

*One-Hundred Year  
History  
of  
Ayden Christian Church  
(Disciples Of Christ)  
1893-1993*



*by*

*Stephen Sudor, O.D.*

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## Dedication


This history of Ayden Christian Church is essentially the product of the efforts of one man, Dr. Stephen Sudor. While yet in practice, Dr. Sudor began the arduous task of searching, collecting, copying, visiting, interviewing, organizing, reading, studying, checking, writing and rewriting which has culminated in the material you will read in this publication.

Dr. Sudor devoted eight years to the gathering of information for this book and nearly two years to its writing.

On behalf of the congregation, the Centennial Committee extends our deepest thanks to Dr. Sudor for this labor of love and to his wife, Bert, for both helping with and sharing his time with this task.

Be it therefore resolved that this *One Hundred Year History of Ayden Christian Church* is lovingly dedicated to the man responsible for its very existence, Dr. Stephen Sudor, Church Historian.

  
Mr. "Bear" Baldree, Chair  
Centennial Committee

  
Mrs. Hannah Gaylor, Chair  
Official Board

  
James M. Daily, DMin. Sr. Minister

## **Dedication**

This one-hundred year history of Ayden Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is dedicated to the many hundreds of people from the beginning thirty-two members to the present three-hundred-forty-three. May God bless each and everyone of them.

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**CHAPTER I**  
**THE BEGINNING**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:1 (RSV)

It was September in 1893.

It was hot. It was humid. It was wet. Much rain had fallen over the past week, enough so that the farmers were concerned for their crops. The unpaved streets were not dry and dusty. Instead there were puddles of water. There was mud. Buggy and wagon tracks were evident. Animal tracks were predominant.

The weather did not matter for this was to be a great day!

It is believed and chronicled by historians of the past that Ayden Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was born on September 18, 1893 on the same day that Carolina Christian College opened its doors. Credit for this birth has been given to Peter Stephen Swain, an enthusiastic, dedicated ministerial student who was also a member of the faculty at the school. C.C. Ware records this date and place of organization at the newly formed school in several books he has written.

However there exists some discrepancy as to the date the church was organized. In an article written in "The Eastern Reflector," Greenville, North Carolina on Wednesday, September 20, 1893 it stated:

*The North Carolina Christian College at Ayden, this county, was formally opened last Friday (September 15, 1893) with appropriate exercises, and the regular work of the first session of the institution was begun Monday (September 18, 1893) morning. On Friday (September 15, 1893) there was a large gathering of the people of the community and they listened attentively to an admirable address by our townsman (Greenville), ex-Gov. T.J. Jarvis.*

The entire article (which appears later on) does not mention that the Church was formed. In looking at the calendar, it is certainly possible that Sunday, September 17, the date between the formal opening on Friday the 15th and regular

workday on Monday the 18th the Church could have had its first Church service especially since attendance at the Church was required of all students and faculty.

In an "Ayden news item "dated November 13, 1893, a Monday, there appeared in "The Eastern Reflector" this statement:

*A congregation of the Christian Church was organized Sunday (November 12). It will hold its meetings in the College building.*

However we must consider the time. There was no telephone and no automobiles. There was a train. There was horse and buggy. News traveled slowly. The date listed above the column for several news items from Ayden was November 13. This could very well have been a collection of news from Ayden occurring over the past several weeks. Or it may be that the formal organization of the Church was November 12, 1893.

Another conflicting article appears in "The Eastern Reflector" in an October issue:

*Friends of the College have organized a Sunday School with Rev. P.S. Swain as Superintendent. Mr. Swain has been Sunday School Evangelist for some time and is just at home when preaching over a Sunday School.*

Mr. Swain organized the Church and the above article proves he organized the Sunday School. Can we believe he organized the Sunday School before he organized the Church?

It seems logical to consider that "*the large gathering of the people of the community,*" the Ayden Disciples, those near Ayden, those from afar, those of the faculty, and the students were emotionally peaked, excited and eager enough to have held a Church Service on that Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday. All we can do is guess unless



we accept the written word of C.C. Ware in his book "A History of the Disciples of Christ in North Carolina" printed in 1927 or accept the many other references through the years that state, The Ayden Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was organized September 18, 1893, the day Carolina College opened. Amen.



**Carolina Christian College**

## CHAPTER II

### THE COLLEGE

"I am a Jew, born at Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as you all are this day."

Acts 22:3 (RSV)

There is no doubt that the Ayden Christian Church and Carolina Christian College were closely tied together. One was dependent on the other. How did this happen? Why did it happen? A college established in a small rural town whose population numbered only 300. A town chartered only three years earlier in 1890. It is necessary to go back in time to seek answers to these questions. In so doing we discover that a large segment of the 300 people in the town of Ayden were Disciples who were prominent in the town's development. In fact, Disciples were plentiful throughout Eastern North Carolina. There were many Disciple Churches operating in the East. In Pitt County alone there were 9 small rural Disciple Churches with an enrollment of 870 members. In 5 adjoining counties there were 38 congregations with 3190 members. Disciple Churches already established in what we now know as the Hookerton Union were Eden (originally known as Taylor's Schoolhouse in Greene County), Riverside (known as Chapman's Schoolhouse in Craven County), Red Oak (known as Berea in Pitt County), Bethel (formerly Union Baptist in Lenoir County), and Farmville (originally Antioch Church). Also established and functioning were Grifton, Hookerton, Kinston Gordon Street, LaGrange, Timothy, Wheat Swamp, and most important Rountree, the earliest Disciple Church in North Carolina, considered to be the "mother church" of Ayden being only 4 miles distant.

What concerned North Carolina Disciples in the East was need for an educational institution they could call their own. The first serious attempt to establish a school occurred at the Union Meeting of the Disciples at Hookerton on October 3, 1854 at which time they gave endorsement to Kinston as the site. However, enough funds never materialized. In 1857 another effort was made to establish a school in Farmville but enough interest and cooperation was never generated.

Two schools of some importance that were conducted by individual Disciples were established, namely in Kinston (The Kinston Female Seminary) by Dr. Walsh, and In Wilson by Mrs. Hughart who conducted a private female school.

Other private schools were established in Wilson, Stantonsburg, Jones County, LaGrange, Farmville, Oak Grove and Pantego. Individual Disciples were serving these small private schools with distinction but there was need to own a true Disciple school. This matter was addressed in 1891 by the committee on education at the New Bern Convention whose report was adopted as follows:

*Resolved: 1. That the President of this convention appoint a board of trustees; consisting of fifteen representative brethren, who are authorized to advertise and otherwise bring the matter before the friends of education throughout the State.*

*2. The board of trustees shall entertain bids or propositions looking to the location of the school, and are empowered to locate the site, erect necessary buildings and exercise general supervision over the school.*

*3. That all our Evangelists are requested to bring the matter before their respective congregations and agitate the question, both privately and publicly, and seek to secure unity of action and hearty cooperation to found an institution of learning that will be the pride and glory of us as a people.*

*The President appointed a Board of Trustees. Named from Pitt County were Fernando Ward and John Pierce.*

J.L. Winfield was made Chairman of this Board. He reported progress of this Board in the Convention of 1892:

- 1. We have agitated the question through the columns of the "Watch Tower" since our last Convention and solicited propositions from places that seemed desirable for the institution.*
- 2. We have received letters and suggestions to locate the institution at Wilson's Mills, Dunn, Grifton, and Ayden; but the propositions are not of such a nature that justifies the Trustees in accepting either place as a permanent location.*
- 3. We ask that the Board of Trustees be continued another year, during which time we believe it very probable that the Institution contemplated by the Convention will be established.*

This was a preliminary effort, but a year later, at the Washington, North Carolina Convention of 1893, the Trustees reported the establishment of Carolina Christian College at Ayden as follows:

- 1. We kept the subject of locating a college under our auspices before the brotherhood eighteen months, and solicited propositions looking to the establishment of a school contemplated by the Convention.*
- 2. A Meeting of the Board was called at Ayden, April 19, 1893, and it was decided to accept the proposition made by Ayden, which was \$100.00, and 5 acres of land.*
- 3. A building committee was appointed, and work was pushed forward to completion. The school opened September 18, 1893.*

*4. Prof. Rightsell, P.S. Swain, J.R. Tingle, Mrs. Rightsell, and Miss Mollie Winfield were chosen faculty, of the institution.*

*5. The property is worth \$1,500.00.*

*6. A purchase of five acres was made for \$250.00, and we are indebted for the same.*

*We submit the following recommendations:*

*1st. That a Board of Trustees be elected by this Convention.*

*2nd. That a financial agent be employed in the interest of the College.*

*3rd. That a musical instrument be purchased by this Convention.*

*4th. That Bro. J.R. Tingle be encouraged in his Bible Department.*

*5th. That a means be devised to pay the tuition of all ministerial students.*

The first 5 acres of land was given by W.H. Harris and J.S. Hines. Later the second 5 acres was purchased for \$250.00 to complete a ten-acre campus. The convention appointed seven Trustees to function by rotation in administering Carolina Christian College. The first seven were: from Ayden, Jesse Cannon, Caleb Cannon, J.R. Tingle and R.W. Smith; from Wilson, Moses T. Moye; from Snow Hill, I.L. Chestnutt; and from Kinston, C.W. Howard. Others serving later from Ayden were: M.F. Sumrell, A.R. Holton, and Dr. Joseph Dixon.

In only five months, from April to September, an unfinished two-story frame building and a separate music room were erected in time to begin the first session of the School. Seventeen pupils were enrolled at the opening. By the end of the year there were seventy.

A newspaper account of the opening of Carolina Christian College is documented by the article which appeared in *The Eastern Reflector*, Greenville, Pitt County, North Carolina, Wednesday, September 20, 1893. The entire article follows:

*Christian College Opened.*

*The North Carolina Christian College at Ayden, this county, was formally opened on last Friday with appropriate exercises, and the regular work of the first session of the institution was began Monday morning. Prof. L.T. Rightsell is principal. On Friday there was a large gathering of the people of the community and they listened attentively to an admirable address by our townsman, ex-Gov. T.J. Jarvis. It is well known by all our people what an earnest advocate of education Gov. Jarvis is and he always cheerfully gives his influence to any enterprise that has for its purpose the instruction of the youth of our land or the enlightenment of the people. The educational interests of North Carolina made more advancement in the six years that he was Governor than ever before marked twice that number of years.*

*He made one of his best speeches at Ayden, and what he said will bear good fruit. He said nothing is so elevating to mankind as education and the Christian religion and these should rank first of all things in our estimation. He wants to see the time come when every man and woman in the State shall be able to read, write, think and act for himself or herself. Men sufficiently educated to inform themselves upon the great questions of their day make better citizens and are not always depending upon others for their thoughts and being often led about by designing persons at will.*

*This college at Ayden is under the auspices of the Christian or Disciples, church. Those foremost in the denomination became desirous of a good school and a meeting was held in April to consider the question of locating. Ayden was selected as the place for the college, this being centrally located in these Eastern counties where the greatest strength of the denomination exists. Only five months have passed since that meeting, yet in that short time land was secured, the building planned, material procured, and work has progressed rapidly until a large two story building adorns the beautiful 10 acre lot set apart for the institution. The college is splendidly located, its friends have labored earnestly for it, and we expect to see great good come therefrom.*



Prof. Lewis T. Rightsell (M.A.) DePauw University, 1890 was chosen as the first principal of the school. Just a year before he came to Ayden in 1892, he began as principal at Carolina Institute at Old Ford, a Disciple rural center six miles north of Washington, North Carolina. He and his wife had enrolled 61 pupils there, 6 of them being ministerial students. While at Carolina Institute he said, "The English Bible would be used as a textbook, but those who would study it in the original languages will be accorded that opportunity." He further said "full and free discussion of all subjects will be permitted and encouraged in the classroom."

It seems likely that Prof. Rightsell was enticed to come to the newly formed Carolina Christian College which was planned to be the principle Disciple school in North Carolina.

Rev. J.L. Winfield said of him, "His ripe scholarship, high moral and Christian culture qualify him to turn out sound intellectual boys and girls."

Coming as a bachelor from Indiana, Prof. Rightsell married Willie Roundtree of Kinston who became deeply involved in educational pursuits with her husband.

The only known copy of the catalogue printed to open Carolina Christian College is located in the Carolina Disciplina Library in Wilson, North Carolina. There is much to learn as to how the college functioned by reading it. A reprint of this catalogue follows:

CAROLINA  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Session Begins Sept. 18, 1893

FACULTY

Prof. L.T. Rightsell, A.M..... Principal  
Mrs. L.T. Rightsell..... Assistant  
Miss Mollie Winfield ..... Inst. Music  
P.S. Swain ..... Vocal Music  
J.R. Tingle..... Sacred History

---

Drill in Military Tactics by Principal

---

Washington, N.C.  
The Watch-Tower Presses

CAROLINA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Carolina Christian College is located at Ayden, Pitt County, N.C., on the Scotland Neck and Kinston Branch of the Atlantic Coast Line, about 22 Miles from the A.&R. Junction. The building is in a beautiful grove on the eastern side of the town, less than one fourth mile from the depot. The North Carolina Christian Missionary Convention has possession of ten acres of ground here, which will be used as the demands of the future seem to indicate. The town is new and growing, and free from evil influences necessarily found in larger places. It has the advantage of two good daily mails, telegraph and express offices and good railroad connections. The section of country is fertile and flourishing, and will give the school a good local patronage.

The design of this institution is to train young men and women in the branches usually pursued in the college courses of our country. A course of study has been prepared that is believed to be up to the standard of the educational institutions already in existence, and if any modification has been made, it is believed to be for the sake of that which is practical and progressive. It is true, we cannot offer our students the equivalent of what they will find in the old and well endowed seats of learning, which adorn our country, but we believe we can equal the majority of advanced schools of the South, nearly all of which, like ourselves, have been obliged to contend with poverty and lack of educational facilities.

Patrons and pupils are requested to examine the COURSE OF STUDY, and be prepared to take up the branches and text-books therein indicated, and to bear in mind that a teacher is enabled to do effective work only by thorough classification of

pupils into their respective grades. No text-books will be admitted save those named in the course of study, and hereafter no change will be made in the text-books used, without good reason for the change.

Boarding at private houses is provided at about \$8.00 per month. Pupils will be permitted to choose their own place of boarding, but if they will notify the principal in time, arrangements will be made for them in advance. Order and quietude will be enforced at all places where students are boarded and lodged.

A competent teacher of music will give instruction at about \$2.00 per month to those who desire it. Address the lady whose name is published in this prospectus for further instruction.

Short religious services will be held on every Lord's day in the school building, and none will be exempted from attendance, unless excused for good reasons.

Regular literary exercises will be held every week, and all will be required to participate, as none can afford to lose the benefit of such training.

Pupils will be permitted to attend the church and Lord's day school of their choice, but all are required to attend religious services on Lord's day.

The terms of tuition are from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per month, payable invariably at the end of the month. This rule will not be broken.

The school year will consist of thirty-six weeks, and be divided into two terms of eighteen weeks each. The first term begins Sept. 18th, 1893, and closes January 26th, 1894. The second term will begin January 29th, 1894, and end June 1st, 1894, which will be the close of the school year.

Examinations will be held at the end of each term and report will be sent to parents and guardians.

No one making less than sixty-five on any branch will be advanced beyond his grade. Reports of deportment and standing in studies will be sent out at the end of every month.

Strict supervision of pupils will be observed by the principal and teachers, and prudence and good behavior generally will be expected of all students.

We believe that economy in dress will be encouraged by all parents and guardians, and to this end all students will wear uniform. The uniform can be purchased of a competent dress maker near the college at very reasonable rates.

## COURSE OF STUDY

### PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Reading--Holmes' First.  
Spelling--Harrington's  
Writing  
Number  
Language

### INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT

#### First Year

Intermediate Arithmetic--Sanford's  
History--Mrs. Spencer's First Steps  
Reading--Holmes' Third Penmanship  
Grammar--Harvey's Elementary  
Geography--Maury's Elementary  
Spelling--Harrington's  
Object Lessons  
Brand's Physiology

#### Second Year

Arithmetic--Sanford's Common School  
History--Moore's N.C. History  
Reading--Holmes' Fifth  
Penmanship--Spencerian Copy-book  
Grammar--Harvey's English  
Geography--Maury's Manual  
Spelling--Harrington's  
Composition  
Physiology--Steel's

#### Third Year

Higher Arithmetic--Sanford's  
History--Holmes' U.S. Reading  
Grammar--Harvey's English  
Little Classics  
Spelling--Webster's Primary Dictionary  
Composition  
Physiology

### COLLEGIATE DEPARTMENT

#### First Year

##### First Term:

Higher Arithmetic--Sanford's  
Latin Grammar--Bingham's  
History (Ancient)--Thalheimer  
Zoology--Steel's

Second Term:

Algebra--Wentworth's College  
Latin Grammar--Bingham  
History (Ancient)--Thalheimer  
Physical Geography--Maury's

Second Year

First Term:

Algebra--Wentworth's Higher  
Rhetoric--Hart's  
History (Mediaeval)--Thalheimer  
Physics--Steel's Philosophy  
Latin--Caesar  
Composition

Second Term:

Geometry--Hill's Lessons  
Rhetoric--Practical Composition  
History (Modern)--Thalheimer  
Botany--Steel's  
Latin (Virgil)--Greenough's

Third Year

First Term:

Geometry (Analytic)--A.G. Wentworth  
Geology--Dana  
English Literature--Emery  
Latin (Cicero)--Allen L Greenough

Second Term:

Trigonometry--Wentworth  
Physiology--Hitchcock  
English Literature--Emery  
Latin (Horace)--Allen & Greenough

Fourth Year

First Term:

Mental Philosophy--Hickok  
Logic--Hamilton  
English Classics  
Chemistry--Steel's  
New Testament

Second Term:

Moral Philosophy--Hickok  
Christian Evidence  
Art Criticism  
Astronomy. Constitution

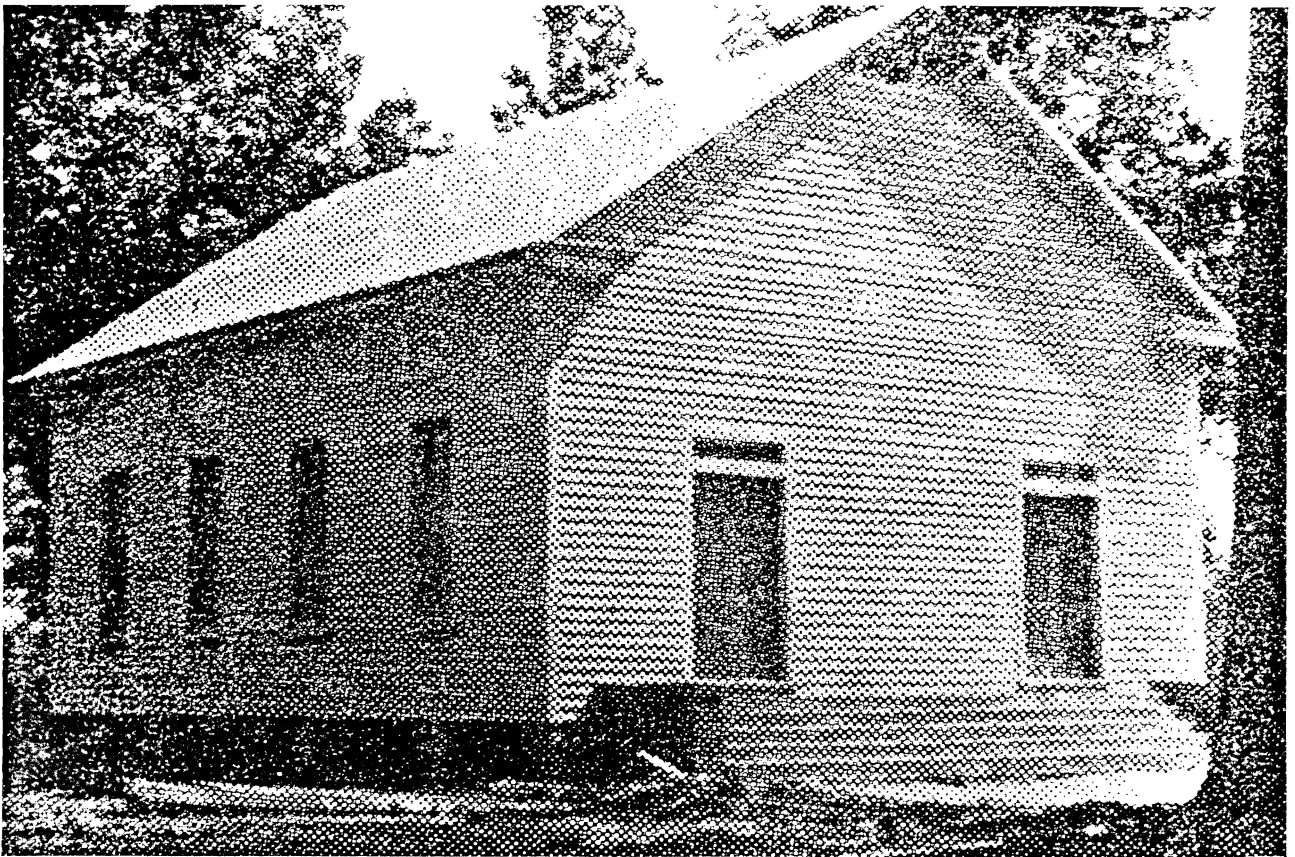
Greek and Bookkeeping are elective studies. The course in Greek is recommended only to those preparing for the ministry, and will consist largely of New Testament study. Instruction will be given, if desired, in French and German. It is a tendency of the present time to dispense with the study of the languages to a

large extent, as being more ornamental than useful, and to devote the time to the study of branches of intrinsic value, as chemistry, natural science, biology, etc. We mean to keep to the front, and the pursuit of the merely ornamental will always be discouraged.

For further information address, L.T. RIGHTSELL, A.M., Prin., Ayden, Pitt Co., N.C.

The Primary Education Department was of considerable importance for it was the reason Disciples from Rountree moved their families to Ayden as there were no schools of any consequence in the countryside.

The school was good enough reason to move to Ayden, but the town did not offer many other attractions, being only a very small young town, an improbable place to even begin a college.



### **Original Rountree Christian Church**

Before 1889 the site where Ayden now stands was a prosperous farm owned by William Henry Harris. In 1889 the Railroad came. The directors of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad (later known as the Atlantic Coast Line) decided that the

region east of Wilson contained many undeveloped possibilities and decided to extend their railroad from Scotland Neck to Kinston causing several towns to develop along the route. The small village destined to become Ayden was on this route. The village had been known by many names, among them; Arder Town, Arthertown (or Arthurton), Harriston, and Otter Town. Mr. Joab Harrington submitted to the U.S. Post Office a suggestion that the town be named Aden, which was a name he picked from a map of the world. The Post Office Department agreed to the proposed name if the letter Y was added, and this is how the name of Ayden came into being.

By 1890 William Henry Harris had forty acres of his farm laid out into lots. He retained the deed to every other lot, putting the others up for sale. This led to the formation of the Eastern Land and Improvement Company which established a post office, guard house, railroad depot, and telegraph office. By 1892 Ayden already had a sizable business community. J.R. Smith and brother R.W. Smith (Disciples) opened a general merchandise store in 1892 and they became the leading merchants and most active citizens in town. Ayden had begun its biggest growth period (from 1890 to 1900) with the coming of the college contributing to its growth.

All that has been revealed of this History so far are the facts and reasons as to how, when, and why the church began. From this point on we begin the 100 year journey of the Ayden Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



## CHAPTER III

### THE CHURCH AND THE COLLEGE

“Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly, never be conceited.”

Romans 12:16 (RSV)

It was a very good beginning, an auspicious start. The initial membership comprised thirty-two charter members, many coming from Rountree. Known charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Hines, Mr. and Mrs. M.F. Sumrell, Mr. and Mrs. B.F. McGlohon, Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Smith, Caleb Worthington and William Worthington. It is not known if any of the school faculty were members although they did attend the church services. The students also attended since they were required to do so if they did not attend another church service. Since so many of the students were from Ayden or near Ayden it can be assumed that many of the parents were Disciples and attended as well. Peter Stephen Swain, a newly matriculated student accomplished the organization of the church. He was a ministerial student but was also part of the first faculty, teaching vocal music. To study for the ministry he entered Bethany College, West Virginia, September, 1891 for one year. Not financially able to continue there he entered Carolina Institute, September, 1892 and then Carolina Christian College to complete the courses of study required by the institution. He was ordained at the Kinston Convention in 1894 and began his ministry that same year. Later, in 1895, he became corresponding secretary of the North Carolina Missionary Society. He was a native of Washington County, North Carolina.

Another very important stroke of good fortune occurred when the first minister was engaged, none other than James Latham Winfield, minister, editor, educator, the reputed founder of Carolina Christian College. He was truly a great man, known near and far for his interest in education. Even as a student in the College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky in 1873-1874 it was said of him:

*"He is extraordinary and destined to do a great work."*



**James Latham Winfield**  
**Ministered 1893**

He was editor of the "Watch Tower" for eighteen years from 1879 to 1897. J.R. Tingle, Bible teacher at Carolina Christian College said of him:

*"Bro. Winfield was a strong friend to every educational enterprise. He labored earnestly and faithfully for several years to establish somewhere in North Carolina an institution of learning to be owned and controlled by our brotherhood. He succeeded in establishing Carolina Christian College at Ayden, North Carolina. The accomplishment of this effort was one of his greatest desires." Bro. Winfield was a successful preacher, ever ready to contend for the faith and hope of the gospel. He was logical in his conclusions and relied implicitly for results upon the Word of God. He was social, mingling freely with all classes, being able at all times to make himself pleasant in all circles. He was able to suit his conversations and customs to all classes so that his company and counsel was gladly received by all. This natural gift drew to him a wide circle of friends, and no preacher in our ranks carried a larger following. He was always foremost in arranging and executing every line of missionary work."*

The Raleigh "News and Observer" said:

*"He was a strong friend of good government, an educator of wide usefulness, an excellent editor, and a successful and popular preacher."*

John James Harper (who later became president of Atlantic Christian College) said of him:

*"He was a fine organizer, a born leader, a pungent writer, with a mind inventive, vigilant and intense. He loved the plea of the Disciples and in its defense was wary, adroit, skillful and uncompromising."*

Nothing is known about J.L. Winfield's effectiveness the Ayden pulpit. All that was said of him in other endeavors was praiseworthy and complimentary. He was known to be an effective preacher and at this time, in the prime of his life, was among educators that he knew well and therefore in a comfortable position of leadership. His tenure lasted only the remaining few months of 1893. He continued as editor of the "Watch Tower" as well as involving himself in organized meetings of Disciples throughout Eastern North Carolina. In his later years he resided in Washington, North Carolina.

It did not take long for the ladies of the Church to organize. This transpired on November 29, 1893 when Rev. Brown, a retired missionary from India converted the auxiliary society into the Christian Women's Board of Missions (C.W.B.M.). The first president of the newly formed C.W.B.M. was Mrs. L.T. Rightsell, wife of the college principal, Prof. L.T. Rightsell, A.M. Miss Mollie Winfield was elected Vice-President, and it should be noted that these first two ladies were part of the first faculty of the College. Mrs. Kitty Hart was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Prof. Rightsell (as he was referred to) provided the program.



**Group, Carolina Christian College**

Represented in the above are the pupils and teaching group of Carolina Christian College in June, 1894. At the extreme right, nearest the building, appear in order from right to left: James P. Sumrell, (a Bible Student); Miss Mollie Winfield, Teacher of Music; J. R. Tingle, Teacher of the Bible; L. T. Rightsell, Principal, and Mrs. L. T. Rightsell, Assistant Principal.

## **Carolina Christian College 1894**

In 1894 a change of leadership was made within the church as Prof. L.T. Rightsell became the second minister. This proved to be beneficial to the growth of the church as Prof. Rightsell lived in Ayden to operate the school, whereas Rev. Winfield commuted from his home in Washington. Prof. Rightsell was very active in C.W.B.M. meetings giving lectures, prayers, comments, and leading discussions. The ladies organization continued to grow rapidly as new names appeared in the minutes: Nellie Hart, Ella Swain, Mrs. Cobb, R.W. Smith (father of Eugene Smith), Annie Leggett, Mrs. J.R. Tingle, Almeta Kennedy, J.A. Roberson. It is recorded that

Mr. Leggett, Mr. J.J. Hines, and Mr. Hill joined in November. Apparently men were welcome in this organization. Officers serving in 1894 were: Mrs. Rightsell, president; Mrs. Tingle, vice-president; Almeta Kennedy, secretary, and Mrs. Leggett, treasurer.

By the time of the Disciple state convention in 1894 at Kinston, the Ayden church had grown to forty members. L.T. Rightsell was clerk of this convention in 1894 and reported that Ayden had begun stewardship by giving \$5.00 to local church expenses.

At the same time the church was growing, so was the college, which had enrolled 30 men and 50 women of whom 76 were from Ayden and Pitt County. By the first commencement in 1894, the original building was completed.

Also the town of Ayden continued to grow rapidly. Dr. Joseph Dixon, a native of Greene County and a graduate of Richmond Medical College settled in Ayden to become the first resident doctor.

According to an article written on the "History of Ayden" by Roger Kammerer, dark clouds of discontent settled on the town in the spring of 1895. He reported that William H. Harris began going around the area asking people to sign a petition to ask the State to change the name Ayden to Harriston, to perpetuate his name. An opposition petition was started and soon the town was deeply divided, mostly in favor of retaining the name. Though the opposition was greater, the Legislature changed the name to Harriston. The local citizens petitioned the Railroad Company and the Post Master General to retain the name Ayden, which they did and so the town was called Harriston and the depot and post office called Ayden. The name Harriston was revoked by the Legislature in 1896. However, 1895 was a memorable year in the development of Ayden because it could now boast of having 12 stores.



**Lewis T. Rightsell**  
**Ministered 1894-1897**

In July of 1895 a great sorrow befell both the church and the college when Mrs. L.T. (Willie) Rightsell, the very young wife of Prof. Rightsell, and a member of the



first faculty died. She was a great-granddaughter of Jesse Rountree (1765-1831), soldier of the American Revolution and head of a noted "first family" of North Carolina Disciples.

But then something good happened in July of 1895 when Dennis Wrighter Davis held a revival for the Ayden Disciples. The revival lasted for nine days and gained eight additional members. Rev. Davis reported: "We confess our utter surprise at the strength of the Ayden Church. In our judgment we have few churches in North Carolina stronger financially than this one. For State Missions the church pledges \$27." New members were baptized in a creek near Scuffleton.

The minutes of the Auxiliary reported a reorganization of C.W.B.M in 1896. The new officers were: President, Mrs. J.R. Tingle; Vice-President, Mrs. George Leggett; Treasurer, Mrs. Liddie Leggett; Secretary, Myrtie Moon (teacher and sister of the second principal of the school). The subject matter lectured and discussed was an appeal for the starving people of India.

In 1896 Albert Foster Moon became the second principal of the college and served in this capacity through 1898. He was born in Walton County, Georgia on January 15, 1859. He graduated from Emory College, Oxford, Georgia in 1884 then taught at Burritt College, Spencer, Tennessee.

Mrs. Blanche Coward related in an interview in October, 1985 that her father, Robert Caleb Cannon, moved his family from a farm near Rountree to a house he built on Second Street in Ayden so that his children could attend school in the Primary Department. Both her parents and grandparents were members at Rountree Christian Church. She also remembered that in the back yard of their home on Second Street there were stables to house the horses and buggy which was their mode of transportation. She stated that there was a very small school at Rountree which was open for only four months a year. She said she was eight years old when she moved to Ayden in 1896, and that she was a member of a children's organization

in the church called "Junior Builders" who raised money for the missions. At the age of nine she took piano lessons from Myrtie Moon at the college.

By 1897 the annual income for Carolina Christian College was \$864.11. The college had an enrollment of 129, 73 men and 56 women. 115 were from Ayden and Pitt County.

In 1897 another great sorrow befell the church, the school, and all Disciples in Eastern North Carolina by the death of J.L. Winfield, first minister of the Ayden Church.

In 1898 the Charter of the school was changed so that stock could be sold. Ayden Disciples bought most of it. The North Carolina Christian Missionary Convention participated with twenty shares.

W.G. Johnston, Disciple minister from Kinston, stated that: "North Carolina has sent out some splendid preaching talent in the past but sent it so far that not many return to take regular work in the state." This problem was thought to be remedied by enlisting J.R. Tingle on the faculty. He had prepared himself to head the bible course at Carolina Christian College by studying at the College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky in 1887-1888. He offered a two-year course of study, with two terms each year. Tingle said: "The Bible will be the textbook, but every student will need *Lands of the Bible*; Josephus' *Complete Works*; and a Bible dictionary." Tuition was free to his students in his course, and at half-rate for their other schoolwork. Board was \$7.00 per month. Seventy-five was passing grade.

Income received at Carolina Christian College in 1898 was \$775.00 and enrollment was 140.



**Curtis William Howard**  
**Ministered 1898, 1899, and 1902**

Curtis William Howard became the third minister of the Ayden Christian Church, serving in 1898, 1899, and 1902. He was born near Kinston on October 28,

1853. He attended his district school, then Kinston High School, Kinston Collegiate Institute, and Wilson College. It was in Wilson where he was taught by the famous Joseph Henry Foy. He was ordained to the Disciple ministry in 1874 and began to preach at the age of 21. For six years, beginning in 1876 he taught mathematics in the Kinston Collegiate Institute. He became a life member of the newly formed North Carolina Christian Missionary Society on April 27, 1877 and later became its corresponding secretary. He was asked to preach at the 1877 State Convention. He spoke of the great work which the Word of God performed in the salvation of man, and that all knowledge concerning our eternal salvation is obtained from the written Word. He married Nannie Dixon Cowherd in 1879. At the North Carolina Sunday School Convention held at Rountree in 1885 he was elected Vice-president. In 1893, when the college was born, he became a trustee of Carolina Christian College. He ministered to many churches in Eastern North Carolina but did not receive sufficient financial return from his ministries, and found it necessary to become a teacher and a farmer to supplement his income. He lived in Kinston when he served the Ayden church and commuted by horse and buggy every other Sunday (as did so many of the early preachers). Many times he lodged at the Cannon home on Second Street as well as other Disciple homes when he came to preach. All references to C.W. Howard were praiseworthy. He loved each church he served and was like a father to many congregations in their prosperity as well as adversity. A.E. Corey said of him; "He is one of the most helpful preachers, purest of soul and stalwart in the faith, that I have ever known. He is a man of God."

