennie McKinney, and G. Harris and Rebeckie Stone. The first couple were married by judge Priour, and the second by Rev. Broyles; date, August 11, 1901.

The first infant baptisms recorded were those of Risto Stricklen, Robert, Willie and Herman Murchison. The dates of this baptism are all August 8, 1901, the Rev. Broyles performing the rite.

The church worshiped in the same building which was first built until 1924, when they built an annex to the building at a cost of \$2,800.00.

When the church was first organized it was placed on the Sonora Circuit, with the pastor living at Sonora, and remained that way until the close of Robert Payne's pastorate, which was in October, 1908.

On November 1, 1908, Rev. C.T. Davis became pastor. He only served a few months when the Rev. George A. Nance took his place, these two being the first resident pastors to serve the church.

Then the Eldorado Circuit was established, Christoval and Rudd being served by the local pastor, and Eldorado having two Sundays of each month. The Eldorado Methodist parsonage was built in 1911 at a cost of \$2,800.00.

In 1920 when Mrs. Kate Robinson was 65 years of age, she gave sixty-five silver dollars to the Methodist Church to purchase a church bell. The bell is still being used in the present building.

After the church school became a Methodist school, C.C. Doty became its superintendent and A.T. Wright its secretary and treasurer. The First Christian church and the Presbyterian church remained with the Methodist Sunday School for several years, each of them using the building once a month for preach-

ing services, while the Methodist pastor was away for two Sundays.

The Board of Christian Education was set up in February 1933, with the following members: Rev. W.H. Marshall, Mrs. E.C. Hill, Mrs. S.L. Wright, O.W. Smith, Mrs. W.E. Cloud, and A.T. Wright. Mrs. E.C. Hill being chairman, of the board, and A.T. Wright, secretary. This organization found a needed field, and its work has proven very beneficial to the church.

HISTORY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH FROM 1936 TO 1951

Prepared by Mrs. Ernest C. Hill and Mrs. V. G. Tisdale

At the end of the pastorate of Rev. P.S. Connell in October 1936, Rev. W.B. Wheeler was appointed as Pastor. There had been a growing concern about the need of a new church building and with this project in mind an exchange of pastors was effected in the Spring of 1937 whereby Rev. Wheeler took the pastorate at Miles, Texas, and the pastor there, Rev. J.W. Leggett was transferred to Eldorado. Rev. Leggett was not unknown in Eldorado as he was the nephew of Mrs. C.L. Meador, Sr. Soon after Rev. Leggett assumed the pastorate, plans for a new building began to take shape.

By a majority vote of the church, the site of the old church was sold to the public school for the sum of \$3,500.00 and a new location, the present one, was chosen. The old building was wrecked and most of the material was used in the new building. In quality it was much better than any of the new lumber that was bought. The contract was let on April 29, 1938 to W.E. Noah of Sweetwater, with Don W. Smith, of Sweetwater, architect. The building was completed and ready for the first service Oct. 9, 1938.

Rev. Marvin Williams was appointed pastor in October 1938 and served the church until 1941. Sunday School enrollment was 119 and church membership was 232 at the close of his pastorate.

Rev. F. B. Faust was appointed pastor in October 1941 and served this church until 1948. A parsonage-building fund was started in 1942, but a new program of church building and repair had to be started instead when the church was damaged by fire Sept. 2, 1944. Repairs were promptly made as the Insurance Company allowed full coverage \$7,502.68. Repairs were completed in the spring of 1945 and the church was dedicated. There was enough left from the Insurance Fund to transfer approximately \$1,600.00 to the parsonage building fund. The parsonage building program was actively launched in the fall of 1945. The indebtedness on the parsonage was paid in full in the spring of 1948.

A Hammond Organ was given by members of the D.E. family in memory of Lt. David Elwert who lost his life in service of his country in the Pacific in 1943.



photo by Kathy Mankin
First United Methodist Church is the oldest established church in Eldorado. It's has served Eldorado's Methodist congregation since 1901.

In 1951 the church was given a new baby grand piano by an anonymous member. A new pulpit and communion table were given by the Meador family in memory of their Mother, Mrs. C.L. Meador Sr. (or Aunt Mattie as she was usually called). New pews have been installed; tile put on the dining room and kitchen floors; the woodwork and walls repainted. Two lots have been purchased back of the church and in the near future it is hoped that more Sunday School rooms will be added.

HISTORY OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

from the August 24, 1950 edition of the Eldorado Success

The Pioneer Woman's Home Missionary Society met Monday evening, August 21 in the home of Mrs. V.G. Tisdale to celebrate their 48th anniversary. Mrs. Luke Thompson was in charge of the program and Mrs. Roy Shilling led the devotional.

Four Charter members of the organization's first society were present: Mrs. Frank Murchison of San Angelo, and Mrs. Lottie Hill Conner, and Mrs. Pearl McCartney Jones and Mrs. Roxa Ingram Tisdale, Eldorado.

In 1949, under the leadership of our pastor's wife, Lila Shillings, the Dorcas Circle was organized. This was a very active group until the mid-sixties. At that time it merged with the Pioneer Circle and the name "Dorcas Circle" was adopted.

In the late sixties, the local W.S.C.S. chose not to remain a part of the District W.S.C.S., but to minister to local needs.

In early 1950, another circle was organized. This was the Dora Lee Circle, which was named for Mrs. A. T. Atkins, a former church member. Molly Wyatt, wife of Pastor Keith Wyatt, helped reorganize the United Methodist Women, formerly known as the Women's Society of Christian Service. The group has been active as a service group, which includes all women of the church. Today's group is called Martha's Angels.

HISTORY OF METHODIST CHURCH FROM 1951

Rev. Doyle Morton and his wife, Mary, served the church from 1952 to 1955. The parsonage underwent renovation while they were here.

It was while Doyle was pastor that the Educational Building was launched. At her passing, Mrs. D.E. left her car to be sold to start the Educational Building Fund. This building was to be occupied by several Sunday School classes. Doyle and Mary both had served in foreign missions.

Rev. M.C. Stearns and wife came to serve the church in June of 1955. Rev. Stearns was with us one year and our Educational Building was completed.

Rev. Russell R. Heaner and his wife, Dorothy, served the church from 1956 to 1960. Dorothy had

been a missionary in La Paz, Bolivia, and India.

During the pastorate of Bro. Nyquist, the art glass windows were installed in the sanctuary. In June of 1962, our church had a homecoming and dedication of the debt free Educational Building and the fourteen beautiful art glass windows. Each of these windows was given as a memorial or in honor of loved ones or friends.

The church received air conditioning and heating in 1962. The church reached an all time enrollment at this time, approximately 370.

In 1968 a renovation program for the existing buildings took place. The church basement was partitioned for Sunday School rooms, a choir room, and church library. A heating and air-conditioning unit was installed to take care of the basement area. The Educational Building was also air-conditioned. Panelling, new lights, and new carpet were installed throughout the sanctuary, and a new ceiling installed in both the sanctuary and foyer.

Between 1971 and 1974 the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

First Three Churches



courtesy photo
The first church constructed in Eldorado was the Methodist Church (above). It was built in 1901.



courtesy photo
The second church constructed in Eldorado was the Missionary Baptist Church (above). It was built in 1901.



courtesy photo
The third church constructed in Eldorado was the Church of Christ (above). It was built in 1903.

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photo by Kathy Mankin
First United Methodist Church offers its members this beautifully appointed prayer room.

Serving the Lord since 1901...

First Baptist Church of Eldorado



photo by Kathy Mankin

First Baptist Church of Eldorado stands at the intersection of West Gillis and Oak Streets. It was founded in 1901.

submitted by Jim Broome and Vickie Schwiening

HISTORY — On September 1, 1901, fifteen men and women joined together to establish the Eldorado Missionary Baptist Church. The Reverend Ben Wilson and A.T. Talbert served as moderator and clerk. Within a month the church had affiliated with the Concho Valley Baptist Association. The Reverend J.L. Ratliff served as pastor. In 1925 the name was changed to First Baptist Church, Eldorado.

A frame church building capable of seating 250 was built in 1905. A second story was added in 1915. In 1928 this structure was torn down and replaced with the present brick structure. The Reverend J.L. Ratliff served as pastor and chief carpenter during this time of construction. In 1951 a two-story educational annex was constructed. In 1954 a brick parsonage was built across the street from the church facility. The asso-

ciate minister's house was purchased from Shell Pipeline and moved next door to the parsonage in 1960. During the years of 1962-1964 the front of the church was remodeled, including the addition of the steeple, and the preschool annex was constructed. In 1986 new doors for fellowship and ministry were opened with the completion of a 6,000 square foot fellowship hall. Following a hail storm in October 1996, the church sanctuary underwent major repairs in which stained glass windows, pews and carpet were replaced.

