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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DRIPPING SPRINGS  
1 YEAR AFTER FIRE**

The congregation and friends of First Baptist Church Dripping Springs gathered on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008, just 1 year to the day after a fire burned the church. The Deacons set up chairs on the old Sanctuary slab and Senior Deacon Bill Adams led the prayer service with Deacon Frank Raymond assisting. The group remembered the fire and the devastating impact it had on members, while leading strong prayers of going forward and the rebuilding.

Prior to the fire, the church membership had dwindled down to a small group, and after the fire and loss of pastor, the church continued decline, but determined to keep this 100 year plus church going, they persevered. For almost 6 months they met at the Springs, but in February, they were released to move back into the Fellowship Hall. Today, the church has a wonderful interim pastor, and the members are doing more than ever before to move forward. With 22 new members joining the church, some who had left returning, and 9 new Baptisms in the last 5 months, the church is beginning to feel the emergence of new energy.

Last Wednesday evening, the membership voted to move forward on the plans submitted by architect, Ben Heimsath. The building committee, led by Charlie Haydon, is firming up contract terms and beginning the real work for the committee. The church will need to enter into a capital campaign to cover costs beyond the insurance payments, but the church is so dedicated and committed to the rebuilding that it was voted unanimously to proceed.

The building of a church is more than bricks and mortar and First Baptist Church Dripping Springs has proven that it has what it takes to once again be an anchor at the crossroads of Dripping Springs. If you would like to see what makes this small congregation so strong, drop in for worship any Sunday at 10:45.