

COPPER MINES FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH



1906 – 2006

**THE FIRST
ONE HUNDRED YEARS**

1906 – 2006

**CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP
OF THE
COPPER MINES
FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCH**

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED
BY THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF
COPPER MINES FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1300 MADISON 220
FREDERICKTOWN, MISSOURI 63645
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PASTOR'S DEDICATION

Faithfulness and endurance has brought Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church to this point in its history. Men and women have served the Lord faithfully year after year to see this church continue on. I Corinthians 3:6 tells the story simply but correctly, "God gave the increase." It is my privilege to pastor this great group of people for the purpose of advancing the kingdom of God. We dedicate this book to the previous pastors and members who have given themselves unselfishly to this local church. We also dedicate this book for God's honor. May we look to, "Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." We also want to say a big thank you to David and Sally Hovis, Vernon and Thelma Sikes, Butch Pirtle, Lon Rehkop, Kathy Lunsford, Steve Pirtle, and Eileen Provow for putting together this book. May these words ring true of us here at Copper Mines Church: "May the fire of our devotion light their way. May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe, and the lives we live inspire them to obey. O may all who come behind us find us faithful."

Written by: Pastor Darin Alvis

100 YEAR CHURCH HISTORY

On Saturday night, September 22, 1906, the Brothers and Sisters of the Copper Mines Church met and, after devotional exercises, were organized into a body of Free Will Baptists by the following presbytery: Rev. Fred Brotherton, Bro. Marion Sikes, and Bro. William Collier. The twelve charter members were as follows: Bro. J. H. Lee and Sis. Lee, Bro. John Baker, Bro. Henry Dalton, Sis. Dalton, Sis. Mary Baker, Sis. Mills, Bro. J. Stacy, Bro. William Boyer, Sis. Mary Boyer, Bro. Andrew Lumpkins, and Sis. Lumpkins.

On Saturday evening, before the fourth Sunday in March 1907, the Free Will Baptist Church of the Copper Mines and Slab Town (Catherine Place) was called to order by Bro. John Lee for devotional exercises. In the business session, the church adopted the name "Golden Gate", as given by the Quarterly Association. The church was known by this name for many years and services were alternated between the two locations. Bro. William Boyer was the first church clerk.



The first pastor was Rev. Fred Brotherton, who served in this capacity until April 19, 1924. His salary was approximately \$5.00 per month. He was elected August 17, 1907. He walked to services at the Golden Gate Church at Copper Mines, which were held in the Copper Mines Schoolhouse. He walked up the railroad tracks from Marquand, Missouri, which was approximately 16 miles.

Bro. William Boyer resigned as church clerk on February 15, 1908, and Bro. Sid Woods was elected.

On February 25, 1909, letters were issued to Jane Underwood, Kate Evans, J. Bollinger, S. Simmons, J. S. Sirculum, M. Simino, Ella Lewis, Maggie Miller, Marquite Sirculum, James P. Ervin, Fred Sirculum, Gus Simino, Almus Underwood, Nelley Collier, David Burns, Tommie Mann, Clara Bollinger, and Frank Dunklin for the purpose of organizing a church at Catherine Place.

Bro. John Hovis was elected church treasurer on February 28, 1909. An interesting note is Slabtown was called Catherine Place in those minutes and did not become that officially until new Highway 67 was completed in the latter 1960's.

During that period there were several church clerks, namely G. W. Baldwin, Lizzie Boyer, Annie Wheeler, Blanch Hovis, and Esther Hovis.

The minutes for the September 1919 service were very brief. They only read "Rained." Today, with our modern vehicles, we don't cancel services because of rain. But we must

remember, some of those dear old saints of the past walked several miles to attend church.

During that time, Sis. Esther Hovis moved away for a few years, and Sis. Bessie (Hovis) Underwood was the new church clerk. At that point, Sis. Bessie did a great service for the church records. She recopied the first page of the church records, listing the organization and the charter members. The original one had become badly torn and is missing at the present time. She gave a summary of the church thus far and it reads as follows:

“Since September 22, 1906, there have been a great many people joined the Free Will Baptist Church. But lots of them have died, moved away or backslidden. But there are yet remaining 56 members. But I hope and trust there will soon be more to add to the small number.” Bessie E. Hovis – January 15, 1922.

The Church Covenant was read and explained in the church for the first time on February 19, 1922, by Pastor Fred Brotherton.

