

Terrell County Memorial July, 2018
Sanderson, Texas

Museum News

First Calvary Baptist Church

Mission in a Meat Market



Photo: Bill Smith

Formerly Cooke's Meat Market and grocery store, First Calvary Baptist Church purchased the building in 1978 for its new home.

In December of 1978 an organizational meeting was held and Sanderson Baptist Temple was formed, electing Paul M. Ray as pastor. In March of 1979 a revival meeting spurred hearts and a concerted effort by new members and old started the Church on its present

course. Due to an infamous incident with the People's Temple in Guyana, it was decided to change the name to Calvary Baptist Church, but that name was already chartered in the state of Texas. With the simple addition of the word "First", First Calvary Baptist Church was



Photo: Bill Smith

The AWANA Club has always been a successful ministry with First Calvary. This photo shows the youth in 2008. L-R: Front row: Zane Tucker, Katie Jahn, Manny Campos, Ari Ramirez Middle row: Justin Flax, Jacobi Campos, Hunter Truesdell, Buddy Imboden, T.J. Bellah, Taryn Mitchell, Otto Turner, Noah Aguilar, Elisha Carrasco, Luke Carroll, Lauryn Carroll Back row: Jacob Helmers, Daniella Barron, Elias Hafner, Jessie Roberts, Grace Jahn, Abby Carrasco, John Pierce, Joseph Carrasco, Andrew Portillo, Al Johnson

born.

The church held its first meetings upstairs in the old Cooke's Meat Market building at 2nd and Oak. Shortly, remodeling downstairs produced the present sanctuary, and a fellowship hall was added in 1984, honoring the memory of Bill Rose, a faithful member killed in a tragic plane crash in 1982.

First Calvary is a mission-centered congregation. From the beginning it has been an independent congregation, not associated with a national denomination. Since no funds go to a national organization, the church is free to sponsor its own local and world-wide ministries.

Locally, the church began First

Calvary Prison Ministry in 1984 that presently sends Bibles and Bible study courses to prisoners incarcerated around the country, and ministers to their families. The church also sponsors a nondenominational Kid's Club on Wednesday nights throughout the school year, available to all children of the community. The church also supports the West Texas Food Bank and indigent traveler assistance.

In addition to maintaining its local work, the church directly assists missionaries around the world at all times.

The church has had six pastors during the time of its existence, with the Reverend Paul M. Ray coming for two terms:



The original Cooke's Meat market as built around 1941. The Cookes ran the store in the bottom and had an apartment on the top floor. All that has changed in 70 years is addition of a new roof.

Photo: Sudduth Collection, TC Museum

- Rev. Paul M. Ray 1978-1984
 - Rev. Charles Pierson 1984-1986
 - Rev. Gary Pokorney 1986-1991
 - Rev. James Riggins 1991-1997
 - Rev. Paul M. Ray 1997 - 2010
 - Rev. Dan Botterbolt 2010 - 2012
 - Rev. Bob Welch 2012 - present
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One cannot tell the First Calvary story without talking about Greene Cooke, the first owner of the building.

Tom Greene Cooke was born in Ozona, Texas, in 1901 and his wife, Annie Marie Hutcherson, was born in Barksdale, Texas in 1904. They got married in Uvalde in 1924 and moved back to Ozona where Greene worked for a grocery store, learning the business. Their first two children, Marshall and Doris were born in Ozona.

In 1930 they moved to Sanderson to take over the Earl Stirman Meat Market, which was located in the old two-storey building sitting next to the old Firehouse on 1st Street, across from Kerr Mercantile.

The Depression years were very hard, with very little being sold at the time, but they survived.

They moved into their new Cooke's Market building at 2nd and Oak, making a large apartment of the upstairs and running the store below. Cooke butchered his own meat, had barbeque several times a week and made home deliveries of groceries. Their children, Marshall, Doris, Betty, Bobby, and Peggie, all helped with the business.

In 1961, Green and Annie retired and sold their building and business, moving to a home on Hackberry where they spent their twilight years.



The Cooke family in 1961: Back row L. to R., Marshall Cooke, Doris Harrison, Betty Chappee, Melva Cooke, Marie Cooke, Dudley Harrison, Greene Cooke, Judy Cooke, Bobby Cooke. Middle row L. to R., Jim Chappee, Craig Cooke, Mindy Cooke. Front row L. to R., Robert Chappee, Darrell Cooke, Damon Harrison, Nelson Cooke, Robie Harrison, Anne Chappee, Maje Harrison, Stacey Cooke, and Peggie Cooke.

The Cookes were very involved in town affairs, being faithful members of First Baptist Church. Greene was a charter member of the Lions Club and was involved in the creation of the Terrell County Water Control and Improvement Board, serving some years as president. He also was a director of the Sanderson State Bank. Annie was very active in the American Cancer Society and the American Legion Auxiliary.

After retirement, Greene went to work as parts manager for

McKnight Motor Company, then became parts manager for Dudley Motor Company until his health gave out and he was forced to retire completely.

Green Cooke passed away in 1988 in Fort Stockton and was interred at Cedar Grove in Sanderson. Annie passed in 2000 in San Angelo and joined her husband at his side in Cedar Grove.