

1850-1868 – The Danville Years

- ❖ 1851-1861 J.V. Wright
- ❖ 1862-1865 N.T. Byars
- ❖ 1866-1867 J.V. Wright

1850

- ❖ Elder J.W.D. Creath, a missionary from Huntsville met with a few people in the community of Danville, just north of Willis in a house in the neighborhood of Zill McCaleb to discuss the possibility of organizing a church. A committee was formed. The charter is organized with 30 members and is named Danville Baptist Church (of Christ). Bro. J.V. Wright is called as the first pastor and serves for 10 years.

1862

- ❖ The new pastor, Bro. Byars was a true Texas Baptist Pioneer. The Texas Declaration of Independence was signed in his blacksmith shop, and he was Sam Houston's blacksmith.

1865

- ❖ Black members are allowed to withdraw from the church in order to start their own church.

1866

- ❖ May produced 10 baptisms; June produced 7.

1868

- ❖ Hard times in the community forces most of the people to move elsewhere. Letters are given to remaining members and the doors are closed.

1870-1900 – Migration To A New, Thriving Town - Willis

- ❖ 1872-1874 R.F. Harris
- ❖ 1875-1876 W.D. Beverley
- ❖ 1876-1877 D.S. Snodgrass
- ❖ 1880-1885 J.W. Peddy
- ❖ 1892-1900 R.F. Harris

1870

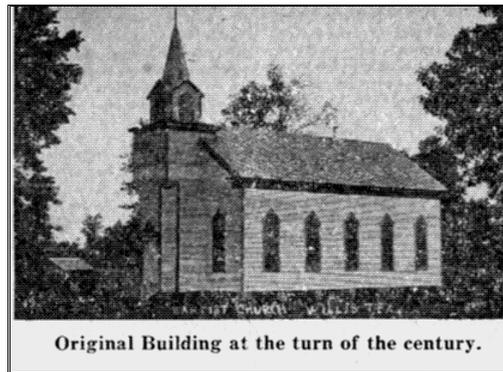
- ❖ A few of the Danville residents migrate to the settlement of Esparanza which, mistakenly, was expected to experience growth from the railroad. The majority migrate to the town of Willis where railroad tracks were being laid. This town is destined to thrive in the coming years.

1872

- ❖ A young mission is started in Willis. Along with the remaining charter members from Danville, they band to form Willis Baptist Church (of Christ). During these early years, many people felt it necessary to include the phrase 'of Christ', therefore we have many instances where the clerk includes this phrase. However, most of the time we are referred to as Willis Baptist Church. This new mission under the leadership of Rev. R.F. Harris began meeting in a community hall, then to a schoolhouse until the former Danville church building is moved here.

1877-1879

- ❖ Bro. Snodgrass accepts as pastor for \$200 per year ¼ time (preaching once per month), however, many people begin moving their membership to various communities around the area. Those that were left gave very little, bringing financial difficulties for the church. Pledges for 1878 totaled only \$97. Pastors were called and voted on a yearly basis, and for the year 1878, no pastor was called. Bro. Snodgrass became principal of Montgomery School, but continued to preach 1 Sunday each month for whatever money could be pledged. Lack of records lead us to believe that the church was virtually dormant off and on for the next couple of years.



Original Building at the turn of the century.

1880

- ❖ *We have a record of a service in July, 1880 or 1881 with Bro. Peddy preaching.*

1885

- ❖ *The church is re-organized as The Baptist Church at Willis with a membership of 29. Bro. Peddy is voted in unanimously as pastor and a Sabbath School is started with Bro. Sapp as Superintendent.*

1892

- ❖ *Elder R.F. Harris re-organizes the church as The Willis Baptist Church of Christ with 52 members.*

1894

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| ❖ Enrollment in Sabbath School | 72 | Avg. attendance | 60 |
| Present | 55 | Avg. offering | 40 cents |
| Offering | 20 cents | | |

1900

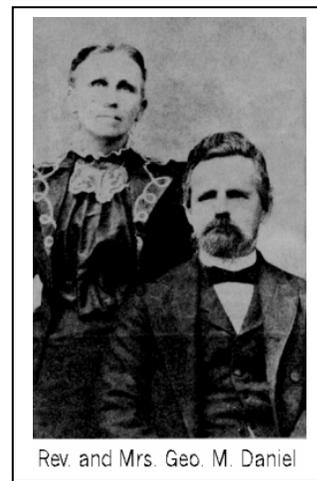
- ❖ *We voted to pledge \$5.00 to Association Missions. A committee was appointed to raise the money. \$4.50 was collected.*

