

HISTORY OF

DRY CREEK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

In October 1933 the first business meeting was held by the First Congregational Church of Dry Creek. A constitution was adopted and the following officers were elected: Deacons - J. H. Spears and Gus Cole; Trustees - Lloyd Iles, Nelson Green and Levi Robertson; Clerk - Marshal E. Cole; Treasurer - Mrs. E. J. Miller; Deaconesses - Mrs. J. H. Spears and Mrs. Gus Cole. Brother Seth Baggett was the first pastor.

During the early years, The First Congregational Church of Dry Creek was a member The Louisiana State Association of Congregational-Christian Churches. In November 1945, the First Congregational Church of Dry Creek's clerk, Mrs. M.D. Heard, wrote to this organization and requested that the church be granted a dismissal from the Association. At the Associations meeting, it was moved by Rev. A. O. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Paul Leeds, and voted that letters of dismissal from the Association be granted to the Independent Congregational Churches of Barnes Creek, Dry Creek, Reeves, LeBlanc and Lake Charles Bible Church.

A new corporation, "Southwest Louisiana Larger Parish of Congregational Churches of Allen and Beauregard Parishes" was established. The corporation consisted of Dry Creek, Barnes Creek, Reeves, LeBlanc Churches and Camp Pearl.

In April 1955, the church members voted to request that the "Southwest Louisiana Larger Parish of Congregational Churches" relinquish the title to the property at Dry Creek. The request was granted and all legal papers were signed. At this time the church's name was changed to the Independent Congregational Church.

During the first years of the church, Bro. Baggett rode his horse from Reeves to Dry Creek to hold

services once a month. He served as pastor from 1933 to 1949. During this time when he was unable to hold the service, other preachers helped out. They were Reverends Branch, Sims, Demmie and Herman Baggett, Seth's son.

In 1949 Reverend Lowell Baggett, Seth's son, was called as pastor.

In 1953, Reverend U. A. Doiron came as a full-time pastor. The church did not have a parsonage at this time, and Mr. & Mrs. Jay Miller offered their home for him to live in.

Land was leased and a building was purchased for a parsonage in 1954. The church voted to authorize the board to borrow the necessary money from Mr. Ed McFatter. The building was renovated and the pastor and his family moved in. Rev. Doiron resigned in November of that year.

In January 1955 Reverend Richard (Dickie) Reeves was called to pastor the church.

In 1956, Rev. Preston Simmons became the pastor. He and his family moved into the parsonage and became a part of the community.

In December 1956, during the regular business meeting, 2 resolutions were adopted. One was to accept the proposed constitution of the newly formed corporation known as Bible Conferences and Missions, a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana for the purpose of training, examining and supporting Bible Missionaries and to elect to become a member of the organization by complying with the requirements contained in the charter of the said Bible Conference and Missions. The second resolution was that two people would be elected to be delegates to the council of Bible Conferences and Missions and to fully and irrevocably represent the Dry Creek Independent Congregational Church in all matters coming before the council of that Organization along with the pastor of the said church who shall serve as ex-officio member, and that such officers shall continue to serve in such capacity until their successors shall

have been elected and qualified by the said Dry Creek Independent Congregational Church. Helen McWhirter and John Barrett were elected.

In 1964 the church acquired property from the School Board to build the present church. The school home economics building was renovated and the pastor, Rev. Preston Simmons and his family moved in and set up housekeeping. The first service held in our present church was January 16, 1966.

In 1975 Don Barrett, a young man who had grown up *in* our church dedicated his life to the full time ministry of God's work.

In 1976 the Sunday School rooms were added to our building.

In 1980 Rev. Preston Simmons, the pastor for 25 years, offered his resignation due to health reasons.

In August 1980, Reverend Jerry Sheffield was called as pastor. Rev. Sheffield was pastor for 7 years.

In January 1988, Reverend James "Jim" Etheredge was called and was the pastor until July 1990.

In September 1990, Reverend Don Barrett returned to his home church to become the pastor. He was the pastor until December 1992.

In August 1993, Rev. Doug Livingston, who is a son of missionaries, became the pastor. He was the pastor until December 1994.

In June 1995, Reverend Mike Lowe came to the church as the pastor. He was with us until February 1996.

In 1996, Luke Leichty became the pastor. He and his family were with us until-----.

During the times through the years that we have been without pastors, we have had different interim pastors. Some of the ones that we have had are: Reverends U. A. Doiron, Mark Land and Bob Connor.

Church Board

Originally, the church board consisted of two deacons and three trustees. In the late 1940's the duties were combined and the name was changed to the Board of Elders, composed of five men.

Deacons

J. H. Spears 1933, 1934, 1937-1940, 1944

Gus Cole 1933, 1934, 1937, 1941-1943

W. E. Barrett 1938

Eugene Cole 1939-1943

Tom Wilson 1944

Trustees

Lloyd Iles 1933, 1934, 1944

Nelson Green 1933, 1934

Levi Robertson 1933, 1934, 1941, 1942

Eugene Cole 1937, 1938

Tom Wilson 1934-1942

W. E. Barrett 1937, 1939-1941

M. D. Heard 1938-1940, 1942

Jay Miller 1944

John Barrett 1944

Board of Elders

Jay Miller 1949, 1952

Paul McWhirter 1949, 1954-1961

Jesse Wilson 1949, 1951-1955, 1957-1958,
1962, 1963, 1968, 1969

Leonard Spears 1949, 1951-1955, 1957-1960,
1962-1970

M. D. Heard 1949, 1951, 1953, 1956-1958, 1960,
1961, 1963, 1964

Eugene Cole 1951

Tom Wilson 1951-1953, 1956, 1960, 1961, 1967-
1969, 1971, 1972

Nelson Green 1952, 1955

O. A. (Red) Andrews 1954, 1955, 1959

John Barrett 1954-1956, 1960-1970

Luther Spears 1957-1959, 1961-1966,
1969, 1970, 1973, 1974

Matthew Tate 1959

Jimmy Barrett 1962, 1965-1967, 1970, 1973-1979, 1983

Olan Cole 1964-1967

Mr. Steele 1968

L. D. Spears 1970-1986, 1988-present

Terry Barrett 1971-1972

Phil Simmons 1971-1988, 1991, 1992, 1995-present

Wayne Green 1971, 1972, 1983-present

Conrad Green 1973-1974

Ricky Dyer 1975

Wade Miller 1975-1978, 1980, 1982

Billy Barrett 1976-1978

Keith Andrews 1979, 1980

Henry Hebert 1979-1983, 1987-1990

Bob Smith 1981, 1982

Lynn Burnett 1985-1987

John Mosley 1989-1991

Scott Loftin 1992-present

Greg Spears 1993

Pastors

Seth Baggett 1933-1949

Lowell Baggett 1949-1953

U. A. Doiron 1953-1955

Richard (Dickie) Reeves 1955-1956

Preston Simmons 1956-1980

Jerry Sheffield 1980-1987

Jim Etheridge 1988-1990

Don Barrett 1990-1992

Doug Livingston 1993-1994

Mike Lowe 1995-1996

Luke Leichty 1996-2001

Sam Burchard 2001-present

