

# Baptist church celebrates 150 years

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The Capital-Journal  
Published Saturday, March 10, 2007

Known for its years of service to the community, First Baptist Church, 3033 S.W. MacVicar, will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a banquet at 12:30 p.m. Sunday in the church's Christian Community Life Center.

In addition to its programs aimed at children, youths and adults, the congregation, affiliated with the American Baptist Churches denomination, has a long history of reaching out to the Topeka community.



*Submitted*  
*First Baptist Church, 3033 S.W. MacVicar, will have a banquet Sunday to mark its 150th anniversary.*

While at its previous location at S.W. 9th and Jackson, just east of the Statehouse, the church had a USO-type canteen for soldiers during World War II, serving refreshments before and after services.

In 1951, the church served lunch to legislators working at the Statehouse. When lunch was ready, the female parishioners would go outside and bang on aluminum trays to let the lawmakers know that lunch was ready.

Also in 1951, the church opened its doors to those who were left homeless by a flood that ravaged much of the city.

More recently, the church constructed a house for Habitat for Humanity in 1993.

Adult and youth members have taken mission trips each summer to Nicaragua.

The completion of the church's new multipurpose center with gymnasium in 2001 has allowed it to again open its doors to the community.

First Baptist Church is the host location for the Shepherd's Center, an interfaith educational program for older adults.

In winter months, the church is a host site for Upward basketball, a Christian-based sports league for children in grades kindergarten through sixth.

Also, the church has been active in preparing and serving meals at Let's Help for 25 years.

According to church records, 33 ministers — including interim pastors — have served First Baptist Church. The Rev. Joe Kutter is the church's current pastor, having served at First Baptist since 1997.

For more information, call the church at (785) 267-0380.