

First Baptist Church of Tallmadge, Ohio Celebrated 75 Years of God's Faithfulness

On Sunday, April 7, 2013, the First Baptist Church of Tallmadge, formerly known as Fundamental Baptist Church, celebrated its 75th anniversary as a local New Testament church. One hundred plus members, former members, and friends attended the event. The historic occasion featured notable memories by former pastors Rev. David Henry and Rev. Dale Fisher in a two hour program. Founding Pastor B. F. Cate was represented by his daughter and son-in-law, Bruce & Catherine (Cate) Detweiler, and granddaughter, Mrs. Cathy McWhirter.

The day commenced with guests arriving at 9:30 a.m. to casually rekindle former friendship along with a pictorial power point viewing seven decades of ministry in action. After some preliminary recognition by current Pastor Stephen L. Mortimer, the *Doxology* was sung followed by the choir singing *Great and Glorious*. Mrs. McWhirter then sang *Rescue the Perishing*, one of two favorite hymns of Rev. Cate. Mr. Detweiler offered two historic readings of the early years which he had compiled along with Rev. Cate years earlier.

Other former members, Rev. Bill Cord and son, Mr. Adam Cord shared testimonials of God's mercy and faithfulness to them recalling many people, present and with the Lord, who influenced their lives to trust God, God's word, and the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Savior. Musical packages were shared by former member Mr. Randy Brown and his quartet, former choir director and soloist Mrs. Cathy Morrison, and current member and pastor's wife Mrs. Joan Mortimer.

A testimonial interlude was extended to those present where several recalled the blessing of God in their lives by decisions made at FBCT. Current missionaries Ken & Judy Boothe were present and received a surprise love gift to assist them as they return to a new field in Southeast Asia doing Bible translation work. Pastor Steve closed the celebration with a challenge for all to return to God's strategy of reaching lost, hurting souls by living in obedience to Christ and not fleshly strategies from 2 Cor. 10:3-6.

What Baptist gathering would be complete without a celebratory dinner? All guests were welcome to enjoy an anniversary dinner including: lasagna, crispy fried chicken, potato jojos, fresh toasted salad, and Italian bread. An anniversary cake and cup cakes rounded out everyone's fellowship. Many remained beyond 2 PM leaving behind many kind words echoing their refreshment and encouragement that God's people at FBCT have marked in their lives..