

1894 - 1963

SIXTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY



Friendship Baptist Church

Davis Street
Greeneville, Tennessee

"The Church with a Friendly Welcome"

700 Wesley Avenue C. C. Mills, Minister Telephone 638-7255

**"To all who are friendless and need friendship—to all who
are despondent and seek peace of mind—to all
who are sinners and need a Saviour—
to those who are christians**

THE CHURCH DOORS STAND AJAR

August 21-25, 1963

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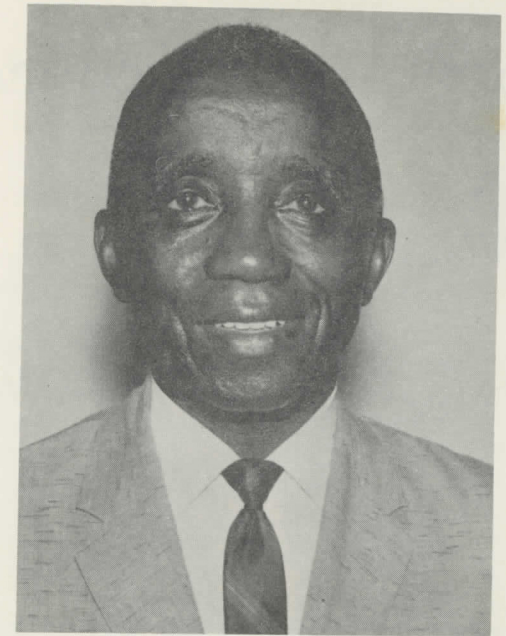
GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE

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GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE



DEDICATION

the Friendship Baptist C

In recognition of the sixty-ninth Anniversary of Greenville, Tennessee, this book is respectfully and thankfully dedicated to the Rev. Wm. H. Stokely, who labored faithfully and untiringly during his administration to make Friendship a better church to serve the people; he went to great extents to make Greenville a better place in which to live.

May we all become imbued with the enthusiasm he exemplified in order that we might initiate and activate the expansion of our church edifice and facilities, thereby enlarging our scope of service to God and the community.

Pastor's Message

TO THE MEMBERS:

As we pause to observe our 69th Anniversary, let us thank God for His goodness to us through the years. We realize that God asks us to do the impossible. The impossible not only takes longer, but it also takes courage. We in the Church must have the qualities of mind and heart which enable us to surmount difficulties with patience and confidence.

Courage is of the intellect and will; it requires determination and perserverance. The church is everybody's business, but it is your leadership as christians that should keep Friendship Baptist Church on a higher plateau in order that a proper image might be projected.

Our 69th Anniversary observance calls for re-evaluation of our goals. We need to test our values, reappraise our growth, and face up to those ills in our Christian society which impede our progress. We must recognize that all of the issues in the world today have spiritual overtones, and that the way we face these issues determine the christian image we give to the world.

Reverence for the past is important, but the past must not lay heavily upon the present or future. We must appraise and accept the challenges of our times. We must put on the full armor of Christ and go forward through the ages. Only then will Friendship Baptist be able to do its part in curing some of the ills in our society.

Let us observe this 69th Anniversary with renewed courage to do the impossible, to approach our task with humility—not pride, and to conquer with love in a world of hate. With these concepts we will, indeed, go forward to greater heights.

O, Church of God, I salute thee!
House for the sinful—Home for the righteous,
Haven for the broken—Harbor for the storm-tossed
Heaven for the needy and dying.

I love Thy church, O God, Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye, and graven on Thy hand.

— The Pastor.



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Left to right: Miss Audrey N.
Not pictured: Mrs. James W.
The committee offers grateful
sixty-ninth anniversary.

Church History

In the year 1894 a small group of Baptist believers in Christ under the leadership of the Rev. C. W. McGee met in the warehouse of Doughty-Stevens on Depot and Railroad Streets of Greeneville, Tennessee, to organize the Friendship Baptist Church. It was at this location that the first worship service were held.

The Rev. Farmer followed the Rev. McGee and brought the congregation from the warehouse to a little gun shot house on Railroad Street. Soon the small house was somewhat enlarged to meet the needs of the growing membership. During the leadership of the Rev. Farmer the first parsonage was constructed.

Other ministers to serve at the above named site include the Rev. Snow, Nathaniel Tolliver, A. R. and J. B. Thompson. The church was remodeled under the leadership of Rev. J. M. Thompson, who served as pastor until his death.

In the year 1925 the Rev. H. J. Bailey was called to the church and served until 1929, at which time the Rev. Wm. H. Stokely of the First Church of South Lynchburg, Va., came to serve us. Rev. Stokely was an energetic young man who immediately realized that the membership was growing and that a larger building was necessary to meet the needs of the church.

In 1934 under his leadership the new church that was uttermost in his mind became a reality. The congregation moved into the present structure, located on Davis Street. This church stands as a monument to the Rev. Stokely—the man who labored untiringly until it was completed and equipped both inside and outside.

The Rev. G. Allen Boyd of the First Church of Pinkhill, N. C. took up the pastorage of our church in 1946. During his administration the church progressed financially, and improvements were made to meet the trends of modern developments. The present parsonage was purchased and remodeled under his leadership.

In 1951 the Rev. W. C. Morrison of Louisiana came to the church as leader. He at the very beginning saw the need for a Junior Church, and there he placed his major emphasis. Soon a strong Junior Church emerged. Other outstanding improvements were made during his stay in Greeneville.

Following the Rev. W. C. Morrison, the Rev. R. L. Addison served the church as leader for a very brief period.

In 1955 the Rev. C. C. Mills of Jefferson City, Tennessee, accepted the pastorate of the church. Under his most capable leadership the Friendship Baptist Church is still progressing spiritually and financially. New enthusiasm is being manifested by the members daily, for the life of our leader, which is a dedicated one in the service of Christ, serves as an inspiration for both young and old to give of themselves in loyal service to the church.

An incident not to be forgotten soon in the lives of all Friendship members was the burning of the church in . . . At first we were in despair, but by hard work on the part of the members and by the efficient guidance of our leader, Rev. C. C. Mills, the church was soon restored. Our attention now is directed to a new parsonage, which is now in the process of being constructed.

The journey from the large, dark warehouse to the present beautiful church has been quite a struggle, but God has seen us through. To Him and to the loyal, true members (past and present) we owe a debt of gratitude.

GEORGE

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