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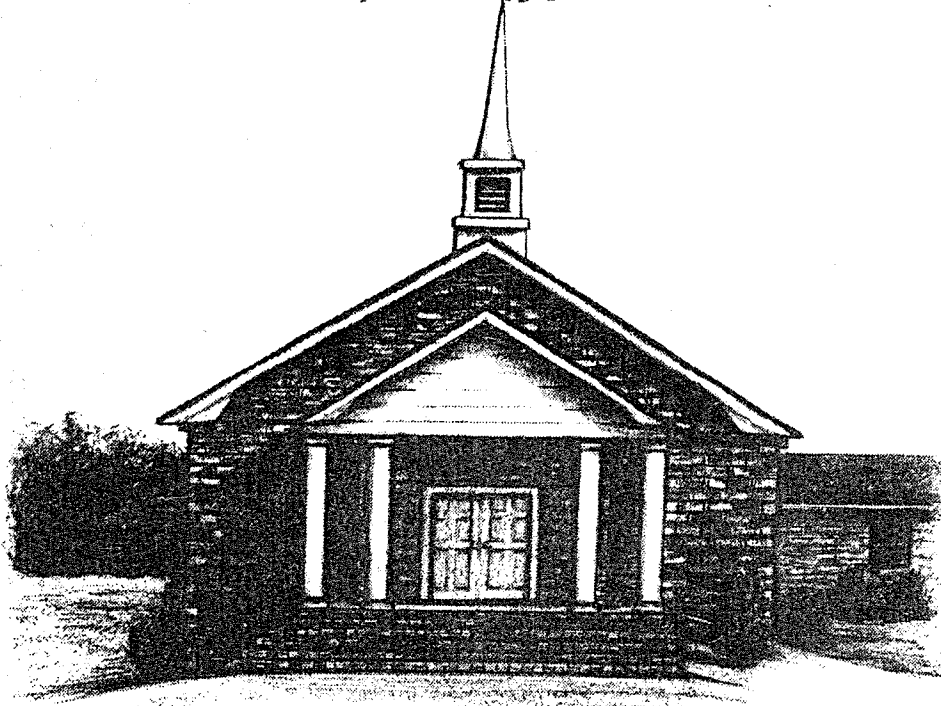
Church Near Pell City Sets Dedication Rite

The newly completed Lister Memorial Baptist Church, on the Oden-ville Highway three miles north of Pell City, will be dedicated Sunday.

This will be an all-day service with Associational Missionary Paul Mabe speaking after a song service in the morning. At 2 p.m. the Rev. Jess Williams, Arbor Baptist Church pastor, will give the dedicatory message.

Singers are especially invited to attend as are all pastors and other interested persons.

Stewart



DEAN Goss

Lister Memorial Speaks

LISTER MEMORIAL SPEAKS

FORWARD

I began a few years ago to feel led of the Spirit to compile a history of Lister Memorial. I was talking to my husband and mother-in-law about the early days of our church. I suddenly realized that many of those who knew the history of these days had been called home. Like the writers of the new Testament, I felt that their memories should be preserved for future generations. I have refrained from using too many names for fear of overlooking some. However, we all realize that God is the one who should receive all the glory for the history of this church. The people who made all this possible were merely instruments used in the building of His Kingdom in this community. Knowing many of them personally, I know they would desire that He be given all the praise for any accomplishments.

It has also been my intent to show what a body of believers can accomplish when they are bound together in the Spirit of Love. This church is unique in that, through the years, there has been no dissension among its members leading to a split. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been able to keep satan on the outside and Christ as the head of this congregation. I pray this will always be true.

I would especially like to thank Mrs. Getrude Bell and Mrs. Ruth Dillard for many of the pictures of the early days and Mrs. Dean Goss for designing the cover. To all others who contributed in any way I say "Thank You" and ask God's blessing on you.

I also dedicate this to the memory of my dear mother-in-law, Mrs. Verna Stewart. She loved this church and has been my inspiration to finish this work. Although she has gone on to her reward, her influence will be felt in all the lives of those who loved her for years to come.

And now, Mrs. Stewart, let's listen to the Spirit of Lister Memorial tell the sweet story.

Faith Stewart
September 1982

LISTER MEMORIAL SPEAKS

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit of Lister Memorial says:

My very presence in the community bears witness to the fact that someone cared about the souls of the people who live here and wanted a place to worship the great "I AM."

How well I remember my beginning. From where I stand today I can see my birthplace. Of course things have changed but I can remember right back to the very day.

Up where Brother J. P. Lee's home stands some God loving people built a bush arbor to hold a summer revival. Most of those people were church going folks, attending Arbor Baptist, or First Methodist in Pell City, Eden Methodist in Eden, Mineral Springs, in Stewart Community, or Mt. Moriah, also known as Sage Hill. These people, however, had a love for God and they wanted a meeting place in their community. When the bush arbor was ready Rev. Hosie Wilkerson, a preacher from Sand Mountain was contacted and came to conduct the services. Well, these dear saints had such a good time in the Lord, they kept on with the meeting after the Revival. Rev. J. A. Williams would preach for them when he could and God always provided a preacher when he wasn't available. When the weather was bad, these dear people would meet in the home of Brother Henry Lister, Brother Huddie Roe, Rev. Williams, or one of the homes made available to them. If there was no preacher they would still meet for Bible study and praise the Lord together.

The little congregation grew to about 40 members and Brother Williams began to talk to them about building a Church. A meeting was called and plans began to form. Of course finances was the main obstacle. Times were hard and nobody had much money. One thing was not lacking, however, and that was the faith in God these people had and, as in the time of the building of the wall in Nehemiah, the people had a mind to work.