Sis. Eunice Deblois was the church clerk beginning in October 1923. Between August 19, 1923, and September 16, 1923, Sis. Eunice Deblois became Sis. Eunice Hovis and her term of clerk ended, and Sis. Blanch Hovis became the church clerk. The next church clerk was Sis. Elizabeth Abernathy.

April 19, 1924, was the last recorded service for Rev. Fred Brotherton. Much praise can be given to this worker for the Lord.

The third Sunday night in July of 1929, Rev. J. L. Yancey was elected as pastor. March 22, 1930, church records are the last by Sis. Abernathy. The April 26, 1931, church clerk was Sis. Allene Hovis.

June 27, 1937, records list the deacons of the church as Harrison Hovis, Luke Abernathy, and Ray Thomas, with Ossa Broadfoot being the clerk at that time. John Broadfoot was elected as deacon on November 28, 1937, and ordained on December 26, 1937, along with Ray Thomas.

November 11, 1939, was the last service with Ossa Broadfoot as clerk. Bro. Willard Hovis was elected clerk December 3, 1939.

A two-week revival was held from August 22 to September 1, 1940, with Sis. Blanch Bacon as evangelist and Rev. J. L. Yancey conducting the services. There were four conversions with a baptizing on Sunday, September 1, 1940, with the candidates being Lindell Hovis, Dorothy Hovis, Evelyn Hovis, Pearl Vincent, and Dorothy Burcham.

April 19, 1942, was the last service recorded by Church Clerk Willard Hovis. He entered into the Armed Forces and gave his life for his country on March 26, 1945, crossing the Rhine. He was a Staff Sergeant and the son of Harrison and Annie Hovis.

The July 12, 1942, records begin the term of Church Clerk Leamon Killian. Sunday, August 16, 1942, was the last service of Rev. J. L. Yancey. He walked to many of the services from Fredericktown, a distance of about 5 miles.

Rev. S. A. Hand was elected pastor on August 5, 1942. Rev. Hand's first sermon as pastor of the church was August 23, 1942.

February 28, 1943, records show Bro. Leeman Underwood and Normal Henson, Jr., leaving to enter the Army.

On April 25, 1943, the church began services on Saturday night in addition to two Sunday services.

August 22, 1943 was the last service for Rev. S. A. Hand as pastor.

Rev. Woodrow Matthews was elected as pastor, and his first service in that capacity was September 12, 1943.

In 1943, a collection was begun for a church building fund and missions work. A small box called the "Jehoiada Chest", was carried by different members, each month collecting as much as they could.

July 14, 1946 was noteworthy. Present Church Treasurer Harry Hovis was converted, along with cousins Howard, Jimmie, and Walter Hovis. They were baptized August 11, 1946.

On September 8, 1946, it was decided to have church services twice monthly.

November 10, 1946, records the now Rev. Glenn Rehkop as being saved at the previous two-week revival. He was baptized November 17, 1946.

A special meeting was held October 10, 1947, for planning a new church, dimensions being 28' by 48' with a seating capacity of 130. On June 28, 1948, with a balance in the building fund of \$2,348.28, a meeting was held at which time it was decided to borrow the balance needed to complete the building.

A business meeting was held July 13, 1948. Rev. Woodrow Matthews was re-elected and made a full-time pastor, with services every Sunday.



Bro. Ray Thomas, a deacon of the church at that time, was very instrumental in building the church. A carpenter by trade, he worked at reduced wages and spent many hours on the construction. Various church and community members also donated countless hours of labor, especially the Rehkop Family. December 26, 1948, was the first service held in the new church building. It was not completed, so this was not the official dedication service. The dedication service was held on July 18, 1954, at 2:00 p.m. The loan had been paid in full on June 14, 1954.

In June of 1949, Bro. Leeman Underwood was elected as deacon. He was ordained September 24, 1949.

January 7, 1951, Bro. Glenn Rehkop was recommended to the Quarterly to be examined for a license to preach. He preached two services at Copper Mines in January 1951, and he was selected to start a revival on February 12 and continue on until the Lord said stop. February reports say it lasted two weeks with Bro. Carl Hovis being saved the first night of said revival. In March 1951, Saturday night services were resumed with Rev. Glenn Rehkop in charge of those services.

During those past few years the amount given to Foreign Missions and National Home Missions was growing larger each month, with the pastor's salary also increasing.