The third and final principal of Carolina Christian College was Asa J. Manning who filled this position from 1899 to 1903. He was born near Jamesville, North Carolina, December 9, 1869. He attended the small country schools of that day, the Vine Hill Male Academy at Scotland Neck, North Carolina, and spent a year in the Shenandoah Normal Collage in Reliance, Virginia. He began teaching in early life

church. The members are refined and cultured and they are blessed with this world's goods. The people of Ayden are justly proud of their educational advantages. In fact I saw but two bad things in Ayden--goats and bar-rooms. I hope the good people of Ayden will get rid of these two nuisances."

In 1900, twelve ministerial students were enrolled at the commencement in that year. Daniel Esten Motley (Ph.D. John Hopkins, 1899) who was the Disciple State Evangelist in North Carolina, gave the address at the commencement and proposed a large, competitive college be established. Already seeds for Atlantic Christian College were being sown.



**Dennis Wrighter Davis  
Ministered 1901 and 1903**

In 1901, Dennis Wrighter Davis became 'the fourth minister of Ayden Christian Church. He served in 1901 and 1903. He was born near Jamesville, North Carolina in

1861. He was baptized by Joseph Grey Gurganus in 1882 and in that same year entered a school at Catherine Lake. Later he attended Isaac L. Chestnutt's school at Farmville. For further training he entered the College of the Bible at Lexington, Kentucky. He married Miss Mary Cotton Johnson. He was no stranger to the Ayden Disciples, having conducted a revival service in Ayden 6 years earlier (1895). He was well known and effective as an evangelist throughout Eastern North Carolina, eventually baptizing thousands. Of interest to Eastern North Carolina Disciples was that he was editor of the "Watch Tower" while in Greenville in 1899. On October 18, 1900 he led the formal organization of Greenville Eighth Street Christian Church in the Dickerson Avenue home of Mr. and Mrs. Travis E. Hooker, seven years after Ayden Christian Church was organized.

The demise of Carolina Christian College began in 1899 as Disciples in Eastern North Carolina began to suggest and plan for establishing a great institution of higher learning equal to any in the state. The Disciples began to concentrate their resources at Wilson. On October 31, 1901 the North Carolina Christian Missionary Convention meeting in Kinston drafted a resolution to purchase the Kinsey Seminary in Wilson as the first step to establish this institution for the Christian Disciples. J.J. Harper, chairman of the executive board suggested the name, Atlantic Christian College. The deed for the college was procured on November 22, 1901. The college was incorporated on May 1, 1902, and the initial opening of Atlantic Christian College was held on September 3, 1902.

At the spring commencement of Carolina Christian College in 1902, the school had reached an enrollment of 160 students. Principal Manning said: "It was the best year in the history of the school." At the 1902 State Convention, the trustees presented their report on the school saying: "The school is now in a very prosperous condition and the outlook better than at any time in its history." Carolina Christian College ceased to exist in May of 1902 with much celebration and large community

gatherings. A tribute is directed to the following who served as teachers during its nine year history: Piano, Mollie Winfield; Voice, P.S. Swain; Bible, J.R. Tingle; Primary, L.T. Rightsell; Music and Art, Almeda Kennedy; Lady Principal and English, Mrs. A.F. Moon; French, Marie E. Hill; Music, Geography and History, Myrtie Moon; Latin, French, Bookkeeping, and Mathematics, Stencil Hodges; Piano and Voice, Maude Koonce; Primary, Mrs. Minnie Manning; English and Elocution, Lizzie Anderson; Primary and Latin, Ruth Dawson.

The Carolina Christian Property was sold in 1903 for \$500 upon a motion made by D.W. Davis, returning minister at Ayden Christian Church. Atlantic Christian College received \$140 and Ayden Christian Church received \$360.

Nowhere in the available literature can be found any criticism for establishing Atlantic Christian College and the closing of Carolina Christian College. It would seem that Ayden Disciples, the town of Ayden, and Ayden Christian Church would resent losing the school. If there was criticism, it was not printed, for the opposite occurred as Ayden Christian Church supported and continued to support Atlantic Christian College. It is believed that the college building was put to use as a public school.

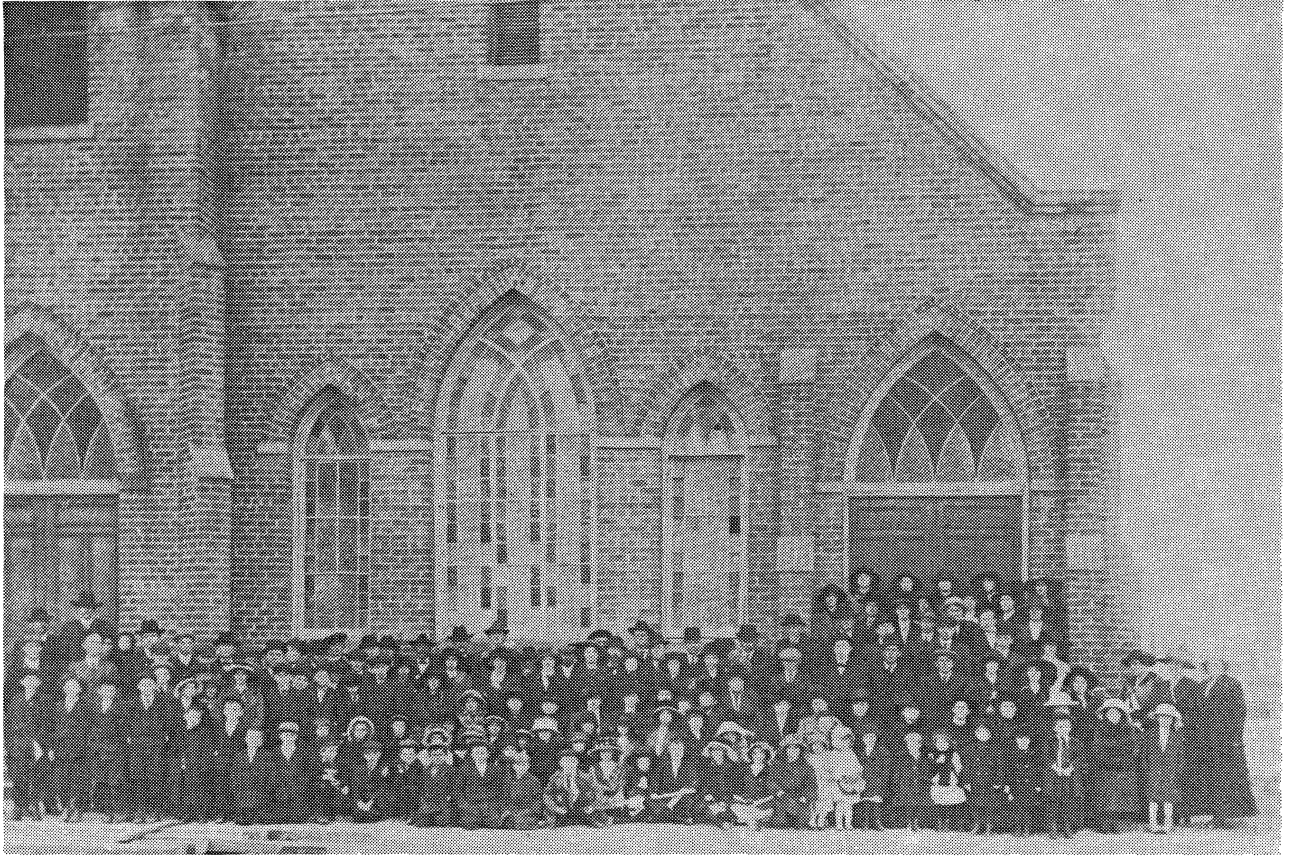


## CHAPTER IV

### THE CHURCH ALONE

"Send me then a skilled craftsman, one able to work in gold and silver, copper and iron, and in purple and crimson, and violet yarn, who is also an expert engraver...Send me also cedar, pine, and algum timber from Lebanon...for the house which I shall build will be great and wonderful."

2 Chronicles 2:7-10 (RSV)

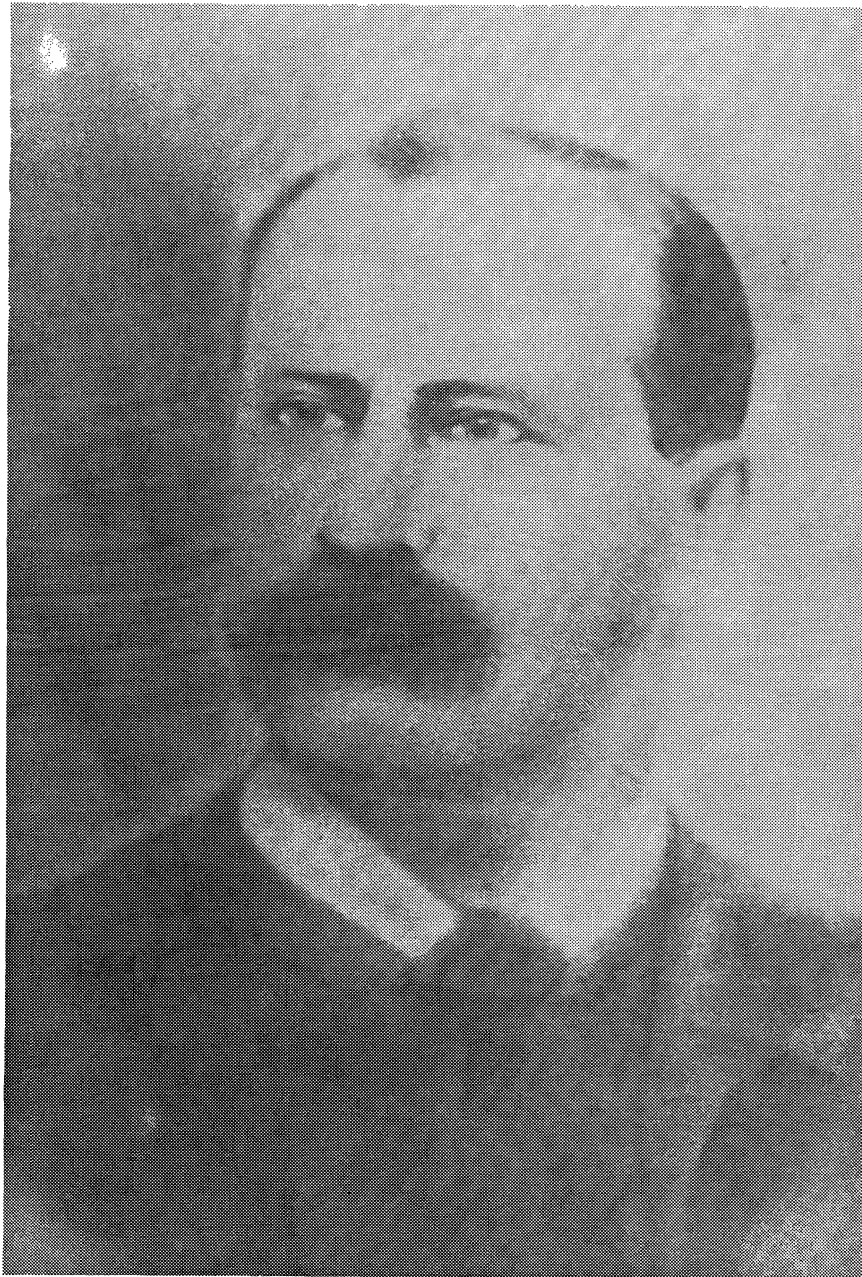


**First Church  
Erected 1904  
Dedicated April 7, 1907**

1903 was a pivotal year for the Ayden Church which became self-sufficient and independent of the school which had closed, and by virtue of this event, no longer influenced the church membership. The church moved to the upper room of S.A. Jenkins store, a frame building on West Avenue. T.G. Worthington remembered that the location of Jenkins store was on the site now occupied by the annex to the old Town Hall. This was indeed a temporary location for the membership was of a mind united to erect a church building. Plans were discussed and formulated without

delay. The auxiliary to the Christian Women's Board of Missions became very active, meeting monthly at the homes of the Gardners, Carmons, Holtons, Tingles, Cannons, Barwicks, Davis, Smiths, Hodges, Browns, and Cowards. Most of these large homes were located on Second Street from East Avenue to the edge of town. It is assumed that the minister, D.W. Davis, was involved in this activity for it was his nature to grow and to build. As the town continued to grow, becoming the second largest town in Pitt County and the first town to install electric lights in 1903, the church membership continued to prosper and direct its energies to building.

A news item about the Ayden Church appeared in the "Watch Tower" on April 15, 1904 stating: "Timber is being collected for the building of the Disciple Church here. Also the brick are expected to arrive every day with which to build this elegant structure." The first church building was erected on Second Street, a quiet street, unpaved, in an area not yet developed or very populated. The church property was first listed in the State Convention Minutes in 1904 in the amount of \$4000. Elegant structure was a good description of the building. So many of the church buildings in rural Eastern North Carolina were small wood frame structures. The Ayden Disciples were justly proud to erect a large building of brick. The brick used to build the original church building was made at a brickyard located back of the present Methodist Church on Third Street. There were three sets of double doors at the front of the building with two sets of three stained glass arched windows set between the doors. Inside, two wood stoves connected to chimneys, one on either side of the sanctuary about half way down was used for heat in the cold of winter and the windows opened to summer breezes augmented by hand-held fans.



**Samuel W. Sumrell**  
**Ministered 1904-1905**

The fifth minister to serve the church in that exciting time of 1904 was Samuel W. Sumrell who came to Ayden on alternating Sundays by horse and buggy, staying

at the homes of various members overnight. He was a native of Lenoir County. He was married to Eunice Haddock in 1878. In his early years he was an elder in his home congregation for many years and held communion services and conducted regular prayer meeting services every Sunday night. In this way he rendered faithful and valuable service to his home church at Bethel for many years and laid the foundation for more efficient work in the future. Later in life he decided to enlarge his usefulness and enter the active ministry. He realized the need of a better education and entered school laboring under many disadvantages to better prepare himself for his chosen work. He was ordained by J.J. Harper, J.L. Burns and J.R. Tingle at the Convention held in Hookerton, October, 1890. He at once began serving weak and destitute churches, supplementing his small salary by farming and other manual labor. He took part of the Bible Course that was given at the College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky from J.R. Tingle who also instructed him in preparation and delivery of sermons. He was strictly a Bible preacher. He was not an eloquent speaker but he always had a Bible message and the people heard him gladly. He was a preacher of unquestioned Christian character, honesty and morality. He practiced what he preached and lived as he taught others to live. His ministerial life was largely spent among the weak and destitute churches, building up old ones and organizing new ones in new fields almost without money and without price. He was a firm believer in the Bible and no one ever questioned his soundness of faith in the Divine authenticity of the Scriptures. The above was written by J.R. Tingle in a memoir of him. The above also describes what kind of man he was when he came to serve the Ayden Church in 1904 and 1905.

However, the Ayden Church was not destitute when he came. This is evidenced by the generous contributions given to the church by its members who, in the short period of three years, had paid off the entire debt incurred in building the church. The building was occupied for three years before it was dedicated, free of debt, on

April 7, 1907. C.W. Howard and D.W. Davis, past ministers of the Ayden Church did the preaching to the large assembly of Disciples present on this glorious occasion.

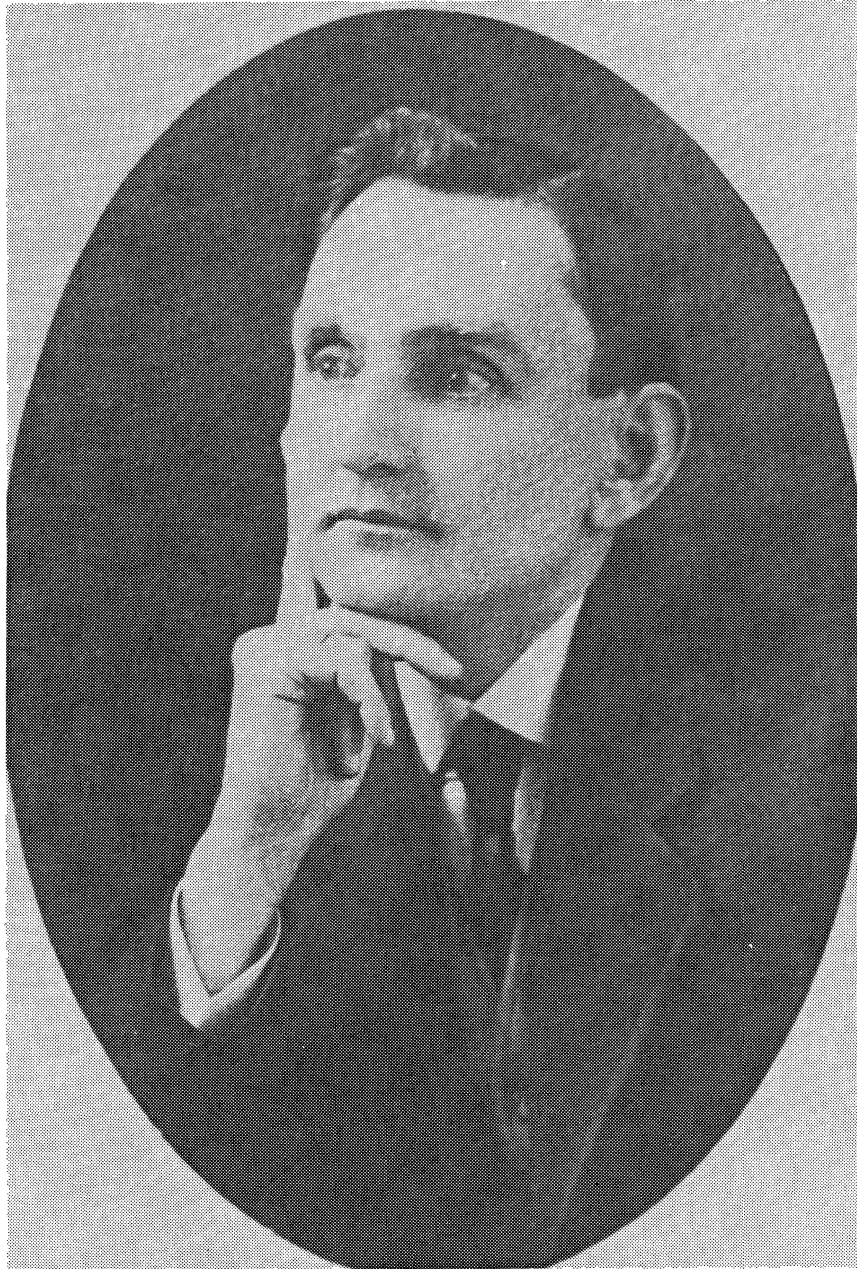
It seems appropriate at this time to record a letter written to the Ayden Christian Church on November 8, 1988. The following is a reprint of this letter exactly as it was written, unedited:

*"Hello to all members of the Ayden Christian Church. Just a few lines to our church, and about Eva Cannon. Eva is 99-1/2 plus, and held up real fair until she had a set back spell, and ended up with a stroke. She is now in the New Bern Hospital in room 4416. The stroke has taken her voice, and she does not know anyone up to now. If she can make it to February 22, 1989, she will be 100. We all hope she can make it, but she has a narrow chance so her doctor says. But long as breathe there is hope. About the starting of the Ayden Christian Church. I do not know much on this. But I did hear Eva say, our daddy, John Stanley Hart did help furnish some of the material that went into the church, and with all of his free labor, and Daddy and Mother always did help when ever anything came up, they would help. They had 10 children and everyone became a member. Although I was the last one to join out of the 10 children. I am glad I have join, and I always will be. It makes me feel so much better in every way. I go to the Fort Barnwell Missionary Baptist Church regular. Well, I am sending a check for \$50.00 which this will pay up my dues for 1988. I do wish all, the best, and God bless everyone and our Ayden Christian Church. Your's truly, Hugh C. Hart, Rt. 1, Box 146, Dover, N.C. 28526."*

In 1905 the C.W.B.M. experienced small attendance at their meetings in the winter months because of cold weather. They split their meetings at the church and

at their homes. Names mentioned in their minutes were: Sisters R.C. Cannon, Hodges, Carney, Cason, Barwick, Gardner, Jesse Cannon, J.R. Smith, Holton, Sudie Cannon, Bettie Cannon (Dixie Cannon's mother), E.A. Johnson, and Dawson.

The new splendid church building, in the beginning had no electricity. The sanctuary was lighted for night services with kerosene lamps. In the summer the windows were opened, allowing bugs to fly in to annoy the worshipers. Hand-held fans were provided to stir the hot air. In the very early days of the church, farm owners would not allow tenants to drive teams on Sunday because animals worked all week and needed the rest. Therefore, those who went to church, walked. On Sunday, children sat in the sanctuary for the church service as there was no Junior Church or any room to have it. Everyone wore Sunday clothes.



**Richard H. Jones**  
**Ministered 1905-1906**

The sixth minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was Richard H. Jones. He was born on November 8, 1873 in Beaufort County, North Carolina. He united



with the church in young manhood and soon afterward dedicated his life to the ministry. In the fall of 1900 he enrolled at the College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky. His first pastorate was at Blackstone, Virginia in 1903. He came to serve the Ayden Church late in 1905 and served to 1907 at a salary of \$600. He was a single man while in Ayden but eventually married Ellen Morain Jones of Norfolk, Virginia after his departure from Ayden. The minutes of C.W.B.M record that he was active and supportive of that organization. Not much else is known of his activity, accomplishments, or effectiveness when he served the Ayden Church except to say that a later description of his manner stated: "Both he and his wife devoted their lives to the work of the church which they both loved."

It was in 1907, when J.H.S. Hodges, treasurer of Ayden, R.C. Cannon who was on the street commission, and C.G. Moore was Chief of Police (all Disciples) that the first street lights were erected. Then the Town Board passed an ordinance to erect suitable fences around the town to keep the stock from running at large, and to place gates at every road leading into town. In 1908 J.F. Barwick became mayor, Stencil Hodges, J.H. Tripp, George Worthington and R.W. Smith became commissioners of the Town of Ayden (all Disciples). An election was held and the voters passed an ordinance to prohibit the sale of liquor.



**Clement Manly Morton**  
**Ministered 1908-1910**

The seventh minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was Clement Manly Morton, serving in 1908 through 1910. He was born on a farm in Eastern North

Carolina in 1885, twenty years after the Civil War. His father died during the depression in the 1890's when C. Manly Morton was seven years old, leaving his mother with six children, a small farm and a huge mortgage. Cotton was selling for three and four cents per pound, eggs for five cents per dozen, and corn for twenty cents per bushel. Food consisted of what could be produced on the farm: collards, turnips, sweet potatoes, beans, peas, and corn bread. If lucky, they had "flour bread" once a week with molasses and ham gravy. The food his mother provided was always simple and they never went "very" hungry. They lived in an old farm house that stood on stilts. It had no ceiling or subflooring. The only heat came from a fireplace in the living room. On cold nights the wind would whistle through cracks in the floor and weather boarding. In winter, the only way to keep warm was to go to bed immediately after supper. His mother was a religious woman who never raised her voice in anger and endured hardships without complaint. They went to a Free Will Baptist Church every Sunday where his mother's brother was the preacher. When a teenager the family moved to Wilson, North Carolina. One of C. Manly Morton's neighbors was the superintendent of the Christian Church Sunday School, a most dedicated Christian man who operated a grocery store. On the second day of moving, this man invited him to go to Sunday School which was the beginning of his attendance at a Christian Church. Here he was eventually baptized. Of baptism Morton said: "Baptism has always meant much to me--the death of the old person, the birth of the new. That is why immersion representing burial, and coming up out of the water representing resurrection, satisfied something within me which sprinkling or pouring could never do." An insight into what kind of person C. Manly Morton was comes from a passage written in his book, *Somewhere a Voice is Calling*:

*"God never meant for man to be content or satisfied with himself. But rather he meant him to be always struggling, always reaching out, always questioning, always crying Lord, lift me up, give me a greater faith, a more pressing challenge, a firmer determination, a more unfaltering courage, an unsatisfied hunger to know Thee better and to serve Thee more fully."*

Nearing his 18th birthday he was among the very first to matriculate to Atlantic Christian College upon its opening on September 3, 1902 with all of only \$7.00 and no idea where another penny was coming from. He swept floors at the college to earn tuition. As a student he preached in three rural churches, one of which paid \$10 per month and the other two \$8. He was the first male student to graduate from Atlantic Christian College. It was when he was a student there that he came to preach in Ayden. Blanche Coward, in an interview, remembered him well and was impressed with his ability, intelligence, knowledge and dedication for it was at her parents home (R.C. Cannon) that he stayed the night many, many times when he came to Ayden to preach. The Cannon family thought well enough of him to have him perform the marriage ceremony of Blanche Coward to John H. Coward in 1910. He was an excellent student and author. While at Atlantic Christian College he became office editor of the "Carolina Christian." He founded "The Radiant" a literary magazine. He founded and edited "The Pineknot" the college annual. He won gold medals for both poetry and short stories.

C. Manly Morton eventually went on to other educational institutions earning degrees, then he began serving as a missionary in Argentina, Paraguay, and Porto Rico, because it was missionary service that was his main interest in life. He was the first Disciple foreign missionary from Wilson, North Carolina. Later on in his book he wrote: "The churches I served as a student at Atlantic Christian College deserve a

lot of credit. They took me green and inexperienced and through patience and love made a preacher out of me. These churches--Grimesland, Mount Pleasant, Airy Grove, Ayden and Farmville deserve a lot of credit."

C. Manly Morton was the corresponding Secretary of the North Carolina Christian Missionary Convention while serving the Ayden church in 1909 and 1910. By 1910 the Ayden population had grown to 990 people.

Robert W. Smith (Bob) was a very active leader in the Church. R.W. Smith and J.R. Smith were brothers. R.W. was the father of Eugene and Kirby, both to become ardent members later on, and J.R. was the father of Mae who married P.R. Taylor, both, also becoming ardent members later on. R.W. and J.R. were in business together, operating a general merchandise store located in the building that was later occupied by the P.R. Taylor store on East Second Street. J.R. was married. R.W. was not so he slept in the store at night to be available to a customer anytime, day or night. But the love bug interfered with this arrangement when R.W. got married. J.R. expected the arrangement to continue but R.W. said: "What are we going to do? I can't sleep here anymore," and he went with his bride.

R.W. (Bob) Smith was a very loyal member in the Ayden Church. He was a respected and gifted teacher of the Loyal Men's Class many, many times. He was involved in the business of the Church and all its functions. He was a religious man, being called upon to give the prayer in his Sunday School Class as well as other meetings. He preached at other churches, one of them being Red Oak. Jessie Griffin remembered going with him as a child by horse and buggy and being told by him on the way, what to say when they got there.

R.W. Smith was more than a church leader, had more than business sense and ability to succeed, he also had wit and a sense of humor, and a gift to make others laugh. Evidence of his ability appeared in an article he wrote for "The Ayden

Dispatch," March 21, 1929. Because of its content it seems more appropriate to be re-printed now:

*The First Auto That Ever Came To Ayden, (By R.W. Smith)*

*It was in the afternoon of a hot midsummer day, we had just returned from a big Camp meeting conducted by Rev. J.B. Kendell, had eaten dinner and preparing for a snooze, when our attention was attracted by a very peculiar sound, with a repounding echo, coming from the direction of Kinston. We noticed in the wake a long train of dust rising like the aftermath of a departing locomotive. Soon the streets were filled with children while eager heads were peering from windows and doors. We saw in the distance the approaching busts of two ancient pilgrims, sitting in midair, on what reminded us of the "Democrat" in which Josiah Allen and Samantha made the wonderful trip to Saratoga. This curio encompassed the principle part of the city for several times, and carried with it a noise resembling an old grain Separator and Thresher combined. We were at a loss to know why the thing did not halt, and announce its mission. It would slow down at corners and emit a shriek, from a horn much out of proportion, which would cut down the speed of the engine. Chickens, hogs, and cows and other animals took to the back yards and woods, while all the horses tied around the tent broke loose and staged a free for all race through the street. The chauffeur had overlooked taking along his pliers to cut off the steam, so had to let her run until the gas tank was empty, and then we all closed in on the wonder;*

*Of course, we were all surprised to find that it was our friend and neighbor John E. Hart of Kinston, bringing over his new acquisition to demonstrate to his friends how his social standing was in Kinston, of course after a long trip of this distance, it was necessary to look it over before returning. It was taken into a tobacco warehouse and the boys were so eager to get a glimpse the doors were closed to enable the driver to do his work, the throng was so curiosity struck that they pressed so hard against a window it gave way and fell in. Mr. Hart left it over for several days to rest, and returned to Kinston on the train. While it was in storage a neat little sum was realized on it by charging the boys ten cents to look it over and get behind the wheel.*

Autos were rare. As late as February 4, 1913, the town board ordered the purchase of a horse and cart for the general use of the town.

In 1911 the Town Board presented a bond issue to erect and equip a public school. The issue passed on a vote of 84 for and 59 against. However, it was not until 1914 that the first graded school building was completed. Kirby Smith recalled that the college building was used as a public school until the town school was erected.



**Cleophas Bowen Mashburn  
Ministered 1911-1912**

The eighth minister to serve the Ayden Church was Cleophas Bowen Mashburn, serving in 1911 and 1912. He was born on January 15, 1884, a native of



Catherine Lake, Onslow County, North Carolina. He began his ministerial training at Johnson Bible College in 1903-04. He married Annie L. Bateman of Plymouth, North Carolina on October 24, 1906. He then continued his education by attending Atlantic Christian College in 1908-11, and while in college he preached in country churches. He began his ministry in January, 1907, became ordained February 22, 1907. On a part-time basis he served the Rountree Church in 1908-10 and Wendell in 1910, one year before coming to Ayden. He served the Ayden Church at the same time he served the Farmville Church, splitting the duty every other Sunday. Then in 1913 he began full time service at Farmville for a salary of \$600. C.B. Mashburn's preaching was simple, Biblical and effective. It was said of him that he concentrated on the noblest service entrusted to man. Just two years after departing the Ayden Church he became editor of the "Watch Tower."

The Ayden Christian Church had established a position of acclaim by being selected to host the North Carolina Christian Missionary Convention for the second time in 1911.



**John H. LeGrand**  
**Ministered 1912-1914**

The ninth minister to serve Ayden Christian Church was John H. LeGrand. He was born on February 23, 1886. According to his personal records he began his

ministry in Spray, North Carolina on December 1, 1910, terminating December 1, 1911. His personal record reveals he began serving the Ayden Church on December 1, 1911, terminating October 1, 1913. However, the Ayden Christian Church Membership Rollbook has recorded his time of service was 1912-14, terminating May 22, 1914, probably the more accurate accounting of his service time. His main interest in life was evangelistic service which he began soon after departing Ayden. An article appearing in "The Christian-Evangelist" on February 7, 1924 described his dedication to evangelism as follows:

*"Brother LeGrand emphasizes stewardship and world-wide missions in all his evangelistic meetings. He teaches tithing and, in his meetings, commits both old and new members to this responsibility. He preaches not only a strong gospel of repentance but also a gospel of stewardship. He has the missionary passion and seeks to help the local church to realize greater missionary vision and service. Few men can win other men more effectively. He has especially trained himself for the winning of professional and business men."*

In August, 1914, all light and phone poles were moved out from the middle of the street. R.C. Cannon and Mr. Tyson had a large general store at the South East corner of Second Street and East Avenue (later the Free Will Baptist Press which was eventually demolished). R.C. Cannon bought out Mr. Tyson and went into partnership with his sons, C.V. Cannon and A.R. Cannon, and with John Coward (who had married his daughter, Blanche) all members of the Christian Church.

Dr. Joseph Dixon, the first resident doctor in Ayden, had his office on East Avenue, located alongside the Tripp garage, just a short distance away from the R.C. Cannon store. Dr. Dixon had a son named Bully (Jake). Bully would come to Dr. Dixon's office every afternoon and both would walk over to the Cannon store to buy

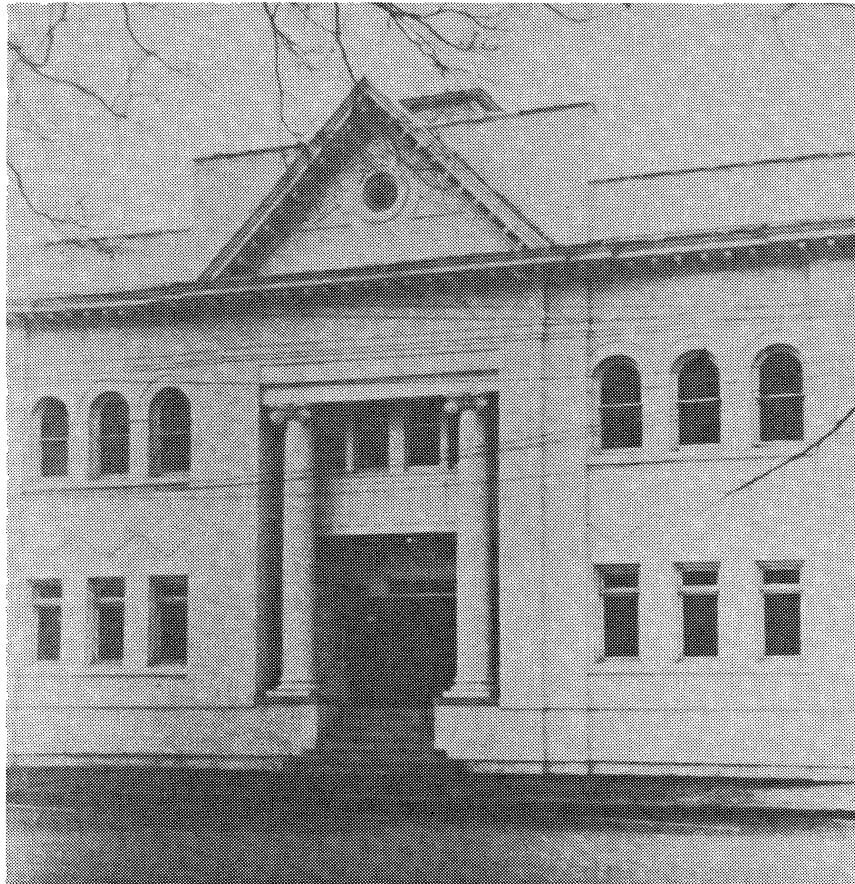
five sticks of candy. One day Emmerson Worthington was walking along with Bully to the store with Dr. Dixon who bought the candy. Coming out of the store, Bully pulled out a stick of candy. Dr. Dixon said: "Bully, give your friend some candy." Bully said: "I don't have no friends."



