



A History of the First Baptist Church of Craig Colorado 1910-2011 100th Anniversary

Foreword: As in the case of most historical sketches, the facts contained herein have been compiled from many sources, including the memories of those who have been a part of this history, and the old record and minute books of the church. In about 1970 Gloria Van Dorn wrote a history of First Baptist Church. In 2001, an attempt has been made to update and add the history of the intervening years. Our thanks to Gloria (who went home to heaven several years ago) and to each of you who have made your contribution to this year 2001 History of First Baptist Church.

The pastors who have served First Baptist Church are:

1. **Rev William C Lindsey, April 9, 1911-1913** Born about 1862 died at the Home for Aged Baptists at Ironton, MO in Sept,1933 buried at the Rose Hill Cemetery, Springfield MO Wife was Mrs. N J Williams of Craig, married in 1915
2. **Bertram Welch** was Ordained Aug 19, 1917. He was Rec'd by letter, April 1912 dismissed as pastor by letter July 28, 1925. Returned, along with his wife, Lillian (Nyquist) and sons Kent and Alton in 1928. He served as Pastor emeritus for many many years. Bertram and Lillian are buried in the Craig Cemetery.
3. **Ernest Kline 1911-1982** was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1889 and grew up in a home where his father was Baptist and his mother Methodist Episcopal. His mother died when he was a teenager, and Ernest decided to move west.. By 1910 he was living in Craig, and became friends with Rev Lindsey. He was one of the charter members of First Baptist Church In 1913 he married Elizabeth Herod, daughter of another of the early members of the church. Ernest was ordained n 1917 by the church.

Besides serving as Pastor from time to time, he was a circuit riding preacher, and preached in the outlying districts. In later years, he was always available to fill the pulpit when the Pastor was away, as well as

perform many weddings and funerals. Ernest died May 11, 1982 and is buried in the Craig Cemetery.

4. **F I Blanchard June 13, 1924-July 5, 1925.**We regret to report the death of Rev. Blanchard June 6, 1937 at his home on Cherry Street in Denver, after a long and serious illness. However, our loss was his permanent gain. Rev. Blanchard was loved, respected and esteemed by a host of friends. Following his graduation at Kalamazoo College he was a pastor and state evangelist in Michigan, then for nearly 20 years, he was Chapel Car Evangelist in Colorado and Wyoming, and brought the Chapel Car Emmanuel to Craig, CO, where it remained for nearly 2 years while the Baptist work was built up.. Brother Blanchard has many new churches and building campaigns in his honor. The funeral was held June 8th at City Park Baptist church, conducted by Rev Frank Eden and Convention Secretary F. B. Palmer. The honorary pall bearers were the Baptist Ministers who have know Rev Blanchard throughout the years.

5. **Mr. Lowe** called May 1925 left due to his wife's health after only a few months. He was Pastor when the building at 700 School St was dedicated.

6. **AC Huff** Called July 31-1926 He came to Craig from Fountain, CO. Joined church by letter Feb 7, 1926 Resigned as Pastor July 31, 1927 and was dismissed by letter Aug 28, 1927

7. **Mr. A R Strubble**—Called on the 1st Sunday in Feb 1928 at a salary of \$2000/year. Letter of membership Mar 11, 1928 Dismissal Sept 14, 1930. They moved next to Florence, CO/

8. **Reverend Doctor Richard M. Sammon May 24, 1931-July 22, 1934** Born in 1905. died July 29, 1967 at his home in Palm Springs, CA where he was serving as assistant pastor of Palm Desert Community church. Besides his years in Craig, Colorado, he served in Manitou Springs, Las Animas and Canon City CO. He was Protestant Chaplain at the Colorado State Penitentiary for 1958 to 1964. Buried at Delta, CO, his wife was Marjorie Dowd. Their 2 daughters—Mrs. Douglas Uhls and Mrs. Ronald Sherwood as well as his 2 brothers Tom and Harry Sammon of Texas and 3 grandchildren survived him.. At church May 24- 1931- July 22-1934 He was the pastor who married Mildred and Woodson Herring in 1931.

- 9. Howard Bailey—July 12, 1936-Dec 27, 1936** Came to Craig from Casper, WY
- 10. Raymond Rudd—May 23, 1937-Jan 19, 1939** Raymond Rudd served as Pastor,, and his was the first family to live in the church parsonage. He had 6 children. He died while in office as Pastor we think from a ruptured appendix.. His wife, Viola Rudd, was a school teacher in Craig for many years. His Grandson, Ty Rudd is a current member.
- 11. Roy Walker April 9, 1939-Nov 22, 1942.** One of the additions to the church structure at 700 School Street was made while Rev Walker was pastor. Roy Walker was the Pastor at George and Laura Swanson's wedding.
- 12. George Hooper—Oct 18, 1942-Oct 17, 1943** Pastor Hooper was only pastor for a short time, as there were disagreements within the church, concerning the Colorado State Baptist Convention, and he left the church. Twenty -two members left with him, and after a time they started the Baptist Bible Tabernacle. (around 1947)
- 13. Lawrence Duncan—April 23, 1944-April 24, 1949**
- 14. Aubrey Nelson May 29, 1949- Dec 18, 1955 and Jan 5, 1965-April 1968** along with his wife, Dixie, served First Baptist Church as Pastor and resigned for health reason in March of 1968. They moved to Arvada Colorado. The Nelson's had 1 son, Stanley..
- 15. James Dolan Mar 14, 1956-Mar 10, 1957** and his wife, Mary are pictured in the 1956 group photo of the church. Rev Dolan was ordained while he was Pastor at FBC. He served only a short time with the church.
- 16. Robert Duggan Aug 14, 1957-September 1, 1959** served, along with his wife Louise.
- 17. John Fisher Dec 19, 1959-October 14, 1964** served, along with his wife, Grace and their children.
- 18. Aubrey Nelson 2nd Pastorate**

19. **Ken Lindow, September 1, 1968-July 10, 1973** his wife Ruth and their children Eddie, & Ruthie came to Craig, Colorado in 1968 to Pastor, following the resignation of Aubrey Nelson. During Ken's ministry, the High School and Jr Hi age youth groups were very active, and Ken was often seen packing a number of kids into his Volkswagen to transport them to some event. He was also very active in Radio Ministry.
20. **Don Wasey—September 10, 1973-July 21, 1976**—came with his wife, Doris, to FBC in the fall of 1972. Their children were already grown up. During Pastor Wasey's term, the building at 1150 W. 9th Street that we currently occupy was built. There was a bond campaign and even the teenagers of the church invested their money to buy bonds to finance the structure and build it free of debt to any lending institution. When God began to move in a new direction, Waseys left FBC in July of 1976, along with a number of church members, and shortly thereafter began the Yampa Valley Baptist Church in Craig.
21. **Dave Chambers— July 10, 1976-March 1, 1983** Pastor and Muriel Chambers came to FBC at a time with his son, Dwight and Mother, Mrs Chambers, when the people were hurting. His gentle spirit did much to bring healing, and it was under Pastor Chambers that we began to change our style of worship. Songs of praise were sung along with the old hymns, and after almost 30 years, Dave's style of teaching is still remembered by many. All those who remember Dave will remember his glowing face as he led us in singing *Majesty*.
22. **Dan Canady—April 1, 1983-July 1987** Dan and his wife Charlene came to First Baptist while the Chambers were still in Craig, and an overlapping ministry was begun. Dan was young and enthusiastic and played the guitar to accompany our songs. While Dan was Pastor, the Ministry of the Crisis Pregnancy Center began. Dan was the Chaplain at the Territorial Prison in Canon City, CO. for a few years, and is now Pastor at Kremmling community church. Dan and Charlene and their family are still very much a part of our ministry, and are resident managers at Mt Elim Camp during the summer. . The Canady children are Christian, Rachel, Jessiah, Hannah and Luke.
23. **Patrick Mosbey—August 1987-April 1988** Patrick was only Pastor for a few months, but remains in Craig. He and his wife Patty are employed locally.

