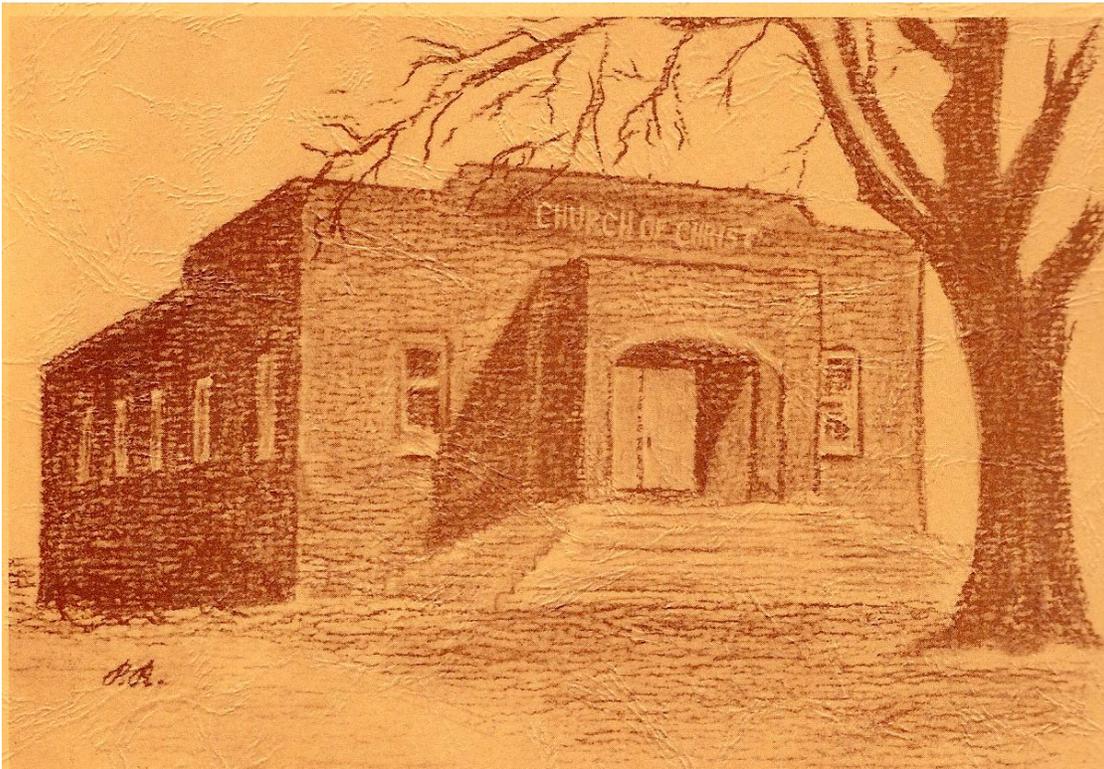


# *A Light On a Hill*



*As unto a light that shineth in a dark place;*

*A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid --*

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

HARTSELLE, ALABAMA

1920-1983

Published by Lista D. Martin

May 1984

In loving memory of my Christian Mother,  
Lillian Martin, who patiently endured my  
first winter of effort to prepare this  
document ---

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to all who helped with the preparation of this book.

To Edward Monroe for a remark that encouraged me to start the project again.

To Brother Ben Calloway for his encouragement during the times of frustration and overwhelming conviction that I was incapable of writing anything, a big “thank you!”

We appreciate the staff of the Hartselle Enquirer for their forbearance during my many trips to research the old newspapers.

We acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Larry Little and Mrs. Louise Sivley of Grant Street Church of Christ. Mrs. Sivley provided the photograph of J. Pettey Ezell, her uncle.

Appreciation is also expressed to Diane Reid, Teleste Hendon, Dene Walls, Josephine Woodall, Earl Warren, the Slated, Mrs. Baggett, Elsie Norton and Nina Freeman, for pictures and other data.

A special thanks to Peggy Russell for the sketch of the front cover and to Terri Entrekin Wilhite for reproduction of many of the pictures.

Last, but not least, a special thanks to those, young and not so young, who encouraged me by expressing a desire to read the history!

## INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1962, E.H. Bennett, an Elder for many years, showed me a cardboard box containing old financial records and notes written by members of the early church. The documents created a desire in me to record them into a permanent “history” for the church library.

For many years the financial affairs of the church were managed by Brother Bennett. The old records were important to him. Only after I assured him that the box would be returned intact was I permitted to bring them home with me.

The project began with zeal. All available hours that fall and winter were devoted to copying the documents. The typing was finished in the early spring of 1963, and the box returned to the owner. Trips were made to the Courthouse to search for property deeds; many conversations held with older members of the church; bulletins and other items collected for the book.

Time passed, the zeal diminished with the pressures of life; the collection of papers were stored in a new cardboard box. An occasional item was added during the passing years with the thought that someday the project would be completed.

In the summer of 1983, Ed Monroe told me that some young people of his class had expressed interest in the establishment of our congregation. The box was removed from the shelf. The time had come to finish something begun twenty-one short years ago!

We trust the youth will appreciate their heritage. The history has been prepared for them. May they keep the light burning brightly!

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONGREGATION

On a warm May day in 1920, a group of men were gathered in the Jackson Street church of Christ, Albany, Alabama. This occasion was a normal business meeting for these men. However, it was an important meeting for the people of Hartselle, AL. J. Pettey Ezell, minister of the Jackson Street church of Christ, discussed a planned protracted meeting for Hartselle. Brother Ezell told the men that he was considering the use of the church of God in Hartselle. A hearing from the church of God was pending. He said they would pay a stipulated amount, with the privilege of holding other protracted meetings or services in the building.

Consideration of who would do the preaching was discussed. Brother Wilson suggested that Ezell should be the main speaker and someone located and engaged to assist Brother Ezell. This was May 9, 1920.

Sometime between May 9 and the latter part of June, the decision was made to use a tent for the protracted meeting. The tent was erected and the meeting begun. John T Lewis, a minister from Nashville, TN., assisted Brother Ezell during the first two weeks. When Lewis left, C.M. Pullias came to work with Ezell. The meeting continued for two more weeks.

At the end of the month-long meeting some seventeen souls began worship together.

On July 19, 1920, the Jackson Street church gave J. Pettey Ezell twenty dollars for the Hartselle work.

Handwritten notes by members of the early church describe the start of the small congregation. These notes have been numbered to set them apart from comments by the writer. These were typed in the same format, spelling, etc. that the writer used. We have no way to determine the date most were written or the individual who did the writing. We believe Mrs. C.O. Speegle penned the first note because her name appeared on Note 2, and the writing was similar.

Note 1

Record of Organization of First  
Church of Christ, Hartselle, AL

During the months of June and July in the year of 1920 A.D., J. Petty Ezell, C. M. Pullias and John T. Lewis, conducted a tent meeting of the then vacant lot across the street, west, from the L&N R.R. Depot.

As a result of this meeting the First "Church of Christ" of Hartselle, AL, was organized on July 17, 1920, A.D., with the following persons as:

Charter Members

Mrs. Kate Morrison	Mr. John L. Schnabel
Miss Johnnie Morrison	Mrs. John L. Schnabel
Mrs. Lena McClanahan	Mr. Neill
Mrs. Georgie Bryant	Mrs. Neill
Mrs. Della Crutchfield	Mrs. Etna E. Speigle
Miss Marie Crutchfield	Miss Mary Edith Speigle
Mrs. Lucy Hartselle	Mr. Sneed
Mrs. Alice Kent	Mrs. Sneed
	Mrs. Collins

End of Note

Note 2

As a mark of the love and respect which the members of the Church of Christ located in Hartselle, AL, entertain for those brethren who worked so faithfully to organize said church, we its members desire and do set for the this fact in our record. We note the fact that in the latter part of June 1920 A.D., brethren J. Petty Ezell and John T. Lewis, erected a tent near the center of town and preached two consecutive weeks the Word of Life and when Bro. John T. Lewis had to go to another field, Bro. C. M. Pullias took his place and labored with Bro. Ezell for about two weeks of July 17<sup>th</sup> 1920 A.D. As a result of their labor we a Church of Christ was duly organized. We thank God for their work here and humbly ask Him to bless them in all their labor in their Masters Field.

In Christian Love  
ATTEST

Miss Johnnie Morrison  
Mrs. Etna E. Speigle

End of Note

Note 3

1920, 17<sup>th</sup> of July In the Name of God. Amen.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 1920 A.D. at a meeting held in the building erected for the use of a Church of Christ Brethren J. Petty Ezell and C. M. Pullias invites all those of the order and faith of the church of Christ to unite for the purpose of worship an extend His Kingdom in and around the town of Hartselle, Alabama.

The following persons responded were duly organized and authorized to conduct such service only as is set forth in the Word of God. SS

John Schnabel  
Mrs. John Schnabel  
Mrs. Kate Morrison  
Mrs. Georgie Bryant  
Mrs. Etna E. Speigle  
Miss Mary E. Speigle

Mrs. Lena McClanahan  
Mrs. Lon Crutchfield  
Miss Marie Crutchfield  
Miss Lucy Hartselle  
Mrs. Alice Kent  
Mrs. Sneed

End of Note

Note 3 used the term “held in the building erected” but is dated July 17<sup>th</sup>. The deed for the property recorded the purchase date as July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1920. The building was completed in late September 1920.

We talked with several people to learn where the group met between July and October. Mrs. Pearl Monroe recalled passing the building site on her way to school. She said the group met across the street from the church property. Mrs. Kate B. Morrison lived in the house and provided rooms for visitors in the Hartselle area. We believe Mrs. Morrison ran a boarding house.

Elizabeth Slate, daughter of Mrs. Lon Crutchfield, said Mrs. Morrison moved furniture from the living room and used cane bottomed chairs for the services. Elizabeth recalled, “I did not want to attend services with my Mother. The chairs were very uncomfortable and the room very hot”.

Others told “they met” across the street. In later years, the Morrison house became the home of Mrs. Pearle Compton. The old house still stands today. The picture is a recent one.



First Meeting Place  
Church of Christ  
July – September 1920

During a business meeting of the Jackson Street church of Christ on August 18, 1920, J. Pettey Ezell reported that Five Hundred dollars was owed for the Hartselle work. A Mr. Pulias, one of the members, suggested and immediate payment of One Hundred dollars. The group approved the payment.

The Jackson Street records made no further mention of the Hartselle work. We do not know when or how the remaining indebtedness was paid.

On July 31, 1920, Mr. M.D. Clemons and wife Eugenia Clemons deeded property for the price of Eight Hundred Fifty dollars, to J. Pettey Ezell and J. L. Schnable, trustees of the church of Christ. The property was located on the corner of Rock and Hammett Streets. This deed is found in Book 272, Page 365, Probate Office, Morgan County Courthouse.

Mrs. Pearle Compton, a faithful member of the church, said Otto Speegle assumed responsibility for construction of the small building. Miss Cordie Self, also a faithful member, told me the building was constructed with voluntary labor. Her father, who worshipped with the Union congregation, helped with the work.

No financial records for this period were located. The cost of the building, or who financed it, is unknown. The minutes of the business

meetings of the Jackson Street church (that later became Grant Street), made no further mention of the indebtedness, purchase of land, or other expenses for the Hartselle work.

We believe that Grant Street did help with the building. We know that some men from Grant Street preached here in the twenties. Elizabeth Slate said that some of the men helped construct the building. She recalled one young man fell from the structure and was injured. The man stayed in the home of Mrs. Crutchfield until he was well enough to be moved to his home in Decatur.



Church of Christ  
Oct 1920 - Nov 1947

This small building left much to be desired from a modern-day, worldly, point of view.

The location was inconvenient, with little, if any parking space – even for wagons. The only heat in winter months came from a coal-burning stove. The lighting was provided by one ceiling light. There were no separate class rooms, no carpet, no water foundation, no modern bath rooms and no PA system. They had no air-conditioning – the members had to bring their own hand fans!

Ed Monroe recalled the discomfort of walking across the ground covered with small prickly cones of the sweet or black gum trees, especially with bare feet.

There is no doubt – this small band of Christians were just as proud of this small building as we are of our present structure! Of a certainty, the poverty had no bearing on their worship to God.



J. PETTEY EZELL

1885-1934

J. Pettey Ezell, responsible for the establishment of our congregation, was known by some of his friends as a “visiting preacher”. He preached in many meetings in many cities.

An article appearing in the October 1981 issue of The World Evangelist revealed the facts of his untimely death in May, 1934, at the age of 49.

The article, written by The Editor, Basil Overton, stated that Brother Ezell traveled by train from Nashville to Cookeville Tennessee, to baptize an elderly man. He had just finished a series of sermons on Wednesday evening at the Lawrence Avenue church in Nashville. At the Wednesday evening service he spoke concerning the beauties and blessings of Heaven. At the end of the service he gave T. C. Wilcox, the regular minister, his bible with the statement, “you might need it”.

On Thursday afternoon, J. Pettey Ezell boarded the three o'clock bus in Cookeville to return to Nashville. Outside the city limits the bus skidded in a rain storm – one side of the bus hit the ground. Five people were injured and one man, J. Pettey Ezell was killed. His skull was crushed – he died instantly.

The article stated his daughter, Sister Charlotte Dill said she remembers her father as an avid fisherman. Brother Overton said he was also a fisher of men. (Mark 1:17)

Mrs. Louise Sivley said her Uncle made very little money preaching. While he was in Decatur, he was often paid with items of food. He loved the people of Decatur and would often take a morning stroll along Second Avenue, greeting friends. The store owners along the way expressed their love for Brother Ezell with gifts of suits and other clothing.

J. Pettey Ezell, borned at Rogersville, Alabama, January 2, 1885. Killed in a bus accident, May 10, 1934. He was noted for the many people he converted to Christ. We in Hartselle should remember him for establishing our congregation.

Bits and pieces of information had been recorded about the membership during the 1920's. Apparently names were written down when they came into the church. Later other data was jotted down by the names. We have no idea if this is an accurate record.

Mrs. Della Crutchfield Marie Crutchfield E. A. Crutchfield	Main St Christian Jul 20, by statement
Mrs. Georgie (T. A.) Bryant	July 17, 1920 from 1 <sup>st</sup> Christian
Mrs. Kate Morrison Miss Johnnie Morrison	from 1 <sup>st</sup> Christian July 17, 1920
Mrs. Lena McClanahan	1 <sup>st</sup> Christian July 17, 1920 later returned to Christian
Mr. and Mrs. Neill	By statement to J. P. Ezell July 17 <sup>th</sup> – moved to B'ham
Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Speegle Miss Mary E. Speegle	July 17, 1920, from 1 <sup>st</sup> Christian
Mr. and Mrs. Sneed	by statement July 17, 1920
Mr. & Mrs. J.L. Schnable	by statement from Albany July 17, 1920 – moved to Decatur May 1931
Mr. Marion Clements Mrs. Marion Clements	1 <sup>st</sup> Christian Oct 1920 1 <sup>st</sup> Christian Oct 1920 (died 1925)
J. C. Dixon, Falkville Mrs. J.C. Dixon	by statement 1921
Matt K. Mahan	1 <sup>st</sup> Christian August 1921 by C.M. Pullias
Floyd Pence Mrs. Floyd Pence Floyd Jr.	from Union Grove-baptized by Bro Fanning 1931
Mrs. Mildred Shaw	by statement from Lynchburg, Tenn., May 1922

Mr. and Mrs. W.O. Norton	from Nashville by statement July 1923 – moved to Bay Minette to preach
H. K. Blizzard	from Aldridge Grove Feb 1924
Mrs. H.K. (Maud) Blizzard Oliver, Wallace and Ruth	Ruth married Corbin Templeton October 12, 1928 and moved to Akron, Ohio
Mrs. Oscar Belew	from Main St Christian Aug 1923 – returned to Christian
Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Cagle Guy Cagle Verna Cagle	from Mt Hope 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun Feb '24 baptized Aug 1924 baptized Sep 1925
Mrs. R.J. Thompson Mrs. Edward (Mary Lydia)	from Union Grove March 1924
Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Williams	from Union Grove Feb 1924
Mr. and Mrs. Leldon Martin	baptized 1925
Mr. & Mrs. R.M. McMullen Olis Bailey	by statement 1928 from Union Grove – deceased Jan 29, 1931
Mrs. Olis Bailey	from Union Grove – moved to Auburn, AL
Mrs. Annie Bailey Miss Freda Bailey Wilford Bailey	from Union Grove – deceased baptism by Bro Farris Aug 1921 baptism by Bro Farris Aug 14 <sup>th</sup> 1931 – moved to Auburn
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Gregory	from Melrose, Tenn. 1926
Mrs. Roberta Compton Mrs. Pearle Compton Doris Compton	baptism by Bro Norton 1926 baptized at Mt Olive 1914 baptism Bro Lee – moved to FL
Mr. and Mrs. Beard Tom Pettit	Baptism by W. C. Norton 1926 from Union by statement (baptized in Ark by Joe Blue in 1912)
Mrs. Tom Pettit (Ada) Gladys	baptized by Bro. Peek 1938 baptism 1921 by Whaley from Union Grove

Eva Pettit	baptized 1925
Roberta and Rowena	baptized 1926
Marie	baptized by Farrish, Aug 16, 1931

Mildred

Mr. Guthrie Pettit	baptized 1938
Mrs. Velma Pettit	baptized 1938

We learned from a newspaper article that Matt K. Mahan was seventy-nine years old when he was converted.

One interesting observation – when W.O. Norton “came by statement from Nashville”, he was preaching for this group of people.

Mrs. Mildred Shaw was the Grandmother of Eva Lee Shaw Baggett. She moved to Alabama from Tennessee, to care for the Shaw children when their Mother died. Eva Lee remembers that her Grandmother bought two Pewter cups to use during the Lord’s Supper. She also recalls that at times there would only be one or two men at the service; they were not members or would not serve the Lord’s table. The men would leave the building and Mrs. Shaw would serve the Lord’s Supper to the ladies.



