



Gaston Avenue Baptist Church (1887-1987)

In his book, "The Gaston Story," William R. Estep covers the first 100 years of this congregation. Estep notes that all but two of the charter members of GASB, initially called East Dallas Baptist Church, were former members of First Baptist Church of Dallas. Estep names the twenty-six charter members as: R. B. Godley, Mrs. R. B. Godley, Rev. S. J. Anderson, Mrs. S. J. Anderson, Ollie Anderson, Belle Anderson, Rev. W. A. Jarrel, Mrs. W. A. Jarrel, Rosa Humphreys, W. M. C. Hill, Lena Hill, R. L. Bryant, Nellie Bryant, J. E. Bullard, F. M. Gurley, Mrs. F. M. Gurley, E. M. Humphreys, A. J. Crowley, G. W. Crowley, M. E. Jones, John Brooks, Mrs. John Brooks, W. P. Anderson, Mrs. W. P. Anderson, Dr. A. F. Beddoe, Mrs. A. F. Beddoe. All but Dr. and Mrs. Beddoe "brought letters" with them from First Baptist Church. Dr. Estep does not give the date of the organizational meeting, but it is assumed to have been in 1887. The congregation first met in a schoolhouse on the property of W. H. Gaston.

The City of Dallas incorporated the former town of East Dallas in 1890. After this, the congregation adopted the name Washington Avenue Baptist Church. Around 1904, the congregation contracted to sell its property on Washington Avenue and purchased the lot at Gaston and Haskell. The name was changed once more to Gaston Avenue Baptist Church and the congregation moved into the structure there around 1906.

Pastors of Gaston Avenue Baptist Church 1887-1987:

1887-1888 - S. J. Anderson
1888-1890 - William Howard
1890-1891 - B. H. Crompton
1891-1892 - T. S. Potts
1893-1894 - A. H. Mitchell
1894-1895 - J. M. P. Morrow
1896-1898 - John D. Robnett
1898-1902 - A. N. Hall
1902-1905 - George W. McDaniel
1905-1906 - W. A. Hamlett
1907-1909 - J. W. Gillon
1910-1912 - Austin Crouch
1913-1915 - Henry Alford Porter
1916-1919 - Powhatan W. James
1919-1926 - Harold Major
1927-1953 - W. Marshall Craig
1954-1963 - Harold Basden
1965-1969 - Lester B. Collins, Jr.
1970-1972 - T. V. Farris
1973-1977 - Charles L. Holland, Jr.
1978-1981 - Paul Stripling
1982-1986 - David Jackson
1987- - Ed Brooks Bowles

Source: William R. Estep, "The Gaston Story," Hanson Printing, Inc, Fort Worth, Texas, 1987.

[Note: Peak membership of GABC was approximately 7,000 members, but through the years, attendance and membership declined. Around 1990 the church sold its property on Gaston

Avenue and relocated once more to the 9000 block of Greenville Avenue in northeast Dallas. Since that time, the congregation changed its name to Gaston Oaks Baptist Church. The congregation has made other organizational changes as well.]

former Gaston Avenue Baptist Church Worship Center



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