The first Daily Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 4-15, 1951. It was a very successful one. There were 52 pupils enrolled, seventeen of whom were saved at the old-fashioned altar with special services held at the close of Bible School. They were Jerry Limbaugh, Dale (Jack) Rehkop, Midge Rehkop, Evelyn Underwood, Carol Rehkop, Joy Limbaugh, Buddy Hovis, Jimmie Henson, Tommy Harper, Norma Harper, Dennis Hovis, Mary Alice Thomas, Margie Howell, Clifford (Dag) Rehkop, Lindell Graham, Mary Lou Graham, and Glenda Hovis.

A Free Will Baptist League for the young people was organized on September 8, 1951. Bro. Leeman Underwood was the president, and Sis. Thelma Graham (now Sikes) was the secretary-treasurer.

January 4, 1953, Rev. Glenn Rehkop was recommended for ordination. The services were held at Copper Mines Church on January 24, 1953.

The Saturday evening services were cancelled in October 1953, as Rev. Glenn Rehkop was pastoring the Old Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, but services were resumed in December 1953.

Rev. Woodrow Matthews resigned the Golden Gate Church at Copper Mines on July 11, 1954. He was called to pastor Cushing Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma. This church had grown in membership, and completed a church sanctuary during the ministry of Bro. Woodrow.

A special business meeting was called for the purpose of electing a new pastor on July 22, 1954. Rev. Glenn Rehkop was elected by full majority. He had been preaching every Saturday night for over two years at the church. Rev. Glenn Rehkop assumed his duties as pastor in August of 1954. In September, the Saturday night services were changed to choir practice and praise service with topics by different members.

On May 14, 1955, two more deacons were added to the board. They were Bro. Milton Hovis and Bro. Melvin Howell. On June 26, 1955, Bro. Howell announced his call to preach the gospel. Bro. Milton Hovis was ordained as deacon on September 10, 1955. Bro. Lindell Hovis was nominated and elected to serve as deacon on August 29, 1955.



Work began on the church parsonage in June 1956. In August of 1956, a loan was obtained from New Era Bank to complete the work. The loan was for \$3,000.00. Rev. Glenn Rehkop and his family were the first to live in the parsonage. They moved in on June 27, 1958. The loan was paid in full in January 1962.

Rev. Melvin Howell preached the Saturday night message during that period of the church with regular pastor Glenn Rehkop doing the Sunday services. Bro. Howell was ordained to preach October 26, 1957.

Bro. Lue Bequette announced his call to preach in the morning worship hour on September 1, 1957, and also brought the message. He was licensed to preach October 13, 1957, and ordained October 10, 1959.

Rev. Mark Vandivort brought the morning message the second Sunday in August of 1959. He also brought the message on the night of September 23, 1959. On September 9, 1959, Sis. Louise Underwood announced her engagement to Bro. Mark. They were married December 26, 1959, at the Fredericktown Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. Glenn Rehkop resigned as pastor March 6, 1960, to be effective April 22, 1960. He assumed the pastorate of the Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Bro. Glenn was very instrumental in the erection of the church parsonage. Brother Dave Francis, now deceased, was also a great help in giving instructions as he was confined to a wheel chair at the time. Through the years, Copper Mines Church has been very fortunate in having men who can do about anything labor wise, with the work being done free gratis.

Rev. Willard Darnell was elected as our new pastor March 26, 1960, assuming his duties the latter part of April.

Bro. Jerald Huffman was elected as deacon on October 9, 1960. He was ordained on January 28, 1961.

July 6, 1961 was the last report from Church Clerk Leamon Killian. He had been clerk since July 12, 1942. His wife, Mildred Killian, served as assistant clerk three years of that time while he was away in the Armed Forces. Bro. Leamon was elected a deacon on January 13, 1963, and was ordained on January 20, 1963.

Sis. Jane Howell served as church clerk from August 1961 until April 1963. Sis. Marie Graham was elected church clerk in May 1963.

Revivals have been numerous all through the history of the Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. It seemed to be the custom of calling back former pastors, as well as many different preachers.

The July 1, 1966 report shows the deacon board to be Bro's. Harrison Hovis, Milton Hovis, and Jerry Huffman. Some of the former deacons had to move away due to their employment and were working in other churches.

On Sunday morning, January 22, 1967, Rev. Willard Darnell resigned his pastorate of the Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church, to be effective in thirty days. An all day service was held January 29 in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Darnell with dinner and singing in the afternoon. The church gave them a friendship quilt.

Rev. O. D. Matthews was elected as pastor at a business meeting on February 28, 1967. He assumed his duties on March 5, 1967.