Mrs. Mildred Shaw and Granddaughter, Miss Eva Lee Shaw, on the left. The other young lady is a cousin, we think.

J.C. Dixon moved from Hartselle to California. At one time he was a professor at Pepperdine College. J.C. Dixon died in 1982.

Note 4

Members Who Have Not Taken Membership

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1924

Mrs. M.E. McAnally	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Carnell
Mrs. Lula May Neal	Mr. and Mrs. Snider
Mrs. Courdie Campbell	Mr. T.E. Shaw
Mrs. Cluster Key	Mr. M.K. Mahan
Mrs. Flora Chunn	Mr. W.B. Yates
Mrs. Drinkard	Mr. Chunn
Mrs. G.W. Williams	Mr. Waddell
Mr. & Mrs. F.E. Pense	Mrs. Jerome Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Newt	Miss Verona Russell
Mr. and Mrs. Clemons	Mr. & Mrs. Luster Proctor

End of Note

When Note 4 is compared with the first membership list, we find conflicting data. The term “member” is also baffling. The writer of this note apparently tried to say these people came regularly but had no public response to an invitation.

Matt K. Mahan, known to the town people and his friends as “Captain”, was a Civil War Veteran. He had his own special chair in the building. Years following his death, members still referred to the one chair as “Captain Mahan’s.”

Many of us today remember Mr. and Mrs. Pense. Mr. Pense served as Mayor of Hartselle in the thirties. Mrs. Pense was a faithful member when we moved to Hartselle.

Mr. and Mrs. Luster Proctor were the parents of Dee Proctor. E. Lester Proctor, known to his friends as ‘Luster’, moved to Hartselle from Georgia. Dee does not know the year his father was baptized but believes he was converted prior to the family move to Alabama.

Dee remembers attending worship services with his father in the Rock/Hammett Street building. Dee told me he is proud that his father took the leadership in taking him to worship. In those days most men stayed home while the wives took their children to “church”. Dee also feels that distance was a deterrent in the early growth of the church. Many lived in rural areas with no convenient transportation. We know that many had to walk or travel by wagon or in a buggy. In extreme heat or cold, heavy rains or snow, the

attendance was poor. Some members today suffer from weatheritis – the difference is at least one car is available to every family.



W.O. NORTON AND WIFE, ELSIE EDITH

The W.O. Norton family arrived in Hartselle in 1923, in a new Model A. Ford!

W. O. Norton was born in Marion County, Alabama, on May 7, 1893. He grew to manhood in rural Lawrence County, AL. He was baptized at the age of seventeen by C.A. Wheeler, a pioneer of North Alabama.

Brother Norton met Elsie Edith Sims, while attending high school in Moulton. They were married on April 10, 1915.

W.O. Norton moved his wife and son to Nashville, TN, to further his education. He had no steady income but managed to finish two years of high school and two years of college at David Lipscomb College. When he graduated from college, A.M. Burton, founder of Life and Casualty Insurance Company and a renowned philanthropist, presented Brother Norton with a brand new Model A. Ford.

A horse or mule was the only “driving” experienced by Norton. A salesman took W.O. Norton for a test drive around the City – his only formal driving lesson! Elsie, their daughter told me that her Mother was always nervous while traveling in a buggy or wagon and even more so in the car! She often had Brother Norton stop the car, take her small children and walk up a hill or around sharp curves!

Brother Norton preached in Hartselle, Union and Union Grove. To help provide for his growing family, he taught school and worked in a used furniture store. Years later he loved relating stories of his early ministry, especially about his travels over deeply rutted, often muddy, roads to teach in the Collins School House, located some five miles west of town.

In 1952, Brother Norton returned to Hartselle. He preached in Morgan County until he became unable to work. He lived in Decatur until his death on April 25, 1963. His beloved wife died on February 18, 1981.

Brother and Sister Norton devoted their life to teaching and preaching. They worked at Dasher Bible School near Valdosta, Georgia; Alabama Christian College; helped in establishing Christian Home and Bible School in Mount Dora, Florida and preached in areas of Bay Minette, Mobile and Cullman.

W.O. and Elsie Norton were devout Christians and avid supports of education!

## Note 5

### Record of Meetings

The following is a record of the meetings held and pastors employed to the best of my knowledge and information I can gather for the years mentioned. No record having been kept there are liable to be mistakes.

The first service was held in the "Church of Christ", First Lords Day, in October 1920.

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| October 1920 | J. Petty Ezell held a meeting resulting in 4 added from the First Christian – Mr. and Mrs. Marion Clements, E.A. Crutchfield and C.O. Spiegle. |
| 1921         | C.M. Pullias held meeting in August. Resulting with M.K. Mahan from First Christian.   |
| 1922         | J.C. Dixon served church as Pastor from Sept. 1921 to May 1922.  |
| 1923         | W.O. Norton served as Pastor from 1923 to 1926 with several additions.   |
| 1924         | Rev. Creel held a meeting.   |
| 1925         | W.O. Norton pastor   |
| 1926         | W.O. Norton pastor   |
| 1927         | B.F. Moody pastor  |
| 1928         | B.F. Moody pastor  |
| 1929         | B.F. Moody pastor  |
| 1930         | Chester Honeycutt pastor   |
| 1931         | Meeting held in August by Robert Farris. 5 added by confession and baptism.  |
| 1931         | Meeting held in September by Floyd Fanning resulting in 1 added by confession and baptism.   |
| 1932         | Meeting held in June by Floyd Fanning, resulting in 1 from Methodist.  |

Church is greatly encouraged and hoping for better service.

(Mrs. COS)

End of Note

Note 5 was the last one found in the box. The terms 'pastor' and 'rev' may surprise some of you; however, one must remember this group were babes in Christ. The Apostle Paul would say such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

We are thankful for the foresight of Mrs. C.O. Speegle. No doubt she was responsible for the five notes found in the box. Her short transcripts provided us with a brief look at the early church. Without them we would have little, if any, knowledge of our earthly foundation.

## THE DEPRESSED THIRTIES

The E.H. Bennett family moved to Hartselle from Owens Cross Road in 1930. The financial records of the church began in 1930, so we assume Brother Bennett became the treasurer within the same year. The recorded data assures the reader that this man maintained the records in a manner that none could question.

In 1962, the financial data was typed on notebook paper. The records were too voluminous to include in this book. They have been placed in the church library.

The old newspapers on file at the Hartselle Enquirer date back to January 1930. These provided some information about the church and its members.

This chapter contains interesting monthly expenditures and some social news about some of the members. We may gain some insight into the effort this small group put forth to stay alive from the financial records.

To help the young people understand the term 'depressed', a brief statement of the national economy has been included.

In 1932, one-fourth of our nations labor force was jobless. Some 1400 banks had failed. Remember, we had to social security or other programs to aid the unemployed or the poor! When Franklin D. Roosevelt became President in 1932, conditions became worse. In March 1933, the bottom dropped completely. Now, some 15-million were earning near-starvation wages – the balance unemployed. Mr. Roosevelt closed the rest of the nation's banks, while their solvency was checked.

Families that lived near the main highways will recall the frequent knocks upon their door by people begging for food. People walked from state-to-state searching for work. I recall one beggar at our door was asked to cut wood for our stove. He was asked to fill the box while Mother prepared his food. Hours following his departure, we discovered he cut only enough pieces to cover the top of the bin making it appear full. Mother said he would reap a just reward! We still have people who expect food for no work. The Apostle Paul recorded that if any would not work, neither should he eat. (II Th 3:10)

My memories made the church financial records most interesting and meaningful. You may have similar memories as you review them. The contribution reflects love for the Lord and His church! Some may have truly given the widow's mite.

1930

In treasury 1 January 1930	\$45.07
Average contribution per month	17.00
Low collection on 2 March	1.45
High collection on 13 April	8.19
In treasury 31 December 1930	16.30

Expenses for the entire year:

Chester Hunnicutt	January	\$20.00
	Feb thru Jul	15.00 per month
J.G. Whitaker	16 June	5.00
	Sept thru Dec	10.00 per month
Ala Power Company	Jan thru Dec	.80 per month
Gospel Advocate	March	4.88
	December	10.82
Speake Hardware Co	2 June	11.40
	July	3.50 for paint brush
	August	1.00
Stanley Bates & brother	July	1.75 mowing yard
Given Miss Bailey	July	5.01
Olis Bailey	December	10.00
Ala Cotton & Grain Co	December	2.15

Hunnicutt and Whitaker were ministers. They preached once or twice a month. On the Sundays that no preacher came, the group had Sunday School and the Lord's Supper.

We believe the December expenditure to Ala Cotton and Grain was for coal. The building had a coal burning stove.

1931

In treasury 1 January 1931	\$16.30
Average contribution per month	16.93
Low collection on 25 January	1.02
High collection on 27 Sept.	8.61
In treasury 31 December 1931	47.91

Expenses for this year included Brother Dixon \$5.00; J.G. Whitaker \$10.00; Brother Farrish in August \$25.00; Brother Fanning in October \$50.00; a light bulb .25; Mowing lawn 1.00; .80 per month to Alabama Power Company and flowers for Bailey in January of \$2.50; Gospel Advocate for S. S. books and literature \$29.74.

In February 1931, an entry was made of cash on hand - \$23.51; Cash in 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank - \$6.30. On March 3, 1931, deposited in Hartselle bank - \$23.51.

In December 1931 a 20% dividend from 1<sup>st</sup> Nat'l Bank of \$1.41 was added to the contribution.

Mr. Ollis Bailey died January 29, 1931. Mrs. Shaneyfelt of Route 2 died in 1931.

Some new members were Miss Eva Lee Shaw of Rt. 2, baptized by Robert Farrish on Aug. 14, 1931; Mrs. Mary Daniel of McGough Street baptized by C. Wiggins 1930; Mrs. Lillie May Gee came by statement from Mt. Carmel in May 1931; Lee Jean Ryan was baptized by Brother Farrish Aug. 12, 1931; Miss Cordie Self of Stinson Street.

The Telfare Woodall family of Route 2. Telfare was baptized by Brother Farrish on August 23, 1931; Mrs. Johnnie Woodall was baptized by Brother Hill in 1912. Raymond and Trannie Ellen their children.

### 1932

In treasury 1 January 1932		\$47.91
Average contribution per month		12.77
Low contribution on 27 November		1.25
High collection on 4 June		6.84
In treasury 31 December 1932		50.48
Expenses for entire year:		
W.M. White	16 February	\$37.90
Brother Fanning	June	35.00
Brother Hendon	June	6.00
Gospel Advocate	4 January	.95 Lesson Comm
	March	5.16
		4.08 Lit Incl 1 letter
	September	4.08 Lit
	December	9.20
Etowah Church of Christ	21 October	5.00
	December	5.00
Alabama Power Co	Jan thru Dec	.80 per month
Corsbies	March	2.75
	April	.50 hanging door
To painting fund	May	7.50
Show Alter Co for books	June	8.62
	June	1.75 black board
Mowing and cleaning	September	1.41
	October	1.00 stove pipe

On 19 June 1932, the collection included a note “and eighty-five cents from Mrs. Woodall for book.” At the end of the monthly record:

Books for church:

C.O. Spiegle	2 books	pd \$1.70
T.F. Pettitt	1 book	.85
G.W. Williams	1 book	.85
Mr. Pence	1 book	.85
Mrs. Bailey	1 book	.85
Mr. Shaw	1 book	.85
E. Bennett	1 book	.85
Mrs. Gee	1 book	.85
Old Mrs. Bailey	1 book	.85

This special collection may have been to purchase song books.

We love the note “Old Mrs. Bailey” – a picture of a sweet little lady wearing a bonnet came to mind.

The church received a 10% dividend in April of seventy cents and in August of thirty-five cents.

A small disagreement occurred when Brother Hendon was paid to lead the song service during the June gospel meeting. Some felt his services should have been for free.

1933

In treasury 1 January 1933	\$50.48
Average contribution per month	9.35
Low collection on 7 May	.79*
High collection on 9 July	6.69
In treasury 31 December 1933	6.93

Expenses for entire year:

Brother Fanning	July	\$50.00
Brother Terry	November	2.00
Brother Gaddis	December	5.00
Etowah church	Jan. & Feb.	5.00 each month
Ala Power Company	Jan. thru Dec.	.80 per month
Light bulbs	Feb. & July	.30 each month
Literature		16.63 entire year
Peoples Drug Co.	May	.50
Coal	October	1.25
Tin for Flue	October	3.00
For Christmas Tree	December	2.90

\*The lowest collection recorded in the history of the church.

At the end of February 1933, there was \$57.02 in the treasury. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the bank closed! The banks paid 5% of the account to each holder. The church received \$2.85. The entry indicated \$9.11 in contributions – leaving \$11.96 in the treasury.

Miss Emily Alexander of Moulton spent a few days visiting friends in Hartselle during the week of 18 June 1933.

Mrs. Euclid (Dora) Johnson and little son, Charles, spent a few days with her parents in Falkville.

Miss Mabel Freeman who is employed in Evergreen, Alabama, visited her mother the week-end of June 13, 1933, and Mrs. Alford Monroe (Pearl Pettit) of Cullman spent this week with her father, John Pettit.

Marvin Pettit and his father, J.F. Pettit attended a State Cleaners Convention held in Montgomery the week of June 29, 1933.

Mrs. T.A. Bryant had her son, C.J. Bryant and his family from Birmingham, as week-end guest the last of June. C.J. and family were one their way to the Chicago World Fair.

B.G. Greenhaw of Decatur preached on 25 June 1933. No record of payment was noted in our financial data, leading us to believe that men like Greenhaw came from Grant Street Church.

The front page of the Thursday, June 29, 1933, Hartselle Enquirer announced a revival at the church. "Floyd Fanning will begin a two week series of services at the church of Christ on Rock Street, Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Services will be at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM on first Lords Day, with announcement of further services later. This meeting is in compliance with plans made last year when Rev. Fanning held a very successful meeting at this church. Everyone is cordially invited to all services."

Following payment of \$50.00 to Brother Fanning for this meeting, the church was in debt \$18.30. They did not have any money in the treasury until September when \$4.03 was recorded.

Mrs. H.R. Spiegel of Birmingham visited her Mother, Mrs. Kate B. Morrison, over the week-end of August 10, 1933.

On August 31, 1933, Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Calloway and son Ben, spent the day in Decatur with her sister, Mrs. Charlie Johnson.

Mary Edith Spiegel left for Odenville, Ala., on August 31<sup>st</sup>, to resume her duties as teacher in the St. Clair County High School. Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Spiegel expected to motor Miss Spiegel to Odenville.

Miss Emily Alexander of near Moulton returned to Hartselle in September to resume her duties as a teacher in the city school. Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Spiegel expected to motor Miss Spiegel to Odenville.

Miss Emily Alexander of near Moulton returned to Hartselle in September to resume her duties as a teacher in the city school. The matriculation fees this year were \$2.00 for those living in the school district and \$4.00 for those outside the district.

In October, Capt. Mahan was reported as resting at home. The beloved 91 year old Hartselle resident was doing fine after an illness of several days.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, a special contribution was given of \$1.11. We believe this explains the December expenditure for a christmas tree. No doubt the church helped some needy family.

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1933, Rev. W.W. Gaddis of Courtland delivered the "Xmas Sermon" at the Church of Christ, at eleven o'clock. There was preaching at 7:00 PM, also. Every one was invited to these services.

The year of 1934, saw very little change in the church. The contribution each Sunday ranged from ninety-one cents to four-forty six. The expenditures were for the bare-necessities. J.H. Hill of Decatur preached some during the year. He ran for tax collector in 1934.

A pension list published in January 1934, recorded Matt K. Mahan as Class A and Kate B. Morrison as Class 1.

Mrs. Kate B. Morrison, beloved lady, died Tuesday morning, January 23, 1934. She was 76 years of age and had been ill for a year. She is survived by five daughters and two sons. Mrs. Morrison had made her home in Hartselle for a number of years and wide-spread sorrow was felt over her death. J.H. Chitwood conducted the services held at her home and the final service was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Mt. Hope church of Christ, of which the deceased was a devout member. Internment was at the Mt. Hope with Peck in charge.

Mother Bennett died the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. She was the mother of E.H. Bennett. She died following a short illness of pneumonia.

In May of 1934, Minnie Lee Hartselle (our Minnie Lee Breeding) broke her arm for the second time in two months. She fell from a see-saw at school in March, then fell again in May, breaking the same arm.

Marvin Pettit attended a Dry Cleaners Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio in July 1934.

Capt. M.K. Mahan celebrated his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on Tuesday, June 12, 1934. It was election day, so he proceeded to town after his birthday dinner, to cast his vote for his favorite candidate and then proceeded to have his picture made.

One week later, the Hartselle Enquirer reported: "Captain M.K. Mahan, one of the most beloved men in Morgan County, died at his home at 10:30 AM. Capt. Mahan had been in ill health for the past several years but only seriously ill since Friday. Funeral services will be held at the home on Friday Morning at 10:00. J.H. Hill of Decatur will conduct the services. Survivors include one daughter, Miss Florence Mahan and four nieces.

"Capt. Mahan was a Confederate veteran having served as Captain during the War between the states. He was widely known and his passing is the cause of sorrow and regret to numerous friends."

The verbiage used in obituaries was certainly different in the thirties. It was common practice to hold the service in the home. Friends would sit all night with the deceased. Drinking coffee, eating and talking with friends and relatives was an expression of love and respect for the dead.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Euclid Johnson, a daughter, on Tuesday, November 6, 1934.

The city school Honor Roll in November 1934, included Tom Andy Bennett – 1<sup>st</sup> grade; Arthur Bean – 4<sup>th</sup> grade; Sara Ann Bennett – 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Wilfred Bailey – Junior II.

