


*The First
One
Hundred
Years*

**SHARON
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

1852-1952



DEDICATION

To our Charter Members, their descendants and other Christians who, through this century have maintained faithful witness, we respectfully dedicate this Chapter of Remembrance. Their claim to fame: we believe that they respected God, loved Jesus Christ, and accepted the obligation of serving their fellow men in the name of their Creator and Savior. For what other cause does man come into being?

THE PASTOR AND HIS FAMILY

by Rive Todd

The Reverend J. E. Yarian came to the Sharon Baptist Church as pastor in 1924 and for five years faithfully served the congregation, exerting much influence in the interest of young people of the church and community. In 1942 he returned to the church as pastor and since has continued in that capacity. Sharon is Reverend Yarian's longest pastorate, fifteen and one-half years; and no minister before him has served our church over as long a period of time. Since 1924 he has maintained his home in Sharon and has been available to the community in many ways, even while serving churches elsewhere. From 1949 to 1951 he was moderator of the Judson Association; he was also moderator of the Logansport Association while preaching in that area.

Mr. Yarian graduated with an A.B. degree from Franklin College in 1924, received an M.S. degree from Purdue University in 1936, and has done advanced study on a D.D. degree at the University of Chicago. While in Franklin College he became a member of Kappa Delta Rho, a national men's fraternity. He was licensed to preach in 1916 by the Niconza Baptist Church in Miami County, Indiana, and ordained to the gospel ministry in January 1922 at Washington Church of the Laughery Association in southern Indiana. He has served a total of thirty-six years in the ministry and has been associated with the public schools as teacher and principal for a period of time.

The Reverend Mr. Yarian's influence and enthusiasm have been felt over Carroll County as well as within his own congregation. He is a popular speaker, having addressed numerous groups in Indiana and surrounding midwestern states. He has officiated at countless funerals and weddings in this and other communities. During 1944 and 1945 he was District Governor of Rotary and in 1946 and 1947 was a member of the International Extension Committee of Rotary, as well as serving for a time on the speaking staff of Rotary International. In 1949 he was Area Director for Central Indiana in the Christian Rural Overseas Program, having charge of the organizational procedure in thirty-six counties. In 1950 and 1951 he was president of the Franklin College Alumni Association and also a member of the Board of Trustees of the college. He also served as a vice president of the Baptist State Ministers Council during that year. He has been a member of the Masonic Lodge of Roann, Indiana, for thirty years.

Mrs. Yarian was Vera Kelly of Cincinnati, Ohio. Her marriage to Reverend Yarian occurred at the end of his senior year in Franklin College. They have had three children: Marcheta and Jack E. Yarian, Jr., deceased; and Aloha, now Mrs. Wayne E. Conner, of Zion, Illinois.



Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Yarian

367 Years of Active Christian Service



Ruth Todd Tidrick
(64 years a member)

Just as the beauty and strength of a valuable fabric are assured by certain threads that are interwoven, so it has always been with Sharon Church. At any moment in its history it could list a number of beautiful Christian Characters who had spent many, many years in its membership and service. The end of the first century is no exception to

RUTH TODD TIDRICK

Eighteen months previous to the Centennial Celebration our church was concerned with the selection of a person qualified for the painstaking and difficult task of writing the history of the church. Ruth Todd Tidrick, as the daughter of a beloved pastor who served the church during a part of the first and second quarters of the century, and a mother who began the first Missionary Society in the church and

was active in every phase of the life of the church, had a background especially fitted for the task. Her early education and teaching experience trained her for choosing interesting facts and recording them in a fascinating manner. Her happy married life, as wife of Spurgeon Tidrick, and the memories it recalls, insured a warmth of christian understanding and feeling which is evidenced through the entire record. Her continued active membership has given her a wealth of experience and knowledge to call upon.

Countless hours of research were first required. Old records were read, many scarcely legible and in some instances very meager, and the author's own memories and those of older members of the present congregation were called upon as a means of securing historical data for the vast undertaking which spans a century. The brevity of the finished history does not indicate the extent of the task, but she has given essentials in an interesting manner and yet conformed to time and space limitations.

As her pastor, who has been privileged to witness the magnitude of the task and her grace in carrying it to a most successful conclusion, I desire to express high tribute and the personal appreciation of all to her for this fine contribution. And, characteristically, she wishes herein to express her deep appreciation to all who aided her in this work. It would be impossible to name them all, but each has done a valuable portion of the work and has earned her sincere gratitude. She has tried to be fair in her dealing with personalities and regrets any omissions or possible errors. It is her wish that this brief history will live on and be a constant source of inspiration to our descendants to be true servants of the Christ whom we love and commemorate in this record of the first one hundred years of our church.

J. E. Yarian, Pastor

this rule. Among those who have, through several generations, strengthened and beautified our church in its Christian testimony and who are still active in its service, we are proud to acclaim and give honor to those immortalized on these two pages. Pictured here are the two ladies who are proud to be among our 'older' members, and our two 'oldest' couples, from the standpoint of the total years spent as members here. Each of the couples has celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries in recent years. May God grant them many more years of service with us and give us the wisdom to understand and appreciate their invaluable contribution.



Mrs. D. J. McCain

Mrs. D. J. McCain, who will be 91 this November, widow of the man who for almost three-quarters of a century was our church chorister, herself a 'singer of sweet songs' through all these years, enjoys the distinction of being our oldest member, having 69 years to her credit.



On the left: Mr. and Mrs. John Billiard, a total of 124 years of continuous membership. On the right: Mr. and Mrs. Warren Todd, a total of 110 years of continuous membership.

THE ONE HUNDRED YEARS HISTORY OF SHARON BAPTIST CHURCH 1852 - 1952

"The clock of time has turned the hour
The day of Centennial Anniversary is here
When we, with happiness and joy,
Hark back to memories with bits of cheer.
The scroll of years lies open now,
And as we read, we see
An untouched record, that is full
Of our forefathers' service to humanity."

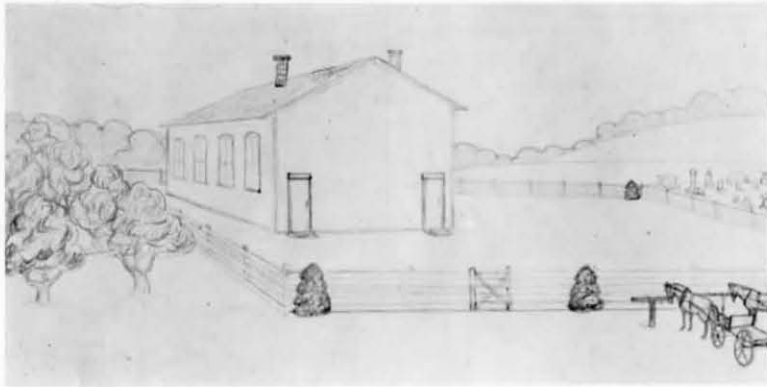
This history is dedicated to the countless members and friends of the Sharon Baptist Church who have made possible this one hundred years of Christian Service. In such an undertaking which spans a century there were many tasks to be done. Some were major and some were minor, but each had its relative place in the total. The evidence reveals that all who accepted responsibilities in this church during the past century have sincerely carried them to completion. We cannot name many, but we can humbly recognize all contributions and honor each one's service. To all these we are grateful. Remembering their labor of love during the first century of our church history, let us in like spirit carry on this splendid tradition that our church may continue to contribute to the Christian fellowship of those who follow us.

For one hundred years unselfish men and women have followed in the steps of those first pioneers, serving their families, their community, their nation, and the world in a more Christ-like way, because those Christians banded themselves together one hundred years ago. They formed a relationship to walk hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder as did those first followers of Christ nineteen centuries ago.