Bro. Elza Rehkop was recommended for deacon in June 1968. He was ordained November 30, 1968, with the dedication prayer by Rev. Glenn Rehkop.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, several improvements were made at the church. Sis. Barbara Sikes constructed cabinets in the church kitchen. For several years, the High Teen Class taught by Sis. Norma Hovis met in the church kitchen for Sunday School. At that time, the church body pledged money to build an addition on to the back of the church for bathrooms and the High Teen Classroom. During that same period, the church body and surrounding community raised money to blacktop the Copper Mines Road from Highway 67 to the Little St. Francis River Bridge. Also, the dusk to dawn light was erected using church pledge money. Leon D. Rehkop and Lawrence Standley installed the light using Black River Electric equipment, free gratis.

Bro. George Hovis was nominated and elected as deacon on July 2, 1970. He was ordained on November 4, 1970.

On October 23, 1973, a group of men and young people from the church went to Columbia, Missouri, to lay the hardwood floors in the Home Mission Church. Rev. and Mrs. Mark Vandivort were the Home Missionaries there at that time. Some of the ladies went along to help with the food preparation.

On January 23, 1974, the church voted to give \$1,000.00 to the library at the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. The amount actually given was \$1,333.00.

During the years of Rev. O. D. Matthews' ministry, the church was very generous to many different missionaries. It was Rev. O. D.'s theory that you can't out-give the Lord. The church had been on a Cooperative Plan, giving 10% of its proceeds to Missouri State and National Free Will Baptist Associations since March 1957, in addition to other missionary offerings and benevolent giving.

The church and parsonage had been kept in good repair with the parsonage being fully carpeted.

June 24, 1979, was the last service for Rev. O. D. Matthews as pastor. The church prospered during his leadership.

At that time, the church was without a pastor for a few months. There were several different speakers, being Rev. Lue Bequette, Rev. Bud Statler, Rev. Raymond Michael, Rev. John Francis, Rev. Wesley Rider, Rev. Ken Dodson, Rev. John Rogers, and Rev. Delmar Welker.

On November 18, 1979, Rev. Wesley Rider was elected as pastor. He assumed his duties on December 9, 1979. Rev. Wes was a very active person, and things were on the move during his short ministry. He held his first baptismal service on June 29, 1980. His first candidate for baptism was his son, Aaron Rider. Rev. Wes resigned as pastor on February 8, 1981, to be effective February 22nd.

Rev. Raymond Michael was elected as pastor of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church on March 26, 1981. His first service as pastor was March 29. Rev. Michael was the ninth pastor of the church. The church had 91 resident members and 23 non-resident members.

The average Sunday School attendance was about 80. The Sunday School Superintendent was Bro. Vernon Sikes. The secretary was Bro. Harry Hovis. The teachers were Dale (Jack) Rehkop, Men's Adult; Marie Graham, Ladies Adult; Charles Francis, Young Adult; Vernon Sikes, High Teens; Clarice Rehkop, Young Teens; Thelma Sikes, Junior; Anna Rehkop, Primary; and Sue Harter and Beverly Davis, Nursery.

The 75th Anniversary Annual Homecoming Service at the Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church was held on August 16, 1981, and it was well attended. The Sunday School attendance was 87 with many more coming in for the worship hour. Many former pastors and members were present on that day. Rev. Raymond Michael, was well

pleased. Rev. Leroy Blankenship was the speaker, and Allen Berry and the Cornerstones were the featured singers, along with the Huffman Family. It was a great day in the Lord's House. The church membership at that time was 116.

A revival was held in the week of October 12, 1981, with Rev. Leroy Blankenship the evangelist.

There were many activities during that time. Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church has consistently provided a form of entertainment, as an outlet for the energy of their youth. There were many skating parties, also inviting the youth of our sister churches. It was very encouraging to the adults who were present to see the youth gather in the center of the skating rink for a devotion and prayer before beginning their evening of skating.

The Christmas Program of 1981 was held with a New Year's Eve Watch Service with former pastor, Bro. Wes Rider being the speaker.

So began a New Year – 1982. A search began for a set of church by-laws to be adopted at a later date. By-laws from various churches were being considered at that time, pulling out the best and culling the rest.

We had a revival in April 1982, with a former pastor, Rev. Woodrow Matthews. Everyone was glad to hear Bro. Woodrow preach again. It had been 28 years since he had pastored here. It seems to be the custom here to recall former pastors for revivals and homecoming services.