24. **Sam Dryer—March 26, 1989-September 30, 1990** When Sam and his wife Tammie came with their children Nathan and Denae, to Craig, the church had been without a pastor for a few months. We were so excited to call this young, dynamic man of God to serve in our church. Sam recognized the Spiritual Battle that was being fought in our valley, and jumped in with both feet. Sam's term here was a time of growth at FBC, but when he left the church, mostly due to a need to be with family in another state at that time, the congregation was left in some turmoil, wondering what was going to happen next. Again, people were hurting, and God sent healing
25. **Craig, Blair— August 18, 1991-April 1, 1996** Pastor Blair, came with his wife Lucy and their children Joel and Bethany to help bring God's healing to a hurting congregation. Craig sang some of his sermons in his lovely baritone voice, and counseled so many of the congregation as they began to recognize that God is in control, and that people still need the Lord, no matter what else is happening around them. In 1996, Craig was called to another church in Naperville, Illinois, and continues his ministry. His children were Bethany and Joel.
26. **Brian Haynes— May 20, 1997-- May 2005** Pastor Brian came to FBC with his family, wife Brenda and children Ashley, Abby and Caleb, in May of 1997. Brian did a great job as our Pastor, and as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church, we honor him for his 8 years of service. In September of 2001, Brian and his family entered a new phase of their ministry as they embarked on the Goliath Project—traveling to each of the 50 states to pray with leaders and equip churches to pray. Brian And Brenda were called to Faith Baptist church of Hampton, Iowa in May of 2005.
27. **Leonard Browning accepted the call to become Pastor Feb 5, 2006**
A long time member of the church, God called him out of the congregation. He has been married for about 30 years to Cheryle Ann (Brewer) and they have 5 children, Jeremy, Courtney,(married to former youth pastor Justin Jenison) Nathan, Joel, and Lindsey. In the last few years since Len became pastor, there have been great changes to the church, including the expansion of the building g at 1150 W 9th Street with more space and a beautiful new foyer and sanctuary.

Over the years, several men have served as summer interns, associate pastors or youth pastors. Among them were intern Jared Gustafson, summer of 1998. Youth pastor Justin Jenison August 2000- March 2002. Len Browning, youth pastor in the 80's, and Tom Sheeley, part time associate pastor in the late 80's. Gary Tague, long time member became our discipleship Pastor when he retired from teaching .

There have been at least 6 Pastoral Ordinations at First Baptist Church. Ernest Kline was the first ordained—in 1917, followed by Bertram Welch, Jasper Clouser, Howard Bailey, James Dolan and Harley Johnson.

THE EARLY YEARS

The beginnings of First Baptist Church are hard to pinpoint exactly, but some facts basic to its establishment tell us that sometime in 1904, Levi Johnson moved to Craig, and in February 1905, his wife and children joined him. They homesteaded at Illinois Park, at the foot of Black Mountain near Craig. Mrs. Amy Johnson taught in various schools around the county, so they kept a home in Craig during the winter and returned to the ranch each spring. Their town residence is located in the 500 block of Breeze Street, and is still in use.

Rev W.C. Lindsey, a Baptist minister from Missouri, moved to Northwest Colorado in 1909. He filed on a homestead near Cedar Mt. Ernest Kline became his neighbor in 1910, when he established his homestead also near Cedar Mt.

Ernest Kline and Amy Johnson were both from Methodist backgrounds, but since there was no Methodist church, they decided to work with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Lindsey to organize a Baptist Church. Since membership in the church required baptism, on April 23, 1911 Rev. Lindsey baptized Ernest Kline, Francis Johnson, David Johnson and Amy Jane (Wyatt) Johnson in the icy waters of the Yampa river.

Northern Baptist Missionary Bertha Smith was sent to help organize the church. The small group of believers met on April 9, 1911 at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Johnson. In addition to those mentioned, Mrs. Wyatt, mother of Mrs. Johnson was also present.

The petition for charter was signed by:

Ernest Kline, David Johnson Amy Johnson Levi Johnson
Francis Johnson Mrs Isabinda Wyatt Rev & Mrs William Lindsey.

On May 7, 1911, the first organized meeting of the First Baptist Church was held at the Johnson home. A canvas as made of the people present, and the following were found eligible for membership. Rev WC Lindsey, Mrs Lindsey, Mrs Wyatt, Ernest S Kline, Levi Johnson, Amy Jane Johnson, and David Johnson. The church covenant was received by the above named persons, and the Articles of Faith as set forth in *Brown's Manual* were adopted by the church.

The following officers were elected—Deacons, Levi M Johnson who was already ordained and Ernest Kline, to be ordained.

Clerk, Mrs. Johnson, Asst. Clerk E S Kline, Treasurer L M Johnson. It was voted to defer the election of trustees to a later date.

Brother Lindsey was asked to act as Pastor till other arrangements could be made, and he kindly accepted, without salary.

It was then voted that the regular time for church meeting be on the first Sunday of each month. A committee was appointed to arrange the meeting place. Soon after, a building was rented for dollar a meeting. The property is located at the intersection of Highway 40 and Washington streets, just south of City Park, and was used for a Cork and Bottle shop. Abby Carpets is located there now.

On Sunday , July 9, 1911, the following persons were named as trustees: James Cicero Herod, Levi M Johnson, and Ernest S. Kline. They were instructed to take out articles of incorporation from the state.

It was also voted to appeal to the State Baptist Board to send an evangelist with a tent for 3 months of meetings.

Sunday August 5, 1911,

It was voted to approve sister Lindsay's action and purchase the organ at Pacific MO. Brother J C Herod said he would buy the organ, and turn it over to the church, as soon as the church had a place for it.

In the next few years, the church met in several different places. Elkhead was a favorite place, meeting in homes, including the Davidson Cabin and meetings were held at the Johnson Ranch in Illinois Park, located on the present Black Mountain Road just below Freeman Reservoir. Since the roads were poor and the distances far, frequently the entire congregation would spend the weekend camping at the ranch. There was food and fellowship, not to mention the brisk fresh air to be enjoyed. In later years this was still a favorite place for an occasional church picnic. And in the 1990's a new tradition of Family Camping on the last week-end before school starts, was begun at Sherman Youth Camp, just a few miles away.

June 29, 1912

Special business meeting was opened by song and prayer by Brother King, after which Brother King outlined Brother Barn's ideas of building a church at Elkhead, him thinking it not advisable to build in Craig yet. The church thought different and decided to build a small house in Craig, suitable for a meeting place and parsonage, and to postpone the erecting of the main building until later.

June 30th 1912

It was voted to go with the original plans and build in Craig, and Rev Lindsey would make out a plan showing that Craig was the natural Center and in great need of a Baptist Church edifice.

About 1910, Mr. and Mrs. James Cicero Herod took a homestead at the fork of the Elkhead road at what is now highway 40, about nine miles east of Craig. Winfield Pankey now owns the property. The Herods were Baptists, and became aquatinted with Rev. Lindsey through a death in the family. Rev. Lindsey had charge of the funeral and through that contact, the Herods became interested in the church. Soon Elkhead became the headquarters of the church because most of the members lived in that area. They met at the Davidson Cabin or the J. C. Herod home until the Elkhead schoolhouse was built.

Ernest Kline was interested in the Herod home in another way. He worked during the summer at the Mike Smith ranch, (now the Van Tassel Ranch) which adjoined the Herod place. There he met Miss Elizabeth Herod, who soon became Mrs. Ernest Kline.

On July 22, 1917 Ernest Kline, Jasper Clouser and Bertram Welch were ordained a Baptist ministers. They were unanimously elected as assistant pastors of the church.

As a true circuit-riding preacher, Ernest traveled all of the area on horseback with his Bible in his saddle pocket. He preached to groups of people who were too far out to participate in any other church services. For many years he continued his faithful preaching of the word without salary or mileage for compensation. Souls were saved and hearts were challenged to serve God. Ernest took his wife, and children as they came along, by sled, wagon or car as time went on. In the cold winter months, rocks heated on the wood stove and wrapped in blankets made the long drives almost bearable, and baked

potatoes in the coat pockets provided not only warm hands, but a filling lunch after the sermon.

When the church was meeting at Elkhead, there was a membership of about 60 to 80 people. Services in the more rural areas were conducted once or twice a month, and several laymen took charge of those meetings as the Lord led them. In addition to Rev. Kline, Bertram Welch, Frank Daggett, Lerch Couvert and others helped in this way. They called them Sagebrush preachers, and though they might not have been as polished as some, God used them to touch hearts and win souls in a place where a City Preacher would have failed miserably.

After the Elkhead School was built, regular services were held there. For a time the First Baptist Church of Craig met in town on Sunday mornings, and then drove out to Elkhead for Sunday School in the afternoon. That made for some very long days, especially for the younger children.

