

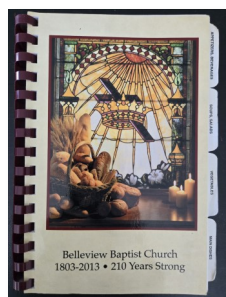
The 222 History Corner - Thankful for 222 Years -

As I read through the Belleview Baptist Church history, I am reminded that we have a lot to be thankful for over the last 222 years. We are blessed to worship in a comfortable church, thanks to those who came before us. Their willingness to serve God, serve others, and give generously are an important part of the Belleview culture. Those qualities are passed down to the next generation through church and family traditions.

I discovered a letter describing the traditions of welcoming a new preacher and his family. The letter is from Brother Carlton, the pastor of Belleview Baptist from 1951-1955. He says, "One day, Mr. Will Rogers asked me if I liked fried chicken. I said, "Yes", thinking we would be invited for a fried chicken dinner at his home. Instead, he brought me a live chicken! Having grown up in the city, I didn't know anything about killing or dressing a chicken...We remember Agnes' coconut pie, Louella's donuts, the wonderful pounding the church gave us when we moved into the parsonage."

I had to look up a church "pounding" online, it is the custom of giving the new pastor the gift of a "pound" of essential goods. These would often be sold by the pound, like sugar or flour. It also serves as a way for the congregation to welcome, get to know, and support the new pastor.

Another tradition was passing recipes from one generation to the next. Sometimes these family food traditions ended up in our church cookbooks. As I read the cookbooks, I am reminded of the church members who gave me cookbooks for my bridal shower. They were teaching me that cooking and serving others is an honor.

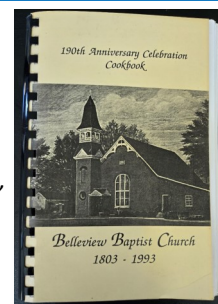


They took pride in cooking for their community, family and our church family. They carefully planned the dishes they brought to church dinners and picnics. We remember their Christian legacy along with their famous covered dishes. As a way to continue that tradition, we have posted a few church cookbook recipes on the bulletin board in the gathering space. Feel free to take them home. If you are not sure what to bring to the church Thanksgiving dinner, the cookbook recipes can provide some inspiration. I am thank-

ful for the many that serve and work behind the scenes to make the Thanksgiving Dinner a memorable tradition at Belleview.

Excerpt from the 190th Anniversary Cookbook: "We have endeavored to collect favorite recipes both past and present which reflect on our agricultural community. This is a tribute to those who came before us who gathered from the fields and riverbanks, the cultivated orchards, and from their carefully tended gardens...let us remember those who settled and built this community and began the rich heritage we enjoy today."

Mary Casper



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