The financial records ended in September 1934. We searched the newspaper to learn something about the church during this period of time. Very little information was found.

### 1935

No mention of services regarding the church appeared in the news for 1935.

Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Dixon and daughters Adelle and Martha Ann of Elba, Ala., visited Mrs. Dixon's Mother Mrs. T.A. Bryant on July 25, 1935.

Jake Alexander, prominent Lawrence County citizen was a visitor in Hartselle on August 6, 1935.

### 1936

C.O. (Red) Speigle suffered a broken hip in a fall on the snow and ice on January 31, 1936.

Only one Ad was found in the newspaper for this year. On May 28, 1936, services were held all week at the Church of Christ. W.E. Monk, traveling evangelist, preached every night. The public was cordially invited by W.S. Best, Pastor.

The C.O. Speigle family moved to Odenville, Alabama in May of 1936.

### 1937

We found no ads or news regarding the church and its members for this year.

## 1938

An Ad in the 9 June 1938 paper indicated Grady Whitaker as preacher of the church.

The financial conditions had changed little in September 1938, when the records started again. The group had \$24.77 in the treasury. We believe Grady Whitaker was preaching on a regular basis, receiving \$10.00 per month.

One item noted in the December 22, 1938 paper will be of interest to some of our members. "Miss Bernice Walling of Falkville became the bride of Homer Sherrill of Hartselle, Friday evening the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, at a ceremony performed by Lindsey Allen. Only intimate friends were present. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Walling of Falkville. She was becomingly gowned in wine colored velvet with green and wine accessories. The happy couple will be at home in Hartselle after the Christmas holidays."

## 1939

In 1939, Brother Bennett recorded, on occasion, the attendance record, as well as the collection. We selected two for inclusion here.

Second Sunday – January 8, 1939

Sunday School met at 10 o'clock conducted by E.H. Bennett

Scripture Lesson read Matt 16:13-25

Prayer by E.H. Bennett

Lesson Subject – Peter Commended and Rebuked

Preaching by Bro. Whitaker – Subject: Foolishness of God for above the  
Wisdom of man.

Total present – 65; weather fair and warm

Total collection - \$5.78

Eight cents for curtains

Paid Bro. Whitaker - \$10.00

Paid out for curtains - \$1.75

The money collected for curtains appeared several times in the records. We believe the curtains were used to divide the one large room into four classrooms. They were hung by a cord that could be drawn open for worship services and closed for Sunday School.

Fourth Sunday – January 22, 1939  
Sunday School met at 10 o'clock – conducted by E.H. Bennett  
Prayer by C.O. Speigle  
Lesson Subject – Peter Denies His Lord  
Total present – 32  
Total collection - \$4.47  
Weather – rainy  
Class #1 – 15 cents on curtains - \$1.33 from 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
Total amount in Treasury - \$34.54

By 1939 members included the Marvin Pettit family; D. Allen Baggett (Allen was baptized by C.C. Nichols in 1938) and his wife Eva Lee Shaw; The Earl Elliott family; the W. L. McCutcheon's; Mrs. Pearl Monroe, baptized by C.C. Nichols in October 1939 and her son Edward; and Grace Woodall baptized by C.C. Nichols in October 1939.

## THE FORTIES

Several times in 1940 and 1941, special collections were mentioned. Individuals named were L. Slate, Bruce Adams, W.E. Ryan, H. Sherrill, Miss Alexander, Mrs. Cleare, Brother Pettit and the Woodalls.

L.B. Jones of Paint Rock, Alabama was conducting services on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

The June 20, 1940, Hartselle Enquirer carried a front page announcement:

“Revival Will Begin at Church of Christ – Brother John McClesky of Parrish, Alabama will begin a series of meetings at the church on July 7<sup>th</sup> and will continue thru the 16<sup>th</sup>. Bro. Jones will be here at the 11 o’clock service to begin the meeting and will remain to assist for a few days. Greet Hendon of Decatur will conduct the song service. If you wish to hear the pure Gospel preached in its fullness, meet with us, for an hour each week day at 10 AM and at 8 o’clock each evening.”

Brother John McClesky received \$40.00 for this meeting. Brother Herman Tillery, the song leader, received \$17.00. A special collection was again noted – Brother Slate, Adams, Pettit, Sherrill, McCutcheon, Ryan, Miss Alexander and Bro. McEdwin gave, no doubt, to help pay these two bills.

The older members of the church said that the first elders and deacons were appointed by Brother McClesky in July 1940. Mrs. Pearle Monroe and Miss Cordie Self told me that C.O. Speegle, W.L. McCutcheon and E.H. Bennett were the men named. Some thought Brother Tom Pettit was an elder; other said Bro. Bennett was the only one named. This, of course, would have been unscriptural.

While searching the old newspapers, we found one article, which named E.H. Bennett, C.O. Speegle, and W.L. McCutcheon as elders.

The first deacons were A.T. Woodall and may be Tom Pettit. We found no evidence to prove or disprove the appointment of the deacons or elders.

In October 1940, for the first time, fifteen cents was spent for grape juice.

An ad in January 1941 newspaper, stated the Church of Christ had no Pastor at Present; 10 AM Sunday School; 10:45 AM Communion of the Lord's Supper; 2:30 PM Wednesday Ladies Bible Study at the residence of Mrs. C.O. Spiegel on Short Street.

We should mention that the Speegle name appeared on some records as Speegle; on others as Spiegel. We have no idea which spelling is correct.

In February 1941, the ladies Bible Class met with Mrs. Marvin Pettit on Hickory Street. The ladies were studying the "Women of the Bible," both Old and New Testament. The book was entirely interdenominational, had no comments – just Bible references. "Anyone desiring a fuller knowledge of the women of the Bible, come to be with us – all are welcome!"

April 24, 1941, Mrs. Earl Elliott went to Glenmore, La., to live near Mr. Elliott, who was in camp at Claiborne.

On May 22, 1941, Miss Nina Freeman was the week-end guest of her sister, Miss Mabel Freeman, in Nashville, Tenn.

The June 5, 1941 Hartselle Enquirer carried a front page item regarding the church:

"Church of Christ to Have New Pastor. The Church of Christ has engaged the services of Thomas Compton of Columbus, Tenn., as pastor. He will preach at 11 AM each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Brother Compton hopes to bring his family and locate permanently in Hartselle soon. At present he is suffering with and infected eye and his physician advices him not to make the change until the trouble is cleared up. He will have the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays open. Any church desiring his services on these Sundays can confer with C.O. Spiegle, E.H. Bennett and W.L. McCutcheon, Elders of the Church of Christ, Hartselle, Ala."

The year 1941 ended with \$93.16 reported in the treasury. The attendance record in December was recorded as 62 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 62 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday and 67 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

## 1942

The roof of the building was replaced in 1942. Barrett Roofing Company was paid \$107.90. A loan was made with the bank, with monthly payments of \$13.98.

The obituary for Mrs. Mary Alice Kent, age 74 years, was reported in January 1942. She may have been the Alice Kent listed as a character member.

Mrs. Etta Pence, age 73, died in March 1942. She was the Mother of Mrs. T.E. Kyle, Mrs. Johnson, W.A. Pence and E. Floyd Pence, who was the Mayor Hartselle at the time.

In December 1942, Master Sergeant Earl Elliott visited with his wife, Trannie, and his Mother. Msgt. Elliot was on assignment in Alaska.

### 1943

Brother Bennett's records indicated Brother Hollis Roberson was hired in October at \$62.50 per month. His note indicated Brother Roberson would preach on the first and third Sundays of each month.

### 1944

On March 23, 1944, an invitation was issued to all to attend a singing. "On Sunday afternoon at 2:30 PM, the Hartselle Church of Christ will be the location of assembly for all those interested in singing Gospel songs. If you enjoy singing of this type you are cordially invited. — J.H. Roberson, Pastor."

In July Brother Underwood conducted a gospel meeting. The expense account included the payment of One Dollar to the 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church for baptizing.

October 1944, was the last month that recorded a salary to Brother Roberson, indicating that he moved that month.

Brother Frank Andrews came to Hartselle in December of 1944.

We reported, at length, the record of contributions and expenditures. We found many items of interest in the old records. They reflect the economy of the church in the thirties and forties. We also learned the time most gospel meetings were held, who did the preaching; and in many instances the month and year members died.

## THE MOVE TO SPARKMAN STREET

Old timers of the congregation gave Hollis Roberson the credit for the idea of a new location and building for the congregation.

We found no complete membership list for the forties. We know that Mrs. Bruce (Inez) Adams was baptized by Frank Andrews April 9, 1945; Mrs. Buron Nelson by Frank Andrews in 1945. Mrs. Kate Reeves was baptized by Brother Smith in September 1941; Lee and Elizabeth Slate in late 1944.

Other faithful members included the E.H. Walker family; J.M. Dunaway family; the Freemans, Nelsons, Woodalls, Self, Alexanders, Comptons, Pettits, Sherrills, Monroes, Bennetts and the E.O. Creel family.

The decision was made to set aside the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday contribution as a building fund. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, April 1944, \$143.54 went into the fund. This was the largest amount recorded, since the congregation began.

By March 1945, the fund had grown to \$1008.44. In April E.H. Walker was given \$900.00 from the fund to purchase a lot. The April entry indicated an extra note:

\$1008.44 building fund  
154.38 added  
\$1162.82  
1150.00 paid on lot  
12.82 balance paid in fund

We were told the owner of the property on Rodgers and High School Streets would not sell directly to the church. E.H. Walker purchased it and then deeded the property to the church.

We are not sure of the dates, but E.H. Walker and Ernest Bennett were the elders. Brother Walker was in the process of moving to Auburn, Alabama. Realizing that Brother Bennett could not serve alone, Brother Walker encouraged Brother Lee Slate to accept the responsibility of an Elder. We believe that Hollis Roberson ordained Brother Slate as Elder before he moved from Hartselle.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 1945, E.H. Walker deeded the property to the church. Excerpts from the deed were copied from Book 443, Page 606, Probate Office, Decatur, Ala:

“E.H. Walker to the Church of Christ, Hartselle, Alabama\*\*\*to E.H. Bennett, J.M. Dunaway, H.L. Slate, as Trustees or Elders of the Church of Christ, Hartselle, Alabama, the receipt where of is hereby acknowledged, I, E.H. Walker have this day bargained and sold and do by these present grant, bargain, sell and convey to the said E.H. Bennett, J.M. Dunaway and H.L. Slate\*\*\*for the sum of \$2250.00\*\*\*.

“That part of lot 70, according to the Green Survey of the City of Hartselle, Morgan County, Alabama, bounded as follows: Beginning at a stake 280 feet South of the corner of Rodgers and High School Street, on the East side of High School Street, and \*\*\*; thence Westerly 269.5 feet to the point of beginning on High Street\*\*\*.

“\*\*\*That the congregation on worshipping in the house erected on said property tracts, or parcels of land herein described, shall in all work and worship adhere and conform strictly to New Testament pattern, rejecting and opposing all invention, doctrines, associations, etc., fairs, shows, suppers, etc., for the purpose of raising money, or games or instruments of music (neither used or housed) in the worship, visionary, speculative, and division teaching or things not clearly revealed and that none of these things or other things like unto them shall be used or taught on or about said premises.

“\*\*\* 21<sup>st</sup> day of April A.D. 1945 s/E.H. Walker; s/Vera Walker.”

Once a request was made to move a piano into the building for use at a wedding. The request was denied. The instrument would have been “housed” in the building at least overnight – thus violating Brother Walker’s statement in the deed.

The deed indicated \$2250.00 as the purchase price. We know \$1150.00 came from the building fund. We were told the balance came from individual loans from one or more members of the church.

The building fund was used to repay the loans from 1945 until 1947. A portion was placed back into the building fund by some of the members.

The building was constructed, not by one contractor, but several individuals. The expenses were paid weekly. Several times during the construction, it was necessary to borrow additional money. Some loans were from members of the church, some from the bank.

Rumors were that Lee Slate wore a path up the hill from Stone Lumber Company, his place of employment, making several trips per day checking the work.

The building was completed in November 1947. The picture was taken with my camera some ten or twelve years later.



Church of Christ  
November 1947 – August 1960

Recently, Brother J.M. Dunaway told me that he was not appointed an Elder until after the move to the new building. He could not recall the year he was ordained. The three men standing near the tree are identified as J.M. Dunaway, by the child, Brother Bennett with his back to the camera; we are not positive but believe the gentleman to the left is Brother Lee Slate. They may be holding and elders meeting. It was a custom, in the forties and fifties, for men to wear hats. I recall that black hats seemed to be Brother Bennett's favorite.

The following article appeared in the Hartselle Enquirer dated Thursday, November 13, 1947:

### HARTSELLE CHURCH OF CHRIST DEDICATES NEW BUILDING

The Church of Christ had its beginning in Hartselle in July 1920. Some of the pioneer preachers were John T. Lewis, J. Petty Ezelle and C.M. Pullias. In 1921, a lot on the corner of Hammett and Rock Street was purchased from Marion Clements, and a frame building was erected there.

There were 17 charter members – Brother Oscar Norton was the first preacher.

The church continued to meet in that location until the present time. J. Hollis Roberson and Frank Andrews are among those who have labored with the congregation recently. The membership has grown to approximately 100.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, the new brick building located on High School Street will be dedicated to the service of the church. There will be three services that day, with dinner on the ground at the noon hour.

Following the dedication will be a lecture week conducted by some of the leading preachers of this area. The preachers who will take part in the lecture program and their subjects follow:

Sunday - 2:30 PM – O.S. Lanham – “A Glorious Church”  
Sunday - 7:00 PM – R.L. Andrews – “Christ and the Church”  
Monday - 7:30 PM – J. Hollis Robinson – “The Mission of the Church”  
Tuesday - 7:30 PM – E. Patton – “Church Membership and Its  
Responsibility”  
Wednesday – 7:30 PM – Charles Chumley – “The Purity of the Church”  
Thursday - 7:30 PM – T.A. Thompson – “Church Government”  
Friday - 7:30 PM – R.D. Underwood – Topic to be announced.

The public is cordially invited to attend any of these services. Come and worship with us.

The year 1921 is in error – it should have been 1920.

The following ad appeared in the same paper:

Church of Christ  
Announces the Opening of New Church Building  
Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 PM  
O.S. Lanham, Speaker  
Everyone Invited  
Frank Andrews  
(Minister)

Once again, I want to include a page from Brother Bennett's records.

1947 – Nov.- 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun offering applied to Bldg fund (no amount shown)	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun offering	\$73.89
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun offering in new church applied to bldg fund (again no amount was shown)	
4 <sup>th</sup> Sun offering	97.45
5 <sup>th</sup> Sun offering	79.93
5 <sup>th</sup> Sun for Mt. Dora Orphan home by Miss Mabel Freeman	
\$5.00	
Total in treasury	\$444.17

Paid Bro. Andrews	\$225.00
City for Water and lights	6.44
Bible School Book Store	63.47
Bible School Book Store for Song books	97.50
3 <sup>rd</sup> Lord's Day PM Brother Lanham	15.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Lord's Day Evening Bro. R.L. Andrews	10.00
Monday Eve 17 <sup>th</sup> Bro. J.H. Roberson	10.00
Tuesday Eve 18 <sup>th</sup> Bro. M.E. Patton	10.00
Wednesday Eve 19 <sup>th</sup> Bro. Charles Chromley	10.00
Thursday Eve 20 <sup>th</sup> Bro. T.A. Thompson	10.00
Friday Eve 21 <sup>st</sup> Bro. R.D. Underwood	10.00
Brother Herman Tillery	30.00
Flowers for Bro. W.E. Ryan	5.00
House Cleaning	<u>5.00</u>
	\$507.41

Amount in treasury end of month – minus \$63.24

No funds were shown in the general fund until February 1948, with \$47.86 reported at that time.

Brother Frank Andrews and family must have lived in an apartment until the building was completed. In February the expenses included \$25.00 to Brother Andrews for “apartment.”

We were told that scrap lumber, etc., from the church building was used in construction of the first minister’s house. The small white building was located to the north of the church, but further east than the present minister’s home.



MINISTER’S HOME  
1948-1958

The property on Hammett and Rock Street was sold in February 1948. The deed is recorded in Vol 272, Page 365, Probate Office, Morgan County Courthouse.

The deed indicated that E.H. Walker and E.H. Bennett as trustees of the Church of Christ sold the property to B.F. Nethery for \$2500.00. It was signed the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Feb A.D. 1948.

In May of 1948, a notice was placed on the bulletin board: "Bills now due – Brett Butane for balance on gas of \$110.97; Stone Lumber Co - \$58.98; Paul S. Earwood for shrubbery - \$197.97; Bill Smith for tin work of approximately \$370.00. Total due - \$737.82. Let's be more liberal in our giving and make our offering more that we may pay these bills off as soon as possible."

A footnote to the July 1948 financial report, noted the second appeal regarding church indebtedness:

"Church debt not including any interest – approximately \$16,660.00. Let's increase our offerings each Sunday that we may decrease the church debt as fast as possible."

Frank Andrews moved in 1948. In October of the same year, A.L. Butler was hired to work with the congregation. He also preached in the afternoons for the Falkville church.

One ad copied from the Hartselle Enquirer presents a good picture of the effort of the church and Brother Butler to teach the gospel in this area.

Hartselle Church of Christ  
40 High School Street  
A.L. Butler, Minister  
Schedule of Activities  
Sun Jan 30, 1949

8:15 AM – Radio Sermon – WMSL

9:00 AM – Services at T.B. Sanitorium

10:00 AM – Bible Study

11:00 AM – Preaching and Communion

2:00 AM – Bible Study at Falkville

3:00 AM – Preaching and Communion at Falkville

6:00 PM – Young Peoples Bible Study

7:00 PM – Evening Services

A radio sermon will be presented daily through Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 AM over Station WMSL. A cordial welcome is extended to all.