The first order of business, as the meeting got under way, was where to build. Mr. Henry Lister donated the land that was to become the site of the first building. Mr. George Adams, Mr. Huddie Roe along with Mr. Lister donated the timber that was to go into the first building. Two brothers, Mr. Thomas and Calvin Welch owned and operated the sawmill in the community. These men agreed to make the lumber for the church if the men would cut the timber and haul it to the mill. Rev. Williams, who was a carpenter by trade, agreed to work with the men in the construction of the building. This was agreed upon by the men of the community who would come and work in their free time, until the building was finished.

Some of the men were employed by Avondale Mills Textile plant in Pell City. Mr. French Whitten, Superintendent of the Mill, heard about the plans to build the church. He sent a personal donation along with a \$300.00 check from Mr. Hugh Comer, one of the owners of the mill. Mr. Whitten continued to send contributions (unsolicited) until his death years later. And so the work began:

Once my walls were up there wasn't enough money to buy windows. Mrs. George Adams took up donations at Avondale Mills and with money donated by some of the community members there was finally enough to purchase them. When everything was complete with the exception of the floor, my congregation began meeting here for services. Rev. Williams was Pastor at Arbor Baptist in Pell City, but he would come at 2 o'clock on Sunday Evenings and preach for my congregation. They used planks of wood on cement blocks for pews and enjoyed hearing the word preached.

Finally the floor was in. B fixtures and the sanctuary their first business meeting After some deliberation it Williams, Mrs. Lee Smith, an Baptist. The others present to preach and the congreg Lister, Chairman, Brother He

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Finally the floor was in. Brother J. P. Lee and his wife bought the first light fixtures and the sanctuary was complete. In 1943 the charter members had their first business meeting to select a name and officially become a church. After some deliberation it was suggested by Mrs. Verna Stewart, Mrs. Vera Williams, Mrs. Lee Smith, and Mrs. Sally Welch that my name be Lister Memorial Baptist. The others present agreed and so I was named. Rev. Williams continued to preach and the congregation grew. The first deacons were Brother Henry Lister, Chairman, Brother Herman Stewart, and Brother Charlie Voss.

Arbor Baptist Church helped in many ways to get us started. They had an active W.M.U. and agreed to help our ladies organize. Some of their ladies met with eight women from my congregation in the home of Mrs. Gertrude Bell. Mrs. Bell was elected as the first president since she had been active in the W.M.U. at Arbor. This circle of women proved to be a blessing in the early days of my beginning and have continued to be a strong and vital organism down through the years as those, trained under their leadership, continue to teach missions.

Arbor Baptist was buying new pews and hymn books and voted to give to this sister congregation their old pews and our first hymn books. God was really working to help us get on our feet by working through His people.

The newly formed W.M.U. planted an acre of cotton and made quilts to purchase blinds for the windows, communion set and pulpit chairs. L. D. Stewart built the first rostrum out of pine and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Welch donated the first communion table. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Bell donated a pot bellied coal burning heater that was used for many years for warmth.

Things were moving along real well and it was time to pray for a pastor. Brother Williams suggested that the deacons talk to Rev. Rufus Bowman. Brother Bowman was contacted, came and preached, and the people called him as their first Pastor. It was agreed that he would be paid 50% of the collection taken in on Sunday. There were no financial records kept in those early days. The money was kept in a cigar box and everything was paid by cash. The income was very small, but God always provided for the needs of my struggling congregation.

The first baptizing was at Seddon Creek, now a part of Logan Martin Lake. The first debt made by the church was for a piano purchased from E. E. Forbes Music Co. in Gadsden. Mrs. Josephine Lister served as the first pianist. She played by ear and really enjoyed playing the hymns for my people to praise the Lord. J. P. Lee led the singing along with other members as the Lord led.

On July 11, 1950, grief came to my people. The Lord called Mrs. Henry Lister home to be with Him. This was the first funeral in the new church. It was much easier for my people to bear, knowing God had called one of His home. Although the congregation missed her they realized that even death, is part of God's plan for His people. They knew that one day they would see her again. What a great reunion day when we all can be together with those of my congregation who have joined her there over the years.

Sister Marguerite Glidewell, Betty Terry, and Louise Lee started the first G.A. organization for the girls. Sister Marguerite's wedding to Don Hazlewood was also the first wedding in Lister Memorial. It was some years later before the first formal wedding, that of Faith Wilson and Bill Stewart, in 1956 took place. There were no facilities for a reception, so it was held on my lawn. Both these couples established homes with Christ as the head and have served Him faithfully through the years. Since then my sanctuary has been the scene for many funerals and weddings both of these, the occasion of new beginnings for those involved.

My congregation had begun having Wednesday night prayer meeting soon after calling Brother Bowman as pastor. After sometime many of the members began to get slack about attending. The pastor couldn't attend many times due to his secular employment. It looked as though the services would stop. Praise God there were some good women who decided they would meet and pray for God to revive His people. They kept the prayer meeting going and they would meet on Wednesday with the young people who continued to come. One Wednesday night three of these ladies, Mrs. Gertrude Bell, Mrs. Stella Voss (who was visiting from California), and Mrs. Josephine Lister met with the usual group of youngsters. The women debated about calling off the service since attendance was so small. Mrs. Jo (as she was known by all who loved her) went to the piano and said she had come to worship the Lord and there were enough to do that. After singing some hymns Mrs. Voss led in a devotional after which the Lord led the ladies to have an altar call. They felt that the Holy Spirit was dealing with some hearts. Sure enough, two young boys came forward and gave their heart to God. These women remembered God's promise "That where two or three gather together in My name, there will I be also." These two young men, Bill Stewart and Carvis Welch, grew to manhood in the Church, left and served in the Armed Services, came back and were ordained as deacons and are still ministering to the needs of my people.