On October 18, 1951, the church celebrated its Golden Anniversary with a record attendance of 220 in Sunday School. September 2001 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the church with festivities to commemorate this important date.

First Baptist Church, Eldorado is active in the local Ministerial Alliance, Concho Valley Baptist Association and Southern Baptist

Convention.

First Baptist Church, Eldorado has had many ministers in its long history to date. Andy Anderson is the 30th minister to serve the congregation. He and his family came to Eldorado in 1996 from the Abilene area.

Ministers serving were: Lee Brewer (1992-1995); Chris Graham (1985-1992); Clive Johnston (1983-1984); Don Williford (1979-1982); Gene Stark (1974-1979); Kenneth Vaughn (1963-1974); Douglas DuBose (1957-1962); J. Clifton Hancock (1953-1957); Clifford Nelson (1951-1953); J.M. Hays (1941-1951); W.D. Kirkpatrick (1939-1941); C.T. Aly, Jr. (1937-1939); A.J. Quinn (1934-1937); L.E. Frazier (1933-1934); J.L. Ratliff (1926-1932); W.P. Ray (1925-1926); J.D. Coleman (1922-1924); M.I. Davis (1919-1922); C.H. Riddle (1917-1919); A.J. Carter (1914-1916); J.W. Elliott (1912-1914); J.M. Alexander (1911-1912); W.B. Holland (1910-1911); T.W. Boynton (1909-1910); P.D. Swift (1907-1908); J.M. Earls (1906-1907); J.W. Staten (1904-1906); A.R. Watson (1903-1904); B.F. Barnette (1901-1902).

ordinator and lodging and other details are confirmed. Some of the trips the group has enjoyed include Branson, Missouri; a tour of five national parks in five states; a tour of state capitals and historical sites from Texas to Washington, D.C.; a tour of the Houston Space Center and Galveston shore; Christmas show tours; and much more.

Vacation Bible School is held each summer as an outreach for community children. Anywhere from 80 to 130 children attend the week-long event consisting of bible study, recreation and refreshments, games and music. Around thirty youth and adult volunteers are needed to staff the event each year.

The Crossroads youth group has seen community wide growth and involvement. Youth from 7th-12th grade participate in an array of activities from weekly bible study to ski trips and praise gatherings. As a result of summer camp 1999, the Christian rock group, "Fishbait", was formed by church youth and has provided a music ministry to reach youth around our area. Twice a year, Youth Sundays are held in which youth of the church take complete responsibility for the worship services; special music, testimonies, and often, the message is brought by youth.

The Building Blocks Preschool and Mother's Day Out is a children's ministry of First Baptist Church which began in the fall of 1995. The Preschool is for 3 and 4 year olds and the Mother's Day Out is for infants and toddlers. Our purpose is to provide a Christian atmosphere which promotes learning, encourages children to interact with others, and provides the freedom for each child to grow individually. Enrollment has grown from 13 children in 1995 to the present enrollment of 25.

Other regular activities of the church include Fifth Sunday Singing in which testimonies and special music are shared by members; Baptist BBQ in which all local Baptist churches fellowship together; and such activities as Fall Festival of Family Fun where members gather for fun, food and lighthearted presentations.

Local ministries include the church's involvement in the "Meals for Friends", a meal service provided for the homebound members of our community. To provide assistance for outreach and community projects, the church created "Eldorado Missions."

Senior Ambassadors are an active group of senior adults who meet monthly and look forward to their annual road trip. Each year the trip is first scouted by the co-

Schedule of Current Activities at First Baptist Church

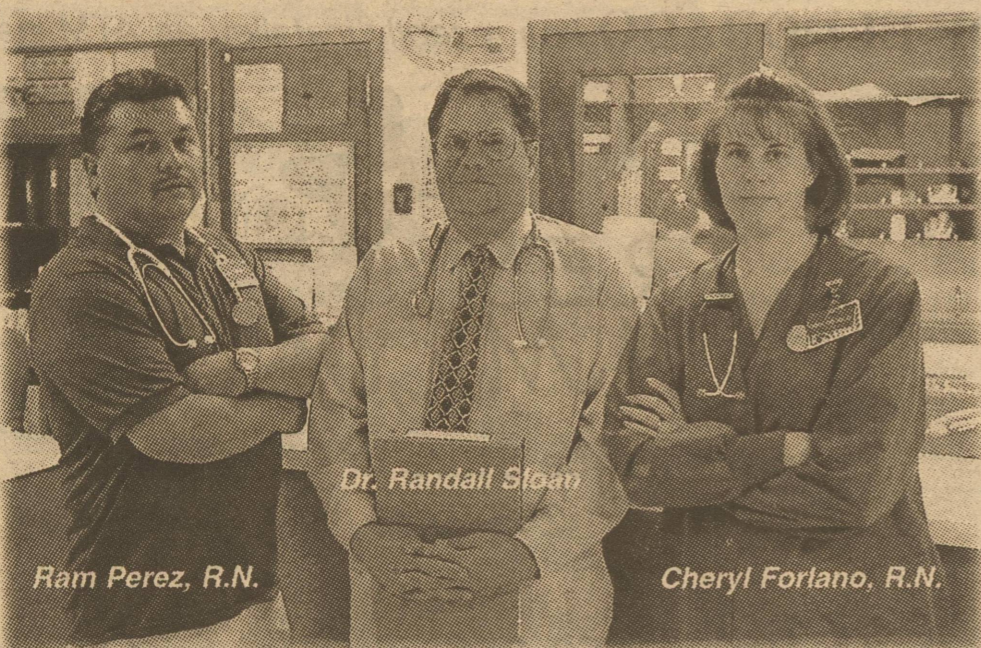
- Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:55 p.m.
- Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Fellowship Meal* 5:50 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday Pray Meeting 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Senior Ambassadors (Senior Adults) 3rd Monday, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Men's Prayer Meeting-Monday, 6:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Promise Keepers Wednesday, 7:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Women on Mission (WMU) Monday (except 5th), 2:30 p.m.
- Fellowship Bible Study* Thursday, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Adult Choir-practice Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary
- Rejoice! Handbell Choir* practice Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall Handbell Room
- Crossroads Youth Fellowship (grades 7-12) Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Youth Dept.
- Spread the Word Youth Choir* practice Sunday, 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Children in Action Missions Training* (grade 1-6) Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Children Dept.
- Music Time Children's Choir* (ages 3,4,5 & K), Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Annex Building
- Building Blocks Preschool and Mother Day Out* (infants-4 years of age) Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Annex Building
- * Does not meet during the summer.
- Sunday School Classes: Adult III (Men's Fellowship & Hope); Adult II (Philia, L.O.A. & Victory); Adult I (Young Adults); Youth I (grades 7-8); Youth II (grades 9-12); Children I (grades 1-3); Children II (grades 4-6); Preschool I (birth-2 yoa); Preschool II (2-5 yoa).

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- 20th Keith Nolen, Larry Mitchell, Crystal Vallejo, Juan Jesus
- Martinez, Jake & Angie Avila, Harvey
- Hill Jr., Jerome Ussery, Sabrina Samuels
- 21st Jeff Johnson, Bobby Helmers, Clint Sykes, Kara Sue Garlitz, David Nolen, Kenneth Hight, Landry
- Broome, Martin Iglesias Sr.
- 22nd Drew V. Bosmans, Roy Adame, Alvaro Rojas Jr., Joe Key, Ashley Lozano
- 23rd Bertha Luz, Coty Tidwell, Corinna Belman, Pam Engdahl
- Blakeny
- 24th Sheila Prater, Derek Engdahl, Samantha Santellano
- 25th Sharon Fitts, Thomas
- Martinez, Ima Jean Bruce, Kaleb Murr, Colby Niblett, Penny Bland, Jessica Freeman, Fernando Cardenas, Candace Engdahl
- 26th Johnny Powell, Helen Fay, Susie Richters, Rosa A. Martinez, Bill Samuels,

ANNIVERSARY LIST

- July
- 20th Mr. & Mrs. Reyes C. Lozano
- 21st Jimmy & Nancy Doyle, David & Kay Creek, Reyes & Mary Lozano
- 22nd Clay & Lois Burleson
- 24th Marvin & Z. Hickman
- 25th Scott & Kari Steward

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courtesy photo

First Baptist Church of Eldorado sponsored a mission trip to Ciudad Acuna in 1999 at which time church members constructed this house for a family there.

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A long heritage worship in Eldorado...

