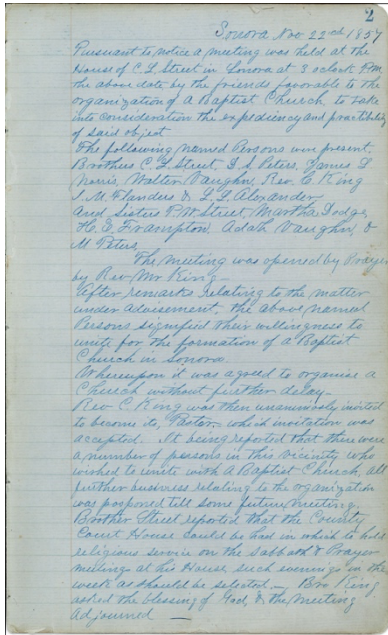


# A Brief History of The Journey Church



Sonora, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 1857

Pursuant to notice a meeting was held at the House of C.L. Street in Sonora at 3 o'clock P.M. the above date, by the friends favorable to the organization of a Baptist Church, to take into consideration the expediency and practicability of said object.

- Nov 22, 1857** – formally organized with Rev. C. King as Pastor. Services held at county court house. C.L. Street was a prominent figure in the organization and funding of the new church.
- 1860** – Began meeting at corner of Elkin St and N. Stewart; building now houses Aronos Club.

**Note of Interest:** William Sugg, a former slave who bought his own freedom, helped to build FBC; his grandson helped build the second church.<sup>1</sup>

**Feb 28, 1880 - Jan 12, 1884** – Rev. Andrew Judson Sturtevant served as Pastor. Lived in parsonage at 61 Snell St. Left due to “bickering and petty problems among the congregation.”<sup>2</sup>

**May 27, 1897** – building destroyed by fire; later rebuilt

- 1936** – Lowest recorded offering: 7 cents! Congregation disbanded, selling the property at Elkin & Stewart to the Aronos Club for \$750.
- 1959** – Church reconstituted and adopted original church covenant, eventually meeting at Seventh Day Adventist Church located at Hope Lane and Jackson St.
- 1964** – Purchased SDA property. (Did the purchase ever go through?)
- 1967** – Purchased property and built current church at 14425 Mono Way.
- 1998** – Ray Shopp called as Pastor with his wife, Helen.
- 2011** – Name changed to The Journey, A Church Pursuing Jesus (dba only; official name is still First Baptist Church of Sonora).
- 2014** – Pastor Ray retired.
- 2018** – Randy Ehle called as Lead Pastor with his wife, Eiley.

<sup>1</sup> “Baptist church celebrates 150 years of worship,” *The Union Democrat*, Nov 9, 2007, A15.  
<sup>2</sup> *CHISPA: The Quarterly of the Tuolumne County Historical Society*, Vol. 41, No. 4. 2002. p 1492.