Could not this our church, with its many accomplishments, illustrate what the Apostle Paul meant when he said of the Corinthian Church, "I have planted, Appollos watered; but God gave the increase." (I Cor. 3:6)

Hundreds of people have toiled and sacrificed and prayed and studied together to promote Christ's kingdom in this community. They have sustained public worship for the inspiration of believers. They have provided bible study for the instruction of children, youth and adults in spiritual things. They have cooperated with other churches of the community to provide evangelistic outreach to the unchurched. They have joined with the forces of our denomination throughout the world to provide missionaries to carry the gospel to needy fields. They have ministered to the hungry and the homeless of this neighborhood, and those of far places, through their benevolences.

To our faithful predecessors surely our Lord will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few



The above sketch portrays the first church building as some of our older members recall it. Drawn by Ronnie Fleenor.

things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

The territory now known as the Sharon and Wheeling community had been settled by a class of citizens who were honest, industrious and blessed with a full share of intelligence and enterprise. In the early settlement of this community the religious sentiment was deeply felt in the hearts of the early settlers and has been nurtured through the years.

In writing the history of any church it is necessary to go back to the early settlement of the country. Those pioneers, no doubt, did not have a large amount of this world's goods yet they were ready to share with those who might come to their door. They were establishing their homes in a comparatively new country with dense forests of timber before them, which must in part be cleared away before they could support their families. But notwithstanding the obstacles, that same Voice that said, "I will be with thee and not forsake thee," brought great joy and courage to those pioneer hearts.

About, 1837, John P. Hay, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister came into the community and began preaching the gospel in private homes, school houses, barns, beneath the trees in the leafy groves, and wherever he could gather men, women and children together to hear the gospel of Christ. In April, 1842 he gathered thirteen constituent members at the home of John W. Coins, who lived on the banks of Deer Creek one-half mile north of the Jackson Wickard old homestead, now owned by Claude Wickard, but at that time owned by John Bridge.

Reverend Hay organized the Presbyterian Church in 1851 and the members of the church purchased a lot in Wheeling and circulated a subscription paper to raise funds to build a church house. A neat little frame church was built, and first occupied in 1852.

In July, 1849 a Regular Baptist Church was organized at Burlington, Indiana. Among the constituent members were Mr. and Mrs. John Merrick, Samuel Merrick and George Hendricks. Soon after its organization the pastor, Elder T. P. Hedge, died and the loss of pastoral leadership was deeply felt. The little band of consecrated workers struggled and sacrificed until their attempt seemingly failed, and the church finally disbanded early in the year of 1851. But their endeavor was not in vain as there were two churches which were the outgrowth of this attempt and have survived to reach their century mark. The Merrick families helped to organize the Middle Fork, now known as the Union Church, which last October observed its Centennial Year. George Hendricks later became one of the constituent members of the Sharon Church which today is observing its Centennial Anniversary.

Among the pioneer families in the Sharon community was that of Richard Dunkin who had moved from Union County, Indiana, and located on the banks of the south fork of Deer Creek

in 1836. His home soon became a stopping place for pioneer Baptist preachers as they were passing from place to place in their Mission work among the scattered churches of this section of the state. Often when these ministers remained over night in the Dunkin home neighbors were notified and would gather together eager to hear the gospel from these Messengers of God.

On November 17, 1852, under the leadership of Elder Azel Waters, at the home of Richard Dunkin, a Council was called with messengers from Springfield, Deer Creek (north of Galveston), Rossville, Sugar Creek (west of Bringham) and David D. McCain (father of David John McCain, recently deceased), and John and William Dillon from the Camden Church. The Council organized by electing Elder Azel Waters of the Deer Creek Church as moderator and Elder J. M. Smith of the Rossville Church as clerk. The minutes of this first organizational meeting of the Sharon Baptist Church are yet available.

The Charter members were John and Julia Landes; Michael Beckner; Lydia, Nancy, Rachel and Jane Dunkin; and Lydia Landes, bringing letters from the Camden Church; John and Margaret Baldwin and George Hendricks bringing letters from the disbanded Burlington Church; Nancy Hendricks, Elsie Beckner, Jane Ewing, and Phoebe Wilson—fifteen members forming the constituent membership of the church. It would be most interesting if we could give a brief biography of each of those who were instrumental in founding our church. Sufficient information about all of them is not available but a great debt of gratitude is due them.

The organization of our church took place in the days of the old plank and corduroy roads. No doubt our pioneer members were very happy that our church building was constructed so near the old Michigan Road, (now State Road 29), and nationally known in early days as a much traveled thoroughfare.

For a time the church held regular meetings at the home of Richard Dunkin with John Landes as clerk. Then, through the kindness of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which did not have services every Sunday, the Baptists made arrangements with them to use their building until they built a 'church-house' of their own. In January, 1856, under the pastoral leadership of Elder B. R. Ward, the church began plans to build a house of worship. Abner Ratcliff, Richard Dunkin and John Landes were appointed as the building committee and funds were solicited by subscription. Pledges were freely given, not only by members of the church, but by friends in the community. The book of financial records with the names of donors and amount contributed is still available.

In April of the same year (1856) Abner Ratcliff, John Landes and B. S. Dunkin were elected as the first trustees of the church. A church building was erected in what is now a part of the Sharon Cemetery. The frame timber was all hewn and delivered on the ground by volunteer work. The amount secured by subscription

was over \$1,200 in cash and there was a large amount of volunteer labor provided. Dedication probably occurred in March, 1857 as the record of that date states "the congregation met in their new house of worship for a regular business session," and "a resolution of thanks was drafted and sent to the brethren of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for the use of their meeting house."

Hardships and sacrifices were felt on the part of both ministers and people in nurturing and establishing the church. Great credit is due Elder Waters, as God's devoted servant, in organizing the church; Elder Ward, faithful and efficient in his appointments; and Elder Craig, coming all the way from Thorntown. All these rode on horse-back most of the time as the roads would not permit wheeled conveyances.

John Landes served as church clerk until 1856 when he was elected singing clerk and B. S. Dunkin was elected writing clerk. William Debolt was elected writing clerk in 1860 and 1861. In April, 1855 Frederick Landes was elected to the office of deacon. In November, 1858 it was decided there should be another deacon and Daniel Debolt was elected. In May, 1855 the church voted to hold communion services three times during the year. In March, 1865 the time of observing communion was changed to four times a year and has remained so to the present time. The first communion set was of clear glass with two plates, two goblets and a pitcher. On February 10, 1877, during the pastorate of Reverend H. R. Todd, a beautiful silver communion set was presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. William Shaw. This set has been preserved because of its sentimental value and is on display at this time. It was used until January, 1923, when the church purchased the individual set which is now being used.

On December 10, 1859 during the pastorate of Reverend B. R. Ward, he and two delegates were appointed to represent Sharon Church and sit with the Sugar Creek Church (west of Bringhurst) to ordain Elder Price Odell to the work of the Gospel ministry. Reverend Odell later served Sharon as pastor from 1863 to 1865. These were, indeed, dark days in the spiritual life of the church. The Civil War, then in progress, was the topic of discussion at community gatherings. A day of fasting, humiliation and prayer was appointed for Divine deliverance from the horrors of Civil War and the restoration of peace. Elder H. Robb, who served as pastor one year, 1862-1863, resigned to accept the appointment as Chaplain of the 76th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. Reverend Noah Harper was serving as pastor at Camden and Sharon, (living in Camden), when the news came in 1865 that General Grant and his army had taken Richmond, Virginia. In later years some of us remember hearing Mr. William Pangburn tell how he was sent to Camden to bring Reverend Harper to the Sharon community to make a speech. Mr. Pangburn said he was also to bring powder to fire anvils, thus making a noise to call people together for a meeting of rejoicing. He said they reached Sharon about three

o'clock in the afternoon and that B. S. Dunkin handled the powder in a tin cup to charge the anvil. When the last charge was in the cup, a spark from a nearby fire lit in the cup. Mr. Dunkin's hair was singed, his face and hands were burned, but he heroically held to his task. By night there was a large crowd and Rev. Harper made a splendid patriotic speech.