Mertzon Highway Church of Christ

Where there is no vision, the people perish.
Proverbs 29:18

submitted by
Glen MacDonald, minister

There are probably fewer things in our world that remind us of the genuineness and simplicity of God better than what I like to call "the theology of children." Such a theology (i.e. view of God) is usually absent of the baggage so often associated with organized religion. Therefore it is not too surprising that when children are taught things which contradict the very nature of God and the church, a problem arises. I am reminded of my own childhood experience where in I was taught that simple ecclesiastical credo: "Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people." This is not to say that steeples are the problem, after all at an earlier time one of our church buildings had a steeple. Rather the problem lies with the faulty notion that "the church" is anything but the people. Just as the church is greater than the sum of all its facilities, it also stands to reason that a church of people is anything but perfect. Forgiven yes, perfect no.

The great thing about a heritage of faith is its history. Although having been in this community for only two years, I feel I know enough of our congregation's history to be both proud and challenged. We are a church that desires to know the Bible, understand its truth, explore ways of effectively applying such truth, and aggressively seek the Will of God. I believe that we are in the process of comprehending the reality that the church is not about buildings or programs or even personal agendas, it is about people. Those who worship and serve and those who have needs. Having read our congregation's history, I feel a sense of pride and deep respect for those who repeatedly stepped out in faith in an effort to worship who

conducted the first services and meetings of the church in 1901. Believers like the construction of the first plank building in 1903. Families such as the Wests, Keetons, Owens, Keeles, McKnights, Nicks, and Starks who put on their Lord in baptism, even if it meant occasionally having to improvise the use of a stock tank as a baptismal pool. Over the years our congregation has seen numerous preachers stand before us and proclaim the teaching of Christ. They have come from a variety of locations. Some have been more memorable than others, yet it is thought that all have served to the best of their knowledge and ability.

"Open the doors and see all the

people." In the course of the nearly one hundred year history of the Church of Christ in Eldorado, one thing has remained certain: although many have passed through the doors of a building, all have had the opportunity to hear and experience the love of God. I believe the members of the Mertzon Hwy. Church of Christ have grown to appreciate that service, both to the Lord and to the community at large, is the reason for our existence. It would appear that our congregation has gained the beneficial insight that not all ministries come in form of programs. Many are perhaps familiar with some of our more public ministries such as our Christian Counseling services (Growth

Resources), and our active involvement and support of a missionary and school in Acuna, Mexico. However, there are also those among us who have dedicated their lives to serving the Lord in a variety of other ways. Those who serve through their involvement with medical missions, those who assist individuals in locating the essential resources for living, those who provide financial guidance and assistance, those who oversee our food pantry, those who provide transportation for shut-ins, those who supply yard work services, and those who seek to educate our youth in the Word of God. Our youth group has a legacy of conducting mission trips which have focused on both teaching and encouraging other individuals. All so these believers have shared a desire to serve our community and the Lord. Recently our congregation has supported and encouraged the involvement of our present minister in the local Ministerial Alliance. As well as his wife's role with Moms In Touch prayer ministry.

Romans 12:1-2 informs all the children of God that we are in the

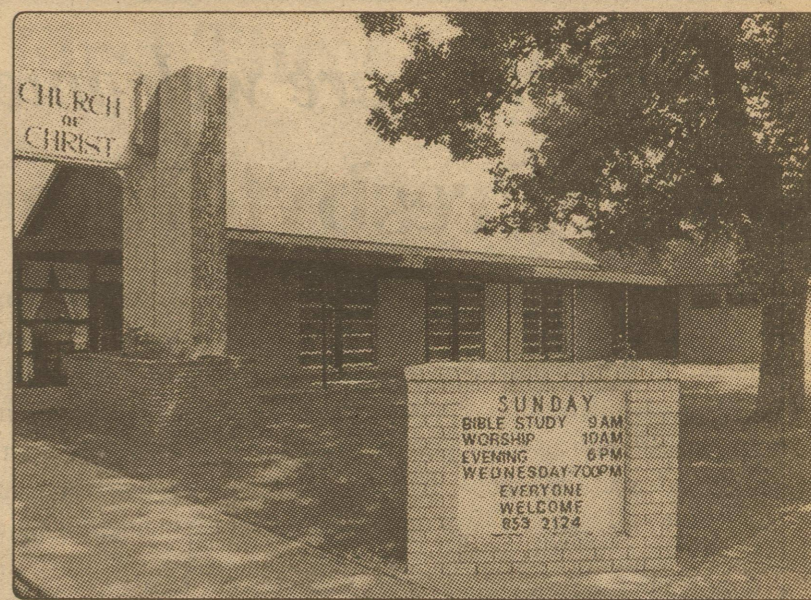


photo by Kathy Mankin

Mertzon Highway Church of Christ is home to a congregation of committed Christians. The church was founded in 1901. The first building was constructed in 1903.

process of being transformed (changed) by the renewal of our minds. As a community of faith we are seeking to change some things, while never wanting to compromise the Word of God. In short: we are a work in progress. We are Christians who are proud of their heritage, yet not so arrogant as to be blind to the areas which require grace and improvement. We are seeking to create and preserve a place where the concept that "everyone is welcome" is not merely a slogan on a church sign. As a people who have in the past prided ourselves on our knowledge of God's Word, we are striving to discover new avenues in which to use

such knowledge with wisdom and exemplify such truth in practical ways of service to the members of our community.

Once a visitor was overheard to inquire of the minister, "When does the service begin?" to which the minister replied, "The service begins when the worship is over." As a church of Christ's people, it is our desire and goal to be like Jesus. And in the process of loving and serving God and humanity, we aspire to follow the Bible, minister to Christians, and reach out to the world around us. This is our vision for ourselves as a church. And as all are aware, where is no vision...the people will surely perish.

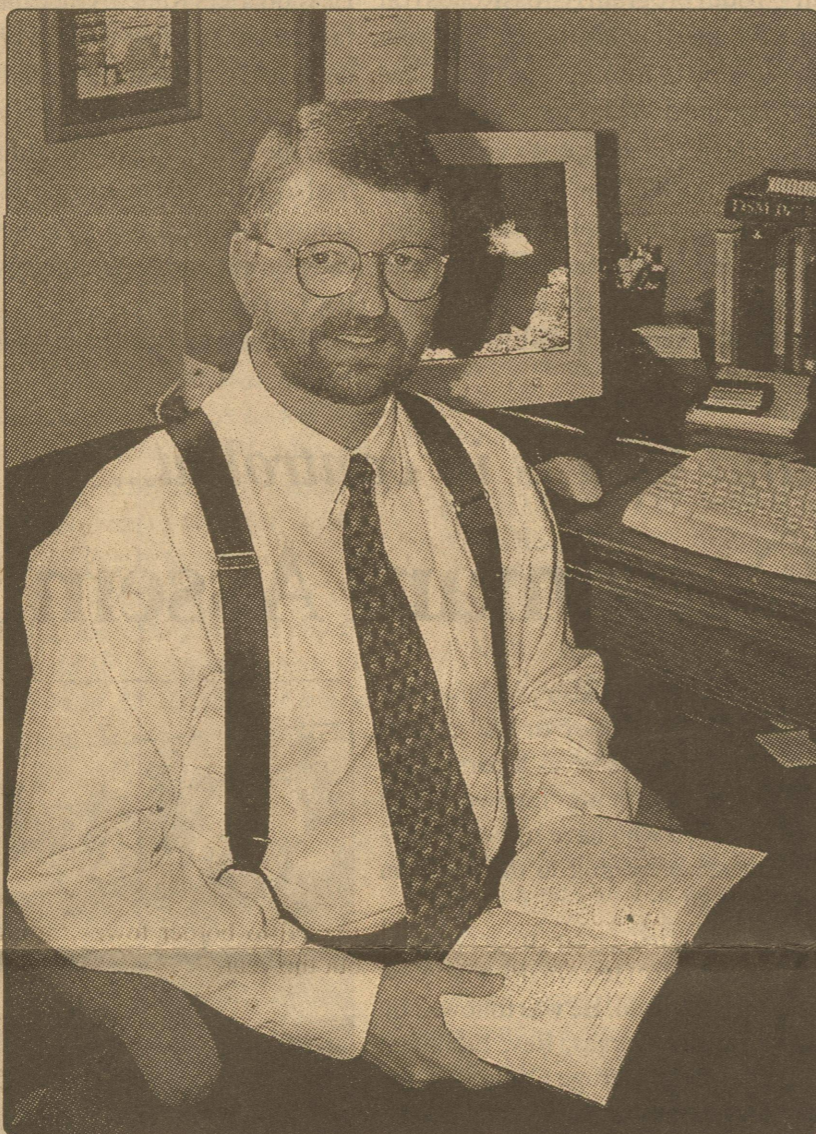


photo by Kathy Mankin

Glen MacDonald, minister at Mertzon Highway Church of Christ, posed for this photo during his study time.