My congregation continued to grow and my people knew they needed to add educational facilities for Sunday School. The classes had been meeting in the sanctuary, but they had grown so in number, it was beginning to be a problem for the teachers to hold the attention of their classes. In November of 1951 a building committee was appointed to see what could be done. In August of 1952 the W.M.U. presented the church with \$100.00, proceeds from another cotton patch, to go toward construction. Others gave cash and made pledges and the building committee was given the go ahead. After the rooms were completed Mr. Sam Kimberly was hired to build new church pews. When they were built, Sister Louise Lee, Sister Verna Stewart, and some of the other ladies stained and varnished them. The old pews were used in the new Sunday School rooms.

In September of 1952 my congregation lost one of their deacons, Brother Voss to another church. In November of 1952 Brother J. P. Lee and Brother Thomas Welch were ordained to serve.

Brother Henry Lister had been faithful in building fires through the Winter months so my people could worship in a warm building. With the addition of the new rooms my people realized the coal heater would not provide sufficient heat. In 1953 they were able to purchase gas heaters and a used gas tank and this became their heating system.

In September of 1956 the Lord began to deal with Brother Bowman and he felt that it was time for him to leave my people. He accepted a call from Seddon Baptist and my people had to look for a new Shephard. Brother Bill Brown, a young man from Anniston was called in October and he accepted. Brother Brown was still studying for the ministry. Commuting from Anniston to serve the Church and trying to stay in school was a burden, he resigned in September of 1957. He wanted to give himself fully in training for the ministry.

Rev. E. C. Rickles followed Under the pastorate of Brother leaps and bounds. It was all started. The pastor was paid

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Rev. E. C. Rickles followed Brother Brown as minister in October of 1957. Under the pastorate of Brother Rickles my congregation again began to grow by leaps and bounds. It was also during his ministry that a checking account was started. The pastor was paid monthly still on a percentage basis.

In April of 1958 my congregation voted to build four more rooms to accommodate the growing Sunday School attendance. Brother Rickles was a carpenter by trade and agreed to work with the men of the church in the construction of the rooms. A loan for \$600.00 was granted by Union State Bank and the rooms were built. God truly blessed and in September of 1958 my people were able to pay off the note on the new rooms.

In June of 1958 my people decided more help was needed on the deacon board. Brother Bill Stewart was set aside and ordained in August of 1958.

In September of 1959 Brother Rickles resigned as Pastor feeling that God was leading him to move. My people again prayed for God to lead them to a new shepherd.

In October of 1959 the pulpit committee recommended Rev. Reuben Tucker and he was called as Pastor.

During the ministry of Brother Tucker my people were faced with the fact that they had outgrown their first building. During the funeral of Brother James Smith my floor gave way. The next week the men surveyed the damage. The damaged floor was repaired and some braces put in, but they knew it was just a temporary arrangement. The crowd was growing and they knew plans had to be made for construction of a new building. In November of 1961, before plans got underway Rev. Tucker resigned as pastor. For the first time since my beginning my people began to experience some trying times.

In the days that followed my people met many times when there would be no one to play the piano. Classes had to be combined due to lack of teachers. The deacons were almost always able to fill the pulpit with one of God's ministers, but the attendance was small. Rev. O. D. Duran was one of the fine men who filled in at this time. He encouraged the deacons and my people to pray for God's leadership and place their trust completely in Him. My people really prayed and God answered. In February of 1962 Rev. Rufus Bowman contacted the deacons and told them God was leading him to work again in the community through Lister Memorial. My people rejoiced as they called him to serve as pastor among them once again.

1962 was truly a time of revival for my congregation. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Harris moved back into the community and she accepted the position of pianist. Spirits were lifted and people went to work again to win the lost and praised the Lord for His goodness. The W.M.U., which had become inactive was reorganized in march of 1962. It was also about this time that a Young Married Class was organized. Starting with just three members, it soon became the largest class in Sunday School.

By June of 1962 plans were again made to build. My people had outgrown the old sanctuary and the temporary supports and braces added in 1960 were no longer adequate. It was decided that a new sanctuary would be constructed and we would continue to use the old educational facilities.

When the plans for the new building were complete Robertson Brothers Construction, with a bid of \$5500.00 was low bidder. A loan for this amount was secured from Union State Bank and construction began.

Soon the new building was finished. Jack Wilson built a new rostrum and Communion table. Sister Dot Gant refinished and covered the pulpit chairs. It was a happy day for my people when they began worshiping in the new sanctuary.

It was also in 1962 that four new deacons were ordained and added to the deacon board: Brother Wayne Harris, Steve Duke, J. T. Dillard and Carvis Welch. In October of 1962 the Brotherhood, still active today, was organized. It was truly a year of growth.

In March of 1963 the men of the church tore down the old auditorium. The lumber was sold to Mr. Lonnie Newton's son-in-law for his home.

In October of 1963 God called another faithful member home. Brother Henry Lister joined his wife in glory and his was the first funeral in the new sanctuary. He could hardly wait to tell her how the Lord had blessed my congregation in the years that had intervened since her memorial service in the first building. How wonderful that their departure for Glory was made at a historical time in the life of my congregation. They are at home with the Father, but the prayers they prayed and the work they began lives on as a testimony of their love of God and God's love for all.

