



## Welcome

We are glad you are here to help us celebrate our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we hope this tour helps you to better understand Zion Baptist Church and our rich history and heritage. We acknowledge our church would not exist today without God's guiding hand, for this we give all our praise and honor to God. Whether you are a visitor, church member, or perhaps grew up in this church, we are thankful for your presence and covet your prayers as we strive to be the church God has called us to be.

**Fredia Proctor Garden and Church Playground** - Installed between 2006-2007 as an Eagle Scout project of Wesley Clark

**Family Life Center** – In 1989 our facility needs were realized through the planning of two stages to update current facilities and build a new multipurpose building. Stage 1 was to update and renovate the current sanctuary and education building. This was completed in 1991 for a cost of \$250,000. Stage 2 was the construction of our multipurpose building, the Family Life Center. It consists of four classrooms, a small dining area, complete commercial size kitchen, gym, storage rooms, and a stage. The Family Life Center is used for many programs, events, and ministries such as dinner theater, fall festival, church family meals, children's mission days, busy hands ministry, just to name a few. This is the most recent of our church facilities built.

**Church Bell**- This is a 36" bell that hung in the old 1883 church. When the next church was built in 1927 there was no steeple, so a bell tower was constructed to house the bell. The church bell was used when someone died, or if there was a need to assemble a church the bell was rung. It would also be used to remind folks of the Saturday and Sunday meetings. Most recently, the bell is used to chime the hour to begin our Easter Sunrise service in the Libby Senter Memorial garden.

**Libby Tarlton Senter Garden**- Libby came to Zion Baptist church at the age of eleven with her father Preacher Tarlton. She grew up in this church and married George Senter. They had two children, Phillip and Rachel. Libby and her family followed God's call to missions by serving in Liberia beginning in 1980. Libby and her daughter were tragically killed while on the mission field in Liberia. The memorial garden was built and dedicated the same year, 1980.

**Zion Churches** - *Excerpts from the History of Zion Church 1816-1955 by Lyda Poston*

**The Brush Arbor**- Although its location is not known by anyone still remaining, tradition holds that the older people often spoke of the stand or brush arbor where they met to hear the scriptures expounded by the Rev. Drewery Dobbins, Zion's first minister, and other ministers of that period. The picture is a rendition of what the brush arbor may have looked like and was drawn by Lyda Poston. It is likely that the structure would have been near an ample water supply.



**The First Church House**- The first house, we are told, was built of logs from the forest pines. We have no record of its construction. Though we know that it was built in 1816 and Dobbins was the pastor. Again another rendition of what it looked like is shown Lyda Poston.



Rev. Drewery here drawn by

**The Second Church House**- The second house was a framed un-ceiled building. The committee for its construction in 1858 was: Robert Poston, A. J. Irvin, C. S. Wilson, John Poston, Sr. and S. S. Simmons. Banister Willis was the contractor and Rev. Robert Poston was the pastor. There were 134 members at that time. The cost of the church is unknown. The church voted to have it ceiled in 1875. Lyda Poston drew the rendition of this church as well.

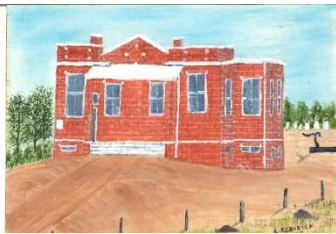


**The Third Church House-** The third was a framed ceiled house, well lighted and ventilated. The date for its erection is 1883. Rev. A. C. Irvin was the pastor; the contractor was William Alexandra, the building committee was composed of A. Blanton, J. D. Weathers, A. J. Irvin, Samuel Poston, Daniel Poston, A. G. A. M. Cabaniss. The cost of this house was \$750.00, furnishings \$188.66. Total This was painted inside and out and had green blinds at the windows. In 1913 was added. The picture shown here is the first picture that we have of one of houses. Mrs. Dorcas Barbee and Mr. Max Cornwell will remember this “old



Weathers, and cost \$930.66. a vestibule Zion’s church white church.”

**The Fourth Church House-** The fourth house was a brick structure built in 1927-1928. The first service was held in February 1928 with the building completely paid for. The committee for this structure was: Laurel Hoyle, Chairman, G. L. Cornwell,



Treasurer, J. W. Irvin, J. S. Blanton and Frank Cornwell. Rev. D. G. Washburn was pastor and J. H. Bracket was contractor. The cost was about \$20,000.00. This building had obscure windows, and elevated floor in the sanctuary, with folding doors to open to the Sunday school rooms. There was a basement with more Sunday school rooms and a heating plant. It was dedicated in May 1928. In October 1941 it was voted to build an annex at the rear of the church and to install water and a baptistery. The baptistery painting

was done by Lyda Poston. The last funeral held in it was for Mrs. Vic Wellmon.

**The Fifth Church House-** The fifth church house (that we worship in today) is a brick structure, the building committee for which was: Walter Davis, Chairman, Lee Cornwell, Treasurer, Frank Cornwell, Bob Laurel Hoyle, Miss Ruby Irvin and Mrs. Ann Barron. The contractor was Mr. Grady Brooks W. V. Tarlton as pastor. The total cost of the initial building and furnishings were \$116,000.00. It was completed and the first church service held on April 5, 1953. funeral services were held a few days before. They were for Mrs. C. W. Lanier and Mrs. C.



Cabaniss, with the Rev. approximately However, two G. Poston.

**Cemetery-** With a beginning history of 1816, there are many graves throughout the cemetery with birth dates in the 1700’s. There are numerous civil war veterans buried here and other interesting graves. Many of the Zion families buried here are still a part of Zion Church family today. There was one very interesting incident that happened in our cemetery, you will need to find someone part of the Zion Church family to tell you the story.

**Baptismal Pool-** In the back area of the cemetery a section on the creek was cleaned out for baptismal services. Some of our current older church family can remember folks being baptized in a local pond. Near this creek the first courthouse of Cleveland County was located because it was the center point of the county.

**Caretakers Home-** This home was built in 1958 and was used as a caretaker’s home of numerous years.

**Ball Field-** Zion has a rich history and heritage of baseball and softball games going on at these ballfields. There was a baseball team called the Zion Bees in 1947 that played on some fields near Hwy 226. These ball fields were built in 1968. Most folks in the county at one point may have played baseball or softball on these fields.

**Fellowship Building-** This facility was built in 1968 for the purpose of meetings, events, education programs, and reunions. The basement was used for theater programs, youth meetings, and scout meetings. Recently the building was renovated and hosts bible studies, mission group meetings, baby and wedding showers, and many other activities.