

*Nevertheless  
the foundation  
of God standeth  
sure...*

*2 Tim 2.19*

# Antioch

## BAPTIST CHURCH



## CELEBRATING OUR 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL 1941-2011



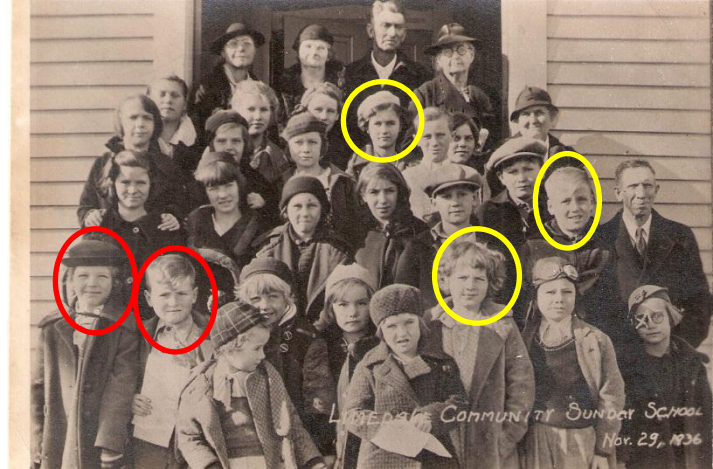
### SERVICES:

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM**  
**MORNING WORSHIP 10:30 AM**  
**SUNDAY EVENING 6:00 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING 7:00 PM**

**PASTOR: RON KNAPP**  
**PHONE: 765-653-8227**  
<http://abcgreencastle.yolasite.com>

70 years ago, Bro. Earl Abbott of McKinney Baptist Church near Somerset, KY was burdened with a growing concern about the spiritual needs of his nieces and nephews in Greencastle, IN.

There were some churches and an organized Sunday school in the area but the LORD had impressed upon him to come to Greencastle.



The result was a tent meeting held in Limedale in June 1941. Bro. Charles Ballou assisted in this effort which was blessed by the Lord with the salvation of four souls: Earl Abbott's sister-in-law Nyla Abbott, his nephew Edwin Cook (row 3) and nieces Edith (row 2) and Edna Mae Cook (row 4). Also pictured are Iola Cook Miller (row 2 first from left) and Ernst Cook (row 2 second from left).

Encouraged by this promising start five charter members met on Saturday, September 6, 1941 in a rented building 1/4 mile west of Hammrick Station (just off Manhattan/Greencastle Rd.) and organized Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.



**Antioch's first building before and after**



**Antioch's charter members**

The charter members were Ivan Cook, his brother Homer Cook, Illa (Stites) Price, Elmer Abbott and his sister Lucille Cook. Pictured to the left are Elmer Abbott, Ivan Cook, Lucille Cook and Homer Cook at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church.



**Antioch's First Pastor**

The next day the organization of the church was duly celebrated with an all-day-meeting, singing and dinner on the grounds. Bro. Charles Ballou was called as the first pastor and two deacons were ordained, James Hood and Ivan Cook. A baptismal service in Walnut Creek rounded out the activities of this glorious weekend.

The fledgling church grew in spirit and number, and a movement started growing about trying to secure a building of their own. An appropriate property was found closer to town on Mt. Olive Road. The 1 1/4 acres were purchased on March 27, 1950 from Frank and Ada Collins. Meetings were held on the land to pick the best building site. Then on May 9, 1951 a decision was made to start to build. The members responded with enthusiasm and \$750 were pledged that day. Surely a princely and sacrificial sum for that time!

Excavation started right away with a 'slip-scoop', a device pulled behind a tractor while at the same time pushed by a worker to move about a wheelbarrow full of dirt. Although partially mechanized, it was still hard work. Most of the labor was supplied by the members as it is still today. On October 28, 1951 the work had progressed sufficiently to hold the first service in the basement.



**At the dedication of the basement building**

About this time the leadership of the church changed. Bro. Ballou resigned September 1951 after a decade of pastoring the congregation at Antioch. Bro. William Cox, an ordained deacon who later was also ordained as minister by Antioch Church, led the services until the arrival of the next pastor, Bro. Steve Montgomery on May 21, 1952.