After WWII, the Elkhead branch of the church was discontinued altogether. Many of the smaller ranchers were forced to move away after the depression years of the 1930's and the increased mechanization of the ranching business. With progress, better roads, and cars becoming more available, people were no longer tied to their small community churches. More and more people were able to drive in to town and the church became focused in Craig. Members of the Elkhead branch were also members of the Craig branch of the church, and no distinction was made in the church records.

700 SCHOOL ST.

Contractors Carl Van Dorn and George Wilson built the First Baptist Church of Craig building. The Architect was Mr Scott and dedication day was September 13, 1925. Dr. B.F. Palmer, executive secretary of the Colorado Baptist State Convention and Judge F W. Freeman, from Denver gave the main address for the occasion. Rev. George T. Lowe was pastor of the church at the time of the dedication, but resigned after only three months because of his wife's poor health. In November 1925, the Rev. A. C. Huff became the minister. A baptistery was built into the newly constructed building and Olive Kline, mother of Jean Smith, was the second person baptized there.

The church building at 700 School Street was the meeting place for the church from 1925 to 1975. It underwent 2 additions, the first in the 1940's while pastor Roy Walker was here. The second was made in 1953 when Aubrey Nelson was serving his first term as Pastor. Plans were drawn up for a third addition, but the membership felt that as the town was beginning to grow, land should be found and a new building constructed. A 5-acre parcel was purchased between 9th and 10th Streets on the west side of town. At the time of the purchase there were no other buildings around, but within a very few years, the Colorado Ute Power Plant began construction and the building boom was on. The little town of Craig grew in all directions, and by 1980, houses were built on all sides of the church property and a beautiful new High School was built a little more than a block away. In the spring of 1974 ground was broken for a new building, which was completed shortly before the end of the year. The last service at 700 School was a Watch Night Service, on Dec 31, 1974.

The parsonage was purchased during the time Rev. Raymond Rudd was Pastor. The Rudds were living there at the time of Rev. Rudd's death in 1939, due, we think, to a ruptured appendix. This was a sad event for the people of the church, as they dealt with the loss of their Pastor.

The old parsonage was removed (to the Kline Ranch where it burned in 1957) and a new ranch style home was constructed on the foundations of the old building, in 1956. James Dolan was the Pastor then. That building is still in use, and is was occupied by youth pastor Justin Jenison till his resignation in 2001, was the home of Young Life Missionaries Scott and Jennifer Smith for a time, and in 2006 the parsonage building was sold.

MISSIONARIES AND MISSION GROUPS

First Baptist Church has had at least two ladies Missionary organizations. The oldest one was the Ladies Auxiliary. It was organized in the home of Mrs. George Cutler on July 22, 1924. The first president of the group was Mrs. Ethel Simms. There were about 40 charter members, because the membership was held open for a year. Four Charter members were still active in 1970 –Julia Havenga, Mabel Kline, Elizabeth Kline and Myrtle Miller. The second group was the Maranatha Women, organized in 1958 by Louise Duggan to accommodate the ladies who worked during the day. It met on alternate Tuesday afternoons at the church, while the Auxiliary met on Thursday afternoons in various homes. Olive Jean Smith was the first President of Maranatha.

The Women's Auxiliary

The Society was organized on Dec 7, 1928

This is a list of the members, 1928-1930

Ambrose, Belle	French, Mrs. Clarence	Miller, Francis
Ambrose, Mrs George	Fuss, Mrs. Conrad	Mobby, Mrs.
Babb, Mrs. John	Gambell, Myrtle	Morrison, Mrs. LA
Babb, Nell	Gibbs, Margaret	Parfet, Stella
Bailey, Mrs. Virgil	Haines, Carrie	Pelican, Mrs.
Breeze, Mrs	Hansen, May	Smay, Mrs. Frank
Brown, Cecil	Hardy, Mrs.	Poland, Daisy
Brown, Lillian	Havenga, Julia	Ratcliff, Ethel
Campbell, Lucy	Huff, Pauline	Sammon, Mrs
Colburn, Elisabeth	Irick, Mrs	Schrader, Mrs.
Cook, Lovey	Jandos, Mrs	Self, Floy
Cook, Mrs. Edgar	Johnson, Irene	Short, Laura
Craig, Mrs Lew	Kendall, Marie	Shunk, Mrs.
Cross, Mrs.	Kerzt, May	Simms, Ethel
Cutler, Clara Belle	Kline Elizabeth	Stockton, Myrtle
Davis, Mollie	Kline, Mabel	Struble, Mrs AR
Davis, Mollie	Kline, Olive	Thomas, Tessie
Davis, Nina	Lawson, Bessie	Twight, Pebble
Draper, Katherine	Lloyd, Mrs. John	Van Dorn, Myrtie
Draper, Mrs. William	Martin, Ida	Van Skike, Mrs
Dresser Mrs. E. L.	McCowan, Margaret	Welch Mrs Bertram
Dresser, Ruby	McGinnis Mrs. John Sr.	Welch, Lillian
Featherston, Mrs	McGinnis, Mrs. J. H	Wiley, Adele
Field, Mrs Selah	Medlock, Jessie	
French, Jessie	Miller Mrs. W. H.	

MISSIONS

Several from our body have gone into the Lord's work full time. Jessie (Kline) Easterly served two terms in Africa as a young woman, and was married to missionary Herbert Palmer in Belgian Congo in 1939. She returned to Africa in 1989 at the age of 72 and served at the *Things to Come* mission school in Embu, Kenya, East Africa. She is 94 now and living in Grand Junction, CO. Lorraine Killilay served for a time in Home Missions, Claire Longuevan was in the Mali Republic for many years, and is now with ECMI based in Grand Junction Colorado. Claire and his wife Mayanne can also count their daughters as missionaries. Ruth Swanson married Dick Young, and they served with Inter Varsity in Minnesota and Wisconsin for a while and are now retired from Converge (BGC) in Lingle, Wyoming.

David Kline pastored a mission church in Greenville, South Carolina, and his son Dan has been in the ministry for more than 30 years. Mae (Grobe) Palmer is currently serving with her husband Donovan On the Africa Mercy ship, where Donovan is the General Manager. Kevin Foster and his wife Danielle are serving with New Systems International after a short term trip to Kenya, and Kevin Young (nephew of Randy & LuAnn Kline, is serving with Christian Challenge in Grand Junction, CO) Misty Pfifer-Mohl, Daughter of Kenya Morse, is serving in El Paso Texas.

In recent years, the concept of short-term mission work has become very popular, and First Baptist has been active in this area. In the early 1980's, Tony Zeimer went to Liberia and Chari Markham and Christina Moyer and Jorin Rudd went with YWAM to Mexico, in 1997. Wendy Wooden served for a short time in Bolivia on a GMU trip, and Karl Kline and Kevin Foster have both worked at Christian summer camps as counselors in recent summers. In the summer of 1997, the Youth Group traveled to Denver for a week of work in Denver's inner city, and doing some street ministry. Youth leader, Gary Morse, and Youth Pastor Intern Jared Gustafson led them. The next summer a group went to Minneapolis, Minnesota and met Jared for a week of work that included the Salvation Army Rescue Mission. In 1999, Justin Jenison became full time Youth Pastor at FBC and took a group to the *Young Life Camp* in California for a workweek during Spring Break of 2000. The FBC youth group, consisting of 14 youth and 5 adults, made a trip to the country of Belize to serve with Gospel Missionary Union for 10 days in

June of 2001. A group traveled to Madera, Mexico where they helped in building construction with the orphanage there, in 200?

Our Current Missions budget is far more than 10% of the total budget and we have 14 supported missions.

BIBLE CAMPS

In the 1960's and 70's the church supported 2 Bible Camps; Big Pine, near Rifle, Colorado, and Mt. Elim Camp, on Morrison Creek near Oak Creek, CO. The fellowship, fun and spiritual learning that go on in the atmosphere of camp are wonderful. The experience of just being away from regular life has provided opportunities for growth that would never have happened other wise. In the summers of 1997, 1998, Pastor Brian Haynes baptized about a dozen kids and adults that had made decision for Christ at Camp. In the years since, this has become a summer tradition.

There is a long history of Bible camping in our area, and before Mt. Elim, camps were held at other locations, either outdoors or in tents.

A group of men from the area got a vision of what camping could become, and started praying for God to show them just the right place to build a camp. They formed the Young Peoples Fundamental Bible Conference of Northwest Colorado, and invited all area churches that could agree with their Statement of faith to participate. The camp was formed as a

- ◆ Youth Camp,
- ◆ To study the Bible,
- ◆ Provide Christian fellowship, and relaxation for adults groups and
- ◆ Other activities related to the field of Christian education.,
- ◆ To promote youth activities,
- ◆ Missionary conferences,
- ◆ Rest camps for return missionaries, and
- ◆ A forum for the promotion of religious education.