Sharon Church has long been active in **Missionary work**. As early as 1853 we read of the raising of funds for the General Association which is now called our Indiana Baptist State Convention. So it has been through the years: we have responded to the calls and attempted to reach our goals, not only to state and association and to the needs and demands coming from the Northern Baptist



A winter-time view of the present building.

Convention in its different fields of work; but to the Macedonian call of Mission fields in foreign lands. Especially would we mention the Forward Fund of 1935 to 1937; the Unified Budget and the World Emergency Forward Fund of 1943 and 1944; and the more recent call of the World Mission Crusade in 1947.

The **Women's Missionary Circle** was organized in February, 1880 under the leadership of Mrs. H. R. Todd. In 1882 the Circle reported twenty-two members with fifteen subscriptions being taken to the "Helping Hand," which at that time was the magazine concerning women's mission work in Foreign fields. "The Tid-

ings" was the magazine relating to the women's work in Home Mission fields. The children's magazine "Little Helpers" was the household friend which was read in practically every home in the church. These magazines in later years merged into one, "Missions," which we are reading today. From the beginning of the women's missionary work, the first organization of the children was the "Baby Band." Certain contributions were laid aside by the mothers to be applied to children's work on Mission fields, thus nurturing the minds of these little ones at Sharon with the Missionary Spirit until they, too, were older and wanted to give to Missionary purposes. In the earlier years of its organization, Mrs. Susan Landes was president of the Missionary Circle for eighteen years, followed by Mrs. Josie Hendrix and Mrs. Lottie Welty, each serving efficiently and faithfully. We cherish the memory of those women whose giving was truly sacrificial in time and service and whose work has been outstanding in the development of the Missionary Spirit of the church.

There have been many **Youth programs** in the Sharon Church. One of the earliest was the Baptist Young People's Union. When the young people's movement was started Sharon was among the first of the churches in the state to organize, having a membership of about thirty. The B.Y.P.U.A. magazine published by the National Society, outlined the studies of the Bible Readers Course and Conquest Missionary Course from which members gleaned many worthwhile programs, some few receiving diplomas in the Sacred Literature course. Reverend J. W. Stark was pastor at this time. Some of the presidents serving the local society were Tillie Dunkin Sanford, Ruth Todd Tidrick, Jessie Landes Spitler, Edgar Dunkin and Bertha Hendrix Knapp. In 1902 a large group of children, under the leadership of Mrs. Warren Todd, was organized and formed a Junior B.Y.P.U.

Sharon Church has **licensed four of its members to preach the gospel** of Christ: B. W. Harmon, who served a few years as Home Missionary in Kansas; William Debolt, a graduate of Shurtliff College, and at one time principal of Ladoga Seminary, who served nine years as moderator of Judson Association, and was pastor of various churches in Indiana; (Sharon Church called the Council which ordained Reverend Debolt); Daniel G. Dunkin, a graduate of Franklin College and Rochester Theological Seminary, served as pastor in various states; and Robert Rodgers, our present licentiate, who is a graduate of Franklin College and has had several years training at Colgate-Rochester Theological Seminary. He has served several pastorates in Indiana and New York.

Our church also remembers gratefully that we have had a **part in the establishment of other churches**. We especially wish to quote a passage from the "History of The First Fifty Years" as written in 1902 by Deacon B. S. Dunkin: "The Sharon Church made slow but steady progress up to February, 1882 when she 'swarmed,' giving letters to seventeen of her members to form a

church at Young America. Since that time several members have gone from us to them." Reverend H. R. Todd was the pastor at that time. Other churches also have profited by the addition of members contributed by Sharon. The Flora Church, especially, has counted on its roll many effective members who first accepted Christ and served him in our fellowship.

Many of our members have cooperated to make possible the excellent reputation the church has had for an inspiring **musical program**. Even if there were pages enough in our history to list them all, written records have not been kept of all the musical activities. They "made music" because they wanted to express their praise, and not to be accorded any special credit. But their sweet melodies will always ring in our memories.

In June, 1880, the Sabbath School having purchased an organ, Mr. William Pangburn, at a business meeting of the church, made a motion that we legalize the act and accept it as property of the church. After some animated discussion the motion prevailed. Mr. Pangburn was Sunday School superintendent at the time and Reverend H. R. Todd was pastor. Tillie Dunkin Sanford was the first organist, serving ten years (1880 to 1890); Malissa Dunkin Smith and Ruth Todd Tidrick then served until 1900 when May McCain Wagoner was elected church organist and efficiently served for forty-three years as organist and pianist. Nellie Smith Rodgers is the present pianist.

John Landes was elected singing clerk when the church was organized in 1852 and served until 1875, except two years when Peter Wilson served. B. F. Landes, son of John Landes, served two years. The name of the office was then changed to chorister. In 1877 David John McCain was elected church chorister, filling that position almost seventy years, and was Chorister Emeritus when he passed to his heavenly home in 1949 at the age of ninety-five years. His son, Carl B. McCain the present chorister, has performed this service faithfully during recent years, having "stepped into his father's shoes" in this important work when age and limited strength made the change advisable.

In 1878 a musical organization of the Sharon and Wheeling communities, known as the Choral Union, was organized. Professor George F. Root of Chicago and W. T. Giffe of Logansport conducted musical conventions, closing the week's activities with a grand concert. These concerts and conventions were usually held in the Sharon Church, where in years to follow the members returned annually for a day of reunion. The last reunion was held on the fifth Sunday of July, 1934.

When D. J. McCain was trustee of the schools of Carrollton township, Carroll County, Indiana, in the years 1895 to 1901—the days of the little red schoolhouses by the side of the road—William Moore of Wheeling was secured as music teacher. Mr. McCain was reported to be the first trustee to introduce music into the

rural schools of Indiana. It is impossible to tell the far-reaching influence of the Choral Union and music in the public schools. Today much of the music in our homes, schools and churches has been developed because of the early background of music in the community. Those pioneer melodies linger on and on.

The church has for years provided a Men's Chorus to enrich many Sunday morning services and has enjoyed the beautiful hymns which Mrs. D. J. McCain has sung as solos, even in her advancing years. The chorus has also willingly rendered musical numbers to enhance programs for many other occasions in the community and elsewhere.

The church building was erected in 1856 and today is the same structure, but it has been remodeled several times. At first it was of the architectural style of the period with two doors to the front as entrances to the interior. The pulpit and pulpit platform were built between the doors within the interior and the straight back seats faced the entrance. An aisle from each door extended the full length of the church. In November, 1867, while Rev. B. R. Ward was pastor, the church voted to change the pulpit from between the doors, to the rear of the auditorium, turning the seats to face the pulpit. A one-step platform was built across the rear of the auditorium, and short seats placed in each corner facing the pulpit. That was the day when kerosene lamps and wood-burning stoves were used.

