

# Lineville Baptist Mission

by  
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Lineville Baptist (Photo by G.W. Molleston)

The Lineville Baptist Church is a Southern Missionary Baptist organization.

Several people in the community had been holding church services in the old Theatre building on the south west corner of the square in Lineville, Iowa., which they rented. A survey was started to find out how many people would be interested in a church and how many would attend meetings. Feeling that enough interest was manifest, they called Rev. Harry Clifton to conduct a revival. This meeting was held in a tent on the ground where the church stands to-day. Several people were converted. Thus the Baptist Mission was organized.

They must have an older church, called the "Mother" church to watch over their growth until they are able to "walk alone". The church in Princeton, Missouri was the Mother Church.

Some of the organizers were; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Otto McCarty, Mr. and Mrs. Oral Snodgrass, Mr. and Mrs. Minor Place, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Rockhold, Mr. and Mrs. Doral Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Relford and Miss Wanda Hollenger.

Now began the movement to build their own church home. Yancy Wasson gave the land and plans were completed for the erection of the lovely church building. The first shovel of dirt taken at the ground breaking ceremony was taken by Peter Perkins, one of the oldest members.

The church building is perhaps 40 x 100 ft. and is of brick and cement construction. The church faces the east on highway 65, just north of the business district. On each side of the entrance vestibule is a small room, each complete with pulpit and chairs, one room was for the elderly men and one for elderly women. Upon entering the main sanctuary one is impressed by the spiritual atmosphere. The lighting effects were perfect. The pulpit and baptismal font and choir loft all were unique in the fact that directly behind the pulpit was a large opening, the lower portion being of glass. Behind the scene the candidate for baptism climbed a short

flight of steps, across a landing and descends down a few steps into the baptistry, being unseen by the audience until in the baptistry. Then only the upper body is seen. As the minister starts saying the baptismal service, blue lights are turned on creating the effect of being in the ocean. This is very impressive. At the back of the church is the cradle roll nursery and primary rooms. The basement is fully equipped with heating system, kitchen, dining room and rest rooms.

Ministers serving the church since its dedication in are Rev. Lew Barton, 1957 - Rev. Wilbur Wilcox, 1958-59 - Dick Dillenger, 1960-61-62, Rev. Norris Ramsey, 1962.

Mr. Lowery of Princeton, Mo. gave the seats. Mr. Baldwin had two chairs and the pulpit made of walnut and gave them to the church. Peter (Pete) Perkins bought and donated the beautiful old walnut, hand made pulpit from the Elm Chapel and it is attractive in the ladies class room. Rev. Dick Dillinger bought a new piano for the church when he was pastor in 1961.

Doral Porter has been song leader and choir director continuously since the churches beginning.

As of December 2, 1962, the membership is 150, Sunday School attendance 115 and the collection \$163 that day.

Overheard;

One minister from Missouri was heard to say. "It took 80 gal. of water to get into the church, and just a few sprinkles to keep one out."

In Missouri there was a church on ever cross road. A negro was ask. "Sambo are you a christian?" "No, sir, I's a Baptist." was his reply.

This verse of scripture seems to apply to this church. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans, 8:28

Rev. Norris Ramsey continued to serve as Pastor for the years 1963-65-68. Edwin Cline was Pastor in 1966-7.