**Pastor Montgomery**

The Lord had a short pastorate for Bro. Steve in mind in Greencastle because on July 15, 1953 Bro. Montgomery accepted a call to the mission field in Japan. He became Antioch's first foreign missionary sponsored by the church.

Before setting off to Japan the upper portion of the church building was completed. Bro. Montgomery believes the rapid completion of the upper part of the building was directly connected with Antioch's decision to designate regular offerings for missions. This was done September 17, 1953. Two weeks later, Mr. Crowley, the contractor had everything framed in and roofed. On November 23, 1952 the dedication service was held.



**Upper portion completed**



**Pastor Eddie and Neva Sullivan**

Four months later the vacancy of the pastorate was filled by Bro. Edgar Sullivan. During his tenure at Antioch, Bro. Eddie acquired a family: he married Neva Nixon a girl from Arkansas and his son David was born.

On January 15, 1958 the Sullivan's departed to Marion, IN to accept the leadership of the First Missionary Baptist Church.

Antioch was not without a shepherd very long. Bro. Ellis Smiley was chosen to lead the flock of Antioch on March 23, 1958. Bro. Smiley was no stranger to Antioch. He had been ordained to the ministry here in 1953, was selected as assistant pastor in 1954, and since 1956 had been in charge of the work at Sixpoint, IN.



**William and Glennie Cox with Edna Mae and Ellis Smiley**

Bro. Ellis Smiley resigned the leadership of the Church on August 19, 1964 to begin a mission work in the area of Cunot, IN. On July 23, 1965 Antioch Missionary Baptist Church voted to 'extend an arm' to the group meeting in Cunot by paying the rent (\$40) and furnish songbooks and seats. The mission was later organized into Faith Baptist Church of Cloverdale. IN.

Bro. Smiley was succeeded by Bro. Leslie Acton. Probably the largest baptism in our history took place during his pastorate on July 26, 1968 with 14 candidates: Ronald Cox (14), Gary Cox(12), Mark Cox (10), David Sims (13), Jimmy Sims (12), Brent Sims (10), Danny Smiley (15), Sharon Smiley (11), Janice Smiley (9), Brenda Garl (13), Becky Dudley (6), Patty Burks (10), Ray Miller (12), and Donna Cook (12).



**Pastor Acton and his wife**



**Baptism of Sharon Smiley Hoskins, Ray Miller and Mark Cox**

In January 1971 Bro. Acton offered his resignation effective March 28. He did not completely retire but did some Mission work in the Bainbridge area.



**Pastor James McCoy and family**

In July of 1971, Bro. James McCoy accepted the call for pastor. He and his family served until the end of 1979 when he left for Hawaii to become a missionary pastor.

Bro. Mark Cox, a young man raised and baptized in Antioch Church (see photos of baptisms on previous page), was selected to take over the reins on January 20, 1980. Nine years later he moved to Pinckneyville, IL to lead Holts Prairie Baptist Church in the service of the Lord. It was during his pastorate that Antioch's tape ministry was begun as a means to reach out to those who could not make it to the services.



**Pastor Mark and Donna Cox**

He was followed by Bro. Bill Belcher from Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Georgetown, LA. Bro. Bill held his first services at Antioch November 5, 1989. It was during his pastorate that Antioch Baptist Church started its Awana's (A workman and not ashamed) program aimed at reaching and teaching young people what it means to live as a Christian. He pastored Antioch until February of 2000.



**Pastor Bill Belcher and Karin**

Bro. Shannon Ivers accepted the call to pastor the flock at Antioch on July 22, 2001. Every Sunday morning he would have the congregation recite John 17.17, Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. He pastored the church until March 12, 2006.

Bro. Travis Gilbert from Dearborn Baptist Church in southeast Indiana accepted the pastorate of Antioch Baptist Church in August of 2006. During his pastorate Antioch officially joined the World Wide Web with its own webpage debuting in March of 2007. In November 2009 Bro. Gilbert moved to Texas to serve as a minister of Rodgers Baptist Church.



**Pastor Travis Gilbert and family**

Antioch was without a pastor until September of 2010 when Bro. Ron Knapp accepted the call. Bro. Ron and his family had been members of Faith Baptist Church of Cunot, IN (started as a mission from Antioch in 1965). Please uphold him and his family in prayer as they follow the Lord and serve our congregation.



**Pastor Ron Knapp and family**