Arthur L. Butler

The members of the early church managed to survive the twenties and thirties – doing little in the field of mission or benevolent work. The church of the forties faced the same problems. The membership had grown, the economy was improved, but little money was in the treasury after the monthly bills were paid.

The financial records recorded less than \$400.00 in mission work; \$54.00 for radio broadcast; \$21.20 for a tent meeting in the black community; aid to the Falkville and Flint congregations totaled \$175.00 and specified benevolent work totaled \$135.00. One would quickly assume this was for one year. Not so! These figures are expenditures in the area specified for 1940 through 1949!

## THE FIFTIES

A.L Butler moved from Hartselle in August 1950.

Some faded bulletins for the 1950's provide some attendance records, collections and a few interesting news items.

The bulletins were name "The Mediator" and the first one dated November 12, 1950. Carolyn Johnson (daughter of Brother and Sister Euclid Johnson) wrote the article. The attendance record was 148 for Morning Worship; 85 for the evening worship; with Wednesday evening attendance of 43. Contribution for last Sunday - \$154.91

December 23, 1950: The article on music in the worship was written by Doris Compton (daughter of Pearle Compton). News items included were Miss Cordie Self and Mrs. Freeman were sick. The father of Miss Horton and the father of Mrs. Bennett were sick. Attendance: Sunday Morning 94, Sunday Evening 69; Wed Night 42. Contribution last Sunday \$92.34.

An article on Helping the Needy, written by Earl Elliott appeared in the February 25, 1951 bulletin. On March 12, A.L. Butler would begin a gospel meeting at the Falkville church of Christ. Sister E. Simpson was home from the hospital. The ladies class met in the home of Sis Dora Johnson on Friday night. The class was studying Brother Granville Tyler's outline of New Testament Lessons, Vol. I. Bro and Sister Allen Baggett left last week for California to make their home.

An undated bulletin had an article on Baptism written by Edward Monroe and one on Confession written by Telete Compton.

The April 29, 1951 bulletin stated that Brother Van Cox was very ill; Sister Swafford was confined to her home with chicken pox and sympathy was extended to the J.C. Johnsons in the recent loss of their son.

The congregation was without a regular minister until March 1951, when they hired George Marshall, a single man.

The May 27, 1951 bulletin had the following note: "Brother Marshall has brought a bride to town today. We congratulate him upon this new success. Let us also congratulate Sister Marshall (her name is Elizabeth, if you haven't heard it before). We wish for you both a long, happy life together with every blessing that goes with a good Christian home."



Brother and Sister Marshall. Picture was taken a few weeks following their marriage.

Brother Marshall remained in Hartselle until June 1952. In August 1952, Brother W.O. Norton returned to Hartselle. This time as a full time minister earning \$75.00 a week – a definite improvement from the twenties!

The bulletin in September indicated 160 at the morning worship. Brother Norton, the Editor included a note “Better attendance is noticeable at every worship. If members keep up their efforts to increase attendance, we will grow more and more.”

One note appeared in the May 27, 1951 bulletin that was very interesting: “One of the stairways to the basement has been blocked off for some time. In case you were wondering why, the lower steps had to be removed to seal off the water leaks that have been letting water into the basement. The stairway should be back in use very soon”. It seems we have been plagued with leaks lo these many years!

In April 1953, for the third time, the balance in the general fund indicated a minus \$4.58. Again in 1954, the congregation had no money in the general fund. In June 1954, the records indicated twenty-eight cents.

Brother Norton moved from Hartselle in July 1954.

In August of that year, George Marshall was hired again as the minister. The time he stayed for three years – moving in May 1957.

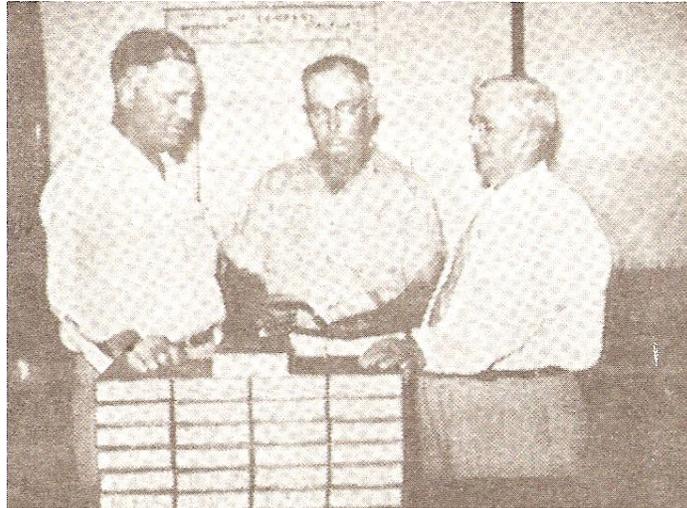
The only records we found of individuals that Brother Marshall baptized were: Mrs. E.O. (Louise) Creel (date unknown); Carol Creel on May 5, 1957, and Lista Martin on 4 Sept 1956.

Some of the members of the church in the 1950's. We could not identify any one. Notice that both men and women wore hats. We appreciate Bro and Sister Marshall for providing this picture and others for the book.



During these years, the main emphasis was reducing the church indebtedness. We did some mission work – sent funds to Auburn for special school work; gave to Childhaven; supported the African Mission work; held gospel meetings; had a radio program; gave to the Greensboro building fund and aided tornado victims. Many times little money was left in the “till”.

Attendance for Sunday School averaged 125 to 130 in 1957. Our morning worship averaged 150 to 175 and the evening service 75 to 80. The contribution averaged \$175 to \$190.00 per Sunday.



Bibles for Storm Victims – Pictured above are three officials of the Hartselle Church of Christ, examining one of the 32 Bibles which the church is presenting to tornado families. Left to right are L.T. Wagon, H.L. Slate and E.H. Bennett.

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST REPLACES LOST BIBLES OF 32 TORNADO FAMILIES

Into the mails the last of this week will go 32 small packages, addressed to that many families of Morgan County who were the worst hit by the tornado March 22. The packages will be all alike, each containing a Bible, a gift from the Church of Christ in Hartselle.

“We wanted to do something to help these storm victims,” explained L.T. Wagon, one of the deacons of the church. “Right after the storm, we checked with the Red Cross, and with the families themselves, and found that all the necessities of these unfortunate people were being provided for, principally by the Red Cross. Then we hit on the idea of giving Bibles, to every family which had all its household belongings destroyed. We thought that possibly the lost Bible in each home might be a long time in being replaced. Might in some cases be neglected for years. So we got the names from the Red Cross, ordered the Bibles, and we are now sending them.”

They’re nice Bibles, too, published by the World Book Co., leather bound and gilt edge. With each Bible is going a letter from the church, explaining the motive of the gift and the good wishes of the church members.

Church of Christ officials who took the lead in the project are: Elders, E.H. Bennett, H.L. Slate, J.F. Kelly, and J.M. Dunnaway; Deacons, L.T. Wagon and A.T. Woodall; and the minister, Bro George Marshall.

The families to whom the bibles are being sent are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Kirby, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lemmond, Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Stevens, Mr. B.K. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. C.F. England, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wigginton, Mr. and Mrs. Billo Wiley, Mrs. Sally Dutton, Mr. and Mrs. Houston Berber;

Mr. and Mrs. V.E. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Lemmond, Mr. and Mrs. P.C. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Legg, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Hann, Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Perry, Mr. Leon Owens, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Simms, Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Burl Fortenberry, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fortenberry, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hogan, Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Ward.

Colored – Mr. and Mrs. Delphoen Wilhite, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Draper, Mr. and Mrs. Sol Middleton, Mrs. Versie Middleton, Mrs. Anna Lightfoot, and Mr. and Mrs. Byrd Wilhite.

(The above was copied from a newspaper article. The year is unknown; however, it was during the time Bro Marshall was in Hartselle from 1954 to 1957.)

We do not know the dates of each appointment, but a bulletin dated 31 March 1957, listed the elders and deacons as:

Elders: E.H. Bennett	Deacons: E.O. Creel
J.M. Dunnaway	K.L. Swafford
J.F. Kelly	A.T. Woodall
L.T. Wagon	

In June 1957, Brother Roy Fudge was hired as the minister. He remained with us until August 1958. My notes included the baptism of Rosemary and Rebecca Kirk in July 1957.

In June 1958, the Elders borrowed \$18,001.01 from Mutual Savings. An outstanding loan of \$540.59 (including interest) was paid off. The balance of the new loan was used to construct a new minister's house. The contractor was paid approximately \$14,275.00 to construct the three-bedroom brick house. The house was completed in September 1958.



MINISTERS HOME  
1958 – Present Date

In the early part of 1958, additional land was purchased for use as a parking lot.

The Charles B. Stidham family, wife Ruth, four children Dianne, Brenda, Alan and Danny, moved into the newly built house in September 1958.



The membership was growing, additional classroom space was needed so the Elders made a decision to remodel the present structure.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in December 1959, the members were asked to contribute or pledge what they could afford toward a new building program. The members indicated their support by contribution some \$1158.00. This was the largest in pledges or contributions in the history of the church.

We do not have a complete record of conversions during 1959 through 1961, but several names were recorded in bulletins and notes of the writer.

Mrs. M.T. Wilkinson; Euclid and Dora Johnson in June 1959; Mr. and Mrs. Martin Newcomb; Mildred Mathews; Mrs. Leonard (Gay) Burns; Mrs. J.J. Burgess and son Rodney Aug 1961; Mrs. Brewer in June 1962; Bobby Cocks, Ollie Merle Hartselle, Dianne Stidham, Charles Smith, Dale Hensley; Mrs. Stella Hodges June 1959; Larry Abercrombie, Herman Myers; Mr. Oran Lambert, Aug 1961; Brenda Pettit; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Nicholson Dec 1959; Jimmy Roberts June 1959 and Gary Rollins.

Each week the bulletin reported names such as “we rejoice in the obedience of our friends Sister Huskey and Sister Nicholson; We commend Carl Johnson and Robert Blanton for their courage\*\*\*.”

## THE SIXTIES

In March 1960, further effort was made to teach the black community. David Shows from Indianapolis, Indiana, was hired to conduct a gospel meeting. A tent was erected in the black community. Shows was paid \$625, to include a song leader, for the month-long meeting. Many from our congregation attended the tent meeting. Some of our men lead prayers. David Shows was knowledgeable in the Bible, a good speaker. He had a unique way of getting his message across!

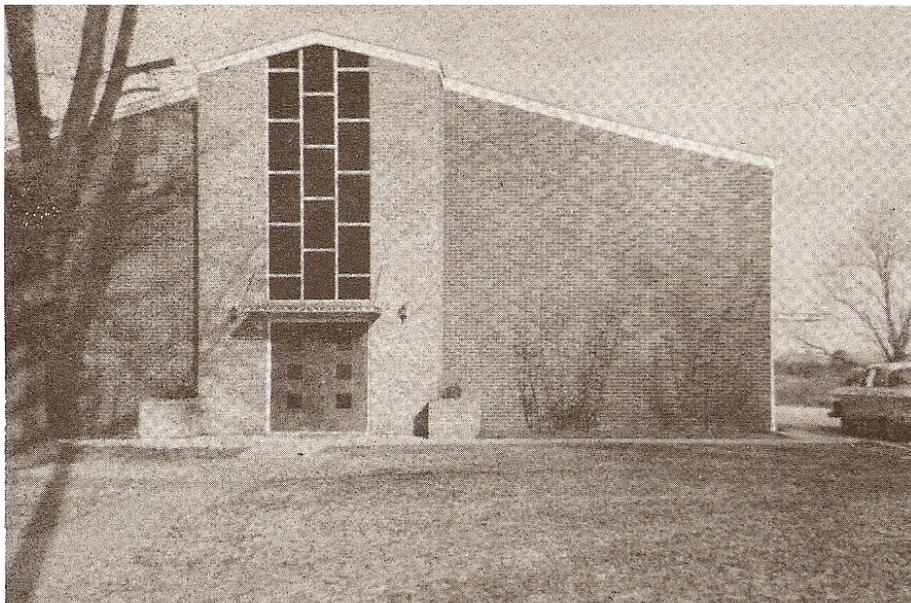
An old café in the black community was purchased for \$1,000.00. The building was renovated into a meeting house. Men in the neighborhood were hired to do the work. Brother E.O. Creel recalled that one old gentleman repeatedly admonished “make it churchy men, make it churchy!”

When the building was completed, a minister was hired. Our congregation have him \$100.00 a month, the balance came from their weekly

collection. E.O. Creel taught a Wednesday evening class for the small group for several months.

Our building fund was growing – all contributions over \$300.00 each Sunday, was placed into the building fund. By July 1960 some \$15,000.00 was in the fund.

Additional money was borrowed from Mutual Savings and the contract let to J.L. Kyle. When the construction was completed, three additional class rooms, a nursery, two bathrooms, a study for the minister and 70 additional seats in the auditorium had been added. The front also had a new look. The old steps were removed; a stain glass window installed – the building now had a modern appearance. We do not know if it looked more “churchy”.



CHURCH OF CHRIST  
August 1960 – September 1972

We believe the following membership list was published in 1959 or 1960:

Directory  
Of The  
Church of Christ  
Hartselle, Alabama

Preacher

Charles B. Stidham - - - - SP 3-9929

Elders

Bennett, E. H. - - - - - SP 3-7307  
Creel, E. O. - - - - - SP 3-7278  
Slate, H. L. - - - - - SP 3-4111

Deacons

NeSmith, Jimmy H. - - - - - SP 3-4002  
Nicholson, Grady - - - - - SP 3-9125  
Stidham, B. R. - - - - - SP 3-9284  
Warren, J. B. - - - - - SP 3-7005  
Woodall, A. T.

Membership

Abercrombie, A. T. Mrs. A. T. (Ileene), Larry	121 Haig St	(phone numbers omitted from this list)
Adams, Bruce Mrs Bruce	407 McGough St	
Adams, June W	407 McGough St	
Alexander, Emily Jake	412 Short St	
Atkins, Mrs J. W. (Hesta)	407 Barclay St	
Battles, Mrs Clara	1141 W. Main St	
Bean, David Arthur Mrs David A. (Dean), Betsey, Davey	613 High St	
Beene, Charles H Mrs Charles H. (Mildred) Brant, Beth	504 Cedar St	

Bennett, Berval Berval Wayne, Trannie Louise	171 Bethel Road
Bennett, E. H. Mrs E. H. (Mabel), Carolyn Ann	167 Bethel St
Blanton, Robert	Rt 1, Hartselle
Blizzard, W. F., Mrs	316 Sparkman St
Boger, Elmer J.	2219 Cleveland
Bolling, George	124 Prospect Drive
Breeding, Theron L Mrs Theron (Minnie Lee), Cathy, Stevie, Libby	121 Crestline Drive
Brown, Thomas M Mrs Thomas M. (Janet), Belinda, Carlia, Thomas	224 Patain St
Brown, Mrs James	1009 N. Bowery
Brown, Richard Mrs Richard (Ruth)	Rt 4, Hartselle
Burns, Leonard Mrs Leonard (Gay), Myra Ann	517 Curry St
Callaway, Ben Mrs Ben(Nadine), Alicia Ann, Nancy, John Paul	512 Cedar St
Camp, Mrs Ollie (Faye) Carol	300 Pearl St
Campbell, Walter H Mrs Walter H (Louise)	903 Frost St
Clardy, Bobby D. Mrs Bobby D (Mary Frances) Michael	112 Douglas St
Clemons, Thomas Ferrell	Rt 3, Hartselle
Clemons, Mrs J. H. Judy	East Pike

Cocke, Mrs Eugene (Faye) Mary A., Bobby	1558 W. Main St
Compton, Mrs Roberta	123 Bethel Road
Compton, Mrs Pearle	507 S. Hammett
Creel, E. O. Mrs E. O. (Louise), Douglas, Carol, Martha	Bee Line Hwy., Nort
Crutchfield, Mrs Della Marie	318 Simpson St
Daniel, Mrs Mary	405 McGough St
Davis, Jimmie Mrs Jimmie (Mattie Lee)	Bee Line Hwy., North
Elliot, Earl W Mrs Earl (Trannie), Janice, Judy	727 W. Main St
Fowler, Mrs Zona	307 Sparkman St
Freeman, Mabel Nyna	707 High St
Garner, Mrs Eugene (Wilda) Larry, Kenneth	Rt 3, Hartselle
Garner, Hollis E Paula, Greg	507 N. Corsbie St
Gibson, Telete Cathy	307 Hammett St
Gray, Euel D	Hwy 31 South
Hall, Preston Mrs Preston	212 N. College St
Hargett, Bobby	Rt 1, Hartselle
Hartselle, Mrs G. D. Ollie Merle	149 Bethel Road
Haynes, Mrs Vina	Rt 2, Hartselle

Proctor, E. L.	810 Mynatt St
Pugh, William L Mrs William L. (Eda Mae)	Rt 1, Hartselle
Reeves, Mrs Grace	Rt 4 (East Pike)
Roberts, Jimmy Mrs Jimmy (Valerie), Cindy	Rt 4 (East Pike)
Rooks, J. L.	
Rose, Mrs Dona Woods	605 Pattillo St
Ryan, W. H. (Bill)	Rt 3, Hartselle
Self, Cordie	302 Stinson St
Sherrill, Homer Mrs Homer (Bernice), Becky	510 E. Rock St
Simpson, Damon Mrs Damon (Martha Gail)	Rt 1, Hartselle
Simpson, Mrs Olive	Rt 1, Hartselle
Simpson, Mrs C. A. (Ruby) Mike	510 Hickory St
Slate, Billy R Mrs Billy (Martha)	713 N. Sparkman
Slate, W. L.	Rt 4, Hartselle
Slate, H. L. Mrs H. L.	713 N. Sparkman
Speegle, James E	Rt 3, Hartselle
Stidham, B. R. Mrs B. R.	400 S. Sparkman
Stidham, Charles B Mrs Charles B. (Ruth), Dianne, Brenda, Alan, Danny	318 Sparkman St
Strickland, Ronnie	Box 745

Swafford, Kenneth L. Mrs Kenneth L (Sybil), Celia, Mark, Beth	500 Sparkman St
Tapscott, Berta M	315 Sparkman St
Teague, Gene Mrs Gene (Ruth), Gregory, Gale	403 Nelson St
Tedford, Oscar Mrs Oscar (Myrtice)	New Cut Road
Thompson, Mrs Edward (Mary Liddie)	Rt 3, Hartselle
Warren, J. B. Mrs J. B., Kathy, John, Nancy	1139 W. Main St
Wilkinson, W. T. Jr Mrs W. T., Steve, Carrie	305 Simpson St
Woodall, A. T. Mrs A. T. (Johnnie)	723 W. Main St
Woodall, Grace Josephine, Mary Nell, Dorothy	1218 W. Main St
Woodall, Estelle	Rock Street

In August 1961, a tent was erected on a lot west of the Housing Project. A ten-day to two-week gospel meeting was held, I believe, by Charles Stidham. Several individuals were converted during the meeting.