**Samuel Boone Waggoner**  
**Ministered May 22, 1914 to February 1916**

The tenth minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was Samuel Boone Waggoner. He began his ministry in Ayden on May 22, 1914 and departed in

February, 1916. Sam B. Waggoner was born at Booneville, Tennessee on February 11, 1879. He graduated from the College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky in 1908. He married Ora Lee Phelps on June 22, 1908 at Booneville, Tennessee. His first pastorate was at Athens, Texas where their only child, Virginia Lou, was born. Before coming to Ayden he served churches at Spartansburg, Indiana, Worthington, Indiana, and Lexington, Kentucky.



**First Church after addition  
of 6 Classrooms to Front, 1915**

There was much enthusiasm and prosperity in the church in 1915. The Ayden Church membership had grown considerably by this time with need for additional

space to provide for the large attendance in Sunday School. It was while Sam B. Waggoner served the Church that six Church School rooms and a balcony were added to the front of the church building. The balcony was used for over-flow crowds and would fill up for some of the services. A real sense of pride and achievement was celebrated by the membership, for not only was the building addition accomplished, the pledged money was also collected to pay for it in its entirety. The addition was built with private donations. The growth and prosperity of the Ayden Christian Church becomes more evident by reading two articles that appeared in "The Christian Standard," November, 1915. A reprint of these articles follow:

*Meeting at Ayden, N.C.*

*FROM THE MINISTER*

*"Evangelist Percy G. Cross just closed a great meeting at Ayden in which sixty were added to the church. We consider him among the front rank of evangelists in his ability as preacher, song leader, personal worker and dedicator. He is strong, forceful and eloquent, and draws great crowds. No man could show more diligence in his work. When he came to us the church was in debt and badly in doubt as to its ability to get out, but near dedication time Bro. Cross began to work his plans, and on the day of dedication raised in cash and pledges several hundred more than the indebtedness. At the end the meeting fund showed a good balance. Bro. Cross and I were classmates and friends at old K.U. We know each other better now, and have rejoiced in our labors together for the Lord. From here he goes to Kinston, N.C., for the second meeting this year. B.P. Smith believes in his ability and so does this scribe."*

*Sam B. Waggoner, Minister  
Ayden, N.C.*

FROM THE EVANGELIST

*"We just closed a meeting of sixty additions (fifty-eight clear gain) at Ayden, N.C.--Sam B. Waggoner, minister. Ayden has a population of twelve hundred--nine hundred whites. There are five religious bodies with houses of worship in Ayden. The national headquarters of the Freewill Baptist Church is located there; there they have their only theological school. That body known as Christians only has an organization of 355 members--almost half the white population! The scholastic population is 250. We have slightly over 50 per cent of this population in the church and Bible school. During the meeting the Bible school ran over two hundred easily. Seventy-five per cent of the business men of Ayden are Christians only. The church of Christ alone has full-time preaching. That Bro. Waggoner has done this well, needs no proof save this meeting and the remodeled house; \$4,500 has been put into this, making the old brick building into a modern church plant. The brethren are now talking another addition for more Sunday-school rooms, "gym" and natatorium. The Ayden Church of Christ stands for New Testament Christianity in principle and practice. All new-fangled schemes are tabooed. This is the doctrinal revival. The elders and deacons are level-headed business men, and mean business for the Lord."*

*Percy G. Cross*

Apparently Mr. Cross did not question which denomination he was preaching to when he created a misnomer in writing "Church of Christ" rather than "Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)" which it was and continues to be. This was a small unintentional error that did not detract from his effectiveness as an evangelist. He



revealed interesting facts: In twenty-two years the membership of the Ayden Christian Church had increased eleven times, from 32 to 355. The Town of Ayden had only increased four times, from 300 to 1200. The Ayden Christian Church had 40% of the white population while four other churches divided the remaining 60%. The growth and prosperity was indeed commendable; sixty additional members, two hundred attending Sunday School, a \$4,500 addition debt free, a full-time minister. Truly phenomenal!

The earliest recorded general board meeting found was dated November 16, 1915 at which time J.H.S. Hodges was chairman and Robert Worthington was secretary. Motion carried to reimburse bro. Waggoner \$7.50 he paid in advance for the union meeting. The board directed bro. Hodges and bro. Waggoner to collect the pledges made to pay off the church indebtedness, and further directed the Deacons to solicit new pledges to be used at the discretion of the Deacons. In February of 1916 the board accepted the resignation of D.G. Berry as financial secretary and appointed A.R. Cannon to this position. As late as March 16, 1916 sister Waggoner presented her report on collections. The board moved to pay \$100 to pay off his salary, then appointed Robert Worthington, secretary and C.V. Cannon to draft a resolution to brother and sister Waggoner giving "a vote of thanks for the services rendered during their stay with us."



**Fred B. Powell**  
**Ministered May 15, 1916 to April 1918**

The eleventh minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was Fred B. Powell. He began his ministry in Ayden on May 15, 1916, departing in April of 1918. He was

servicing a church in Elk City, Oklahoma before coming to Ayden. Fred B. Powell's main interest in Christian service was evangelism. For seven years he prepared himself for this endeavor while servicing a number of churches. An article appeared in the "Christian Standard" on January 20, 1915 that contained several testimonies as to his ability as an evangelist. C.E. Cobbey, president of N.C.M.S., in a personal letter, says: "I will be glad to recommend you to Nebraska churches desiring meetings." E.P. Wilson, professor of history in Chadron State Normal, writes: "Bro. Powell is well grounded in the Word, and preaches the whole gospel in a spirit of love. His preaching is plain, forceful, eloquent. He teaches well from the pulpit, laying much stress upon the essentials of salvation." F.A. Woten, minister at Scotts Bluff, Nebraska writes: "I know Bro. Powell personally. He is not a splendid speaker, but his message rings true to the gospel. He is a fine man, as well as preacher, and a natural-born evangelist, yet has spent enough time in ministerial work so that he is very considerate of the position a minister occupies on the field in relation to his people. I very heartily commend him to churches of Christ everywhere."

At a Board meeting on August 3, 1916, F.B. Powell gave a report evaluating the "working condition" of the church and Sunday School. The report was very favorable and encouraging, indicating that progress was continuing. The Board at this meeting gave Bro. Powell a vacation (more likely a leave of absence) to preach with Bro. Tingle in one of his churches. As late as 1916 the church building was not being heated satisfactorily as a committee of three (J.R. Smith, C.V. Cannon, E.L. Brown) was appointed to "take in hand" the matter of heating the church.



**John Fleming Atkins**  
**Ministered July 1918 to Fall 1920**

The twelfth minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was John Fleming Atkins, serving from July, 1918 until the fall of 1920 at a salary of \$2000. The Ayden

Church Membership Rollbook lists a beginning date as of October 1, 1918, however, his son, Rev. John O. Atkins insists that the July date is correct. John F. Atkins was born on April 19, 1889 near Newport, Virginia. He was the only one of ten children to continue his education through High School. He enrolled in Virginia Christian College (Lynchburg College) in 1908 and received his B.A. degree in June, 1912. His first sermon was preached at Fairview Heights, Lynchburg, Virginia in the fall of 1910. During the college years, he preached at Sandy Bottom, Virginia and at the YMCA at Gladstone, Virginia. Following graduation and until the fall of 1913, he preached at South Hill, Oakland, Union Chapel and Gasburg, Virginia and also served as assistant Principal of South Hill High School. From 1913 to 1915 he attended the University of Michigan and received the M.A. degree. During the winters at Ann Arbor, Michigan, he served as Assistant Pastor of First Christian Church and in the summers of 1914 through 1918, he was pastor of the Christian Church at Chatham, Virginia and a number of rural churches in the surrounding county. With this background he came to the Ayden Christian Church. During his stay he was not married as this did not occur until June 30, 1921.

At the General Board meeting on November 11, 1918 it was recorded that preliminary remarks were made by Bro. Atkins for the best interest of the church. At this meeting a budget of \$2500 was adopted with instruction to itemize the budget and place it on the bulletin board. A motion carried to have an "inspirational" meeting beginning the first Sunday in December and continue through the week.

Two December meetings were concerned with paying of bills and soliciting members for overdue pledges. Then a committee of three, J.F. Atkins, chairman, Mrs. Hodges and Miss Nichols were appointed to proceed with selecting an organ for the church.

It was about this time that Mae Eure and Blanche Coward played the pump organ which was arranged on one side of the church and the piano on the other side. This was before the electric organ came into being.

It cannot be said that everything went smoothly all the time. To substantiate this point, Jesse Griffin related an incident which involved her own mother, Minnie Sumrell. She (Minnie Sumrell) along with Olivia Berry, Mamie Barwick, and Eva Turnage frequently sat on the porch in the summertime, drinking tea and playing the card game "Rook." One afternoon Mr. Atkins came by and stopped to say: "There were better things for them to do than to waste their time playing cards." Olivia Berry replied: "It was better than running around tending other peoples business." The incident did not end then because when Sunday came they all went to church, Minnie Sumrell sitting on one side of the church and Olivia Berry on the other side. Sure enough, Mr. Atkins brought the matter up from the pulpit saying: "It was his misfortune to run into ladies of the church playing with the Devil's cards," but he did not mention names. Both Minnie and Olivia began to giggle from opposite sides of the church which irritated Mr. Atkins who then advised they were disrupting the church service. By now everyone knew who the participants were and since the ladies could not contain themselves they walked out of the church.

John F. Atkins was indeed a very serious student of the Bible, totally dedicated to Christian service which he would eventually prove by his dedication and accomplishments many years later. But, in those days a card game was a sinful activity to him and to many like him, even though it seemed harmless to the ladies. This incident did not hinder J.F. Atkins from proving his worth to the Ayden Christian Church for in April, 1919 he baptized twenty-two men and women into membership. Then on August 3, 1919 a revival meeting was held and the following were added to the church membership:

Bro. J.F. Brown  
 Bro. B.F. Nunn  
 Mrs. W.W. Saulsbury  
 Miss Estelle Collins  
 Miss Mollie Nunn  
 Miss Jesse May Sumrell  
 Theretha Manning  
 Mrs. Sue Brown  
 Miss Josephine Bassinger  
 Miss McLawhorn (D. Alfred)  
 Miss Melba Nunn  
 Bro. A.L. Jackson  
 Bro. E.A. Lancaster  
 Bro. R.C. Coward  
 Bro. W.W. Salsbury  
 Bro. J.J. Anderson  
 Sister Ethel Tiesler

Mrs. R.C. Coward  
 Miss Eugenia Nichols  
 Mrs. J. Dixie Cannon  
 Reno Jenkins  
 Sister Martin  
 Bro. Burgess  
 Annie Lee Sumrell  
 Sister Simore  
 Sister Baker  
 Sister A.L. Jackson  
 Sister D. Lancaster  
 Sister W.L. House  
 Bro. Fred Darden  
 Novella McLawhorn  
 Sister Guy H. Sumrell  
 Sister L. Brown  
 Sister Marie Morris

The following is a re-print of the church budget and message sent to the entire membership:

THE ANNUAL UNITED BUDGET  
 of Ayden Christian Church  
 (Nov. 1, 1919 to Nov. 1, 1920)

Sunday afternoon, Nov. 23rd, two to five o'clock, rain or shine, forty men will call personally on every member of the Church. Please be at home during these hours.

FOR OURSELVES, \$3,235.72

Divided as follows:

Union Meeting	\$ 25.00
Insurance	100.00
Coal	50.00
Janitor	100.00
Lights	26.00
Repairs	300.00
Revival Meeting	300.00
Advertising	100.00
Miscellaneous	224.72
Pastor's Salary	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total	\$3,235.72

FOR OTHERS, \$840.63

Divided as follows:

Foreign Missions	\$ 52.50
American Missions	87.50
Woman's Board of Missions	150.00
Orphans and Old People	100.00
Church Extension	15.00
Ministerial Relief	25.00
Temperance Board	3.13
Christisn Unity	2.50
A.C. College	300.00
State Missions	<u>105.00</u>
Total	\$840.63

My Dear Friend and Co-Worker:

My last personal word for you this year through the pastoral letter, will be, in part, a repetition of the message before the last "Every Member Canvass." I want to give it to you with all the earnestness and brotherly interest of which I am capable. It has been another good year for us--a happy, prosperous year. To you largely belongs the credit.

The interest has become constant and deep. The attendance at both Bible School and Church worship has grown large and regular. The additions to the Church for the year number nearly 100, mostly by baptism. This record, perhaps, reaches or exceeds that of any previous year in the history of the Church. The financial year certainly breaks all previous records for regular offerings through the envelopes.

But what a great year for us the next will be! With the soldiers and sailors nearly all back; inspired by the memory of those who can never return to us save in spirit, with the great growth of interest in all high and noble and truly spiritual things the war experiences have developed in every one of our group, what zeal for righteousness, what strength for work, what seriousness of purpose and clearness of vision concerning the world's needs we shall bring to our common task together for the great work of the year just ahead. It is a splendid time in which to live and work. There was never so much life to live, or so much work to do, as the years just before us will bring.

I thank God every day for you, for sending me your way, for giving me the finest opportunities and, I trust, one of the most rewarding fields in the world. If I have been able to help you just a little, it has been because you have been responsive to an appeal that has power in it even when poorly presented.

The splendid response that has come, and the cordial and sympathetic way in which my efforts have been received by the Church, give me courage and confidence that the future has good things in store for us, so long as we are faithful to our trust.

As your leader and lover, (those of you who know me will indulge me in the use of this term), permit me to express my personal appreciation for your splendid cooperation. I sincerely hope that you are larger, better and stronger than when I came to you. Your friend trusts he has grown along with you.

I am hoping that you may do greater things than ever next Lord's Day when the canvassers call on you. With assurance of my real affection,

Your Pastor and Friend,  
John F. Atkins

Please make every effort to be present Sunday.



Once again J.F. Atkins revealed his worth, his eloquence, his commitment to God, his desire to create devout Christians in the Ayden Church, but at the same time he admitted that his success could not have been attained without the effort of practicing Christians already present within the membership.

The Loyal Men's Class was for many years the leading force in the Church. The earliest preserved minutes of the class, retained in the archives, was dated September 14, 1919. These minutes were brief, without detailed explanation, but they did record the various activities as they occurred. A format of conduct for the class on Sunday morning remained the same through the years: 1. Call to order, 2. Sing a song, 3. Prayer, 4. Minutes, 5. Business, 6. Lesson. Every six months there was an election of officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Teacher. Many class members had an opportunity to serve and share responsibility of an office. It was a common practice on Sunday morning for the president to appoint a committee of at least three men to do any number of things, as nothing was ever done without a committee to see to it, then do it. The activities of the class were varied and seemingly constant as the men were busy. A committee would be appointed to arrange for a fish or oyster stew, arrange for a class supper or picnic, organize a ball team, arrange for a fishing trip, draw up resolutions of respect for families of the deceased, serve on the nominating committee, investigate the need of a needy person or family, send flowers, solicit money for special need, work on a project, and much, much more. Most of the time the class was taught by the current minister, however, there were men in the class who were very qualified to teach such as C.V. Cannon, Dr. Sumrell, T.G. Worthington, and especially R.W. Smith. Frequently the president of Atlantic Christian College would come to visit and teach the class such as Bro. Hilley. C.C. Ware was a frequent visitor and teacher. Once in a while the men's class would meet with the women's class taught by Mrs. S.A. Jenkins. In September, 1919, Bro. Atkins was the teacher most of the time,

assisted by R.W. Smith. C.V. Cannon was President, P .R. Taylor was treasurer, and T.G. Worthington was Secretary. From 1920 through 1933 the average attendance was 28 and the average collection was \$2.92. This varied widely depending on the time of year and activity engaged in. For example, the average attendance in 1920 was 18, collection \$1.34, but in 1921 the average attendance was 46, collection \$5.69. Forty-six men in a Sunday school class was remarkable.

Popular in 1920 was a debate rather than a lecture. A typical debate was on held on April 18, 1920: "Resolved that a business man of today cannot go with Jesus in the application of His principals laid down in Matthew 5:17-48 and succeed in business."

Affirmative

J.H. Coward

W. Barden

A.L. Jackson

Negative

C.V. Cannon

G.L. Hartsell

G.F. Cooper

It is also interesting to know that the class supported Johnson Bible College by sending a contribution of \$10.00 on June 6, 1920.

With the departure of Bro. Atkins in the fall of 1920, the class enjoyed being taught one Sunday by C.C. Ware, State Secretary from Wilson, North Carolina and for ten consecutive Sundays by Bro. Rightsell, past Principal of Carolina Christian College, and second minister of Ayden Christian Church. It is assumed this was his (Bro. Rightsell) last visit to Ayden.

The population of the Town of Ayden had climbed to 1673 in 1920. The citizens decided they did not care to live in a mud-hole any longer so a bond of \$225,000 was voted and 75,000 square yards of paved streets and 25,000 square yards of sidewalks was the result by 1922. The Town then had more paving per capita than any other town in the state.

During the 1920's there was scarcely a town in North Carolina which was more dynamic in its growth than was Ayden. The municipality embarked upon an

ambitious program of municipal improvements including a water distribution system. The leaders of Ayden formed the world's first tobacco warehouse cooperative, and in the 1920's Ayden was one of the leading tobacco markets in North Carolina. The town had a tone of strong agricultural, municipal, and civic progressiveness.



**William Jackson Shelburne  
Ministered February 1921 to February 1922**

The thirteenth minister to serve the Ayden Church was William Jackson Shelburne, serving from February, 1921 to February, 1922 at a salary of \$2760. W.J.

Shelburne was born on July 4, 1874, unfortunate that he was obliged to celebrate two holidays on the same day, yet fortunate that he would always have a free day on his birthday. He was married on June 12, 1907, fourteen years before he came to Ayden. He began his ministerial service on June 1, 1896, preaching for country churches and teaching at Milligan College. He continued his education earning a "Classical Course" Diploma from the College of the Bible, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky in 1900. He used his summer vacation by serving as an Evangelist. Before coming to Ayden he served as pastor in Rockwood, Tennessee, Union City, Tennessee, Tullahoma, Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee, Norwood, Ohio, and Shelbyville, Tennessee. He served as state secretary in Richmond, Virginia from June 1900 to December 1901 and as an evangelist in Nashville, Tennessee from November 1906 to March 1907. The last church he served before coming to Ayden was in Shelbyville, Tennessee. What the congregation thought of him then is described in a re-print of an article appearing in "The Christian Evangelist" dated March 10, 1921 which follows:

*FAREWELL MEETING TO PASTOR--The congregation of First Church, Shelbyville, Tennessee, filled the large auditorium and Sunday school room on the evening of January 23rd to bid a fitting good bye to W.J. Shelburne who was leaving for the pastorate at Ayden, North Carolina. Other pastors of the city were present to testify to their love and esteem along with the members of the church. Prof. James A. Tate presided and a number of those present spoke. The local paper says: "It can be truly said that no minister ever left Shelbyville with more spontaneous and universal expressions of regret than were those for Elder W. J. Shelburne's departure for another field of usefulness."*

W.J. Shelburne began his pastorate and his teaching of the Loyal Men's Class (continuing the tradition) in February, 1921. Preaching and teaching in the month of January, 1921 was Bro. Rightsell. On January 30, 1921 the Loyal Men's Class gave Bro. Rightsell a gift of \$10.00 "in appreciation of service to the class."

A traditional function of the Loyal Men's Class was their Resolutions of Respect. These letters were composed with humble and respectful hearts, by an appointed committee, and usually composed of different members of the class. An example of the content can be found in a resolution that was read at a memorial service held on May 29, 1921, followed by eulogies from C.V. Cannon, J.L. Jenkins, G.L. Hartsell, Mr. Cox, and R.W. Smith:

### **RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT**

*Whereas, God in His great wisdom, hath seen fit to remove from our midst our highly esteemed and worthy class-mate, Mr. Lee Stokes, who came to an untimely death by drowning in Neuse river on May 15, 1921.*

*Therefore, Be it Resolved, First, that we as a class mourn the loss of a young man who was just entering upon the great arena of a life of usefulness and honor, for Lee was a splendid young man of noble traits, unselfish in his dealings and very attentive in filling his place in the class, but we bow in humble submission to the Master, who has called him over the river to rest under the shade of the trees.*

*Second: Our greatest sympathy goes out to the heart-stricken mother, father, brothers and his numerous friends and relatives, in this very*

*trying ordeal of the most poignant grief and anguish for one that was so dearly beloved. May the God of all mercies heal their wounded, broken spirits, and give to them the comfort and consolation that none other can bestow.*

*Third: We ask that a copy of these resolutions be printed in the Ayden Dispatch, a copy filed on the minutes of the Loyal Men's Class of the Ayden Christian Church, and a copy sent to the bereaved family.*

*Harry S. Gurganus  
Thelbert Worthington  
J.S. Holton  
Committee*

W.J. Shelburne continued his pastorate at the Ayden Church. In June, 1921, the State Church Service recognized his ability by sending him to hold a meeting in Durham where he organized twenty-five volunteers to form a nucleus for a church there. The meeting was successful as the goal was achieved, and Bro. Shelburne returned to Ayden.

On July 2, 1921, the Loyal Men's Class elected the following officers by acclamation:

E.E. Settle, President  
A.R. Cannon, 1st Vice-President  
P.R. Taylor, 2nd Vice-President  
J.D. McLawhorn, Secretary  
J.H. Tripp, Assistant Secretary  
R.O. Coward, Treasurer  
J.F. Cooper, Booster  
R.W. Smith, Reporter  
W.J. Shelburne, Teacher  
C.V. Cannon, Assistant Teacher

Resolution Committee:  
R.W. Smith  
J.H. Coward  
B.G. Taylor

Sick Committee:  
H.M. Stokes  
L.O. Dixon  
J.B. Pierce  
Wilbur Lyon  
G.L. Hartsell  
N.C. Tripp

Six months later a new slate of officers was elected as follows:

A.R. Cannon, President	T.G. Worthington, Asst. Sec.
B.G. Taylor, 1st Vice-President	N.C. Tripp, Treasurer
H.M. Stokes, 2nd Vice-President	C.V. Cannon, Booster
H.S. Gurganus, Secretary	Robert Johnson, Reporter

Thus, in a six month period a number of men were utilized to share the responsibility of office. The purpose of a booster was to contact members who were absent as well as those who attended regularly which proved effective to keep attendance high. After all, the average attendance in 1921 was forty-six!

W J. Shelburne taught the Loyal Men's Class for the last time on January 29, 1922 after having served the Ayden Christian Church for only one year. He moved on to a new pastorate in Versailles, Kentucky in February, 1922. In the meantime, J.H.S. Hodges accompanied by another member traveled to Charleston, South Carolina to hear a minister preach during a church service. They came back to report favorably and recommended he be invited to serve the Ayden Christian Church as its full-time minister. The Board accepted their recommendation.



## CHAPTER V

### THE BRUNSON YEARS

"One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer, another  
withholds what he should give, and only suffers want."  
Proverbs 11:24 (RSV)



**William H. Brunson**  
**Ministered 1922-1951**

The fourteenth minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was William H. Brunson, serving from 1922 until his death in 1951, a total of

twenty-nine years. His ministry of 29 years at Ayden is the longest full-time resident ministry in the history of North Carolina Disciples. He was born on April 18, 1876 at Holly Hill, South Carolina, a son of T.J. and Laura A. Brunson. He married Rosa Lee Wilder on May 3, 1899. They had four children, one daughter, three sons (Louise, Keith, William, and Norman). During his fifty--two years as a minister he held but three Pastorates: St. Stephens, South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, and Ayden, North Carolina.

He began his ministry at Russellville, South Carolina on July 1, 1898 at a salary of \$1000, terminating there in 1910 after having served thirteen years. Then from 1910 to 1911 he served as State Evangelist in South Carolina at a salary of \$720 and expenses. He then began his ministry in Charleston, South Carolina with a beginning salary of \$1200 which was eventually raised to \$2300 by the time he terminated his stay there in 1922, a period of eleven years. He began his ministry in Ayden, his third pastorate, early in 1922 at a salary of \$2760.

Before coming to Ayden, W.H. Brunson participated in a dedication service in Harleyville, South Carolina. An article describing this event appeared in "The Christian Standard" on September 25, 1915. A reprint of this article follows:

*Dedication at Harleyville, S.C.*

*Beginning August 25, the Harleyville Church of Christ held a second successful series of meetings. The minister started the services by preaching the first two nights. Then W.H. Brunson, of Charleston, came Friday morning and preached afternoons*

*and evenings of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It was a treat to hear Bro. Brunson's gospel sermons. His preaching the gospel caused many in community to read their Bibles, which we trust will bear fruit later. Three ladies came forward during the meetings to obey their Lord. Then Saturday, September 11, when we assembled at Garvan's Crossing to bury these three with their Lord, two young ladies came forward and made the good confession and were baptized.*

*Lord's Day afternoon, August 29, the Harleyville meeting-house of the disciples of Christ was dedicated to the worship of God. Bro. Brunson was master of ceremonies. The work at Harleyville was never brighter than at present. We expect a great church here in a few years.*

*Harry E. Haton,  
Minister of Harleyville Church  
Holly Hill , S .C., Sept . 13, 1915*

Mr. Brunson's first appearance was on March 19, 1922, in all probability a visit to the Ayden Church at which time he taught the Loyal Men's Class. It is not known if he preached a sermon then, but assumed he did. He was definitely the minister by April 23, 1922 when the Loyal Men's Class welcomed their new teacher, W. H. Brunson. The Loyal Women's Class joined the men that eventful day. Bro. Brunson wasted no time involving himself with every function of the church. He was available for every need: teaching, preaching, meeting, visiting, planning. He was well received within the church by the membership. By July of 1922 the Ladies Aid Society was organized.

It was about this time that a house was purchased across the alley on the west side of the church. Mr. Brunson and his family moved into this house. J.J. Hines, a member of the church, built the house sometime earlier and when it became vacant, being located almost along side the church, it was bought to be used as the first parsonage. An interesting story was told about J.J. Hines who had two boys. He caught his boys smoking cheroots as cigarettes were not known at that time. He sat the boys down by a big stove, pulled out of his pocket four or five boxes of cheroots, placed them within easy reach of the lads and said: "O.K. boys, start smoking." There was no doubt in the boy's minds that they had to obey, so they smoked one after the other. Needless to say they became pale, dizzy and very sick, regurgitating to the point of almost wanting to die. The boys, in J.J.'s mind, were taught a lesson and punished properly.

Prior to the parsonage being purchased, visiting preachers and visiting evangelists stayed overnight at a members home. Mary Alice Johnson recalled that Jesse Cobb Caldwell, President of Atlantic Christian College stayed at her father's home (J.R. Smith) so many times that Mr. Smith set aside a room especially for him and the many Evangelists that preached at Ayden Christian Church.

In the summer of 1922 the Loyal Men's Class enjoyed a picnic at Hillcrest near Kinston, made plans to have a father-son meeting, and made plans to have a social for the ladies, but what concerned the Board the most was the indebtedness for the parsonage. A committee of J.D. McLawhorn, E.L. Brown and W.H. Brunson was appointed to have a sixty-day campaign to solicit every member for funds to liquidate the debt on the parsonage.

The church membership was delighted to have Mr. Brunson. A sample of his effectiveness as a preacher was recorded in the Board minutes on April 1, 1923 which read as follows:

*Easter Sunday Campaign: Same being 1st Sunday and the 1st day. Sunday School attendance was Banner Day, attendance being 272 with collection of \$56.24 raised over the amount stipulated for various purposes. Same was an enjoyable occasion by all in attendance. Also church service was largely attended and a most excellent sermon delivered by the pastor, Bro. W.H. Brunson which at any and all times is interesting to his hearers by so having his subject so analytically arranged in order to make his thoughts instructing to those present. So come again there is always something interesting to those who stand at the door and knock. The above record was done by order of the church as church minutes.*

In the first half of 1923 the Board was concerned with debts. Another committee was appointed to "solicit church dues to liquidate church obligations for the present time." This did not keep them from granting a paid vacation to Mr. Brunson for the month of August, and engage the services of Bro. Hilley of Atlantic Christian College to fill the pulpit in his absence. The men planned a surprise for Mr. Brunson in that same month by sending him a telegram requesting his presence at a class meeting at the Masonic Dinning Hall. This turned out to be a surprise banquet in honor of Mr. Brunson, served to all the men by the Ladies Aid Society. The men were always generous; helped poor families financially, bought school books and clothes for poor children, saw to it that the sick see their doctor, took up collections

for needy causes, donated old song books to Christian Colored church, sent flowers, and generally looked after the disadvantaged.

By 1924 the economy of the county and especially of Ayden was very good. The Ayden Church responded to make plans for additional growth in the future. The Board decided to bring the directory (church membership) up to date, to publish a directory and include a history of the church which was now 21 years old. The committee members appointed were: J.R. Smith, R.C. Cannon, J.F. Barwick, Church Clerk, and Board Chairman, J.H.S. Hodges. Then at a Board meeting on February 5, 1924 a "Ways and Means" Committee was appointed, "To discuss methods of building a Church School Building." The committee consisted of five members: J.H. Coward, J.R. Smith, J.B. Pierce, R.L. Johnson and W.H. Brunson.

In those early days only men served at the Communion Table, elders and deacons. The General Board consisted of men only. The women did not attend. For some unknown reason the Board minutes of October 5, 1924 listed the members present as follows:

B. Phillips	A.R. Cannon	J.R. Smith
B.G. Taylor	C.F. Sumrell	P.R. Taylor
J.H.S. Hodges	L.C. Turnage	T.G. Worthington
W.H. Brunson	C.V. Cannon	J.H. Coward
J.B. Pierce	H.K. Harrison	J.E. Cannon
G.F. Cooper	R.L. Johnson	J.D. McLawhorn
	R.C. Cannon	

The enthusiasm and attendance of the church membership was on the increase. On April 12, 1925 the attendance at the Loyal Men's Class was ninety-eight, and since the classroom was not nearly large enough, the class met outside in front of the church. The Board meeting centered its discussion on plans for building the Sunday School. A committee was appointed to look for

a loan. Bro. Brunson was asked to communicate with the Raleigh Church and the church architect. Chairman J.H.S. Hodges then appointed a building committee: J.R. Smith, C.V. Cannon, H.K. Harrison, B.G. Taylor, W.H. Brunson, R.L. Johnson, and R.W. Smith. Then at the Board meeting held on December 7, 1925, a motion prevailed to accept a loan from Endowment Funds of Atlantic Christian College, accruing from the Carolina Enlargement Campaign in the amount of \$10,000 for a period of ten years.

The good times were interrupted when tragedy came to the Brunson family due to the unexpected death of Norman Brunson, Bro. Brunson's son, after a short illness. Resolutions of Respect were read to the Loyal Men's Class on January 3, 1926 as follows:

Whereas the grim monster death has again entered into our happy Loyal Men's Class, and laid its icy hand upon Brother Norman Brunson, in a still small voice, whispering, the Master hath come, and calleth now for thee, accompanied by a host of angles, the soul of our beloved friend returned unto his God, who had given it to him.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That we bow in humble submission unto Him, who doeth all things well, and who suffers nothing unnoticed to happen and watches the sparrows fall.

SECOND

In the passing of our young school mate we realize our Class has sustained an unrepairable loss, he was wise in council, simple in manner, and a consecrated Christian gentlemen, and a devoted follower of the meek and lowly Nazarene.

THIRD

We deeply sympathize with the bereaved parents, in the loss of their son, who gave to earth and his friends all he had a life, and gained from heaven all he wished a crown of righteousness, and a home prepared for the children of God, eternally in the heavens.



That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this class and a copy be furnished to the local papers, and a copy to the family.

B.G Taylor  
G.H. Sumrell  
R.W. Smith

At the Board meeting on January 4, 1926, the Board voted to pay off the parsonage note amounting to \$2714, using the money borrowed from Atlantic Christian College, leaving a balance of \$7286 in the building fund for the education building. R.W. Smith was elected treasurer of the building fund and bonded for \$10,000. Two and a half months later, on March 26th, Bro. Brunson reported that plans for the education building had been drawn and that work would begin soon.

The Hookerton Union District meeting was held at the Ayden Church on February 2, 1926. The dinner was served in the Sunday School rooms cafeteria style. Participating in the program from the Ayden Missionary Society were: Mrs. C.G. Moore, Mrs. S.A. Jenkins, Mrs. J.S. Holton, Mrs. P.R. Taylor and Miss Perkins.

In March of the same year the Ayden Township Inter-Denominational Sunday School Convention was held in the Ayden Church.

In March the Board of Stewards of the Methodist Church purchased property from A.L. Jackson on Third Street between Venters and Snow Hill Streets for the purpose of moving their church building from the corner of Third and Lee Streets. This lot had been sold to the Standard Oil Company for a filling station before the church building was moved. By April, J.J. Lyon began excavating the dirt from behind the Christian Church, moving it to the new Methodist Church site. "The Ayden Dispatch" reported that: "The

Christian Church had plans to build an education building costing approximately \$15,000."

The organizational activities of the church were not disrupted as Easter Sunrise Services were held in the church in April along with a Sunday School attendance goal set at 444, not unreachable since 429 were present the year before with a goal set at 331. The attendance fell short of its goal, reaching only 422, twenty-two short, truly a great accomplishment.

