

HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
MARION, OHIO

- 1780- The FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH was formed by Benjamin Randall of New Hampshire. He strongly opposed the Calvinistic teachings of his day, totally rejecting the extreme emphasis Calvinist Baptists placed on "election" as the basis by which God would designate some to be saved and others not. The doctrine was Armenian, so-named after Joseph Arminius of the Dutch Reformed Church. The doctrine proclaimed that the concept of predestination which was so common among many early churches was flawed, and that salvation is for everyone; that Jesus died for all mankind, not just the social "elect." These FREEWILL BAPTISTS were part of a larger entity recognized as SEPARATIST BAPTISTS, as opposed to REGULAR BAPTISTS, who resisted strongly the concept of evangelism for everyone.
- In 1841 this group merged with another group, known as the "FREE COMMUNION BAPTISTS," and the merged group adopted the name "FREE BAPTIST CHURCH." In 1907, the FREE BAPTIST in the north merged with the NORTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION; that name was in effect from 1907 to 1950. From 1950 TO 1979 the name, "AMERICAN BAPTIST CONVENTION" was used, and since 1979 the official name has been "AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN THE U.S.A."
- 1803- State of Ohio entered the union.
- 1811- Jacob Foos discovered the spring later known as Jacob's Well.
- 1820- Marion County was established.
- 1821- Eber Baker settled near Jacob's Well.
- 1821- Marion (city) was founded by Eber Baker and Alexander Holmes.
- 1824- Marion's first church was organized by Reverend David Dudley and Reverend Samuel Bradford. This was the FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH. They first met in a brick schoolhouse on West Street (now North Prospect). In 1827, George Baker united with the church and became its prime leader until he moved from Marion to Licking County in 1837. When he left, the church began to decline.
- 1827- The GENERAL CONFERENCE OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS was formed.
- 1841- FREE BAPTIST CHURCH was established by the merger of FREE WILL BAPTISTS and FREE COMUNION BAPTISTS.
- 1841- Reverend Isaac Ditsan began meetings in a barn owned by Jacob Ulsh, southeast of Marion. As this group developed, a building was erected on the corner of Summit Street and Mt. Vernon Ave - an undeveloped area at the time.
- 1842- Eber Baker donated a lot on the east side of South Vine Street to the Ditsan congregation and a new church building was erected there. The cornerstone of that building has been incorporated in the front of the present Trinity Baptist Church building at 216 South Main Street. It is inscribed, "FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, ERECTED A.D. 1842."
- 1845- The AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETY, a component member of the TRIENNIAL CONVENTION, adopted a resolution declaring that thereafter the members should act in separate organizations, representing south and north, prompted by the slavery issue, and triggered by the position taken in 1840 by Reverend R.E. Patterson of Boston, then secretary of the

FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY, that he would not vote to appoint a slave-holder as a missionary. The south, offended by the actions, withdrew and formed the SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION by resolution passed on May 12, 1845.

- 1860- The WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY was organized, with Mrs. Edward Durfee as President; the minister was Reverend Patch.
- 1865- Increased membership led to the building of a new edifice on East Center Street, one block east of the courthouse, at a cost of \$16,000.00.
- 1885- The FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH was organized with Reverend A. J. Wiant as pastor. Initially their services were held at the Calvary Church on East Church Street, later they moved into a building on North State Street - a building later used by the Seventh Day Adventist congregation. This group united with the FREE WILL BAPTIST group on September 24, 1911, and the united congregation adopted the name "TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH."
- 1908- The Free Baptist Church erected the church edifice at 220 S. Main - now known as Trinity Baptist Church.
- 1911- The Free Baptist and First Baptist united and worshipped as one body of believers.
- 1912- Trinity Baptist Church was organized in April combining 260 members of the FREE BAPTIST CHURCH with 150 members of the FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 410 total.
- 1913- Fite Memorial Church was organized with 46 charter members. This developed from a Sunday School started by Trinity in a four room cottage on Darius Street, with Miss Anna Fite as the first Sunday School superintendent.
- 1917- Emmanuel Baptist Church was organized along similar lines, beginning with a Sunday School started by Trinity about 1910. By 1916 attendance exceeded 100, and plans were initiated to build a suitable facility. Gifts were received - the first recorded being \$100.00 by then Senator Warren G. Harding. The new structure was dedicated on March 17, 1917 with the first pastor, Reverend James Wynn conducting the service.
- 1957- Trinity educational wing was erected adjoining the main building to the south, at a cost of approximately \$190,000.00.
- 1962- Fair Park Community Baptist Church was established with 54 charter members.
- 1980- Trinity Baptist Christian Center was acquired (former Marion Public Library Building) at a cost of \$125,000.00.

PASTORS

FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH

1824- Rev. David Dudley
Rev. Samuel Bradford
Rev. A. Hatch
1837 Rev. J. Wallace
1837-1841 Rev. George Baker

FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

(formed by merger - FREEWILL & FREE COMMUNION BAPTISTS)

1841-1850 Rev. Isaac Ditson
1850-1857 Rev. George Baker (second term)
1857-1876 Rev. S.D. Bates (19 years)
1876-1879 Rev. J.W. Parsons
1879-1880 Rev. Addison Jones
1880-1881 Rev. O.D. Patch
1881-1884 Rev. Oscar E. Baker (son of George Baker)
1884-1887 Rev. O.W. Waldron
1887-1889 Rev. M.C. Miner
1889-1891 Rev. W.P. Hale
1891-1894 Rev. B.F. Bell
1894-1900 Rev. D.B. Martin
1900-1912 Rev. George E. Barnard (12 years)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1885 - Rev. Andrew J. Wiant (founder)
Rev. A.W. Yale
Rev. J.R. Downer
Rev. J.W. Sith
Rev. Thomas Murphy
Rev. Will W. Ferris
Rev. Bartley
Rev. J.W. Hawker
1897 Rev. A.W. Pense
1897 - 1904 Rev. J. Tudor Lewis (7 years)
1904 - 1912 Rev. J.P. Currin (9 years)

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

1912	- 1915	Rev. Walter A. King
1915	- 1923	Rev. T.H. McAfee
1921	- 1925	Rev. George M. Landis
1925	- 1928	Rev. Ulysses S. Davis
1928	- 1941	Rev. Lawrence A. Wood (13 years)
1942	- 1961	Rev. J.B. Holloway (19 years)
1943	- 1945	Rev. W.P. Benhan - Interim
1945	- 1945	Dr. Ambrose Bailey - Interim
1954	- 1957	Rev. Rev. Warren W. Lindstrom, Asst & DCE
1961	- 1961	Rev. Eugene Brown & Rev. John Brizendine - Interim
1961	- 1973	Rev. Herschel T. Roper
1964	- 1966	Rev. Paul L. Webb II, Minister of Music & Education
1967	- 1971	Rev. Marvin J. Strom, Associate Pastor
1973	- 1974	Rev. Harold O. McNeil - Interim
1974	- 1993	Dr. Robert S. Ginn
1985	- 1995	Rev. William J. Smart, Associate Pastor
1993	- 1994	Rev. Arthur G. Daniel - Interim
1995	- 1999	Rev. Anthony L. Jones - Youth Pastor
1994	- 2005	Rev. Steven E. Boothe - Senior Pastor
2000	- 2005	Rev. Jerry Funston - Youth Pastor
2006	- 2007	Rev. Lawrence Cook - Interim
2000	Present	Rev. Steven J. Roper - Pastor of Adult Ministries
2006	Present	Anthony R. Gualtieri - Youth Director
2007	Present	Dr. Richard A. Farmer - Senior Pastor