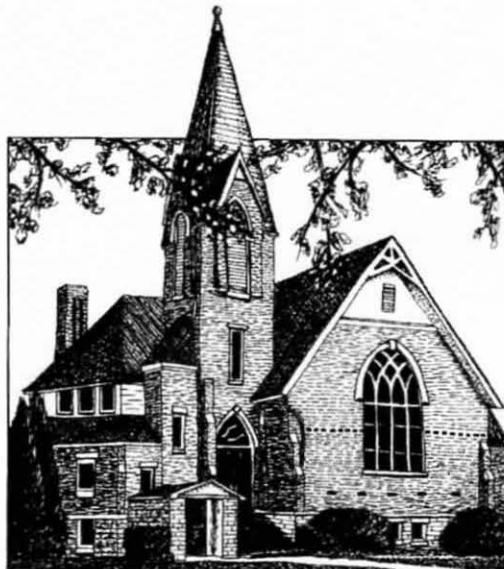


HISTORY of First Baptist Church

103 South Indiana St. • Delphi, Indiana 46923

This church was organized August 8, 1829 with a membership of seven persons. The first meeting was held in September 1829. The first pastor was A. B. Martin of Sugar Creek, Boone County, followed by Samuel Martin and William Reese. They met for several years in a log cabin at the corner of Monroe and Union Streets.

During William Reese's pastorate, 1832, the county commissioners donated two lots for the congregation to build on, providing a house of worship would be erected within two years. This brick building was finished in about three years. It had a partition down through the middle separating the ladies and gentlemen. The congregation met here for nearly a half century until May 14, 1892. A picture is on display of this church, which was built on the same place as the present structure.



According to the county history, in 1833, delegates from Delphi and Grand Prairie churches composed a council and organized the Deer Creek Church, which is known today as the First Baptist Church of Camden.

During the pastorate of W. T. Van Cleave, the 1835 structure was torn down and the present edifice was built. Building began on March 16, 1892 during which the members rented the I.O.O.F. Hall for services and finally the court room in the County court house until the building was finished enough to resume services.

Dedication for the present structure was May 20, 1894. The building cost \$9,872.16 to construct and sidewalks were built for \$200.00. Mrs. Flora Gross Bradshaw headed a committee to purchase a pipe organ and this was installed around December 25, 1895, at a cost of \$800.00. Though most of the original pipes remain intact, it has not been in use

since 1945.

After the resignation of Dr. Martinson, June 1928, the church doors were closed to the main sanctuary. Due to the efforts of a few faithful members, a small Sunday School was kept going. In November, 1930, young college men came to preach until the church called Paul L. Beck as pastor and ordained him on May 26, 1931. He served until January 1934. Those serving as pastor since have been Dwight Dobson, E. M. Cobb, Harold A. Smith, E. A. Ainslie, R. K. Lashley, William Rix, Walter Arrowsmith, J. Franklin Arthur, Paul Mayo, Laurence Dove, William Heinrich, Alfred Smith and the present pastor, William Glenn, who has served since March 1989.

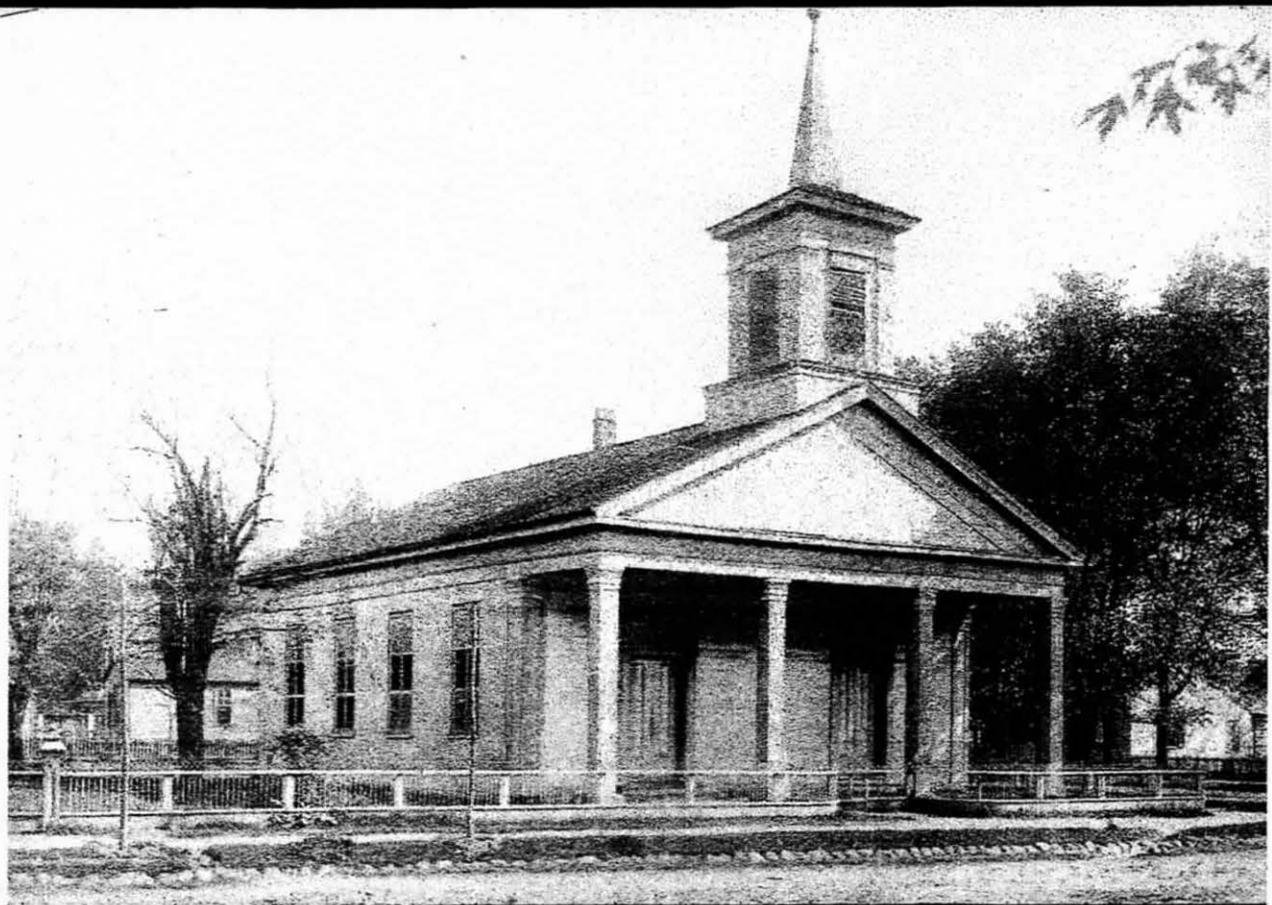
In 1973, carpet was laid in the auditorium. In the spring of 1975, the outside of the church building was sand blasted and the bricks were repointed. On Mother's Day, May 10, 1981,