In 1887, under the leadership of Reverend J. M. Kendall as pastor, the church was again remodeled. The committee appointed to plan the remodeling and repairing with the trustees was W. J. Landes, Dr. F. P. Lyons, W. R. Dunkin, Susan Landes, and Tillie Dunkin. The wall partition was built, making the vestibule and Sunday school room off the auditorium. One door at the entrance was closed and replaced by a window and double doors placed as an entrance to the vestibule, as we see them today. One aisle was placed in the center of the auditorium with narrow aisles along the side walls. In 1899, during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Stark, the church building was moved from its original plot near the cemetery, to its present location facing west on what is now State Road 29. The ground where it now stands was donated by Deacon B. S. Dunkin and the original plot was laid off in lots and added to the cemetery grounds. The interior was changed and a new pulpit stand and platform were placed in the southeast corner of the auditorium. New circular pews were added, and again, the two aisles leading to the front as of today. New carpet, a piano, a bookcase, and new hymn books enhanced the beauty of our "new" church "home." A foundation of cement blocks was laid and a new basement provided ample space for kitchen, dining room, furnace and coal rooms. The repair committee of W. R. Dunkin, Omer Billings, Lon Overholser, Oscar Landes, Mona Dunkin, Ruth Todd and Nannie Landes planned the work with the trustees.

In 1951 and 1952 under the leadership of our present pastor, Reverend J. E. Yarian, the auditorium and Sunday school rooms were re-decorated and the basement underwent a program of renovation. A new oil furnace, rest rooms and a water system were installed and rearrangement of the kitchen and dining room was made. The repair committee consisted of George Flora, Carl McCain, R. E. Grubb and their wives, who worked with the trustees, John Billings, Burton Billiard, R. E. Grubb, Charles Dyer, Merrill Johnson and Devoe Dyer on this repair.

The Sharon Church observed the **Golden Anniversary** of its organization on Sunday, November 18, 1902 with beautifully decorated auditorium and appropriate services. The Sunday School Superintendent, Warren H. Todd, presided during the Sunday School hour. Rev. T. C. Smith was the pastor at the time. The morning sermon, a very able one, was presented by Rev. J. M. Kendall, a former pastor, using for his text Eph. 1:23. In the afternoon a concise and interesting church history was read by Deacon B. S. Dunkin. Special vocal and instrumental numbers were given and a period of reminiscence was indulged in by members, former members and friends of the church. "In the evening the chorister, D. J. McCain, and his singers gave a very spirited and sweet song service. Rev. E. Sanford, son-in-law of Deacon B. S. Dunkin, gave a spiritual feast long to be remembered for its soul uplifting strength and spiritual joy in the Lord." A delicious dinner was served at the noon-tide hour and good fellowship enjoyed by all present.

Elsewhere in this record is a brief history, prepared by Robert Rodgers, great grandson of B. S. Dunkin, of the organization and work of the Sunday School, which has maintained an effective witness as a part of the Sharon Church. You will also find the complete list of ministers who have pastored the church; the various officers who have served so faithfully; and other facts which we hope will be of interest and benefit to all.

Yes, one hundred years of work in the Master's Kingdom have brought us joy and sorrow; hardship and prosperity; giving and receiving; but all, we trust, to the glory of God. Our church has sought through these years to bring vision and inspiration to the people of our community and to those unseen neighbors around the world.

The "Faith of our fathers" which has brought meaning to our lives gives us the courage to look down the long road of the future with hope that our children and our children's children will always be able to look to our church for the same guidance and inspiration that have blessed us all our days.

We hope, also, that the generosity and unselfish giving of time and talent by our forefathers may inspire many a future generation to give its all to the furthering of the kingdom of God on earth.

(continued on page 18)

Following is the list of the Pastors and Church officers who have helped to guide the destinies of Sharon Church during the first hundred years. The dates assigned to the various pastors are, we think, entirely accurate. The officers have been placed, to the best of our knowledge and record, in the general chronological area of their corresponding period of service.

CHURCH CLERKS

TREASURERS

SHARON PASTORS

PIANISTS

CHORISTERS

John Landes
B. S. Dunkin
Wm. Debolt

J. M. Hendrix
A. W. Dunkin
D. E. Silver
Dr. F. P. Lyon
Omer Billings
Esta Billings
W. L. Dunkin
W. R. Dunkin
Virgil Braskett
W. R. Dunkin

Jessie Landes
Glen Dunkin
Ruth Dunkin
Dorothy Ferguson
Cecile Platt
Margaret Billiard
George Flora
Mrs. Charles Harter

George Flora
Caroline Billings

W. J. Landes
W. R. Dunkin
W. L. Dunkin
D. J. McCain
O. L. Landes
J. M. Hendrix

Charles Billings

John Billings

Elder Azel Waters1852-1854
Elder B. R. Ward1854-1859
Elder R. B. Craig1860-1862
Elder Hamilton Robb1862-1863
Rev. Price Odell1863-1865
Rev. Noah Harper1865-1866
Rev. J. G. Bowen1866-1867
Rev. T. H. Stewart1867-2 months
Rev. B. R. Ward1867-1875
Rev. H. R. Todd1875-1882
Rev. M. C. Clark1883-1886
Rev. J. M. Kendall1886-1891
Rev. J. W. Stark1892-1900
Rev. T. C. Smith1901-1903
Rev. I. B. Morgan1904-1906
Rev. Lee Fisher1906-1909
Rev. J. H. Mitchell1910-1915
Rev. S. L. Essick1915-1918
Rev. B. T. Purviance1918-1921
Rev. A. Edrington1922-1923
Rev. J. E. Yarian1924-1929
Rev. Lester Gaylor1931
Rev. B. T. Purviance1932-1935
Rev. J. H. Pierce1935-1941
Rev. J. E. Yarian1942

Tillie Dunkin
Malissa Smith
Ruth Todd
May McCain Wagoner

Nellie Rodgers

John Landes
Peter Wilson
John Landes

B. F. Landes
D. J. McCain

Carl McCain

(Continued from page 15)

We know that the church makes possible God's bringing to fruition the best in the lives of each of us. It contributes to the character of our families, and our nation, as well as to the personalities of each of us. We pray that its influence may continue always in our midst. We tender our highest respect and appreciation to the memory of our beloved pastors who have gone to their eternal reward, and offer our kindest felicitations to those who are still living, for maintaining an active and aggressive program and perpetuating the ideals and standards for which the church has stood throughout its long history.

We feel that the church has been blessed with efficient lay leadership. It has never wanted for consecrated laymen and women to fill its offices, and serve in various capacities with efficiency. Not for any lack of appreciation of all the wonderful past, but because progress comes only with the forward look, we say with Isaiah 54:2, "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes."

by Ruth Todd Tidrick



Congregation as pictured August 3, 1952. Reading from left to right:

Front Seat—photographs of members in the armed services who could not be present when the picture was made are: William Rodgers—Alaska; James F. Flora—Bainbridge, Maryland; and Dana Flora—Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. Our other member in service, Wayne E. Conner—Great Lakes, is shown standing on the left at the back of the picture.

First Row—Jan Johnson, Roger McConnell, Tommy Billings, Donald Billings, Jimmy Billiard, Vonda Kay Spitler, Sharon Sue Spitler, Sharon Johnson, Alice Trapp and Marlene Todd.

Second Row—Carl McCain, May Wagoner, Mrs. D. J. McCain, Sondra Ritchie; Indianapolis, Indiana, Ruth Ann McConnell, Jane Gish, Patty Todd, Catherine Todd, Myrna Billiard, Joanna Kay Billiard and Sondra Bell.

Third Row—Margaret McCain, Cecile Platt, John Billiard, Emma Billiard, Beth, Margaret and Harry Billiard; Sioux City, Iowa, and Iva and Virgil Billiard; Indianapolis, Indiana.

