



Historic Franconia Legacies

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SPRING 2005

BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH 1870 - 1954

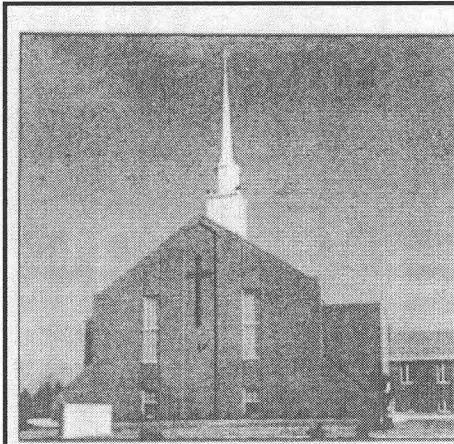
This story is an excerpt from a booklet prepared in January 1976 by C.L. Bishop, Pastor, Franconia Baptist Church.

Franconia was an isolated community consisting of a cross roads, a railroad station and a general store in 1870. Only a few families lived here. Not all the land was cleared, but farming was the principal vocation.

The original record book has been preserved and from the minutes of business meetings we learn that The Church Covenant was adopted November 10, 1870, and for this reason we celebrate that date as the anniversary of our church.

First record of new members received was: Mrs. Jane Potter, George Lyles, John Hall, William Dove, Fred Lyles, William Devers, Mrs. Bin Devers, by letter; and two for baptism on the afternoon of June 25, 1871. Rev. C. H. Ryland was moderator and A. Martin was clerk.

J. T. Talbert was elected delegate to the association to be held at Berryville on July 18, 1871. Church discipline in the early years consisted of bringing charges, having committees to investigate and report. Some wayward members were dismissed; others who expressed repentance for their misdeeds



Calvary Road Baptist sets new building cornerstone

were restored to the fellowship of the church.

The church sexton was paid \$1.50 for his services May 22, 1872. The pastor's collection was \$3.44. Rev. B. P. Dulin became pastor February 2, 1873. Pledges were taken for his salary and \$67.50 was subscribed, J. T. Talbert, Clerk.

Rev. W. S. Kerns became pastor December 16, 1877, to preach two Sundays in each month. Baptizing in Backlick Run was conducted November 17, 1878, with seven believers being baptized.

On August 18, 1907, "The church having been without a pastor for quite awhile" called Rev. C. K. Hobbs. A revival was held with 29 professing faith and 17 baptized.

In 1908 one-half acre of land was purchased for \$20 as a building site. Rev. W. E. Langford was called as pastor February 13, 1910. Rev. Clifton W. Storke became pastor in 1912.

Miss Georgia Talbert, who still lives in this community, led in taking an offering August 11, 1912, to complete payment on the church building. A total of \$1,361.78 had been spent for construction of the new house of worship.

Rev. Gerald Payne became pastor March 16, 1915. Rev. Willis L. Ways "was sent by the State Board" and served 12 months. He was succeeded by Rev. R. P. Rixey. Rev. O. P. Lloyd was pastor of the church

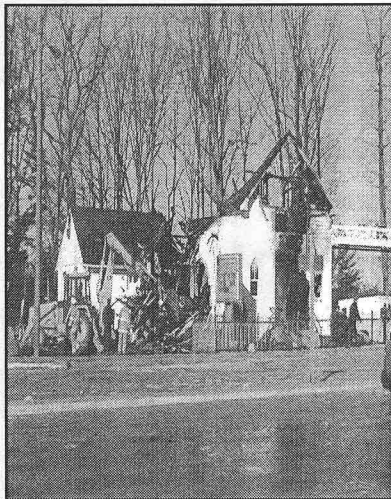
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Historic Laurel Grove Baptist Church consumed by fire.

As I drove up to the church on the day of the fire, I was struck by the amount of devastation. I guess I thought that even through this challenge, the church would be still standing. When I saw what remained I started to remember.....,

I remembered the first time I came to the church. My cousin had found this little church and wanted us to go. Until that time, we were traveling to Arlington to attend a much bigger church. I remember the dear Deacons that were there. I remember the songs they used to sing and the prayers they prayed. Deacon Robinson used to sing, "This Old Building Keeps on Leaning. I've gotta move to a better home". Deacon Baker used to pray and my sister and I could repeat it word for word. I remember stepping out in the aisle, giving

(Continued on page 4)



Laurel Grove destroyed by fire Dec 2004

The congregation of Laurel Grove Baptist Church would like to thank all of you for your prayers, your kindness and generosity as we work towards rebuilding our historic place of worship. God has blessed us with friends like you. We send a personal thank you letter to all donors whose contributions were sent to the church with a return address attached. Unfortunately, we have no way of identifying individuals whose donations were made at the Wachovia Bank as they do not provide us with that information. We want to express a special thanks to Olivet Episcopal Church for giving us a place to worship since December. We invite all of you to stop by and worship with us on any Sunday morning. Again, thanks to all of you for the wonderful support you have provided the Laurel Grove church family in their time of need. Delores Comer-Frye