1901-1905 – The Great Revival Era

- ❖ 1901 Geo. M. Daniel
- ❖ 1901-1904 H.C. Morrison
- ❖ 1904-1905 J.J. Pipkin

1901

- ❖ *Rev. George M. Daniel becomes pastor. He was the grandfather of the later Texas Governor of the 60's, Price Daniel. Along with partner, Sam Houston Cain, became pioneer Baptist preachers while establishing 14 churches and baptizing 1200 converts.*
- ❖ *In May, 1901, the Mount Calm Baptist Church near Waco in Hill County requested an ordination of Bro. Carey Daniel, who had been called to be their pastor. On a Saturday night service in June, examination and voting were conducted after an interesting sermon by Elder Stark to a packed congregation. The next day Rev. McJunkin of Waco preached to a packed and very interested congregation. George M. Daniel delivered the charge, and Elder L.T. May presented the Bible. The church then resolved to immediately hold a revival, and Bro. May remained to do the preaching which continued night after night to a packed house until July 8. There were 26 baptisms, 17 joined the church and the Lord's Supper was served on the final night to a still packed congregation. According to the minutes, "Thus closed the most glorious revival meeting in Willis."*



Rev. and Mrs. Geo. M. Daniel

- ❖ *\$15 is pledged for State, Foreign and Association Missions to be divided equally.*

1902

- ❖ *In August, motion is passed to take a quarterly collection for different missions.*

1903

- ❖ *Revival is held in May – 12 baptized, 1 joins by statement and 2 rejoin by letter.*

1904

- ❖ *Committee formed to act on building a parsonage.*

1905

- ❖ *A two-week revival is held by Bro. Fuller. 18 are baptized.*



Old Parsonage

1906-1925

- ❖ 1906 Bro. Brown
- ❖ 1907 J.J. Pipkin
- ❖ 1907 H.C. Morrison
- ❖ 1908 J.L. Watson
- ❖ 1909 J.J. Wester
- ❖ 1910–11 C.P. Welsh
- ❖ 1912-15 T.J. Fouts

- ❖ 1915-1916 W.P. Grow
- ❖ 1916-1918 J.F. High
- ❖ 1918-1920 T.J. Fouts
- ❖ 1921 D.G. Stamps
- ❖ 1922-1925 L.A. Thigpen
- ❖ 1925-1935 R.J. McGinty

R.J. McGinty

1906

- ❖ *The pledges are so few that a committee is formed to investigate the spiritual condition of the church. Pulpit committee cannot come up with enough pledges to call a pastor. However, the former pastor, Bro. Pipkin is found in Huntsville. We plead with him to come any night he chooses to preach for us.*
- ❖ *A Christmas Program is arranged with the cooperation of the Methodist Church.*

1910

- ❖ *5.81 acres are purchased.*

1912

- ❖ *Lots 9–10 of blk 14 are purchased.*
- ❖ *Mrs. Fouts organizes and conducts our first Sunbeams. The WMS is re-organized during this time.*
- ❖ *During the leadership of Bro. W.P. Grow, the Sunday School has the largest enrollment up to that time.*

1919

- ❖ *A collection is taken each month toward paying to have the Baptist Standard in each home.*
- ❖ *A letter was sent to each member regarding making a monthly offering.*
- ❖ *Giving was so poor that a committee was appointed to canvas the members and bring names of those not living [giving] in accordance with their obligation to the church. This committee of “investigators” was later dissolved.*

1924

- ❖ *A resolution is passed that all members living in the vicinity of Willis Baptist Church live in constant disregard to the interest of the church are subject to exclusion upon same being brought before the church – a resolution that this church goes on record, that from tonight on, the church will enforce discipline on those members.*

1926 - 1944

- ❖ 1935-1937 *H.E. Van Camp*
- ❖ 1937-1940 *R.J. McGinty*
- ❖ 1940-1944 *C.A. Ray*



Van Camp Group

Front: Addison, May Daniel, C.D. Runnels, J.F.A., Dorothy Law, Mildred Meador, Meador, Rose Alline, Alline Johnson, Melbarhau

Second Row: Ella McIntyre, Van Camp girl, Teacher, Ida Johnson, Bertha Van Camp, Martha Howard, Junious, Lucile Kenedy, Mrs. Addison.