In the early 50's, they found a hunting lodge in the present location, and began to build the camp around it. That lodge became a part of the dining hall. As time went on, a Chapel, recreation hall, cabins and a shower house were built. The well/water system was improved, additions were made to the dining hall, and a huge multi-purpose A-frame went up in about 1984, in honor of Rev Ernest Kline. A manager's cabin was completed in 2005.

In 2000, Mt Elim began a sort of partnership with Adventure Pursuits. That Organization put over 90 thousand dollars in improvements into Mt. Elim in exchange for the use of the facility.

In 2004 , Mt Elim Celebrated its 50th anniversary , and after more than 50 years, is still serving its original purpose. Let's hope it is still there for many years to come.

CHURCH STRUCTURE

From 1911 till the early 1980's our church governmental structure was Pastor, a board of Deacons, a board of Trustees, and standing committees. The officers of the church were the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Church Clerk. This functioned very well while we remained a small, family church.

In the Church minute book, not much is said about the years of WWI. On September 16, 1917 it says, the last meeting was held by Brother Kline. Minutes begin again on May 19, 1918. During the interval, Rev. Kline went east to Pennsylvania, and worked for a time in an ammunition factory. No recorded church services were held that winter. This was also the time of the great influenza epidemic.

In September of 1918, David S. Kline, Harold Kline and Miss Mabel Kline were received into the fellowship of the church, by letters from their church in Pennsylvania.

June 21, 1919

Revival meetings convened and 11 people were taken into fellowship—namely James Herod, Roy Medlock, Lillian Welch, Alton Welch, John Couvert, Lorene Couvert, Dorothy Herod, Irene Herod and Irvin Herod, as well as Mr. And Mrs Wilbur Shirat.

July 20, 1919.

The presbytery met and organized the call of the church for the ordination of Brother Bertram Welch for a minister of the Gospel. Charge was given by Brother JC Herod and Brother ES Kline and Brother Charles Diesel gave charge to the candidate and the church..

September 19, 1920

Brother EF McNeal conducted Examination of the candidates for Deacon. They were questioned on Inspiration of the Scriptures, the Fall of man, the Plan of Salvation, Justification, Repentance and faith and their understanding of Sanctification. God's preserving power was also asked of them, and what is the purpose of the church. Their belief in Baptism and what constituted Baptism, the Lord's Supper and keeping the Lord's day was also brought in question. Favorable answers were given and Brothers Bruce Medlock and Frank Dagget were ordained as Deacons, with a prayer by Brother Welch and a Charge on the duty of Deacons by Brother Lindsey and the laying on of hands.

From the minute book of First Baptist Church, June 29th, 1924

Fifth Sunday meeting opened by song #227.

Prayer by Brother JC Herod. Song #224

Scripture read by Brother Lindsey

Talk by Brother Blanchard

Prayer led by Brother David S. Kline

Song #217 The Touch of His hand on Mine.

Talk by Brother Campbell

Talk by Brother Clouser

Talk by Brother Johnson

Talk by Brother JC Herod Song #216

Talk by Brother Bruce Medlock

Talk by Sister Johnson

Talk by sister Mary Blanchard

Talk by Brother ES Kline

Talk by Brother Jasper Clouser Song #218

Talk by Brother Eben Hamilton

Talk by Sister Lizzie Kline and another by Sister Stehle

Talk by Miss Mabel Kline and one by sister Lottie Herod

Talk by Brother Blanchard

Song by Brother Ernest and Sister Lizzie Kline

Sister Jessie Medlock and Sister Mable Kline sang # 88

Session dismissed by Brother Blanchard for the fore noon.

Dinner served in a grove in Rosedale.

Afternoon service opened by Song #234 the King's Business

Prayer by Brother Couvert

Song by Sister Blanchard

The church was called in conference by Brother Lindsey, Moderator.

Prayer by Brother E S Kline

Song #245—Love Lifted Me

Motion made and carried that we the church appoint Brother Blanchard as our missionary and hold regular meetings every Sunday at the Chapel Car.

A 10:00 o'clock preaching service an 11:00 o'clock preaching service and an 8:00 o'clock in the evening service, with Sunday School in the afternoon at 3:00 o'clock at Elkhead.

It was decided by the church that we let all collections go to the Missions.

Doors were opened for reception of members, with Song #38. 3 people came forward, namely Mrs. Bessie Lawson by promise of a letter, Mrs Mabel Culverwell and Mrs. Carrie Haines by recommendation. Song #53 was sung and the church received them.

Prayer by Brother Blanchard.

Talk by Brother DS Kline

Talk by Brother Couvert

Song #90 sung by Sister Culverwell.

Lizzie Kline played for Sister Wagner

Talk by JC Herod

Talk by Brother Eben Hamilton

Talk by Sister Bowers

Talk by Brother Clouser

Last song #183 closed by prayer

Ida Herod, Clirk.

After the Elkhead School was built, regular services were held there. Bertram Welch, a homesteader and ordained Baptist Minister, helped pastor the church. Sometimes in those days of rapid growth, there was not enough room inside and some Sunday School classes met outside on a grassy road bank or in the shade of a building or tree. Baptismal services were always held in the summer time, in creeks, rivers or ponds. When the water level was extremely low, a small dam was often constructed to get enough water for the service. There were no heated tanks, robes or dressing rooms, but there was always great rejoicing as new believers went under the baptismal waters, while the congregation sang "Shall we Gather at the River". People were even known to shout *Amen!* or *Praise the Lord* on these occasions.

There is a note in the church minutes that says that the church bought the Elkhead School house, with the help of Paul Miller, after it was no longer used as a school, and that Scott Pankey purchased the piano from the school. His daughter, Daisy Smith, still has that piano in her house.

In the early 1950's, the church voted to sever our association with the Northern Baptist Convention, and become affiliated with the new Conservative Baptist movement, both nationally and within the state of Colorado. This affiliation ended after a few years and for quite some time, the church was an Independent Baptist church, with no conference affiliation. In April of 2001, after about 8 years of research and discussion, First Baptist Church became a part of the Rocky Mountain Bible Conference, and the Baptist General Conference. (Converge)

THE CHAPEL CAR

By 1924, there were a number of Baptist who lived in Craig. The church was built up by a revival meeting, which was held in a tent. Rev F. I. Blanchard was sent to Craig by the American Baptist Missionary society, along with the chapel train car, *Emmanuel*. Rev and Mrs. Blanchard lived on the chapel Car, which was parked on a spur track near the Craig Depot and it became the temporary meeting place while a building was being constructed at the corner of 7th and School Streets.

From the Minute Book, Feb 15, 1925—an all day meeting was held in the Chapel Car. At noon a nice lunch was served. At 2:00 pm the meeting was called into business session and opened with song and prayer. The report of the treasurer of the building fund was read, showing that a sum of \$4,251.06 had been paid in and a balance of \$95.00 was on hand Feb 14, 1925.

The Report of the lot fund was read, showing that \$686.50 had been pledged and \$464,50 which had been paid in to Charles Van Dorn at different times. The report was accepted.

The furniture question was brought up next, and decided that the furniture committee should have charge of all the pledges on the furniture and that Mrs. Diesel be treasurer of that committee. Pledges were taken amounting to \$363.84 & \$100.72 in cash was collected so the chairs could be ordered at once.

A finance Committee was appointed as follows: Everett Case, Elkhead, Eben Hamilton Cedar Mt., Roy Medlock, Rosedale, Charles Van Dorn, NW Craig, George Ambrose, NW Craig, Maurice Pysher, South of Victory. The Meeting was a great success in every way. Mrs. Maurice Pysher, Church Clerk.

1150 WEST 9TH STREET 1975-2001

On the First Sunday of 1975, First Baptist Church moved into the new building at 1150 West 9th Street.

Don Wasey was the Pastor, and years of preparation and prayer went into the move. Financing of the structure was by private bonds, and most members of the congregation pledged, and gave an extra amount monthly until the building was debt free, years before the term of the bonds expired.

The dedication of the building was held on the first Sunday afternoon in July of 1975. When the move was made, the church furniture, pews and pulpit came along. They had been purchased in the early 1960's, for a mere \$800. Now days, one pew costs that! They were using the hymnal *Inspiring Hymns*, and it continued to serve till 2000, when Integrity Music's *Celebration Hymnal* was purchased to update our music resources.