Bro's. Brad Yount, Vernon Sikes, and Bob Huffman were recommended as deacons on June 24, 1982. Ordination Services for these brothers was held March 18, 1983, with the ordination message being given by our pastor, Rev. Raymond Michael.

During that time, there were several visiting clergy who filled the pulpit. Some of them were Rev. Cecil Sheppard, Rev. David Kirby, Missionaries Mark Vandivort and Jeff Turnbaugh, Rev. Bob Thebeau, Rev. Woodrow Matthews, Rev. Steve Tinsley, Rev. Mike Thomasson, and Rev. Rick Chapman.

Rev. Meb Howell, Rev. Willard Darnell, and Rev. Lue Bequette, members of Copper Mines, were called upon periodically to bring the message.

A new building fund was started in September 1982.

We lost two great pillars of prayer during that time. Sis. Esther Hovis passed away October 22, 1982, and Sis. Edith Underwood passed away, November 11, 1982. They both were Sunday School teachers for many years and were sadly missed.

There were many activities at the church during those years. The people seemed to really enjoy the fellowship with one another.

During that time, the Adult Men's Sunday School Class bought mikes for the church. The Ladies Circle bought new folding tables, and purchased carpeting for the front porch and the kitchen area. The Adult Ladies Sunday School Class used their personal collections to assist visiting missionaries and made several donations to the Church Building Fund. The ladies were very generous with their money, giving when they saw a need for various reasons. One such need was the Bryan Hovis Fund. He had Reyes Syndrome and has now been paralyzed for many years. A bar-b-que was given to raise money for him, and one Sunday in June of 1983, the entire offering was given for this purpose.

New church signs were erected during that year with Bro. Brad Yount being in charge. The lettering was done by Sis. Judy (Francis) Doubelare.

Vacation Bible School was an annual event at Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. The children seemed to enjoy it very much, and the adults just hung in there. Church trips to the St. Louis Zoo and visits to Six Flags were made frequently. They were both good clean fun for our kiddies, and the adults also enjoyed them.

It was approved for the church to pay the expenses for the children to attend the youth camp that is sponsored by the Southeast Quarterly Meeting. Several young people have made life-changing decisions at camp. What a return for the money! Copper Mines Church has always been extremely proud of our youth. Our youth leaders willingly give of their vacation time to supervise our youth at camp.

The church basement was being remodeled at that time. It was a common practice to have regular singings with well known groups, and donations were made to several different missionaries.

In September 1983, we had a misfortune. Our church was broken into, mikes were taken and also Bob Huffman's guitar. We replaced all at a later date.

We had a baptizing on October 9, 1983, with Becky Francis and Tracy Michael being baptized.

We had a New Year's Watch Service on December 31, 1983, which was a blessing to all who braved the weather.

Various preachers filled the pulpit during those times. To name a few: Rev. Steve Tinsley, Rev. Woody Wench, Rev. Richard Standley, and Rev. Lee Smith. Rev. Raymond Michael was always willing to lend the pulpit to aspiring preachers or to those who are especially good for the children.

Revival was held in April with Rev. Wayne Phillips of the Fellowship Church in Flat River.

Bro. Raymond and Sis. Debbie added to the Nursery Sunday School Class Roll on June 13, 1984 with the birth of a baby son, Andy.

Donations were made to the Hillsdale Bible College in Oklahoma.

Dale and Dicey Hovis were baptized on September 23, 1984, and November 11, 1984, respectively.

Bro. Clyde Thomas's name was removed from the church roll at his request. He had joined another church.

A New Year's Eve Watch Service was held on December 31, 1984, with singers from our church.

January 1985 arrived, and services were held January 6th and 13th, but they were cancelled January 20th and 27th because of deep snow, ice and below zero weather.

There was sadness in our church on March 8, 1985. Sis. Mildred Hovis passed away with services on March 10th. Sis. Mildred served as Nursery Sunday School teacher for many years. She will be long remembered for her patience with the little ones.

Bro. Carl Hovis passed from this life April 13, 1985, just one month and five days after Sis. Mildred passed away. Bro. Carl was Sunday School Superintendent for many years, as well as Sunday School teacher for the Men's Adult Class.

There was a revival on April 15th to 20th with Rev. Wayne Hale bringing the messages. It was well attended.

Plans were made to buy a new piano and pledges for the cause were accepted. The old piano was moved to the basement for all-purpose use.