Fourth Row—Mary Ellen Johnson, Mary McConnell, Rosella Bell, Susie Shankland, R. E. Grubb, Laura Grubb, Ruth Tidrick, Mac Todd and Warren Todd.

Fifth Row—Arthur Bozworth, Martha Bozworth, George Flora, Mary Flora, Garfield Todd, Beth Todd, Blanche McCain, Edwin McCain, Martelle Todd, and John Harvey Todd.

Sixth Row—Carol Spitler, Edna Welty; Young America, Indiana, Helen Rodgers, John Rodgers, Nellie Rodgers, Ethel Dyer, Charles Dyer, Edith Yeakley and Sam Yeakley.

Seventh Row—Dean Todd, Rive Todd, Robert McCain, Dean Gish, Caroline Billings, John Billings, Burton Billiard, Maxine Billiard, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Shaw; Des Plaines, Missouri, and Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Oliphant; Logansport, Indiana.

Eighth Row—Eva Trapp, Dick McCain, Joan McCain, Peggy Rodgers and Kathleen Rodgers.

Ninth Row—Blanche Spitler, Charles Spitler, Merrill Johnson, Jeanine Johnson, Mabel and Tom Billiard; Logansport, Indiana.

Standing—Wayne E. Connor, Aloha Conner, Vera Yarian and Rev. Jack E. Yarian.

MISCELLANY — GLEANED FROM OLD RECORDS

The church bell was purchased and the belfry built in November, 1882. The bell and belfry, completed, cost \$131.38 and the project was in charge of a committee composed of B. S. Dunkin, J. M. Hendrix and D. J. McCain.

A pulpit bible was presented to the church by the young people on October 10, 1885. The pastor, Rev. M. C. Clark, made the presentation speech.

The parsonage was purchased in August, 1922. Reverend and Mrs. A. Edrington were the first occupants. Our present pastor, Rev. J. E. Yarian, and his bride went to housekeeping in the parsonage in January, 1924.

The church and parsonage were wired for electricity in July, 1925.

The Art Glass windows were installed in 1926, under the workmanship of W. R. Dunkin and son, Glenn Dunkin.

Our Senior Deacon, Warren H. Todd, was ordained on Sunday afternoon, May 12, 1916.

SHARON CHURCH AS HOST TO JUDSON ASSOCIATION

10th Session—1858; September 17, 18, 19 and 20—Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, evidently closing Monday noon. Elder B. R. Ward, Moderator; Elder R. B. Craig, clerk. Elder Ward preached the annual sermon and was pastor of the Sharon Church at the time.

20th Session—1868; September 18, 19 and 20—Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Rev. R. B. Craig, Moderator; Rev. H. R. Todd, clerk. Annual sermon by Rev. E. Richards, pastor of the Tipton church. Rev. B. R. Ward, pastor of Sharon Church.

28th Session—1876; September 13 and 14—Wednesday and Thursday. Rev. B. R. Ward, Moderator; B. S. Dunkin, clerk. Annual sermon by Rev. P. McDade, pastor of the Rossville and Michigantown churches. Rev. H. R. Todd, pastor of Sharon Church.

37th Session—1885; September 25, 26 and 27—Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Rev. Wm. Debolt, Moderator, resigned and Rev. Allen Hill elected. Rev. H. R. Todd, clerk and treasurer. Annual sermon by Rev. Allen Hill, pastor of Galveston Church. Rev. M. C. Clark, pastor of Sharon Church.

54th Session—1902; August 26 and 27—Tuesday and Wednesday. Rev. J. H. Julian, Moderator; Rev. T. E. Plough, clerk and treasurer. Annual sermon by Rev. I. B. Morgan, pastor of Elizaville Church. Rev. T. C. Smith, pastor at Sharon.

65th Session—1913; August 28 and 29—Thursday and Friday. Rev. J. H. Mitchell, Moderator; W. J. Landes, clerk and treasurer. Annual sermon by Rev. A. E. Murphy, pastor of Kokomo Church. Rev. J. H. Mitchell, pastor of Sharon Church.

79th Session—1927; August 9 and 10—Tuesday and Wednesday. Rev. W. P. Pearce, Moderator; J. H. Frier, clerk and treasurer. Annual sermon by Rev. W. P. Pearce, pastor of First Church, Kokomo. Rev. J. E. Yarian, pastor at Sharon.

91st Session—1940; August 13 and 14—Tuesday and Wednesday. Rev. W. E. Rix, Moderator; J. V. Wood, clerk and treasurer. Annual sermon by Rev. W. E. Rix, pastor at Judson and Union churches. Rev. J. H. Pierce, pastor at Sharon.

104th Session—1952; September 9 and 10—Tuesday night and Wednesday. Rev. Harry Odell, Moderator; clerk-treasurer, Mrs. Garfield Hankins. Annual sermon by Rev. Harley Melton, pastor of Forest Church. Rev. J. E. Yarian, pastor at Sharon.



The above photograph shows direct descendants of Charter and early members. Others not pictured can trace relationship to those close to our founders. Sharon Church in 1952 is justly proud of her religious heritage. Pictured, left to right, are:

Front row—Edna Welty of Young America, Martha Bozworth, Nellie Rodgers, Helen Rodgers, Judy Rodgers, Robert L. Rodgers, Kathleen Rodgers.

Second row—Emma Billiard, John Billiard, Joanna Billiard, Burton Billiard, Jimmy Billiard, Myrna Billiard.

Third row—Rosella Bell, Susie Shankland, Sondra Bell, George Flora.

HISTORY OF SHARON BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL

Centennial year of the Sharon Baptist Church marks only the ninety-third year of its church school. However, development of the Sunday Schools in the community preceded the actual formation of the Sharon Church. In March 1849, Dr. A. G. Moore, who had settled on the south bank of Little Deer Creek, established a library and organized a Sunday School in what was then known as the Fouts School house. It is of interest to note that one of the early superintendents of the Sharon Baptist Sunday School, Mr. William Pangburn, was secretary and librarian of this early organization.

Actually the first Sunday School in which the Baptists had any major part was a Union Sunday School in the Hopewell Presbyterian Church which united the Baptists, the United Brethren, and the Presbyterians. This was organized in 1856, just four years after the organization of the Sharon Baptist Church. The year 1858 found the United Brethren Church with its own Sunday School. Then in 1859, seven years after formation of the church, the Baptists had their own Sunday School.

On the Fourth Sunday of April, 1859, John Landes was elected superintendent; B. S. Dunkin, assistant; and David Welty, secretary and librarian. Upon its organization, the school was divided into eleven classes and during its first year the school had an average Sunday attendance of over 61. During early years of the school, 'scholars,' as they were called, committed to memory verses of scripture. Such memory work totaled 11,248 verses in this first year of 1859.

Until 1870, church school was held only during the spring and summer months. As of this date according to history of the church, the Sunday School became an "evergreen school." During later years, notes made on an occasional page of the secretary's book explain a corresponding omission of Sunday School. Some of them are "rain," "bad weather," "unpleasant weather," an influenza epidemic in 1918, and remodeling of the church.

1870 also marks another development of the school—Sharon Union Sunday School became Sharon Baptist Sunday School. Previously the school had operated as a union school with Union Society literature; whereas now it changed to literature supplied by the Baptist Publication Society.

Sunday School collections, so much accepted as a part of a school's activity now, were not begun until 1874, fifteen years after the school's beginning. Contemporary experience with inflation makes the term "pennies," used then and even well into the twentieth century to record the collections, seem almost amusing. In 1874, the average offering per person per Sunday was .82 cents. In 1945, the high year, the figure was 15.1 cents.