In February of 1964 Brother Bowman felt that the Lord was leading him into the ministry full time. He gave his resignation to accept a pastorate in Clanton, Alabama. Now my congregation found themselves without a pastor and in dept for a new building. Again they prayed for God's leadership and again God sent His man to fill the pulpit. In April of 1964 Rev. Jack Woodall was called as pastor by unanimous vote. It was agreed that, hereafter, a pastor be called for an indefinite period. This meaning that the church would give a pastor 30 days notice and likewise, the pastor would give the church 30 days notice of resignation.

Under Brother Woodall's leadership my people really began to experience growing pains. Mr. Chester Finch presented them with a deed for the lot adjoining the church property on the West side, but there was a great need for additional educational space. Mr. Henderson Brown owned a house and lot adjoining the church property on the East side. The deacons and pastor talked to him, by request of the rest of the congregation, and he agreed to sell it to the church. My people agreed in business meeting in January of 1965 to purchase the property and use the house for Sunday School rooms and fellowship activities.

The first wedding, that of Grover Smith and Vicky Rhodes, was in November of 1965. The newly purchased house was the scene of their reception.

The Sunday School continued to grow and it wasn't long until my people, again, found themselves without adequate space for the growing classes.

The young married class that had been organized had grown by leaps and bounds. There were no facilities for a nursery so these young people kept their babies and toddlers with them in class. Once, when Brother Woodall was out of town, he asked a young man from Connor's Steel, who had just answered the call to the ministry, to fill the pulpit. That night the young married people asked him to take a part in Training Union. The class was full and the babies were on the floor. When the young city preacher got up to give his part, he stepped on a squeak toy and it really gave him a start. The class had a good laugh but the young preacher regained his composure and went on with the program. Little did that class realize the plans God had for young Robert Praytor who was to come back one day as the pastor for these God loving people.

This young class, with They also began to ser working toward that goa plans began to be made t

By July of 1967 my pe plans into action. The 2 ing Fund Sunday. All of set aside for building. A in the checking account mittee, elected by the chu Montgomery. He met with recommendations and dr eight Sunday School roc rooms), pastor's study, b had no water system at th of 1967 although finances

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Brother Tandy Payne, board. In August of this : in the bapistry. There v caretaker of St. Clair Mer joyous occasion for my ; family. In October of this the new facilities could t people felt as they contr

This young class, with the help of the W.M.U. started a nursery in 1964. They also began to seriously talk about new educational space and began working toward that goal. The other adults were in agreement with them and plans began to be made to see what could be done.

By July of 1967 my people were debt free. The time had come to put their plans into action. The 2nd Sunday in each month was designated as Building Fund Sunday. All offerings taken that day went into a savings account set aside for building. After monthly expenses were paid all over \$300.00 left in the checking account also went to the building fund. The building committee, elected by the church, contacted a representative from the State Board in Montgomery. He met with the committee and the Pastor and deacons to make recommendations and draw up plans for the new addition. The plans included eight Sunday School rooms, a fellowship hall (with folding partitions for three rooms), pastor's study, baptistry and rest room facilities, although the community had no water system at that time. My people voted to accept these plans in June of 1967 although finances kept them from starting construction at that time.

It was also in 1967 that my people lost some of their deacons due to their employment taking them to other locations. Brother Jackie Dale Stewart was ordained to serve and God continued to bless as the people continued to work.

1968 was an exciting year for my people. It was a year of firsts, change, and growth.

In February the first youth banquet was given by the adults for our young people. It was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

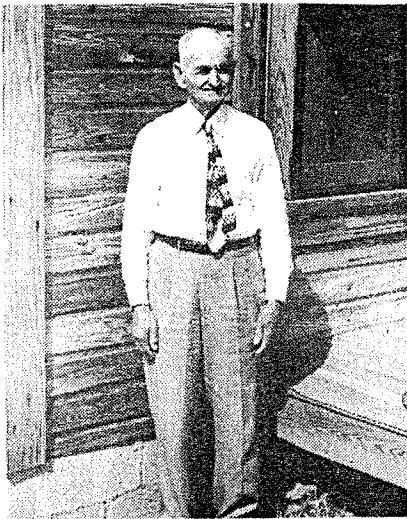
In March Brother Cecil Rhodes, minister of music, was directing the invitation hymn. Half way through the second verse he laid his hymn book aside, walked over to the pastor and became the first from my congregation to answer the call to the gospel ministry. He was the first licensed, and in December, the first to be ordained, when he accepted a call as Pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. He has gone on to be with the Lord he served so faithfully but my people will always remember his ready smile and bubbling personality.

In July a board of trustees was elected and my people voted to build. Robertson Brothers were again the low bidders with a bid of \$22,500. Union State Bank agreed to finance and construction on the educational facilities began. The plans also included bricking the sanctuary which was still a cement block building.

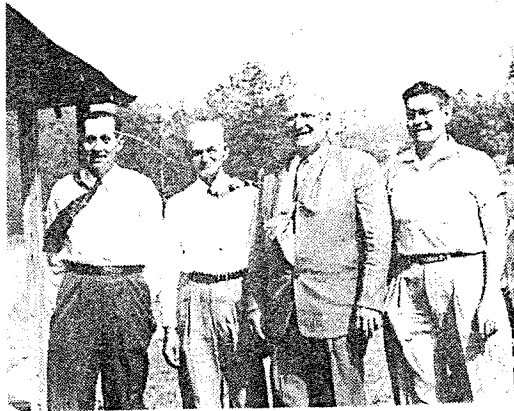
In October Brother Herman Stewart resigned as Chairman of Deacons due to bad health. He had filled the post faithfully since the death of Brother Henry Lister in 1958. Brother Bill Stewart was elected to follow his Dad as chairman.