In 1962, the bulletins recorded the conversion of several individuals. June 24, we welcome Sister Brewer into the Lord's Body; July 8, we welcome Brother Clarence Harrison into God's work; July 15, We are thankful that J.W. Atkins obeyed His God in baptism early Thursday Morning.

The Charles Stidham family moved in July 1962. John Faught was hired as the minister in August, 1962.

We said farewell to the Stidhams with a reception held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Reed. The honorees received a complete service for eight in china and crystal, a silver tray, a Lazy Susan and other gifts. Co-hostesses for the affair were Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Ben Calloway and Miss Lista Martin. Mrs. Lillian Martin registered the guests and Misses Rebecca and Rosemary Kirk and Mrs. Jimmy Roberts displayed the gifts. Some 120 guests called during the evening.





THE FAUGHTS  
John, Nancy and  
Daughters

August 12, 1962 bulletin – “We want to take this means of expressing our appreciation for the opportunity of working with you fine people. The more people we come in contact with the more pleased we are that we decided to work here. We are sure we can all work together and by so doing further the cause of Christ. Only by our working together can we accomplish this. By our working together as a body in unity there can be no end to our success. As the Psalmist has said, “how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity”. Let us pray, work and live that we might continue in the pleasantness of unity. We are looking forward to a long and happy labor with the church here.”

The Faughts

In January 1963, the church was still paying the debt to Mutual Savings. Mission work included \$25.00 to Italy Mission; Falkville Church \$50.00; Col. Minister \$100.00. \$35.62 was listed as charity, and Childhaven \$50.00.

# Hartselle Church of Christ

320 So. Sparkman Street

*Hartselle Alabama*



1963

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

The church published the first pictorial directory in early 1963.

MINISTER



John R. Faught

ELDERS



B. R. Stidham      E. H. Bennett  
H. L. Slate

DEACONS



A. T. Woodall      Jimmy Nesmith  
J. S. Martin



Grady Nicholson, Walter Campbell  
J. B. Warren

CHURCH FAMILIES



MR. & MRS. B. ADAMS



MISS E. ALEXANDER



J. ALEXANDER



ATKINS FAMILY



MRS. C. BATTLES



BEE FAMILY



E. BENNETT FAMILY



BREEDING FAMILY



MR. & MRS. G. BREWER



J. BROWN FAMILY



T. BROWN FAMILY



MRS. J. BURGESS & SON



BURNS FAMILY



B. CALLAWAY FAMILY



MRS. FAYE CAMP  
and DAUGHTER



W. CAMPBELL  
FAMILY



CHAPMAN FAMILY



CLEMONS FAMILY



COBB FAMILY



MRS. P. COMPTON



MRS. R. COMPTON



T. COMPTON FAMILY



MR. & MRS. J. DAVIS



ELLIOTT FAMILY



THE FAUGHT'S



MRS. Z. FOWLER



E. GARNER FAMILY



H. GARNER FAMILY



MRS. T. GIBSON  
and DAUGHTER



B. HARGETT FAMILY



THE HARRISON'S



HAYS FAMILY



THE HENSLEY'S



HOWARD FAMILY



HUSKEY FAMILY



MR. & MRS. J. JOHNSON



MR. & MRS. S. JOHNSON



KELSO FAMILY



MRS. E. KINGSLEY



MR. & MRS. O. LAMBERT



L. LAWRENCE



J. MARTIN FAMILY



MRS. L. MARTIN



MILLER FAMILY



THE MONROE'S



H. MYERS FAMILY



B. NELSON FAMILY



THE NESMITH'S



M. NEWCOMB FAMILY



GARVICE  
NICHOLSON'S



GRADY  
NICHOLSON'S



THE PARKER'S



MRS. E. PENCE



MR. & MRS. D. PETTIT



MR. & MRS.  
M. PETTIT



MR. T. POWELL & SON



MR. D. PROCTOR & SON



MR. & MRS. W. PUGH



J. REED FAMILY



ROBERTS FAMILY



MRS. V. RUSSELL & SON



MISS C. SELF



MR. & MRS. K. SHAW



SHERRILL FAMILY



MRS. O. SIMPSON



THE R. SIMPSON'S



MR. & MRS. B. SLATE



MR. & MRS. H. SLATE



C. SMITH FAMILY



MRS. M. SMITH



MR. & MRS. B. STIDHAM



THE SWAFFORD'S



C. TEAGUE FAMILY



TEDFORD FAMILY



THRASHER FAMILY



MR. & MRS. C. WALLS



THE WARREN'S



MR. & MRS. A. WOODALL



MR. & MRS. H. WOODARD

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

ADAMS, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce	409 McGaugh S. E.	Hartselle	773-9311
ALEXANDER, Emily	109 Crestline Dr.	Hartselle	773-8449
ALEXANDER, Jake	109 Crestline Dr.	Hartselle	773-8449
ATKINS, Mr. & Mrs. J. W.	Route #3	Hartselle	773-7736
BATTLES, Clara	1141 W. Main	Hartselle	773-7475
BEAN, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur	203 Sobotka S. W.	Hartselle	773-7364
BEE, Mr. & Mrs. Ben	400 S. Sparkman	Hartselle	
BENNETT, Berval	168 Bethel Road	Hartselle	773-8775
BENNETT, Mr. & Mrs. Earnest	167 Bethel Road	Hartselle	773-7307
BENNETT, Carolyn Ann	167 Bethel Road	Hartselle	773-7307
BLIZZARD, Inez	316 S. Sparkman	Hartselle	773-8117
BREEDING, Mr. & Mrs. Theron	121 Crestline Dr.	Hartselle	773-9382
BREWER, Mr. & Mrs. Grayford		Hartselle	
BROWN, Mrs. Ludie M.	1009 N. Sparkman	Hartselle	773-6084
BROWN, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas	224 Petain S. W.	Hartselle	773-6085
BURGESS, Mr. & Mrs. J. J.	J-2 Housing Project	Hartselle	
BURNS, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard	519 Curry N. W.	Hartselle	773-8304
CALLOWAY, Mr. & Mrs. Ben	512 Cedar N. W.	Hartselle	773-7443
CAMP, Mrs. Fay	300 Pearl S. W.	Hartselle	773-7053
CAMPBELL, Mr. & Mrs. Walter	903 Frost S. W.	Hartselle	773-7418
CHAPMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Marlin	116 Prospect Dr.	Hartselle	773-9358
SMITH, Mrs. Bessie Chappell	K-4 Housing Project	Hartselle	
CLEMONS, Mrs. Grace	Route #3	Hartselle	773-9601
COBB, Mrs. J. T.	Hwy. 31 S.	Hartselle	773-8848
COMPTON, Mrs. Pearl	307 Hammitt S. E.	Hartselle	773-7013
COMPTON, Mrs. Roberta	123 Bethel Road	Hartselle	773-9274
COMPTON, Mr. & Mrs. Tommy	406 Short S. E.	Hartselle	773-8791
COX, Mrs. Vann	Route #2	Hartselle	
CRUTCHFIELD, Mrs. Della	318 Simpson S. E.	Hartselle	773-7235
CRUTCHFIELD, Marie	318 Simpson S. E.	Hartselle	773-7235
DANIEL, Mrs. Mary	403 McGaugh S. E.	Hartselle	773-8770
DOBBS, Mr. & Mrs. David	Danville Rd.	Hartselle	773-6164
DAVIS, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy	Teague Road	Hartselle	773-8879
ELLIOTT, Mr. & Mrs. Earl	727 West Main	Hartselle	773-3901
FAUGHT, Mr. & Mrs. John	318 S. Sparkman	Hartselle	773-9929
FOWLER, Mrs. Zona	307 S. Sparkman	Hartselle	773-3731
FREEMAN, Mabel	707 High S. W.	Hartselle	773-8343
FREEMAN, Nina	707 High S. W.	Hartselle	773-8343
GARNER, Wilda	Route #3	Hartselle	773-8482
GARNER, Hollis	507 Corsbie N. W.	Hartselle	773-8656
GIBSON, Telete	307 Hammitt S. E.	Hartselle	773-7013
HALL, Mr. & Mrs. Preston	212 College N. W.	Hartselle	773-7127
HARGETT, Mr. & Mrs. Bobby	Moss Chapel Rd.	Hartselle	773-6255
HARRISON, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence	204 McClanahan S. E.	Hartselle	773-9280
HAYES, Mr. & Mrs. Loyd	302 Lindsey Lane S. W.	Hartselle	773-9745
HENSLEY, Corine	Peach Orchard Road	Hartselle	773-9025
HILL, Betty	316 S. Sparkman	Hartselle	773-8117
HILL, Sue	316 S. Sparkman	Hartselle	773-8117
HOVATER, Nancy	400 Hammitt S. E.	Hartselle	773-8814
HOWARD, Mary	Bethel Road	Hartselle	773-7114
HUSKEY, Elva	112 Haig S. W.	Hartselle	773-7450
HUSKEY, Katherine	112 Haig S. W.	Hartselle	773-7450
JOHNSON, Mrs. J. C.	1008 N. Sparkman	Hartselle	773-7725
JOHNSON, Mr. & Mrs. Euclid	301 S. Sparkman	Hartselle	773-7771
KELSO, Minuette	110 Broadway N. W.	Hartselle	773-8648
KIRK, Hazel	705 High S. W.	Hartselle	773-7365
KINGSLEY, Eunice	205 Speegle S. W.	Hartselle	773-6137
LAMBERT, Mr. & Mrs. Oran	608 West Main	Hartselle	773-7172

LAWRENCE, Lonnie	West Main	Hartselle	773-7579
LeMAY, Lottie	Route #3, Box 243	Hartselle	773-9482
MARTIN, Dr. & Mrs. James S.	607 High S. W.	Hartselle	773-7038
MARTIN, Lillian	409 Barclay S. W.	Hartselle	773-7162
MARTIN, Lista	409 Barclay S. W.	Hartselle	773-7162
MILLER, Mrs. Gerald	Enslens S. W.	Hartselle	773-6257
MONROE, Edward	305 Hammitt S. W.	Hartselle	773-7052
MONROE, Pearl	305 Hammitt S. W.	Hartselle	773-7052
MOORE, Jim	506 1/2 Hickory S. E.	Hartselle	773-6108
MYERS, Mr. & Mrs. Herman	502 Tanner Dr. S. W.	Hartselle	773-9093
NELSON, Mr. & Mrs. Buron	Route #1, Box 185	Hartselle	
NELSON, Mrs. Elvie	Route #1, Box 185	Hartselle	
NELSON, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne	Route #1, Box 183	Hartselle	
NeSMITH, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy	Roan Road	Hartselle	773-8359
NEWCOMB, Mr. & Mrs. Martin	322 S. Sparkman	Hartselle	
NICHOLSON, Mr. & Mrs. Garvice	504 Sparkman S. W.	Hartselle	773-7338
NICHOLSON, Mr. & Mrs. Grady	535 Curry N. W.	Hartselle	773-9055
NICHOLSON, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald	105 Smith S. E.	Hartselle	773-7029
PARKER, Mr. & Mrs. Gene	Frost St. S. W.	Hartselle	773-8874
PENCE, Lucy	313 Pine N. W.	Hartselle	773-9329
PETTIT, Mr. & Mrs. Dwight	Hwy. 31 N.	Hartselle	773-8632
PETTIT, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin	Hwy. 31 N.	Hartselle	773-8632
PETTY, Mr. & Mrs. Bill		Hartselle	
POWELL, Arthur	401 Barclay S. W.	Hartselle	773-7288
POWELL, Tolbert	401 Barclay S. W.	Hartselle	773-7288
PROCTOR, E. L.	810 Mynatt S. W.	Hartselle	773-8737
PROCTOR, Dee	512 Curry N. W.	Hartselle	773-7410
PUGH, Mr. & Mrs. Wm.	Kyle Road	Hartselle	773-8788
REED, Andre'	515 Curry N. W.	Hartselle	773-6221
ROBERTS, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy	907 Frost S. W.	Hartselle	773-9084
ROLLINS, Mr. & Mrs. Gary		Hartselle	
ROOKS, James L.	305 Kimbrough N. W.	Hartselle	773-8123
RUSSELL, Violet	614 Longhorn Pass N. W.	Hartselle	773-7284
SELF, Cordie	302 Stinson S. E.	Hartselle	773-8214
SHAW, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth	210 Pinehurst S. W.	Hartselle	773-9303
SHERRILL, Mr. & Mrs. Homer	510 Rock S. E.	Hartselle	773-9380
SIMPSON, Ruby	510 Hickory S. E.	Hartselle	773-9395
SIMPSON, Olive	Kyle Road	Hartselle	773-7168
SLATE, Mr. & Mrs. H. L.	713 N. Sparkman	Hartselle	773-9954
SLATE, Mr. & Mrs. Billy	203 N. Hammett N. E.	Hartselle	773-8360
SLATE, Wm. L.	East Pike	Hartselle	
SMITH, Mr. & Mrs. C. A.	East Pike	Hartselle	773-8415
SMITH, Maria Norris	930 N. Hammitt	Hartselle	773-8707
STIDHAM, Mr. & Mrs. B. R.		Falkville	
STRICKLAND, Ronald	614 Longhorn Pass	Hartselle	773-7284
SWAFFORD, Dr. & Mrs. K. L.	500 S. Sparkman	Hartselle	773-7234
TAPSCOTT, Berta	315 Sparkman S. W.	Hartselle	
TEAGUE, Mr. & Mrs. Gene	231 Nelson S. W.	Hartselle	773-9968
TEDFORD, Mr. & Mrs. O. W.	Route #2, Box 57	Hartselle	773-9011
THRASHER, Mr. & Mrs. Newton	124 Holloway N. W.	Hartselle	773-7457
WALLS, Mrs. Clarence	East Main	Hartselle	773-7660
WARREN, Mr. & Mrs. J. B.	1139 West Main	Hartselle	773-7005
WOODALL, Mr. & Mrs. A. T.	723 West Main	Hartselle	
WOODALL, Estelle	114 East Main	Hartselle	773-3421
WOODALL, Grace	1218 West Main	Hartselle	
WOODALL, Josephine	1218 West Main	Hartselle	
WOODARD, Mrs. Horace	Barkley Bridge Rd.	Hartselle	773-8215

We do not have the date that Miss Cordie Self passed from this life; however, we wanted to provide a special page in our history in memory of her. It seemed appropriate to use a poem written by Mrs. Pearle Compton shortly after her death.



IN MEMORY OF  
MISS CORDIE SELF

Our Teacher

Your gentle face and patient smile  
With gladness we recall.  
You had a kindly work for each  
And died beloved by all.

The voice is mute and stilled the heart  
That loved us well and true.  
Oh, bitter was the trial to part  
From one so good as you!

You are not forgotten loved one  
Nor will you ever be.  
As long as life and memory last  
We will remember thee.

We miss you now, our hearts are sore  
As time goes by we'll miss you more.  
Your living smile, your gentle face  
No one can fill your vacant place!

--Mrs. Pearle Compton

“Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.”

Miss Cordie is remembered by many of us today. We recall the little ole car she drove. We remember many things about this Christian lady. And she remembered us at her death with a gift of her worldly goods. Miss Cordie bequeathed a large portion of her estate to the Church. We believe we are correct when we state that the money helped pay the outstanding mortgage against the property – freeing the church of any debts at that time.

## DIVISION IN THE CHURCH

The unity that John Faught spoke of in his bulletin was short lived.

For years the harmony in congregations across the nation was disturbed by various controversial matters to include the support of orphan homes, fellowship suppers, support of the Herald of Truth Radio Program, Christian colleges and various other picayune subjects. Those against this type support were called “anti’s”; those for were known as “liberals.” These terms do not appear in the New Testament.

Our congregation remained relatively peaceful until the early spring of 1963. Some members occasionally spoke out in opposition of Childhaven and other issues. Attempts were made to persuade the Elders to discontinue support of Childhaven. The issues were put aside and worship continued but not in peace or harmony.

In April of '63, the matter became grave. The Elders, in an attempt to settle the issue, planned a lecture program. The program began on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The speakers and their subjects were:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Monday    | - Christian Unity to be Greatly Desired – George Marshall                         |
| Tuesday   | - The Church as a Light in the Community – Charles Stidham                        |
| Wednesday | - The Danger of Contention and Strife in the Church –<br>Winford Clark            |
| Thursday  | - Elders, Their Responsibility and Duty of Members Toward<br>Them – Steril Watson |
| Friday    | - The Work of Benevolence and Co-Operation by The Church<br>– Gus Nichols         |

The sermons were taped and later transcribed for distribution. The tape recorder was old, the typewriter a manual one; the transfer from tape to paper required several nights. These sermons average from five to eight legal pages. Brother Gus Nichols spoke at great length and his sermon required some twenty pages to record. The sermons have been placed in our church library.