Pursuing the dream of a new church...

Primera Iglesia Bautista

submitted by **Delia Herrera**

History of the Mexican Baptist Mission now known as Primera Iglesia Bautista of Eldorado Texas. According to the minutes of the First Baptist Church, the first mention of the work among the Mexican people was in 1911. It began with a revival led by Brother C.H. Riddle. This marked the beginning of many services toward a mission. According to some of the Hispanic elders around town services were held under trees, homes, and even in the little Mexican School house. Some of the first ladies to keep the ministry going were Anita Brown, Tulles Lopez. (Alicia Robledo's mother), Delfina Ipolito, (Mary Gauna's Mother), Maria Morales, and Golla Cantu, (Reuben Minor's Mother). These ladies were very influential in the beginning of our Mexican Ministry.

From 1911 to 1944 the work continued among the Mexican people with a Vacation Bible School held on two occasions, one in 1942 with Brother Humberto Ruiz from San Angelo and in 1943 with Brother Earl Hughes in charge. During this time Brother Jim Hays came to be pastor at the First Baptist Church and along with Brother Esteban Flores who was in Sonora kept the ministry going until 1951.

In October of 1944 a building committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of building a church house. Mr. J.B. Christian, (Joe Charles Christian's father) gave two lots and made a donation toward this new church house. By August of 1947 the \$1,345.00 had been collected, the lots were given to the First Baptist Church and the Home Mission for building what became known as the First Mexican Baptist Mission.

Sunday School was started in 1946 with the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. George Barnett, Mrs. E.W. Perry and Mrs. Irene Rutland. In October 1945 Rev. Darrell Tapley, a ministerial student from Howard Payne College, was called as it's first pastor. During his ministry here, a very strong influential woman, Mrs. J.B. Montgomery, helped in every way that she could, she played the piano, led choir, and carried out other services as needed. In 1948, thirteen members were baptized into the mission and one received by letter of promise.

In 1949, Rev. Tapley resigned and Brother Simon Natividad was

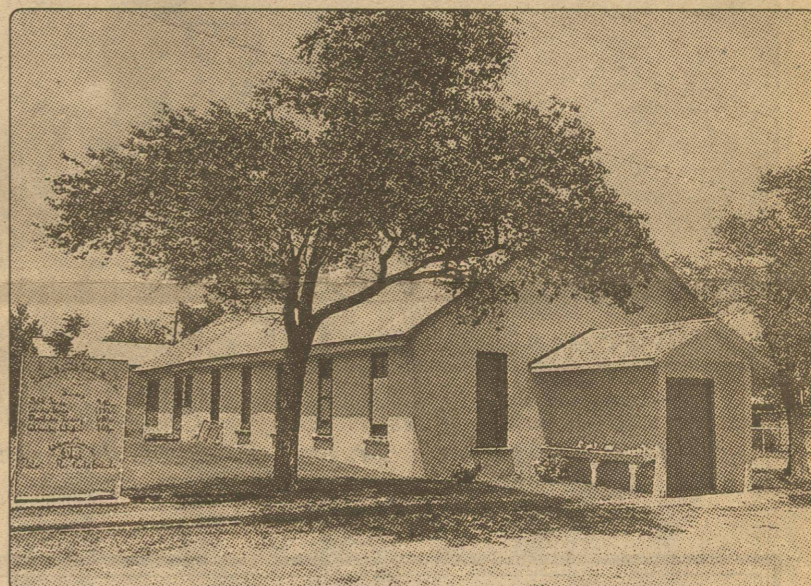


photo by Kathy Mankin

Primera Iglesia Bautista began as a mission of First Baptist Church of Eldorado. On Oct. 2, 1976, the mission became an independent church. The congregation is currently working toward the construction of a new building.

You're loved the way you are at...

Agape Assembly of God

submitted by

Reverend Walter Griggs, pastor

Agape Assembly of God was formed in June of 1984 with Rev. Dave and Laquita Stephens serving as pastors. In its infancy, the church first met in the Julie Moorman School of Dance Building and later moved to a cafe building on Highway 277. In December of 1984, Rev. Ken and Norma Otwell accepted the pastorate and moved with their family to Eldorado. Shortly after the Otwell's arrival, the church moved to its current location at 502 E Warner, and a new sanctuary was added in 1991. The Otwells accepted another church in 1992 and Rev. Terry and Sheryllyn Allen moved to Eldorado in July of that year to take over the pastorate. The Allens remained at Agape until August of 1993. The current pastor, Rev. Walter Griggs, accepted the position in October, 1993. The church was blessed with the arrival of Trevor and Tamra Burwick, Youth Pastors, in December of 1998.

Agape Assembly of God exists to evangelize Schleicher County, educate believers toward spiritual maturity, encourage vital relationships through fellowship, and exalt God through meaningful worship. The church seeks to fulfill this mission through various ministry opportunities, such as weekly Sunday school, worship services, Bible studies, and age-appropriate classes during the midweek service. A new addition to the schedule is chil-



photo by Lori Stricklan

Agape Assembly of God has a motto... "Where you're loved the way you are." That motto is carried out every day by Rev. Walter Griggs at right. Pictured with Rev. Griggs is (L-R) Trevor and Tamra Burwick, youth ministers, and their son Micah. Also, Tori, Jonah and Lorna Griggs.

dren's church, which coincides with the Sunday morning service.

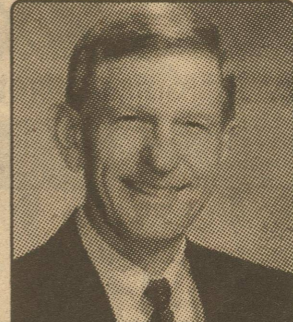
The Assemblies of God was established as a means to facilitate worldwide missionary activity, and "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel (Matthew 28)" is still out mandate. Agape A/G currently supports 18 missionaries in 14 countries around the world, and 15% of the church's income goes directly to missions. In addition, the children of Agape A/G give to the Boys' and Girls' Missionary Crusade, which provides general supplies for foreign missionaries, and the youth contribute to Speed the Light, which

provides vehicles and technological equipment. The Women's Ministry donates to Monies for Missions, which assists missionaries with their housing expenses. Our purpose is to spend and to be spent for the cause of Christ.

The congregation of Agape Assembly of God extends a warm welcome to visitors. Our service times are as follows: Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday morning worship 11:00 a.m., Sunday evening worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday night ministries 7:00 p.m., (adult Bible study, youth group, boy' and girls' ministries)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Newcomers are welcome at...

First Presbyterian Church of Eldorado

submitted by Deb Joy

Besides the unique seventy-five year old trees that shade a picturesque small town country church that portrays stories of old, once inside the sanctuary one will immediately feel a sense of warmth, of being at home.

For such a small church, we are truly blessed in many areas. Our music department consists of a full-time pianist and organist, a choir director that devotes her time and effort to provide our congregation with special anthems throughout the year. Whether you be soprano, alto, tenor or bass, it makes no difference: we'll always find a place where you can make a joyful noise unto the Lord! It requires very little to become a choir member...if you can hold a musical score in your hand, you're in! Oh, and I almost forgot...a smile is always necessary!

Singing isn't your thing? That's OK. How 'bout handbells or chimes? Several years back, the congregation decided to add handbells to our morning worship service. And what an addition it

was! Gorgeous melodic chimes were recently added as a memorial to a long-time member of the First Presbyterian Church. Since that time, our small but active church has been alive with sounds of harmonious singing, ringing, and chiming regularly.

Perhaps one may be more interested in visiting the home-bound. First Pres. actively participates with other churches in our community by sharing a Sunday afternoon service at the local nursing home. The elderly meet in the cafeteria for a short devotional, thirty minutes of singing their favorite old-time gospel tunes, and ending with a word of encouragement and a hug. It proves to be a marvelous way to jump-start your week!

Two seasons ago, our church became involved with "Christian Cookin'." Several churches from our community decided meals were needing to be delivered on Saturdays to those shut-in. Primarily consisting of the elderly and those unable to cook for themselves, we would meet in the

Methodist Church kitchen once a month, ready and willing to serve a hot meal on a cold day, or a cold meal on one of those hot dry Schleicher County summer days. The young as well as the old enjoy making the rounds. We have involved our younger Sunday School students in serving the meals as well; we feel it teaches our youth the importance of the gift of service.