1969 began with joy for my people. It was then, with joyful and thankful hearts they moved into their new facilities. They realized that God deserved all the credit for the blessings they were enjoying and were truly grateful for such a good place to worship their Lord. Brother Julius Tomlin bought the old Sunday School rooms and tore them down. The lumber from them was used in the construction of a barn which still stands on his property.

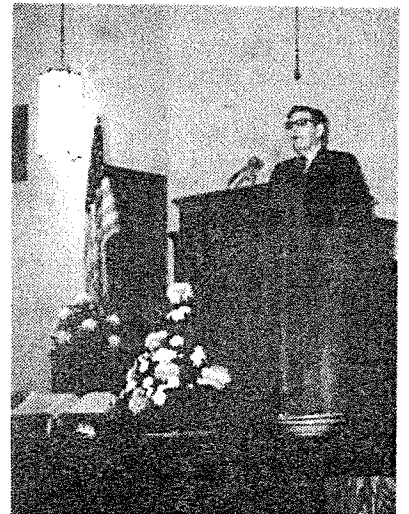
Brother Tandy Payne, coming from another church, was added to the deacon board. In August of this same year my people were able to have the first baptizing in the baptistry. There was still no water system but Mr. Edward Carl Crump, caretaker of St. Clair Memorial Gardens, used his water truck to fill it. This was a joyous occasion for my people as they welcomed these new members into God's family. In October of this same year the community finally had a water system and the new facilities could be enjoyed to the fullest. There was no end to the joy my people felt as they continued to praise God for His goodness.



Henry Lister, — 1st Chairman of Deacons. Church named in his honor



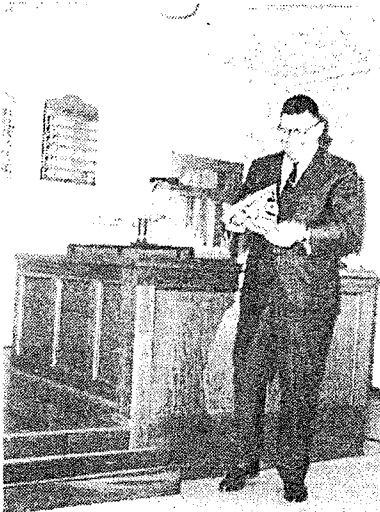
L. to R.: Rev. Bowman, 1st pastor, Henry Lister, Rev. Jessie Williams, helped establish Church. Rev. Charles Terry, Associational Missionary.



Former Pastor — Rev. Jack Woodall.



First Wedding — Marguerite Glidewell and Don Hazelwood.



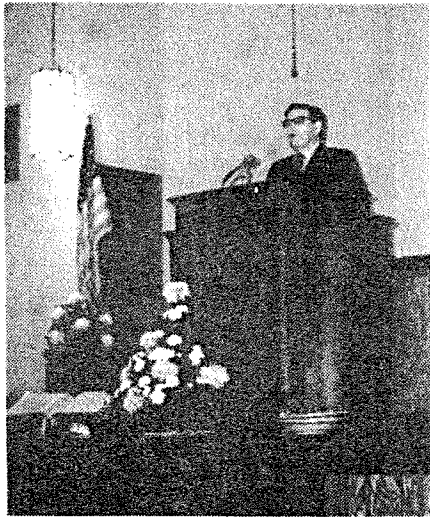
Rev. Cecil Rhodes — 1st to answer call to Gospel Ministry.



Trip to orphanage at Troy by Charter Members. L. to R., Hoyt Stewart, Gertrud Bell, Dot Gant and son Jackie, Sall Welch, Verna Stewart, June Graham Josie Lister, Bill Stewart, Alberta Stewart is behind Mrs. Bell.



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Former Pastor — Rev. Jack Woodall.



Ground Breaking — Joe Adams, Pastor;
Hattie Ridge, Oldest Member; J. P. Lee,
Oldest Deacon.



1st to answer call to



Trip to orphanage at Troy by Charter
Members. L. to R., Hoyt Stewart, Gertrude
Bell, Dot Gant and son Jackie, Sally
Welch, Verna Stewart, June Graham,
Josie Lister, Bill Stewart, Alberta Stewart
is behind Mrs. Bell.



First Formal Wedding — Faith Wilson and
Bill Stewart.

It was also this year that the house owned by the church was sold and moved as we now had adequate space in the new building.

The Girls Auxillary (now Girls in Action) had really grown reaching out to young girls and helping them grow in the wisdom of God's word. It was in 1969 that the first of many G.A. coronations was held. This organization is still a vital ministry of my people today teaching missions to young girls and training them to places of leadership in the kingdom's work.

It was about this time that we gained a new member, Mrs. Flossie Simons or Mama Flossie, as she was lovingly called. Moving here from Oklahoma to make her home with her foster daughter, Alberta Stewart, she won the hearts of all who knew her. She accepted the position of W.M.U. director and led the women to a deeper commitment to God. She made the first drapes for the baptistery. At her death in 1973, her family donated a beautiful Bible and Stand for the Communion table in her memory.

Brother Grover Smith was ordained and added to the Deacon board in 1970 as we continued to grow.

In August of 1971 my people were again to experience the loss of a loved one special and dear to all of them. My people were just entering the summer revival. Rev. Bill Chilton had been contacted and had agreed to bring the messages for the week. Mrs. Woodall got up and began to prepare to come to church on Sunday morning, but had an attack of Asthma and was unable to attend services. Later that afternoon she became so ill she had to be hospitalized. Brother Chilton came and preached on Sunday night, but by Monday Mrs. Woodall's condition was critical. The people felt it would be best to postpone the revival. Much time was spent in prayer for the pastor and his family that God's will might be done. At 2 A.M. August 8th the church received word that God had called Mrs. Woodall home. Although my people mourned the loss of one so dear, again they turned to God for comfort and knew His will would be done.