At the conclusion of the lectures, three families chose to withdraw from the congregation by forwarding individual letters to all the members.

True copies of these have been included. Names of each have been omitted. It is not our intent or desire to renew old wounds. The division is a part of our history and must be included. Perhaps our youth may learn to deal with such matters to prevent this occurrence again.

The Elders withdrew from the three families on Wednesday evening, April 24, 1963. A statement was read to the congregation and also forwarded to area churches. This statement has also been included.

As days passed, other families left to unite with the original three. The church lost a total of eight families. The last five to leave did not write letters nor were they withdrawn from.

The division was a black day for the church. Lifelong friendships ended; families were in some cases divided; words of bitterness were spoken between members of the body of Christ. One individual was heard to say let them go, we don't need them. Perhaps not but all of us certainly needed God! A minister of the anti faith spent days airing the division to the citizens of Hartselle. The owner of the station became worried and stopped the broadcast.

Divisions often occur when man sets aside the word of God greatly desiring leadership or power over others. We believe this is the reason why so many different religious groups exist in our town today. Some wear the same name but teach a different doctrine. Most exist because members did not "get along" – not over a strong religious conviction.

No doubt the growth of the church was hurt by this division. As in other cities two groups wearing the same name, each claiming to be the one true Church, meet today. Alien sinners and the denominational world are unable to separate the characteristics of one from the other.

## Letter 1

Dear –

On March 23, brother H.L. Slate and brother E.H. Bennett came to have a discussion with me. At that time they asked me to make a public confession to the congregation, or to go somewhere else to worship or they intended to mark me as a troublemaker.

I regret that I must take this means to give my defense, but on the same visit these men denied me the right to make a public statement to you so this is the only decent and orderly way I have to let you know why I am no longer meeting with you.

My decision has not been hasty. I have spent much time in prayer and study over this matter and have only been strengthened in my convictions. I realize that I am only human and have made human mistakes, but as for the doctrine which I have believed and taught I have but one confession and it is the one Apostle Paul gave when he stood before Felix in Acts 24:12-16.

It has been brought to my attention recently that this plan of withdrawing from me has been in the planning for sometime because I was accused by someone of making plans several months ago to start a new congregation here and have been busily engaged in trying to attain followers. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have never come to you privately trying to impose my views upon you, nor have I ever desired to raise up to myself followers. I have had private discussions on a few occasions with the preacher and some of the leaders about the problems facing them and the church, trying to get them to desire the attitude of wanting truth, then peace, but God in Heaven knows, and you know, that I have never tried to stir up strife among the membership. My teaching to the members has only been of a public nature.

We have, in thirteen years, learned to love and in many ways appreciate you very deeply and this ordeal grieves us deeply in a personal way. However, when we are forced to make a choice between Truth and physical attachments, our choice must be with Truth for in Matthew 10:37 our Lord says, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

This congregation has allowed error to creep in so gradually (which has always been true of digression) that we are in a state of lethargy, where we can soothe our consciences into thinking that almost anything is all right if done in the right spirit. Such thinking for years past has produced good religious people in denominations.

We have discussed with the leaders of the congregation a study program to delve in the conservative line of thinking on the issues but they are unwilling to hear any side except the one which was presented here in the meeting this past week. Such an attitude is resulting in the splitting of God's people.

We have continued to meet here for the past few years hoping to present the Truth as the Bible teaches on these matters, but we realize now that all this has been in vain. Since March 23, my name has been removed from every capacity of public service in the worship services, and in this present state I feel that I can no longer be of service to God nor my fellowmen.

History is repeating itself. About 100 years ago, and even fewer years here in the South, the Church was split asunder because people lost sight of the simple Word of God, and wanted to build up for themselves institutions bigger and stronger than the local congregation. Please read church history and see that the same arguments put forth for digression in that day are used today by the liberal element to teach their digression. Brethren, it is a fearful thing for which each of us will have to give an accounting before God. None of these institutions is found in the Bible.

Some of the leaders have said that each of us has a right to our own opinion in these matters. If this be true, when we put a man-made institution in the budget of the Church, my opinion has been lorded over and I am given no right to my opinion. However, I believe that where God's Word is concerned I have no right to an opinion and neither do you. We all must honor the Word whether in deed or in not doing, if the Word is silent. This moves the question out of the realm of opinion and into the realm of faith.

It has been the feeling of the leaders, and others, that we have no right to question any decision which they make, because of the scripture, I Tim. 5:19, "Against an elder receive not an accusation but before two or three witnesses." However, the qualifications of elders are given plainly and simply in the Word of God. When a man meets all these qualifications and is appointed to serve a congregation, the Holy Spirit makes him an elder. When an alien sinner obeys the gospel, if he fails to comply with any one of the points of conversation as taught in Acts, could we say that he is added to the Church? If he does everything but repent, is he made a child of God and added to the Church? Neither is a man who fails to comply with any of the plain qualifications set forth in the Word of God made an elder by the Holy Spirit just because we call him one. Just because a man is honest in wearing a name does not make him what he calls himself. And to take such a sacred name and lofty position without complying with the qualifications is a fearful position in which to be.

I have discussed the above matters on occasions with the leaders with all the love that is in me. I have no malice in my heart toward anyone, but, rather a keen love and plea that we have Bible authority for what we do.

Since the news of the leaders' plans to withdraw from me has been telephone gossip, my family and I have felt a coldness toward us manifested by many and have come to realize that it is your desire to accept the idea of withdrawing from me, whether the announcement is made publicly or not.

It is then with deep sorrow in my heart, but a deep sense of conviction to stand by Truth, that I leave this congregation of good people. My prayer is that you will study diligently the Word of God and that you will ask a "Thus saith the Lord" for what is taught here.

Since I have been asked to go elsewhere, I will. However, I will meet somewhere in Hartselle, wherever conservative brethren can find a place to meet. My home is here and my business is here and I cannot conscientiously go to another town to worship regularly.

In a conversation on April 1, with brother B.R. Stidham about the purpose of the lectureship, I asked permission to call on five conservative preachers to speak on the same subjects so that you might be able to make up your own minds as to which is Truth. But, he very readily gave me a negative answer. You owe it to yourself to avail yourself the opportunity to exhaust every means of study because in Truth only can there be any true peace. Hence, it is our desire to bring to Hartselle, as soon as we can acquire a suitable building, conservative men to come and speak on these subjects, and we hope that you will not manifest a prejudiced spirit, but will come and study with us. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our services at any time. Your presence will be greatly appreciated.

May God Bless You,

Letter 2

Members of Hartselle Church of Christ - Dear Brethren:

I feel that my family and I cannot continue to worship acceptably at the Hartselle congregation as it is now. There have been things practiced which are questionable and contrary to what we believe to be right.

It was suggested to me by an elder of the congregation that it would benefit the congregation and myself if I were to attend services somewhere else. Therefore, my family and I have decided to withdraw from the congregation.

We hold no malice toward any of you. In the short time that we have been here we have learned to know and love each of you, but I feel duty and obedience to Christ come foremost. Thus we are left with two alternatives. One, is to go some place else, but I feel there are some here that feel as I do. Secondly, is to help start a new congregation. I have chosen the latter. So, if the Lord wills I shall strive to do my part, however small it may be, to assist in this work, which I believe with all my heart to be right.

This is not a spur of the moment decision. We have spent much time in study and prayer on it. It comes as no great joy to do this, but as stated before obedience to God's Word comes first. We leave with no ill feeling toward anyone, but with a prayer that God will help us all to realize more fully our responsibility to Him and to our fellow man.

In Christian love,

### Letter 3

Dear Friends

This letter is to inform you that we have withdrawn our membership from the Hartselle Church of Christ. We believe our worship to God at this Congregation would not be acceptable because we do not believe that the Church can support an unscriptural Institution. We have tried to ignore this existing problem for some time but we have decided and it is our belief that we can not do this and be pleasing to God and remain a faithful child of God. Our continuing in worship service to God at this congregation is a sin. Therefore we have taken this step to withdraw (which was suggested by some of the leaders) since our belief, based on the Scriptures, differs from that of the leaders of the Congregation.

We would also like to point out that no one has influenced us in believing the way we do or led us astray as some put it. We have studied the Bible and prayed on this and have come to this conclusion.

We love each of you and it grieves us to do this but our duty to Christ comes first.

Letter 4

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We have had quite a response or reaction to the recent lessons presented during our lecture series. Some have endeavored to further disturb the peace and harmony of the church by writing each individual member rather than writing the elders or leaders of the church, we suppose this is due to their lack of respect for the elders. We have not known of an incident such as this in all the course of the church since it was established on Pentecost, where members could withdraw their membership at will.

The elders of the church at Hartselle have been expressly told by the following persons - -

Bro an Sis - -

Bro & Sis - -

Bro & Sis - -

that they no longer desire the fellowship of the members here or in faithful congregations of the church.

We therefore, with regret and with earnest prayer that they may see the error of their way, announce to you that we withdraw fellowship from them as of now, April 24, 1963.

Our action being based upon the violation of principles of scripture, to wit: (1) Sowing discord among brethren. Prov. 6:16-19, Rom. 16:17-18. (2) Going after factions intended to overthrow the faith of some. Rom. 12:8; Matt. 5:9; I Peter 5:2, 3. (3) Rebelling against the organized leadership of the church. I Tim. 5:17, Heb. 13:17.

We earnestly request that each of you be governed by God's word with reference to each of them. We must make know to all the churches of Christ in the area of our actions that they too may be governed accordingly. If an effort is made to start some work of a factions nature in the vicinity of the Hartselle church, those lending support, aid or comfort in any manner will be subjected to disciplinary action.

Elders Hartselle Church of Christ  
E.H. Bennett  
H.L. Slate  
B.R. Stidham

TWENTY YEARS  
OCTOBER 1963 – 1983

Our attendance record on October 13, 1963 was 137 in Bible Study; 201 Worship service. The financial statement for the month of September was:

Balance August 30		\$ 342.62
First Sunday Contribution	\$ 379.62	
Second Sunday Contribution	366.36	
Third Sunday Contribution	384.69	
Fourth Sunday Contribution	343.90	
Fifth Sunday Contribution	<u>330.85</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 1805.42</u>
		\$ 2148.04
Expenditures:		
Local Preaching (5 Sundays)	\$ 500.00	
Mission Meetings	100.00	
Janitor	45.00	
Telephone	41.62	
Utilities	35.17	
Stone Lumber Co	28.49	
Flowers	25.59	
Gospel Advocate Co	22.52	
Sentinel	10.38	
Citizens Bank	106.25	
Mutual Savings	250.00	
Childhaven	25.00	
Falkville Church	<u>100.00</u>	
		<u>\$ 1340.05</u>
Balance September 30 <sup>th</sup>		\$ 808.02
Building Indebtedness		
Balance Due Mutual Savings September 1		\$ 15,458.90
Paid in September		<u>250.00</u>
Balance September 30		\$ 15,208.90
Paving Parking Lot Indebtedness		
Balance Due Citizen Bank Sept. 1		\$ 1,250.00
Paid on Principal in September		<u>100.00</u>
Balance Due		\$ 1,150.00
Average Weekly Contribution	\$ 361.08	

The John Faught family moved to Memphis, Tenn. in October 1964. We did not know the actual date Bob Clardy was hired as our minister. Bob and Mary Francis had worshipped with our congregation earlier. Bob, a

young man, decided to attend Alabama Christian College and become a Gospel preacher.

The October 12, 1967 newspaper reported “Bob Clardy, minister of the Hartselle Church of Christ for the past three years moved this week to a new field of ministry, Capital Heights church of Christ, Montgomery, Ala.” He apparently came to work in Hartselle after the Faught’s moved in October 1964.



Bob and Mary Francis

November 9, 1967, the newspaper announced that “Billy R. Helms is the New Minister of Hartselle Church of Christ. Billy R. Helms, former pastor of the Jackson Street Church of Christ in Monroe, La is the new preacher at the Church of Christ, South Sparkman Street.\*\*\* Brother Helms is married to the former Norma Sullivan of Grady, Ala. They have two children, Becky age five and Mark who is nine months old.”

We have no date of the Helms move to Georgia but in June 1968, an ad regarding a Gospel meeting stated the church was without a minister.



The Helms Family



Sis Olive Simpson, Bro Helms  
and his son and Sis Lillian  
Martin



Sister Elsie Norton; Lista,  
Faye Camp, Lillian Martin,  
Bernice Sherrill, Mrs  
Hargrove.



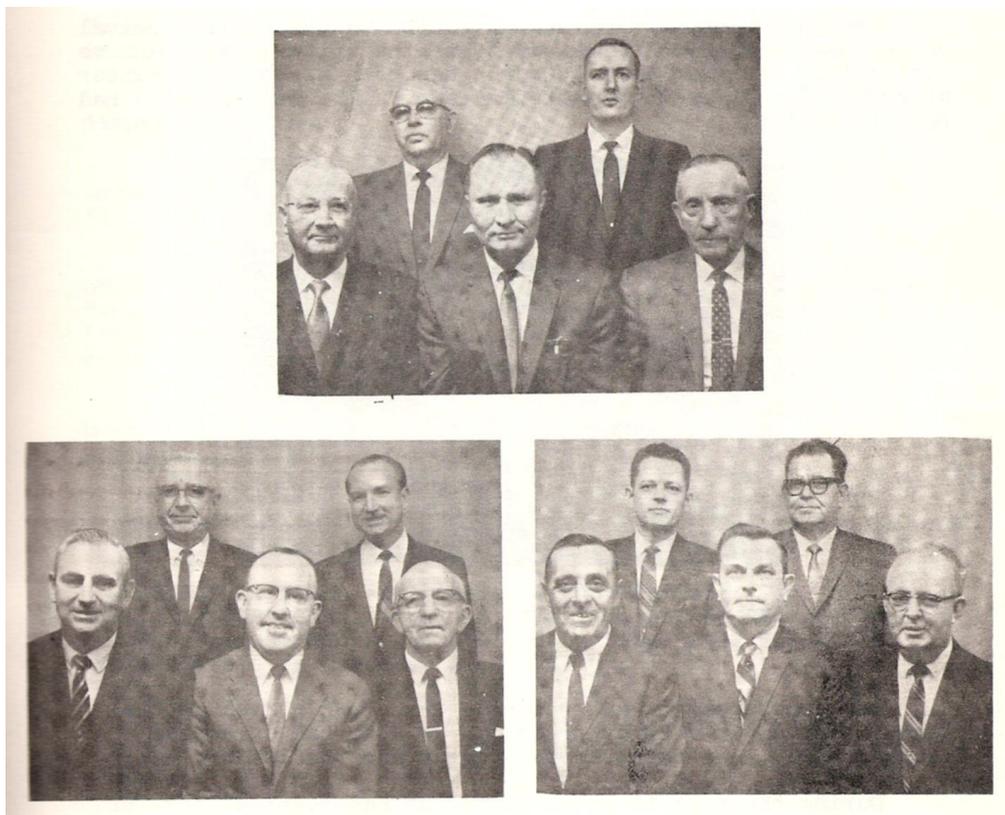
Sister Mary Kyle, Tommie  
Johnson, Hazel Kirk.

Note: My apologies for so many pictures with the Martin clan. However, I wanted to include as many of our members as possible. We could not erase the Martins from my own collection of snap shots!

In August 1967, a directory listed the Elders as H.L. Slate, J.S. Martin, Grady Nicholson and B.R. Stidham.

The Deacons were: A.T. Woodall, J.B. Warren, Walter Campbell, Ben Callaway, Bob Smith, Loy Greenhill, Clarence Harrison, Earl Warren, Guy Brown and Marvin Pettit.

The pictures shown below were made a year or two later. We wanted to use these pictures as most of these men still serve today. Brother Earl Warren now serves as an Elder. Brother J.B. Warren is deceased as well as Bro. B.R. Stidham. Bro. J.T. Cobb was appointed as Deacon at a later date.



We had eighteen baptisms in 1968: Greg Teague on 14 Feb; Joel Dobbins, Feb. 25; Barbara Burgess on June 2<sup>nd</sup>; Joan Dobbins, June 28, Kelly Atkins, June 29, Cindy Woodward, June 7<sup>th</sup>, Donnette Nau, June 14, Marie Willingham, June 21<sup>st</sup> and Laverne Baggett on June 24. Dee and Betty Proctor on Sept. 1; Betty Harrison, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, Dexter Lindsey, Sept. 22, Marie Crutchfield, Sept. 22 and Tommy Powell, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. Jessie Shumaker on Oct. 2; Carol Camp, Nov. 1 and Susan Patterson on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

On 1 September 1968, a young minister from Mississippi, Charles M. Curtis, preached his first sermon in Hartselle. For the second time, in ten years, in the same month, the church had another Charles, and with four children!

The Hartselle Enquirer reported the Curtis family arrival on September 12, 1968. The oddity of the write-up was, and we quote: “the Sparkman Street Church has been without a minister since Bob Clardy resigned some time ago.” The Helms family had been forgotten!



The Curtis Family  
Dot, the twins, Charlotte and Scarlet, Charles,  
The son, Charlie and baby girl, Renee

The congregation was growing. Guy Brown served as the leader of the Bible Study program. We also had an active youth program – we believe Dee Proctor was the leader.

During the past 10 or 12 years, we had recorded some of the deaths of our members. Homer Sherrill, husband of Bernice, father of Hesta and Becky, died on 29 December 1969.

Eight baptisms were recorded in 1969. Ella James on 12 Jan, Juanice Allen on 26 Jan; On Feb. 10, Annette Patterson; Denise Smith on Feb 16; Kenneth Garner, 26 June, Tommy Compton, 27 June; John Reed on 29 June and Mrs. Gladys Davis on Sept. 7, 1969.