First Presbyterian Church has a very active Presbyterian Women's Organization. Women, young and old, are encouraged to participate every third Tuesday of the month in someone's living room for fellowship, devotional with Bible study, and yummy treats or brunch. We discuss periodically, ways in which we can help others, locally, statewide and abroad. We have met and baked Valentine cookies and mailed hope boxes to our young men and women in the armed services, we have provided toiletries, bedding,

and clothing to our Concho Valley Home for Girls, and contributed monetarily to various important causes.

We are a very ecumenical body. That is, we like to meet and work with several other denominations around town. In addition to Christian Cookin', we typically join with the Methodist Church and hold a Vacation Bible School for kids of all ages. Look for an ad in late July for this year's VBS! We are also joining up with the First Baptist Church in ministering to the youth in our community. Many of our youth have been participating in the Baptist Youth program (CrossRoads) on Wednesday nights and our new pastor is joining the mix. Rev. Leonard Wideman has said recently, "First Baptist's youth ministry rocks! The Lord is working through our young people...I'm thankful God has called me, and our youth to be a part of it." Come hang with us on Wednes-



photo by Kathy Mankin

First Presbyterian Church sits at the corner of Cottonwood Street and East Callender Avenue beneath 75 year old shade trees.

days at 6:30 pm!

Easter is such a special time for our church. A long-time tradition in our church has been to travel Easter afternoon to the "old-oak-tree" east of town on the Page Headquarters Ranch. Once there, families relax in lawn chairs or on quilts and visit, while the children and "young-at-heart" scurry to find the Prize Egg old E. Bunny has hidden! All enjoy singing praise songs, listening to the sounds of early spring, and communing with our Creator.

We have recently been blessed

with a new young minister, Leonard Wideman, and his precious family. We are so excited and anxious to meet new challenges, share goals with Leonard, jump-start new programs within our church, and continue to be obedient to our forefathers' and foremothers' instructions: to lead others to Jesus Christ.

If you feel "something" tugging at your heart, hang out with us: we have fun as we worship, serve, and love God and those God has given to us! Call us at 853-2411 for more info.

Jesus is Lord and God is in control at...

Templo Getsemani Assembly of God

submitted by Reverend Leandro Gallegos

In preparation for writing this article I researched all available resources to find the history of the church when it was located at the "barrio" but found very little. I did find out that one of the pastors was my uncle, Polinar Gallegos, and the first pastor at the new location and the last pastor of the church in the barrio.

The building we are in now was bought for us by the Gulf Latin District of the Assemblies of God from the Abilene Section of the Assemblies of God on January 24th of 1989. Since then there have been many improvements made on the building. New windows in the sanctuary and the fellowship areas of the church were installed for better insulation. New carpet has been installed in the sanctuary and the stage area has been enlarged also. Stucco has been added to the outside of the building for better insulation and better looks. The building has also been painted inside and out. A new vestibule was built for protection from the rain and weather. New heating and A/C units were installed to insure comfort in all types of weather conditions. The newest thing to be added are the padded pews that were brought in just a few years ago.

The church also purchased the house next door to the church building to serve as a parsonage. It has been home for two of the five men who have served as pastor since moving to this location in 1989.

The first pastor to serve here at Templo Getsemani was Rev. Nick Robledo. He was followed by Rev. Noe Vargas, Rev. Eduvigen Dias, Rev. Geroge Cantu, and the present pastor Rev. Leandro Gallegos. Serving as deacons are Mario Sanchez, Pasqual Sanchez, Michael Gallegos, and Raul Rios.

Templo Getsemani has several active ministries. Women's Ministries (WM) is very active in ministering to the elderly with the meals on wheels program. They are also involved with the mothers in touch prayer meetings, a visitation schedule, and still find time to sponsor the Missionettes Program.

Missionettes, another of our active ministries, is a program that teaches young girls how to be good Christian young ladies. The girls earn badges and patches by completing certain tasks. Although there is much work to do, there is also much fun to be had in the Missionettes program.

The men at Templo are also ac-



photo by Kathy Mankin

Templo Getsemani is located on East Murchison Avenue in Eldorado. All services are bilingual and everyone is invited to attend.

tive in ministry for the Lord. They are involved in a visitation and prayer ministry. The men's department offers their support to all the other ministries of the church. One of their primary ministries is the Royal Rangers Program.

The Royal Ranger and Urban Ranger programs teach young men responsibility, honesty, and good Christian values. They also learn camping and survival skills. There is a time for study and learning, and there is a time for using the skills learned and having fun. Overnight camping, fishing, cooking on an open fire, these are the things that a royal ranger will enjoy and remember most.

One of my favorite ministries in the church is the music ministry, and Templo Getsemani has an excellent music ministry. The minister of music is Raul Rios who is assisted by Patrick Fuentes, Gregory Fuentes, Reyes Sanchez, David Mejia, and David Gallegos. We are also Blessed with many

good singers who love to praise the Lord. Among them are Lisa Sanchez, Dee Martinez, and Dina Gallegos. When the music and the singing begins one can't help but feel the presence of God.


Our Redeemer youth Ministries is very active in ministry at home and away from home. Their emphases is on street ministry, puppet ministry, praise and worship, and prayer ministries. Our Redeemer Youth Ministries recently returned from a ministry trip to Dumas Texas and Garden City Kansas and have been invited to return to Kansas next summer for ministry in two other cities. They will soon begin ministering to some of the churches in the area around San Angelo and Sonora for the remainder of the summer. During school Our Redeemer Youth will minister solely by their presence as Christians.

This is a look at Templo Getsemani. We cordially invite you, if you don't have a church that you regularly attend, to come and visit with us. All of our services are bilingual so there will be no barriers. Templo Getsemani: Where Jesus is Lord - and God is in Control.



photo by Kathy Mankin

Rev. Leonard Wideman of First Presbyterian Church shared his teaching skills recently with youngsters enrolled in the Summer Reading Program at the Schleicher County Public Library.



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Reaching beyond Schleicher County...

Community Baptist Church of Eldorado

submitted by

Dr. R. Byron Orand, pastor

On November 22, 1992, the Community Baptist Church of Eldorado was duly constituted and fully incorporated as a Southern Baptist Church. Dr. Lynn Eckerberger, who was Director of Missions for the Concho Valley Baptist Association, delivered the charge to the church. At that time, there were forty-eight charter members.

This group of Believers then purchased the church facilities located at 12 East Warner Street in Eldorado, which had been built in 1960 by members of the First Christian Church. Later, this building was used as a place of worship for several other groups but had been vacant for some time before being purchased. Following acquisition of the property, some remodeling was completed, in-

cluding the installation of new heating/air conditioning equipment.

In July, 1993, the church called its first full-time pastor, Dr. R. Byron Orand, who began his eighth year as pastor in July of this year and continues to serve in that capacity.

The church erected a new educational building in 1995, which more than doubled space for Sunday School classes and included a large nursery and new church offices. Since the church's beginning, over 200 people have chosen to become members of this church family.

Today, the worship services are enhanced by music provided by a Kurzweil Digital Piano, which provides numerous selections of musical instrumentation, such as orchestra, pipe organ, and interesting rhythmic options. This instru-

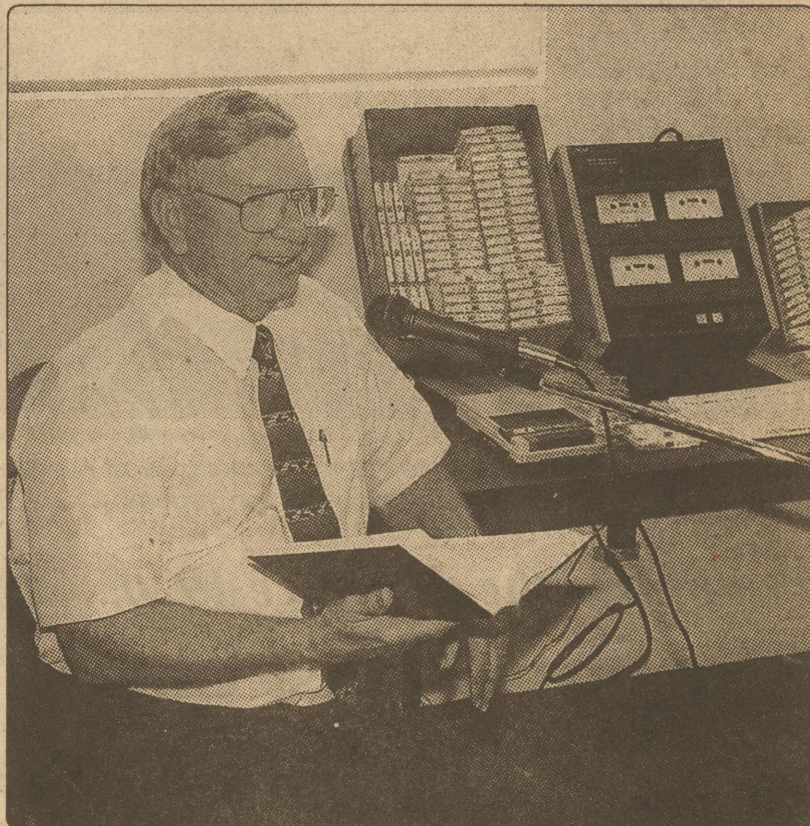
ment was purchased by a church member at a price in excess of \$6,000 for the enjoyment of all who come to worship. This instrument eliminates the need for additional instruments, such as a church organ.

