

Seymour Baptist Church

by
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Early information by Mrs. Nora Stone and other sources.



Baptist Church, Seymour, Iowa.

(Photo by J.A. Magers)

The Baptist Church was organized in 1868 under the name of New Salem Baptist Church of Seymour, Iowa. Services were held in the school house.

In 1874 the second annual meeting of the Center-ville Baptist Association met at New Salem Baptist Church in Seymour, Wayne, county.

In 1875 the State Associational meeting was held at the Mr. Ararat church in Appanoose county. Here the name of New Salem church was changed to the Baptist Church of Seymour. Rev. A.W. Sutton was pastor in 1879. Rev. Jonathan Lee was pastor in 1895.

Quoting from an item in the State report of 1879. "Seymour had been without a pastor for some time, they say "After we had secured a man of God to go in and out before us, a meeting place was denied us, and in this emergency we resolved to arise and build" and 'by the grace of Him who said "I am with you always" they have a house inclosed of goodly size and fair proportions. On March 20, 1879 the trustees, E.K. Clark, J.W. Young and Rev. A.W. Sutton bought four lots of G.W. DeCamp for the sum of \$75.00, for the church. In the spring of 1880 they built a small wooden structure on these lots just south of the present brick

church. The building and furnishings cost \$1,800.00. The Rev. Sutton was the first pastor and E.K. Clark was the first Sunday School Supt.

In 1900 they voted to build a new church and on Oct. 6, 1901 the present brick structure was dedicated under the leadership of Rev. A.E. Clemens, pastor. He served the church for twenty years, and retired March 13, 1912.

Other pastors have been; Rev. C.W. Heady, C.R. Watrus, L.W. Verts, 1946, also 1923-28, S.A. Hauser, 1928-32, J.W. Weeks in 1958-9 and Richard F. Cagle, Sept, 59, 1960-61-62. The Rev. W.M. Cleeton was their pastor for a good many years. From 1932-53, Rev. D.Keith Derks, 1953-8, Gilbert Hamilton, 1963 to 1972.

From the Seymour Herald of Aug. 1935 we find that the church sent Missionaries and Ordained Ministers out in the Lord's work. Lillah L. Kirby was a missionary in Puebla, Mexico 1913-20 and then to California, Bernard Armstrong went to Africa, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Hughes went to Chicago, Rev. Peter Thomas to Sayre, Oklahoma, and Arthur Hauser was ordained June 27, 1930. Gilbert Hamilton, ordained Feb. 4, 1963.