A youth forum was held April 18, 1970. The theme was "A Challenge to Christian Youth Commitment." Registration began at nine in the AM, with the welcome address at nine-thirty. Classes were conducted by James Pilgrim of Cullman; Elmer Lusk of Decatur and Jim Moss from Birmingham.

The three main speakers were: Rubel Shelly of Memphis, Tenn. His subject "A Challenge to Commitment". Brother Shelly served as minister of the Getwell church in Memphis.

George Marshall from Muscle Shoals, Ala was the after-dinner speaker.

Kenneth Reed, a teacher in the School of Biblical Studies adjacent to the Univ. of Ala., Tuscaloosa used as his topic, "A Christ Controlled Life."

In the afternoon, a panel was conducted by Bob Clardy of Arab, "How to Handle Temptation"; Jack Andrews of Decatur "What Can I Do" and John Robertson of the Hebron church used "Planning Your Life." The forum was a great success and enjoyed by all.

On January 4, 1970, Mrs. William LeMay (Tong Ho) was baptized; Victor Osborne on 15 February and Thomas Brown on April 19, 1970.

We noted with sadness that Owen Lambert, husband of Esther and father of Pat Hargett, was tragically killed in an automobile accident.

In 1971, seven souls were won for Christ. Paul Sapp on April 11, Gaye Sapp, April 11; Frank Gurney on May 15; Paul Smith, 1 August; Nora and Millard Bearden on 12 August and Debbie Offard on November 21, 1971.



We are not sure when the third building program began. The first service in the new addition was held August 27, 1972.

The newspaper published an article regarding the open house that was held.

“Auditorium Dedicated – South Sparkman Street Church of Christ in Hartselle, held dedication services for their auditorium Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Maurice Howell of Moulton spoke at the dedication. Sunday was the first service in the new auditorium and a record of 352 persons were present for the morning service. The church has a membership of 300 members, and a weekly budget of \$1,000. The building was built by State Construction Co of Hartselle with Haney and Caldwell of Birmingham, as the architects. The

new auditorium will seat 600 persons. Future plans include renovating the old auditorium into classrooms. Charles Curtis is pastor and the elders are H.L. Slate, Dr. Sam Martin, B.R. Stidham, Grady Nicholson, Ben Calloway and Earl Warren. (Daily Photo)”

The August 27, 1972 bulletin had a note from the minister: “This Sunday, August 27, Dot, the children and I, begin our Fifth year with the church here. The time has flown by, as it only seems like yesterday that we came to work with you. It has been a most enjoyable four years and a very fruitful work. Many souls have been baptized and added to the Lord’s church. I have enjoyed working with the eldership, the deacons and with each of you. As we move into our new facilities, we hope each member will continue to cooperate and keep the enthusiasm high as we work for the Lord. We pray God’s blessings upon each of you. Dot and I love and appreciate each of you. – Charles”.

The same bulletin indicated our attendance record as Bible Study – 195. Worship Service – 250. The contribution was \$1085.83; over the budget for the year - \$1042.82.

We found a note, in another bulletin, from Charles regarding the young people’s activities. “The young people of our congregation are to be commended for their willingness to help others, for trying to bring some joy and happiness to others. This past week they went to the Summerford rest home and surprised Sister Kyle with a birthday party. They sang for her and presented her with gifts and a cake. The following Sat. a group along with Brother and Sister James Groves carried some fifteen or more of the children from the Lurlene B. Wallace Center on a picnic to the park in Decatur. They treated them to a day of games and hamburgers or hot dogs. It was enjoyed by all. We are proud of our youth and we ask God’s blessing upon them.”



## HARTSELLE CHURCH OF CHRIST TO OCCUPY NEW BUILDING

Hartselle Church of Christ will hold worship services in a new worship auditorium for the first time this Sunday. The regular schedule of Sunday services will be held, in addition there will be a special dedicatory service Sunday afternoon at 2:30pm.

The church facilities form an impressive and attractively blended combination of the previously existing building with the new construction, achieved in the main by placing a glass-front enclosed concourse which runs across the full frontage of the buildings.

The new facilities include the spacious worship auditorium, with red upholstered pews affording seating capacity for 600. This is double the capacity of the former auditorium. The floor is carpeted in red that matches the upholstery. Extensive use of wood paneling and the exposed beams make a pleasing combination with the light tones of other wall sections and ceiling.

The new construction also includes a new nursery room, which adjoins the auditorium, two offices, a fellowship room, communion preparation room, restrooms and utility closet.

The old auditorium is now to be remodeled and partitioned into classrooms for the church school use.

State Construction Co. of Hartselle was the builder, the plans were by Haney and Caldwell, Birmingham architects.

For the dedication service Sunday at 2:30, Maurice Howell, minister of Moulton Church of Christ, will be the speaker. After this service, visitors will be invited to inspect all the church facilities.

The Hartselle Church of Christ first built a church building on this site in 1948, and the church was enlarged ten years later. All of this construction remains to be modified for use as church school space.

Church membership and attendance both run near 300, and the church supports a weekly budget of \$1000, being exceeded by tithes and offerings most weeks. The fellowship carries on mission-related programs which involve expenditure of \$12,000 a year. These include support of a minister of a mission church at Leaksville, Miss., and part support of a missionary in Puerto Rico.

This dedicatory Sunday will mark the fifth anniversary of the coming to this church of the present minister, Charles Curtis.

Church leaders include: Local benevolences committee – Clarence Harrison, J.T. Cobb and J.B. Warren. Adult leaders of youth – Dee Proctor, James Groves. Bible study supervisors – Ben Calloway and Dr. J.S. Martin; Leaders Guy Brown, Bob Smith and Walter Campbell.

Elders are Dr. J.S. Martin, Ben Calloway, H.L. Slate, Grady Nicholson, B.R. Stidham and Earl Warren.

Deacons are Bob Smith, J.T. Cobb, Walter Campbell, J.B. Warren, A.T. Woodall, Loy Greenhill, Clarence Harrison, James Groves, Marvin Pettit, Guy Brown and Dee Proctor. – end of articles.

The Program for the afternoon service was:

Welcome	Charles Curtis
Singing	Earl Warren
Hymn No. 80	
53	
Prayer	James Groves
Hymn No. 149	
Speaker	Maurice Howell Moulton, Ala.
Hymn No. 336	
Closing Remarks	Dr. Sam Martin
Dismissal Prayer	Dee Proctor

Open House: We invite you to go through and view our new facilities.

### WELCOME

In Christian love, we welcome you to the Open House and dedication service of the Sparkman St. Church of Christ.

Our worship services are always open to everyone and we cordially extend a lasting invitation to all who wish to study the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We deeply thank you for your presence today, with hope that you will return and worship with us again.

Sparkman St. Church of Christ

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is: But exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.” – Hebrews 10:25.

Brother B.R. Stidham, one of our Elders, was enthusiastic about the building program. He was ill for the better part of the construction. Many prayers were uttered in his behalf – that his life would be spared to see the completion of this latest project.

On one occasion, the elders sat in a car outside the hospital, uttering prayers for Brother Stidham. He lay in a coma, the attending Doctor told the family that he would not live through the week-end. The following week, Brother B.R. was dismissed from the hospital and was soon driving his car again! We believe in the power of prayer. Perhaps, at times, we fail to use this privilege as we should.

One vivid memory of Brother B.R. that I will always have in his kneeling when he prayed, or if someone else led the prayer. He always sat in the same area, and I have only to close my eyes to see Him kneeling by his seat. Somehow with the passage of time, we lost this expression of reverence in the church. Perhaps the advent of modern public-address systems robbed us of this custom. What a pity!

Brother B.R. Stidham lived to attend open-house and in fact, was able to attend services for another four years. He died on 5 February 1976.

This great bible scholar influenced many lives. He was studious in the scriptures, stubborn in his belief. He never complained during his long illness and never lost his sincere interest in others. From his hospital bed, shortly before his death, he expressed love and concern for my Mother and I. The church lost one of the “great ones” at his death – we lost a dear friend!

In 1972, twenty-six individuals obeyed the Gospel. Barbara Compton on January 8, Barbara Cotton, Jan. 8; Donna Parker, March 12; Anita Wallace, March 19 and Leslie Wallace on March 22, 1972. Lisa Parker, May 7, Julie Offard, May 14, Gaye Garner, Suzanne Endsley and Jo Ann Brown on May 21st; Dexter Lindsey, 14 July; Jo Ann Sneed and Sherry Lambert, Aug 6<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Janet Hobbs, Aug 20<sup>th</sup>; Clarence Walls, Aug 22; John Calloway and Juanice Allen on Sept 3; Andy Harrison Sept 10; Nina Johnson, Waymon Johnson, Jeff Johnson, Joel Johnson, Joy Johnson and Scarlet Curtis on 17 Sept; Jerri Tedford, Sept 24 and Dwight Pettit on 27 December 1972.

Brother Mason McCann died in his sleep of a massive heart attack on April 16, 1972. Mrs. Thomas (Mary) Kyle, one of our oldest members died on 19 September 1972. E. Lester Proctor, died in 1972, but we failed to record month and day.



Another birthday party!

Henry Wesson, John Reed,  
Sam Martin, Leon Martin  
Guy Brown, Lillian  
Martin.

Betty Martin, Tommie  
Brown, Andre Reed,  
Lista Martin



Bro Charles Curtis,  
Ben Calloway, Leon Martin  
and Bro Guy Brown



As the regular minister, Charles Curtis preached his last sermon on 14 October 1973; “Come See Where the Lord Lay,” Matt. 28, Verse 6. He and his family moved to Cullman on 15 October 1973. Charles served our congregation for five years, one and a half months, the longest period of any previous minister.

Charles and Dot were friends. We shared many happy and some sad moments together. My Mother asked him to come back to Hartselle and make some remarks at her funeral service, and so he did!

The church would not wait long for a new minister. Hoyt Nelson and family from South Alabama, came to Hartselle on 30 October 1973.



The Nelsons –  
Hoyt, Guelding  
and children,  
Monya and  
Kendall

Brother Hoyt will be remembered by the ladies of the congregation for his interest in their projects to help the needy. The ladies met once or twice each week to make quilts. Hoyt dubbed them “The Quilting Quilles.”

Not only did the ladies make beautiful quilts, they also formed the habit of eating the noon meal together. Each would bring a dish or two and many lasting friendship were formed. Quite often the minister and an Elder or two would join the ladies for lunch.

The ladies also had a birthday party each month in honor of those born in that month. These were happy occasions and quite often the men would attend.



The Quilting Quillies-  
Mrs Simpson, Louise  
Campbell, Sister  
Woodall, Ruth Stidham  
and Miss Cordie Self.



Brothers B. R.  
Stidham and Telfare  
Woodall



Mrs Hargrove, Mrs  
Martin, Mrs Sherrill,  
Mrs Camp.



Sister Mary Kyle, Mrs  
Tommie Johnson, Mrs  
Hazel Kirk and Mrs  
Esther Lambert.

Lillian Martin, Tommie  
Johnson, Mrs Hargrove, Bernice  
Sherrill and Miss Emily  
Alexander.



We believe is appropriate to devote one small page of this book to a very special person.

Ronnie Strickland has devoted many hours and expended many dollars for the Church that he dearly loves. In the years that we have known Ronnie, he has served in his own special way, using his own special talent.

Many books and records are in our library today – gifts from Ronnie. Some were given in memory of deceased members – others just because Ronnie wanted us to have access to the knowledge contained in the books and records.

Over the years, Ronnie has ridden his bike or walked to worship services. His attendance record is near perfect. So we salute you – Ronnie Strickland – for your love and devotion!



Ronnie and his  
Mother, Violet

Baptisms in 1973: February 18 – Nathan Brown; Feb 25 – Beth Campbell and Lydia Brown; March 8 – Karen Johnson; April 3 – Allen Parker, Alton Edwards and Carol Edwards; April 9<sup>th</sup> – Tucker Smith; April 18 – Charlie Smith; August 14 – Hugh Battles and Peggy Warren; Sept 5 – Tony Patterson; November 10 – Carl and Bernice Swanto; November 26 – Debbie Ellison; December 2 – Harold Nau (re-baptized) and December 11 – Jerry Woodruff.

Our attendance record in March 1974 averaged 252 for Bible Study; 301 for the morning worship; 171 evening worship and 164 on Wednesday evenings. The contribution averaged \$1270.00.

The men of the congregation were attending a fellowship auditorium to aid those with a hearing problem.

The November 9, 1974, bulletin had this article by Hoyt: “Circus Atmosphere – Our worship services sometimes resemble a circus with the number of people – young and not so young, getting up and leaving the auditorium. Some even have gone to the basement and played while services are underway. I believe we can do better than that, don’t you?”

On March 26, 1974, Brother Earl Elliott, husband of Trannie and father of Janice and Judy, died. Earl, in poor health for many years, came to every service as long as humanly possible.

Twenty Three obeyed the Gospel in 1974: January 13 – Cindy Patterson, Katy Bohannon and Jimmy Bohannon; Feb 10 – Keith Greenhill; March 3 – Celeste Atkins; March 18 – Joan Dobbins; April 15 – Michael Nau; April 24 – Kelly Atkins (re-baptized); April 29 – Cecil Cole; May 7 – Sandy Sims; May 14 – Horace Woodward; May 23 – Sam Bokatzian; July 31 – Beth Baggett; September 8 – Michelle Livingston, Cindy Livingston and Jan Parker; Sept 15 – Timothy, David and Daniel Shelton; Sept 22 – Leslie Turknett; November 3 – Brenda Welch; November 5 – Mike Odell and November 24 – Heather Bailey.

Brother Hoyt Nelson and family moved to Moulton, Alabama. Hoyt’s last sermon from the 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter of John was preached August 3rd.

Again, the Elders hired a ‘Charles’ and this time his wife was another ‘Ruth’. The Charles Balcom family came to Hartselle from Hohenwald, Tenn. The ‘Spirit of Caleb’, Numbers 14, V24, was preached on 30 August 1975, his first sermon.



The Balcom Family  
Kevin, Ruth, Charles, and Timothy

Individuals who obeyed the Gospel in 1974 were: Jan 26, Pam Boles and Ben Callaway (rebaptized); Feb 19, Johnnie Woodall (rebaptized); March 9, Harlon Wallace (rebaptized); March 21, Rosie Harris; April 6, Jimmy Reno; April 9, Gene Lacey and Frank Gurney; May 4, Arthur Smallwood; June, Brad Ward (at camp); Oct 13, Brenda Groves and Sherry Woods; Nov 5, Mary Lou King \* and Roger Bobo; Nov 24, Nancy Simpson; and on Nov 30 Debbie McDonald.

\*Mary Lou King, a petite, elderly black lady, lived in a small house near the Murphy Slate family on Pearl Street. Mary Lou became interested in the church through several friends. She watched the “Journey to Eternity” program TV broadcast at our home. She realized her need to obey the Gospel and was baptized a short time later.

We found no bulletins for the years Brother Balcom was in Hartselle. Our time was devoted to work and family – the box completely forgotten.

One program that Brother Balcom help established was the Congregation Ministry to residents of the Wallace Center.

The Wallace Center asked churches of the area to take some of the residents of the center to worship services on Sunday mornings. This provides a means for these mentally retarded people to be with others.

Two of the original four are still with us. They are Linda Lemly and Estil Brewer. Ron Wheeler started in Jan 1981 and Robert Gunnels the first part of this year. Betty Gosgon and Danny McCampbell, two of the original four, are no longer in the Center.

These people, may or may not, understand the Worship services; however, they love the people of the congregation. Their love is obvious to all – by their shaking of hands, and happy faces.

We are one congregation that has continued to participate in this worthwhile program. Many have discontinued it.



Baptisms in 1976: Jan 21; Lavon Johnson, Feb 8, Chris Burgess and Mel Gurney; Feb 20, Joel Dobbins and Sherry Vest; Feb 22, Gina Hargett, Susie Quinn and Denise Proctor; April 11, Robin Rollins; May 2, Kerrie Balcom, Kenneth Garner and Jo Ann Brown; May 9, Randy Dean; May 19, Joan Sullivan; May 27, Clarence Harrison (rebaptized); May 30, Tony Watson; June 4, Brenda Cantrell (rebaptized); June 22, Jamie Sullivan; July 4, Carrie B. Smith (85 years old); Sept 12 Ruth Teague.

Perhaps we should explain why some have been baptized for the second time. Many, like myself, were first baptized as a very young child, not fully understanding why; others were first baptized to please a loved-one and then came to know the truth and others may have done so for some other reasons. Believing baptism as essential unto salvation, we could not trust the first, hence, the rebaptism.

In 1977, Robert Simpson was baptized on March 10; Steve Stutts, April 18; Tami Bobo, May 29; Mitch Sims, June 23 (at camp); Oct 11, Perry Harding; Oct 23 Debbie Harwell; Oct 26, Tina Harwell; Nov 6, Kathy LeMay and Rhonda Hamlett and Nov 28, 1977, Terri Entrekin.

Our hearts were sorrowful at the untimely death of Dwight Pettit. He died in a trucking accident on December 24, 1977. Dwight, the husband of Brenda, father of Bob, Debbie and Christi, was the only son of Marvin and Lula Pettit.

Baptisms in 1978: Feb 5, Allen Sivley; March 5, Wilda Robinson; April 1, Howard Gibson; April 10, Keith Greenhill; April 21, Ronnie Smallwood; May 8, Carolyn Hall; May 9, Faye Greenhill; May 24, M.D. Shaneyfelt and Marie Shaneyfelt; Aug 21, Tony Parker and on Dec 12, 1978, Beth Bobo and Beth Nau.

In 1979, Mrs. Olive Simpson died. She was the mother of Damon Simpson and Dene Walls.