April 26, 1975 saw the wedding of Randy Kline and LuAnn Smith—the first formal wedding in the new building.

In 1984, during the construction boom in Craig, the mortgage was paid off on our present building. We were so grateful to God that he provided for us to make that early pay off.

The years have gone so quickly! First Baptist Church has served a unique purpose through these years. There has been a spirit of freedom that has allowed change and growth, though not without the accompanying growing pains.

FBC has been part of numerous new ministries. Out of this church came the vision for The Yampa Valley Crisis Pregnancy Center, and the Cornerstone Bookstore and Cornerstone Ministries, which operated together for about 12 or 13 years.

Due in part to the nature of the economy of Craig and Moffat county, and the rapid growth of the late 1970's and early 1980's, the membership of FBC has been fluid. People have come and been active in the body, contributing while they were here, teaching and learning together with us. The membership numbers have remained relatively stable, with attendance averaging about 150. For almost every family that has joined our body, another has moved on to another location.

2001-THE PRESENT TIME

In 2001, we celebrated our 90th anniversary, with a time of fellowship and sharing. The body came together for a dinner at Shadow Mt Clubhouse, and for a worship service Celebrating God's faithfulness. Many old times and current church members attended.

2001 marked a huge change, not only in the church but in our nation, as the events of Sept 11, 2001 will forever be etched on the memories of our people.

In Sept 2001, our Pastor, Brian Haynes embarked on the Goliath Project. He and his family went to 48 states, praying and serving in each Capitol. The Church pulled together in this time, and became even stronger, as we began a process called **Refocus**. The goal was to gain an understanding of who we are, and where God was leading. That collective thought process has led us to enhance our worship style and to remodel our facility. We began to recognize areas of need in our church and community, and facilitate ministry to meet those needs.

As our identity become clearer, we saw that **The Journey at First Baptist** was a name that more clearly reflected who we are and where we are moving as a church, and with the development of a logo, more of the pieces fell into place.

We adopted a revised Church Constitution in 2001, and solidified our Purpose, Mission and Vision for The Journey at First Baptist. 5 committees were formed to guide the church, and Elders were elected to serve and lead. In April of 2001, after about 8 years of research and discussion, First Baptist Church became a part of the Rocky Mountain Baptist Conference, and the Baptist General Conference. (Now known as *Converge*)

With the new constitution in place, the cornerstones of Worship, Mission, Fellowship, Discipleship, and Stewardship became the focus of the church.

An Awana Program for the youth of the church started in 1977. It has been wonderful to see youth and leaders alike grow and develop and get closer to each other and to God as they follow the principles of AWANA Able Workmen Are Not Ashamed. Beginning with a small group, AWANA has grown to include more than 30 leaders, 85 children, leaders in training and helpers and listeners.

In the Community, Love Inc., supported in great part by the church, has become a clearing house for mobilizing the local churches and agencies to meet the unmet needs of the people of our valley, with food, personal needs, furniture, household goods, and assistance in finding resources to help with other issues. In each case, the good news of Jesus is shared in word or action with those who come for assistance.

Celebrate Recovery, a ministry where people can come to work on habits, hurts and hang-ups with God, became a vital part of our ministry. Ivan and Wendy Wooden lead as the group came together and began to see real results in the community, and lives changed as a result of Jesus. Each week CR members come together for worship and bible study, and accountability to each other and to God.

In 2005, Pastor Haynes moved to Iowa and we began the process of calling a new pastor. After looking at many résumés and interviewing candidates, it became clear to the body and the Search Committee that the man for the job was already a member of our Body, and in February 2006, Leonard Browning became pastor of The Journey at First Baptist.

After over 25 years, the **Yampa Valley Pregnancy Center** is still serving the needs of the community for families with unplanned pregnancies.

By late 2007 it was obvious that we were experiencing rapid growth, and that our facility was getting very crowded. We started praying about a solution, and implemented a second worship service. Rental of community facilities became more frequent as we looked for ways to accommodate our growing body.

After many months of prayer and planning, we voted to go forward with a building program. Partnering with *Building God's Way* and *Mischler Construction*, ground was broken in June of 2009. During the year of Ministry of construction, God made his presence known over and over, as meals were provided for construction workers and staff, huge amounts of materials and labor were donated, and the building rose up in a matter of months. We owe Jim Dodd, Steve Foster and Larry Schmedeke a debt of gratitude for the countless hours of volunteer time they spent seeing the project through to completion.

The First Celebration Service was held in the new Sanctuary on Feb 14th, 2010, and in May, the new Sanctuary was dedicated to the Lord. The Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the doors and there was an open house to welcome the community.

We are now in 2011 occupying a beautiful new Sanctuary that can seat about 450, thanks to the work and dedication of our membership who have given their time and expertise to make this a reality. Landscaping is still underway, and remodeling of the old sanctuary to accommodate a nursery and children's center is in progress. Plans to install an elevator, and make the downstairs accessible are in the works. God has provided for our finances, and debt repayment is ahead of schedule.

2011-2014—update

Jan 9, 2014 a sprinkler pipe broke in the ceiling of the new sanctuary, ushering in a new normal. It was discovered that the ceiling truss system was failing, with the wood of the scissor trusses bowed like spaghetti. Insurance was contacted, inspectors came and we were not allowed to use our new sanctuary. In the interim, the church met at the Moffat County High School a couple of blocks from our property.

The next few pages of this history are memories and stories as submitted by current and former members of the body. This seemed a good way to tell the story of the last years. Some have been edited for length or clarity.

Oct. 30, 2000

Wendy & Ivan Wooden, and their children Jessie and Taylor came to FBC in the summer of 1987, from North Phoenix Baptist Church in Arizona. where they were Baptized the same day Glen Campbell was.. Craig was like it is now, but not so many crazy teenage drivers and hunters! Woodens were new Christians looking for a church, and liked the people at FBC, and especially the Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study. Dan Canady was the Pastor then.

Ivan and Wendy got very involved in the church, serving on the Advisory committee, Teaching Sunday School, AWANA and even singing in the choir.

Their son David was born after they came to FBC, in Feb of 1990, and he has been a special blessing. When David was a baby, he had a blocked tear duct that was about to require surgery. The Woodens prayed, and the church family prayed and God healed David's eye.

Wendy remembers the time she and Joy Fox did a skit for the 50-Day Adventure and says "it was a very stretching experience, but I grew through it. Also, in the 12 step Bible Studies with Pastor Craig Blair and through his counsel, God led me through necessary and sometimes painful self-examination. What a mighty God we serve!"

Other memories—the church camp outs at Sherman Youth camp on Black Mountain were some of the most wonderful times together when we as a church had to live and work together, cook and eat together, have Bible study and worship together. "I felt God's presence during these times--they were some of the most fun, most work and most rewarding."

"Having secret Prayer sisters has been an awesome ministry in being accountable to God to pray for one of my sisters in Christ for a year. It has built my perseverance and shown me that I have a faithful God."

"How did FBC influence my life today? Women's Bible study was & still is a lifeline for me as a small group ministry, through prayer fellowship-friendship and accountability. AWANA is a children's ministry I love & I now have the desire to reach boys and girls with the gospel and train them to serve Him."

November 17, 2000

Gary and Mary Tague first came to First Baptist church in 1978. The town was booming! Housing costs were up, schools were overflowing and business thriving. Dave Chambers was pastor. Gary and Mary have 4 children: Amy, April, Daniel and Alyssa.

Gary baptized Mary here, with Pastor Chambers presiding. They were drawn to the church by the preaching of God's word and because of the people and the pastor.

The first adult Sunday school class Mary remembers attending was taught by Gary, to a group of young married couples. *Heaven Help the Home* by Howard Hendrix was the book they studied and they met in the church kitchen, because all the classrooms were full.

Tagues have been involved in most of the ministries of the church, including choir, teaching Sunday School, Children's Church, Vacation Bible School Christmas Plays and skits, Camp, Gal's Night out, Fellowship and discipling and the Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study that met for abt. 20 years, from 1979 to 1999.

Mary remembers the fun of Sunday school picnics, the good food and conversation, going out to Aisles's Grove, and playing baseball and volleyball. She also mentions her memory of Pastor Chambers reading from the Bible like God speaking directly to her, and his voice during services—singing from his heart “I always sensed that heaven was near” she said. She also recalls teasing Pastor Blair about his bald spot, Tammy Dryer popping balloons in 3 inch spike heels, and Joy Fox playing Gruffy Bear in the Jungle Jam Christmas play “*Three Men and a Baby*”

And Speaking of Christmas Plays, Mary says, “ I remember picking up kids from the middle school for practice, and packing my van front and back with sweaty, bouncy children (they were on the floor, sitting on laps and in the luggage space in the back). No one played the King better than Kevin Foster, (whom I actually think believed at that moment that he really was King!) He played King at least two years in a row.