According to Sunday School records available, there have been only eleven persons to serve as superintendent during the past ninety-three years. They are John Landes, Fredric Landes, B. S. Dunkin, J. W. Hendrix, H. R. Todd, William Pangburn, A. Ward Dunkin, W. J. Landes, W. H. Todd, G. H. Oliphant, Burton Billiard, and John Harvey Todd, now serving.

The first organ for use in the Sunday School was purchased in 1880. The first piano, in 1905. However, musical talent was not dependent upon the organ and the piano in the Sunday School, in the church, or in the community. The name of D. J. McCain holds a place of long term leadership as chorister in the Sunday School, serving well over a quarter of a century. Only a few persons with relatively short terms served in the capacity between Mr. McCain and the school's present chorister, Mr. George E. Flora, now serving in his thirty-second year. Also indicative of musical talent were several organizations, at different times, of a Sunday School orchestra which provided music during the Sunday School sessions.

A host of persons for ninety-three years have served in the teaching task of the school—sharing in the application of the "Good News" with faithfulness and devotion. Because he is yet helping to make the history of the Sharon Baptist Sunday School, Mr. Carl B. McCain here merits an especial attention. Presently a teacher of the Young People's Class, Mr. McCain's name first appears in the list of teachers in the secretary's records in 1907—as supply teacher. A. D. 1952 thus makes for him forty-five years teaching in the Sharon Baptist Sunday School.

Since the Sunday School serves equally men and women, boys and girls, one notes with interest that early secretaries' reports list the "number of male scholars present" and the "number of female scholars present"—no doubt in accordance with the divided seating arrangement during church worship.

Although numbers never fully determine the greatness of anything and especially greatness in Christian living, nevertheless one is interested in the attendance of the Sharon Baptist Sunday School. After the beginning year of the school, there was a sharp drop in attendance—from 61 that first year back to 42 the second. 1861 dropped back to 35; then followed a general climb until the all time high year of 1914 when the school had an attendance of almost 93. A general decline followed for thirty years bringing an all time low of 29 to the year 1944—very much attributable to the war with so many boys in service. A graph would show the trend again to be on the upward swing with eighteen Sundays of 1952 having an average attendance of almost 43.

An interesting parallel study made by Mr. Dean Todd in 1946 gives the attendance by the months of the year. He found that

over a forty year period, the high attendance month of the year was February; the low attendance month has been found to be June. Strange as these findings may be considering the inclement weather to be encountered in February, they surely must indicate that the Christian Church and its members can and will meet any obstacles, no matter how great, if the challenge is impressive enough. Low attendance in June, or any other vacation month, does not of itself indicate any lowering of standards. The Sharon Baptist Sunday School, great as it has been, has fallen short of many possibilities, but through the grace of God, its future will be as great or greater than its past.

Bibliography:

B. S. Dunkin, **First Fifty Years of Sharon Baptist Church**, p. 5; a statistical study prepared by Dean Todd in 1946; Sunday School secretaries' reports.

Robert Rodgers writer of this history of the Sunday School, is the great-great grandson of Richard Dunkin, in whose home the charter members met for the organization of the Sharon Baptist Church.



For fifty years those pictured above have been members of our congregation, most of them able to attend regularly.

They are—left to right—:

Front Row—May Wagoner, Mae Todd, Ella McCain, Carl McCain, Ruth Tidrick and Susie Shankland.

Second Row—Cecile Platt, Edna Welty of Young America, Martha Bozworth, Warren Todd, Edwin McCain and George Flora.

Third Row—John Billings, Garfield Todd, Emma Billiard, John Billiard, Harry Billiard of Sioux City, Iowa, and Virgil Billiard, of Indianapolis, Indiana.

THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR ROLL CALL

Girls and Women

Lydia Dunkin	Malissa J.	Mary J. Landes
Rachael Dunkin	Dunkin Smith	Lydia J.
Nancy Dunkin	Mary Ann Berry	Dunkin Landes
Jane Dunkin	Ida Hopkins	Elizabeth Manahan
Nancy Hendrix	Lucinda Chapman	Susan A.
Julia Landes	Josephine Dunham	Debolt Billiard
Lydia Landes	Emma Couse	Margaret E. Debolt
Margaret Baldwin	Catherine Harmon	Rebecca Billiard
Jane Ewing	Emma B. Pangburn	Nancy E. Lowell
Elsy Beckner	Hannah M. Johnson	Jane Chapman
Phebe Willson	Mary C. Pangburn	India Barber
Elizabeth Ratcliff	Lydia Ann Wilson	Phoebe Hendrix
Margaret Oakeson	Mary Pearson	Mary Simison
Ellen Mabbitt	Hannah Billiard	Florinda Landes
Elizabeth Dunkin	Christiana Landes	Nellie Lowell
Sarah Dunkin	Jane Mabbitt	Matilda Lowell
Sister Alinger	Catherine Campbell	Mary Barber
Lucy A. Waters	Elizabeth Hopkins	Sarah Beckner
Susanah Coshaw	Mariah Tuiliker	Mary B. Bowen
Nancy Langston	Frances Ann	Elinor Ogborn
Abigail Ann Willson	Calhoun	Mary A. Myers
Rachael Willson	Nancy Welty	Nancy J. Barber
Susan Willson	Sarah Dunkin	Susan Hopkins
Martha Roush	Sarah Ellen Quinn	Mary E. Dunkin
Rebecca Oakeson	Lydia Jane Ewing	Mary A. Billiard
Matilda Oakeson	Jane Curtis	Mary J. Silvers
Rachel Dunkin	Eliza Douglass	Harriett Riffe
Mary E. Wilson	Amy Hendrix	Rachel Houghton
Mary Sargeant	Eliza Debolt	Mahala McCracken
Phianna Mahill	Lydia A. Riffe	Adah Debolt
Susan J. Berry	Rebecca Silvers	Hellen Marshall
Mary J. Landes	Mary Ellen Ratcliff	Anna Marshall
Delilah Kerr	Martha Jane Ewing	Sarah J. Berry
Matilda Dunkin	Mary Debolt	Luella Appenzellar
Mary M. Hendrix	Julia Dunkin	Caroline Shaw
Louiza Riffe	Barbara Dunkin	Elizabeth A. Todd
Mary Beckner	Catherine Ann	Catherine Berry
Anna Dewese	McCain	Jessie Stretch
Catharine Chapman	Rebecca Dunkin	Clara B. Hunt
Polly Wilson	Eliza Ewing	Esther McCain
Margaret Debolt	Nancy E. Ewing	Susan McCain
Susan Riffe	Martha Jane Ewing	Lovina J. Todd
Sarah E. McCracken	Orpha	Mary A. Morton
Mary E. Silvers	Debolt Dunkin	Emma Riffe

THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR ROLL CALL

Girls and Women

Lydia J. Simison	Martha Appensellar	Emma Billiard
Mary J. Rogers	Luella Bay-	Laura Meade
Sarah Ferguson	less Ferguson	Polly Wilson
Martha Black	Amanda Silver	Madge Lieurance
Arminda Black	Katie Clark	Mrs. Maggie Allen
Hannah Keller	Gracie Clark	Ida Mulitain
Almira Moore	Clara Dunkin	Bessie Silvers
Clara Billiard	Hannah Ruth	Cora Byrum
Rosa Pangburn	Todd Tidrick	Maud Byrum
Sarah Hendrix	Lillie Dunkin	Anna Black
Mary Walker	Emma Lyons	Mary Billman
Elizabeth Billings	Ellen Landes Flora	Rosa Meade Myer
Lottie Welty	Luella Richardson	Mrs. Powell
Julia Lyons	Ellen Rogers	Susie Silvers Canter
Desdamona Mc-	Clara West	Mabel Billings
Cracken Dunkin	Mary Minter	Wickard
Maggie Bill-	Dora Welty	Fern Hendrix
ings McCracken	Nellie Walker	Flossie Flora
Susie Silvers	Dasie Sharp	Mamie Welty
Nettie Pangburn	Annis Billiard Shaffer	May Billiard
Minnie Todd	India Platt	Jennie Dunkin
Alice Wingard	Dean Quinn	Esther Canter
May Shinn	Arna Beeler	Hazel Dunkin
Pollie Disinger	Esther Myers McCain	Mildred Canter
Elizabeth Ferguson	Mrs. Myers	Edna Welty
Selda Jane Ferguson	Mrs. D. E. Silver	Cecil Henderson
Lizzie Mingle	Jessie Landes	Nora Balsler
Nancy Silvers	Minnie Gish Todd	Gertrude Kirkpatrick
Mary Robertson	Valetta Rodgers	Mrs. Wilhelm
Rosa Jones	Rosy Brown	Mrs. Ella Craybill
L. C. Harmõn	Zina Garver	Mrs. Eva Meade
Ella McCain	Dell Billiard Wilson	Eva Dunkin
Laura Fife	Bertha Hendrix	Sadie Flora
Emma Fife	Ella Hamilton	Dincie McGuire
Mattie Lee	Emma Wiley	Mrs. Martha McGuire
Etta McCracken	Alice Billings	Carrie Allen
India Bayless	Esta Billings	Alice McCammon
Dora Stanford	Cora Sheets	Vera Dunkin
Mary E. Silver	Nettie Sheets	Mrs. T. C. Smith
Clara Silver Flora	Ella Kirk Boyer	Mrs. Graham
Fina Fife	Isabel Billiard	Goldie Graham
Mrs. Justice	May McCain	Fern Graham
Nannie Landes	Bessie Welty	Vona Graham
Ora Garrison	Alma Billiard	Hazel Graham

THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR ROLL CALL

Girls and Women

Olga Overholser	Bessie Smith	Virginia Summers
Mabel Billiard	Mary Young	Janette Yarian John-
Fay Silver	Leona Beougher	son
Mrs. Lester Bryan	Eva Rodgers Vass	Minnie Calveard
Eva Bryan	Grace Snell Babcock	Elsie Harmon
Ethel McGuire	Mrs. C. C. Boon	Jessica Sieber
Martha Cook	Mrs. Blanch Dudley	Pauline Thomas Cat-
Gertrude Billings	Iva Hunt Billiard	ron
Stafford	Ocy Everett	Mrs. Charles Flora
Caroline Shaw	Edith Boone Canfield	Frances Chambers
Martha Dunkin	Lova McCain Miller	Mrs. B. T. Purviance
Bozworth	Nellie Smith Rodgers	Margaret McCain
Mary Dunkin	Alta Billings Fouts	Mary Virginia Mc-
Hughes	Hilda Snell Edging	Cain Richards
Lois Welty Harmon	Beth Billiard Rodkey	Beverly Flora
Maude Kuhn	Mrs. Jennie Snell	Mary Ellen Johnson
Nora Albaugh Wil-	Mrs. Blanch McCain	Mrs. J. H. Pierce
son	Roma Britton	Mrs. James Pierce
Susie Flora Shank-	Mildred Britton	Helen Rodgers
land	Pauline Todd Head	Aloha Yarian Conner
Ruth McCain Dunkin	Cecil Franklin	Caroline Billings
Ruby McCain Quinn	Dorothy Ferguson	Martelle Todd
Amie Black	Margaret Billiard	Maxine Billiard
Neva Welty	Carey	Ethel Dyer
Bertha Friar	Mary Crummet	Marjorie Dyer
Mrs. I. B. Morgan	Goldie Harter	Laura Grubb
Vern McGuire Mc-	Roxcena Barnhardt	Adelia Draper
Carty	Leona McCain	Jeanine Johnson
Katie Braskett	Millie Lybrook	Mary Jane Lapp
Mrs. E. E. Smiley	Anna Towers	Janet Draper Rich-
Mrs. Garver	Annie Black	ardson
Mrs. May Oliphant	Ina Shankland	Rosemary Draper
Mrs. J. H. Mitchell	Anna Harter	Barnett
Nellie Billiard	Mrs. J. E. Yarian	Dorothy McCain
Mrs. John Robison	Ursal Platt Hood	Carol Spitler
Mrs. Bessie Welty	Margaret Mabbitt	Hattie McCoy
Mrs. Fred Kuhn	Gertrude Smith	Donna Sewell
Aenone Smith Moss-	Mary Flora	Bonnie Calveard
burg	Marjorie Harter	Ruth Calveard
Frances Dunkin	Rosanna Dyke	Ruth Ann McConnell
Myrtle McGuire	Elizabeth Dotson	Sandra Bell
High	Florence Dunkin	Patricia Bozworth
Rive Todd	Raynes Gardner	Margaret Rodgers
Lula Billings Price	Iris Platt McCain	Myrna Billiard
Mabell Billiard	Rosella Shankland	Jane Gish
Lucile Kuhn Smith	Margaret Summers	

THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR ROLL CALL

Boys and Men

George Hendrix	Ben. F. Landes	John Silver
John Landes	Wm. Debolt	George Silver
Richard Beckner	Jacob N. Silvers	Oscar Landes
John Baldwin	Hugh W. Richardson	Willis Fife
Abner Ratcliff	Abner W. Dunkin	Manuel Fife
Fredrick Landes	George Berry	Albert Fife
Benjamin S. Dunkin	Elder B. W. Harmon	J. N. Silver
Peter Wilson	Francis M. Kannoyer	A. M. Silver
George Langston	Luther Berry	M. C. Clark
Daniel Wilson	Wm. W. Shaw	Henry Todd
Samuel Ward	Rev. H. R. Todd	Otis Bullock
Anderson Mabbitt	John McCain	Milton Fife
Wm. Pangburn	Uriah M. Wingard	Elijah Hamilton
John E. Hopkins	Judson Todd	David Barber
Jesse Curtis	Harrison Morton	Charlie A.
Michael Dunkin	J. C. Todd	McCracken
Simeon Wilson	Richard Wood	Virgil Brasket
Lewis Wood	Cary Simison	John W. Black
Daniel Debolt	S. B. McCracken	Charles L. Flora
James M. Silvers	John Etchison	Vinton Rodgers
David Welty	James Rodgers	Alonzo Overholser
William Debolt	James Deller	Rev. D. A. West
Joshua Dunkin	William Cole	Charles Clark
Wm. H. Dunkin	George G. Moore	David Wilson
Jacob N. Silvers	Joshua Ferguson	Elliott Beeler
Joseph Billiard	Winfield Dunkin	Lewis Myers
W. Harrison Ewing	John Hendrix	D. E. Silver
Wm. Coshaw	John T. Billings	Warren Silver
Frederick Coshaw	Charles Billings	Bert Myers
Joshua Hendrix	Omer Billings	John Billiard
David A. Riffe	William Dunkin	Everett Silvers
Marion Welty	Elmer Dunkin	Wilbur Richardson
Rev. J. G. Bowen	Daniel Dunkin	John Silver
Wm. Mahill	Elmer J. Todd	Joseph Willy
Jasper Landes	Charles Billiard	Art Fouts
Benjamin Harmon	Jessie Silvers	Ira Todd
Robert Barber	Alva McCracken	David E. Cronch
John Bullock	Robert Walker	Rolla Hendrix
Wilkins Ogborn	Dr. Frank Lyons	James Fisher
Allen Houghton	Frank Appenzellar	Garfield Todd
Samual P. Berry	Benjamin Wood	Riley Clark
George McCracken	Harry Todd	D. H. Meade
Winfield Coshaw	J. A. Landes	D. E. Silvers
Thomas B. Miller	D. E. Silver	Owen Simmons

THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR ROLL CALL

Boys and Men

Frank Byrum	Vernon Welty	Ralph Dyke
Carl McCain	Fred Kuhn	Ross Shankland
Vern Welty	John Kuhn	George Shankland
Oscar Flora	Audly Mitchell	William Allen
Charley Byrum	John Billings	Burton Billiard
William Canter	Frank McCain	Everett Dotson
Tedford Dunkin	Earl Michael	Basil Gardner
Leslie Wikle	Landes Flora	Raymond Gardner
William Seagraves	Everett Snell	Harold Sink
Edwin McCain	Benjamin Dyke	James Summers
Warren Todd	Conrad C. Boon	Walter Summers
Edgar Dunkin	Emmet Hunt	Veral Wagner
Frank Wilhelm	Everett Hunt	George Calveard
Russell Dunkin	Herman Cook	Foss Sieber
Tyre Flora	Dorsey Smith	Dean Shankland
Reid McCain	Loren Smiley	Don Shankland
Mr. McGuire	Harry Billiard	Charles Flora
Glenn Dunkin	Walter Price	Rev. B. T. Purviance
James McCammon	Seth Cook	John Silver
Irvin McGuire	Fred Spitler	Richard McCain
Thomas McGuire	Dale Flora	Robert McCain
Mr. M. Graham	Loyd Kuhn	Billy Joe Flora
Rev. T. C. Smith	Ora Boon	Mark Flora
Lon Welty	Charles Spitler	Mark McCain
Spurgeon Tidrick	Bliss Todd	Dale McCain
William W. Shaw	John Rodgers	Merrell Johnson
Lester A. Bryan	Elwin Smiley	Rev. J. H. Pierce
Royce Kirkpatrick	Lewis Edward	James Pierce
John Black	O'Toole	Robert Rodgers
Howard Friar	Everett Spitler	Russell Rodgers
Rev. B. Morgan	Tom Billiard	Dana Flora
George Flora	Charles Harter	James Flora
Virgil Brasket	Fred Landes	Wm. Rodgers
Chester Garver	Charles Barnhardt	Danny McCain
E. E. Smiley	John Black	Wayne Conner
Arnold Smiley	Paul Black	Charles Dyer
D. H. Meade	Frank Black	Devoe Dyer
Herschall Oliphant	Rev. J. E. Yarian	Johnny Dyer
Rev. J. H. Mitchell	Wm. F. McCain	R. E. Grubb
Lamarr Smith	Kenneth Snyder	A. G. Bozworth
Chalmer Alabaugh	Ellis Snyder	Thomas Roger
Earl Alabaugh	John Harvey Todd	McConnell
Harley Alabaugh	Harold Dean Todd	Dean Gish
Reid Billiard	Maurice Smith	Jimmy Billiard
Merideth Dunkin		

Sharon Centennial

1852 - 1952

Program

September 12 and 14, 1952

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OLD-FASHIONED NIGHT FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1952

8:00 P. M.

Carl B. McCain, Chairman, presiding

- A—A thirty-minute old-fashioned singing service
(Singing of old songs, lining hymns, note singing, shaped notes, etc.)
- B—Reminiscences of a 1900 Barber Shop rehearsal
(Conversation appropriate to the period, stories, secular and sacred songs, negro spirituals, rehearsal for revival meeting at Sharon Church, — men taking part in appropriate costume).

Song by the congregation (selected)
- C—Old-fashioned sermon — “Almost Persuaded” _____ by the Pastor
- D—Invitational hymn — “Why Do You Wait, Dear Brother?”
(With altar service)
- E—Benediction

Centennial and Homecoming Program of the Sharon Baptist Church Flora, Indiana, R. R. #1

Sunday, September 14, 1952 - 9:45 a. m. to 4 p. m.

Mrs. Mary Flora, Chairman of the Program Committee
George Flora, Chairman of the Music Committee

SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICE: 9:45 - 10:30 A. M.

J. Harve Todd, S. S. Superintendent

“The Lord Is In His Holy Temple”

Prayer _____ by Emma Billiard

Hymn No. 56 — “This Is My Father’s World”

Sunday School Lesson: “DAVID’S RELIGIOUS CONTRIBUTION”
(This will be a quarter-hour lesson period)

Adult lesson leader _____ Robert Rodgers

Youth lesson leader _____ Dean Todd

Children’s leader _____ Martelle Todd

(The last five minutes of the adult and youth session will be given to the reading of the One Hundred Year History of the Sharon Sunday School, written and read by Robert Rodgers)

Report of the Secretary _____ Jeanine Johnson

Birthday Offerings and other closing items

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:30 A. M. - 12:00 M.

Prelude _____ Nellie Rodgers
“Those Distant Chimes” by WALLACE A. JOHNSON

Doxology

The Lord’s Prayer in unison

Gloria Patri

Hymn No. 149, “The Church In The Wildwood”

Responsive Reading No. 506, “The Glory Of God”

The Morning Prayer _____ Warren H. Todd

The Morning Offering

Hymn No. 58, “Joy To The World”

Special by the Men’s Chorus:
“The Lord Is My Light”
“The Two Cities”

Prayer for those in service _____ Martha Bozworth

THE MORNING MESSAGE _____ Dr. G. C. Mitchell,
State Director Of Evangelism And Rural Work

Closing Hymn No. 364, “God Of Our Fathers”

Benediction

Postlude

**Centennial and Homecoming Program
of the Sharon Baptist Church,
Flora, Indiana, R. R. #1**

Sunday, September 14, 1952 - 9:45 a. m. to 4 p. m.

Mrs. Mary Flora, Chairman of the Program Committee
George Flora, Chairman of the Music Committee

BASKET DINNER IN CHURCH BASEMENT

PROMPTLY AT 12:00 NOON!

Margaret McCain, Chairman of the Food Committee

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HOMECOMING AND CENTENNIAL PROGRAM: 1:45 - 4:00 P. M.

Prelude Nellie Rodgers

“Over There; Variations” by M. W. BUTLER

Invocation

Hymn No. 52, “Blest Be The Tie That Binds”

Special, by the Men’s Chorus:

“One Hundred Years”

“Sweet Sabbath Eve”(It is hoped that Mrs. D. J. McCain will
be able to take part in this number and the Memorial Service which
follows)

MEMORIAL SERVICE Susie Shankland

“Bless This House” Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rodgers
Rosella Bell

READING OF THE CHURCH HISTORY Ruth Tidrick

Hymn No. 47, “Our God, Our Help In Ages Past”

Vocal Trio Mary Flora, Peggy Rodgers and Rosella Bell

Remarks by former Pastors

Vocal Solo Mrs. Mark McCain

REMINISCENCES

Vocal Solo, featuring original lyrics by G. H. Oliphant

Sung by his granddaughter, Mrs. Jeanette McCloskey

REMINISCENCES

Song No. 169, “Standing On The Promises”

Vocal Solo Mrs. Fred Rodkey

Men’s Chorus: “The Church’s One Foundation”

“ITALIA” by the Mixed Chorus

“God Be With You,” No. 42

BENEDICTION