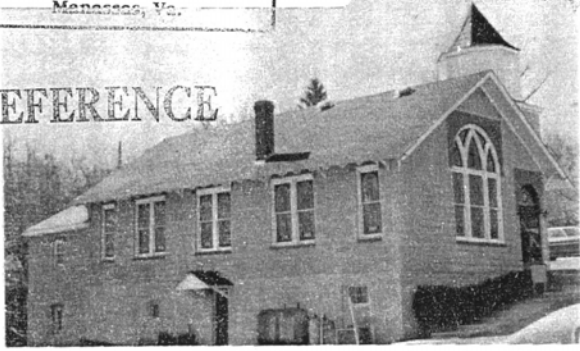


POTOMAC NEWS APRIL 1, 1983

P.W.C. - Churches Potomac News
Ebenezer Baptist REFERENCE

Prince William Public Library
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REFERENCE



Ebenezer Baptist Church

100th anniversary marked

By TERRI JONES

Ebenezer Baptist Church which celebrated its 100th anniversary in March, was founded by an ex-slave who had vision, faith, hope, love and determination to do service for God and mankind. This ex-slave with these virtues was sold from a slave pen in Alexandria, to a slave master in Texas. At the age of 21, Lewis Henry Bailey was freed and found his way back to Alexandria. Looking for his mother and after finding her, he received a job helping to cut the R.F.&P Railroad.

Through a white railroad worker's kindness, he was taught his alphabets. Later, he met a philanthropist who wrote the American Baptist Publishing Society enlisting their aid to educate this young ex-slave, whom he felt would be an asset to his race if he became educated. He received this aid and entered Wayland Seminary, which later merged with Union University. After finishing his education, he was called to the ministry, so he returned to the school of Theology to study.

Later, Rev. Lewis H. Bailey was told of a village called Occoquan that needed spiritual and moral guidance.

But due to lack of money for train fare, he walked many times from Alexandria to Occoquan. In so doing, he found one Christian in the community, Sister Jenny Scott. He was also encouraged by the white citizens, who said they would see that he got property to build a home, if he would settle in the community.

We are now privileged to continue to build on the foundation of the founder, Rev. Lewis H. Bailey, and the unselfish devotion and labor of many others who gave unstintingly of themselves.

Among those first families were many whose descendants are still members of Ebenezer.

Ebenezer's cornerstone was laid the first Sunday of May 1883 in Occoquan. Each year, the first Sunday in May has been a day of Thanksgiving. On it, members and friends express their gratitude to God for His goodness.

Pastors in the order of their service are REV. L. H. Bailey, founder; Rev. Wesley Jackson, Rev. J. E. Peterson, Rev. Francis E. Pree, Rev. Bush, Rev. Roots, Rev. Reuben Hall, Rev. J. E. Morris and Rev. James P. Russell.

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Lewis Bailey, Founder
↓ 1881
Jennie Dean was his
sister-in-law
started as
New School Baptist Church
Washington St.
Occoquan
became
Ebenezer Baptist Church
→ doing church history.
May 2007