Bro. Gene Howell was a guest speaker on June 9th. Rev. Mark and Sis. Louise Vandivort were in charge of the evening service on that same day. They told of their work as Home Missionaries in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The 1985 Bible School was well attended with an average of 53. Rev. Mark Turrell from Grace Church in Arnold was guest speaker for September Youth Day Sunday.

A revival was held October 21st to 26th with Rev. Jack Burns as the evangelist. We had a good revival with good preaching and good attendance.

Bro. Clifford and Sis. Nancy Hovis were baptized November 3, 1985.

The Christmas Program and New Year's Eve Watch Service were well attended.

January 1986 began with much needed work on remodeling the church basement. The men are all willing to donate their time and their talent to get the job done.

Rev. Jim Mertz, who was starting a Mission at Wentzville, Missouri, was with us on February 8th. A church donation of \$100.00 was made.

In March 1986, the church saw the need to start a nursery.

We had been taking our turn in the Quarterly for a Sunday Radio Program for several years. We began nursing home services at Stockhoff Nursing Home every third Sunday of the month.

Rev. Bud Statler preached morning worship hour on April 20th and Rev. Wayne Parsons preached the evening message.

Rev. Glenn Rehkop held a revival May 4th to 8th. We had one conversion, Bro. Steve Rehkop.

The church went to Elephant Rocks on September 14th for their Sunday School picnic. They also went to the St. Louis Zoo and the Arch on September 20th. It was an all day outing.

The year of 1986 was good, and everything moved along pretty much on schedule, with everything falling in its proper place.

There was no watch service that year, and prayer meeting was dismissed so our people could attend a watch service of their choice at another church.

The year of 1987 brought the resignation of Rev. Raymond Michael as pastor on February 22nd. It was to be effective on March 29, 1987. His first Sunday as our pastor was March 29, 1981, exactly six years ago to the day. Those were wonderful years for the entire church and we all wished him well, even though we wanted him to stay.

Rev. Kevin Skaggs, a young minister, was our speaker on March 8th. Rev. Steve and Sis. Judy (Hovis) Lytle, missionaries to Panama, were with us on March 15th. Our offering to them was \$429.00. Copper Mines was Judy's first church.

April, May and June, our pulpit was filled by various ministers in hopes of acquiring a new pastor in the near future. In our June yearly business meeting, it was voted to accept the by-laws per se, that were presented by the Deacon Board. One hundred copies were printed and presented to the church members.

Rev. Charles Lotz was elected as pastor on July 22, 1987, to serve until the next yearly business meeting in June of 1988. The parsonage was remodeled to accommodate Rev. Lotz's family. A family room, two bedrooms and a bathroom were added in the

parsonage basement. Rev. Lotz's first service as pastor was August 16th, which was also Homecoming Day. We had 108 in attendance.

Hank Murray and his wife, Pat, were with us on September 13th with the message in song. Bro. Finis Barr was with us November 14th.

The church was saddened on December 6th, 1987, with the death of one of our members, Sis. Esther Ferguson.

Bro. Harmon Hovis passed away January 27, 1988.

In January 1988, Children's Church was established at Copper Mines under the direction of Bob and Sheila Hibbits. It worked out real well, and the children seemed to enjoy having their own church. Their special singing was fantastic, because they enjoyed what they were doing. Others who helped in Children's Church were Shirley Lotz, David and Sally Hovis and Butch Pirtle.

Missionaries Ken and Judy Bailey from Japan were with us February 27, 1988. We gave them \$150.00 from the treasury and a free will offering.

Friends Day was March 27, 1988. We had a record attendance of 232.

Rev. Chuck Lotz was a very energetic and enthusiastic pastor. He kept us on the move most of the time. There was always something going on in the church.

In January 1989, plans were made for a revival with Rev. Stanley Jones to be held in the fall.

On February 26, 1989, there was a service with Rev. Roy Thomas from the Free Will Baptist College, Nashville, Tennessee, and his offering was over \$500.00.

We had a revival service with Rev. Jim McAllister on May 31st to June 3rd. The house was filled to capacity every night.

It was voted on June 11, 1989, to go into an extensive building plan at a later date, after we reached a certain amount in our Building Fund. The vote was 40 "yes", 12 "no", and 4 "undecided".

Steve Head made a \$600.00 donation to the church in memory of his brother, Mike Head, who had recently passed away. This money was placed in the Building Fund.

Rev. John Turner and family were with us on June 11th. They were Home Missionaries to Portland, Oregon.

