

New Salem Missionary Baptist Church

Township:	T-48-N	Organized:	1900
Range:	R-15-W	Disbanded:	Yes - Building Razed
Section:	29	Active:	No
Map:	Click Here	Updated:	July 19, 2005

Cemetery: There is a cemetery associated with this church.

Area: Northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section about one half mile south of the Old Gooch's Mill. The old mill is still standing on the east bank of the Petite Saline Creek, near the bridge, on a grave road which is the extension of Route V. The cemetery is beside the church on the west side of the road.

Records: The location of the church records is unknown at present.

History:

New Salem Missionary Baptist Church From "New Salem Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery Records"

In the years of the 1800's about 1898, many families were worshipping with the Congregational Church near Wooldridge, Missouri; known as Old Salem Baptist located at Jolly's Bottom. They were the Colemans; Monroes; Beattys; Bales; Minors; Taylors; Wooldridges; Pools; Youngs; Overtons; Powells; Mongomerys; and many others. This was a long distance, and had to be traveled by teams and farm wagons, horse back or foot - as few spring wagons or buggies were available. Many took their families a foot and would carry their shoes and put them on at the branch just before reaching the church. Time passed and sometimes when they would come out of church, they would find their teams turned loose or the harness cut to pieces and many other harmful things done, so about 1898, many decided to worship elsewhere.

At this time, a small building used for a school house, located at Gooch's Mill, Missouri stood just a few feet north of the present church. It was decided to worship in this school house. There were never more than twenty persons in this group. They called a minister to preach for them; Rev. Wilburn, whose wonderful services were attended by all. They held prayer services from house to house at night. The weather never got too cold nor too hot for this.

About 1900, when Rev. W. F. Watts of Rocheport, Missouri was pastor, they decided to build their own church, if they could find a spot of land. Brother Ed Minor gladly consented to provide it if the estate dealer would consent to same. A committee from the members went to Boonville to talk with Mr. R. W. Whitlow. Mr. Whitlow released to Brother E. Minor 1/4 acre of land valued at \$15. And gave it as his gift to the new church. Brother Minor gave same to the church as his gift. That 1/4 acre plot is where the church still stands.

Many cash donations, both small and large, were given for the new building. They laid a cornerstone in 1900. Much of the labor of hauling in the materials and the building of the structure was donated by the members and friends. The building was completed in June and the 4th Sunday in June 1901 was their first "Home-Coming".