Back Row: (zig-zag) D.G. Sherman, Mary Lee Snapp, Turner (Methodist), Mr. Howard, Mike Graybill, Mrs. Graybill, unknown, Bro. Van Camp, Mrs. McGinty, Geo. Rankin, Mr. Driggers, Mrs. Rankin, Mr. Rankin

1931

- ❖ *A budget system was worked out at \$62.00 per month. A committee was appointed by pastor to canvas the membership regarding financial pledges.*



1936

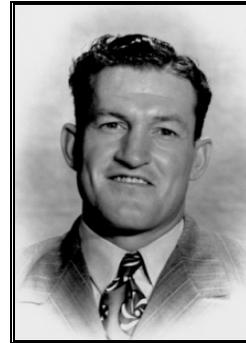
(not sure of order)

Ina Pearl Muller, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Cargill, Ruth Meador, Shug Smith, Mrs. Crouch, Vonny Gunter, Dorothy Williams, Bobby Jean Williams, Marthella Muller, J. Fred Muller, Mrs. Otis Hazel

1944 – 1960 – The Sanderlin/Gray Years of Church Growth

- ❖ 1944-1954 *Fred Sanderlin*
- ❖ 1954 *S.L. Harris (Interim)*
- ❖ 1954-1960 *Bill Gray*

Fred Sanderlin



1944

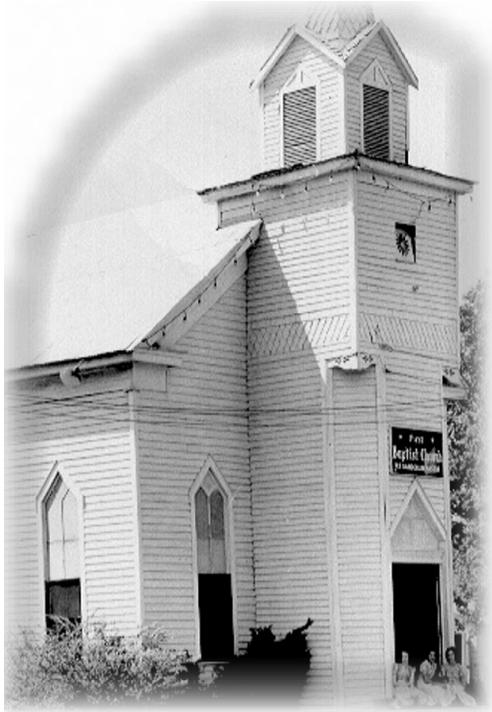
- ❖ *Average SS attendance is 136*

1945

- ❖ *FBC incorporates and enters a bond program toward building an educational building. This building will be built in 1946.*

Mrs. Sanderlin's Sunday School Class

back row: Marthella Muller, Rosemond Brown, Betty Wayne Buchanan, Adele Jordan, Bernice Perry
middle row: Joy Ruth Gibbs, Bobby Jean Williams, Bobby Jo Gunter, AdaBelle Jordan, Marcelle Doughtry
front row: Barbara Jean Helton, Opal Tucker, Ola Tucker



1946

- ❖ *Budget is approved at \$500 per month.*
- ❖ *150 new hymnals are purchased.*

1948

- ❖ *Sunday School bus is purchased for \$750. Part of this is borrowed from Mrs. Duke.*

1953

- ❖ *Building Committee is appointed. Month of August is set aside as Building Fund Month.*

1954

- ❖ *After Fred Sanderlin resigns,*

Bill Gray is called. Later that year, we approve Bro. Gray to accept a part-time call as pastor for Center Hill Baptist Church temporarily.



Bro. Bill Gray

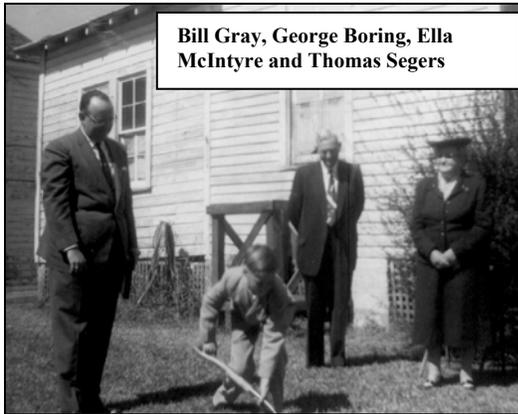
1957

- ❖ *Brotherhood is organized.*

1958

- ❖ *Deacons recommend that we negotiate with lady who owns the house and lot on NW corner behind the educational building*

