



Friendship Baptist Church Today

Friendship Baptist Church in the 1950s

The Wright School

Friendship Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas

Photo at top right courtesy of Wayman & Mary Keen (photo by Wayman Keen) thought to be taken some time during the 1950's.

Photos at top left and middle by Dave Cumming.

Photo in middle of Wright School and photo at bottom courtesy of Friendship Baptist Church, 801 Friendship Road, Weatherford, Texas

Some Friendships Just Last

Friendship Baptist Church and Clark Cemetery

By Tammy Clark Brown and Kimberly Woody Boretsky

The Wright Community was named after early Parker County settler Lewis Franklin Wright. In 1874 Lewis gave land for a Union Church and School. The Wright School, as it was known, was originally located on the west side of the Clear Fork about 9 miles north of Weatherford.

In 1910 a revival was held in a brush arbor on the Clear Fork by Rev. Benjamin Franklin Fronabarger, pioneer educator and Baptist minister, and missionary Thomas Calvin Kuykendall. After the revival, Friendship Baptist Church was founded. The Wright School House was used for church services the third Sunday of each month by Rev. Fronabarger and Sunday School was held every Sunday.

In 1923, the Wright School was relocated to the east side of the Clear Fork at Friendship Church's present location. More changes came in 1945 when the Wright school consolidated with Carter and Roberson Schools so the trustees decided to sell the building and land since it was no longer needed for classes. At the time, Friendship Church did not have any Deacons so they appointed Mamie Woody, Eula Dill and Mrs. W. M. Woodle to raise money to buy the school. On December 1, 1947, the Wright School was paid for and Friendship was now a full time church. Friendship Baptist Church has been going strong for over 100 years now and the building itself has had several additions throughout the years as membership continues to grow.

Besides them both being part of the Wright Community, Friendship Baptist Church has strong ties to Clark Cemetery. On May 6, 1933, James Gaylon "Jimmy" Dobbs became the first pastor ordained by Friendship Baptist Church. Rev. Jimmy Dobbs officiated many of the burials at Clark Cemetery and is buried there himself. In fact, many of the charter members of Friendship Baptist Church are buried at Clark Cemetery, including Hollie Ruark, "Colonel" and Addie Dobbs, Eva May (Dobbs) Crelia, Frank and Wynunee Barker, James Edward "Jim" and Margaret Elizabeth "Betty" Clark and Bro. Henry Phillip Sharpe.

###

Editor's Note: Here is a post from Tammy Clark Brown on the deep connections with Clark Cemetery and the community:

"Growing up, I had always heard that my great grandmother, Annie Ethel (Mullinax) Clark was one of the founding members of Friendship Baptist Church. But a couple of years ago, when the church was celebrating it's 100 year anniversary, Judy (Clark) Goodwin told me that Ethel was not listed in the church records as a founding member. But, either way, Friendship has strong ties to Clark Cemetery and its families (Clark, Woody, Dobbs, Crelia, etc).

It's my understanding that the Wright School was originally across the creek but, in 1923, it was torn down and relocated East to where it is now and, in 1945, the church bought it out. The original building (built out of boards from the original Wright School) still stands but of course it has been growing."



Planting a Prayer Garden

Seeding with Winter Rye and Bermuda to Cover Bare Spots

Melvin Woody and Dave Cumming tilled the area around the prayer garden to plant grass seed they donated. The idea was to help beautify the area surrounding the Prayer Garden to compliment the rose bushes already planted.

This late in Summer and with the oncoming Fall months, they planted the rye grass and Bermuda along with some bare ground grass seed to provide some greening of the ground around the Memorial Prayer Garden.

Send comments to: newsletters@clarkcemeterypreservation.org
