

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CANTON BAPTIST CHURCH

- **1809:** First steps are taken to build a meeting house in New Canton, as it was known at that time. It appears that, although meetings may have been held, a formal congregation was not organized at this time.
- **October 17, 1818:** 31 people – 26 members of Salem Baptist Church and five members of Cohansey Baptist Church – are dismissed from their respective congregations to form a new one at Canton. (Canton Baptist Church is considered to be a daughter church of Cohansey Baptist.)
- **November 12, 1818:** Rev. Henry Smalley and Rev. Joseph Sheppard convene a council in which two Deacons, Abram Harris and John Mulford, are chosen; Charles Mulford is elected Clerk.
- **December, 1818:** Rev. Thomas J. Kitts from Wilmington is ordained and becomes the first pastor of Canton Baptist Church.
- **May, 1826:** Rev. Ebenezer Jayne becomes CBC's only pastor to die while in the pastorate. He had served since February, 1824.
- **1838-1842:** During the pastorate of Rev. William Ruddy, the congregation condemns the old church building.
- **July 16, 1840:** The cornerstone of the new brick building, which will measure 40' X 60' is laid on the site of the original wooden structure. Total cost of the building when finished is \$2,021.05, most of the construction having been done by members.
- **October 29, 1840:** The new structure is dedicated to the worship of GOD. Services continue for several days, with Rev. Samuel Smith of Salem preaching.
- **1937:** The Annex, measuring 34' X 40', is built, attached to the south (right) side of the sanctuary building. The brick structure costs \$2,421.58.
- **April, 1946:** A new organ is purchased for a cost of \$1,700.00. Linwood Dilks had started the organ fund with a gift of fifty dollars while serving in the Army in Africa.
- **October, 1952-January, 1953:** Canton Baptist, Quinton Baptist, and Elmer Baptist withdraw from the West New Jersey Baptist Association (WNJBA), State Convention, and National Convention (American Baptist), after (among other things) the WNJBA ordains, with a vote of 12-7, a Mr. Harlow, who does not believe in the deity of Christ. The WNJBA is unwilling to reconsider and furthermore defends his ordination. Another objection cited is that "The American Baptist Foreign Mission Society refused to recall a man definitely committed to a modernistic [i. e., non-biblical] stand and linked by his writings and associations with pro-communistic activities and position[s]."
- **After withdrawing** from all American Baptist associations, Canton Baptist joins the Conservative Baptist Association.
- **March 17, 1968:** The 36' X 80' educational building, situated on the north (left) side of the sanctuary, is dedicated.