In the same month the Hustlers Class sponsored the Atlantic Christian College Glee Club, performing in the Seminary (Baptist) auditorium as a money making project, charging admission of 25¢ and 50¢. In May the Loyal Girls' Class enjoyed a supper at Little Creek. On June 30, 1926 Rev. W.H. Brunson married Miss Johnnie Garris to Mr. John B. Beland. Then in August, Union Services sponsored by the Ayden Ministerial Association were held in the Christian Church for five consecutive Sundays.

This was an era when the Ayden Christian Church was prosperous, very active, and well attended. Many of the members were involved, planning to better the many services and doing something about it. Rev. Brunson was at his peak of effectiveness, contributing much to the growth of the church at that time.

A tragic incident almost occurred on August 12, 1926 involving church members Mr. and Mrs. Kirby Smith and Emerson Worthington along with others from Ayden and Kinston. They chartered the boat "Virginia Dare" at Morehead City for a trip to Cape Lookout and back. Upon returning from Cape Lookout, the boat developed a leak. The pumps were unable to keep the water out causing the engine to stall. They signaled to no avail and had to abandon the boat with life preservers to enter the water. Two of the young ladies did not know how to swim, but with the help of their escorts managed

to reach land after being in the water close to two hours. They built a fire to dry their clothes and were finally rescued by the Coast Guard about 1:45 in the morning after a long search.

From October 3 through October 17, a two-week Revival was held at the Ayden Christian Church with Rev. A.F. DeGafferelly, Diamond Jubilee Evangelist of the United Christian Missionary Society. Rev. DeGafferelly was a friend to Rev. Brunson for many years, having both lived in Charleston, South Carolina. He was a graduate of Drake University and also did graduate work at Chicago University. "The Ayden Dispatch" printed news of the Revival for four consecutive issues. The article appearing on October 14, 1926 read as follows:

*"The meeting at the Ayden Christian Church continues to draw large crowds and much interest is being manifested. Rev. DeGafferelly is preaching strong gospel sermons. He is not only a preacher but a good teacher as well. His sermons appeal to the interest as well as to the heart. He denounces sin in no uncertain way. He is kind and considerate. He loves to mingle with men, getting their viewpoint of things, and is thus able to help them."*

Prof. Prank Casey of Eureka College, Ayden, directed the song service making a very favorable impression with his solos. The pastors and congregations of other churches were regular in attendance. Each service was well attended with conversions at nearly every service. When the revival meeting closed on Sunday night, the ordinance of baptism was administered to four additional candidates. During the two-week revival, there were twenty-two additions. At the next Wednesday evening prayer meeting, a

special program was presented to all the new members who came into the church with refreshments served afterward in the Sunday School rooms.

Rev. and Mrs. Brunson attended the International Convention in Memphis, Tennessee in November. The church continued to be active in December of 1926. The Christian Missionary Society met at the home of Mrs. N.C. Tripp. Participating in the program were: Mrs. C.G. Moore, Mrs. J.E. Cannon, Rev. W.H. Brunson, Mrs. J.S. Holton, and Mrs. J.H. Coward. A program of Christian music was given at the Christian Church to a full house on December 23 with community involvement. The Christian Endeavor met regularly. Participating and speaking in the December meeting to the question; "My Church Needs Me and For What," were: Ruby Lee Hart, Ellen McLawhorn, Seth Muse, Estelle Lyon, Keith Brunson, Fay Barwick Dorothy Dinkins and Kitchen McLawhorn.

The building committee spent a good part of 1926 reviewing bids submitted by different contractors for the new educational building. The Loyal Men's Class acknowledged Rev. Brunson with a gift of a \$10 gold piece.

The women of the church continued to be as active as the men in the early part of 1927, meeting in each others homes to conduct their programs and business transactions.

In May, 1927, President-elect W.H. Brunson was also elected as a delegate to the Rotary International Convention convening in Ostend, Belgium June 5-10, 1927. Rev. Brunson boarded a train for New York, a ship to Antwerp, Belgium, then a train to Ostend. After the Rotary Convention he expanded his trip to visit the Holy Land. He was away for two months. The expense of the extensive trip was covered partly by Rotary funds and partly by private contribution. The church engaged the services of ministers, mostly from Wilson, to fill the pulpit in his absence, among them being J.R. Tingle and

C.C. Ware. Upon his return, Mr. Brunson presented programs to Rotary clubs and churches in picture form.

Homecoming was held October 2, 1927. In November Rev. Brunson was elected president of the North Carolina Missionary Society, Disciples of Christ at the state convention held in Kinston.

In 1927 a contract was given to E.W. Braxton and Son of Ayden, North Carolina to erect a substantial and commodious religious education plant with sixteen class rooms and a church school auditorium, blended and connected to the rear of the church sanctuary. This was not to be a turn-key job as much of it would be done by men of the church. "The Ayden Dispatch" reported in late October that the work on the new building was progressing rapidly with the brick work nearing completion. After the shell was erected an agreement was signed in November, 1927 for the contractor to complete the major part of interior finishing such as plaster, floors, doors, windows, etc. Before plastering could be completed, the men of the church lathed at many work sessions. This was a joint effort between the contractor and the men with the major part of construction completed by the contractor. The interior agreement was signed by: N.C. Tripp, P.R. Taylor, B.G. Taylor, T.G. Worthington, and J.H. Coward. T.G. Worthington was appointed to approve all bills that would be paid by J.H.S. Hodges.



### **First Church with Education Building Erected in 1927**

J.H.S. Hodges was an outstanding leader in the Ayden Christian Church who first came to Ayden to teach at Carolina Christian College. There he met a teacher, Myrtie Moon and eventually married. When the college moved to Wilson, the Hodges remained in Ayden. Bro. Hodges then became a banker, operating the Bank of Ayden and was able to protect the funds borrowed from Atlantic Christian College from a bank failure. Later he became a distributing agent for Sinclair Refining Company. Bro. Hodges was born in

Beaufort County. He came to Ayden in 1900. He was well educated, attended the University of North Carolina and studied a commercial course at Lexington, Kentucky. He was chairman of the Board from 1915 through 1926, verified in the minutes, but he probably served in this capacity before and after these dates. He was a regular member of the Christian Church Choir. Both he and his wife were hard workers in the church. His wife, Myrtie taught in the Sunday School outliving her husband. She was the oldest living member of the church before her death.

The Loyal Men's Class met to plan work schedules for the new building, pledged \$1000 from the class toward the building and formed a committee to solicit funds and pledges to meet this obligation. The men proceeded to prepare one room at a time, working themselves and hiring outside help to finish the rooms, finishing the bottom rooms first, then building steps to the second floor. This was a long and lengthy process lasting from 1927 well into 1929. The work did not prevent the men from continuing their social activities; suppers, turkey, fish, shad, oyster, watermelon, ball games, etc. Then finally, the men held their first meeting in the new building on Easter Sunday, April 8, 1928.

The Ayden Township Sunday School Institute held a meeting at 2 :30 in the Christian Church and at 7 :30 in the Methodist Church on March 22, 1928. This was a training session for superintendents and teachers with many churches participating.

The children were recognized in late May, presenting a program on Sunday evening under the direction of Mrs. P.R. Taylor and Mrs. Lloyd Tingle, assisted by primary teachers Mrs. W.H. Brunson, Mrs. George Worthington, Mrs. J.F. Barwick and Mrs. B.G. Taylor.

A two-week Revival service, June 10-22, 1928 proved to be highly successful. Rev. Lee Sadler of the Hanover Avenue Church in Richmond, Virginia attracted large crowds especially from Greenville, North Carolina where he previously served as pastor at Eighth Street Christian Church on two different occasions. He graduated from Vanderbilt University and did graduate work at Columbia University. He was a professor at Atlantic Christian College, having attained the reputation of being the most loved professor at the time of his employment there. He was recognized as one of the greatest orators of Richmond. On the last Sunday of the Revival, three services were held 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. At his 3:00 p.m. service he spoke on "The Passion and Power of Pentecost," a subject of which he was well qualified, as he was one of fifteen of the committee to direct plans for the celebration of the 1900th anniversary of Pentecost.

October 7, 1928 was "Rally Day" with Rev. George Cuthrell of Raleigh preaching at 11:00 a.m. and at 2 :00 p.m. The congregation, that day, had lunch (picnic style) served in the new dining room in the rear of the Sunday School building.

On November 20, 1928 a large audience enjoyed a beautiful pageant presented by twenty children under the direction of Mrs. John L. Jenkins entitled "The Needs of the Christian Endeavor Society."

On December 7, 1928 the church held a one-day missionary convention. Speaking at this event were Mr. Gamboe, missionary to India, Dr. Royal Dye, former missionary to Africa, and Mr. E.B. Quick of Atlanta, Georgia, Southeastern Superintendent of the United Christian Missionary Society.

The women of the Church were not idle. "The Ayden Dispatch" dated March 14, 1929 printed the following news item:



*Missionary Society Meets:*

*The women's Missionary Society of the Christian Church met with Mesdames N.C. Tripp and Georgia Baker on Wednesday afternoon with about 24 members present.*

*The meeting was opened by the President, Mr. W.H. Brunson. Much business was attended to.*

*Mrs. Roma Lewis having the program in charge presented several interesting papers, the subject being, 'Living and Loving.' We were favored with a beautiful solo, 'Whispering Hope' by Misses Alda Davis and Estelle Lyon.*

*Mrs. Leon Cannon, Secretary*

On June 10, 1929 the corner stone was laid for the new Educational building. Placed behind the corner stone was a fifty year capsule in the form of a sealed tin box which contained the following items:

1. A Bible
2. The Ayden Dispatch
3. The Christian Evangelist
4. 58 Sunday School money booklets
5. A letter, To Whom It Might Concern Later, (prepared by S.A. Jenkins, Justice of Peace)
6. A complete list of the 381 Membership Roll
7. A complete list of the 295 Sunday School Members

In the letter prepared by S.A. Jenkins (the same Jenkins who provided use of the upper room of his business for use of the early Christian Church) listed the members living of the Masonic Lodge at that time, many who were members of the Ayden Christian Church. Of particular interest is an excerpt from the letter which read as follows:

*"...J.R. Smith present treasurer and has been treasurer for thirty years, R.W. Smith past Master, and brother to J.R. Smith,*

*treasurer. J.R. and R.W. Smith were among the first merchants here, have been in business for over thirty years here and have been successful business men here for that period, another thing about them, they lost their father when they were small and they received a good portion of their training at the Masonic Orphanage at Oxford, North Carolina."*

The Ayden Masonic Lodge supported the Masonic Orphanage and so did the Loyal Men's Class. The letter clearly indicates the friendship and respect of S.A. Jenkins to the Smiths.

What happened to the fifty-year time capsule will appear later in this history of the Ayden Christian Church. The laying of the corner stone appeared in two articles in "The Ayden Dispatch." The first article was printed June 6, 1929 as follows:

*Corner Stone To Be Laid Next Monday*

*The corner stone of the Christian Sunday Schools new building will be laid Monday afternoon, June 10th at five o'clock. Rev. E.G. Quick of Atlanta, Georgia will make the address. The public is cordially invited.*

The second article was printed June 13, 1929 as follows:

*Father-Son Banquet Held Monday Night*

*Following the laying of the corner stone of the new Sunday School rooms of the Christian Church, was one of the most appropriate events we have staged in a long time. Many were the speakers, among them were Messrs. Clarence Cannon, Ralph Smith, George Prescott, and Rev. E.V. Quick from*

*Atlanta, Georgia. While that Prince of toastmasters, Rev. Billie Brunson, as usual, acquitted himself with dignity, and the duet by Mrs. Mable Claire Cuthrell, daughter of Mr. E.L. Brown, and Mildred McGlohon, daughter of Mrs. Lizzie Wilson furnished flavor for the occasion. Many nice things said about the youth of our land, the hope of the future, and the fathers who have borne the burden in the heat of the day and paved the way for their young hopefuls. Companionship between father and sons was stressed and many were the resolves to cultivate that love, which we hope will never wane. We learn that a mothers and daughters banquet will be given in the near future. The banquet was served in the basement of the Christian Church by the ladies of that congregation.*

The women did more than attend meetings, they helped to raise money for the new building by holding turkey dinners and chicken-stew dinners. Mary Alice Johnson recalled cooking a 23 pound turkey in hot weather with no air conditioning and almost fainting from the heat. The ladies served the Rotary Club that met at Hotel Beverly. The ladies earned their money the hard way. It is interesting to note that the forty room Hotel Beverly, costing approximately \$40,000 was financed by J.R. Smith, R.W. Smith, R.C. Cannon and sons (all Disciples) and M.M. Sauls.

1929 was a busy year. The Farmville and Ayden Sunday Schools had an attendance contest for the months of June and July. An article appeared in "The Ayden Dispatch" on August 1, 1929 as follows:

*Contest Ended*

*"The attendance contest between the Ayden and Farmville*

*Christian Sunday Schools ended last Sunday, June 28. Ayden was the winner. The prize is a silver flower vase which is expected to be formally presented by a select committee from Farmville and accepted by Hon. J.D. Cannon, Mayor of Ayden with a speech reviewing the activities of the contest. We hope to have a large delegation from our city on this occasion. The date will be announced later.*

The men voted to build a sidewalk from the education building to the street and to pave the unpaved part of the church basement. In June the Loyal Men's Class elected the following officers: President, W.B. Phillips; Vice-president, N.C. Tripp; Secretary, J.B. Beland; Assistant Secretary, Allen Johnson; Treasurer, P.R. Taylor; Teacher, W.H. Brunson; Assistant Teacher, R.W. Smith. In September W. H. Brunson held a series of meetings at Wheat Swamp Church.

On October 15, 1929, the North Carolina Christian Missionary Society held its 85th annual convention at Farmville, well attended by Ayden Disciples. Among the speakers was Mrs. H.H. Settle, Secretary of the State Society and mother of Mrs. Helen Stroud.

Mrs. J. Lloyd Tingle gave a Christmas party for her Loyal Girls Class in December. Attending were: Misses Ruth Mumford, Kathleen Turner, Inez Dail, Annie Lee Sumrell, Hilda Sumrell, Elizabeth Coward, Almeta Worthington, Bruce Little, Louise Brunson, Kathleen Cox, and Mrs. Kirby Smith.

All seemed well in 1929 but it was not!

During the 1920's the Town of Ayden experienced dynamic growth. During the period 1925 to 1930 the prosperity seemed to be just about at its

peak. In 1926 the local school was changed from a special chartered school to a consolidated school under the county system, taking in a wide territory surrounding Ayden. During this year a \$25,000 colored school was erected. Then in 1928 the entire district voted bonds to erect the handsome high school building located on the old Free Will Baptist Seminary site on South Lee Street. The bonds amounted to \$100,000. The new school opened September 23, 1929. This was the first year with eight months of school. Previously the school year lasted only six months.

Then the bad began to happen. The veneer plant which had been operating in Ayden for over thirteen years closed down to move their operation to Plymouth, North Carolina. The \$3,000 per week payroll for 100 employees was lost. This proved to be the greatest setback the town ever experienced. A mass meeting of citizens was held at City Hall to appoint a committee to confer with Chicago Mill and Lumber Corp. but to no avail. The Great Depression began.

The farmers suffered also. When rains started just before the harvest season, it seemed as if it would never stop. All summer crops, including tobacco, drowned and the cotton crop was the poorest since 1917. For the first time in Ayden's history, many of its citizens were actually hungry. Many people were forced to sell their land because they were unable to pay their mortgages. Although 1929 brought worse crop failures ever, crops had not been good for several years. The economy of the entire country was declining and prices were not up to standard for crops produced. This added to the growing panic of the public over the state of depression the country was in and caused a run on the banks. On December 20, 1929 the National Bank of Ayden was forced to close its doors.

G.A. Johnson of Ayden wrote a letter to the Raleigh "News and Observer" stating: "The people of Eastern North Carolina are face to face with a condition they have never had before. Unfavorable crop conditions and prices have left families without bread, meat, money or credit. We had rain, continuously. Throughout the entire summer it rained, it rained on into the fall, and the result of these rains are reflected in every business of every kind in Eastern Carolina."

The official census for Ayden in 1930 was 1607, sixty-six less than the 1920 census, reflecting the impact of the depression. Although the economy was bad and getting worse, there was not much change in the functions of the church in 1930. The Loyal Men continued with their monthly suppers in the church, at Hillcrest and at Little Creek. The Missionary Society continued their regular meetings. The men arranged to have the movie "Ben Hur" shown, charged admission and earned a profit of \$40.60. They formed a baseball team playing the Methodists and other teams from out of town. In March, Bro. Brunson conducted a series of meetings in Brunson, South Carolina his old home.

The church suffered the loss of an early, devout leader by the death of R.C. Cannon from a heart attack on May 30, 1930 at the age of seventy-one. The town joined the church in mourning this prominent citizen and outstanding businessman. Born near Rountree Church in 1859, the son of Mary and Caleb Cannon, he married Sudie Gertrude May, daughter of James S. and Winnifred Rountree May. Surviving him were his wife and four children: C.V. Cannon, A.R. Cannon, Mrs. J.H. Coward and Mrs. Spruill Spain, all active Ayden Disciples.

Beginning in 1930, enough money was never collected to pay any principal to Atlantic Christian College on the loan for the Education

Building. The church struggled to pay just the interest due. The minister pleaded from the pulpit for contributions to pay on that debt, and the adult classes did the same. There just wasn't enough money. During the depression everyone was in the same plight. There was no class system. No one had money. T.G. Worthington advised what he bought to sell in his store during that time, just on one order repeated many times; 20,000 pounds of side meat, 25 barrels of molasses, 1,500 pounds of field peas, a whole train carload with barrels of flour. That was what the people ate. The social life was centered in the church which helped to keep the member's minds free of constant despair. The church stayed active: Wednesday prayer meeting, Christian Endeavor, evening services, Missionary Society meetings, class meetings and outings, revivals, contests, competitive sports, and money raising projects.

Concern was evident in an article printed in the June 12, 1930 issue of "The Ayden Dispatch."

*"Pitt County Tax Payers Association met in the courthouse Monday, June 2 at 10:00 A.M. determined that taxes shall be reduced in order to save their homes and lands. 150 taxpayers were present and there was no division of purpose."*

The Loyal Women's Class continued to serve and entertain the ladies with excellent attendance with a full and diversified program. An example of those meetings was recorded in "The Ayden Dispatch" in September as follows:

*"Mrs. W.T. White entertained the Loyal Women's Class of the Christian Church Sunday School on Monday night at her home on Snow Hill Street."*

*The meeting was opened by the President, Mrs. Clara Brown followed by a scripture reading and business. The election of officers were as follows: Teacher, Mrs. S.A. Jenkins; Assistant Teacher, Mrs. J.B. Eure; Secretary, Mrs. Allen Johnson; Treasurer, Mrs. Leon Cannon; Flower Committee, Mrs. Wilbur Tingle and Mrs. Zeb Johnson.*

*Mrs. Leon Cannon and Mrs. Allen Johnson had charge of the following program: Piano Solo, Miss Virginia Belle Cooper; Jokes, Mrs. Clara Brown; Special Music, Mrs. Pete Cuthrell; Newspaper Contest and Current Events, Mrs. W.W. Salsbury; Society News, Mrs. J.B. Eure, Dorothy Dix, and Mrs. S.A. Jenkins.*

*The hostess served ice cream and cake."*

A way was found to entertain interested citizens free of charge, explained by an article in "The Ayden Dispatch:"

*"World's Series Starts*

*The World's Series started Wednesday, October 1, 1930 between St. Louis Cardinals and Philadelphia Athletics, the latter taking the first game.*

*The score board has been erected in the National Bank Building, across from Edward's Pharmacy where baseball fans can see the games play by play."*



The depression did not prevent the Princess Theater from installing "talking pictures" from Western Electric Sound System and increasing admission from 10¢ to 15¢ and 35¢.

In October, 1930, Rev. Brunson attended the World Convention of the Disciples of Christ and dedication of the National Church in Washington, D.C. He also led the devotional services of the Missionary Society Convention in Raleigh. Another interesting article appeared in the November 13th issue of "The Ayden Dispatch" concerning church members:

*"Mrs. Sam Pierce and Miss Virginia Belle Cooper have been invited to give a radio program over WPTF, Raleigh, next Monday, November 17 from 4:00 to 4:30. These ladies have given several enjoyable programs over the station in Raleigh and Richmond and their concerts are looked forward to with a great deal of pleasure."*

By the first part of 1931, it was not uncommon for the men and women (Sunday School classes) to meet together as Bro. Brunson was sick. Mrs. S.A. Jenkins, T.G. Worthington, Bro. Hilley of Atlantic Christian College and in November, a return visit by its former minister and teacher, C.W. Howard did the teaching.

In November, 1931 the boys from Mrs. Max McGlohon's Class had a project to raise money for the Sunday School. The Loyal Women's Class held a Hen-Pecked Husband's Contest. "The Ayden Dispatch" reported that M.C. Maye was leading with 425 votes, W.W. Salsbury was second with 276 and John Burgess was third with 228 votes. At the Sunday evening service on November 26, 1931, a meeting was held following the sermon to organize a Relief Association for needy citizens of Ayden. All ministers in town

attended. Rev. Brunson was in charge to point out the need to be careful that there was no over-lapping of assistance as the funds were limited.

In early 1932 the Loyal Men collected \$1.97 to buy shoes for a small boy so that he could come to Sunday School as he had none.

They gave \$2 00 to a lady to buy gas thus enabling her to visit her doctor to treat a cut hand. Officers serving in 1932 were: A.R. Cannon, A.V. Moore, J.R. Holton, Fred Darden, Charlie Tripp, R.W. Smith, Lloyd Tingle, Guy Taylor, Guy Evans, P.R. Taylor, H.K. Harrison and W.H. Brunson.

Class No. 12, composed of young men of high school age began to emulate the Loyal Men with an attendance contest resulting in attendance of 33, forming a baseball team to challenge other churches, and holding get-together suppers.

In June, Rev. Leland Cook from Kinston, North Carolina held a revival in the church which resulted in thirty new members.

The depression had an affect on the attendance of the Loyal Men's Class which fluctuated up and down through the years, depending on what activities were taking place. A comparison of average attendance and collection for several years reveals the effect of the depression as well as the enthusiasm present for certain years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average attendance</u>	<u>Average collection</u>
1921	46	\$5.69
1922	36	3.66
1923	33	3.88
1924	37	3.64
1925	32	3.01
1926	30	3.14
1927	27	2.49
1928	24	2.86
1929	33	3.54

1930	24	3.10
1931	21	2.08
1932	17	1.14
1933	17	1.28

On Sunday morning, March 11, 1934, with eighteen men present during their business session, the Loyal Men's Class decided to have an attendance contest, seeing that attendance had declined considerably as there were many Sundays when only seven or eight would attend. A red team and a blue team were formed. Max McGlohon and J.R. Holton were elected captains. Each Sunday they would add to their totals. The contest began March 18 and was scheduled to end on May 6. The attendance increased each Sunday as follows:

Date	Attendance
3/18/34	34
3/25/34	50
4/01/34	66
4/08/34	86
4/15/34	131
4/22/34	132
4/29/34	201
5/06/34	412

Four-hundred-twelve men in Sunday School! The blue team won with 209 while the red team had 201. There were 2 not counted on either side. The total attendance during the contest was 1,129. A photo of this large crowd of men was taken as they gathered in front of business stores on Third Street. An enlarged copy of the photo is in the church archives. To celebrate, the men gave a fish stew at Little Creek on May 8, 1934 with between four to five hundred men present. The total collection on the record breaking Sunday with 412 men present was only \$10.41, a startling reminder of the times.

The following article appeared in "The Ayden Dispatch" April 26, 1934:

*"Rev. W.H. Brunson of the Christian Disciple Church celebrated the twelfth anniversary of his pastorate here Sunday morning with a large congregation and doubtless the largest Sunday School in the history of the town.*

*Mr. Brunson is 58 years old and has only served three charges during a long period in the ministry, the former being in Charleston, South Carolina. During his stay here he has been a real community asset, taking an active part in uplift programs. He is a hearty supporter of the schools and has served on the school board. He has been a member of the Rotary Club for a number of years and represented the organization at one of its international conventions. He was also for a long period President of the Hookerton District of his church. The local church under his guidance has grown both numerically and spiritually and he and his family have many friends outside of his own congregation.*

*His birthday was April 18 and his 35th wedding anniversary will be May 3rd, so the celebration assumed triple significance and his congregation friends presented him a substantial purse in token of their appreciation of his splendid service."*

Poor times continued through 1934 and 1935 with attendance and collections dropping again. It was reported that there were times the church was unable to pay Rev. Brunson and times when he received only part of his

salary, but nowhere can it be found that Bro. Brunson complained. The following is a reprint of the annual budget of the Ayden Christian Church for 1935-36:

Coal	\$50.00
Janitor	75.00
Lights	50.00
Repairs	150.00
Interest	600.00
Advertising	50.00
Abutment Tax	200.00
Payment on Debt	1000.00
District Meetings	25.00
Financial Secretary	36.00
Unified Goal	515.00
Pastors Salary	1500.00

Not much occurred in the church in 1935, it being a quiet year for church activities. A missionary to India, Mrs. G.E. Springer, spoke in the church on February 14, 1935. The Ayden Rotary Club held a joint meeting with the Boy Scouts in the basement of the church. Dr. H.S. Hilley, president of Atlantic Christian College delivered the message and J.B. Beland, Scoutmaster, presided. The Boy Scouts in Ayden were originally organized earlier by the Ayden Christian Church. The Loyal Men's Class had some new officers: F.M. Kilpatrick, Robert Johnson, Radford Holton, James Everette, Marvin Smith and Earnest Taylor.

In June, 1936, a Revival Meeting was held in the church by Rev. John L. Goff of New Bern. As a result of his services, three were received into the church by baptism and three by letter of transfer. The 1936 Homecoming was held in October with members of the church participating during the worship hour after Rev. Brunson opened the service: Mrs. J.L. Tingle spoke on "The Woman's Place in the Church," J.R. Taylor spoke on "Youth in the Church,"

followed by a short speech by R.W. Smith. Mrs. J.H. McLawhorn sang two solos, followed by a song rendered by a quartet composed of Mrs. J.H. Coward, Mrs. J.H.S. Hodges, Mr. J.H.S. Hodges and Mr. C.V. Cannon. As usual, lunch was served in the basement of the Sunday School building.

From 1935 to 1940 the economy gradually began to improve in Ayden and in the country. Government programs and the ingenuity of the people contributed to the change. The church also had its measure of success. In May, 1937, a new living room suite was added onto the parsonage, giving the pastor and his family more needed space. The population of Ayden in 1937 grew to 1750. During the latter part of 1937 and most of 1938, the Loyal Men's Class elected J.B. Eure, an attorney, to be their new teacher, giving Bro. Brunson relief from this obligation he had diligently and successfully fulfilled for fifteen years. New names appeared as officers of the class: W.W. Salsbury, W. L. Lyons, W.L. McLawhorn, L. Baldree, Larry Tripp, J.D. Tripp, and John L. Jenkins. 1938 proved to be a year of recovery.

A missionary, Mr. C.H. Plapper, who had served in China for many years, working with the Union Theological Seminary in Nanking, visited and spoke at the church in March. Then, Rev. Newton J. Robinson from Hillyer Memorial Christian Church in Raleigh held a Revival Service with excellent attendance from the whole community. During the week of revival service, Rev. Brunson baptized twenty-six and five additions were made by letter of transfer.

On Sunday afternoon, June 26, 1938, after a fellowship dinner, a special service was held to dedicate fourteen beautiful stained glass windows that had been installed in the sanctuary. Each window displayed a significant Christian symbol, and each was dedicated in honor or in memory of a notable

church patron. The windows changed the esthetics of the sanctuary to a sensation of peace in worship. They were given to memorialize:

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Brunson  
R.C. and Sudie M. Cannon  
Joseph Foy Barwick  
E.L. and Lena Brown  
A.W. Ange  
Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Darden, Sr.  
Loyal Men's Class  
Loyal Women's Class  
Larry W. Smith  
C.J. Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Gardner  
Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Johnson  
J.R. and Mary Smith  
S.A. and Florence Jenkins

Dedicated during the same service were:

New Baptistery to memorialize Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Cannon given by their children.  
Pulpit, Pulpit Chairs, Communion Table, Flower Stands given by Mr. and Mrs. George Worthington.  
New Choir Loft Accessories to memorialize the father and mother of R.L. Johnson, given by him.

Speaking at this well attended dedication service were several visiting and local ministers. The gifts would be long remembered as they would be incorporated into the new sanctuary yet to come.

On October 13, 1938, "The Ayden Dispatch" printed a story about the Princess Theater's request for tinfoil. The Ladies Aid Society of the church sent thirteen and one-half pounds of tinfoil to the manager of the theater. Several years before, the Ladies Aid Society collected and saved tinfoil but could find no outlet for it. The tinfoil was collected by the Shriners and sold with the proceeds going to their Orthopedic Hospitals. The church held a 5

o'clock candle-light Christmas service in December. J.B. Eure spoke on "The Christmas Spirit," Mrs. J.L. Tingle spoke on "Why the Chimes Rang," and Mrs. John L. Jenkins on "The Other Wise Man." The Junior Choir sang.

The church for many years observed "Youth Day" with March of 1939 being no exception. The entire service was conducted by and for the young people of the church. Rev. Brunson, an avid Rotarian, spoke to the Rotary Club many times through the years. The Rotarians always looked forward to his talks as they dealt with timely subjects of interest to men. In May, 1939, his talk was entitled "Uncrowned Kings." The subject was chosen because of the very first visit of English Royalty to the United States by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The intent of Rev. Brunson was to point out the many uncrowned kings and queens in the world who were large in mind and heart but not especially large in stature such as Hannibal of Rome, Pasteur in medicine and Paul Harris the founder of Rotary, and that there were thousands of uncrowned kings in medicine, education, commerce, law, religion, Rotary, and those, unnamed, in Ayden.

The Ayden church once again displayed its leadership by hosting the first Interdenominational Daily Vacation Bible School in the summer of 1939. A total of 115 children were enrolled. The primary department studied "Our Daily Bread," the Junior department, "What is in your Bible," and the Intermediate department, "Understanding the Bible."

In October a number of church members attended the International Convention of the Disciples of Christ in Richmond, Virginia, among them being: Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Cannon, Mrs. J.H. Coward, Miss Virginia Belle Cooper, Rev. W.H. Brunson, Mrs. J.L. Jenkins, Mrs. P.R. Taylor, Mrs. J.A. Johnson, Mrs. J.R. Taylor, Mrs. Leon Cannon, Mr. and Mrs. J.H.S. Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Tingle and Mrs. J.R. Tingle.



In December the Festival Symphonic Chorus directed by Mr. Lewis Sidney Bullock performed Handel's "The Messiah" on a Sunday afternoon at the church for its third consecutive appearance. The chorus made an impressive appearance in their new wine and cream vestments with the entire chorus of 125 being vested. The chorus gave the same performance in Snow Hill, Goldsboro, and in Wright Memorial Auditorium, Greenville, North Carolina.

Apparently the Ayden church and the community as a whole enjoyed singing groups for in January, 1940, the Glee Club of Atlantic Christian College sang during the church service and the college president, Howard S. Hilley delivered the sermon.

Rev. J. Wayne Drash, pastor of Gordon Street Christian Church, Kinston, North Carolina held a revival service at the Ayden Church from May 13 through May 22, 1940. Rev. Drash was known for his work with young people. He was Dean of Men in the North Carolina Youth Conference.

On September 15, 1940, the Rev. C.B. Mashburn while serving the Farmville Christian Church, and a former minister of the Ayden Christian Church (1911-1912), delivered the sermon on Homecoming Sunday.

Two weeks later, twenty-seven candidates from other churches not having a baptistry, were baptized in Ayden Christian Church on a Sunday afternoon. The candidates were from churches at Rountree, Red Oak and Arthur. Rev. Gilbert Davis from Arthur and Rev. Henry Sullivan , pastor at Rountree took part in the service.

The ladies became active in December. Mrs. S.A. Jenkins taught the Loyal Men's Class as Rev. Brunson had an accident while fishing, breaking three ribs. The Missionary Society presented a stewardship play entitled "In Times Like These." The Loyal Women's Class had a talking picture

"Golgotha" shown in the High School auditorium at two different times. The motion picture depicted the crucifixion of Christ with a cast of thousands, costing \$800,000.

The population in the Town of Ayden had reached 1884 in the year 1940.

Activities continued in the church in 1941 with the Loyal Men's Class having an average attendance of only 16 and an average collection of \$2.03. In June the Loyal Women's Class invited the men to a picnic at Turnage Camp. On the minds of everyone was the draft of young men into the armed services and what really disheartened the members of the church and, in fact, the whole country was the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the declaration of World War II on December 7, 1941. The men appointed a committee to find the names and addresses of the servicemen in an effort to do something for them during the Christmas holidays.

Samuel S. McWilliams, a missionary under the auspices of the United Christian Missionary Society, representing the Nationwide Emergency Million Campaign of the Disciples of Christ spoke at the morning service on March 1, 1942. The campaign was initiated across the nation to enlist 10,000 individuals to contribute \$100 or more to meet the emergencies of education and missionary work of the Disciples of Christ for both continuing work and that brought about by the war. Money was also needed to relieve problems facing local churches, schools, hospitals and other institutions throughout the nation. Mr. McWilliams had been a missionary since 1919, working in Buenos Aires, Argentina for most of his life.

In April Dr. Robert S. Boyd, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, North Carolina conducted a Union Revival meeting in the Ayden Christian Church for all the churches in Ayden. This event again revealed the

contribution of the Ayden church to the whole community by being the central and leading church in town.

Rev. Brunson celebrated his twentieth anniversary in the Ayden Christian Church. Rev. C.C. Ware of Wilson, North Carolina brought greetings from Disciples throughout the State and delivered the morning message. Others who brought greetings were: the Mayor, the Board Chairman, Dr. Dixon, president of Rotary, and Rev. L.A. Tilley, pastor of the Methodist Church.

