

## A Final Send Off

Thirteen years ago this church selected, wooed, and won a preacher. Our Lord brought Donald Cherry, along with his wife Chell, here to work with this church. They worked in spreading the gospel, encouraging the church, and fellowshiping with us by preaching the truth in love and by exemplifying Christianity within the community.

The Lord has used Brother Cherry, being a Black-American minister in a predominantly Caucasian - American congregation, in a powerful way to break down walls in the lives of many in the church and community. There have been, over these thirteen years of fellowship, a few, thankfully very few, incidences reflecting on this integrated ministry and fellowship. Biblical principles put into practice have moved us past these but not without some tears and some emotional bruises.

The church flourished under Brother Cherry's ministry with membership well over 300 for a period, indicating a need for building expansion. The Cherrys have recently determined they should now leave the Poteau congregation and serve our Lord elsewhere, as yet undetermined, and to be near some family, to play with a few grandkids! Last Sunday we received Donald's final sermon as our Pulpit Minister. They will leave taking much love from this community, and especially from this Church family, with them.

God speed, Brother & Sister Cherry.

In Christian Love,

Your Poteau Church of Christ family