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A SERVICE OF

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RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FOR

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JAMES B. STEPHENSON'S YEARS AT

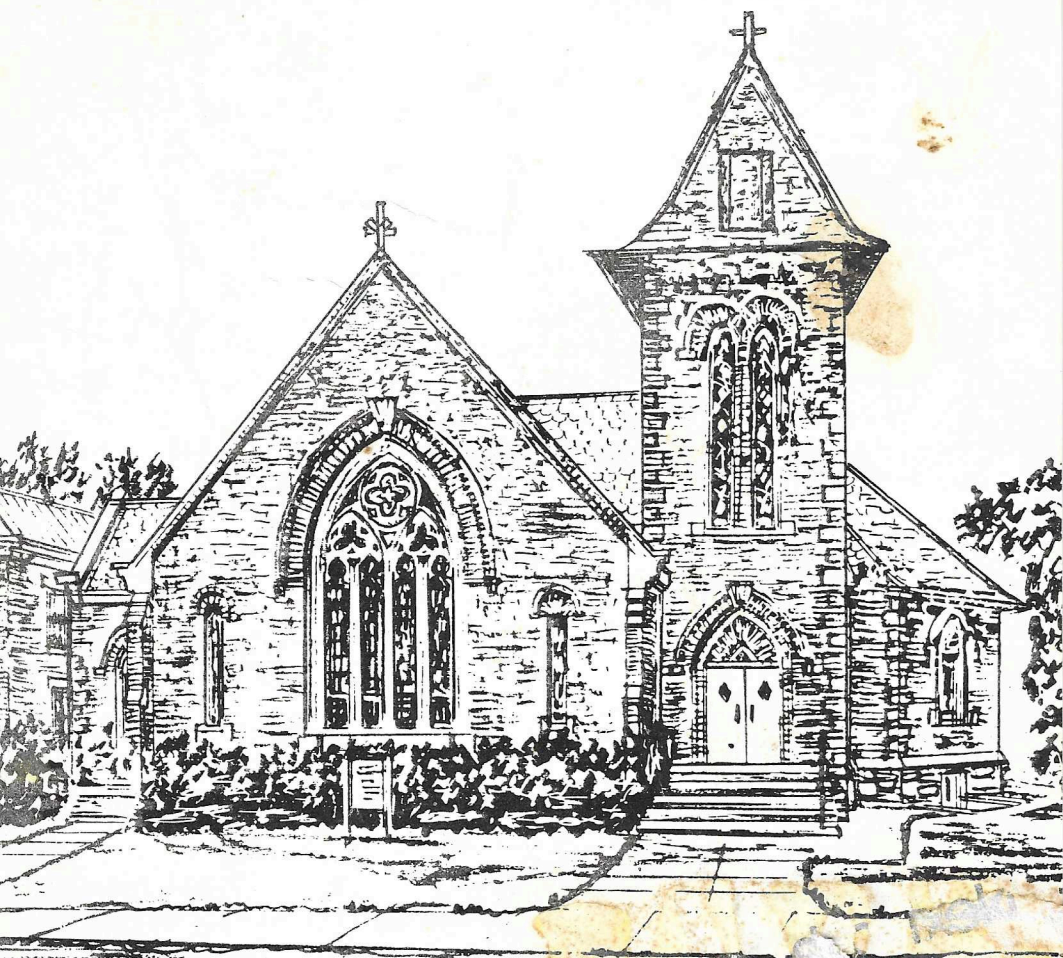
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THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DELAWARE, OHIO

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1947-1987

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# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

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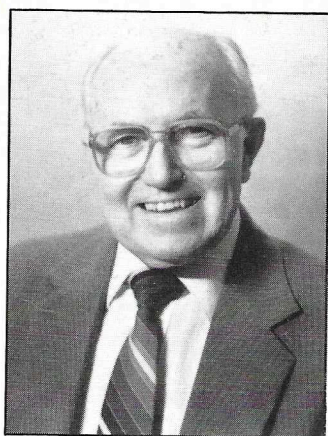
*Sunday, May 3, 1987, 2:00 pm*