The following facts appeared in the 1942 year book of the National Disciples of Christ:

1. General secretary for North Carolina Missionary Society was Mrs. H.H. Settle of Greenville, North Carolina (mother of Mrs. Helen Stroud of the Ayden Church).
2. H.S. Tilley was president of Atlantic Christian College (a frequent visiting preacher and teacher of the Loyal Men's Class).
3. C. C. Ware was North Carolina State Secretary of Disciples of Christ and editor of "North Carolina Christian" (another frequent visitor to Ayden Christian Church).
4. C.B. Mashburn, Farmville (former Ayden minister) and J. Dixie Cannon (Ayden Christian Church) were members of North Carolina State Board of Disciples of Christ.
5. Past ministers of Ayden Christian Church were serving the following churches:
  - Dennis W. Davis, Williamston, N.C.
  - Richard H. Jones, Fort Wayne, Indiana
  - C.B. Mashburn, Farmville, N.C.
  - S.B. Waggoner, Bartlesville, Oklahoma

J. Fleming Atkins, Hinton, West Virginia  
W.J. Shelburne, Lexington, Kentucky

6. Ayden Christian Church membership was 257  
Ayden Christian Church Missionary Society was 42  
Ayden Christian Church Bible School was 162  
Total giving for local expenses was \$1876  
Total offering to Unified Promotion was \$565.02
7. Number of Disciple Churches in N. C. was 360  
Total Disciple membership in N.C. was 53,329

The men suggested it, followed through with it and finally on July 19, 1942, during the 11 o'clock service a beautiful plaque containing the names of all the men of the church serving in the armed services was unveiled. They were scattered all over the world but they were remembered and honored that Sunday. The war did not prevent celebration of homecoming in October, but late in the same month there was no church service because Rev. Brunson had suffered the extraction of an eyetooth which had become infected. The war did affect attendance of the Loyal Men's Class which averaged only thirteen. Letters from servicemen were read to the class. New names appeared as officers: W.B. Phillips, J.B. Hemby, Eugene Smith, R.L. Collins and David Smith.

On January 3, 1943, Rev. C.C. Ware, State Secretary of North Carolina Disciples of Christ brought the message at the 11 o'clock service, then he assisted Rev. Brunson in ordaining the following twenty-nine officers:

Elders

J.D. Cannon, J.L. Tingle, P.R. Taylor, T.G. Worthington

Deacons

Leslie Stocks, Jamie Dail, Paul Smith, Larry Tripp,

Dalton Gardner, R. H. Worthington, J.R. Taylor

Junior Deacons

Stuart Tripp, Joe Dixon Tripp, Charley Tripp, Jr.

Robert Lee Tripp, Berry Brown, Shelton Cannon,

Royce Alligood, Frank Kilpatrick, Jr.

Deaconesses

Mesdames: P.R. Taylor, J.L. Tingle, W.W. Salsbury

Leon Cannon, J.H. Coward, J.D. Cannon, Clay Stroud, Jr.

Jack Collins, P.L. Jenkins, and Miss Virginia Belle Cooper

Twenty-two officers who had previously been ordained sat with the newly ordained officers. A consecration service for the entire church board followed the ordination. On that Sunday, 22 stars had been placed on their "service flag" for World War II.

In April of 1943, the Atlantic Christian College Glee Club along with the college president, H.S. Hilley, delivered the music and the message during the morning worship service.

From 1927 to late 1943 the church continued to be in debt to Atlantic Christian College for the loan of \$10,000 to build the Education Building. Through all those years the church managed to pay the interest and a small portion of the debt. Finally, with great joy, on Homecoming Sunday, October 3, 1943 it was reported:

*"J.H.S. Hodges and R.L. Johnson stood at the pulpit and burned the mortgage, the building debt having been paid in full. J. Dixie Cannon read the names and respective amounts of the 125 individuals who had paid the total cash, \$6,001.33 which had*

*completely cared for the remainder of the original \$10,000 loan from the Atlantic Christian College endowment fund."*

A pulpit exchange was affected in January, 1944 between Bro. Brunson and Rev. C.B. Mashburn from the Farmville Christian Church. In March, 1944, the enlisted men from Ayden Christian Church were honored with a candlelight service. Thirty-six names of the men and women from the church were called and thirty-six candles were lighted in their honor. World Community Day was celebrated at a 4 o'clock service for all the women of the community to unite and study their responsibility for a just and lasting peace and a new world order. The Masonic Lodge attended the church in a body in December for a special service conducted by Rev. Brunson, a Master Mason for the past fifty years. In December, 1944, W.H. Brunson was presented a \$500 bill by the congregation during the church service as a token of esteem in which he was held by the members of the church. Frank M. Kilpatrick from the church was elected a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

When the war ended in 1945, the economy and functions of the church began to return to normal. Chimes were given to the church in memory of Mrs. Eva Moseley Turnage by her husband J. Raymond Turnage. After serving many years as superintendent of the Sunday School, T.G. Worthington was replaced by J.D. Cannon then by J. B. Hemby. In November, 1945, funeral services for Mr. S.W. Porter were held in the Ayden Cemetery. He was the brother of William Sidney Porter, famous short story author who wrote under the pen name of O. Henry. Mr. Porter came to Ayden as a bookkeeper. He had no living relatives. His brother had died in 1910. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. W.H. Brunson.

On December 23, 1945, the Ayden High School Chorus under the direction of Miss Virginia Belle Cooper gave a program of Christmas music over WGTC in Greenville.

George Worthington, son of Mr. and Mrs. Calab Worthington who were charter members of the Ayden Church died on February 16, 1946. G. Worthington was the father of T.G., E.G. and R.H. Worthington, all Ayden Disciples.

An Evangelistic meeting was held in the Ayden Christian Church beginning May 26 and lasting one week. Preaching each evening was Rev. H.G. Haney, pastor of Eighth Street Christian Church in Greenville, North Carolina. Vacation Bible School began in June and lasted for two weeks with Rev. A.L. Choplin directing. It was held in the Christian Church. The following girls and boys attended the Youth Conference at Atlantic Christian College: Misses Ann Willis Smith, Peggy Hart, Romona Taylor, Lois Ann Kilpatrick, Mary Grace Holland, Marion Skinner, Myrtle Ruth Collins, Jimmy McCormick, and Billy Jenkins.

It was reported in "The Ayden Dispatch" that the Sunday School auditorium was being renovated. Hardwood flooring was added and the Sunday School rooms were repaired and painted so that the Sunday School could operate without use of the sanctuary.

On Sunday, October 27, 1946, Rountree Christian Church, Ayden's mother church, and the very first Christian Church in North Carolina, celebrated its 118th anniversary with "homecoming." After "Dinner on the Grounds," a large group of descendants of Jesse Rountree, founder of Rountree Christian Church, assembled for their annual meeting. Mr. Clarence V. Cannon, president of the association, himself a descendent of Jesse

Rountree, presided. The Rev. W.H. Brunson also participated in the celebration

In January of 1947, J.R. Taylor was appointed mayor of Ayden by the Town Commissioners to succeed Dr. R.C. Smith who resigned because of poor health. In March C.V. Cannon was appointed Judge of the Ayden Municipal Recorder's Court by the Town Commissioners to succeed the late S.J. Worthington. Later in the year Corey Stokes was elected president of Rotary and a delegate to the International Convention in San Francisco, California. Marvin Baldree, Jr. was elected president of the Student Council at Ayden High School. J.D. Cannon was elected president of the Lions Club. C.V. Cannon was elected chairman and J.R. Taylor was elected secretary of the School Board. C.G. Moore prepared to retire as Chief of Police of Ayden.

In February the Sunday School began an attendance drive which met with some success when an attendance of 252 was achieved on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1947.

The church mourned the death of John H. Coward, a faithful, active, early member of the church, a leading business man and for the previous fourteen years, Pitt County Auditor and Tax Supervisor. Following a month later was the death of Charles Edward Smith, son of charter member C.J. Smith. All eight of his children became members of the Ayden church.

On April 20, 1947, W.H. Brunson was honored on his 25th anniversary in the Ayden Christian Church. A reception was held in the Sunday School auditorium that afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. It was estimated that around 250 attended the reception which was elegantly organized to welcome church members and many from the community.

An excellent relationship continued with Atlantic Christian College as a return visit by the Glee Club was made in May with Audrey Gaylor of Ayden



singing with the group. The eating Christians had a picnic lunch afterward giving them opportunity to meet and mingle with the choir.

C.V. Cannon taught the Loyal Men's Class the last half of 1947. The average attendance of the entire Sunday School was 117.

A major undertaking took place in 1947 when a steam-heat system was installed in the church and the Education building.

On March 6, 1948, J.H.S. Hodges died at the age of 72. He was a leader from the early days of the church, giving of himself throughout his life.

A new innovation was tried by all the churches in Ayden for the months of June through September by having union Sunday night services at one church, each church hosting the churchgoers one month at a time. Local ministers did the preaching and the choirs joined together for one unified choir. Also a revival was held in the Christian Church with Rev. Newton J. Roberson, pastor of Hillyer Memorial Christian Church in Raleigh.

A unique church service was instigated by Rev. Brunson on September 19, 1948 titled "Bride and Groom Sunday." All couples married by pastor Brunson over the past twenty-six years he served the Ayden Church, whether married in Ayden or elsewhere, were invited as special guests. "The Ayden Dispatch" printed the names of the 125 couples he married during that period.

One day coaching conferences were held throughout the state by the Director of Religious Education, Thomas P. Inabinett. Representing the Ayden church was T.G. Worthington who was also elected to membership in the newly formed Southeastern Christian Assembly, Inc.

There was a different kind of new years eve celebration in the Christian Church as explained by an article appearing in "The Ayden Dispatch" as follows:

*"CYF is sponsoring a Community Communion Service Friday evening, December 31 at 11:30 p.m. All persons in the community who would like to join with them in giving thanks to God for the blessings of the year 1948 and in welcoming in the year 1949 in close communion with Him are urged to be present. A brief period of worship service beginning at 11:30 will be followed by the communion service which will be completed just as the old year goes out."*

The following is a story about Mr. Brunson submitted by Douglas Stocks:

*"In the early 1940's Edwards Drug Store was located on Lee Street in the downtown area of Ayden, next to the First National Bank which was later changed to Planters Bank and then Centura Bank.*

*Edwards Drug Store was not only a place to get prescriptions filled for drugs, but a place to meet friends, buy drinks, cigarettes, sandwiches and fellowship together.*

*Walter Stocks, Jack Cheek, Will James and Mark Dixon always met around 7:30 in the morning, most of the time to have a bottle Coca-Cola. Since they met so often, for sport they would flip a coin to see who would pay for the drinks.*

*Mr. Brunson, the Christian minister walked in one morning and found all these men with their money on the counter*

*matching for drinks. He said, "boys don't you know you should not gamble?" Mark Dixon said, "Mr. Brunson, we are not gambling, we are just finding out whose turn it is to pay for the drinks."*

Beginning in January, 1949, the Christian Youth Fellowship with the assistance of the Young Adult Sunday School Class and financial aid from other classes began the process of equipping the church basement for a recreation center for youth of the entire community. An opening date of February 14, a Monday evening, was set. Plans were formed to have the center open to the youth of the town each Saturday evening and possibly one or two afternoons during the week. The equipment included dart board, ping pong table, checkers, chess, and bingo. A corner of the room was to be prepared for reading and discussions with "easy chairs," lamps and bookshelves. They had plans for a snack bar, radio, piano and the necessary equipment for painting and other hobbies. A plea went out to the community for contributions of furniture, equipment and money to assist in completing the center. Clay Stroud, Jr. was the adult supervisor.

A Dedication Service was held at the church on Sunday evening, February 20, 1949 at 7:30 p.m. Dedicated were five chandeliers hung in the sanctuary, given to memorialize Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Smith by their daughter, Mrs. Allen Johnson. Also dedicated was a Hammond Electric Organ given to memorialize Mr. J.H.S. Hodges by his wife, Myrtie Moon Hodges and his daughter, Myrtie Gray Bilbro. After the dedication service an organ recital was given by Mr. T.S. Newberry from Raleigh with guest soloist, Mrs. Moye Dail from Greenville.

Then three days later, forty men attended a supper meeting given by the Loyal Men's Class in order to organize a "Layman's League." Rev. Charles Riggs, North Carolina Christian Evangelist was the guest speaker who explained the purpose of the organization that was designed to do good in the community. T.G. Worthington presided, W.H. Brunson introduced the speaker. Organization followed with election of officers: W.B. Phillips, president: Leslie Stocks, vice-president: Wayland McGlohon, secretary and W.P. Shelton, Treasurer.

The ladies of the church had an opportunity to display their talent to create a formal reception when Rev. and Mrs. Brunson celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. An article describing the memorable occasion appeared in "The Ayden Dispatch" on May 12, 1949 as follows:

The Woman's Council of the Ayden Christian Church gave a tea on Tuesday afternoon, May 3rd, at the parsonage honoring the 50th wedding anniversary of their minister and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. W.H. Brunson.

The golden color scheme was used throughout the living and dining rooms. Floral arrangements of yellow roses with yellow candles in brass candelabra were predominant in the living room.

Guests were welcomed on the porch by Mesdames Clifton Jackson, Jack Collins, Bill Shelton and Miss Clyde Stokes. Receiving at the door was Mrs. S. A. Jenkins, who directed the guests to Mrs. J. H. S. Hodges and Mrs. J.R. Tingle, and they presented them to the receiving line which was composed of Rev. and Mrs. Brunson, Miss Louise Brunson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Keith Brunson, Miss Iva Lou Brunson, Mr. Gordon Brunson of Grifton, Mrs. W. P. Russell of St. Stephens, S. C., sisters of Rev. Brunson, Mrs. K.N. Felder of Holly Hill, S. C., and Mrs. Ira Cox of St. Stephens, S. C., nieces of Rev. Brunson.

Guests were directed to the dining room by Mrs. M. C. Phillips and Mrs. Mae Eure, where Mrs. J. H. Coward and Mrs. J. L. Tingle served individual anniversary cakes and

Mrs. Allen Johnson and Mrs. N. C. Tripp presided over the punch bowl from a satin-covered table with a three-tiered wedding cake flanked with burning tapers. Assisting in servicing mints and nuts were Misses Arlene Joyner, Barbara Little, Ramona Taylor, Margaret Joyner, Bobby Lynn Cox, Shirley Tripp and Louise Worthington. Also assisting with refreshments were Mesdames C. Y. Griffin, J. J. Dennis, G. L. Venters, R. L. Collins, Fred Skinner, Kirby Smith and Dalton Gardner.

Mesdames R. G. Gaylor, Louis Vann, W. I. Jenkins, and L. G. Baldree presided at the gift tables where a collection of beautiful and useful gifts were displayed. An item of interest was the wedding veil and wreath worn by Mrs. Brunson on her wedding day.

The guests were registered by Mrs. C. M. Holton and Mrs. W. L. Lyon and goodbyes were heard by Mrs. L. C. Turnage.

Approximately 150 guests called during the afternoon.

The tea was under the direction of Mrs. J. D. Cannon, chairman, assisted by Mesdames P. R. Taylor and R. B. Hawkins. The decoration committee for the occasion consisted of Mrs. J. E. Burgess, chairman, and Mrs. Fred Darden and W. B. Phillips, Sr.

Another article appeared in "The Ayden Dispatch" several months earlier on September 16, 1948 that had something to do with other weddings of special interest to many church members as follows:

**Bride And Groom Sunday At The Ayden Christian Church**

Brides And Grooms Of Past 26 Years Will Be special Guests At The Christian Church Next Sunday Morning.

Sunday September 19 will be "Bride and Groom Sunday". All couples married by the pastor, W. H. Brunson, in the 26 years in which he has been in Ayden will be special guest that day. A list of the couples married in Ayden, and Ayden couples married by him elsewhere is here given. These couples

are most cordially invited to attend this service arranged for them. The public is invited to be present.

Claude Christopher, Clara Sumrell  
Andrew McLawhorn, Ella McLawhorn  
Lorenzo B. Tucker, Estelle M. Collins  
Maholn G. Tucker, Mable T. Collins  
Clyde Waters, Maude Sumrell  
Herman Dail, Ruth V. Smith  
R. C. Wilson, Myrtle House  
Joe R. Fowler, Bernie Allen  
Harvey Craft, Thelma McLawhorn  
J. H. Gaylor, Helen G. Mumford  
Charlie R. Grey, Thelma F. Johnson  
Thomas Heath, Sue Louise Sumrell  
Allen Johnson, Mary Alice Smith  
M. F. Spier, Florence Lovett  
Leland Andrews, Josie May Tucker  
J. B. Beland, Johnnie Garris  
J. B. Carroll, Beatrice Tucker  
Grover H. Bell, Minnie A. McCormick  
William E. Smith, Ethel Jarman  
Guy Evans, Charlotte Ruth Sumrell  
Willis Dixon, Jr., Louise Garris  
James E. Parker, Annie P. Jones  
May Lang, Marietta Rouse  
Leon L. Kittrell, Blanche Allen  
Jesse Anderson, Novella McLawhorn  
W. D. Clarke, Viola Boyd  
W. L. Smith, Dorothy H. Briley  
E. J. Conklin, Betty Wolfe  
Fred Skinner, Stella May Worthington  
Mack Glenn Barrett, Gertha J. Clarke  
Perry D. McLawhorn, Mae Bladree  
Arthur Lee Richards, Elizabeth Allen  
Luby Griffin, Norma H. Manning  
James Grant, Sallie L. Turnage  
Emos B. Dail, Ola Lee Sumrell  
Soloman A. McGlohon, Aileene Pittman  
Charles Davis, Sallie Moore  
Vernon E. White, Louise Ange  
James K. Hester, Margaret Forrest  
Luther C. Fletcher, Lula May Jenkins  
L. L. Cox, Daisy Haskins  
A. Tyson Bilbro, Myrtie Grey Hodges  
R. B. Hawkins, Renno Jenkins  
Carroll Humbles, Hilda Manning  
Arnold T. Baldree, Sarah Pearson  
Russell Moore, Martha M. McLawhorn

Myer Hahn, Edna Lucille Worthington  
Tom Letchworth, Lillian Hudson  
Wilbur Hart, Lillian Smith  
Eugene Smith, Ruth Wright  
Ruben H. McLawhorn, Addie L. Odham  
Eugene Sexton, Kathleen Cox  
W. L. Hunsucker, Lucy Elizabeth Abbott  
Elbert Bryant, Edna Claire Brown  
C. F. Sidle, Edna Earle Sumrell  
J. D. Gardner, Francis Madrin  
Lewis S. Burk, Dorothy E. Bill  
Percy G. Mclawhorn, Dolly Mae Cox  
Mack Ross, Ora Devus  
Herman B. Evans, Mary C. Smith  
Alex Cuthrell, Ethel Mae McLawhorn  
J. G. Campen, Mayola Borden  
Perry R. Mclawhorn, Almetia Worthington  
Harvey Griffin, May Bryant  
Yayton H. Miner, Sarah S. Johnson  
Waddell Waters, Margaret Welch  
Clyde R. Tyndall, May Johnson Eure  
J. L. James, Hilda Tripp  
Alton Phillips, Mildred Albritton  
Tom Mumford, Maggie Mae Heath  
R. E. Robinson, Athalia Sumrell  
Boyd D. Cox, Ellen McGlohon  
Jack G. Smith, Ruby Lee Letchworth  
Williams D. Brunson, Madine DeRoo  
Ernest Hodges, Elizabeth Ross  
Wallice Ecklin, Annie Mae Brown  
Elmer Roebuck, Iris E. Ewell  
Mickall Karachum, Martha Bett Jackson  
Herman Mumford, Francis James  
McDonald Edwards, Julia Bob Davis  
Dewitt Waters, Mavis Earle Williams  
William Whitehust, Queenie McLawhorn  
Henry Smith, Elise Mae Mills  
James M. Ham, Virginia McLawhorn  
Charlie E. Stone, Magdaline McLawhorn  
James Worthington, Nora Mae Cox  
Donald G. Brown, Allie Smith  
Bennie Scott, Elizabeth Newell  
William Howard, Jeanette Smith  
Henry F. Halsey, Emily F. Murphey  
Willian Wilson, Margaret Elizabeth Gay  
Paul Hill, Mable Evelyn Brown  
J. Odell Mclawhorn, Margie Stallings  
Arthur Wiggs, Edna Grace Brown  
Arthur S. Wayne, Mary L. Barbia

Joseph E. Cudney, Ida Clyde Dawson  
 Leo Earl Stallings, Alice Marie Wilson  
 Sammy A. Pierce, Frances Sawyer  
 Paul L. Gipson, Mary Catherine Hart  
 William P. Shelton, Marquerette P. Britt  
 Truma W. Haddock, Nellie D. Manning  
 Joseph Jackson, Joyce McLawhorn  
 Wilbur Phillips, Joyce Rose Faulkner  
 Arthur E. Vandiford, Dorothy Haddock  
 James W. Stallings, Alice Nora Joyner  
 Norman M. Dalton, Billie Wilson Borden  
 Willian G. Coster, Doris Dawson  
 C. W. Harvey, May Johnson Eure  
 John H. Heath, Helen W. Padley  
 Jimmie M. Kester, Glenn Mclawhorn  
 Raymond Lee Phillips, Ruth Phillips  
 Joshua Cannon, Vivian Vandiford  
 R. H. McLawhorn, Sr., Ruby Garris  
 Wilson C. Taylor, Marjorie Rowe  
 Henry Jenkins, Oneta Braxton  
 Charlie Forrest, Mary Grace Holland  
 Frank H. Sherrill, Alice Jean Johnson  
 J. T. Worthington, Addie May Beaman  
 Richard E. Worthington, Annie D. Worthington  
 Luther C. Joyner, Evelyn Venters  
 Jesse G. Cannon, Lucille Cox  
 Carl L. Cheek, Evonne McLawhorn  
 James D. Allen, Hannah J. Heath  
 John Olliver, Alberta Marshburn  
 Assisted in marriage of--  
 J. R. Taylor, Annie Worthington

C.V. Cannon taught the Loyal Men's Class most of the time in 1949 as Bro. Brunson had been sick. Average attendance in the whole school was 125. In February, 1950, Bro. Brunson attended a ministers retreat in Lillington. In May the men gave up having a fish stew. They painted the parsonage instead. In December the men and women had a joint meeting and turkey supper in the church basement. The pastor's salary in the 1950-51 budget was raised from \$2400 to \$2700. The population of Ayden in 1950 was 2282.

In the beginning of 1951 officers of the Bible School were:  
 Superintendent, F.C. Darden: Assistant Superintendent, Wayland McGlohon:  
 Secretary, J.B. Hemby. C.V. Cannon continued to teach the men. C.C. Ware



was a frequent visitor. On Easter Sunday, March 25, 1951, the Sunday School had an attendance of 169.

On May 28, 1951, at 11:00 o'clock in the morning, the Rev. William H. Brunson died at the parsonage after several weeks of serious illness. The church and the entire community mourned, for he was much loved by everyone. The following obituary appeared in Raleigh's "News and Observer:"

#### Death Claims Ayden Pastor

Ayden, May 28.--The Rev. William H. Brunson, 75, pastor of the Ayden Christian Church for the past 29 years, died at his home Monday morning at 11 o'clock after several weeks of serious illness.

The Rev. Mr. Brunson was born at Holly Hill, S.C., a son of the late T.J. and Laura Ann Brunson. During his 52 years as a minister he served only three churches--Russelville, S.C., Charleston, S.C. and Ayden. He was active in all civic and religious activities. He was a charter member of the Rotary Club and held an honorary membership in the Masonic order. He was past president of the Disciples of Christ Convention of N.C., past president of the Pitt County Ministerial Association and a trustee of Atlantic Christian College.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Rosa Lee Wilder Brunson; a daughter, Louise Brunson of Ayden; two sons, G.T. of Greenville and William D. Brunson of Charlotte; five sisters, Mrs. W P. Russell, Stephen, S.C., Mrs. Cora B. Copeland, Jacksonville, Fla., Mrs. W.O. Dantzler, Eutawville, S.C., Mrs. W.D. Barnes, Brunson, S.C., Mary Brunson, San Diego, Calif.; five grandchildren.

Funeral rites will be conducted Wednesday at 3 p.m. from the Ayden Christian Church by Dr. D.D. Lindley, ACC president, Dr. H.E. Haney of Greenville, and the Rev. J.L. Goff of Williamston. Burial will be in Ayden Cemetery. The body will lie in state at the church from 10 a.m. until time for the funeral.

A little more than a year earlier the following article appeared in "The Ayden Dispatch":

#### Ayden Personalities and Events

It's the purpose of this series of articles to give credit where it is due and the person that Ayden is indebted to the most, in the opinion of the writer, is Rev. W.H. Brunson.

Mr. Brunson, a native of South Carolina arrived here almost twenty-eight years ago to serve the Ayden Christian Church as pastor. Since that time his hard work and devout Christian character has had a marked influence on practically everyone in Ayden.

He has spent fifty-two active-years in the ministry and much of the time was spent in watching Ayden grow into the Town that it now is.

A charter member of the Rotary Club in Ayden, Mr. Brunson was sent abroad as its delegate in 1927.

He leads a very active life in spite of the many years behind him and very recently he was elected president of the Pitt County Interdenominational Ministerial Association.

In an interview with Mr. Brunson he said of Ayden: "Ayden is a very friendly town with a splendid citizenry. I have found it quite cooperative and predict for it a splendid future."

C.C. Ware in his "Hookerton History" said of him:

"The 25th anniversary of W.H. Brunson in the Ayden pastorate was observed on April 20, 1947. Deceased in 1951, he still holds the record as "dean of all full-time pastorates" within the State among Disciples. Achieved in his quarter-century at Ayden were: an educational plant costing \$14,000 constructed and paid for; parsonage debt cleared; new baptistry installed and sanctuary redecored: four pianos and a tower system of chimes

installed, officiated at 114 weddings, and more than 200 funerals, and there had been many accessions to the church. In addition he had held more than a score of revivals away from Ayden in the Carolinas."

Rev. Ralph Messick said of him:

"People throughout Ayden of every denomination knew and loved W.H. Brunson. He died in 1951 but the spirit of love which lived within him still can be found within the members of the congregation who he has led to Christ."

T.G. Worthington said of him:

*"Many who were members of other churches wanted Mr. Brunson to participate in the funerals of their loved ones, and many, outside the Ayden Christian Church, wanted him to officiate at their weddings."*

He came in good times when prosperity was at hand to become thoroughly involved in activities of the church as he took charge. Then he endured the bad times of the Great Depression, without despair, ever willing to promote the church and to direct the people to God. He was enthusiastic during the recovery period and consoling during World War II. He did not let his illness or age prevent him from creating new innovative challenges. He loved his charges. He was the man of the century. He was the only minister to be buried in Ayden. Hundreds came to his funeral He was truly mourned as he passed on to his reward. May God in his wisdom and mercy bless him and keep him forever more.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE ADJUSTMENT YEARS

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues.”

I Corinthians 12:27-28 (RSV)

The leadership of the Ayden Church realized a great adjustment would have to be made. A challenge and a responsibility was inherited by them to find someone to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Rev. Brunson. Oddly enough it was Rev. Brunson who had prepared for this eventuality, knowingly or not, by laying the groundwork for the search. It was Mr. Brunson who had cultivated a friendship with Atlantic Christian College. He was a trustee. It was no accident that the college presidents visited Ayden often to preach, teach and visit. Latest in line was the new president, Dr. Denton Ray Lindley who came aboard in 1950, but had already been indoctrinated into a good supportive relationship with the Ayden Church. Likewise was the friendship exhibited by Rev. C.C. Ware, State Secretary, who had preached, taught, and visited for many years in Ayden. These two in particular were contacted by T.G. Worthington, Chairman of the Board, to recommend a new minister. They proceeded to do just that. Early in June Dr. Lindley came to teach the W.H. Brunson Bible Class at which time he discussed with the class the problem of electing a new minister. Later in the month he met with the Loyal Men's Class. These two loyal supporters recommended the church interview their suggested candidate and at the same time encouraged the candidate to consider the pastorate at the Ayden Church.



**Gilbert D. Davis, Jr.**  
**Ministered September 1951 to May 1954**

So it came to pass that the fifteenth minister to serve the Ayden Church was Rev. Gilbert D. Davis, Jr., serving from September, 1951 until May, 1954. He was

born in Charlotte, North Carolina but claimed his hometown to be Plymouth, North Carolina although he graduated from Arthur High School, Bell Arthur, North Carolina. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Atlantic Christian College, Wilson, North Carolina, in 1946, and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas in 1949. He attended Duke Divinity School in 1947. He married Hilda Lake from Crockett, Texas. He began his ministry at the First Christian Church, Camden, Arkansas, serving from 1948 to 1951.

Rev. Davis and his wife Hilda made their first visit to Ayden on July 22, 1951 at which time he attended the Loyal Men's Class. He attended Sunday School on September 2 giving the morning prayer. The installation service of Rev. Davis took place at 7:30 p.m. on September 9, 1951. He was installed by Dr. D. Ray Lindley, president of Atlantic Christian College and by Rev. Zeseley B.T. Cox, minister of Farmville Christian Church.

It was soon evident that the church would be rewarded in their choice of the new minister when they listened to his first sermon. He was a master in composition and delivery of a message that captivated the attention of the listener from beginning to end. He was able to challenge the individual with unhurried ease and gain acceptance of the challenge. He was destined to endear himself to the congregation and would long be remembered.

Another change occurred in 1951 in that attendance in both the Loyal Men and Women's Classes declined. The W.H. Brunson Bible Class, composed of married couples became the dominate class. Their teacher was Clay Stroud, Jr. Officers serving the class were: Charlie Tripp, Charlie Gray Smith, Stuart Tripp, Jack Collins, Edna Dennis, Joe D. Tripp, Louise Baldree, W.H. Gooding, Callie Stocks and Mrs. M. Shelton. They had Corey Stokes as their song leader and Evelyn Collins to play piano. Average attendance was between 25 and 30 each Sunday but could have been

more since most of the teachers in the Sunday School came from the W.H. Brunson Bible Class. There were many Sundays when 35 attended. This class used the same format as was used by the Loyal Men's Class for so many years; call to order, two songs, prayer, minutes, business and lesson. The class was very active and generous as they contributed bibles to new born babies and to Sunday School Classes, gave money to send young people to camp and youth conferences, and gave money to the orphanage, to missions and to needy families. They earned money by feeding Rotary and other organizations.

In 1951, the Christian Women's Fellowship consisted of Circles, three different groups of women who met at different homes. In October the circle meetings were held at the homes of Mrs. Hemby, Mrs. Jesse Cannon and Mrs. G.F. Cooper. In November they met at the homes of Mrs. Lyman Baldree and Mrs. Moses Phillips.

In October, 1951, Rev. Davis conducted a weeks preaching Service at Rountree Christian Church. In November the State Convention of the Disciples of Christ was held in Kinston with Kermit Sumrell elected as Ayden Registrar.

The church budget for 1951-52 totaled \$7252.42 from which \$3600 was listed for the pastors salary and \$2650 for World Outreach.

The Loyal Men's Class continued to be active. They voted in November to have the preachers study painted and they gave Christmas baskets to needy elderly citizens and presents to Virginia Belle Cooper, Rev. and Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Brunson and Louise Brunson.

1951 was an eventful year.

In January, 1952, new officers of the Church Board were elected as follows: Dr. H.W. Gooding, chairman; J.R. Taylor, vice-chairman; W.B. Phillips, secretary; Leslie Stocks, treasurer. Wayland McGlohon was Sunday School superintendent; his assistant was Corey Stokes. Teacher of Loyal Men's Class was C.V. Cannon; Teacher



of W.H. Brunson Bible Class was Clay Stroud, Jr. On April 20, 1952, Mrs. W.H. (Rosa) Brunson passed away.

Mrs. H.W. (Ruggie) Gooding was elected as president of CWF. The circles continued to be well attended, meeting at individual homes such as; Mrs. J.H. Coward, Mrs. Kermit Sumrell, Mrs. P.R. Taylor, Mrs. Wilbur Lyon and Mrs. Kirby Smith. The CYF was well attended and they also met at individual homes. Chi-Rho Camp attendees in June were: Annette Willoughby, Sue Sutton, Charles Stokes, Burt Tripp and R.L Collins, Jr. The faculty who went with them were: Charlene Smith, James Hemby, Jr. and Rev. and Mrs. Davis.

The total budget for 1952-53 jumped to \$11,812.62. The pastors salary was \$4200 and missionary work was \$2650.

Many evening services were held in the church by Rev. Davis, but of particular importance was the Ordination Service for Goodwin Moore on September 14, 1952, the first from the Ayden Church to be called to serve the Master. The service was held by Rev. Davis. Miss Virginia Belle Cooper was the organist. Soloists were Mr. James Ray Pittman and Miss Shirley Tripp. The Ordination Sermon was delivered by Dr. Clement Manley Morton, retired missionary to Puerto Rico who had also served as the seventh minister of Ayden Christian Church when a student at Atlantic Christian College from 1908 through 1910. In the forty year period since his departure he had established a remarkable achievement in the missionary field.

A revival service was held in October by Rev. O.L. Harris from Jonesboro, Arkansas. On December 28, 1952, the guest minister was Rev. W.O. Haney, minister of North Side Christian Church in Chicago, who was the son of Dr. and Mrs. H.G. Haney from Greenville, North Carolina. His wife was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Lyon. The Rev. Goodwin Moore was the organist for this service.

It is well to note how close relationships of servants to the Ayden Church, although scattered afar and separated by time passed, can unite again in common

purpose. On December 31, 1952 a son (David) was born to Rev. and Mrs. Davis, a blessing to close out the year.

In 1953, the Brunson Class had a variety of teachers: Callie Stocks, Clay Stroud, Arlene Joyner, Sherman Hanson and Evelyn Collins. In February a new Bible Study Group began meeting at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Gooding. The Hookerton District CMF met in Ayden at which time Corey Stokes was elected president. Leon Kittrell was president of Ayden CMF. In April the Brunson Class moved to the second floor sanctuary classrooms. On May 3 Dr. Stephen Sudor made his first appearance in the class and on May 31 Ross Persinger was welcomed. In July a new Sunday School class for older youth, ages 18-24, was established with Miss Clyde Stokes and Dr. Stephen Sudor as teachers. In August a Christian Action Team sponsored by North Carolina CYF Commission met to assist youth leaders. Rev. Davis continued to hold evening services as there was great interest in listening to his sermons.