In 1998, Community Baptist began a new ministry with the taping of all worship services. Several members of the church who work as long-haul truck drivers began listening to these tapes during their long drives along the highways of America. Other drivers began asking for tapes, and soon the official "Truckers' Tape Ministry" began. From an humble beginning, this ministry has blossomed into a full time extension of the local church. Tapes of the worship services are now produced in large numbers and placed in some of the largest truck stops in Texas. One of these truck stops

located between Abilene and Fort Worth has requested 800 tapes each month, and the demand has exceeded the church's ability to provide such large numbers. Presently, the church is attempting to acquire additional equipment and tapes in larger quantities in order to offset the costs of such a ministry. The tapes are provided free of charge to truckers, and letters of appreciation have been received from truckers in Arkansas, Ohio, and other states.

In addition to the Truckers' Tape Ministry, Community Baptist Church began producing tapes of seven minute "spiritual nuggets" for use in weekly radio broadcasts from stations in Sonora, Ozona, and the Christian Radio Station, KAGT, in Abilene. Dr. Orand has been invited to attend the Taylor County Rodeo in September in order to personally meet listeners and tell them more about Community Baptist Church in Eldorado.

An annual tradition of community Baptist is the live nativity featuring children, youth, and adult members in full costume. Live animals are also used at the manger



Dr. R. Byron Orand records two radio broadcasts each week from Community Baptist Church. Also, each worship service is recorded and the tapes distributed across the state free of charge through the church's Truckers Ministry.

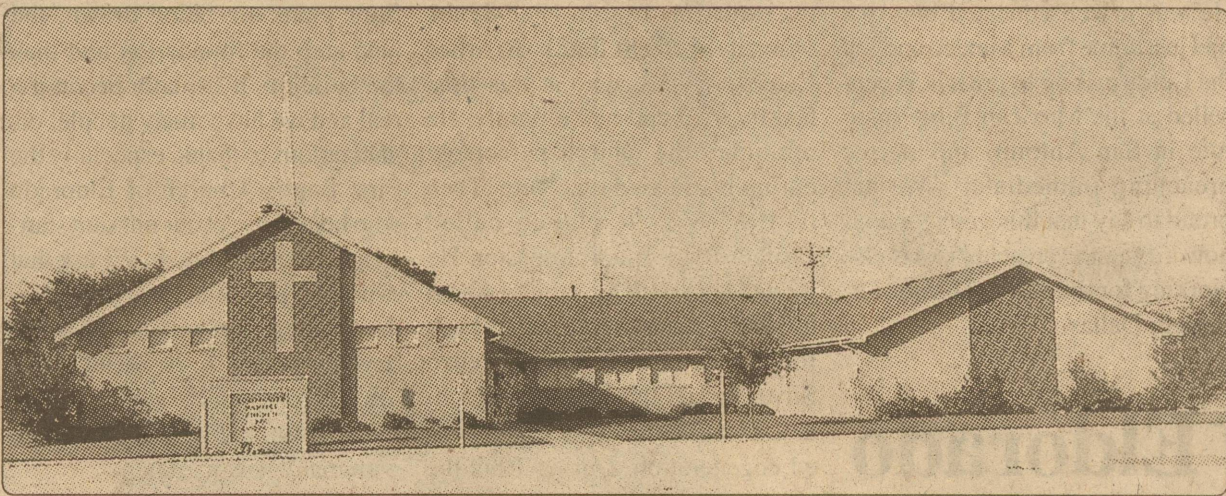


photo by Kathy Mankin

Community Baptist Church is Eldorado's newest church. It is located at the corner of East Warner Avenue and Cottonwood Street where each year members of the church's youth group stage a Living Nativity Scene.

Worshiping our Savior since 1938...

St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church

submitted by Josh Hastings

The scripture tells us "Where two or three are gathered to together in My name, I'll be in the midst of them." After a lot of prayer and thought, and because there was no church in the community, a group of Christians decided to organize a church.

The church was organized in 1938. The first meeting was held in the home of Mr. Dick Fay. Five people were in attendance: Mr. Preacher Morgan, Mr. Pink Easley, Mr. Dick Fay, Mrs. Dorothy Hastings, and Mrs. Leola Speers. These few members later moved to the annex building and at that time Rev. A.W. Allen was called to pastor. Rev. Allen was called in 1939. The first church building was built in 1939 in front of the home of Mr. Dick Fay.

Over the years, several pastors have led St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church. In 1959 the old church building was torn down and another small church was built at the present site. Rev. Phillip was pastor at that time. When the cornerstone was laid, Rev. D. A. Autry was pastor.

Rev. Q.H. Blackmon was called to St. Luke in 1975 and served nine years. Under the pastorate of Rev. Q. H. Blackmon, many improvements were made;

the buying of a new piano, paneling of the inside of the inside of the church, new carpeting, a Lord's Supper table was built, and siding was put on the outside of the church.

In October, 1984 Rev. H.C. Green, Sr. was called to pastor St. Luke from St. Paul Baptist Church of San Angelo, Texas. Under the leadership of Rev. Green, the Lord has continued to bless us. We have gone from meeting two Sundays a month to meeting every Sunday. We have Bible studies once a week, a choir has been formed, a mission has been formed, and officers have been named to the church.

The Ollie Mae Green addition was added to the front of the church in 1996. We have nursing home ministry and we have purchased a television and VCR for our video ministry. We also bought furniture for the new addition at the front of the church.

By the Grace of God we have been blessed to completely remodel the Annex Building. A new kitchen has been added, new carpeting, ceiling fans and lots of extras. There is a new addition to the church building, consisting of a Pastor's study, a finance and secretary office, and two bathrooms. New pews were put in the sanctu-

ary, the choir stand and the pulpit area enlarged, as well as the church entrance, a sign has been added to the church grounds. A parsonage was purchased in February 1994, and moved to the church site in 1997. Other additions, include a 1995 Ford Passenger Van, two vehicle car port, a riding lawn mower, weed eater, a storage building, a new p.m. system, a small organ, a side walk from the church to the parsonage, and a road from street to the parsonage.

We currently meet each Sunday for Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. We also meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. for Bible Study.

The Lord has truly blessed us here at Luke Missionary Baptist Church and we know with the help of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and under the leadership of Rev. Green, we will continue to prosper and grow both spiritually and materially.



photo by Kathy Mankin

St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church has served the cause of Christ in Eldorado since 1938. Today, its loyal congregations carries out numerous ministries in Eldorado.

Founded in 1939...

West Side Church of Christ

submitted by Louise Logan

The church known as the West Side Church of Christ first met in another building located on the Mertz Highway for several years before erecting the present building on the Sonora Highway in 1939. The Keele Family deeded the land to the church and the male members of the church at that time worked together in building the church house as most of them had some experience in the carpentry business. They hired one man, Fred Logan, as contractor, who was also a member of the church.

This group was among the first Church of Christ members that met in Schleicher County. Founded by F.R. Keele, father of Paul, Betty, Pansey and Freeland Keele.

The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McAngus, Mr. and Mrs. Oddest Sudduth, Mr. and Mrs. John Rodgers, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Newlin, Mr. and Mrs. Will McAngus, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Edmiston.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Lum Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Rancy McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Will Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Keele, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sudduth, Mr. and Mrs. Vernal Sudduth, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Yancy, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Peel, and Mr. and Mrs. Munsie Potter and perhaps more we have missed.

Hugh McAngus and Oddest Sudduth were the first Elders to serve in the new church building. A baptistry, carpet, heating/cooling and new paneling have been added through the years. Also a large oil painting behind the baptistry was added and was painted by Elizabeth Elder. Ronnie and Rozanna Sauer donated a gold colored communion set to the church.

