

## **A Collection of Reflections: Our Faith Journeys at Dayton First Baptist**

As we update our official written history of First Baptist Church Dayton (FBC Dayton) in preparation for our Bicentennial in May 2024 the Heritage Committee seeks to add personal reflections for the past 50 years. We have attempted to collect some of your stories using the strategy of oral history. However, we have found this process a bit challenging i.e., trying to schedule interviews, and transcribing. So, we have decided to add a second approach. We invite all of you (old and young) to take the time to write your own reflection on your experiences at FBC Dayton.

While a formal written history can record events and list activities in a church, this often leaves out the person to whom things happened. To capture and preserve this important aspect of the church's history we are inviting you to sit down and reflect on the following questions. Please share a story (or stories) of any experience you have had with someone in the church (or outside the church) for any of the questions. Do not feel you have to answer all the questions. They are just suggestions of experiences you might want to share.

Please feel free to handwrite your responses or use a computer (MS Word preferred). Please don't worry about the way you write about your memories (don't think about spelling, grammar, or punctuation, or whether something is a complete sentence) — we want your details and your memories and we have a great group of volunteers who will help transcribe your work.

Your contribution can be as long or short as you want. Your contribution will become part of the church history archives stored at Wright State University and used to update the previous published church history.

You can return your contribution to the church office or email to Donna Miles Curry, Chair of the Heritage Committee ([donna.curry@wright.edu](mailto:donna.curry@wright.edu)).

**Thank you for your participation in our Bicentennial church history.**

1. How did you decide to come to FBC Dayton and what were those first Sundays like?
2. What are some of your most vivid memories of your time at FBC Dayton?
3. Who were some of the people you remember at church when you first arrived—your first encounters?
4. Who were some people who became dear friends?
5. What was your experience with Church (Sunday) School?

6. What was your experience with Pastors (what do you remember about them?)
  
7. Were you involved in a specific group at church (the choir, the youth, a teacher yourself, a committee)—what was it like?
  
8. How was the church involved in the larger Dayton community while you were here? What impact do you feel the church had in the community at large? Missions? Did you have any relationship with any other local or sister Baptist churches?
  
9. How have your experiences at FBC Dayton affected your faith journey?
  
10. What kinds of activities or events do you remember happening in the church? These could be very personal events—like your baptism, your wedding, or it could be a more general event like Christmas Eve service, or a visiting choir, or different celebrations that happened.
  - Can you remember why that event was happening? And what it was commemorating or celebrating?
  
  - Who was involved with the event?
  
  - Were you affected or moved by the event? What did you feel like being at the event?
  
11. What would you want someone else to know about your time here at FBC Dayton—the journey you took with this church? Is there someone you want to remember especially for the impact they had on the church?
  
12. Finally, is there something you don't want to forget, and you don't want us to forget about FBC Dayton that you remember vividly—a story, a person, a moment, an event, a part of the building, or the way something used to be done that might have been forgotten? Can you tell us that here?