

Furman University Once Here

Fairfield Baptists Set Homecoming August 1; Church History Is Given



Homecoming services will be held at Fairfield Baptist Church, located on the Jenkinsville highway (213), on August 1. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Hal Salisbury, evangelist, for the revival services to be held August 1 through August 6. Services will begin each night at 8 o'clock.

The original Fairfield Baptist Church was organized in 1820 by the Rev. Jonathan Davis, newly ordained minister from Monticello. Rev. Davis became president of the Board of Trustees of Furman University on December 17, 1835. At this time, the community surrounding the church was well populated with wealthy plantation owners, and Rev. Davis envisioned removal of the university to this area, and in time this did come about. However, due to transportation difficulties (no railroad passed near the school) and other problems, Furman was re-established at Greenville. Rev. Davis died in 1855. The original church building burned shortly thereafter, and all church records are believed to have been destroyed in the fire.

In 1858, all but two or three

members withdrew from Fairfield Church to form the First Baptist Church of Winnsboro. After the Civil War, no meetings were held in the old church, and it stood unattended until 1882. In that year, a Rev. Mahon from Union held revival services in an old log school located near the present site of Fairfield Church, and eight converts were won. As a result, Rev. Mahon encouraged three former members, Mrs. Emma Park Young, Mrs. Jane Park Gregg, and Mrs. Joella Park Robertson, to organize the church once more.

Rev. B. F. Corley became pastor of the newly organized Fairfield Baptist Church in 1884.

Under leadership of Rev. W. R. Briscoe, a new house of worship was built in 1902-1903, and was dedicated on August 9, 1903. Deacons at that time were J. T. Young, A. M. Park and John M. Timms. Sunday school rooms, a Baptistery, and the wooden frame enclosed in granite, were completed in 1949.

The present board of Deacons is composed of Robert Young, chairman, Phillip Timms, E. E. Mikell, and Tom Timms. The Rev. Richard H. Crapps is pastor.