We had a revival service with Rev. Stanley Jones on September 17th to 22nd. It was well attended and very enjoyable.

Rev. Earl Ames, Rev. Matthew Hughes, and Rev. Don Richmond were all with us while Rev. Lotz and family were on vacation.

January 1990 was a good month. The weather was not too bad, and the Sunday School average was 72.

In February, we had a Valentine's Party. Ashley Yount and Nathan Lotz were crowned Queen and King.

On March 2nd, we had a visitor from the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. He was Bro. Bob Shockey.

The Barry Jones Family was with us for a special singing on March 25th.

A Mother-Daughter Banquet was held on May 12th with a good program, and everyone seemed to enjoy it very much. Copper Mines Church was fortunate to have several four generation families within their membership in attendance almost every service.

Rev. Richard Stanley preached for us May 27th.

Rev. Russell Johnson, Home Missionary to Cheyenne, Wyoming, preached for us June 17th.

The 1990 Vacation Bible School went on a trip to Grant's Farm. They got a bus from Farmington Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. Chuck Lotz resigned as pastor on July 15, 1990, at the close of service, to be effective in 60 days. The morning worship hour of September 16th was his last service with us, and we wished him well.

Once again we were as sheep without a shepherd, and the quest for a new pastor began.

Rev. Richard Standley and his wife were with us for the evening service on September 9th.

Rev. Herb McMillian and wife were with us on September 23rd for morning and evening service.

Rev. Bob Spencer and wife from Oklahoma were with us for morning and evening services on October 7th.

On October 14th, Rev. and Sis. John Postalwaite were with us for both morning and evening services.

On October 28th, Rev. Herb. and Sis. Doris McMillian were with us for morning and evening services. They were also with us for the November 18th service. Rev. Herb McMillian was voted in as our pastor on November 21, 1990. The entire church was

very happy to have him as our pastor. We looked forward to seeing great things happen under his leadership, with the help of Lord. They planned to move into the parsonage soon.

Bro. Robert Graham passed from this life on December 25, 1990. He was a member of this church. Several relatives in the church as well as Rev. Willard and Sis. Darnell, made the trip to Nebraska for his services in very inclement weather. A sizeable amount was donated to our Building Fund in his memory from friends and relatives.

December was a bad month weather wise. The Christmas Program was delayed until January 13, 1991, and the same program was presented at the Sunday School Convention, which was held in January at the Copper Mines Church.

February 1991 found us busy adding to the Building Fund and raising money for Youth Camp by placing a donation jar at the back of the church to drop change into.

We donated \$100.00 for the Bible Conference at New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in March.

We had a skating party, a St. Patrick's Day party and an Easter egg hunt. We had communion and foot washing on Palm Sunday evening.

One of our members, Rev. Melvin (Meb) Howell passed away in May of 1991. He was sadly missed by everyone. Bro. Meb was always willing to teach and preach as long as he was able.

Rev. Steve and Sis. Judy Lytle and boys were with us in June 1991. It was a good service and well attended.

Rev. Jerry and Sis. Carol Pinkerton, Missionaries to Ivory Coast, were with us on July 17th for a service.

Rev. Lindell Richardson preached for us on the morning of July 20th, while our pastor and wife were in West Virginia for the National Convention. Rev. Raymond Michael, a former pastor, preached the evening service.

Finis Barr and his group were our 1991 Homecoming singers, while Rev. Herb McMillian, our pastor, was the speaker.

We had a church carnival on Saturday night, September 21st, which was hosted by Brad and Peggy Yount.

Rev. John McClure and his family were with us Sunday Morning, September 22nd, for a missionary service. They are serving in Mexico.

Rev. Mike Garner was with us Sunday night September 22nd to begin a week's revival. Bro. Mike was a real good preacher, and we all enjoyed the revival very much.

After all this, and no wonder, our pastor Rev. Herb McMillian had a triple bypass surgery on October 17th at St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis. His surgery went well, but he required a few months to recuperate. We had several preachers to fill in for him, namely Rev. Raymond Michael, Rev. Lindell Richardson, Rev. Bud Statler, and Rev. Clarence Burton was our speaker for Old Fashion Day.

The Huffman Family gave a Christmas Concert on December 15th and our church Christmas Program was December 22nd.

January 1992 found Rev. Herb McMillian ready and willing to step back into his pastor shoes. We were really thankful he recovered so nicely from his surgery. The Lord was to be praised!

We voted to support the Madison County Food Bank. We planned to bring non-perishable food on the first Sunday of each month.

