

Amonett Family Newsletter
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It's mailing time. This is all I have for this year. Come on out June 13, to the Family Reunion. –Glen

Lubbock Avalanche Journal, Saturday, March 13, 1993

Rural Church About To Celebrate 100th

Active membership dwindles to three

Lakeview Methodist Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a reception from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. March 21.

A landmark on the highway between Petersburg and Abernathy, the white frame church with a steeple is one of the few remaining country congregations still meeting.

"It is down to about three active members," Said the Rev. Jesse Nave, a city employee for Petersburg who has preached for the group since 1982.

Once thriving, Lakeview now is one of the last surviving rural communities among many that once dotted the South Plains. Only one church member still lives in Lakeview, Nave said.

"We are inviting all the former pastors and anyone who has ever attended out there to an informal sharing of what the church meant to them. If someone comes and wants to preach, we will let them," Nave said.

The First United Methodist Church in Petersburg will prepare the reception for the centennial celebration, he added.

Church services begin with Sunday school at 10:00 a.m., preaching at 11 a.m. and worship at 4 p.m. The Wednesday service is at 5:30 p.m.

"When the Lakeview Methodist Church was organized 1893, the broad, grassy prairies of West Texas stretched from one horizon to the other," wrote Glen Amonett, who sketched a brief history of the church.

Amonett is a Baptist layman from Petersburg who preaches at Lakeview Methodist when Nave is absent.

"The history of a church is wrapped up in the lives of its people," Amonett observed. "Many an old farmer was helped along the road to immortality by the opportunity to know the Lord in the Methodist Church of Lakeview."

Six ministers of the gospel came from the membership of the church: Russell McAnally, Charles Lutrick, Walter Driver, W.A. Amerson, Clifford Mayo, and William Mayo.

"It is not only the professional careers that are a credit to this church, but also the day-to-day influence of dedicated members." Amonett said. "One member, the late Lawrence Amerson, never missed a service of the church for 37 years."

Looking at the historical setting, Amonett noted that between 1870 and 1892 44 counties were organized in West Texas. "The census of 1890 showed 721 people in Hale County, 33 people in Lubbock County to the south and 100 people in Swisher County to the north," he said.

"Methodist churches were usually organized the same year that a county was organized. Circuit-riding Methodist preachers were on the job in West Texas, where they were mainly equipped with a horse, a stake rope, and a Bible."

The original location of the Lakeview Methodist Church was four miles northwest of present-day Petersburg at the rural school of Ivy. The Rev. R.M. Morris, a circuit rider, organized the church on March 18, 1893.

The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. John Blake, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Ragland, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Lutrick and Flavus Neil. Descendants of these early settlers remain in the area, Amonett said.

"When the Lakeview Methodist Church was established, a church was also organized at the outpost of Lubbock, and it was served by the minister from Emma, a Crosby County community," Amonett said.

The Lakeview Methodist Church met for several years in two rural schools, Ivy and Round Top.

"Later, the schools of Ivy, Round Top and Star combined to form one school district with the community center buildings at the present location. The Methodist Church was always near the schools and community activities," Amonett observed.

The Lakeview community at one time contained a high school, grocery store, cotton gin, residences and other churches. Over the years, more growth occurred in towns served by highways and rail roads, Amonett said.

"Now only the Lakeview Methodist Church remains of the bustling community center," he added.