

History of Romance Church of Christ



In 1912, a visiting preacher came to Romance and used the Oak School House (on Hill Top Acres Rd.) to hold a three-week meeting. Among the people attending the meeting were Ham and Macy Rogers. Every night, Macy would go home and look up the scriptures and compare the message with her Bible. After several sermons, she said to her family, "You know, this preacher is preaching the truth!" She was convinced that she needed to confess Christ and be baptized and made statements to Ham that she was going to be baptized that night. Ham, being convinced also, was baptized with her. The people wanted the preaching to continue, so they kept meeting at the school house until they found the doors of the school locked one Sunday morning. They now had to move quickly to find land and a building of their own. They met in a few homes and in the Methodist church some. N.E. Davis and David Pence were two of the first Elders.

On January 7, 1913, W.H. and Mary Greer sold a 70 square yard piece of land to the new Romance congregation for \$1 (this land was right beside the Methodist church on Hwy. 31). The men all chipped in and began construction of the new building. Although we don't have a date of completion, we do know that the men hauled logs, took them to the saw mill and built the church building where they would meet until 1970. Builders included Ham Rogers, Newt Davis, Lawrence Watson, Brooks Watson (Sr.), and Joe Rogers (Ham's brother). Joe, a carpenter from Kensett, also helped with the bell tower. It is believed that it took approximately two months to complete the building.

As quick as the building went up, fire brought it down on October 27, 1970, just as quickly. The building where the church met at Romance was destroyed, all but two seats and a blue bench. At this point, the congregation began meeting at the Masonic Lodge building on Highway 5, while the new building was being constructed. Richard Lee Rodgers wrote letters asking for donations to help with the new building. Several other congregations helped, along with members from Romance.

Preachers at Romance have included Will Harper, Johnny Matthews, ? Hartsell, F.W. Maddox, L.V. Phieffer, Ancil Stracener, and Jerry Riley.

First Elders included N.E. Davis, Columbus "Lummie" Newman, and Lawrence Watson. Next Elders were Richard Davis, Robert Coleman, Glenn Belew, and Freeland Watson.

Deacons have included Willie Holeman, Houston Shultz, and Raymond Rodgers.

After many years without Elders or Deacons, the congregation elected its current leadership in 2006. Elders include Gary Goss, Pete Stewart, and Charles Weeks. Deacons include Rich Clevenger and Doug Stewart.

Notes:

- Treasury records start in 1942, with 1981-88 missing.
- Classroom additions were made in 1945 and 1948.
- Propane gas was installed on November 15, 1948.
- The Masonic Lodge built their hall over the Methodist church, and it was completed on September 11, 1929. They built here because the school house burned February 20, 1928. On September 9, 1957, the Masonic Lodge bought the Methodist property for \$100.
- On October 28, 1963, the Romance congregation bought the Methodist property from the Masonic Lodge for \$175, not including the building, which was soon removed.
- On June 20, 1971, a new brick building, built by W.L. Nolen, Richard Davis, Claude Turpin, Owen Leach, and John Fowlkes (Jr.), was occupied at a cost of \$25,000. It was dedicated on July 11, 1971, with Richard Rodgers giving the dedication address.
- The first loan payment was June 12, 1971, and final payment was made on December 4, 1974. Payments were made to Arkansas National Bank.
- In September, 2002, construction began on our Fellowship Hall. The building was finished on February 20, 2004. The brick building was completely paid for by the congregation. The yard was also black-topped. Workers included Arthur Rodgers, Carl Rogers, Monroe Oakley, Finis "Buddy" Taylor, and many others.

(History submitted by Carl Rogers and Anna Sue Davis-Arnold.)