A \$50.00 donation was made to Rev. Ken and Sis. Judy Bailey, missionaries to Japan in February.

March and April brought a buzz of activities such as a hiking trip, Easter egg hunt, and in May, a trip was made to the St. Louis Science Center and Discovery Zone. Bible School monies from 1990 and 1991 were used to finance the trip, and the church picked up left over expenses.

A revival was held May 31st to June 3rd with Rev. Steve Lytle, missionary to Panama.

Bible School was held June 15th to 19th. Five children were saved, and we had an average attendance of 45.

There were seven baptized at Castor River on June 28, 1992. They were Ashley Yount, Matthew Hamblin, Jerry Huffman, Julie Davis, Lauren McMillian, Lois McMillian, and Joe Stell.

The Yearly Business Meeting was held May 28, 1992. Rev. Herb McMillian was re-elected as pastor. Bro. Elza Rehkop tendered his resignation as an active deacon on that day. The church voted to accept his decision and placed him on the Inactive Deacon List. Bro. Elza was recommended as deacon in June of 1968 and ordained November 30, 1968, having served a total of 24 years as deacon.

August 16, 1992, was our 34th annual homecoming. Rev. Glenn Rehkop was our speaker, and the Bradshaw Brothers were the special singers, as well as the Huffman Family and our local talent.

We had an outdoor blue grass singing on September 26, 1992. We had to rush into the basement to finish the singing when rain began.

Rev. Ken Doggett, Home Missionary to Springfield, Illinois, was with us Wednesday night, September 9th.

We had to buy a new furnace for the church basement because the old one was reported to be in an unsafe condition.

Rev. Wes Rider, a former pastor, was with us on November 9th for a week of revival. Bro. Wes was at that time the pastor of the Cape Girardeau Free Will Baptist Church.

We had a Christmas Concert with the Huffman Family on December 13th, during our Sunday evening service. The Christmas Program was December 20th.

Three Lil' Tyke tables were purchased for the Nursery because it was feared the little ones may be injured on the sharp corners that were on our present tables.

On December 6th, it was voted to send \$500.00 to Rev. Steve and Sis. Judy Lytle, and Rev. Mark and Sis. Louise Vandivort. There are illnesses in each family, and the need was for transportation to come home for Christmas.

The church contributed \$30.00 to the new Madison County War Veterans Memorial being constructed in Fredericktown. It was given in the memory of Willard Hovis, who was killed in action in World War II. Willard was a member of Copper Mines Church and served as church clerk before entering service.

At the end of 1992, the church membership was 76 resident members and 54 non-resident members.



In the Spring of 1996, the ground-breaking ceremony was held, and the new building project officially began. There was a total of \$47,664.92 in the building fund and there was an additional \$30,000.00 borrowed to complete the project. Thanks to the countless hours of work done by members of the church, members of the community, family members and especially Bro. Vernon Sikes, the church building

project was completed, and the present building stands today as a testimony of God's blessings. The project added six classrooms, two restrooms, the pastor's study and an office area. It also included extending the parsonage kitchen, adding a deck behind the

parsonage, an enlarged sanctuary, and a beautiful fellowship hall. The debt on the new addition was paid off in March 2001.



In March 1993, discussion began about acquiring additional land. Through the generous donation of the Rehkop and Howell families, a little more than an acre and a half was deeded to the church in October 1994. A 30' x 60' pavilion was built on the property in 2000. The pavilion has been the perfect location for Easter Sunrise services, family reunions, Bible School, and fellowships.

There was a mission trip to Flagstaff, AZ in August 2003. Ten people from Copper Mines and three from Oak Grove went to the Indian Bible College to do small construction jobs and replace a fence. Bro. Richard and Sis. Barb (Warner) Standley are the missionaries there. July 2006, another mission trip is planned to Monroe, LA. Plans are to help a mission church there with a Bible School, pass out gospel tracts and do light manual labor.



There have been ministers, National Home Missionaries, and Foreign Missionaries from the membership of this church, as well as many church laymen who have gone out to work in churches scattered across the USA. This church is justly proud of the fruits of its labor. It is impossible to put a hundred years into a few simple words. We sincerely hope that as you turn the pages of this book, you will recall fond memories of your

association with Copper Mines Church. As we celebrate our centennial, may we rejoice in knowing that a hundred years is just a twinkle of an eye compared to an eternity with God.

Written by: Clarice Rehkop and Eileen Provow