And no one entertained the troops and improvised better than Adam Peer. One never knew when he would be inspired during the performance to change a scene or a line!

Memories from Gal's night Out include Beth Ann Stevens riding a tricycle in a leather jacket as; *Leader of the Pack*: and dying after the crash, but not before pulling a spray of flowers from her jacket and placing them on her chest. "“ I was supposed to be mourning her, but couldn't help laughing...so I pretended to be crying really hard”" the men served us hamburgers and malts in jeans and t-shirts with cuffs and short sleeves rolled up. And who could forget Dianna Russ and the Superbs singing :*Stop in the Name of Love*” I was Dianna complete with shimmering gown and fake lashes. Betty Covalt and Jane Stout were my Superbs. On one occasion Mildred Herring dazzled us with a Hula Dance. I think she was about 82 then. The men entered the scene again that night as they presented each lady with a lei and a kiss on the cheek of course. My memory isn't very clear about one other time the men joined our festivities by lip syncing and pretending to play instruments. I remember George Moyer clearly, but cannot think who his companions were that night maybe Tom Sheley and Mark Gorham? Patty Rosine holds our all time record for keeping a hula hoop going and Becky holds the record for blowing the largest bubble gum bubble.

Birthday parties included several trips to McDonalds, where Mary Pat Dunn was arrested by a police officer for being too old. We had to play the children's games for another party, and I have film somewhere of Mildred Herring and many others sliding down that play slide.

Carey Trantham stopped a church picnic in it's tracks once when he whistled to get Bertha's attention to see if she'd like him to bring her a piece of watermelon.

I remember ladies at Tuesday morning Bible Study praying for one another in small groups, comforting one another, teaching one another , laughing together, holding one another accountable and getting t know one another as sisters.

Mary says First Baptist Church has influenced her life. “I have been challenged and held accountable for growth in my relationship with God. I have been taught to be a better parent. I have a close family of God that supports me and prays for me.

George and Theresa Moyer and their children first came to First Baptist Church in 1980. Craig was growing—the power plant was just coming on line, and there were new people everywhere. Dave Chambers was the Pastor, and George Swanson and Ed James were the Sunday school teachers.

George and Theresa have done almost every job in the church, including teaching Sunday school and children’s church, and VBS . Theresa attended Tuesday morning ladies Bible study and has been the head of the fellowship committee. George was a deacon and has served on the advisory board, as well as the Mt Elim Camp board. Their children, Christina and Jason, were baptized at Mt Elim.

The first Sunday School picnic that Moyers attended, the kids fed the adults chocolate pudding while the parents were blindfolded, and all the kids were wearing crowns that said *I am a child of the King* on them.

Some high lights of the years at First Baptist Church include the Progressive dinners, where each course was served at a different person’s house, and people got to know each other. The elaborate Valentine dinners put on each year by various groups, The Larry Burkett finance Seminar, all the Gal’s night out activities, men’s bible studies and choir.

One year when we went Christmas caroling, everyone piled into the motor home to drive between homes where we were singing, and there were a lot of people in there.

Friendships and learning to trust in the Lord, growing in the Word and raising our children have been the things that FBC influenced most in our lives.

Kathy and Jim Ross first came to First Baptist Church when Craig was a small town with less than 10,000 people. Their children are Sterling and Allison. There were only about 3 restaurants in town then--the Midwest Café, the Golden Cavy and Signal Hill. That was in 1972, and Ken Lindow was Pastor.

Kathy was raised Baptist and attended a church in Delta before moving to Craig. And that is what drew them to FBC. They were members then, but moved to Calvary Baptist when Pastor Chambers resigned.

Pastor Lindow was their first Sunday School teacher here. Their class met at the parsonage and he and his wife, Ruth, used to make homemade donuts for the class. Kathy took care of the nursery (pastor's study & library now) many Sundays and led crafts at Vacation Bible School.

They have never served as officers of the church, but they do remember progressive class dinners, where a course of the meal was served at each home, and people got to know each other. Paula Kinkaid met her husband, John at one of these dinners and voila! Instant romance!

One Christmas, the ladies of the church got together to make a stained glass Christmas window for the sanctuary out of cardboard (a refrigerator carton) painted black and different colored tissue paper for the panes. It was quite intricate and the ladies spent until 1:00 am finishing it!

Kathy says “ We came back to FBC after a long absence. When Jim and I walked back in the doors we felt we had come home.”

Larry and Elise Schmedeke started coming to FBC in December of 1995. Craig Blair was the Pastor. They came because of the friendly people and the bible preaching and teaching they found at FBC. They have become a part of the church, with Elise serving on the Worship team, and Larry being the chief greeter and hugger at the front door on Sunday morning, and head of the stewardship committee.

When Allene and Howard Silver first came to FBC, it was 1960. Craig was much smaller. It had 2 grocery stores in the center of town One was Buy-Low Market and the other was Bill's Market. There may have been a Safeway also, in the building across from the Museum, and doctor's offices on main street. Dr Kramer was in a white house in the center of the 600 block of Yampa Avenue.

Silvers had 3 small children, Jane, Don and Jim, and were drawn to a church where they found the Bible teaching they were not getting anywhere else. John Pim, Harold Kline and Alton Welch were Sunday School teachers then and John Fischer was the Pastor. Allene says that she was discipled by Pastor Fisher's wife, Grace, for 3 weeks, an hour in each afternoon. She remains in contact with Grace even now, 40 years later.

They became members and were baptized and were active in FBC. Howard was a Trustee. Allene sang in the choir and taught Sunday school under Edith Dalrymple's direction in the Jr. Department. She says her best teaching though, was at Good News Club on Wednesdays after school in the church basement. It was a wonderful ministry to children. They learned to memorize scripture, sang, fun songs and had a missionary story every week. A lot of kids trusted Christ as their Savior at that Good News Club.

Allene and Howard left FBC for a time, but after his death in 1981, she eventually returned to this safe place, and is again worshipping God here with family and friends. Her daughter Jane and son-in-law Claud and their kids, Jen and Stacy have also been a part of FBC. (Allene passed away in 2005)

Randy and LuAnn Kline have been a part of FBC all their lives. Randy's parents probably brought him for the first time when he was 2 weeks old—in 1954, and LuAnn remembers coming with her Gramma Pankey by the time she was about 4. Randy's Grandfather was one of the charter members of the church and one of the first pastors. He was ordained at FBC in 1917. LuAnn's Grandfather Pankey was one of the early Deacons.

The church met at 700 School Street then, in a white building with green windows. The nursery was in the basement, and Olive Jean Smith and Polly Siminoe were in charge.

In the primary department, Olive and Elizabeth Kline taught the 1st and second grade. Craig Browning, Allene Silver and Helen Perry were the Jr. Department teachers and by the time we reached Jr. High, the boys and girls were split up. Bertha Trantham taught the girls and the boys were with several brave men. Mrs. Perry taught lessons on the Tabernacle, and used a scale model that made everything seem so real. Mrs. Trantham had the Jr. High girls over to her house sometimes. We played a game with our shoes that was hilarious at the time.

During the early 1970's Jim Covalt was the teacher in the high school Sunday School Class. What a bunch of rowdies he had to contend with.

The Merricks—all 4 at once one year. Greg and Michael Smith, the Browning boys, Dennis Siminoe, and Warren and Curtis Hejny kept him on his toes. Karen and Kathy Kelly, Ray, Budd and Rena Parfrey, his own boys, Tim and Mark—they were all there. He was teaching for a while from a book called *So what's the Difference*—it was a study of different religions and cults. Later he dealt with all the popular teen topics of the time—situation ethics and morality and doing what God said, not what seemed right. We all learned a lot in those years.

We used to have special meetings every winter at FBC. An Evangelist or Preacher would be invited to come and preach every night for a week or more, and people came to hear them. One year it was Ron and Don Corely—twin preachers who worked on the Indian reservations in the area of Gallup New Mexico. Another year it was Bobby Murr—a pro or semi-pro basketball player turned Evangelist. He held contests all week long, with prizes for inviting the most people who came out for the meetings. Randy and I worked together, and won a basketball as our prize. Probably our first joint possession and years before we were married.