- ❖ We authorize a \$30,000 bond issue for the building program



1959

- ❖ The G.W. Love property on SW corner (site of future brick 'parsonage') is purchased. Brotherhood votes to borrow \$1000 to repair and remodel the Love home. This loan will be paid back from the sale of old parsonage and old white church.
- ❖ Budget for 1959 is \$13,948.
- ❖ March 1st we had a ground-breaking ceremony next to the white church after morning service. First spades of dirt were turned by the oldest member, Miss Ella McIntyre who was baptized in 1901 and the youngest member, Thomas Segers who was baptized Aug. 1958. Mr. George Boring, chairman of the building committee

spoke briefly. Berton Yates lead the dedicating prayer.

- ❖ The old white church is sold and moved just east of town and became The Sanctified Church of God (black). It burned down in April of 1960.
- ❖ May 31st, we met for the first time in the new sanctuary and revival began with evangelist, Mart Hardin.
- ❖ June 6th – closing of the revival and Dedication & Homecoming Day

1960

- ❖ Bro. Gray resigns to go into the missionary field full time in August

Inside "Joy" Sanctuary 1960



1960 - 1981

- ❖ 1960-1966 Robert L. Culver
- ❖ 1966-1967 Kemp Powers
- ❖ 1967-1969 Milton Bailey
- ❖ 1969 Doug Tipps (Interim)
- ❖ 1969-1974 Cecil Jordan
- ❖ 1974-1980 James Elam
- ❖ 1980-1982 Ed May (Interim)

Baptistry Painting by Mrs. Walter Lumpkin



1961

- ❖ A new organ is purchased through pledges. Mrs. Culver is 1st organist.
- ❖ We sponsor a VBS in our church for Antioch Baptist Church.

1967

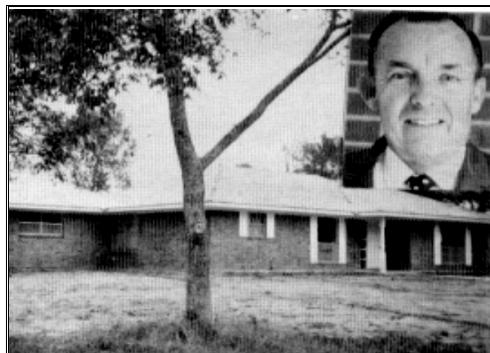
- ❖ While Milton Bailey is pastor, the new brick parsonage is built. The old parsonage and garage is sold for \$1000 and moved away.

1971

- ❖ Youth led revival – 14 baptisms.

1973

- ❖ Note burning service; sanctuary is paid off.
- ❖ A new bus is purchased and bus ministry begins.



- ❖ *New piano is purchased.*

1974

- ❖ *Paddock property behind the church is bought including apartment building which was converted into a residence for the youth director.*
- ❖ *Labor Day Sunday afternoon service is dismissed so that we might have a churchwide campout at Wolf Creek Park in Coldsprings, an event that becomes the annual Bill Kercheval outing.*

1975

- ❖ *\$200 from general fund is sent to Romayor Church to help their recovery from their fire.*
- ❖ *250 white hymnals are purchased.*
- ❖ *The Paddock apartment is removed by the original owner. Virgil Gordon finishes cleaning off the lot and is recognized by the church.*

1976

- ❖ *A fire in the parsonage.*

1977

- ❖ *First Fall Festival – will be revived in the 80's.*
- ❖ *Tuesday evenings are set aside for Spanish speaking services led by Andy Martinez.*

1978

- ❖ *We purchase our first office copier.*
- ❖ *Andy Martinez is ordained as a gospel minister, and the Spanish class becomes a Mission Mexicana which will occupy the former Gospel Tabernacle on Cochran. 101 await baptism.*
- ❖ *Annie Armstrong goal is \$1578.*

1979

- ❖ *The Spanish- speaking members form their own Sunday School Class since the rent on their building doubled.*
- ❖ *Motion is made to have two morning services. Motion failed.*