For many years Lum Davis was a faithful, diligent worker in the church. He was instrumental in getting new benches, restroom and communion table. Also, W.W. Sudduth, the oldest son of Oddest Sudduth worked faithfully with the church until his death in 1998. Due to the faith, zeal and steadfastness of these charter members and their

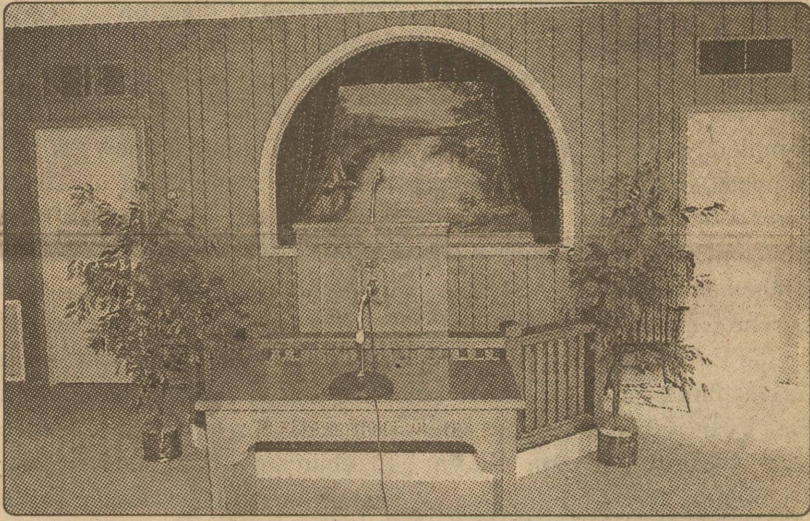


photo by Kathy Mankin

West Side Church of Christ has met in its current building on S. Divide Street since 1939 when land was donated for the purpose of constructing the church.

influences for good they now have children, grandchildren and in some instances great-grandchildren who worship their God in the same church building.

Some of them remember being baptized in a stock tank at Vernal Sudduths, Tom Jones or Pete Owens home. Waldine baptized his grandson, Dest Sudduth, not long before his death on January 18, 1998. Jewel and Waldine's son, Mike is a teacher and minister from Roswell, New Mexico. Mike's son, Allen and wife, requested to be baptized in this church with Mike doing the baptizing. He also baptized his three daughters in Roswell. Clyde Dukes baptized Arron Nitsch and Jeff Menchaca just recently.

The church is blessed to have Bill Sudduth as song director on Sunday mornings and Ronnie Sau-

er on Sunday nights.

In the early years preachers came long distances to hold extended meetings. Everyone enjoyed homemade ice cream suppers, dinners on Sunday and Christian fellowship. Some who held meetings were Ava Johnson, L.W. Hayhurst, Ralph Gage, and Qun-ton Gage and Virgil Scott.

E.B. (Tot) McCown who recently passed away preached at West Side many times. Some who preach now are Morris McFadden, Ken Tomlinson and Portis Ribble from San Angelo, Clyde Dukes from Sonora and Mike Sudduth from Roswell, New Mexico.

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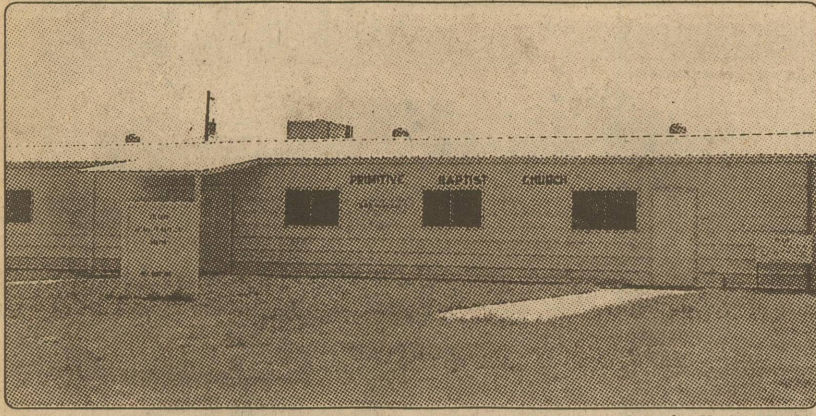


photo by Kathy Mankin

Primitive Baptist Church is located at the corner of West Avenue and Carson Street. The church was founded on December 4, 1920

Faithful to the call since 1920...

Primitive Baptist Church

submitted by Clement Sauer

The first Primitive Baptist Church was constituted on December 4, 1920. Some of the charter members were Elder W. H. Richards, Elder S. N. Redford, Paul Nixon, Mrs. Anna Nixon, R. C. Morgan, Mrs. Lottie Morgan, G. L. Henderson, Mrs. Ida Henderson, J. R. Page (deacon), Mrs. S. A. Page, Lena Saxton and Mrs. S. G. Spurgers. I. L. Hicks served as the church's first pastor. R. C. Spurgers was chosen the church's first clerk.

In January of 1922 a lot was donated to the church by J. R. Page. Later in the same year the church acquired the Divide school house in the Bailey Ranch Community and moved it to this lot. This original building was quite small, an extension

was added to the length in 1924. This made it adequate for worship service through the years. A kitchen and dining area was added in 1958. The original building is now Rev. Walter Grigg's residence.

In 1981 Farris Nixon donated a lot on West Avenue and Carson Street on which a new church was erected with the help of the members.

The new building consists of a large auditorium and dining area which serves a large crowd. The adjoining lot gives ample room for travel trailers during an association meeting which last up to three days.

At the present the church meets every second and fourth Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. with Lamar Bear of Lampassas County officiating. Visitors are always welcome.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

called as Pastor until 1951. Brother R. B. Cooper served from Nov. 1, 1950 - July 1954. Followed by Bob Carlisle who stayed only a month. On Dec. 1, 1954, Brother Joel Becerra, a student at Howard Payne College, was called as pastor along with Mrs. Montgomery still working with the mission. Another woman joined the work force known as Mrs. Kenneth Cheek. In 1955 the third VBS was held with a revival at night, under the leadership of Brother Fred Banda, also a student at Howard Payne College. In 1957, Brother Victor Leiya was called as pastor and stayed about one year. This is when the first parsonage was built and he was the first permanent pastor to live in it.

Then came the energetic Brother Jose Oreña who served from January 1958 to June 1, 1960. His first love was to work among the young people. It is said that at one time he had as many as 40 young people at church. The annex building was bought in March 1959. A school bus was also bought by the Mission, which was used mostly to take the people from the Mission to the different ranches to conduct services among the Mexican Aliens.

Brother Rogelio Martinez served from August 1960 to September 1962. Brother and Mrs.

Martinez participated in several conferences at Glorieta, New Mexico and had revivals in Mexico while here. During this time we also had our first Deacon, Pablo Romero, who served the Mission from April 1958 until his death in September 1963.

Mrs. Montgomery was not helping anymore but a very dear woman started to help us with a Sunday School and that was Mrs. Lavita Brooks. She is respected and loved by each one at our mission. We also cannot forget Mr. E. W. Brooks. He contributed much in finances and in paying for some of the work done at the parsonage. Their home was always open to the ministers especially when we needed lodging for them.

Brother Basilio Esquivel served from August 1965 to 1969. Two more rooms were added to the parsonage. On March 12, 1968 the Mission authorized or licensed a very young and capable man by the name of Ramiro Vargas to preach. He was a well educated boy that had just come from Mexico and felt the Lords calling to preach. He enrolled at the Mexican Bible Institute in San Antonio and started preaching immediately. We are proud to say that this young man is now a dynamic preacher and is also working for the Home Mission Offices in Dallas.

On September 1970 the Mission brought another lot with the idea of moving the parsonage and yet having enough land to build another church house in the future. The Parsonage was moved and work began on enlarging it. We did not have a pastor but the work went on. We lost several of our first members by death, others moved away from Eldorado.

Brother Julian Vigil came to us June through August. One of the happiest days of our lives was the final payment of \$1,034.00 for the lot and moving the parsonage. Our last payment was made on November 17, 1973, which was way ahead of the scheduled date on the contract.

Then in December 1974 Brother Esteban Flores, came to retire here in Eldorado after having served the Primera Iglesia Bautista in Houston for 18 years. On April 26, 1975 we called him as our Pastor.

On Oct. 2, 1976 our Mission became a church known as Primera Iglesia Bautista. In 1980-85 the church brought back Brother Lorenzo Silvas, who at this time had married and had a family. He remodeled the church parsonage during his second time here. Then in 1985-87, the church called Brother Raul Tirado to pastor. He moved here with his family. Again in 1987-92, the church brings back for a third time Brother Lorenzo Silvas. It was hard for this preacher to break ties with the small, united congregation. During 1992 the

church was without a pastor and one of the deacons helped out, Zaragoza Esquivel. Then in 1992, the church called Brother Carlos Estrada to come pastor at Primera Iglesia Bautista of Eldorado, along with his family. We have had since then VBS every year, Christmas plays, revivals, the church organizations and many other activities.