I remember the things that the moms planned for all us students. After the home basketball games, they had juicy pig parties, where they served up BBQ pork sandwiches and arranged games and fellowship times, always including a devotional .

Every year, the moms planned a Senior Banquet, to honor the graduates. Boy did they get carried away! The banquets always had a theme, and beautiful decorations and entertainment. One year it was Mexican food, another a Luau, and another a circus theme. I think scrapings from the main tent floor were on the menu that year, and Beulah Kline came to entertain us as a snake charmer. (That huge plastic snake may still be in her garage, scaring the birds away.)

About 1970, a guy named Ed Zellner (not the one from Victory Baptist in Denver) came to Craig, and decided we needed a new kid's ministry. He started Kid's Club. It met on Monday evenings and probably served in much the same way AWANA does now. Randy and I helped with the games and the singing for a while, and in taking the kids to the East School Gym every week to burn off some of that excess energy. After a time, Ed moved away, and a tall thin young man from Kansas, who had not been coming to the church very long, took over. His name was Steve Foster, and he can be found most Sundays now days sitting at the sound board in the back of the church.

Around that time the church had a school bus. It was bright blue and made a lot of trips to pick kids up for Sunday school, and VBS and to haul them to Mt Elim camp in the summer. I bet Steve Foster was in on maintaining that bus too.

In August of 1965, Neighborhood Bible Time came to FBC. It was a version of Vacation Bible School but seemed much more exciting. A real missionary, a young woman named Bobbie Eakins came and told stories about mission work in Puerto Rico, and her helpers led games and taught many of the classes. They listened to kids recite memorized bible verses and the books of the Bible, and ran a zillion Bible drills. Prizes were given for achievement, and ribbons for nearly everything. I have a photo taken at the awards program that year. Randy is standing in the back row. He was 11

years old. I am standing in the front row and I had just turned 9. That was an exciting year.

We used to have a Sunday school picnic every summer. They were held in various locations from year to year, but I remember going to Isles Grove and up Black Mountain to the Johnson Ranch. Randy says they used to go out to Elkhead before the lake was there, and picnic in the trees along the creek. Years before that, the church minutes talk about the picnics at Green Patches farm. It belonged to a man named Eben Hamilton and must have been near where Mary and Harry Dunn live nowadays, out on N Highway 13.

Randy and I sang in the church choir. Betty Covalt was the director when we were teenagers, but later other people directed, including Betty Smith and Joy Fox. We did Cantatas for Christmas and Easter and a call to worship and special number most Sundays. We had a choir potluck dinner at our house on the ranch one summer, and everyone brought either fried chicken or chocolate cake. I had to scramble to make a salad and put together an adequate meal, but it was a lot of fun anyway.

We did not have choir robes until about 1972. When Randy's sister Gayle Silver died, money for choir robes was given in her memory, and the blue robes with white stoles were purchased. The choir used to handle Christmas Caroling. Some years we all gathered at the church and walked around town to sing. Brrrr! Occasionally we had a trailer or wagon to ride on, or we all piled in cars and drove to different houses. One year we all tried to pile into Moyers motor home.

Gal's night out was started to give the ladies in the congregation something to do on occasion besides go to City Market or take babies to the doctor.

We have done so many neat things and had such good times over the years.

In May of 1984 we held a wedding gown fashion show. Brianna Rosine was born that week and Patty modeled her wedding gown that same week.

A Recycling fashion show was another one of our hits. Imagine Helen Browning garbed in foil and berry baskets.

Joy Fox was in charge of one evening and we played laser tag in the dark.

A few times we did silent auctions—silent only because the items to be auctioned were wrapped up. One time the item sold was a wild colored hat—brought or bought by Ruth Anne Greenwood. After a while, someone wrapped it up again, and passed it up to be auctioned again, and again. By the third time, people were laughing so hard they could not stop.

A Christmas tradition with the ladies began years ago as a cookie exchange in the ladies Tuesday Morning Bible study, but has expanded to include all who care to participate. Now it includes a game of exchanging wrapped presents, drawing numbers in turn till each present is gone, but until it is over, all gifts are up for grabs—literally! We will all remember the Booger game. It kept re-appearing in different forms as a beautifully wrapped gift from year to year. And the poor aquarium fish that someone put in a ziplock and wrapped as a gift. We all thought it was a waterbed for a Barbie doll. The fish survived and lived in Markham's fish tank for quite a while however.

Calling a Pastor has always been a challenge at FBC. The new system of a search committee works very well, but other methods have been used in the past. When Sam Dryer first came to us, we held a fellowship night to get to know him. Part of the fun included giving him a suitcase and asking him to sell us whatever product was inside. He did a great job, and had us all laughing a lot.

Don Wasey was the Pastor when Randy and I got married. I always thought he dressed like a gangster. Anyway, we planned our wedding and he and Grampa Kline officiated. We never did get in all our vows, because the preachers were too busy trying to figure out who was doing what in the ceremony. They even forgot to tell Randy that he could kiss his bride. Oh well, that was years ago, and things have worked out fine.

Theresa Tatum and her kids, Jake and Kelsey started coming to First Baptist Church in Jan 1997, drawn by the friendly people the music, the Bible studies and the non-denominational feel of the church. There are good fellowship times—actually getting to visit with members instead of just running out the church doors after services “I always try to talk to someone I don’t see all the time.” she says.

Memories of our time at FBC--Camp at Mt. Elim is so fun—a mountain – top experience for all of us. We were all 3 baptized at camp in that cold water. Going through the worst time of my life, a divorce; and knowing for the first time how a Christian family truly treats each other. The people of the church helping me move, and so many times finding me homes to move to.

Worship times on Sundays are important to me. AWANA for my kids and Bible studies are helping me grow in the Lord.

Theresa and her kids moved to Atlanta Georgia in august of 2001.

Beulah and Earl Kline are longtime members of FBC. Earl was born at the Kline Ranch and raised there. He met his wife, Beulah Acuff, at Grand Mesa Bible Camp when a group from Craig traveled there for camp during the war years. (They rode down in Francis Johnson' truck—in the back!)

Earl was baptized as a youth, in Elkhead Creek

Earl and Beulah were married in June 1944, and she moved to Craig, from Cedaredge. The town was not much then—Ranney Street was the west boundary, Highway 40 was the south. The north side was just lots of hay fields.

Lawrence Duncan was the Pastor at that time., and Mary Johnson and Myrtle Hix taught their Sunday School class.

Soon Beulah began teaching in the beginners and primary departments in Sunday school, and she taught for 35 years. She and Earl had 3 children—Gayle—(deceased) Sheila and Randy.

Beulah was involved in Women's Auxiliary, and they spent a lot of time preparing bandages for the missionaries, making quilts and doing some Bible studies.

Sunday School picnics were a big part of every summer—some were on the creek down at Hamilton, some at Elkhead Creek, Some at Johnson's sawmill in California park.

Some church memories—Myrtle Miller used to give 80th birthday parties for any of the ladies that reached that milestone. The Women's Auxiliary had a celebration in 1949 of its 35th anniversary. Beulah's sister-in-law was expecting a baby, and began labor at the celebration. They must have missed most of it, as Beulah's mother-in-law, Elizabeth Kline, is not in the group photo taken that day—she had to go help deliver the baby!

“First Baptist Church has just been an important part of our lives. Our children were raised going to the church, and now some of our grandchildren are a part of it.” Beulah said.

Clair Longuevan was a part of FBC in the 50's. Town was small and friendly, and he really enjoyed going to high school in Craig. The pastor then was Aubrey Nelson, then Jim Dolan, and Clair was baptized in the church and was a member until he entered the Army.

It was in Craig that his Dad, brother and sister accepted the Lord. His mom had become a Christian only a year earlier, and Clair was saved as a boy. His whole family was baptized at FBC

Clair played on the church basketball team and it holds special memories for him, because “ he was too short to play for the school teams” One night he made most of the points for the church team!

First Baptist influenced Clair's life. The pastors and Christian friends and neighbors, (the Swanson Family) were godly examples to him and to his family.

“ Mayann and I have many happy memories of fellowship at FBC when we visited during our furloughs from missionary service in Africa and numerous times since then. We are very grateful for your prayer and faithful financial support these past 38 years.”

Clair and his wife, Mayann have 4 children, Iris Antonucci, Sonya Becker , Jewel Most and Nathan Longuevan. They are supported missionaries of FBC, with Gospel Missionary Union.

