

# 115th Anniversary of First Baptist Church Friday and Sunday

The First Baptist church of Ionia will mark the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of its founding with programs Friday night and Sunday.

"The initiatory step in the formation of the church was taken on June 24, 1834," according to the Rev. E. E. Branch's "History of Ionia County."

"The Rev. E. Loomis, agent of the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the Rev. S. Slater of the Thomas Mission station," were present, wrote Branch.

## Conference Held

After the services, "Samuel Dexter, Erastus Yeomans and Alfred Cornell and their wives" held a conference. The following August 23, with the Rev. Loomis present, organization of the church was discussed, says Branch. "It was decided to organize the church."

Norbert Verporter, Mr and Mrs Paul Johnson, and Merrill Ketchum jr., completed work on decorating the tables for Friday night's dinner Thursday.

Mrs Harold Jones is in charge of the baked ham dinner for Friday night and the orchestra will

play several numbers. It consists of John A. Morris, jr., and Dick Burlingame, Miss Donna Mae Morris, Miss Marjorie Edwards, Bob Lewis, baritone horn, Gary Moore, cornet, D. Lee Lewis, violin, Hal Bliss drums, and Miss Marilyn VanVleck, piano.

## Chorus to Sing

A men's chorus will sing two numbers after which letters from former pastors and friends of the church will be read. A historical sketch of the church will be read by Mrs E. W. Krainbrink. Miss Marilyn VanVleck will sing. Greetings will be brought by the following: For the honorary committee of the 15th anniversary, Mr Herbert E. Powell; for the churches of Ionia, the Rev. Wayne E. Davis; for the churches of the Grand River Baptist Association of Churches, the Rev. Gustave Ferre, of Belding.

Paul A. Johnson, superintendent of the church school will speak on the theme, "The Church of the Future."

Recognition of third and fourth generation members of the church will follow. Marjorie Edwards will sing and the evening will close with singing, "God Be With You."

On Sunday, the Rev. Ralph Taylor Andem, DD., executive secretary of the Michigan Baptist Convention, will be the guest speaker.

The committees for the anniversary are:

Honorary: Herbert E. Powell, Miss Della Waterbury, Mr and Mrs Ray Normington, Mrs Clara Yeomans and Mrs May Brown; active: Chairman, Stanley M.

Powell, O. O. Hilborn, Mrs E. W. Krainbrink, Paul Johnson, Mrs M. A. Ketchum, sr., Miss Ethel Crispin, R. F. Whitesides and Mrs Harold Jones; reception: R. F. Whitesides, chairman, E. W. Krainbrink, Mrs M. A. Ketchum, sr., Miss Ethel Crispin and Miss Mina Krainbrink.

Music: Miss Ethel Crispin; banquet and tickets: Mrs Harold A. Jones and Mrs M. A. Ketchum, sr.; decorations: The Young Adult class, with Norbert Verporter and historical relics will be arranged by O. O. Hilborn. *D. J. L. Davis*



115th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church, Ionia. Taken by O. O. Hilborn on Sunday, June 26. Congratulations to this church, its stalwart older members and youth, and pastor.