First Baptist dedicated a new Sunday School wing, offices and fellowship hall connected to the south end of the present church. The mortgage for this new edifice was retired April 1987 and new carpet laid again August 1988.

On June 14, 1995, the roof of the 103 year old main structure sustained significant damage from a fire originating from a roofing project. Reconstruction cost to the roof, auditorium and basement totaled over \$400,000.00. The congregation reentered the auditorium for the dedication June 26, 1996.

In March of 2000, the steeple was restored with new roofing slated and aluminum louvers at a cost of approximately \$ 49,000.00.

By our Lord's continued grace and faithfulness we will endeavor to worship and serve Him until He comes.



First Baptist Church of Delphi, Indiana, erected 1834
Taken down May 18th, 1892

Delphi First Baptist marks 175th anniversary

From Staff Reports

reminder@thehj.com

First Baptist Church in Delphi was organized Aug. 8, 1829 with seven persons.

The first pastors were A. B. Martin, Boone County, Samuel Martin and William Reese.

They met for several years at the corner of Monroe and Union Streets following their first meeting in 1829.

The first brick building was finished about 1835 on two lots donated by the county commissioners. They met there until May 1892.

That building had a partition down through the middle separating the ladies and gentlemen.

Dedication for the present structure was May 20, 1894. It cost \$9872.16 plus sidewalks costing \$200. A pipe organ was installed in late 1895 for \$800. The most of the original pipes remain intact; it has not been in use since 1945.