After his wife's death Brother Woodall continued as Pastor for a time. God soon gave him another Godly woman to share his life and ministry. Soon after his second marriage, however, after 8 years as pastor, he felt that he had finished the work God gave him to do with my people. He accepted a pastorate in Montevallo praying that God would lead in the calling of a new shepherd for the people he had come to love. Truly his prayers and those of my people were answered when God led them to Brother Robert Praytor.

The years that had intervened since this young man filled in for Brother Woodall had been spent in preparation for the Gospel Ministry. Feeling that God was leading him to work in rural churches, Brother Bob had also prepared for a career in education. Pastoring Cropwell Baptist Church and teaching 4th grade, Brother Bob began to feel that God was leading him to make a change. After much prayer by him and his wife Nelda, the Holy Spirit led him to offer his resignation to Cropwell. At the same time, the Holy Spirit working through God's servants, brought Brother Bob to the attention of my people. The pulpit committee invited him to come and preach at morning worship July 23, 1972. After hearing him my people felt that he was God's choice for their pastor and voted unanimously to call him. Many joys and sorrows were shared by him and my congregation during his ministry. Bob brought with him two lovely little daughters that God had blessed him and Nelda with in the years since he had preached that first sermon. (Squeak toys were commonplace to him now). While serving as pastor here God blessed him with another daughter and my people loved them all. Laboring together for God brought bountiful results.

Soon after Brother Bob and a bus was needed for them. It was decided in this purchase. Knowing the proceeds from a sale agreed to give the proceeds offering be taken each year. This was just the beginning out in faith, ever led by God.

As the congregation grew was added in 1973. It was Brother Daniel Kay who

Due to a growth in membership youth in our community fellowship hall and more space the men would dig out a was borrowed from Union completed. It was also this year people.

The young people of my people. However, the

These young people my people prayed and Adams, who was music Rod Lewis accepted the youth. They were on Sunday in each room were invited to appear in Gadsden, Alabama. to many through song.

In August of 1975 on the call to preach and work

Three more fine men and Brother David To Brother Joe Lynn Adams

In 1977 the youth department of television on companies in Birmingham (Channel 13) invited them and present their views Steve Robinson agreed provide His people with

The Holy Spirit was the Brother Bill Wade and gospel ministry in July in October. Thank God for

Soon after Brother Bob came, the church began to reach out to the youth and a bus was needed to transport them to the many activities that involved them. It was decided in business meeting that the people would try to make this purchase. Knowing that funds would be needed, one lady agreed to give the proceeds from a strawberry patch to the bus fund. One of the men agreed to give the proceeds of a watermelon crop. It was agreed that an offering be taken each 3rd Sunday night and soon the bus was purchased. This was just the beginning of many accomplishments of a congregation reaching out in faith, ever led by God's Holy Spirit.

As the congregation grew new cushioned church pews and new pulpit furniture was added in 1973. It was also in 1973 that 2 more men, Brother Jackie Gant and Brother Daniel Kay were ordained and added to the deacon board.

Due to a growth in fellowship activities and a program of outreach to the youth in our community my people found themselves in need of a larger fellowship hall and more Sunday School rooms. In January of 1974 they voted that the men would dig out a basement to provide the needed space. In May \$2500 was borrowed from Union State Bank and the work on the basement was completed. It was also this same year that a basketball court was built for our young people.

The young people of my congregation have always been a source of blessing for my people. However, the years of 75, 76, and 77 were truly active years for them.

These young people wanted a youth choir but needed a director. Again my people prayed and God sent His man for the job. Brother Joe Lynn Adams, who was music director, agreed to play for the choir and Brother Rod Lewis accepted the job as director. This proved to be a vital ministry for the youth. They were invited to other churches and began singing the second Sunday in each month at the local radio station. In March of 1976 they were invited to appear in concert with Wendy Bagwell at the city auditorium in Gadsden, Alabama. They were really a blessing and were able to witness to many through song.

In August of 1975 one of these young men, Brother Gene Duck, answered the call to preach and was licensed in 1976.

Three more fine men, Brother Gene Armstrong, Brother Stanley Clements and Brother David Tomlin were ordained and added to the deacon board. Brother Joe Lynn Adams was ordained as Minister of Music.

In 1977 the youth department in Training Union did a study on the influence of television on society. They wrote letters to the broadcasting companies in Birmingham expressing their views. As a result of these letters WAPI-TV (Channel 13) invited these young people to appear on "Midday with Rosemary" and present their views to the public. Brother Joe Lynn Adams, Bart Payne and Steve Robinson agreed to go. This was just one more door opened by God to provide His people with an opportunity to witness.

The Holy Spirit was truly dealing with the men of my congregation in 1977. Brother Bill Wade and Brother Joe Lynn Adams answered the call into the gospel ministry in July of that year and Brother Marlin Cox answered the call in October. Thank God for men who answer when the Spirit calls.

In December of 1977 my people carpeted the church and in 1978 the parking lot was paved, stained glass windows and a steeple were added to the sanctuary.

The deacon board received three more members; Brother Butler O'Shields, Brother Ellis Perrin, and Brother Hugh Goss, all coming from other churches.