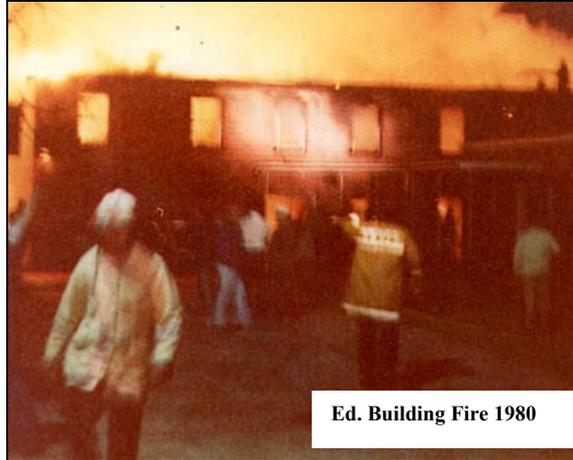
1980

- ❖ *The education building burns down. The insurance settlement of \$96,000 is joined with another \$4000*

and placed in a money market account.

- ❖ *Work begins on site*

New parsonage with Milton Bailey inset



Ed. Building Fire 1980



preparation for new church.

- ❖ *VBS is held outside because of the fire.*
- ❖ *We entered into a bond program for financing new church.*

1981

- ❖ 40 new choir robes are purchased.*
- ❖ Old church furniture sold to New Testament Church of Conroe for \$2000.*
- ❖ Total cost of new building comes to \$279,922.46.*

1982 – 1994 – The Anderson/Featherstone Years

- ❖ **1982-1986 Pat Anderson**
- ❖ **1986 Roy Ladd (Interim)**
- ❖ **1986-1994 James Featherstone**

1982

- ❖ **Out of 45 resumes, Pat Anderson is called as our new pastor.**
- ❖ **Old organ is given to Trinity Baptist Mission, Baytown along with the old blue choir robes.**
- ❖ **Average attendance for VBS is 180.**
- ❖ **Our 2 buses are traded and sold for \$1500 each, and we purchase a new bus/van.**



1983

- ❖ **Average of 14 attend visitation each week after a warm meal provided by the church.**
- ❖ **Annual budget is \$201,698.**
- ❖ **Average SS attendance is 233.**
- ❖ **Iron ore is put on parking lot across the street from our church at no cost by the County Commissioner.**
- ❖ **VBS enrollment is 324 – avg. attendance is 264.**

1984

- ❖ **Average baptisms is 7 per month.**
- ❖ **The 108' by 80' metal shell for the gym/classrooms is built for \$82,909.**

1985

- ❖ **May's clerk report shows 43 by baptism; 13 by letter**
- ❖ **Avg. SS attendance is 290**
- ❖ **Food Pantry begins**
- ❖ **1st Fifth Quarter for Youth – 125 attend**
- ❖ **\$4475 is collected for Lottie Moon**

1986

- ❖ **In November, 50 'care boxes' are delivered to the Seaman's Center in Houston.**
- ❖ **12 Thanksgiving baskets are delivered**
- ❖ **Avg. SS Attendance is 249**

1987

- ❖ **Bond Burning Ceremony**
- ❖ **Puppet ministry is started – first performance is at China Grove Baptist Church.**
- ❖ **Candy Zunker's Saturday Baptist Women begin a monthly Birthday Party for residents of Tall Pines Care Center off Calvary Road.**
- ❖ **The parking lot across the street is purchased**
- ❖ **Youth perform in a 'Live' Easter drive-thru in the parking lot.**
- ❖ **May kicks off "I Love My Church" program to raise monies for special projects beyond tithing.**
- ❖ **We are a sponsoring church for the Area-Wide Paul Jackson Crusade in Conroe.**
- ❖ **The new church library formally opens**
- ❖ **The Walnut Cove (later, the Calvary Road) Baptist Mission asks for our help. We guarantee minimum of \$100 per month.**
- ❖ **The observance of Lord's Supper is held at the Willis Convalescence Center. 30 participate.**

