



Our Story

HISTORY

1908 Early beginnings in Garland - Reverend J.M. Titterington came to Powell Valley in 1907 as a settler on the Shoshone Project. Seeing the need for the gospel in this area, he organized regular church services in the Garland School House. With seven charter members, they began meeting in June of 1908.

1910 Chapel Car "Glad Tidings" - Over the next two years, it became clear that the newly formed town of Powell (est. 1909) was developing faster than Garland. It was July of 1910 when the Chapel Car "Glad Tidings" came to town, and American Baptist Publication Society missionaries, Mr. & Mrs. Spears offered the car as a resting place for the town during the 4th of July festivities.



Last Sunday [July 10, 1910] was undoubtedly the greatest day in the religious history of Powell; large audiences attended all the gatherings at the Chapel Car. It was a marvel to see what a universal interest had been generated in the four weeks that "Glad Tidings" has been in our midst, people coming from beyond Garland. The great feature of the day was the afternoon service when the organization of a Baptist church was effected with a membership of 50 strong. The thorough, business-like manner in which it was put through augurs well for its future; at least four different denominations were represented in the compact, and yet with no lax free-for-all ticket of admission which makes no distinction between the church and the world; **the common platform was faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, recognition of His sovereignty in all things, and the Word of God as the sole guide of life and practice; upon this all heartily united.** *Powell Tribune #18, Page 4, July 16, 1910*

Baptism at the Shoshone River - The Powell Tribune further reported that a baptismal service followed at the Shoshone River with approximately 150 people present. Nightly services were held in the Chapel Car throughout the week and the movement "assumed such proportions" that regular services were sustained. The Masonic Hall was secured and the following Sunday, Reverend H.B. Foskett assumed charge holding services at 11 and 8. Shortly after, the church was incorporated in the state of Wyoming as First Baptist Church of Powell, Wyoming, the name by which it was known until 2017. To read more details about that fine day, see our publication "The Story of Us" included in this packet.



1911 Our First Church Building - Our first church building

was erected at a cost of \$68 for labor when Reverend R.L. Carpenter was pastor. The building was 24' x 72'.

1922 Our Second Church Building - By 1919, the church purchased property at 2nd and Absaroka and the basement was completed in 1922. By 1926, the baptistery had been built.



Established July 10, 1910

1935 *On Easter Sunday*, the first service was held in the newly completed auditorium. Later that year, dedication of the upper story of the church was held.



1940 *Bringing Hope to the World* – We sent out our first missionary, Wilma Hixon in 1940 and the next year began a weekly church broadcast on KPOW where “the Voice of Christianity” was heard.

1951 *Standing on Truth* - In 1951, we withdrew from the American Baptist Denomination because of the modernist controversy. Theological liberalism had invaded the American Baptists, and the inerrancy of the Bible was being questioned in many churches. It was at this time that we joined the Conservative Baptist Association (now CBAmerica), holding strongly to the inerrancy of the Scriptures.



1982 *Our Third Church Building - Growing in Grace* - In 1975, the church had outgrown its location at 2nd and Absaroka. Land for a new church was donated by church members and \$400,000 in bonds were sold within two days to finance the new building. Ground was broken for a new building on Kattenhorn Drive in June of 1981. The first service in the new building was held in February 1982. Construction cost was \$827,662.67.

1996 *We're Debt Free!* – We held a mortgage burning to celebrate the building debt paid in full.

2007 *New Senior Pastor* - after serving as our Associate Pastor for three years, David

Pool became Senior Pastor, leading our church family to be grounded in God's Word and connected by vital relationships as we do life together.

2009 *New Library & Coffee Connection* – Our chapel was re-purposed for a library expansion and new coffee & fellowship area. This warm and friendly environment was created because we consider it a priority to help people make vital relational connections. Our hope is that friendships will be nurtured through this resource.

2010 *Biblical Worldview* – Due to societal trends towards a post-Christian mentality of America, Pastor David and our Elder Board began placing an emphasis on raising up believers who are deeply established in a biblical view of life.

2015 *Revised Doctrinal Statement & Bylaws* - In April, our revised Doctrinal Statement, publicly defining our long-held beliefs about the sanctity of life, marriage and gender was unanimously approved by members. Later that fall, members also unanimously approved our Bylaws which refined our polity as an Elder-led church.

2017 *We Became Grace Point* - As society became increasingly “post-Christian” in character, we realized that many people have differing and often negative perceptions of the name “Baptist.” After a year of conversations, prayer and determining feasibility, in October 2016, we voted overwhelmingly in favor of changing our name from FBC to something that clearly reflected our true identity and mission. Dozens of name suggestions were received from our church family and considered until it became clear, and we unanimously agreed that our name would be Grace Point. To remain connected to our rich heritage and maintain our corporate identity, we retained our legal name as First Baptist Church of Powell, Wyoming, as established in 1910, and began conducting ministry (and business) as Grace Point on March 1, 2017.

2017 *New Associate Pastor* – In the summer, Pastor Jon Allen re-joined our staff after serving at Camp Bethel for a few years. Pastor Jon's new role includes leadership of student and children's ministries and GP Connections from visitors to community groups.

THE STORY OF US



It was July when the chapel car came to town, and Spears offered the car as a resting place for the town during the 4th of July festivities. **Sunday, July 10, 1910, was a very special day.** No matter in what direction the eye turned that day, majestic mountains, the loftiest peaks crowned with perpetual snow,

range upon range, met the vision. In the [chapel] car, flowers crowned the Estey organ, and Spear preached a grand sermon, followed by a basket dinner. **In the afternoon the Powell Valley Baptist Church was organized.** The crowning event was the baptism. A crowd of over 150 of all faiths or no faith followed the chapel car to the Shoshone River to observe the baptism.