During the time that the mission church has been without a pastor, the work has continued with deacons who have stepped in to keep the ministry going. These have been men such as Pablo Romero, Domingo Piña, Eluterio Guerrero, Zaragoza Esquivel Sr., Sabino Mendez, Zaragoza Esquivel Jr., and many others. This brings us to the present. Many years later, many pastors later, and many generations later to the same dream of a "New Church". That dream is becoming a reality as we are in the process of building a new church. We have met with the architecture and the floor plans are being drawn, the next step the foundation and then the building. It's finally becoming real and we have many people, organizations to thank, especially the First Baptist Church of Eldorado who helped us get our mission started and later our church. We ask that everyone please be praying for us the congregation, our church as we have very hard work ahead of us. We are continuing with the ministry and want to fill this new church with many new members.

First United Methodist Church of Eldorado

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Educational Building was painted inside and out. The parsonage had some renovation; the kitchen was completely remodeled with new cabinets, sink, stove, washer and dryer and the den and kitchen paneled and new floor covering in kitchen and one bath.

The Christian Flag was given by the E. C. Peters and Billy McCravey families and the American Flag by the Elton McGinnes family in honor of son Wayne McGinnes.

In June of 1974, our church was left without a pastor. The District Superintendent sent us Thomas Elliott, Jr. and his wife, Carol. Thom had taken a leave of absence to go back to school. They lived in San Angelo and came out on weekends.

The second story of the parsonage underwent a complete renovation. The den was moved upstairs and both bedrooms and bath were completely redeccorated. Also the parsonage received a new heating and cooling system. The pastor's study was moved from the second story of the church to the basement in what was the old kitchen, which was completely redeccorated.

Our church observed its 75th Anniversary in November of 1976.

The basement was remodeled during 1997-1999 to include an adult Sunday school class room, prayer room and library, and choir room. Walls were papered and painted and new carpet was installed. Improvements were made in the choir room in memory of Ruth Harper. Stained glass windows designed by Brenda Grenda of San Angelo were added to the prayer room in memory of Martha Lee Meador. The windows depict the love and peace found in Jesus Christ.

In 1999 the area between the sidewalk in front of the entrance to the sanctuary, and the curb and gutter of US 277 was redone. The church sold engraved bricks and granite Pavers. Church members (and non members) could have their names or the names of their families engraved on the bricks, and the Pavers were ideal for Bible verses. Response to this was excellent and enough money was raised to pay for all of the material and have enough left over after

completion of the project, to add \$2500.00 to our building fund. Church members and friends donated all of the labor. Also In 1999 the church installed a new PA system. This system cost just over \$3000.00 and was paid for by a member who chose to remain anonymous.

At the present we are in the process of installing new front doors to the church. The present oak doors have been in use since the church was built, and have lasted this long only because of Joyce Speck who has redone them several times, and because she retreats them annually. We are also looking at remodeling and adding to our Fellowship Hall. We are looking at adding a much needed large modern kitchen, and a dining area. If approved by our church council the addition would be 4000 square feet at an estimated cost of \$250,000.00.

What Else? In 1996 the church received the designation as a Texas Historical Site,

Bible Studies — From 1995 through 1999, "Disciples 1, 2 & 3" bible studies were offered to our church membership as well as the community. Each of these studies was 32 weeks in length and the three were done over a four-year period (Disciples 1 was given twice). At the same time the "Trinity Bible Study" was done. Trinity Bible study is an outline study of each book in both the New Testament and the Old Testament. At the present we are using the "Linktatory" study, which is a study of the scriptures that the pastor uses as her sermon topics the ensuing Sunday.

Prayer Team — Prayer concerns of our church and community or made known each Sunday in our worship service. Prayer cards are available in the pews for worshippers who have needs or concerns for family or self that they do not wish to reveal. These prayer requests are then given to a group of volunteers who come to the church for prayer and meditation through the week on a regular basis.

Newsletter — A monthly newsletter is mailed out with news of the Church, prayer requests, birthdays, and anniversaries.

Youth Confirmation — Each year we hold confirmation classes for those youth who are interested

in becoming members of the Methodist Church. These classes are usually taught by the Pastor. Confirmation is that holy moment when we remember God's gift of love for us and then personally accept that relationship which God offers to us at our baptism. Baptism, in The United Methodist Church, is viewed as the means of joining the universal Church. Confirmation is a way of affirming that relationship offered to us at our baptism and nurtured in the interim, and then uniting with a particular church family.

Confirmation classes are generally for youth of junior high age. At a time in their lives, when they are seeking to become individuals, confirmation offers them a choice of responding to God, by confirming the vows that were taken on their behalf as infants or children, by their parents and The Church. And, it offers them the responsibility of taking up the role of following Christ as the model for their own lives. This acceptance is a commitment to represent Christ in the world. We have had two confirmation classes at First UMC of Eldorado in the past year, with each group meeting for eight one-hour sessions. In April, the confirmands were presented with a cross from the Holy Land by District Superintendent, Rev. Barbara Galloway-Edgar, at the District Confirmation Rally in San Angelo. Four joined the Church as full members from the first class, and soon, the second class will be finished with their studies and offered the same opportunity to declare their intention to model their lives as Christ.

We are wanting to expand our youth program, and our present youth director is relocating to Houston. We are wanting to fill this position with someone who has more time to dedicate to the program, and is someone who intends to spend their life involved in the Christian field.

Ministry on Wheels — The First United Methodist Church started "Ministry on Wheels" in 1997. This ministry provides meals on Saturday and holidays not only to the elderly, but also to the convalescent or anyone that needs a meal. The First United Methodist Church did this service

for a year having weekly fund raising lunches at the church. The Ministerial Alliance now helps support the meals with volunteers from 6 churches, and as a result the program has continued the past two years. Our support comes from volunteers and donations. The First United Methodist Church has been given two grants. Last summer we served eleven hundred children, noon lunches. The Schleicher County Independent School District supported us, and this year they are serving lunches for the first time, as a summer program.

Mission Projects — The FUMC raised over \$9,000 in 1999 to help with mission projects in Vologada, Russia. Three members of FUMC-Eldorado made a trip to Vologada in the spring of 1999 to participate in several mission projects. They went to orphanages daily to help with bible studies, to play with the children and mostly to pass out hugs and love. They worked in the new FUMC-Vologada yard to clear trash, bricks and other debris. They also consulted with the pastor on renovations plans for the new Sanctuary and other mission goals. The majority of the funds were used for the purchase of the church building and renovations for the church. Funds were also distributed to their local soup kitchen, the orphanages and various local charities. They also attended Russian Orthodox Services and various other culture events.

The FUMC then hosted six Russians the summer of 1999. The Russia Initiative is sponsored by the Global Ministries of the First United Methodist Church. The goal is to allow Russians to see the democratic process in the United States and the freedom of Religion.

The FUMC collected 60 coats in fall of 1997 and distributed them with the food baskets in November. In 1998 FUMC went to the Ministerial Alliance to let other churches have the opportunity to help collect coats for those in need of a warm winter coat. Since that time we have distributed annually over 150 coats.

The First United Methodist Church is proud to serve and be a part of Eldorado, and the Christian Churches of Eldorado.

Leading the lost to the Lord... Sheriff's Department's Broken Chains Ministry

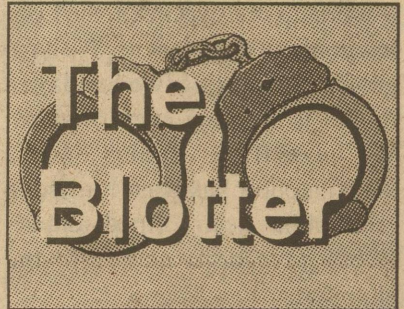
submitted by Sheriff David Doran

Sheriff David Doran

On January 1, 1997 the Schleicher County Sheriff Department began a consistent Jail Ministries Program in order to provide spiritual counseling as well as Christian education for those incarcerated. Broken Chains Ministries, based out of Mertzon, has provided services in the Schleicher County Jail

since the programs inception.

Buck Bradford, Tom Carter, Cresencio Rodriguez, Larry Beck and Craig Rivers volunteer their time and energy toward the program's success. Broken Chains was proud to announce that several inmates have been saved and 15 have proclaimed their faith through public Baptism. We have seen several inmates leave our facility and continue to grow in their faith and lead productive lives. The atmosphere in the jail is noticeably better, due in large part to those inmates who actively participate in the Ministries Program.



NOTICE

Due to the vacation schedule at the Eldorado Success, there will be no Blotter this week. Arrests and Reports that would normally have been reported this week will be covered fully in next week's edition.

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