The average attendance in the Bible School in 1954 was 135. There were many teachers: Dale Sumrell, Billie McGlohon, Louise Tripp, Myrtle Thomas, Annie Taylor, Ramona Taylor, Alberta Dale, Mrs. Salsbury, J.R. Taylor, Callie Stocks, Leslie Stocks, Kermit Sumrell, Billy Adams, Clay Stroud, Mae Eure, C.V. Cannon, T.G. Worthington, Evelyn Collins, Edna Dennis, Maggie McGlohon, Martha Karachun, Stephen Sudor, and Miss Clyde Stokes.

In January, 1954, Rev. Davis attended State Board meetings in Raleigh and Wilson. In February he attended a ministers retreat in Wilson. Then came the sad news for the Ayden Christian Church when the Rev. Gilbert Davis resigned his pastorate in Ayden to accept a call to Parkside Christian Church, Galena, Texas. He gave his last sermon in Ayden on May 23, 1954. The congregation had experienced the talent and heart of a man destined for greatness and for the short rime he served the Ayden Church he would leave a lasting impression of love to the congregation.

The church had agreed to build a new parsonage with construction beginning in May, 1954. Work proceeded on a modern six-room brick house on a lot given by Robert N. Johnson. The residence was completed in September, 1954. Cost of the structure including stove, refrigerator, attic fan, and venetian blinds amounted to \$12,300.88. Contributions during construction totaled \$5800.88. \$500 was borrowed from the church treasury and a loan of \$6000 was secured from First National Bank of Ayden with scheduled payments of \$2000 due November 1 in 1954, 1955, and 1956.

With the absence of a minister from May 30, 1954 to September 9, 1954, the following filled the pulpit: Dr. Moudy, Mr. Wiberal, James Hemby, George Dowdey, Ross Allen, Goodwin Moore, Billy Tucker and Robert Overcash.

The pulpit committee met with success in finding a new minister who was presented to the congregation on September 19, 1954.



**Franklin F. Beach**  
**Ministered September 1954 to October 1955**

The sixteenth minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was Rev. Franklin F. Beach who served from September 19, 1954 until October 1, 1955. A native of

Hattiesburg, Mississippi, he received his B.A. degree from Texas Christian University in August, 1948 and his B.D. degree from Yale Divinity School in June, 1952. As a student he was called to serve the Mystic Congregational Church, Mystic, Connecticut. He also served several churches in Mississippi. He began his first full-time pastorate at the First Christian Church in Lockhart, Texas. He was ordained on July 29, 1952. The following article appearing in "The Christian Evangelist" on September 12, 1951 describes his ordination:

*Franklin F. Beach Is Ordained In Mississippi*

*Franklin F. Beach, Yale Divinity student was ordained to the Christian ministry in special services at Central Church, Hattiesburg, Miss. July 29.*

*Participating in the service were Ervin R. Watson, minister of the church; E.K. Latimer, minister of First Church, Del Rio, Texas, and former pastor of the Hattiesburg church; M. Maurice Grove, Secretary-director of Mississippi Christian Missionary Society; Wendell Carr, minister, First Church, Gulfport, Mississippi; George Jones, elder; Mrs. H.H. Harper, organist and Mrs. Leo H. Martin, music director, all of the Hattiesburg church.*

*It was during the ministry of Mr. Latimer that Mr. Beach was commissioned to study for the Christian ministry in February, 1946. He entered Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, the following month, from which institution he received his B.A. degree in August, 1948. In the fall of the same year he entered Yale Divinity School for graduate work.*

*The high standards of his undergraduate work won for him membership in Sigma Tau Delta, national honorary English society, and Alpha Chi, national honorary scholarship society.*

*In October, 1950, Mr. Beach was called to the ministry of the Mystic Congregational Church, Mystic, Conn., in which position he continues to serve.*

*The ordination sermon was preached by Mr. Latimer and the charges to church and candidate delivered by Mr. Grove. The program in the sanctuary was followed by a reception in the library and lounge of the church honoring Mr. Beach and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Beach of the local congregation.*

The following article describing his first full-time pastorate appeared in "The Christian Evangelist" on October 15, 1952:

*F.F. Beach Installed At Lockhart, Texas*

*Franklin F. Beach was installed as minister of First Church, Lockhart, Texas, at a special service October 6. Dr. M.E. Sadler, president of Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, delivered the sermon.*

*E.K. Latimer, minister of the First Church, Del Rio, Texas, gave the charge to the church and minister.*

*Mr. Beach, a native of Mississippi, was graduated from TCU in 1948 and from Yale Divinity School in June, 1952. For the past two years he has been minister of the Congregational Church in Mystic, Conn. Central Church, Hattiesburg, Miss., ordained him to the Christian ministry July 29, 1951.*

*First Church, Lockhart, Texas, called him to his present ministry, August 18.*

Rev. Beach came to Ayden highly recommended by Atlantic Christian College and Texas Christian University. Married to the former Miss Joan Latimer of Hattiesburg, Mississippi they had one son, Jonathan, aged eleven months. Rev. Beach and his family were the first to move into the new three bedroom parsonage on Westhaven Avenue in the circle.

Rev. Beach preached his first sermon on September 19, 1954. His Installation Service took place on October 10, 1954 at 7:30 p.m. Presiding at the service was W.B. Phillips. He was installed by Dr. Travis A. White, president of Atlantic Christian College, and the sermon was delivered by Dr. James Moudy, Dean of the college. Immediately following the installation service a reception was held in the Sunday School Assembly Hall to honor and welcome Rev. and Mrs. Beach. The church had gone through a four-month period without a full-time minister. Although well served by visiting ministers, the church was relieved to have someone who would be available during the week to attend to all functions that evolved. Rev. Beach followed a rather formal approach during the church service with sermons that were representative of his excellent educational background. The membership was very receptive to his well prepared sermons. One of his many interests was the choir for he dearly loved excellent music. Within two months he had outlined a series of

resolutions the church should consider. He was very well organized in all that he tried to do, very attentive to the Sunday School and to Vacation Bible School. Among others, Hannah Gaylor and Dot Respass were baptized by him. On October 28, 1954, Rev. and Mrs. Beach attended the National Convention of Disciples of Christ in Miami, Florida.

It was while Rev. Beach was minister in Ayden that James Benjamin Hemby, Jr. was ordained to become the second Timothy from Ayden Christian Church. James Hemby grew up in the Ayden Church graduating from Ayden High School. He then received his B.A. degree from Atlantic Christian College in 1955 with an English Major, and Religion and Philosophy Minor.

In September, 1955, his ordination service was held in the Ayden Christian Church with the following participating in the service: Rev. Frank Beach, minister of Ayden Christian Church; W.B. Phillips, Board Chairman; J.B. Hemby, father; Dr. James Moudy, Dean of Atlantic Christian College; Rev. Fred West, professor at Atlantic Christian College and minister at Hillyer Memorial Christian Church in Raleigh; and Rev. Ross Allen, Regional Minister.

Rev. James Hemby was active in youth work in Ayden throughout his early years, attending youth camps, conferences and leadership training meetings. He would probably say his interest in God and the Ayden Christian Church could be attributed to his parents. He would also say he was helped by Rev. Frank Beach. Rev. Hemby would eventually achieve great rewards in the field of education.

During the period the church was without a minister, the Sunday School classes continued to function normally, donating money to the Christian Home and Children's Home. The Sunday School had a average attendance of 136. L.L. Kitrell was elected president of the Loyal Men's Class and Callie Stocks was elected president of W.H. Brunson Bible Class.

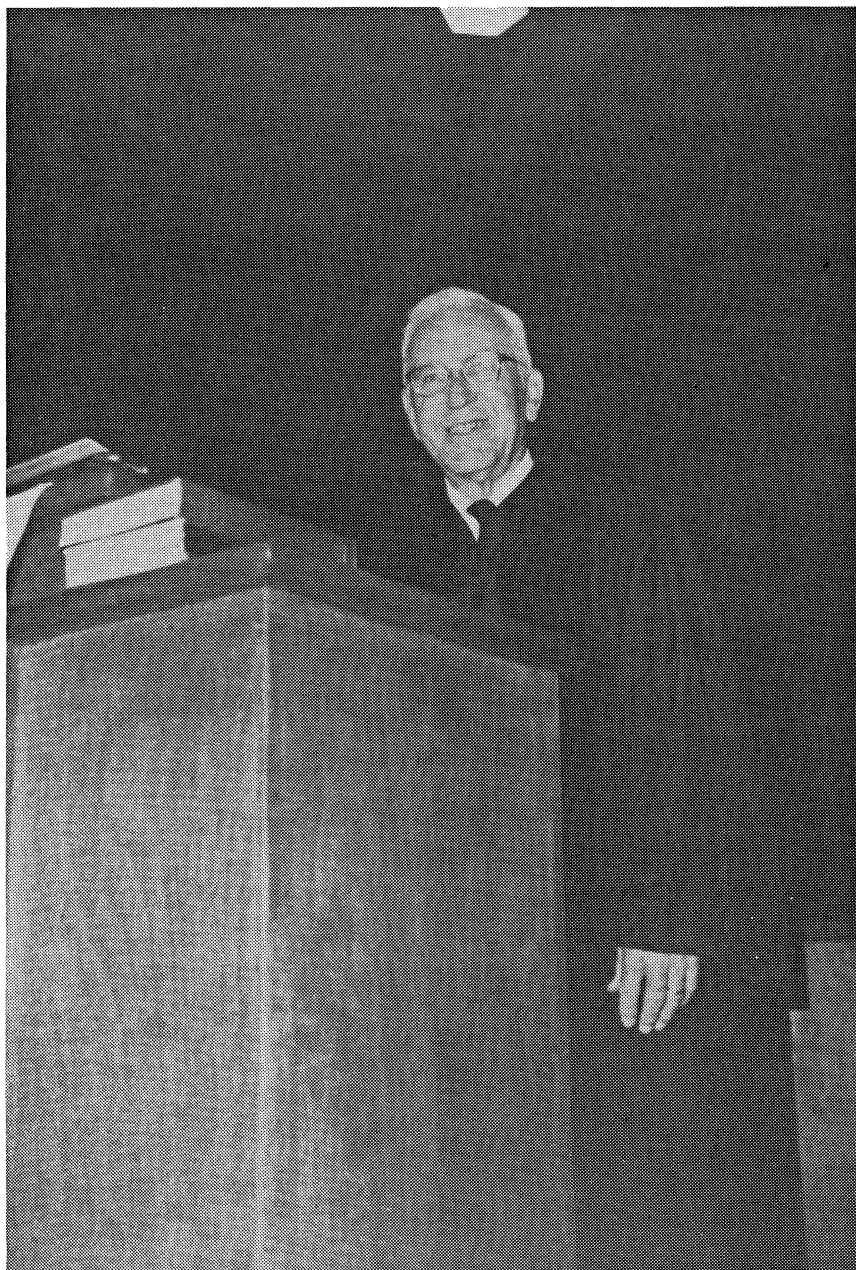


Early in 1955 the Loyal Men's Class established a Scholarship Loan Fund at Atlantic Christian College and sent \$100. Callie Stocks taught the Brunson class for two months and Henry Lyon helped to teach the Loyal Men's Class.

Rev. Beach attended a ministers conference at Union Theological Seminary in New York in July, 1955. The minister was absent during late summer and early fall at which time the pulpit was filled by: Dr. Cuthrell, George Downey, James Hemby, Dr. James Moudy, Dr. Travis White and Morgan McKinney.

On October 1, 1955 Rev. Franklin Beach resigned to return to Mississippi.

Once again the church was forced to find a new minister. The church did not stop its functions. The church was never without good leadership among the members. The Christian Men's Fellowship voted to redecorate the sanctuary toward the end of 1955. The Loyal Men's Class elected Marvin Smith as president. The Sunday School elected Dr. Stephen Sudor as superintendent, a position that would last for twelve years. Three months passed before the next minister came to serve the church.



**John Lewis Goff**  
**Ministered July 1, 1956 to October 1962**

The seventeenth minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was the Rev. John Lewis Goff, serving from July 1, 1956 to October, 1962. He was born on

November 17, 1897. He was educated in private and parochial schools in Lynchburg, Virginia. He graduated from Lynchburg College with high scholastic honors. To earn tuition money that enabled him to attend Lynchburg College he played semi-pro baseball in the West Virginia coalfields. After graduating from college, he became a single seminary student under the tutelage of Dr. George Kershner, then president of Lynchburg College. He married Lelia May Hott on August 1, 1923. They eventually had five children: John W., Jane G., J. Warren, Robert F., and Lelia G. His first pastorate was at the First Christian Church at Narrows, Virginia from 1923 to 1927. He then served the First Christian Church at Petersburg, Virginia from 1927 to 1931. His next pastorate was at Broadstreet Christian Church in New Bern, North Carolina from 1931 to 1937. While at New Bern he also ministered to missions at Galilee, Havelock and Bethany in Craven County. Then came his extended service of nineteen years at First Christian Church in Williamston, North Carolina, serving from 1937 to 1955. It was while at Williamston that he gained so much recognition. Among his plaudits he was a trustee of Atlantic Christian College, a member of the State Board of North Carolina Christian Churches and chairman of the original Camp Caroline Committee when the camp was constructed. He was instrumental in founding Beaufort-Hyde-Martin Regional Library. He was also instrumental in the formation of Williamston Ministerial Association, Community Kindergarten program and free health aids program which was operated by the ministerial association. This program loaned hospital beds, walkers, wheel chairs and other health and handicap aids to the needy. He founded the Church League Softball program in Williamston. While serving there he was a member of the Kiwanis Club and Chaplain of the Rescue Squad. He was a Mason for many years. When he came to Ayden he became a Rotarian.

On January 5, 1956 the following article appeared in "The Ayden Dispatch:"

*Rev. John L. Goff, Former Williamston Minister Accepts Ayden  
Christian Church Post*

*The Rev. John L. Goff, who for the past 19 years has served as pastor of  
the Williamston Christian Church, began his pastorate here with the  
Ayden Church Sunday, January 1, 1956.*

*The Installation Service was conducted by the Rev. Morgan McKinney  
of Wilmington, beloved minister ad interim.*

*As the Goffs move to their new field of service, they leave behind a host  
of friends in Williamston. Under Mr. Goff's leadership, the Williamston  
Church last year dedicated a \$165,000 church plant, debt free. This and  
many other achievements mark Mr. Goff as one of the outstanding  
ministers of the Disciples of Christ. Mrs. Goff also has been active in the  
women's work and for the past two years has served as the State  
President of the Christian Women's Fellowship.*

*The Ayden Church is extremely happy to have the Goffs. They are  
looking forward with great confidence to the future of the Christian  
Church under the leadership of this well-loved minister and his wife.*

The transition of leadership to the Goffs transpired smoothly and efficiently from the beginning of their arrival. On January 9, 1956 the Christian Women's Fellowship met at the church for their monthly meeting. The Christian Youth Fellowship gave a program involving Peggy Wood (president), Annette Willoughby, Carol Cavileer, Sue Taylor, Sandra McGlohon and Henrietta Taylor.

Mrs. Wayland McGlohon, president of CWF then welcomed the new pastor's wife, Mrs. Goff, who was the State President of CWF.

In March a group of men led by Charles Smith began a project of re-decorating Fellowship Hall in the Sunday School basement. New lighting system, new paint, new chairs. This hall was used for Sunday School assembly and at that time for re-assembly also. The cost was several thousand dollars when completed.

In October, 1956, Rev. Goff held a revival service at Rountree Christian Church. The Disciple State Convention was held in Greenville in November with the Ayden Church offering 19 homes to delegates.

On October 24, 1956, a joyful, fun-time event with spontaneous uncontrollable laughter and tear-filled eyes, an unbelievable spectacle (how else could it be described) occurred when the CWF sponsored a "Mad Hatters Breakfast" in the basement of the church. The most outlandish, even grotesque, or maybe elegance was displayed in the creation of hats worn by the ladies. The Hall was packed. Each new arrival sparked a comment or a stare of wonderment. To end the affair the ladies paraded downtown, bravely and defiantly for stares of men standing on the sidewalks. The following was printed in "The Ayden Dispatch" on October 25, 1956:

*The breakfast opened with the return of thanks by Rev. Goff, then a welcome given by the mistress of ceremonies, Mrs. Jessie Sumrell Griffin who also introduced the judges; Mrs. W.I. Bissett from Grifton, Mrs. Brown Hodges from Grifton, and Mrs. Ray Cox from Winterville, supposedly an impartial crew!*

*The Hat Show got off with a bang when Mrs. John Goff and Mr. Corey Stokes modeled specimens that dated back to 1856.*

*The "Mad Hatters" got their program underway with a variation of "Name That Tune." Mrs. E. Joe Whitaker was the winner of the two-round contest and was awarded a box of assorted pickles. Mrs. J.P. Sumrell, Mrs. Roy Turnage and Mrs. Mattie Hardee competed with Mrs. Whitaker.*

*Contestants in the old hat division were Mrs. Allen Johnson, Sr., mourning hat; Mrs. W.P. Shelton, 1880; Mrs. J.R. Taylor, 1890; Ross Persinger, 1900-1910; Mrs. Stephen Sudor, 1920; Mrs. Corey Stokes, 1925; Mrs. Irma B. Collins, 1940; Mrs. Margaret Shelton, 1950 and Mrs. Wayland McGlohon, 1956.*

*Winners of the comic hats follow: Mrs. Corey Stokes, most original; Mrs. Curt Cavileer, largest; Mrs. Leo Brown, smallest; Mrs. Frank Longino, prettiest; Mrs. S.M. Edwards, Jr., ugliest; Mrs. Ralph Hardee, cutest; Mrs. Roy Turnage, oldest; Mrs. J.H. Whitaker, tackiest; Mrs. Rosa Venters, most stylish; Mrs. John Coward, most becoming; Mrs. A.F. Rowe, most elaborate; Mrs. Edgar Dixon, most comical; Mrs. L.L. Kittrell and Mrs. Taylor, most colorful; and Dixie Harris, most youthful.*

*Prizes were furnished through the courtesy of the following Ayden merchants: Lillian Moyer's Cafe, Cannons Superette, P.R. Taylor Co., Worthington's Department Store, Western Auto, Fashion Shoppe, Smithy's Fruit Stand, Clara Brown Florist, Allen's Esso, Stocks Service Station, J.A. Johnson & Co., Farmers Supply, Tyndall-Boyd & Stroud, Bonnie's Beauty Shoppe, and Lutz and Schramm.*

Bro. Goff was very interested in literature and soon advocated to Dr. Sudor the need to expand the church library. In November the church participated in National Christian Literature Week by obtaining a large collection of books on consignment from the Christian Board of Publication for inspection. The church members were encouraged to enhance their own collection of books and to make contribution of same to the church library. Eleven categories were displayed; children's books, fiction, biography, devotional, missionary, inspirational, stewardship, Bibles, study courses, Disciple history and general reading.

Also in November, Mrs. John Goff gave a report of the International Convention, which she attended in Des Moines, Iowa, to combined circles of CWF led by Louise Tripp and Mrs. Kermit Sumrell with assistance from Mrs. Sam McLawhorn and Mrs. Sarah Baldree.

Upon his arrival, Rev. Goff immediately began to upgrade attendance and education in the Bible School. With Dr. Sudor, Bible School superintendent, a "Workers Conference" was instituted composed of teachers and officers of the Bible School who met once every month. It was during these meetings that problems were solved and activities planned for each department as well as for the whole school. From these meetings a library was established, new bookshelves constructed, books purchased, Christian Literature week observed, Vacation Bible School planned, mission study planned, picnics, summer camp and other youth activities planned. There was much activity during the Christmas season such as distribution of "white gifts," caroling, decorating the large Christmas tree that stood higher than the banister of the second floor Sunday School Assembly Hall, Christmas programs, parties and open house at the Goodings where adults were served hors d'oeuvres and sang carols. This was an event highly regarded and looked forward to each year, thanks to the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Gooding.

With the passing of C.V. Cannon who died in the Kinston hospital, Bro. Goff began to teach the Loyal Men Class in 1957. The men contributed regularly to the Atlantic Christian College Scholarship Fund, giving in memory of those who passed away. The men also voted purchase ten tables for Fellowship Hall. Even more important was liquidation of the parsonage debt amounting to \$2100 early in 1957.

From April 14 through 21, 1957, Passion Week Services were held at the church with Stephen Farrish as song leader, leading in the singing of old hymns. By the end of the week, Rev. John Goff had 31 additions to the church.

Vacation Bible School began in late May at which time each class was challenged to beautify their own classroom. Average attendance in Sunday School in 1957 was 162. Curtis Cavileer spearheaded a drive to solicit contributions to install air conditioning in the sanctuary. \$2,000 was collected in a short period of time through the persuasive effort of Mr. Cavileer at a time in 1957 when the oppressive heat could not be ignored.

Rally Day was set for October 6, 1957 with an attendance goal of 250. It turned out to be a glorious day when the goal was exceeded by one with an attendance of 251. To celebrate the day of achievement a picture was taken of all who attended.

Leadership training courses were provided periodically for each department with professional teachers brought into the church. It was the theory at that time that round tables, seating a small number of students, was the best approach to teaching effectively. The Board authorized purchase of round maple tables and chairs of a height needed for each age group. Along with the furniture, chalk and tack boards were purchased for every room in the school. The men of the church went to work again, applying these boards to the walls and framing entirely around them for a picture-frame effect, creating another teaching tool for the teachers.

At the beginning of 1958 while Clay Stroud, Jr. was chairman of the Board, a "lovely pulpit Bible" was given by Mrs. John H. Coward in memory of her husband.



The Loyal Men elected Eugene Smith their president and Bro. John Goff their teacher. Vacation Bible School in 1958 had an average attendance of 85 with 57 having perfect attendance.

On August 30, 1958 the Raleigh "News and Observer" reported: "Ayden man will enter the ministry." It further stated: "Billy Adams, business and civic leader of Ayden will enter the ministry. He is selling his store which he operated successfully for seven years and will enter seminary for further religious training early in 1959."

Billy Adams, an elder, was teaching the W.H. Brunson Bible Class at the time he experienced a call, which he could not resist, to serve the Master at a higher level.

In 1959 the Sunday School remained strong, holding an average attendance of 156, but the Loyal Men's Class continued to decline as the W.H. Brunson Bible Class had replaced it with much activity. The men voted to let the Junior Chamber of Commerce give the outstanding student citizenship award beginning the following year. The award had been given by the men for many years.

By 1960, the population in the town of Ayden had reached 3108. Serving as chairman of the Board in 1960-61 was Stuart Tripp. The Board agreed to hire a youth director, Miss Betty Ann Thomas. A leadership training course was held in Kinston the end of January with several teachers and officers attending. Thirty-six new members were added to the roll by a comprehensive evangelistic effort of the Driscoll Campaign in the spring of 1960. This was a highly organized professional effort that involved a large number of members to seek and persuade potential candidates to enter into membership during that period.

In 1961 Dr. C.H. Allen began to teach the Loyal Men's Class sometimes although Bro. Goff taught most of the time. The men established a ministerial scholarship fund at Atlantic Christian College to which they contributed routinely. Since attendance had declined, the men gave up their classroom in the church basement to the W.H. Brunson Class.

A leadership training school for all teachers in the Ayden church was held in the spring of 1961. B.C. Meece led the adult teachers, Mrs. Louise House led the nursery and kindergarten departments, Mrs. William O. Haney led the primary department, Rev. Goff and Dr. Sudor led the Junior department and Goodwin Moore led CYF and CHI-RHO.

Easter Community Services continued to be held at the Christian Church each weekday morning from 11:30 to 12 :00 noon with a different local minister assigned a different day to conduct the service while Mrs. J.H. Coward played the organ. All stores in the downtown area closed during this service to allow their employees to attend. Board chairman for 1961-62 was J. B. Hemby. Vacation Bible School was held in early June and as usual was well attended. The budget for that year totaled \$21,088.76 from which \$4200 went to the minister's salary and \$4152 went to unified promotion, a generous amount. On January 21, 1962 the Ordination Service of the Rev. Billie Adams, the third Timothy from Ayden Christian Church, then minister of Southwood Memorial Christian Church, Kinston, North Carolina, was held at the Ayden Christian Church at 7 :30 p.m. Those participating in the service follows:

Mr. Milton Adams, brother, Scripture Lesson

Rev. Ross J. Allen, Executive Secretary of North Carolina Christian Missionary Society, Presentation of Mr. Adam's credentials

Dr. Richard Pope, professor, College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky, Sermon

Rev. John L. Goff, Pastor Ayden Christian Church, Leader

Mr. J.B. Hemby, Elder Ayden Christian Church, Examination

Mr. Herman M. Johnson, Elder Southwood Memorial Christian Church

Virginia Belle Cooper, Organist

Glenn Gaylor, J.A. Ray, Jack Harrington, R.E. Reynolds Quartette, Ayden Christian Church

In April, 1962, Miss Lorraine Wells was engaged as Youth Director. A week long evangelistic service was led by William J. Hadden, Jr. from Greenville, North Carolina. Corey Stokes was elected Board Chairman for 1962-63. The total budget for that period was \$20,174.

From the time Rev. Goff arrived in 1956 to the early 1960's, there were many teachers who served in the Sunday School. An example dated 1957-58 follows:

AYDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH BIBLE SCHOOL FACULTY 1957-58

Superintendent	Dr. Stephen Sudor
Assistant Superintendent	Mr. Ross Persinger
Secretary	Miss Louise Brunson

Nursery:

Mrs. Alberta Dale, Supt.  
Mrs. Hugh Allen  
Mrs. Barbara L. Manning

Kindergarten:

Mrs. J.D. Tripp, Supt.  
Mrs. Wayland McGlohon  
Mrs. Catherine McLawhorn

Primary Dept:

	Mrs. Billy Adams, Supt.
Prim. I	Mrs. E. Davidson Mrs. Mildred McLawhorn (sub)
Prim. II	Mrs. Dale Sumrell Mrs. N. Thomas (sub)
Prim. III	Mrs. Billy Adams Mrs. Billie McLawhorn (sub)

Junior Dept:

	Mrs. Faye Salsbury, Supt.
Jr. I	Mrs. Corey Stokes
Jr. II	Mr. Marvin Baldree, Jr.
Jr. III	Mrs. Faye Salsbury Mr. Kermit Sumrell (sub)

Intermediate Dept:

Mr. J.R. Taylor, Supt.  
Int. I            Mr. J.R. Taylor  
Int. II            Mr. E. Davidson  
Int. III           Mr. Leslie Stocks  
                      Dr. Clifton Davenport

Young Adults:

Mrs. H.W. Gooding  
Mrs. Bonnie McCormick (sub)

Young Couples:

Mr. Stuart Tripp  
Mr. Clay Stroud, Jr.

Billy Brunson Bible Class:

Mr. Billy Adams  
Mr. Curtis Cavileer

Loyal Women's Bible Class:

Mrs. J. Goff  
Mrs. Rosa Little

Loyal Men's Bible Class:

Rev. J. Goff  
Mr. T.G. Worthington  
Mr. W.B. Phillips

Teachers who alternated during the same period, 1955 through 1962, follows:

Louise Tripp	Mamie Smith
Dot Respass	Addie Allegood
Lib McLawhorn	Micky Stocks
Callie Stocks	Mary C. Gipson
Ruth Tingle	Lucille Cannon
C.V. Cannon	Martha Karachun
Mary Louise Wainwright	Joe Ray
Billy Powell McLawhorn	Mrs. Joe Ray
Peggy Wood	Floyd Rowe

Another promotion during the same period (1956-1962) was the awarding of perfect attendance pins. Those who earned them were rewarded in a presentation ceremony. A list of achievers during this period follows:

**1 Year**

Willie Cox  
 J.B. Hemby  
 Bryant Cox  
 Judy Stocks  
 Ray McGlohon  
 Jimmy Howard  
 Richard McLawhorn  
 Robert Short  
 Peggy Sumrell  
 Henry Wood  
 Ray Thomas  
 Jean McLawhorn  
 J.D. Allen  
 Jackie Allen  
 Howard McLawhorn  
 Judy Thomas  
 Elaine Stroud  
 Marvin Smith  
 Linda Ray  
 Brenda Ray  
 Elizabeth McLawhorn  
 Mickey Stocks  
 Katha Gale McGlohon  
 Kit McLawhorn  
 J.D. Willoughby

**2 Year**

Ava Franks  
 Sam McLawhorn  
 Linda McLawhorn  
 Kent Allen  
 Sonny Cox  
 Daniel McLawhorn  
 Laura Worthington  
 Patricia Cox  
 Elaine Worthington  
 Sammy Cox  
 Catherine McLawhorn  
 Cathy McLawhorn  
  
**3 Year**  
 Debbie Sudor  
 Karla McLawhorn  
 John Stocks

**4 Year**

Sandra McLawhorn  
 Michael Dale  
 Paul McLawhorn  
 Stephen Dale  
 Sue Mac Gooding  
 Martha Gooding

**5 Year**

Tommy Pittman

**6 Year**

Billy Stokes  
 Cherry Stokes  
 Corey Stokes

**7 Year**

Mary C. Franks  
 Jimmy Reynolds  
 Bobby Reynolds

**10 Year**

Ann Tripp

The fourth church member called to serve the Master at a higher level was E.L. Davidson. The Ordination Service of the Rev. Elbert L. Davidson, then minister of Proctor Memorial Christian Church, Grimesland, North Carolina and Silver Hill

Christian Church, Grantsboro, North Carolina, was held at the Ayden Christian Church on September 23, 1962 at 7:45 p.m. Those participating in the service follows:

The Rev. Allan Sharp-Professor of New Testament, Atlantic Christian College,  
Wilson, N.C.--Scripture Lesson

The Rev. Ross J. Allen-Executive Secretary, N.C. Christian Missionary Society,  
Wilson, N.C.--Presentation of Mr. Davidson's Credentials

Dr. William E. Tucker-Professor of Church History, Atlantic Christian College,  
Wilson, N.C.--Ordination Prayer

The Rev. John L. Goff-Pastor, Ayden Christian Church--Leader

Mr. Corey Stokes-Elder, Chairman of Church Board of the Ayden Christian  
Church--Examination of Mr. Davidson

Miss Virginia Belle Cooper-Organist, Ayden Christian Church

Mrs. Elbert L. Davidson-Soloist, Wilson, North Carolina

Mr. Jamie Dale-Elder, Proctor Memorial Christian Church, Grimesland, N.C.

Mr. Clifton E. Stowe-Elder, Silver Hill Christian Church, Grantsboro, N.C.

It was at this time that the Rev. John L. Goff resigned his pastorate at Ayden Christian Church to begin a new pastorate at Rocky Fork Christian Church, Sanford, North Carolina. The Goffs would be missed. The dignity of their presence, their display of Christian family values and their devotion to service across the state would remain in the memory of the many their lives touched. Anyone who met Bro. John Goff for the first time would be captivated by his warm and welcome smile, a smile that would send an inaudible message that said: "I like you, I want to be your friend." The true nature of this Christian man is best described by his daughter Lelia who wrote: "This man was a true messenger of the word of God. I lived with him for 21 years and can truly say that he lived the life that he preached about on each Sunday. There was a glow about my father that let others know that he loved and

truly cared about them--that all God's people were important to him. He gave many people wonderful memories through his work in camps and conferences and just by being enthusiastic, warm and caring. Needless to say, he was a most special human being and I feel honored to be able to say that he was my father."

Corey Stokes was elected Board Chairman in September, 1962. Rev. Dan Hensley, Jr. was engaged as minister ad interim to begin serving on October 6, 1962. He continued in this capacity until July 7, 1963, a period of nine months. The congregation became attached to him for his sermons were excellent and representative of his vocation as professor at Atlantic Christian College. Rev. Hensley usually stayed all day Sunday. He was invited to dine and be entertained at the homes of many who were delighted to have him. The church seemed to function quite well with this arrangement as the officers were able to conduct the business of the church. What was missing was the expertise of a minister involved in church programs. Rev. Hensley made a lasting impression on the congregation and developed many friendships. His excellence in the pulpit would not be easily matched.

Dr. C.H. Allen became the teacher of the Loyal Men's Class and would continue for some years. Rex Horne was engaged as Youth Director in November, 1962 to continue until the summer of 1963. The pulpit committee was hard at work searching for the right person to minister to the Ayden Church and finally met with success in June, 1963.



**Ralph George Messick**  
**Ministered June 3, 1963 to May 13, 1969**

The eighteenth minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was Rev. Ralph George Messick who served from June 3, 1963 until May 13, 1969. He was born in



Darby, Pennsylvania on August 3, 1929. He graduated from Northeast High School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1947. Soon after graduating he became a carpet weaver from 1947 to 1951. He then served in the U.S. Army in Alaska from 1951 to 1953 and upon his discharge worked for a telephone company from 1953 to 1956.

He earned his A.B. degree from Atlantic Christian College in 1960, graduating Cum Laude and also received the Faculty Cup as "best all-around graduate." He received the Waters Cup (religious contribution to Atlantic Christian College) twice (1958 and 1960). He received his M.Div. degree from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana in 1963. He was married to Ann Bishop and they had one son, Thomas Ralph, when they arrived in Ayden.

He was ordained in Kensington Christian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in June 1959. He began preaching when a student at Atlantic Christian College for Selah Christian Church, Grantham, North Carolina and Columbia Christian Church, Columbia, North Carolina. His first full-time pastorate was at Francesville Christian Church, Francesville, Indiana, serving from 1960-1963. On Sunday, June 2, 1963, Dr. Stephen Sudor introduced the Rev. Ralph G. Messick who gave his first sermon in the Ayden Christian Church that day. He began his ministry in Ayden on July 21, 1963.

Marvin Baldree, Jr. was Board Chairman for 1963-64. The total budget was \$21,169 of which \$6000 went to the minister's salary and \$5314 was designated for unified promotion. The Bible School continued with a large faculty numbering 36.

