# History of Little Flock Baptist Church South Coffeyville, Oklahoma

### The Beginning – Blessings and Constraints

In 1887, as five members of Goose Neck Church, near Cedar Bluff on the east side of the Verdigris River enjoyed the Benefits of having a regular place to worship the Lord, it became painfully evident that their ability to arrive safely across the Verdigris River was limited during times of high water periods.

Whether walking or riding a wagon, these dedicated members found it difficult to safely cross the river, especially during times of inclement weather.

This concern prompted "the fabulous five", Sis. Mahalia Brown, Sis. Jane Smith, Sis. Matilda Lacy, Sis. Emma Campbell & Sis. Malissia Foster to Organize a Church on the West side of the river.

## Plan of Action - The Journey Begins

The ladies built a one-room house for the purpose of worshipping the Lord. The Rev. Joe Smith was called as the first Pastor and he suggested the name Little Flock because it consisted of a small group of Christian Women. The member of Little Flock made plans to supplement the financial needs of their new Pastor, The Rev. Joe Smith, Coffeyville, Kansas (Sis. Lizzie Smith-Boyd's father). They did not have money as we do today, so they decided to pay their Pastor ten cents per month from the money generated from selling eggs, milk and butter. They would also donate meat from their live stock and vegetables from their gardens.

Rev. Smith would drive from Coffeyville, Kansas in a "One Horse Cart" to preach to the parishioners on the first and third Sundays of each month. He would arrive on Saturday and leave for home on Monday. The framework for the future of Little Flock was established, thanks to the inspired vision of the fabulous five, the willingness of a caring Pastor Rev. Smith and the unwavering Love of Jesus Christ!

Later a rock building was constructed as a school on the grounds and the members moved into it to conduct services.

#### Leadership Changes and Transitions

Rev. Smith's health began to fail and he was no longer able to continue in his role as Pastor of Little Flock. He was truly a blessing to the ministry of Little Flock and will always be a crucial component of the Church's history!

Over the next several years, a number of Pastors lead Little Flock, beginning with Rev. Hollis, Rev. Duncan, Rev. Anderson, Rev. Walker, Rev. Thomas, Rev. Barnes and Rev. A. T. Tucker. These Pastors served from approximately 1888- 1908.

Rev. Tucker served many years during the "transitional period" and led an initiative to construct a frame Church building, before resigning in 1908 due to health problems. He would later move to Kansas City.

### Rev. G.F. Oliver - 1908 - 1931

Rev. G.F. Oliver was called to Pastor Little Flock in 1908. The membership increased and each member was asked to pay "dues" of \$.25 per month to help supplement the Pastor's salary and the Church's expenses. Later the membership would increase again and eventually the members would contribute \$.50 per month dues.

## Rev. D.L. Lacy - 1931 - 1967

Rev. D.L. Lacy was called to lead Little Flock as Pastor. Under his leadership the current church building was constructed. In 1952, Rev. Lacy announced at a church meeting that he was calling on the services of a long-term member, Rev. B.F. Colbert as his Assistant Pastor. The members received Rev. Colbert as Assistant Pastor by vote and he served in this capacity until the passing of Rev. D. L. Lacy on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1967.

#### Rev. B. F. Colbert - 1967 - 2000

After the passing of Rev. Lacy, the church called Rev. Colbert as Pastor with and initial understanding that the position would be "interim" since Rev. Colbert was also Pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Dewey, Oklahoma.

Pastor Colbert served as Little Flock's Pastor until the year 2000. Under his leadership, the Church advanced in many areas including faithful service in the ministry outreach functions and beyond. The facility received many enhancements including restroom enhancements, external lighting, air-conditioning and building upgrades.

The commitment of Pastor & Mrs. Colbert is a reminder of how God takes committed servants to shape the future for the Work of the Ministry. Even though they have gone to be with the Lord, the work of Rev. & Sis. B.F. Colbert will always be evident of the history of Little Flock!

## Rev. L.A. Brown - 2000 - 2007

In 2007, Little Flock called Rev. L.A. Brown, former assistant Pastor with Rev. Colbert, as their Pastor. Rev. Brown serviced diligently and was instrumental in several building initiatives including the current heating systems in the main sanctuary, as well as his work in the St. Paul District Baptist Association. Considered an elder statesman among area Pastors, He continues to be a great encourager of Ministers and Pastors throughout the St. Paul District Baptist Association and throughout the State of Oklahoma. He was instrumental in "standing in the gap" as the plan of God continued for the future of Little Flock.

# Rev. V.O. Orange - 2007 - Present

In July 2007, Pastor Brown resigned due to health concerns. Rev. Vincent Orange agreed to serve as interim until the church made the decision as a whole to call him as Pastor. On April 20, 2007, Rev. Orange was installed as Pastor of Little Flock Baptist Church. The church building has various renovations, goals, objectives and initiatives in process in which the ministry has faithfully executed thanks to the grace and faithfulness of God, the members of Little Flock and the prayers of the righteous.