1988

- ❖ *The choir leads a fund-raiser to purchase 51 new hymnals. We perform our first major cantata, "The Day He Wore My Crown".*
- ❖ *Booths are constructed by Singles Dept. for a carnival after VBS. Will become an annual occasion.*
- ❖ *Alarm system is installed*
- ❖ *Evangelism Explosion begins to train teams to effectively witness to the community.*
- ❖ *The Pantry provided food for 305 people. Clothes closet provided at least 3 outfits for 12 people.*
- ❖ *School Supplies were provided for 13 families*
- ❖ *43 "care boxes" are delivered to Seaman's Center of Houston.*
- ❖ *17 Thanksgiving baskets delivered*
- ❖ *We provided food for 119 people through the "Share Your Christmas" project*
- ❖ *7 families were sponsored for Christmas*
- ❖ *Toys were provided for 25 children at the Hospitality House in Huntsville*
- ❖ *18 bags of clothing were taken to "Feed My Sheep Mission" of Houston. 27 bags were taken to the Salvation Army in Conroe.*

1989

- ❖ *Willis Chapter of AA begins meeting in Joy Fellowship.*
- ❖ *Youth ministry begins using summer interns to help with activities*
- ❖ *Calvary Road Mission becomes self-supporting as to Budget. First Baptist will continue to support with leadership and personnel*
- ❖ *330 are fed from Pantry*

1990

- ❖ *The Drug & Alcohol Abuse Center is built in Willis. In the years to come, volunteers from FBC will minister to this center including a Bible Study Group. Some of these at the center will become members of our church and SS.*
- ❖ *First Mexico Mission Trip*
- ❖ *30 Thanksgiving baskets are delivered.*

1991

- ❖ *Youth take their musical "Live It To The Max" on tour during the summer. Destinations include Lake Charles and Florida.*
- ❖ *The youth spent a week working at Fletcher and Gano Mission Centers in Houston with Mildred McWhorter. Avg. att. Is 30. They learned that you don't have to go to Mexico to do mission work. Brotherhood contributed funds for supplies.*
- ❖ *Renovation on Joy Fellowship & Youth Dept. begins.*
- ❖ *Dedication for new Calvary Road Church buildings is Dec. 1.*

1992

- ❖ *A BarBQ is prepared by the Brotherhood to raise money for the Mexico Mission Trip.*
- ❖ *76 youth and adults were involved in Disciple Now.*
- ❖ *Pony Express Stewardship Program is implemented. At the end of 16 weeks, giving is up; pledges of \$289,000 and \$25,800 for Challenge Now is accounted for; \$100,262 is received for budget.*
- ❖ *Early service begins.*
- ❖ *Children's Choir tour includes Greenspoint Mall and Calvary Road Baptist.*
- ❖ *Over 600 people are fed from the pantry.*
- ❖ *Lottie Moon offering goal is \$6000. \$7799.56 is collected.*

1993

- ❖ *Average Attendance is 273*
- ❖ *Youth travel to the inner city of Chicago for mission trip.*
- ❖ *Calvary Road Mission is constituted as a new church in June.*
- ❖ *The lots for parking across from south side of our church are purchased.*
- ❖ *James and Judy Featherstone travel to Bulgaria to teach pastors and wives.*
- ❖ *Long-range planning is formed to study the future of our church.*
- ❖ *Watchman Prayer Ministry begins.*

1994 - The Charles Smith Years

- ❖ 1994 Ernest Temple (Interim)
- ❖ 1994 - Charles Smith

1994

- ❖ "Fresh Encounters" is studied in Sunday School.
- ❖ White church van is purchased.
- ❖ Needham Road Mission begins.
- ❖ Our first Promise Keepers trip.

1995

- ❖ Parsonage is converted into classrooms.
- ❖ Church-wide Experiencing God is held as the evening service beginning in August.
- ❖ Choir presents the first annual Christmas Dinner Theater.

1996

- ❖ We purchase the property across the freeway.
- ❖ Needham Rd. purchases property for a church building
- ❖ Basic plans for new church are drawn up.
- ❖ As of July, we have 47 baptisms and 38 transfers in.

1997

- ❖ City annexes our new property.
- ❖ Our present property in town is placed on the market for \$950,000.
- ❖ Avg. attendance is 323.

1998

- ❖ FBC joined other churches of different faiths for the Willis Area Crusade at the Stadium.
- ❖ Architecture work of Phase II for new building is authorized to Mark Todd.
- ❖ 60 Thanksgiving baskets delivered.
- ❖ We implement first and second SS sessions running simultaneously with first and second church services.

1999

- ❖ FAITH Outreach begins.
- ❖ The phone tree is purchased.
- ❖ 608 enrolled in VBS.
- ❖ 12 new SS classes.
- ❖ Average SS attendance is 380.
- ❖ We sponsor a new mission – Lake Forest Community Church.