An important decision was reached within days of Rev. Messick's arrival when a special meeting of the official board of the church was called to resolve the question of purchasing additional property. Upon Dr. Sudor's report of availability and cost he then moved that the Berkley Rutledge property (115 West Second Street) be purchased for \$9000. In a letter subsequently sent to the membership to solicit

funds, J.D. Dennis, Chairman of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, listed four reasons why the property should be purchased as follows:

1. Will increase the value of property already owned.
2. Will have control of property to prevent commercial development.
3. Will allow for expansion of facilities with land available for additional buildings adjacent to present church.
4. Should the church decide to re-locate, the additional property would increase the prospects for sale.

The money was borrowed from several sources at an interest rate of 6%. The church then had income from two rental properties, the old parsonage and the new Rutledge property.

The nine month wait for a new minister was well worth it as Bro. Messick adapted easily to the congregation. He was a quiet, serious, yet warm and friendly man who was well liked from the very beginning. His wife, Ann, contributed her talents as well, being very active in the choir and CWF as well as a volunteer for varied projects and many functions in the church.

Upon his arrival, Bro. Messick had the following officers already elected: Marvin Baldree, Jr., Board Chairman; Leslie Stocks, Vice-Chairman; K.P. Sumrell, Treasurer; W.S. Howard, Board Secretary; Virginia Bell Cooper, organist; S. Sudor, Sunday School Superintendent; Sam McLawhorn, President of C.M.F.; Mrs. Sam McLawhorn, President of CWF.

It is believed that the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service began with Rev. Messick during his first Christmas season. This service was held at 10:00 p.m. on December 24, 1963 with an enlarged choir including other voices from the community, singing special Christmas music and reading Christmas scripture. The service would end with a lighted candle flame passed from one to another along each pew row until everyone held a lighted candle to be raised in celebration of the

birth of Jesus Christ. This would develop into a traditional service to continue through the years.

On February 2, 1964, the church observed Youth Sunday with the following young people participating in the service: Cathy Respass, Brenda Ray, Elaine Stroud, Libby Stroud, Bob Reynolds, Drew Sumrell, Stephen Dale, Jimmy Reynolds and Sonny Cox. In June, 1964, Leslie Stocks was elected Board Chairman for 1964-65. Rev. Messick organized the Ayden-Winterville Sunshine Club in October for senior citizens, a much needed organization that would continue through the years.

A committee to write the first constitution and By-Laws was appointed. Dr. C.H. Allen was made chairman and the other two members were Curtis Cavileer and Stephen Sudor. The three-man committee met frequently to study Constitution and By-Laws from many churches. The committee then proceeded to extract all that would be appropriate for the Ayden Church, paying particular attention to articles that would enable the general board to conduct the business of the church, its worship service and Sunday School in the absence of a full-time minister. The committee was determined to have the church operate independent of a minister when the need arose. The first Constitution and By-Laws was soon adopted by the congregation.

In June, 1965, Curtis Cavileer was elected Chairman of the Board. During the last half of 1964 and the first half of 1965 the membership, individually and collectively, began to complain about the rundown condition of the Sanctuary and Education Building. The church invited Lewis C. Rhodes, General Consultant of the Board of Church extension, to discuss what could and should be done to improve the condition of the buildings. Mr. Rhodes met with the Board on June 17, 1965. At this meeting he recommended that the Chairman appoint a committee of nine to make a study of what the Church and Bible School had and what was needed. From this meeting, Mr. Rhodes developed the financial capacity of the church to be

\$80,500 if the church would remodel or construct on the present site. If the church decided to relocate, resources were as follows:

Sale of present properties	\$55,500 (confirmed)
Stock	25,000
Cash by completion (pledges)	35,500
Loan	63,000
Total cost new building, fees, furnishing and site development	209,000

Chairman Cavileer appointed a study committee: Chairman, Dr. Sudor, Dr. Gooding, J.D. Allen, Corey Stokes, Clay Stroud, Rosa Venters, Joe Ray, Ralph Messick and Curtis Cavileer. The committee was instructed to begin work on July 1, 1965 and submit, in writing, a report to the Board to precede October 1, 1965. The committee met separately at different times with committees and organizations of the church for extensive discussion. They met with the young people, Worship committee, Education committee, CWF, CMF and church administration. Each group listed their needs, desires and suggestions. The final report revealed that the property and equipment was "run-down" and that much was needed. A map was drawn showing where the membership lived in relation to the present and new church sites. Also submitted was a drawing of the entire church, church school, each room, space and area and of land presently owned. Included was a statement of financial worth. The detailed report is preserved in the church archives.

Chairman Cavileer then appointed a Building Plans Committee as follows: Chairman, Clyde Bright, Mrs. Burt Tripp, Mrs. May Eure, Bill Shelton, Corey Stokes, J.R. Taylor and Dr. C.H. Allen.

On November 18, 1965, having received the report from the Study Committee, Charles J. Betts, Consulting Architect of the Board of Church Extension of Disciples of Christ met with the Building Plans Committee at a luncheon in Fellowship Hall

and then made recommendations to the church membership at 7:30 p.m. The possible suggested solutions was listed in item III of his report as follows:

1. Completely renovate and remodel present building as shown.
2. Construct new one story building on Brunson and Saul properties.
3. Construct new one story building on new property to be acquired. This is the recommended solution as being the better in terms of investment and long range planning.

The report contained the advantages and disadvantages of each plan (complete report retained in archives) and advised the first step would be to determine which plan to follow.

The Building Plans Committee on January 24, 1966 proposed the following written recommendation signed by each member:

*"The Building Plans Committee, having given full consideration to the three plans presented by Mr. Charles J. Betts, Consulting Architect, Board of Church Extension, Indianapolis, Indiana, unanimously recommend that plan three be accepted by this board and that be to sell present church building and grounds, Sauls property and old parsonage property and build a new church on a new location. We recommend that the Board of Church Extension Site Selection Service be requested. We recommend also that the Board immediately extend an invitation to the Board of Church Extension to provide guest leadership for a building fund campaign in our church, it being understood and agreed the Church Extension Campaign plan will be followed faithfully, with enthusiasm and in detail. It is further agreed that the announced goal will be one receiving the approval of the guest leader."*

The congregation approved the re-location on February 20, 1966 by a vote of 78 to 8.

At the meeting with Mr. Betts on November 18, 1965 he also submitted a study of site location. Many considerations were taken into account with future growth of the areas selected, surrounding areas and where the membership lived being the most important. The sites selected follows:

First choice - Second St. and Snow Hill (Northwest corner)

Second choice - Second St. at Juanita (Northeast corner)

Third choice - Second St. at Montague (North side)

Fourth choice - West Second St. opposite elementary school

Fifth choice - West Third St. opposite elementary school

Five additional sites were not recommended.

Stuart Tripp was appointed Building Fund Campaign Chairman with Mrs. Larry Tripp as Campaign Secretary. An all-church dinner was held at the Ayden Elementary School at 1:00 p.m., May 15, 1966 to begin an all member pledge campaign and follow-up canvassing to end on May 22. Three captains were elected for the solicitation: J.D. Allen, Marvin Baldree, Jr., and Dr. Gooding. The General Fund Goal for 52 weeks was \$18,000 and the Building Fund Goal for 156 weeks was \$36,000. A large turnout came to embrace the campaign. Church Extension had provided a Financial Planning Guide which was used by the committee.

In November, 1966, the future site property was purchased. It was located on a tract of land on the Northwest corner of Second and Snow Hill Streets, containing 8.04 acres, for the amount of \$15,000 from Mr. Barwick, of which \$5000 was made as a down payment.

Mr. Lewis C. Rhodes consulted with the church on December 5, 1966 and developed the maximum financial capacity to be \$187,878. He suggested a one-story, on the ground, level building without steps, consisting of four basic units, shaped like a "plus" sign, one each unit or wing for worship, children, youth-adults-fellowship and parlor-offices. He further outlined a time schedule as follows:

1. By February 1, 1967, interview and select a resident architect, then send name to consulting architect who will initiate correspondence between the two and discuss same with the Building Plans Committee.
2. By October 1, 1967, final preliminary plans approved.
3. By May 1, 1968 complete construction plans ready.

Attached to the report was a drawing of the site and a drawing of the new building on the site with parking spaces and recreation area drawn in. (Report is preserved in archives).

The 1966-67 budget was \$17,260 of which \$6,500 was designated for the pastor and \$2,520 for world outreach. Stephen Sudor was Chairman of the Board, Mr. Beland was Sauls Property Fund and Building Fund Chairman. Holy week services were held in April at the Christian Church as was the custom. Rev. Messick held evening services to study the history and practices of Disciples of Christ. Joe Ray was elected choir director when Mrs. William May resigned in May, 1966. J.D. Dennis was chairman of the Board in 1967-68. Marvin Baldree, Jr. became Chairman in 1968-1969.

A special meeting of the Board was held on May 13, 1969 with 17 members present at which time Rev. Ralph Messick read a statement of resignation, stating that he had accepted a call to Westview Christian Church in Wilson, North Carolina. The resignation was accepted with regret. Rev. Messick would leave many friends behind. All who knew him respected him and loved him. He was an "easy-going" person, a caring, concerned and dedicated person, always willing to listen to the

others viewpoint, never criticizing, never revealing a confidence, always ready to listen, to help or to do it himself. The church members understood intuitively, that Rev. Ralph Messick would respond no matter where he was, if needed.

Ann Messick, his loving wife, was energetic in her participation in the many activities she volunteered to do. She contributed of herself to help her husband, and she too would go on to hold friendships and fond memories of Ayden Christian Church.

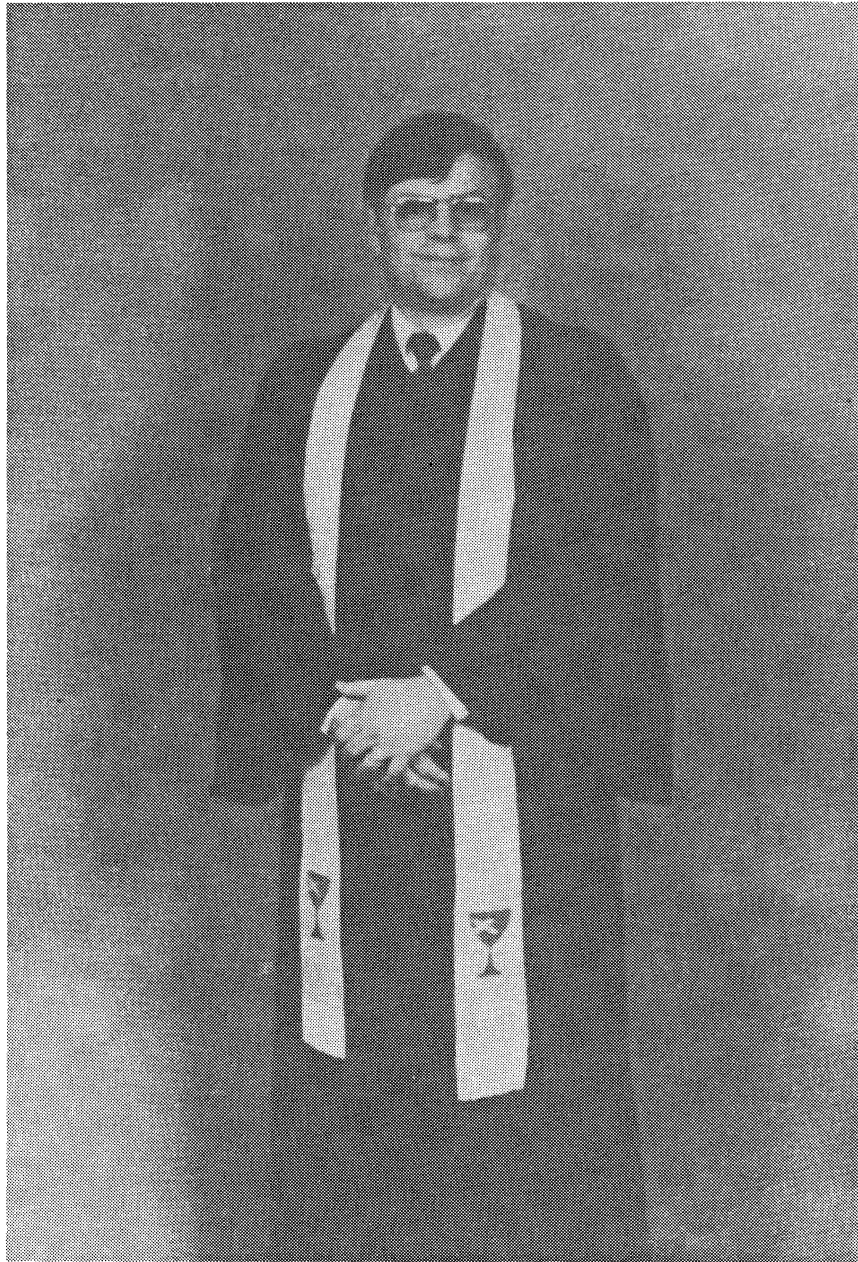
Chairman Marvin Baldree, Jr. appointed a pulpit committee as follows: Clay Stroud, Chairman, Dr. Gooding, Joe Ray, Janet Johnson and Maggie McGlohon. The committee met with the State Secretary, Rev. Dietze, who presented a list of nine men, four of which would be considered acceptable to Ayden. Rev. Messick held a revival meeting at Eureka, North Carolina from June 8 to 14 as his departure date was yet to come. Dr. H.W. Gooding was elected Board Chairman for 1969-70.

By November, 1969, Property Committee Chairman, Corey Stokes, advised that much repair was needed for both the Sanctuary and Education Building, some of which needed immediate attention. The note balance of \$2,080 owed on the Sauls property was paid off. Dr. William O. Paulsell, Chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Atlantic Christian College, was serving as minister ad interim. On December 14, 1969, a congregational meeting was held at which time Clay Stroud presented the name and qualifications of a candidate to assume the pastorate beginning in late February, 1970: The congregation approved, with the church and the new minister agreeing to the following contract:

1. Expense of moving borne by church.
2. Salary \$6,000, car expense \$1,000, Insurance \$300, Convention Expense \$450, Free use of parsonage.
3. One free day per week.
4. One month paid vacation per year.



5. Minister expected to attend national a local conventions.
6. Minister expected to make regular calls on sick and shut-ins.
7. Minister expected to participate in summer national church activities.
8. Ministry shall be terminated with 60 days notice by either party.



**James Henry Trader**  
**Ministered March 1, 1970 to September 30, 1973**

The nineteenth minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was Rev. James Henry Trader who served from March 1, 1970 until September 30, 1973. Rev. Trader

graduated from Anne Arundel County Schools, Annapolis, Maryland in 1958. He received his A.A. degree from Campbell College, Buies Creek, North Carolina in 1962 and his M.Div. degree from College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky in 1965. While at College of the Bible he served as a student minister at Midway Christian Church, Midway, Kentucky. From May, 1965 until May 1967 he served as Associate Minister at First Christian Church, Maysville, Kentucky. From June, 1967 until March 1970 he served two churches at the same time; Southwood Christian Church, Kinston, North Carolina and Tuckahoe Christian Church, Trenton, North Carolina. He was married to Patricia Hines from Kinston, North Carolina on August 4, 1963. She received her B.A. degree from Atlantic Christian College in 1963 and her M.R.E. degree from College of the Bible in 1965. Her Master of Religious Education degree proved to be of great value to education in the Ayden Christian Church Bible School.

During the period of three months before Rev. Trader arrived, the men of the church completed repairs needed to the parsonage, allowing the Traders to move in on February 23, 1970. The Sanctuary roof was also repaired along with painting, electrical and plumbing work in the Education Building. Discussed but not acted upon was sandblasting exterior brick of the church front and installing two heating plants, one for the Sanctuary and one for the Education Building. During this same period, attendance at church services was poor. On one Sunday in February only 70 were in attendance, 27 young people and 43 adults. The population in Ayden in 1970 was 3450.

Bro. Trader immediately initiated some new things for the Ayden Church. He organized greeters at the door, purchased a candle lighter and trained acolytes to light and extinguish the candles. He had laymen participate in the church service and had the committees submit "written" reports to the Board. He met with the elders and with all the committees separately in April. Without delay he began

working with Boy Scouts, an activity of which he was very interested in. He attended a conference on alcoholism at East Carolina University. He led vesper service at summer camp, another area of great interest. He joined the chaplains corp at Pitt Memorial Hospital and was active in Vacation Bible School in June.

The total budget for 1970-71 accounted to \$20,662 when J.D. Allen was elected Chairman of the Board. Total assets of the church including Real Estate, pledges and stock amounted to \$74,271.76. Joe Ray resigned as Sunday School Superintendent and J.D. Dennis became the new superintendent. The Board had purchased a desk, file cabinet and air conditioner for the secretary's office of the church and Mrs. Bert Sudor sent a letter to the Board thanking them. Nine candidates had made confessions of faith in May. Rev. Trader baptized four of them in June.

At the Board meeting held on September 28, 1970, Chairman J.D. Allen appointed a committee to study "The Financial Situation of Our Community and Church." The committee members were: Chairman, Stephen Sudor, Corey Stokes, Les Stocks and J.B. Hemby. It was then moved by Corey Stokes with a second from Joe Tripp that the Building Committee be re-activated to determine what direction the church should take concerning conditions of the present plant, and that the report be submitted by the end of the year.

The Study Committee report was submitted to the Board in October, condensed as follows:

1. Apathy by the members.
2. Contributing members have been dwindling from the roll.
3. Sizeable number of giving members were financially unable to give.
4. Small attendance produced inadequate contributions.

The report included a recommendation that the elders visit each family who were not contributing fairly to advise them of the church's financial plight.

Perhaps the greatest contribution Rev. and Mrs. Trader gave to the Ayden Christian Church was the Chrismon Tree project. Mrs. Pat Trader was in charge of the project. The first workshop was held in Fellowship Hall with about 40 persons participating on November 8, 1970. Mrs. Trader assisted each person to complete their symbol from a drawn plan with instructions. Each Chrismon ornament was hand made and each depicted a Christian symbol. The workshops were held many times. The ornaments were complicated to make, beautiful upon completion, significant in Christian history and told the story of Christianity as they were hung in an exacting position on the Chrismon Tree. The tree would make a traditional appearance each Christmas season to come. The Ayden Church is indebted to Mrs. Pat Trader for a lasting gift.

At the February Board meeting in 1971, Marvin Baldree, Jr. reported that he and Rev. Trader had met with the architect who presented updated building plans as follows:

**AYDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUILDING PROGRAM**

**PROGRAM 1**

Renovate Existing Education Building on Present Site

- |    |  |          |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Simplify stairs and exits as required by law                                     |          |
| 2. | Replenish toilet facilities  |          |
| 3. | Rewire entire structure  |          |
| 4. | Install electric heating and cooling system zoned as dictated by use of building |          |
| 5. | Renovate entire interior, ceiling, walls, floor, painting                        |          |
| 6. | Waterproof brickwork and make roof good  | \$80,000 |

**DEMOLITION**

Demolish existing sanctuary	5,000
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**NEW SANCTUARY**

Sanctuary with baptistry and dressing room to be constructed on north part of site	90,000
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## PROGRAM II

New Sanctuary and Education Building constructed  
on Snow Hill Road

1. Education Building with Fellowship Hall	100,000
2. New Sanctuary with baptistry and dressing rooms, etc.	90,000
Miscellaneous items	
Furnishings-paving	20,000
Architect's Fee	12,000

The Board rejected repair of the old Education Building as a "waste of money," and voted to proceed with Item I of Program II but delayed bringing this before the congregation until refined plans were developed.

Since May, 1966, the membership had been contributing pledge money to the Building Fund. By April, 1971, the fund had cash on hand amounting to \$15,524 and stock which was sold for \$29,983.89, bringing the total cash on hand to \$45,508.07.

In May, Rev. Trader escorted Chi Rho young people to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. He became involved with scouting, school meetings, scout chaplain school and ministerial meetings. In June he worked with Vacation Bible School. The first Sunday in July, church service was held at Camp Caroline where the membership spent the entire day. Alex Mooty, Associate Minister of Disciples in North Carolina wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Board expressing appreciation for the church sharing its minister as director of youth camp. At the June Board meeting, Joe Ray was elected Chairman of the Board for 1971-72. In October another Chrismon Tree workshop was held and by December 5, 1971 the Chrismon Tree was ready for the first descriptive presentation during the church service with several leaders participating.

In late summer of 1971 from August 23 to September 23, the Negro population of Ayden, upset over the death of an inebriated Negro while he was being

transported to detention by a State Police officer, staged an uprising and a protest march encouraged by the Southern Christian Leadership Council. An exploding bomb at Ayden-Grifton High School causing much damage to the gym wall, but without injury to anyone, while school was in progress, and the apprehension of the young man setting off the bomb, created a very tense civil uprising that required a curfew and car search for weapons on all persons coming into the Town of Ayden. The mayor, Ross Persinger (Disciple) was praised for his organizational effort in having forty Highway Patrol vehicles present to prevent further injury or property damage. Rev. Trader received a plaque from the Town of Ayden for his service during the curfew and a letter of commendation from President Nixon for assisting in a feeding project during the social unrest. The Church Board voted to send letters of appreciation for the way they managed the uprising to the mayor, city manager, Ayden Police Department, Pitt County Sheriff's Department and the Highway Patrol. Testimony as to the outcome of the incident revealed that an intoxicated male Negro was apprehended on the highway six miles outside of Ayden. While the officer was handcuffing him, the individual began to fight and managed to get the officer's revolver. During the struggle the Negro was shot and subsequently died. The patrol officer was exonerated from any misconduct.

The minister attended the General Assembly of the Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky in October, 1971 and also escorted the CYF to the North Carolina State Fair in the same month. All during 1971 attendance was well below average and numerous appeals were made for money continuing to April 1971 when a special congregational meeting was called to discuss the budget and the decline in Sunday School teachers and students.

Rev. Trader was devoted to scout work, church camp and Chaplain service at the hospital. He attended many meetings, being involved as a director and leader. He became an avid member of the Ayden Fire Department.

A special meeting of the congregation was held on April 26, 1972 at 7:30 p.m. with sixty members present to discuss the proposed budget and poor attendance in Sunday School.

Yet another special congregational meeting was called for May 28 at 12:00 noon to consider an option of \$1,000 toward purchase of the Sanctuary and Education Building for \$20,000. Planters National Bank wanted the Sanctuary property which they intended to demolish in order to provide a drive-in window service and Edwards Pharmacy wanted the Education Building for expansion and storage. The vote to sell was 78 for, 5 against and 5 abstentions. Marvin Baldree, Jr., then Building Plans Chairman advised that another party was interested in purchasing the old parsonage property and the Sauls property for \$30,000. However, the party interested in the parsonage and Sauls property later declined to purchase same and Planters National Bank offered \$250 to hold the property off the market until their Board of Directors could decide on whether or not to purchase.

Corey Stokes was elected Board Chairman for 1972-73. The Rev. Elbert Davidson, Timothy from the Ayden Church, preached at Homecoming on October 29, 1972. The CYF raised and contributed money for the Retarded Children's Camp. The minister and his wife escorted the CYF to visit Williamsburg. In February, 1973, Chairman Corey Stokes appointed a new Building Plans Committee with Marvin Baldree, Jr. as chairman. J.B. Beland, treasurer, reported that the Building Fund had \$50,000 in cash drawing 6% interest.

For the past eight years, since June, 1965, the General Board, Building Plans Committee and interested members had been going through a trying period of indecision and uncertainty. For eight years there was partial commitment. There was delay. The Sanctuary and Education Building were rapidly deteriorating as fast as repairs were made. Attendance was suffering in the church service and in the Bible school. The heating system was condemned and the plaster was falling off the walls.



Something had to be done soon. The delay had reached its climax. During the winter and spring of 1973 they discussed the merits of building on Second and Snow Hill Streets and selling all the downtown property and buildings as proposed by the Board of Church Extension. During this period of reflection, an understanding was reached to abandon the Second and Snow Hill site and build on the Sauls and old parsonage site. On June 4, 1973, a special board meeting was called to propose the new building plan which was approved by the Board, then presented to the congregation for their approval. At the June 26 Board meeting they voted to abandon the Snow Hill site and sell it. J.B. Beland reported that the building fund was then \$53,257.88.

Joe Ray became Board Chairman in July and at this meeting Building Plans Chairman, M. Baldree, reported on their progress. J.H. Hudson, Inc. was engaged to draw plans for the new church and education building. At the same meeting, July 3, 1973, Rev. Trader offered his resignation to be effective September 30, 1973. The Board then voted to relieve the minister of his duties and provide him with 60 days severance pay to enable him to secure his next pastorate at Bath and Pantego Christian Churches.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE NEW CHURCH YEARS

“For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

Hebrews 11:10 (RSV)

Having to endure two structures that were falling apart and constantly in need of repair for a number of years, and with funds appropriated ready for building, the attitude of the church membership changed to a positive outlook, eager to build new what was so badly needed. One of the first moves that would enhance the beauty of the new sanctuary was proposed by the Education Committee as follows:

*Concerning Stained Glass Windows of  
The Ayden Christian Church*

*WHEREAS, the stained glass windows of the present sanctuary of the Ayden Christian Church have been used for decades; and*

*WHEREAS, the windows were given in honor and in loving memory of family and friends; and*

*WHEREAS, the windows are symbolic of our Christian heritage and are valuable assets in the teaching of our religion; and*

*WHEREAS, the windows would bind the transition from the past and present to the future;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the congregation and building committee of the Ayden Christian Church give serious consideration to the use of the stained glass windows in the new sanctuary.*

*Christian Education Committee, Ayden Christian Church, Ayden,  
North Carolina (signed by)*

*Mrs. Cindy Dunn, Chairman, Mrs. Pat Trader, Vice-chairman, Mrs. J.H. Huff, Mrs. Sue Venters, Trudy Tripp, Dorothy Venters, Stuart Tripp, Jerri Steen*

At the August, 1973 Board meeting, Chairman Joe Ray appointed the following Pulpit Committee: Blanche Kittrell, Pauline Cox, J.D. Allen, Ruby McLawhorn, Hazel Stokes. In November, Marie Ray was elected Sunday School Superintendent and also Chairman of the Pulpit Committee. Dr. Vere Rogers was engaged as minister ad interim. By November, the Building Fund had climbed to \$56,731.83. J.H. Hudson, Inc. was engaged to build the new sanctuary and education building. They submitted a contract proposal on December 3, 1973 for drawings prepared November 6, 1973, which was presented to the Board on December 16, 1973. The lump sum contract for the sanctuary and education building amounted to \$136,248. The contract was signed by trustees: M.C. Baldree, Jr., William C. Tripp and Rosa C. Venters.

The Church continued interest in selling the sanctuary and education buildings but could not get clearance to close the private alley between church property and the rear of the buildings on Lee Street. Consequently Planters National Bank backed out of their agreement to purchase the sanctuary and the owner of the property between Planters Bank and Edwards Pharmacy was not interested. Therefore, by February, 1974, Mac Edwards was no longer interested in purchasing the education building with the alley closure not secure and no one else willing to share in the purchase of property. The Church then decided to keep all their downtown property and sold the Snow Hill site for \$19,000 to Rudy Robinson, realizing a profit of \$4,000.

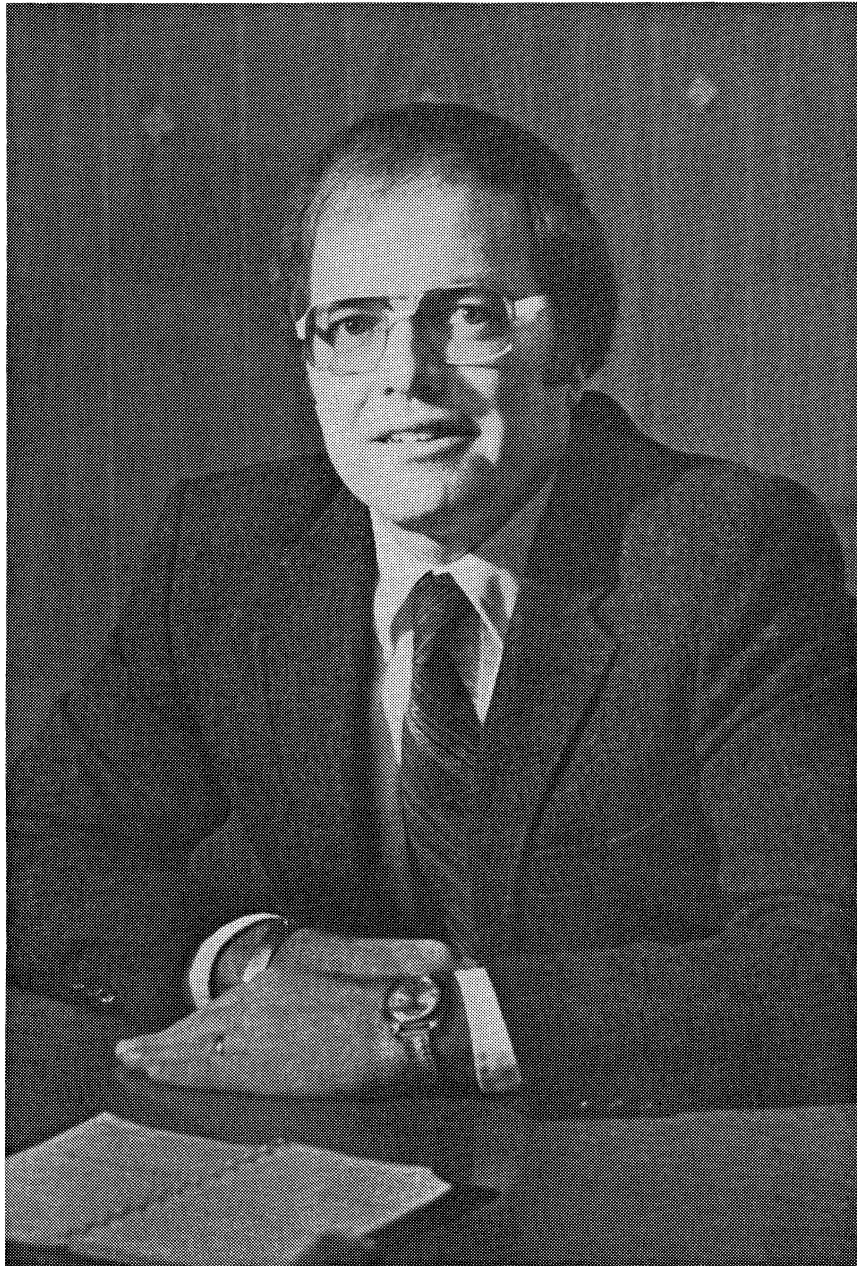
In the meantime the Pulpit committee traveled to Richlands, North Carolina to listen to a sermon and to interview Rev. Clifton Garris a prospective new minister.

The committee was pleased and invited him to preach a sermon at the Ayden Christian Church in March, 1974.

At the same time in March, the Building Plans committee was moving rapidly enough for Chairman Joe Ray to appoint additional coordination committees as follows:

<u>Construction</u>	<u>Memorials and Gifts</u>	<u>Building Finance and Sales</u>
Dr. Gooding	Mrs. M. Shelton	M. Baldree, Jr.
Ross Persinger	Lena Baldree	J.B. Beland
Joe Ray	Rosa Venters	Corey Stokes
		J.D. Allen

At the Board meeting in April, 1974, it was reported that demolition of the two houses on the building site had begun (the old parsonage rented by attorney Booth and the Sauls House rented by Mr. Braxton) and that when demolition was completed, construction of the new Church and Education Building would begin. Also at the Board meeting held on April 18, 1974, the Board voted to engage Rev. Garris. The congregation approved that decision on April 21, 1974.



**Callie Clifton Garris, Jr.**  
**Ministered July 1, 1974 to October 1, 1977**

The twentieth minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was Rev. Callie Clifton Garris, Jr., serving from July 1, 1974 until October 1, 1977. Rev. Garris was

born in Washington, North Carolina on March 13, 1938 to Callie and Lillie Mae Jackson Garris. He attended John Small School and Washington High School. He joined the First Christian Church in Washington, North Carolina in 1949. Rev. Goodwin Moore, a Timothy from the Ayden Christian Church, became one of his pastors in the mid fifties. After graduating from high school he entered the Air Force and became a RADAR Technician for the 76th Fighter Interceptor Squadron ("Flying Tigers"). While in the Air Force he completed his freshman year of college at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. He was discharged from active duty in 1960 to become a pre-law student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. That same year he married Patricia Harrison.

From 1961 to 1964, he was a salesman for American National Insurance Company and then Gulf Life in Orlando, Florida. After President Kennedy's death, he felt a call from God to enter the ministry. Under the guidance of Dr. Robert Shannon, pastor of First Christian Church in Orlando, he entered Milligan College near Johnson City, Tennessee, to study for the ministry. After graduating from Milligan, he continued his ministerial studies at Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky. While a student, he pastored the Payton's Lick Christian Church and then the Ravenna Christian Church, both in Kentucky. He received his Master of Divinity Degree in 1969 and was ordained in the First Christian Church, Washington, North Carolina.

He had a very fruitful and exciting ministry at the First Christian Church in Richlands, North Carolina from 1969 to 1974. He led the church in a ministry which was very ecumenical and helped ease some of the racial tension. He was active in community affairs and worked with the Chamber of Commerce and Jay Cees. He was recognized as Richlands' "Man of the Year" in 1972.

When Rev. and Mrs. Garris moved into the parsonage they had two children: Sandra born in 1961 and Dale born in 1968. Rosa Venters organized an old fashioned

“pounding” for the Garris family at the parsonage on July 8, 1974, with many church members bringing food and supplies to welcome them.

The contract between Rev. Garris and the Ayden Church follows:

1. Church to pay moving expense
2. Salary \$7,000
3. Parsonage provided free
4. Utilities at \$600 per annum
5. Health Insurance at \$528.24 per annum
6. Auto Expense \$1000
7. Convention Expense \$450
8. Four week vacation with pay after one year
9. Ex-officio member of all functional committees
10. Contract could be terminated by either party with sixty day notice.