1979 brought another change for my people. Brother Praytor resigned feeling that God was leading him as Pastor to Happy Home Baptist Church in Leeds, Alabama. Although my people hated to see him go, they knew God would provide a new Shepherd for them. Brother Bob preached his last sermon as pastor February 11th. Brother Joe Lynn Adams was attending Samford University studying for the ministry. My people decided to call him as interim pastor February 18th while the pulpit committee looked for a new pastor. Little did they realize then that God had already provided their pastor from their own congregation. While Brother Joe served as interim, souls were saved and others came by letter. As my people prayed they realized that the answer to their prayers was Brother Joe. They called him as pastor May 6, 1979 and had the added blessing of ordaining him June 24, 1979, as this was his first pastorate.

Brother Gene Tuggle was added to the deacon board in 1979 coming to my people from a sister church. It was also in 1979 that the church bus was sold. God even worked in this as Dr. Tavacoli, friend of the Mickie Barber family, donated an aerobus to the church in 1980. This has proven to be a better means of transportation for my people. Later, as a gift to Mrs. Barber, Dr. Soudii had a portrait of the church painted and donated it to my people. God works through many channels to bless His people.

In 1979 two more young men from my congregation surrendered to preach and were licensed; Brother Charles Wells and Brother Ricky Cleveland. This same year Brother Scott Jones, a young preacher who had joined my congregation by letter, accepted a call from Broken Arrow Baptist to come as their pastor. My people ordained him at their request.

Toward the end of 1979 my people began to see that a need to build was near at hand. Sunday School attendance had grown and they were fast outgrowing their educational space. In December they voted that all over \$1,000 in the regular checking account each month would go into a building fund. They began praying for God's leadership and guidance as to what He would have them do and when.

Something new to my people was started in 1980. Sister Lee Tuggle and Sister Sharron Bowman felt led to start a Children's Church. The people gave approval for this and it has proven to be a blessing for the children.

Brother Stanley Newton was ordained and added to the deacon board and Brother Carl Armstrong was licensed into the Gospel ministry. Also Brother Tandy Payne was elected as Chairman of the Deacon Board upon the resignation of Brother Bill Stewart.

The year of 1981 was a great year of moving forward in the Lord for my people. Brother Jackie Gant built a field to provide the church teams with a place to practice for their softball games. My people voted to reimburse Brother Jackie for the expense incurred since he provided the land. Gant's Field has been the scene of many hours of fun and fellowship for my people. Our teams have won many trophies as they have competed with other church teams. Most important, they have been commended for their Christian attitude and good sportsmanship during games.

Brother Gary Kendri
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Brother Gary Kendrick was added to the deacon board coming to us by letter.

1981 was really a milestone year for my Pastor, Brother Joe. He had finally received his diploma from Samford University. My people were happy for him and have received the benefit of his education through the messages he brings and the teaching session on Wednesday night.

In March the deacons presented the possibility of building a new sanctuary. My people elected a building committee to see just what it would take and what expense would be involved. The committee went to work to see about architectural drawings and to gather all the necessary information for my people to decide if it would be possible for them to build. In June they voted to designate the 2nd Sunday's offering for the building fund. After hearing reports from the finance and building committee my people voted to build the new sanctuary in October of 1981. In December Mr. Joe Disharoon was given the contract to build the new sanctuary with six new Sunday School rooms in the basement for the amount of \$102,400. The Union State Bank, again, had agreed to finance the loan. I wonder if this bank realizes how God has allowed them to be an instrument used in the on going work of His kingdom here on earth. They have certainly made it possible for my people to move forward. Ground breaking was January 24, 1982. It was a cold windy day but my people were warm and happy inside as 92-year-old Sister Hattie Ridge, oldest member, and Brother J. P. Lee, oldest charter member, placed that shovel in the ground. My people rejoiced that they were once more in a building program to the glory of God!

In June the first Baby Dedication was a part of the morning worship service as the parents of Nicholas Salter and Joshua Cleveland dedicated their children to God.

Some of the youth provided one of the highlights of 1982. Michell Darby and Susan Gant competed in the Memory Drill and Sword Drill competition. They won on the Church, County, State, and District levels. This was the first time my people had ever had a winner in all these competitions.

Tim Stewart competed in the Speaker's Tournament and won Church, County, and District and placed 5th in the state competition. The only other young person from my congregation to do this was Joanna Payne Newton who also went on to state competition. These young people studied hard to accomplish this and my people praised God for their accomplishment.

Brother Bob Armstrong was added to the Deacon Board coming to us from another church.

Brother Marlin Cox accepted a pastorate at Klyne Baptist Church in Harpersville, Alabama and was ordained at their request. Brother Ricky Cleveland and his family left our midst to attend Seminary at Southwestern in Texas. He was the first from my congregation to go on to seminary. Praise God that we have the blessing of being a training station to send men into divers places to carry the gospel.

It seems that God has chosen to remind us, at each new beginning for my people, that we are working toward things eternal. On August 26, 1982 the Lord called Sister Verna Stewart, another of His dear saints, home. Hers was the last funeral in the old sanctuary where she had spent many happy years in the service of her Lord. As long as her health permitted she was always there and provided a floral arrangement for the communion table from her garden. I'm sure as she greeted her dear loved ones on Heaven's shores she was eager to share with them how my congregation was still growing and building in the name of God and their prayers were still be answered.

On September 6, 1982 my congregation had its first worship service in the new sanctuary. It was with a feeling of awe and deep reverence that they viewed the results of all the efforts of those who worked so hard to make that day possible. Brother David and Sister Nancy Tomlin, Brother Gene and Brother Bob Armstrong, Brother Ellis Perrin, Brother Carvis Welch, Brother Jackie Dale Stewart, and others had worked sometimes till one o'clock and 4 o'clock in the morning to have everything ready. It was a happy day for my congregation and they realized that God made it all possible.