Carey and Bertha Trantham moved with their family to Craig from Yampa, Colorado in August, 1956 and started attending First Baptist church.

They had been in Craig just a month when their middle son, Duane, was accidentally shot and died. The members of FBC helped so much in getting through this sad time.

In 1957 our son David and young Carey were baptized and the family was taken in as members of FBC.

George and Laura Swanson directed and taught the Sunday School Program at Hamilton. When they gave it up, Carey and Bertha, with the help of Myrna Wickham, carried on the work with Sunday School for two years.

They have had the opportunity and privilege of singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School Class , and directing a Vacation Bible School; working with the Woman's auxiliary, attending the Bible Study and Prayer Meeting, and enjoying the good preaching and fellowship at FBC for 54 years. Carrie and Bertha are deceased.

Ted and Annabelle Haddan.

Dear Friends,

It is truly a privilege to share some memories with you at your time of celebration. Our experiences at FBC are some of our most meaningful. The Lord led Ted to choose FBC as our church home through the faithful witness of a coworker at the bank, George Swanson. That witness and eventual close friendship was the beginning of many unforeseen blessing.

Moving four children (the oldest, Dan, already in college) meant making many adjustments. FBC gave us as parents, the support needed and offered them many opportunities to experience their own spiritual growth and maturity.

For Ted, the most meaningful for him was being involved in the Shepherding Groups. Being able to meet in the homes, discussing the scriptures and how it solves problems gives wisdom and guidance for daily living and then being able to pray together was a tremendous help to him.

For Annabelle, the experience with the Pregnancy Center was a time of being stretched spiritually as at no other time. God was truly present through all the growing pains and of all those dear precious volunteers. Our prayer times together proved the power of prayer and what it can and will accomplish if we are faithful.

Together, Ted and I still count Craig First Baptist as a special place in our hearts. Your care and concern were very evident in 1991 when Ted went through the three months hospitalization at VA. He was held up in prayer by the deacons and others and only God knows what that truly meant and continues to mean to Ted. Your financial support throughout that time is our most precious memory.

The effectual, fervent prayers of God's people accomplish much.

In Christ's love,
Ted and Anabelle

Dear Friends at First Baptist

We praise the Lord for the ministry of FBC in Craig for 90 years! We are thankful for your support while we were missionaries in Japan. It was a blessing to visit FBC at Craig when we were on home assignment. We pray for you work. Appreciate receiving First Baptist Beacon.

In spring of 2000 we were able to return to Japan for a month. We were given a royal welcome when we visited the churches we helped to start. We are so thankful that God has given us Japanese contacts here in Buffalo. We have 2 women's bible classes and a church worship service once a month, and a SS class in Japanese.

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it!
Ps 118.24

Cliff and Marion Schiefer

Dear Friends,

My first contact with FBC was Sunday night, September 3, 1933, when I was married by Pastor Richard Sammons at the home of Ben L and Josephine Wright on Barclay St., in Craig, after the Sunday night church service.

My fiancée and I had dated for five years in Illinois and he had wanted to marry before he came to Craig to work for Ben Wright, but I kept putting him off, as I could keep both him and my parents happy as they liked him very much, but thought he was rather old for me and I was rather young to take on the responsibility of two stepsons, eight and ten years old. I really thought he wouldn't stay in Colorado, but would come back to Illinois

Some cousins from the San Luis valley visited my parents and me in Ill. And invited me to come home with them for my vacation from the law office where I worked. I did and decided to come by Craig to see my fiancée on my way home to Ill., and tell him we would marry if he would come back to Ill.

What a trip I had from their ranch which was half way between Alamosa and Monte Vista. I arrived in Craig about 10:00 pm the Saturday night before Labor Day, September 2nd after boarding the first train around 2:00 am in Pueblo, changing in Denver Union Station to the Moffat line for Craig, an all day trip.

The conductor learned it was my first trip in the mountains, so he kept moving people and me around so I could see the best sights from the best places, and a very nice gentleman, a sheep rancher from around Baggs, invited me to have supper with him on the train, but I wasn't sure it would be proper since I did not know him, so I told him I wasn't hungry, and then I lacked the courage to go later by myself to eat, so by the time I reached Craig, I was famished, and it was quite a while before I got anything to eat, as I visited with the boys and met Mr. Wright and others at my fiancée's place of work. Then my fiancée turned his apartment over to me, and he and his boys went to a hotel.

I was kept waiting all day long Sunday for them to come back and was alone all day. Finally, late afternoon, my fiancée came and told me we were getting married that night at the home of the Wright's by the Baptist Minister. His name was Rev Sammon. How he ever managed to get

everything done the Sunday before Labor day, I will never know, but everything was perfect, and Mrs. Wright even baked a pineapple upside down cake for our wedding cake, and the minister was extremely nice, and there was quite a group there—the boys, all the Wright family, several who I did not know, Renee Snyder who taught school in Craig, and who was one of the witnesses, and we later became best friends, and kept in touch till just the last few years.

About a week after we were married, my husband said “perhaps you should give me that wedding ring so that I can return it” It seemed the Minister’s wife had loaned us her wedding ring, since the jeweler couldn’t be contacted, as he was gone for the labor day weekend, and no ring could be purchased.

What a dear, wonderful thing for her to do—which is typical of good Baptist and Craig citizens.

The First Baptist Church was at 700-school street then, just a ½ block from our home, so I became a regular attendee, taking my new sons, and became very involved. I sang in the choir, taught Sunday school class and did all the things a church member does. I did not transfer my membership from first Baptist in Ill. for quite a while, but really felt the Craig church was my church home. I was not involved the whole 90 years, but 68 years have been mine to savor and be proud of!

Sincerely, Mildred Herring.

Our Memories of First Baptist Church

We were married in 1977, for the second time, after having been divorced for eight years, and after four years of initial marriage. At that time we moved to Craig and eventually found FBC. It was a new beginning for us in many ways, for during the time we had been separated we both came to know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Our children, Curtis, then age 11 and Courtney, then 9, were deliriously happy at our reunion, but also, understandably, intimidated about the move to a new community. This was learning time for us all and the FBC became a big part of that process.

Our first real introduction to FBC came during a camping trip to the South Fork Campground near Buford CO. It was there that we encountered David Chambers and his son. We had heard of and considered visiting the church, but remained diligent in attending only a home study fellowship with which we were involved. We had just set up camp and gotten everything unpacked when up the trail came Dave and Dwight. We recognized David and asked them to join us. They didn't stay long, but during the conversation we had with him we decided that FBC would be our church home and we were never sorry.

Over the next seven years, we not only attended services, got involved in the Tuesday Morning Women's bible Study, The Youth Program, the Men's fellowship, sang in the choir, helped with VBS, supported the Yampa Valley Pregnancy Center, attended and helped maintain Mt. Elim Camp, but we also decorated the church for holidays, (Ted traipsing up to Black MT with the guys for Christmas greens) took part in Christmas pageants, attended church picnics in the park and cold Easter Sunrise services, helped baby-sit in the nursery, went to wonderful progressive dinners and took pictures of everyone at all of the above. Dona joined many of the Gal's night out meetings and Ted attended the men's prayer breakfasts when he could and we both joined a small group and benefited from the fellowship of those relationships.

We received counsel on the give and take of Christian marriage and the art of raising our children, both from David and Muriel Chambers and later from Dan and Charlene Canady. We learned many things from Len and Cheryl Browning as they gave their all in their ministry to our kids. We grew in our knowledge of The Word and our walk with the Lord while we

were at FBC and learned by example from brothers and sisters growing along side of us.

We learned how to butcher cows and sheep from the Klines, how to ride horses from the Greenwoods, how to clear snow from the parking lot by watching Vic Beckett do it every time it snowed and how to do many other things for the Fosters, Tagues, Drys, Gorhams, Rosines, Haddans, the Markhams, Moyers, Andersons, The Kings, Kiers, Covalts, the Overtons, the Swansons, the Grubbs, the Hoffmans, the Kinkaid's, the James family, the Sheeleys, the Kochs and so many others.

We saw many of the children, now gone on to college and beyond, or just recently married, born while we were there and many we feted at showers in the church basement. Most of those, at one time or another, were baby-sat by our children, Curt and Cory. We saw many people come and go from the congregation, yet none of them left without being blessed.

If the lord allows us to do anything over, we would probably choose to stay in Craig and at FBC. We are confident He uses all things for our good and that all we have been through is part of who we are, but we treasure the memories of our time at FBC. We were blessed there!

Ted and Dona Gustafson.