

# OUR HISTORY

Dotson Memorial Baptist Church celebrates her fiftieth anniversary in July, 1990. In the summer of 1939, Rev. Only Dotson decided to build a pine brush arbor near his home to hold a revival meeting in the rural farm community along Morganton Road in Blount County, Tennessee. On February 26, 1940, Lula (Aunt Pet) and Estel (Pap) Lambert invited their neighbors into the small kitchen/dining area of their tenant house on the Homer Fann property for Bible study. In only a few weeks this group would no longer fit in the small house. A neighbor, just across the fields on Wells Road, had a house under construction. Since no inside partitions were in place, Mr. Carrie Lowe invited the group to meet in this house.

Rev. Ross M. Self brought a tent to the area for the purpose of holding another revival. The tent was pitched near the original brush arbor site. Aunt Pet's Bible study group decided to organize a church on July 21, 1940, and the tent was to be the church home for several months.

An half acre of land was obtained from Mr. Luther Dotson, son of Rev. Only Dotson, and a white frame church building was erected. The Church was named for the Dotson family. A stage and choir loft with one Sunday School room on each side, plus a basement containing a furnace room and Sunday School room were added to this original building in 1945.

A separate basement structure was constructed as Sunday School rooms in 1953-45. 1955-56 saw the Sanctuary built on top of this basement building. A baptistry, and two-story educational wing with Fellowship Hall was built in 1969-70.

A new worship center designed to seat 750 was completed in 1987. Remodeling of the old sanctuary into Sunday School rooms and Media Center was completed in two phases by February, 1990.

The present Church reflects the almost constant growth and on-going needs during five decades of glorifying the name of Jesus. This growth is rooted in prayer, commitment, and love to serve Jesus that all men may know Him as Savior.