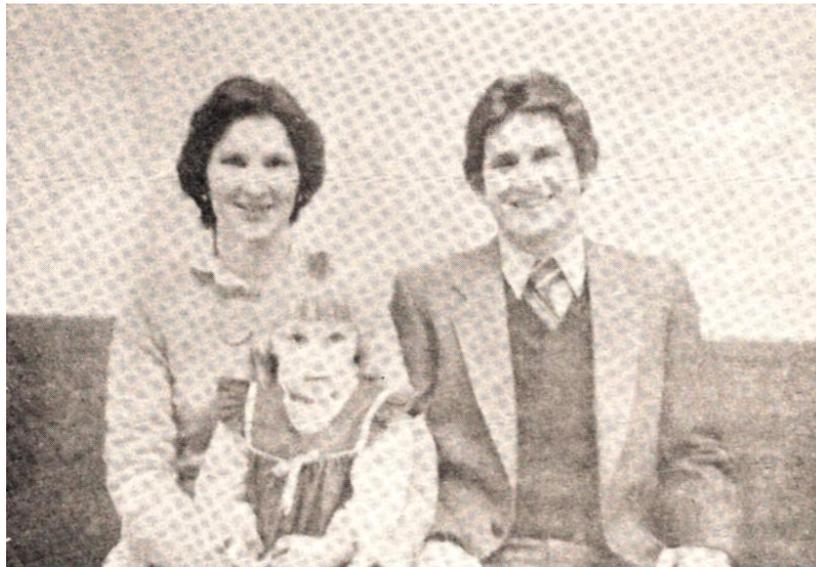
Sixteen were baptized in 1979. Greg Montgomery on March 4; June 4, Sandra Connors; June 6, Anglie Connors; August 8, Michelle and Amy Kirby; Aug 19, Rhonda Key; Aug 13, Linda Reno; Aug 17, Gala Walls, Amy Reed, L.B. Overton and Randy Harris; Dec 10, Janet Millsap; Dec 14, Patsy Hughes and Dec 5, Bobby Wallace; we noted also, Jim Nunn on Aug 26 and Lee Hobbs on Aug 14. Our notes also included Rodger Craft on Dec 21, 1978. (We are not sure of the year).

Charles and Ruth Balcom moved to their home state of Arkansas, July 6, 1980, leaving behind one member of their family. Their only daughter became the bride of Jimmy Martin, son of Sam and Betty.

Twelve individuals obey the Gospel in 1980. Jan 6, Jessie Brooks; March 26, Linda Hughes; April 10, Vicki Lacey; April 13, Dianne Caudle; Aug 10, Alan Sneed; Oct 1, Cathy Harrison and Dale Hall; Oct 20, Jamie Nunn; Nov 1, Kim Cason; Nov 2, Jeff Roberts and Dec 11, 1980, Randy and Deborah Martin.

Mrs. Tommie Johnson died on Mother's Day 1980; Mrs. Lillian Martin on 27 May 1980; Mrs. Mattie Proctor, mother of Dee in June 1980.

On September 1, 1980, Phillip Hines was hired as the minister.



THE HINES FAMILY  
Juila, Phillip and Stephanie

Fifteen individuals were converted in 1981: March 2, Chris Millsap; March 8, Tammy Naylor; April 5, Jack Greenhill, Sybil Shedd, Scotty Shedd and Alissa Martin; April 26, Tod Gurney; May 10, John Monroe; May 14, Lionel Shedd; June 7, Wayne Lemmond; Aug 30, Kerry and Kevin Hamlett and Jamie Dobbins.

On Oct 31, Henry Wright was baptized; Nov 15 – Jimmy Haigmaker. Some of these were the result of the Cottage Meetings.

The death of Comer Henderson of 25 Aug 1981, following a long illness and the sudden death of Gerald Miller of a heart attack were noted in my records.

We are always saddened at the death of a loved one. Many are dearly missed because of the special place they hold in the church and in our hearts.

One individual influenced my life, and many others, in a unique way. John Reed succumbed to cancer on Jan. 12, 1982. John was an individual with a dry sense of humor, who went about quietly doing good for others. John, Andre and I shared many troubled times, as well as happy ones, during our years of friendship. The legacy John left was not one of how to live, but, how to die. The epitaph written by Phillip in the Jan 24, 1982, bulletin expressed it best:

In Memory of John Reed  
“Job Personified”

On Tuesday morning, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1982, around 6:10 a.m., we lost a very dear friend and brother in Christ. John’s six year battle with cancer was over. It might seem, on the surface, that cancer had won the battle, but it hadn’t. In many ways John was the victor.

I have never met anyone else who handled suffering and death like John did. We all can read of a man in the Bible called Job, who handled suffering and pain and yet remained faithful to God. Not only can we in this congregation look at the life of Job for strength, but we can look at John’s life as well.

John often told me that he had an advantage over most people who die. This was because he knew that time was short for him and he knew that he had just a matter of weeks or months to live. Because he knew this, he made many preparations. He prepared for eternity by remaining faithful to God. He prepared his financial matters for his family. He even prepared to face death in his own way.

John was not afraid to talk about dying, because he knew that he wouldn’t walk into the “valley of the shadow of death” alone. He knew that the Lord would be with him and that His “rod and staff” would comfort him.

The memory of John Reed will live on in our minds all of our lives. We who were close to him will miss him very much. I think we will miss him most because we always depended upon him to cheer us up when we were down and depressed over the trivial matters of this life. John learned not long ago that his life was very short and he decided that if he could not show us how to live, he would show us how to die. And that he did. -- Phillip

In the two years that John has been gone, I have often recalled John and his faith. And always his humor. He taught us to complain less, to appreciate the beauty of life, and above all else – how to face death without fear!

Mrs. Mable Bennett, wife of E.H. Bennett, died in March 1982. John B. Warren, a faithful member of the church, died suddenly of a heart attack on 30 April 1982.

Seventeen souls obeyed their Lord in baptism in 1982. January 12<sup>th</sup> – Kim Tedford; Feb 7<sup>th</sup> – Terri Shaddix; Feb 25<sup>th</sup> – Kenneth Turner; Feb 28 – Jean Rollins and Bobbie Maples; March 21 – Brad Rollins; April 18<sup>th</sup> – Casey Hamlett; May 19 – Jeff Harris; July 25<sup>th</sup> – Matt Bobo; Aug 6 – Shannon Kirby and Buddy Norris; Aug 29 – Debbie Jenkins; Sept 5<sup>th</sup> – Sid Slate and Sonja Martin; Sept 15 – Steve Shaddix; Oct 7<sup>th</sup> – Mike Dickinson and on October 25<sup>th</sup> – Andrew Bowen.

A “Come Home Campaign” started in Feb 1983. This program was designed to bring those who had returned into the world back to the Church. The long weeks of labor was culminated with a Gospel Meeting April 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>, with Wayne Kilpatrick of Birmingham as the speaker.

The congregation was well prepared for the meeting. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, one hundred twenty-eight names were recorded that responded to the invitation.

One year following the death of Brother J.B. Warren, his wife Margie died, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1983, during surgery.

The congregation is growing. We recorded forty-one baptisms from January thru September 1983. Feb 28, Gilbert Swann; March 6 Debbie Pettit; March 23, Shane Lindsey; March 27, Kathy South, Emily Reid, Nikki Russell, Carla Jarrett, Tammy Craft, John Warren, Jr. & Jeff Hilliard; March 30, Patricia Weeks; April 3, Wendy Bobo; April 5, Tracey Bishop, Patty Johnson, Karen Thorne & Jerry Cantrell. April 6, Mel Gurney, Kristy Thorne & Kristy Bobo; April 7, Gene Cantrell and Laura Cole; April 8, Candice Bearden, Richard Sneed & Dale Hensley; April 10, Brenda Simpson, Wes Thorton, Jake Alexander & Wanda Howse; April 13, Mike Pierce, Heather McDougle; April 14, Keith Rigoni, Joyce Brannon; April 24 Sabrina Nunn, Tina Millsap & Ricky Jones; May 1 Pattie Meadows; July 17 Anthony Montgomery; Aug. 14, Stephen Langley; Aug. 24, Gary Owens; Sept. 13, Cindy Owens & Jim Reeder.

We should mention the birth of Christopher Hines on November 1, 1982. Of course, Phillip walked a little taller after the birth of his son!

The church is engaged in an active mission and evangelism program, Youth activities and benevolent work. We felt it appropriate to publish the 1983 Budget:

Benevolent Works	- \$	2,500.00
WHRT Radio	-	4,800.00
Bible School Supplies, Literature & Books	-	4,500.00
Maintenance & Upkeep	-	9,000.00
Janitorial Work	-	6,000.00
Insurance	-	1,600.00
Flowers and Misc.	-	300.00
Mission Work & Evangelism	-	10,000.00
Postage	-	750.00
Secretarial Work	-	3,500.00
Preacher's Salary	-	18,000.00
Social Security	-	2,000.00
Lectureship Expense	-	400.00
Utilities	-	8,000.00
Telephone	-	1,000.00
Agape	-	2,500.00
Meeting & Youth Meeting	-	1,800.00
Other Preachers	-	400.00
Building Fund	-	11,000.00
Contingent Fund	-	<u>6,000.00</u>
		\$ 94,050.00

Contributions needed per week to meet the 1983 Budget - \$1,808.65.

The September 11, 1983 bulletin seems to sum-up Phillip's work during these three years; it is also a good place to end the first sixty-three years of our history.

From Phillip's Desk –

Last Sunday marked the beginning of our fourth year together. It is hard to believe that we have been at Hartselle for three years. The Hines family has never been happier than during these last years. From the very beginning you accepted us with open arms and we in return have grown to love each and everyone of you in a very special way. Your support and kind words of encouragement continue to be the stimulus of my work. You might say that you have spoiled us. Let us treasure the love we have for each other

and never take it for granted. My prayer is that we will continue to love, grow, forgive, forget and serve.

As week look back over our labors together in the last three years, we see that we have experienced steady growth in many areas. Listed below are some of these areas:

- (1) We've become a closer body of people.
- (2) There has been a large increase in attendance, especially on Sunday and Wednesday nights.
- (3) Our contribution has increased almost a thousand dollars a week.
- (4) More people are more involved in the work of the Lord. Our young people are more involved than ever. Many adults who have never been involved in the past are now involved.
- (5) We began our Edification Program that edifies the body.
- (6) We have caught the attention of the people in Hartselle with our one-minute radio spots.
- (7) We are helping to support more missionaries.

I'm sure you can think of many other areas in which we have grown.

This is not to say we have arrived. Yes, we've accomplished a great deal, but there is more to be done. There are areas of work we have neglected. Even though our contribution has increased a great deal, it is still not what it ought to be. Many still remain uninvolved. A good number of our erring have been restored and are now faithful, but there is still a long list of those who have not been restored. We have been preparing the soil with our radio work, our day-to-day living, and our Edification Program; but there are only a hand-full who really want to plant the seed. Yes, much remains undone.

I believe together we can continue to accomplish great things for the Lord. Let's strive to work on these things we've neglected and let us continue to grown in the areas in which we have already experienced growth. Let's make the next three years together even better than the last three.

Will I see you Sunday?

Phillip

Yes, we have grown in our sixty-three years. We are the offshoot of some seventeen souls who began worship together in 1920. Today, we worship in a spacious facility. Most of us suffer no real hardships, proving the Psalmist of old correct when he said: "I have been young, and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

We are capable of doing great things for the Lord – feed the poor, providing love and assistance to the elderly, and most important of all – spreading the truth to those who will hear.

We must be a congregation of God's people who look not to our worldly or earthly gain. We must continually strive for spiritual gain – the number of souls we help save through the teaching of God's truth. In the final analysis, our most important recorded history will be the recorded names of precious souls in the Book of Life!



Reading from left to right: Brothers Ben Callaway, Grady Nicholson, Sam Martin, Earl Warren and Lee Slate. We salute these men, our Elders. They devote many hours to the work of the church and we appreciate their efforts!

## SUMMARY

ELDERS: 1940 - 1983

C. O. Speigle ) Some thought they were, others  
W. L. McCutcheon ) insisted they were not.

E. H. Bennett - July 1940 - 21 November 1963 deceased

J. F. Kelley - years unknown - moved from Hartselle

J. M. Dunaway - years unknown - moved to Falkville

H. L. Slate - 1947 to present date

E. H. Walker - 1943 or 1944 to 1947 - moved to Auburn

L. T. Wagnon - years unknown - moved from Hartselle

E. O. Creel - Exact time unknown - was serving in  
1958. Resigned, moved to Decatur

B. R. Stidham - Appointed in 1961 or 1962 - February  
1976 deceased

J. S. Martin - Bulletin dated Aug 23, 1964 submitted  
his name for approval - to present date

Grady Nicholson - Date unknown - to present date

Ben Callaway - Sep 1967 - present date

Earl Warren - Feb 1972 - present date

## SUMMARY

### DEACONS: 1940 - 1983

A. T. Woodall - July 1940 - present date  
Tom Pettit - Some said he was - others said no  
E. O. Creel - years unknown  
K. L. Swafford - years unknown  
Jimmy H. NeSmith - years unknown  
Grady Nicholson - years unknown - appointed as Elder  
B. R. Stidham - years unknown - appointed as Elder  
J. B. Warren - year unknown - deceased 30 April 1982  
James S. Groves - 20 Feb 1972 - moved to Tenn  
James S. Martin - years unknown - appointed as Elder  
Walter Campbell - year unknown - present date  
Ben Callaway - Bulletin dated Aug 23, 1964 submitted  
for approval - 1967 appointed as Elder  
Bob Smith - year unknown - present date  
J. T. Cobb - year unknown - present date  
Loy Greenhill - year unknown - present date  
Clarence Harrison - year unknown - present date  
Earl Warren - year unknown - Feb 1972 appointed as Elder  
Guy Brown - year unknown - present date  
Marvin Pettit - year unknown - present date  
Dee Proctor - year unknown - present date  
Euclid Johnson - Feb 1972 - present date

SUMMARY

MINISTERS: 1920 - 1983

No Regular Minister - 1920 - 1922  
W. O. Norton - 1923 - 1926  
Chester Hunnicutt - 1930 part time  
James G. Whitaker - 1931, 1938, 1939 part time  
W. M. White - 1932 part time  
Floyd Fanning - 1933, 1934 part time  
L. B. Jones - 1940 two Sundays a month  
Thomas Compton - 1942 - 1943 two Sundays a month  
Hollis Roberson - Nov 1943 - Nov 1944  
Frank Andrews - Jan 1945 - Sept 1948  
A. L. Butler - Nov 1948 - Aug 1950  
George Marshall - March 1951 - June 1952  
W. O. Norton - Aug 1952 - July 1954  
George Marshall - Aug 1954 - May 1957  
Roy Fudge - June 1957 - Aug 1958  
Charles Stidham - Sept 1958 - July 1962  
John Faught - Aug 1962 - Oct 1964  
Bob Clardy - Nov 1964 - Oct 1967  
Billy R. Helms - Nov 1967 - June 1968  
Charles Curtis - Sept 1968 - 15 Oct 1973  
Hoyt Nelson - Oct 1973 - Aug 1975  
Charles Balcom - Aug 1975 - July 1980  
Phillip Hines - Sept 1980 - present date



## LOOKING BACK

Webster defines a history as a systematic written account of events or a branch of knowledge that records and explains past events.

We began this history with little knowledge and a handful of old financial records, a few handwritten notes, some old bulletins, and a few pictures. We possessed no real or factual knowledge of the first ten years. More importantly, we lacked little talent to write a book!

How to correlate the facts with the many stories we were told was mind boggling. Many memories were related by older members - most were in conflict with the few known facts and the statements from the cardboard box. We were told that many "he or she" were charter members, yet their name did not appear on the list.

We listened to many humorous stories regarding past members - the keen competition between two ladies regarding feeding visiting preachers; the conviction that coon hunting was unscriptural; a petition to urge the Elders to correct a situation - and many more. These were omitted less some be offended.

We did not have the time nor money to follow every lead, so the final conclusion was print what you have - a little history is better than no recorded history.

When the contents are dissected we note several questions that remain unanswered. One, who were the first appointed Elders and Deacons? Is it true that in the forties, the group had so little knowledge that one man served as an Elder? Or, was the newspaper account correct when three were named?

Another one, who really financed the first building? We know that few men were religiously inclined. The survival of this small group seemed to depend on the women. As late as 1946 or 1947, Brother E. O. Creel recalled a winter Sunday with ice and snow. He and Lee Slate were the only men present for worship services. He said they had quite a lengthy discussion

about who would lead the singing and who would lead the prayer. We know that the Jackson Street (now Grant) gave toward the work. We know that Brother Ezell was unable to contribute money. Did John Schnabel finance it? Women of the twenties did not work outside the home. Did their husbands give toward building a church they did not attend?

This task has been an experience. I wanted to prepare a perfect document - but greatly realize my failure. I wanted to include everyone but realize that many have been omitted. Some of you may have played a very important role. The teachers, the personal workers, those who listen when some one needs to talk; the faithful attendee, the liberal giver; those who work with meekness, not asking or receiving recognition. To each of you - continue to do good - for the Glory of God - man does not matter. You are the true foundation and each is necessary for the continued growth of our congregation!

May we truly be a light set on a hill. May our next sixty-three years of history record a group of dedicated Christians who taught the truth - gave our all - to make our calling and election sure!

Lista D. Martin  
May 1984

EACH DAY THE LAST

Lord, let me live my every day  
As if it were my last  
And strive to make amends for all  
The sins that fill my past.  
Let me be kind to everyone  
In thought and word and deed  
And share what worldly goods I have  
With those who are in need.

Help me, O Lord, with strength of heart  
And with Your Holy grace  
To walk in calm and patience and  
To keep my humble place.

I want to be Your servant, Lord  
And always do Your will  
Until my eyes are closed in sleep  
Until my heart is still.  
Be merciful to me, O Lord  
For my imperfect past  
And let me live my every day  
As if it were my last.

-James J. Metcalfe