“BAPTIST HAPPENINGS”

Powell Tribune #18. page 4

July 16, 1910

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It was a marvel to see what a universal interest had been generated in the four weeks that “Glad Tidings” has been in our midst, people coming from beyond Garland. **The great feature of the day was the afternoon service when the organization of a Baptist church was effected with a membership of 50 strong.** The thorough, business-like manner in which it was put through augurs well for its future; at least four different denominations were represented in the compact, and yet with no lax free-for-all ticket of admission which makes no distinction between the church and the world; **the common platform was faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, recognition of His sovereignty in all things, and the Word of God as the sole guide of life and practice; upon this all heartily united.** A baptismal service was held at the river at which there were not less than 150 people present. Seven entered the water; we wonder if this was not the first time that such a scene was witnessed on the shores of the Shoshone? Nightly services were held in the car this week, which goes today to Garland to push a short campaign there. **This movement has assumed such proportions that it is imperative that regular services be sustained;** the Hall has been secured for the present, and next Sunday at 11 and 8, Rev. H.B. Foskett will assume charge.

Mr. Foskett will devote his time to the field, and we consider it extremely fortunate that such a man has been secured to follow up the car work; thrice the number of members have been enlisted in hearty sympathy with this work, many of whom are not regular attendants at any other religious service: Mr. Foskett is a man of large vision, free from partisan spirit, and such a work under the direction of such a man will not cause any similar work to suffer, but only stimulate and aid in making Powell one of the best towns in the Northwest; it is possible that the Chapel Car may return to Powell after the work at Garland, and remain during the summer while Mr. and Mrs. Spear [Chapel Car missionaries] take their vacation. They expect to go to Ill. where Mrs. Spear’s folks reside about Aug. 1st, returning in time for the Annual Association and State Convention to be held in Thermopolis Aug. 31-Sep. 4. This is a most enjoyable place for such a gathering: tenting parties are being arranged for and it is anticipated that a large delegation will go from this section, now that the railway is through. It will make a most delightful outing after the heat of the summer.

O U R F I R S T B A P T I S M 1 9 1 0

“The baptistery was the wild, beautiful Shoshone River, probably the first time its waters were ever used for this impressive, symbolic rite. In its hurling course from its mountain source to the thirsty, waiting plains below, it found time to linger in a sheltered spot, spreading into a quiet pool, overhung by great trees. The



No. 206 **Shall We Gather at the River?**
E. L. SUPREMACY, PROPERTY OF HARMONIZATION SOCIETY, MADE IN U.S.A. Robert Lowry.

1. Shall we gather at the riv-er, Where Jesus' sacred feet have trod. With us
2. On the margin of the riv-er, Wash-ing up His sin-ner's blood. We shall
3. How we reach the shining riv-er, Lay we ev-ry bur-den down. Gaze out
4. Soon we'll reach the shining riv-er, Soon our pil-grim-age will cease. Soon our

CHORUS
eyes - tal-ter - us - er - er Flowing from the Cross of God? **Yes, we'll gather**
walk and worship - er - er, All the long - er pil-grim - age. **Gather with the saints**
eyes - ta will de - ce - er, And pro-claim a vict-ory and crown. **With the host of heav-ens,**
long - er hearts will glori-ize, With the mil-lions of heav-ens.

At the riv-er - er, The beautiful, the beau-tif- ul riv-er, **From the Cross of God,**
At the riv-er - er, That

overlapping trees formed a green background to the scene; curtains were stretched for dressing rooms, and the assembled company numbered not less than one hundred and fifty. Seven candidates awaited the ordinance, and as the Evangelist led them into the rippling waters and laid them beneath the waves, the hearts of parents and friends were thrilled with solemn joy. ‘Shall we gather at the river?’ was sung from full hearts.”



*At the smiling of the river,
Mirror of the Savior's face,
Saints, whom death will never sever,
Lift their songs of saving grace.*

AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY CHAPEL CAR #3

GLAD TIDINGS
1894-1926
MN, ND, SD, IA, WI, NE, MS, CO, WY, AZ



“In these days when man’s creative genius finds such an infinite variety of expression and when originality is distinctly the order of the day, it is not to be wondered that church workers among others should adopt new and more effective means of carrying forward their work. A case in point is the Chapel Car now doing service here at Powell and which for many months has been the object of considerable interest and the means of much good at various points throughout t h e B i g H o r n B a s i n . ”



“It is a handsome car and certainly a worthy addition to any train. It is seventy-seven feet long and eleven feet wide. On the top of the side you see the words ‘Chapel Car’ and in the center of the side the name ‘Glad Tidings,’ both in gold. There is an eaves-trough on the roof with hose attachment, so that the water tanks can be filled with soft water during the greater part of the year. Under the car you will find boxes to hold thirty-five hundred pounds of coal, storm sash and screens, oil stove and oven, and provisions and books and tracts. A ladder, storm door and four screen doors are hanging under the floor.”
Mrs. Spear, Missionary

**“May the whirling of its wheels, the hum of its hurry,
and the whiz of its speed express the strength of sacred impulses
to hear the ‘Glad Tidings’ to others.”**

Reverend E.B. Edmunds
Glad Tidings Chapel Car Dedication, May 25, 1894, Saratoga, NY