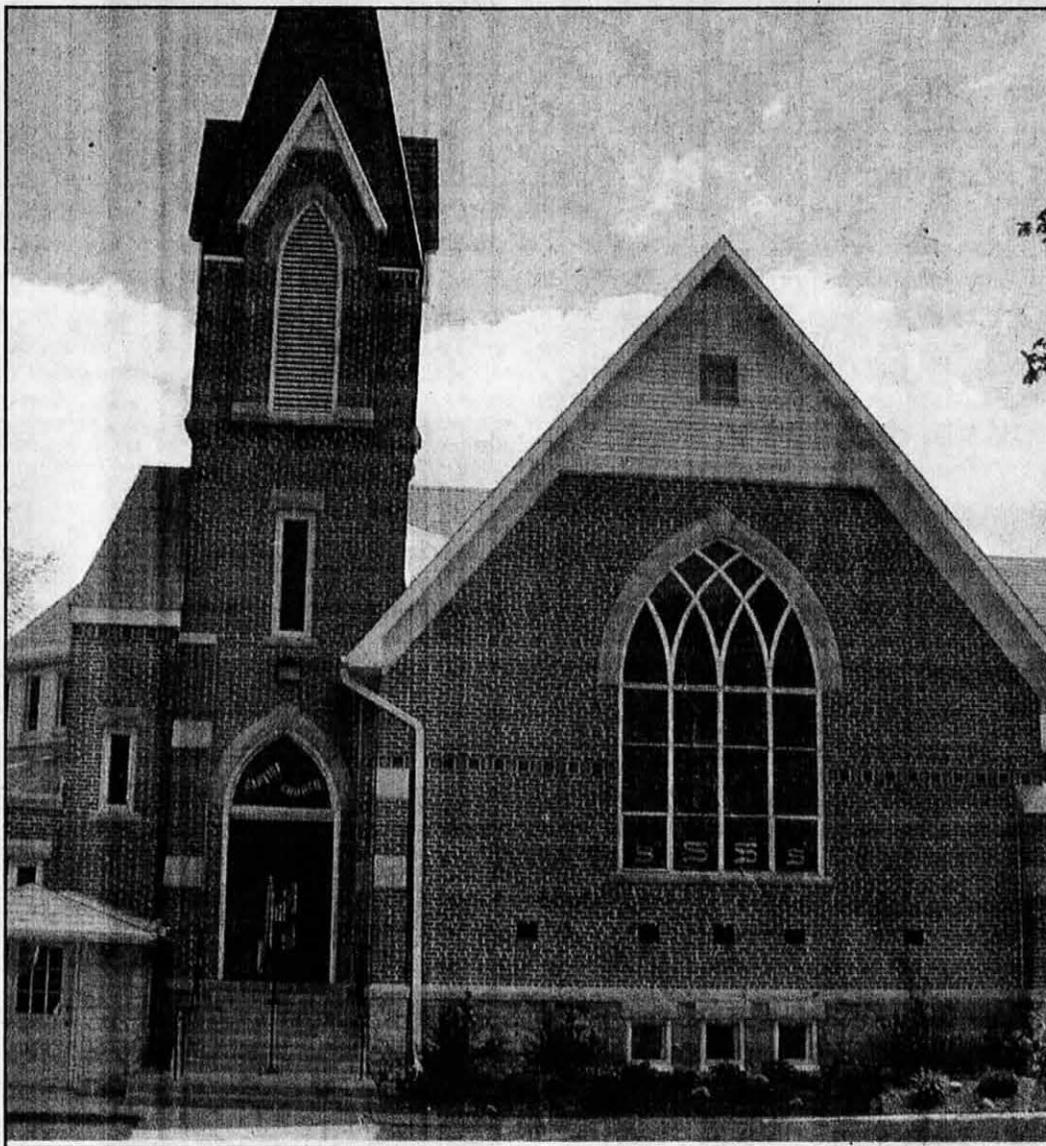
Other improvements to First Baptist Church of Delphi include a new Sunday School wing, offices and fellowship hall in 1981.

In 1995, the 103-year-old main structure roof sustained damage along with the auditorium and basement. The repaired building was dedicated in 1996. Steeple work was done in 2000.

Through all the years of building work, sometimes requiring meeting in the courthouse of I.O.O.F. Hall, the congregation has remained faithful to the greater cause of the building's purpose.

In 1833, delegates from Delphi and Grand Prairie churches composed a council and organized the Deer Creek Church, which is known today as the First Baptist Church of Camden.

The present pastor is William Glenn. He and the church congregation invite all present to a special day of activities at the church, on the corner of Indiana and Franklin Streets on Aug. 15.



The First Baptist Church in Delphi is marking its 175th anniversary.

Photo by TERESA MAXWELL

Chapter VII of book, 'Carroll County, Some
of its History of Carroll Co. Ind., Its People, Industries and
Institutions' (1916) by John C. Odell,
(This was copied April 12, 1958,
by Rev. J. Franklin Arthur, pastor at this time.)

"The Delphi Baptist Church was organized in 1829.
The membership was composed of members of this
denomination in the county. Many of the first
members resided in Jackson Township and
later established a church in said township
known as the Regular Baptist Church, called
Deer Creek Church.

"The first trustees of the Delphi Baptist Church
were Henry Stansel, Samuel Hedge and John
Knight. In 1834 the church commenced the erec-
tion of a building on the lot where the present
church stands. Being of brick, and it was
several years before it was ready for occupancy.
The funds were raised by subscription, and
money those days was not very plentiful. A res-
olution was made that the ladies should
sit on the left and the gentlemen should sit
on the right. A partition ran through
the center, separating completely the males from
the females.

"Along in the forties a calamitous affair, which
at the time created great confusion and excite-
ment. A Mr. Chipman was preaching to a
crowded house, and in one of his oratorical
flights said, 'Be ye ready, for the judgment
day cometh when ye know not.' As he uttered
this the floor gave away, sinking down in
the middle of the room, the house cracked and
the excited congregation broke for the door
trampling under foot women and children,
filling up the doorway, some jumped up to the
windows, the preacher having jumped through
a window at the back; and strong men were
aiding the people out at the door, and eventually
all got out, some crushed and others bruised -
but fortunately no one was killed. Large

In 1892 a new modern building
was erected on the spot and was dedicated on May 20, 1892.
Afterwards.

"In 1892 a new modern church building was
erected on the spot and was dedicated on May 20, 1892.

Rev. W. H. Vanderve was the pastor, who is en-
titled to the credit for this splendid structure. The
pastor is the Rev. Mr. Heritage."