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<b>Prelude</b>	<i>"O God Our Help In Ages Past"</i> by Wilson Betty Porter
<b>Welcome</b>	Larry Faulk
<b>Invocation</b>	Larry Faulk
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>"Worship the Lord"</i> by Smith Jim Stephenson, Director
<b>Messages of Greeting</b>	Dr. Floyd E. Brown Ohio Baptist Convention Rev. Ted D. Stephenson Church of the Master, Indianapolis, Indiana
<b>Children's Choir</b>	<i>"You Are Special"</i> by Lovell <i>"This Is The Day"</i> by Anon <i>"Kids Under Construction"</i> by Gaither-Paxton <i>"Happiness, Joy and Love (to the Stephensons)"</i> by Lovell
<b>Messages From Old Friends</b>	Father John Staatmiller Our Lady of Lourdes, Otway, Ohio Rev. Lincoln Stelk St. Timothy's Church, Macedonia, Ohio
<b>Piano Duet</b>	Medley, <i>"I Love To Tell The Story"</i> Amy and Jennifer Stephenson
<b>Messages of Appreciation</b>	Jean Wickum For the Community James VanBrimmer For the Congregation
<b>Duet</b>	<i>"The Lord is My Shepherd"</i> by Smart Fred Grubbs and Wilbur Wickum
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	<i>"Blest Be The Tie That Binds"</i> (first verse only)
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"</i> by Husted Mary Lou Lovell

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You are invited to meet the Stephenson family in a receiving line in the adjoining Assembly Room, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the Educational Building.



**B**orn on October 7, 1918 in Pomeroy, Ohio, James B. Stephenson spent his early years in that Ohio River community. He attended Pomeroy High School, Ohio University (where he took a double major in speech and philosophy, and was active in varsity debate and theater), Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, and Bexley Hall Divinity School in Gambier.

On April 16, 1943 he was ordained in the Pomeroy First Baptist Church. The following September he became minister of the First Baptist Church in Williamstown, West Virginia. He and Sophia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Blazewicz of Pomeroy, were married on April 17, 1944 in their home church.

In the fall of 1945, they moved to Perry, Ohio where he became minister of the Perry Baptist Church. He accepted the call to the First Baptist Church in Delaware in September, 1947.

During his ministry in Delaware, some of his community interests have included: serving several terms as president of the Delaware County Ministerial Association; helping establish the Delaware County Inter-Church Council and serving as second chairman of its Ecumenical Institute of Christian Studies; serving as a member and president of the Board of Trustees of the Delaware County District Library; serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Delaware Speech and Hearing Center; and he was a founding member of the Delaware County Mental Health Association, serving two terms as president.

He has been associated with the Ohio Camp Farthest Out, a non-denominational retreat movement, and served four years as its state chairman. In addition, he has served as a retreat leader for both Ohio Camp Farthest Out and the Divine Science Federation of Colorado.

Steve and Sophia have three children: Ted, a minister in Indianapolis; James, a graphic designer; and Robert, who will enter Ohio University's College of Osteopathic Medicine in the fall. They also have three grandchildren: Amy, Jennifer, and Jonathan, who are children of Ted and his wife Jeannie.



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## Some of Pastor Stephenson's favorite quotes

*"I feel like a man who lands on a vast continent and makes his home near the shore, but realizes that behind his frail and homely dwellings are impenetrable forests and unscalable mountains, of which he can as yet know nothing. Scholars may make a few inroads and saints climb a few foothills. But what lies in the depths of the silent forest, and what could those unstained heights reveal?"*

—Leslie Weatherhead

*"A wind from far away, out of forever,  
Blows sometimes from I know not what strange strand;  
Then I am as in a dream, a dream I never  
Remember, yet somehow understand.*

*I turn, although I know no road returning  
To the high country whence my mind's winds come  
To fill me full of dreams and full of yearning.  
What fair land, what far shore the wind blows from—*

*I cannot say, but when the wind is blowing,  
It blows to me a sense of truths more true,  
Of lives beyond this life, and worlds past knowing.  
Companions, does the wind not blow for you?"*

—James Dillet Freeman

*"You did not choose me; I chose you. I appointed you to go on and bear fruit; fruit that shall last."*

—John 15:16

*"You are not a reservoir with a limited amount of resources; you are a channel attached to unlimited divine resources."*

—Unknown

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The Planning Committee wishes to thank everyone for their help and cooperation. We especially thank each one who has participated in any way to make our service and reception a happy, memorable event for our Pastor and his family.