

The 222 History Corner - Fishers of Men -



As summer winds down and September begins, it reminds me of the fall events we did in the past at Belleview Baptist Church. I especially enjoyed the church fish fries growing up. In the fall of 2015, the church held a community wide fish fry. The church tent was put up on

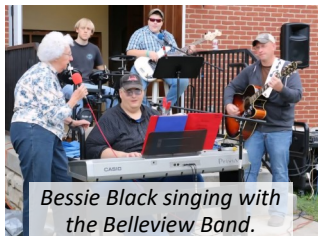
the lawn of the church. There was outdoor music, yard games, a bounce house and a campfire. Several of the men from the church breaded and fried the fish. The ladies of the church brought my favorite fall foods: apple pie, pumpkin pie, cornbread and plenty of macaroni. Most of the kids probably skipped eating the fish and went straight to the table of desserts. There was also a hay ride through town, and fellowship between church members and visitors from the community.



I interviewed some of the deacons to see what they remember about the church fish fries. The first fish fry seems to go back to the time when Brother Steve Alford, was the pastor of Belleview Baptist Church. Some deacons can remember a fish fry held at Brother Steve's farm. At that time, the cooking was

done off site and the fish came from Mr. Herb's restaurant. Others remember a more recent fish fry, when Jack Sergent helped to organize a fish fry on the church grounds. A tradition began, where Sandi Jones would sing a song called, "Pray for the Fish." Although a lot of work goes into the fall fish fry, it has become a special church event.

I also found that there was a Sunday School campaign called "Fishers of Men." The theme of the campaign was based on Matthew 4:19, where Jesus called Simon Peter



Bessie Black singing with the Belleview Band.

and Andrew to follow him. Fishing has long been a part of history and there are many fishermen in the gospels. Some well known fishermen at church over the years are Jack Sergent, Buddy Rogers, Jack Rowland and Dave Wood. Last year, we had a new fisherman, Andrew Mynhier, join the church. I am sure there are other fishermen not mentioned, since Belleview is a river town with many fishing holes nearby.

There is a fish fry planned at the church on September 27th. Hopefully, the fall fish fry will continue to be part of the future at Belleview Baptist Church.

Mary Casper

(Photos Courtesy of Rachel Jones)



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