September 12, 1982 was the first baptizing as more precious souls went into the watery grave to be raised to a new life in Christ. Truly a new beginning for them.

September 18, 1982 was the first wedding. Miss Kelly Arwood and Mr. Timothy Walker blended their lives into one. Both are Christians and will establish a home with Christ as the foundation.

And so . . . we continue to grow. Today September 26, 1982 is dedication day for the new building, but more than that, it is a day of praise and rededication for each of my members. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!

What does the future hold for me? Only God knows. One thing is sure, times change and methods for reaching people with the gospel change, but the one from whose lips came the promise . . .

"Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

never changes. He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. The law of the land may someday close the doors of this building and it may decay and fall; but the real church, GOD'S PEOPLE, will never be silenced. Victorious they stand until the trump of God shall sound and Jesus claims His bride.

And so shall they ever be — At home with their Lord.

COME QUICKLY LORD JESUS.

? 30
Dec 1984

Rev. Refus Bowma
Rev. Bill Brown
Rev. E. C. Rickles
Rev. Reuben Tucker
Rev. Refus Bowma
Rev. Jack Woodall
Rev. Robert Prayton
Rev. Joe Lynn Adams

Jim Burke
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PRESEN

NAME
J. P. Lee
Bill Stewart
Carvis Welch
J. T. Dillard
Jackie Dale Stev
Grover Smith
Jackie Gant
Gene Armstrong
Stanley Clement
David Tomlin
Stanley Newton
Dennis Diffie

DEJ

Tandy Payne
Butler O'Shields
Ellis Perin
Hugh Goss
Gene Tuggle
Gary Kendrick
Bob Armstrong
Robert Walker

? 30
Dec 1984

PASTORS

Rev. Refus Bowman	11-24-1917 - 3-2-1982	1944	Sept. 1956
Rev. Bill Brown		Oct. 1956	Sept. 1957
Rev. E. C. Rickles	12-24-1924 - 7-28-1982	Oct. 1957	Sept. 1959
Rev. Reuben Tucker	3-1-1924 - 1-24-2000	Oct. 1959	Nov. 1961
Rev. Refus Bowman	11-24-1917 - 3-2-1982	Feb. 1962	Feb. 1964
Rev. Jack Woodall	1-9-1926 - 8-15-1979	Apr. 1964	June 1972
Rev. Robert Praytor		July 1972	Jan. 1979
Rev. Joe Lynn Adams	4-29-1942 - 1-22-2009	May 1979	Present
<i>Jim Bertain</i>	<i>11-23-1921 - 2-27-2008</i>		
<i>? Forbes</i>			
<i>Gordon Lee</i>			
<i>? Cloudus</i>			
		<i>William Collins 1991</i>	

PRESENT DEACONS ORDAINED BY LISTER MEMORIAL

NAME	DATE ORDAINED
J. P. Lee	1952
Bill Stewart	1958
Carvis Welch	1962
J. T. Dillard	1962
Jackie Dale Stewart	1967
Grover Smith	1970
Jackie Gant	1973
Gene Armstrong	1976
Stanley Clements	1976
David Tomlin	1976
Stanley Newton	1980
Dennis Diffie	1983

DEACONS COMING FROM OTHER CHURCHES

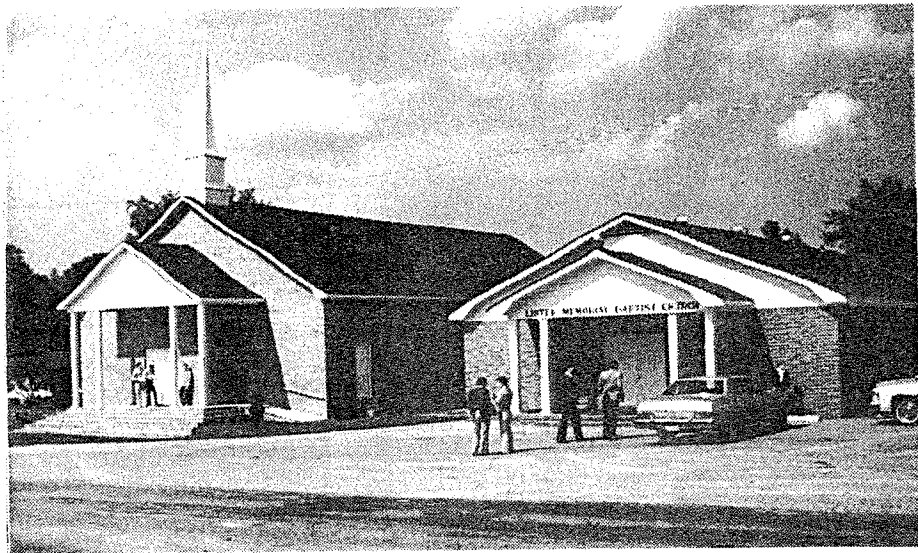
		Became active at Lister
Tandy Payne	1955	1969
Butler O'Shields	?	1978
Ellis Perin	1971	1978
Hugh Goss	1956	1978
Gene Tuggle	1968	1979
Gary Kendrick	?	1981
Bob Armstrong	1980	1982
Robert Walker	1971	1982



L. to R. Nelda and Robert Praytor, former pastor. Joe and Mary Lou Adams, Pastor.



2nd Building before brick and addition of educational space. (Baby — Tracy Lee).



Lister Memorial Church — Built to the Glory Of God

Left in
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The age
of 84
a brief
14, 1984

People
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Sachie De
Tandy and
D. Coe,
Julius
Butch
Blaine,
Ellis,
Candice,
Agar,
Jack
Joe Hill, Sr.