Ross Persinger was elected Board Chairman for 1974-75, Pat Tripp was the Sunday School Superintendent, Evelyn (Happy) Persinger was the Financial Secretary and J.B. Beland continued as Treasurer.

For quite awhile the church had been raising money for the new church by pledges, memorial gifts, Sunshine Club rent, chicken stew dinner, bridge luncheon and an auction of church property.

When the Board met in August, 1974, Pat Tripp, Bible School Superintendent, moved to honor Mrs. Faye Huff (Saulsbury) for the many years she worked and supervised the Junior Department. It was voted to present her with a bronze plaque and name a room in the Sunday School in her honor. At the same meeting, Ruggie Gooding was complimented for establishing the Nearly New Shop in the old bank building on East Second and Lee Streets. Volunteers gathered and sold quality used clothing that was donated to the shop to raise money for the Building Fund.

A special Board meeting was called on September 15, 1974 with 33 members present to approve a loan from Southern Bank and Trust Co. in the amount of \$70,000 with which to pay the building contractor. The interest charged was 9% per



annum on the unpaid balance. On October 6, 1974, the trustees; Charlie Tripp, Marvin Baldree, Jr. and Julia C. Gooding signed the note and deed of trust.

The new church and education building was well into construction in late 1974. All of the church activities continued in the rapidly deteriorating old buildings. Rev. Garris began working with the youth of the church, attending meetings, providing guidance and becoming acquainted with the membership. He arrived in Ayden at the beginning of construction. Chairman Ross Persinger was keeping a watchful eye on the construction as were others. Glen Gaylor was soliciting funds to pay for the new church pews as it was decided to sell the old pews for \$660. The Sunday School made plans for aligning the classrooms in the new church. The Sunshine Club wanted to continue meeting in the old basement.

Engraved brass plates were placed on each new pew to memorialize the following:

In Memory of Minnie D. and Barnes S. Sumrell by Jessie S. Griffin

In Memory of Charlie Tripp by Mary E. Tripp

Marvin Baldree Family

In Memory of R. Herman McLawhorn, Sr. by Ruby G. McLawhorn

In Memory of R.W. Smith by Kirby H. and Eugene T. Smith

Raymond G. Gaylor Family

In Memory of J. Allen Johnson by Family

In Memory of Calvin M. Stokes by Family

In Memory of W.O. Cox Family

In Memory of Thelma Little Cannon by Mr. & Mrs. L.G. Baldree

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. John S. Hart by Mrs. Eva Cannon,

Mrs. Luna G. Crisp, Mrs. Stella M. Moore, Hugh Caryle Hart

In Memory of Linda Jean Ray by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Ray

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Larry B. Tripp by W. Burt Tripp Family

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. J.H. Collins by Family

In Memory of William T. Everett by Family

In Honor of N.C. and Janie Retha Tripp by Hugh T. Hardee, Jr.

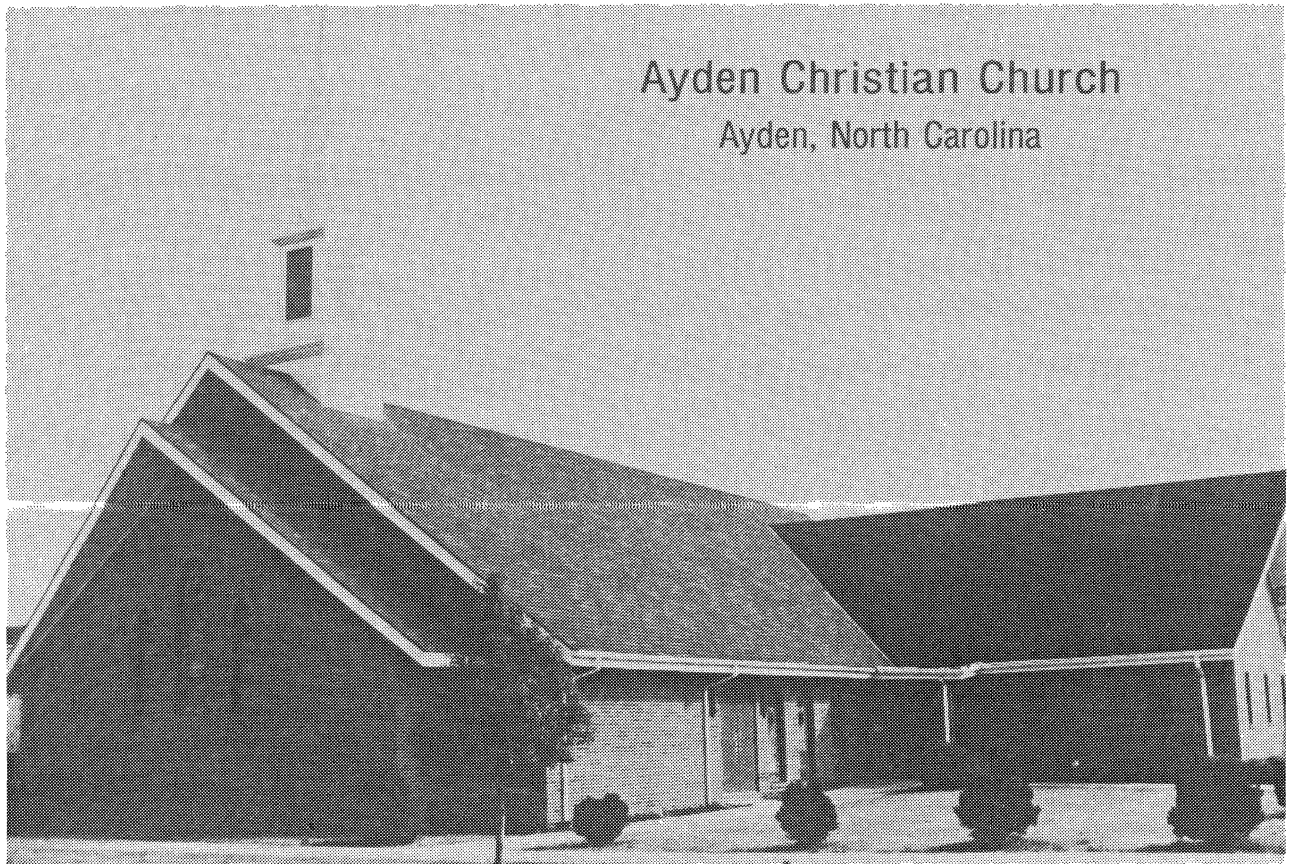
In Memory of David Hancock Smith by David Harold Smith Family

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. David Hancock Smith

In Memory of James W. Beland and Minnie I. Beland by J.B. Beland  
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Garris by Mrs. J.B. Beland  
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Ray, Sr. by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Ray  
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. T.H. Hodges by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Ray  
In Memory of Kathleen Sumrell Vann and Earle Sumrell Sidle by  
Hilda Sumrell and Linda V. Quinerly  
Donated by Ayden Christian Church Youth Group  
Donated by Ayden Christian Church Youth Group

The Board voted to name the new Fellowship Hall in memory of Robert N. Johnson, to be named Robert N. Johnson Hall for his contribution of stock valued at \$30,000. The following is a list of memorial gifts given that were placed in the new church:

The Memorial Cabinet and Register Book was given by Dr. and Mrs. Gooding.  
The Table under the cross was given in memory of Leslie C. Hart.  
The Loyal Women's Classroom was given in memory of Ruth C. Tingle.  
The first Electric Organ was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J.H.S. Hodges by Mr. and Mrs. Tyson Bilbro.  
The Baldwin Piano was given in memory of J. Foy Barwick, Jr. by Mrs. Joseph Foy Barwick, Jr.  
The Lectern was given in memory of Mrs. Margaret Hart by Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Bright and Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Gipson.  
The Huge Hand-Carved Oak Cross was given in memory of grandmother, Mrs. Reather Edwards Tripp by Lt.Col. and Mrs. James S. McCormick.  
The Electric Stove was given by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Stocks.  
The Foyer Flowers were given by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sawyer.  
The Last Supper Silver Relief was given in memory of Mrs. Bonnie Tripp McCormick by Lt. Col. and Mrs. James S. McCormick  
The Silver Service was given by the P.R. Taylor Family.



**Second Church  
Erected February 1975**

The first worship service held in the new sanctuary occurred in February, 1975. It was cold with snow flurries in the air. Inside it was warm. The service was inspiring. The church and education building were not completed and needless to say, there was disorganization, but the membership was delighted with their new facility. The stained glass windows and the chandeliers from the old sanctuary blended into the new building creating an effect of warmth, peace and tranquillity. Arched beams, high ceiling, new pews, red carpet and stained woodwork attested to

praise of the Building Committee and the contractor. There were not many children enrolled in the Sunday School in 1975, therefore everyone seemed to have adequate space. The Loyal Men's Class continued to meet in the old Education Building basement. The new Fellowship Hall could be and was divided into four classrooms by accordion doors. The Education Building then had eight classrooms and two offices, a Fellowship Hall and a kitchen. The Property Committee continued to have the finishing touches made until June.

The service of dedication of the Sanctuary and Education Building of the Ayden Christian Church was held at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, June 29, 1975. Those who participated in the service follows:

Minister, Rev. Clifton Garris  
Organist, Virginia Belle Cooper  
Choir Director, Joseph A. Ray  
Acolytes, Lisa Steen and Lynn Haney  
Board Chairman, Ross Persinger  
Building Contractor, Richart Miller (J.H. Hudson Co.)  
Elders, Dr. Stephen Sudor, Marvin Baldree, Jr.  
Deacons, Todd Kittrell, Wingate Dale, Corey Stokes  
William Earl McLawhorn  
Duet, Joseph A. Ray and Brenda Ray O'Geary  
Scripture Lesson, Rev. Ralph G. Messick  
Prayer of Dedication, Rev. Gilbert Mister  
Dedication Sermon, Dr. Vere Rogers

Mrs. Bert Sudor taped the service and interviews following the service. Copies were offered to anyone wishing same.

The budget for 1975-76 was \$25,011 of which \$7,500 was designated for the minister. Dr. Sudor was elected Chairman of the Board. Dorothy Venters was elected Vice-chairman, Marie Ray, Secretary, J.B. Beland, Treasurer and Happy Persinger, Financial Secretary.

The day before the first cold day in the fall of 1975, Dr. Sudor had a patient with the same name as the minister's wife, Pat Garris. Not knowing either very well he did not pay any attention to it except on that cold morning when he received a phone call before his children were sent to school, interrupting breakfast. The lady said, "Dr. Sudor, its cold in the house, the furnace did not come on, I want you to come and fix it." Mistaking her for the patient he had the day before, he was bewildered and replied, "Why are you calling me to fix your furnace?" She replied, "I'm cold, the house is cold and the children are cold!" "But why call me?" "Well, you're chairman of the Board aren't you?" It was then he realized this was not Pat Garris the patient, this was Pat Garris the preacher's wife. He then called the property committee chairman to have it fixed. When he related this story to Rev. and Mrs. Garris they exploded with laughter.

Rev. Garris liked young people to use the church for activities of interest to them. It was by his recommendation that the Board permitted the Karate Club to meet in the old Education Building. However, Rev. Garris and Steve Sudor concluded that the assembly area floor of the Education Building could not withstand gym type activity so they moved the Karate Club to the old chancel area. The chairman appointed a study committee to determine if the old heating plant could be salvaged and to submit a report on the condition of the old buildings. Rev. Garris received a contribution of \$300 to install a PA system and ear phones were installed in two front pews.

The Board was disturbed by a feeling of depression that existed in the church and made recommendation to the chairman to appoint a committee to discuss problems with the minister. The committee met to hold a meeting that delved into all aspects of church and Sunday school activity. The minister pointed out the problems as he saw them, especially the need for more room for the children and the need for teachers. The committee was pleased with the meeting and were

unanimous in support of the minister. They recommended a raise in pay if the money could be raised.

The church membership was going through an anticlimactic adjustment period. For various reasons attendance had dropped. Pat Tripp could not find teachers, not enough young people and children were interested. Rev. Garris organized a young people singing group and he took them on a ski trip to the mountains. The Nearly New Shop offered to pay for a youth director. Nothing worked. The men cleaned up the old buildings, made repairs and saved money by landscaping around the new building. Virginia Belle Cooper was no longer able to play the organ. The church hired Jackie Reily, a student from East Carolina University as organist to begin March 14, 1976 at \$125 per month. The minister visited the elderly and shut-ins who dearly loved him. He arranged a luncheon at Shoney's Resturant in Greenville immediately after the church service to discuss his sermon.

The "depression" continued. Rev. Dietze from the Disciple State office was called to meet with the membership to discuss the "critical" condition of the Sunday School and church in June, 1976. That meeting probably did more harm than good as it was negative in nature without clear positive direction and an embarrassment to the faithful who gave of their best.

Even though a depression period existed, the church continued their activities throughout 1976. The minister reported that the committees were becoming effective. The Karate Club cancelled. The CYF disbanded. At the Board meeting held on May 24, 1976, the Board voted to change its fiscal year to begin January 1 and end December 31. The same officers extended their role for another six months. In July the congregation approved a raise in salary amounting to \$781 for the minister. Mrs. Ruth Tingle passed away in May, leaving the church \$2,000 which was designated for the Building Fund. The Nearly New Shop, directed by Ruggie

Gooding, sponsored the new youth director, Torrie Osgood. The Board granted permission to Ross Persinger to use the old sanctuary for a "flea market" for rent of 10% of the receipts. This venture lasted a few months.

Mrs. Dorothy Venters was elected Chairman of the Board for 1977, the first female to hold this position in the Ayden Christian Church. The budget adopted by the Board amounted to \$25,084 of which \$8,000 went to the minister.

A special Board meeting was called on May 31, 1977, at which time Rev. Clifton Garris offered his resignation effective October 1, 1977, to accept a call to West Twin Grove Christian Church in Bloomington, Illinois. The Board accepted his resignation with regret. Rev. Garris advised the Education Committee on what literature to order and met with the Board to give suggestions on hiring a new minister. It was during his ministry that the new church and Sunday school building was erected. He was active in community affairs and worked with the Chamber of Commerce. He encouraged several community leaders to have an annual festival similar to "Farmers Day" in Richlands, North Carolina. It was from his suggestion and subsequent discussion with others that the annual Ayden "Collard Festival" evolved. At the October, 1977 Board meeting, J.B. Beland reported that the church building indebtedness amounted to only \$14,000 and that he expected to reduce that amount by \$4,000 by January 1, 1978. Average attendance at the church service was 77.

In November, 1977 the church retained Joe Bennett as minister ad interim. He served in that capacity until December 1978. The church held a covered dish supper to welcome and get acquainted with Rev. Bennett and his wife. The Ayden Christian Church was fortunate that Rev. Joseph Foster Bennett was available at a time of need. He was well qualified to serve when he accepted the call. Rev. Bennett was born on June 1, 1932 in Hendersonville, North Carolina where he attended High School, graduating in 1950. He earned his AA degree from Mars Hill Jr. College in 1952 with

a Business Major, his BA degree from Furman University in 1954 with an English major and his BD degree from Southeastern Theological Seminary in 1959 to prepare for the ministry. He was ordained May 4, 1958 by First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, North Carolina.

He began his pastoral ministry in the Tungsten Baptist Church in 1958. He served Broadway, Baptist Chapel, Swann Station Baptist Churches from 1959-1963. He joined the N.C. Methodist Conference in 1963 and served the Micro-fellowship Charge 1963-1965, the Jerusalem-Zion Charge 1965-1966 and Asbury-Pineview 1966-1967. In 1968 he gave up the parish ministry to serve as a social worker in Georgia for one year. He then returned to North Carolina to work as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in December, 1969. Since February 1, 1971 he was employed as a Substance Abuse Counselor at the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, Greenville, North Carolina.

Rev. Bennett married Ann Brewer Bennett on January 3, 1971. He joined Hooker Memorial Christian Church in 1974 and was licensed to preach by the Christian Church in North Carolina in 1975 and had his ordination recognized in 1977.

Besides working with ARC he served as interim and supply minister in Christian churches at Proctor Memorial, Grimesland, Hookerton, Red Oak, Wheat Swamp and LaGrange as well as churches in other counties. Bro. Joe was in great demand, had much experience, and was indeed welcome when he came to Ayden. Rev. Joe Bennett professes he came to love the Ayden Disciples and has the feeling that he was a part of the congregation. He expressed his highlight at Ayden Christian Church as "The excitement and enrichment that I felt as we worked together to seek and do the will of Christ."

The budget for 1978 was \$19,940 dropping \$5,144 from the 1977 budget. J.D. Allen was elected Chairman of the Board for 1978. Rev. Bennett reported he would organize a pastor's class, knowing very well that this was the "soul" of the church.



The young people went on a ski trip with Ed Carraway, Burt Tripp and Pat Tripp serving as chaperones. By March the church committees and Board became very busy and seemed to function very well as Rev. Bennett traveled from Greenville to attend Board meetings and special functions to share his expertise. With the Board's recommendation the congregation voted to demolish the old sanctuary. Esaw Coley was given the contract to demolish it and haul away the debris which was completed in the summer of 1978. The old Education building remained standing. Virginia Belle Cooper was unable to serve as organist and entered the Rest Home in Grifton, North Carolina, unable to care for herself. The church began to have difficulty maintaining an organist. Sudie Jenkins was the new organist. The choir, however, did not rehearse during the summer months. The church was so pleased with Rev. Joe Bennett that the Board attempted to negotiate a two-year contract with him, but he advised that his present employer, Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, would rather he not have a contract for a second position. In May, 1978, the finishing work on Fellowship Hall was completed.

With Rev. Bennett serving from the pulpit each Sunday, the first six months average attendance was around eighty-five. The summer months were not as well attended with less than sixty present. Alarm once again set in with the poor attendance at both Church and Sunday School, and the church officials realized that while excellent sermons were being delivered by a man they dearly loved, the need of a full-time minister was obvious. The Board and committee chairmen could not generate good work from their committees or lead in the promotion of functions that would be of interest to encourage attendance and participation. Even with small attendance, solicitation for funds to pay off the entire church debt met with success and enabled the church to celebrate on September 17, 1978 with a note burning ceremony and opening of the fifty year old corner stone time box (the contents of which are revealed in the section containing 1929 history).

At the Board meeting held October 23, 1978, Rev. Joe Bennett offered his resignation effective December 24, 1978. The Board accepted with regret. The resignation came about primarily because the work in Ayden was taking up too much of his time and because Rev. Bennett believed that the pulpit finding committee was not seeking a full-time minister with enough effort. Rev. Bennett was an unusual temporary minister in that he did much more than preach a sermon on Sunday morning. He attended Board meetings, committee meetings and organizational meetings. He had baptisms, weddings and funerals. He made regular visits to the hospital and he visited shut-ins in Ayden. He averaged around 300 miles of travel each month on behalf of the Ayden Church. Regardless of his attention, the Sunday School continued to suffer. The Education committee met to discuss the problems which Jeff McCallister submitted to the Board in written form. The concern centered around lack of attendance, programs to seek students, programs that involved families and the need for a resident minister.

Along with the resignation of the minister, the organist, Sudie Jenkins, resigned. Within a month it was announced to the Board that Sue Branch had been hired as organist. Chairman Allen appointed a Redevelopment Committee to recommend plans for the church property. They were: Ruggie Gooding, Ross Persinger, Mrs. Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. Beland and Corey Stokes. Later, Rev. Deitze from the Disciple State office was contacted to help find a new minister. Charlie Tripp was elected Chairman of the Board for 1979.

At the Board meeting held in January, 1979, the Pulpit Committee reported to the Board that Dr. Sharpe from Atlantic Christian College recommended Victor Munn Wilson, originally from England and a graduate of Atlantic Christian College, to be the new Ayden minister. He was scheduled to graduate from Divinity School at Princeton University in May but would be available for an interview in February.

A special called meeting of the Board was held February 4, 1979, at which time the Pulpit Committee Chairman, Marvin Baldree, Jr. reported that his committee had met with Mr. and Mrs. Victor Wilson and after a lengthy discussion of the needs of the church and needs of the prospective minister, an agreement was reached. The committee voted unanimously to employ Mr. Wilson. At a congregational meeting held on February 18, 1979, the congregation approved the calling of Victor M.

Wilson with the following contract:

1. Minister to begin June 1, 1979
2. Salary \$12,000 annually
3. Moving expense borne by the church
4. Group Health Insurance
5. Free use of parsonage
6. Four weeks vacation with pay
7. Education leave
8. Auto allowance \$1,200 annually
9. Convention expense \$450
10. Books and journals as needed
11. Pension Plan
12. Ministry to be terminated upon 60 days notice by either party
13. Review base salary annually and give cost of living increase not less than 7.5%
14. Church to repair parsonage: Repair, paint, maintenance, carpeting, laundry room petition in kitchen, air conditioning and enclose carport within 1 year.
15. Church agrees to pay pastor additional salary if he decides to invest in his own home.

Marvin Baldree, Jr. then sent the following letter to Mr. and Mrs. Victor Wilson:

*"As promised, I'm enclosing information on our county. Also, I'm enclosing "Letter of Calling" verifying our conversation on Sunday night.*

*We enjoyed your visit with us. Everyone that had an opportunity to hear and meet you both, were very much impressed and really enthused over the possibility that you may be our Pastor. I've not experienced the enthusiasm and excitement that is presently in our membership for a very long time. This was evident by the large turn-out at our board meeting on Sunday night and at our Christian Men's Fellowship on Tuesday night.*

*All our prayers are that you will be our Pastoral Family...we need you very much!*

*God bless you in your time of decision."*

The membership committee reported to the Board in April that a new membership roll had been completed listing 284 members, 120 active, 164 inactive. Total repair to the parsonage amounted to over \$5000 and his moving expense amounted to \$1,672.55. Dr. Paulsell was the minister, ad interim, until Mr. Wilson arrived. Victor Wilson had his Ordination Service in Wilson on June 10, 1979 at which time representatives from the Ayden Christian Church presented him with a Bible.



**Victor Munn Wilson**  
**Ministered June 1, 1979 to February 28, 1983**

The twenty-first minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was Victor Munn Wilson, serving from June 1, 1979 until February 28, 1983. He was born in

Padiham, Lancashire, England on July 27, 1946. He was educated in England then joined the Royal Air Force, United Kingdom as an Aircraft Engines Technician from 1966 to 1967. He was then employed by the British Aircraft Corporation as an Aircraft Airframes Technician from 1966 to 1967. He then served in management for Legalite Casinos, Ltd., London, England from 1967 to 1968. Following this employment he became Deputy Manager in Operations for Rank Leisure Services (a division of Rank-Xerox Corporation), London, England from 1968 to 1970. He then became Deputy Cruise Director, Queen Elizabeth II and other Cunard Line cruise ships from 1970 to 1973. It was reported that he met his wife to be on one of the cruises, Carolyn Jane McGoogan from Wilson, North Carolina. They were married in May, 1973.

He began his college career in the United States at Atlantic Christian College, Wilson, North Carolina where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree, graduating Summa Cum Laude, with a major in religion and philosophy in 1976. He then earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1979 from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, with a major in American Church History. Victor Wilson was an excellent college student which can be attested to by the following awards he received from Atlantic Christian College:

1. Dean's list consistently, 1973-76
2. Academic class marshall, 1974-75 and 1975-76
3. American Bible Society award for Religion and Philosophy, 1974-75
4. David and Charlotte Blackwood Memorial Award (Pre-ministerial students), 1975-76
5. Pi Gamma Mu National Social Science Honor Society, 1975-76
6. Alpha-Chi National Honor Society, 1975-76
7. Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges, 1975-76
8. Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, 1976
9. James M. Philputt Scholarship, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1976-77

He received the following award from Princeton University:

1. Friar Alumni Award, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1979 (most significant contribution to the life of the Seminary, Class of 1979).

Before coming to Ayden, Victor Wilson had the following ministerial experience:

1. Youth Counselor, Deacon, Christian Education Teacher, First Christian Church, Wilson, North Carolina, 1973-1976
2. Student Pastor, Frank Price Presbyterian Chapel, Wilson, North Carolina, 1975-1976
3. Youth Director of Junior and Senior High Fellowships, Lansdale, Pennsylvania, 1976-77
4. Student Chaplain, Princeton Nursing Home, 1977-78
5. Ministry at Large, Extensive Supply Preaching and Worship Leadership, 1974-1978

He began his first full-time ministry at the Ayden Christian Church and the congregation immediately experienced rejuvenation. What first caught the attention of the congregation was the content and quality of his sermons which challenged the listener. They were pleased with the dignity, style of delivery and use of his noticeable English accent. His order of worship was rather formal, exhibiting respect, devotion and praise to the God they came to worship.

On June 30, 1979, only one month into his ministry, Rev. Wilson conducted his first wedding when he married Debbie Sudor, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Sudor, to Tom Ronman. A beautiful garden ceremony was performed at the home of the Sudors' with dignity and grace and everyone was happy as they celebrated at the reception. However, in consulting with the Methodist minister, Rev. Wilson was advised that the marriage license was obtained in Chatham County, but they were married in Pitt County. They were married in the eyes of God but not in the eyes of the law! To make the marriage legal, most of the wedding party proceeded, by convoy, to the Chatham County Line. As soon as the marker (a small sign that read Chatham County) appeared, a short distance beyond Apex, North Carolina, the

convoy pulled off to a small clearing next to the marker and within sight of a dumpster, to have the "legal" ceremony performed with the speed of a few necessary legal words. Immediately afterward, the participants departed in different directions and Rev. Wilson returned to Ayden in the air-conditioned car he borrowed from Mrs. Sudor. The story did not end there. The Sudors snapped a picture of the Chatham County marker, had it enlarged and framed and gave it to Rev. Wilson for a Christmas present which he hung in his office, a reminder of his first wedding which could be titled "The Chatham County Line."

Rev. Wilson began his ministry in Ayden under adverse circumstances as there were no guidelines for him to follow. The committees did not have clear cut direction or goals. Records were poorly kept. He had no written policy from which to begin his pastorate. But Victor Wilson was a very organized person and began to make changes as he saw the need. The first change he made was in the order of worship. He involved the elders and deacons to serve as greeters, to conduct the communion service in a special way and to take communion to shut-ins. He formed a membership class to teach Disciple history, theology and how Disciples worshipped. He had his sermons taped and delivered to shut-ins. He met with the committees and organizations to give direction. He wrote policy for various functions of the church. He had a children's message at the worship service each Sunday. He was an organizer and leader who led from his office which was in Ayden, at the church, daily. He was a full-time resident minister.

In September, 1979, the church had a rummage sale to earn \$500 for the Building Fund. Ten shares of Interstate Securities was given by Louise Ange White which was also designated for the Building Fund. The minister needed a part-time secretary. This was solved by the Board when they hired Julie Davis. Rev. Wilson took his first week of vacation in September and attended the General Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri in October.



In January, 1980, Clay Stroud was elected Chairman of the Board. The budget amounted to \$32,937. The population of Ayden reached 4361. Tony Tripp received his Eagle Scout Badge. With the expense of new programs being initiated, repairs made and equipment purchased, the General Fund was depleted, making it necessary to borrow from the Building Fund. This was a period of high inflation and high interest rates. Everything cost more. Attendance was on the rise with steady growth from around 70 to 100.

Mr. Waymond MacReynolds, consultant with the Board of Church Extension, Indianapolis, Indiana met with the church in February, 1980 to evaluate the old Education Building. He later sent a report with the following options:

1. Do nothing
2. Renovate old building
3. Build addition to present new building
4. Remove old Education Building to provide parking and landscaping

The Board postponed making a decision until the September Board meeting. The CMF became active again.

In September, 1980 a dedication service was held for paraments donated by Mrs. Ruby Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Beland and for the Brasstone Communion ware donated by May Eure Harvey with the following engraving:

In Loving Memory of  
Mother, Mary Johnson Eure  
and Grandparents,  
Robert Luther and Mary May Johnson  
by  
May Eure Harvey

In November, 1980, Mamie Smith proposed to the Board that the church send Rev. Wilson and his family to England to visit his parents. She advised that Victor had not seen his parents for eight years and his parents had not met his wife or child. She spearheaded a drive for private contributions rather than using any money from

the General Fund. The membership was so pleased with Rev. Wilson that they readily gave \$2,000 needed for the trip. His parents were so elated with seeing Victor, his wife and daughter, that they sent a framed certificate of appreciation, in old English print, to the Ayden Christian Church for having united them with their son at Christmas time. The certificate is mounted on the wall in the Hall of History.

Marvin Baldree, Jr. was elected Chairman of the Board for 1981. The budget was \$42,549. Mrs. Bert Sudor was elected Secretary of the Board. She initiated taping the Board meetings so that the transcript of the meetings would be detailed and accurate. She continued at this position for five years.

The Board granted Rev. Wilson permission to attend the General Assembly in Anaheim, California with a \$600 allowance, the Regional Assembly in Raleigh in April and education leave at Princeton University in March.

The committees and organizations began to be very active with Rev. Wilson's influence. Pat Tripp was very busy with the Worship committee changes. It was evident to everyone that there was not enough room in the Sunday School. The chairman appointed a new Building committee: Corey Stokes, chairman, Ray Hardee, Eugene Smith, Mamie Smith and Diane Hill. The chairman presented two architectural drawings for expansion to the rear of the Education building but the Board wanted to see a drawing of a separate building on the vacant lot. It was decided that "cottage meetings" would be set in the future to allow the membership to make known their desire for building expansion.

In May, 1981, Clay Stroud preached a sermon when the minister was absent. In June, Vacation Bible School was held as usual. A campaign was started for members to donate pew Bibles with a goal of 100 to be eventually purchased. Eventually new racks were placed on the back of the pews to hold the Bibles and hymn books. It was reported at the June Board meeting that \$200 had been donated to Rev. Charles Deitze as a love offering upon his retirement as Regional minister.

At the July Board meeting, Charlie Tripp was elected Chairman of the Elders and Coy Buck as Chairman of the Deacons. Both groups would meet in the future. In August, the Board granted permission to the minister to take a study course at Duke University one night per week for a period of three months. The men mounted blackboards and bulletin boards from the old Education building in the Sunday School rooms of the new Education building.

On September 19, 1981, Rev. Wilson married Marcy Sudor, the youngest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Sudor to James Butt. The beautiful wedding ceremony was conducted at the church with a communion service. The marriage license was obtained in Pitt County and the wedding took place in Pitt County. The "Chatham County Line" was avoided.

T.G. Worthington contributed 75 shares of Ashland Oil Company stock. Pat Tripp's Worship committee furnished both vestibules in the church. The Board contributed \$100 to the Nazarene Church of Christ in Greenville, North Carolina, a new black church needing Christian support. B.J. and Rob Oehrli were hired as new youth directors. On October 25, 1971, a reception was given at the church to honor Miss Virginia Belle Cooper. Susan Setser was hired as the new church secretary for \$4.10 per hour.

To meet the budget for World Outreach, a committee of three (Ruggie Gooding, chairman, Mrs. Bert Sudor and Mrs. Sue Venters) was appointed to hold an auction on December 6, 1981, after the Bell Choir (Plymouth) presentation, to have the proceeds go to World Outreach. A "mini" Bazaar was also held that same afternoon for more fund raising.

Callie Stocks was elected Chairman of the Board for 1982. The budget amounted to \$47,295, a 10% increase. Rev. Wilson had accomplished getting the committees involved and eager to work. Heading the committees was a mixture of old and new members: Worship, Ray Hardy; Christian Education, Charlie Tripp;

Membership and Evangelism, Glen Gaylor; World Outreach, Sue Venters; Stewardship and Finance, J.D. Allen; Property, Corey Stokes; CMF, Ray Hardy; CWF, Jeanette Sumrell; CYF, Leo Venters. The officers were: Chairman, Callie Stocks; Vice-Chairman, Glen Gaylor; Secretary, Bert Sudor; Financial Secretary, Mildred McLawhorn; Treasurer, Leslie Stocks and Church Clerk, Dorothy Venters. In the early part of 1982 attendance at the church service averaged over 100.

The Cottage meetings were held at eight different locations with each meeting moderated by an elder. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss five development options for additional space. With this arrangement, a majority of the members would be able to present their views and desires for the future of the church. The five options exactly as stated were:

1. Addition to new building
2. New building on adjacent lot
3. Renovation of existing building
4. Hold everything for change in economy and church needs
5. Decide what building plan or option to use and how and when to start raising money and arranging finance so that when the church board decides to make a move, everything will be go.

The location of the meetings and the elders who conducted them follows:

1. Leslie Stocks, at his home
2. Charlie Tripp, at the parsonage
3. Stephen Sudor, at his home
4. Wayland McGlohon, at his home
5. Marvin Baldree, Jr., at Johnson Hall
6. Wesley Gooding, at his home
7. J.D. Allen, at his home
8. Stuart and Burt Tripp, at Burt's home

This was an excellent plan to get feed-back from the membership. The elders then met with Property Chairman, Corey Stokes, to discuss and tabulate the results. The majority opinion favored options 5 and 2 (make plans and raise money for new

building on lot). This was a time of poor national economy when inflation was rampant and interest rates high. The building committee was then in favor of constructing a "shell" building for recreation and education and finishing the inside when money became available.

A dedication service was held in March during the Worship hour to dedicate a Brass Music Stand given in honor of Nancy Shelton and a Host Box (a receptacle for the pastor's communion wafer) given by Virginia Everett in memory of her husband, James Everett. Ray Hardy, president of CMF had good attendance at their meetings for the past several months. The CYF had a yard sale to earn \$130.

In July, the Board turned down an offer to buy the old Planters Bank Building. The Board granted permission to Rev. Wilson to teach the first semester at Atlantic Christian College requiring three half days per week. Vacation Bible School was held with the Methodists at the Methodist Church because day teachers could not be found. In October, the CMF had "ladies night" at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ray Hardy with a "pig picking." It was very well attended. The Board authorized \$200 toward the expense of the youth leaders, B.J. and Rob Oehrli, to attend a Youth Leaders Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The Treasurer, Leslie Stocks, was hospitalized and unable to perform his duties. With no Treasurer, the books were kept in the pastor's office and the Board authorized Steve Sudor to sign all checks until a replacement could be found. The Property Chairman, Corey Stokes, passed away in October, 1982. The Stokes family designated the Memorial Gift Funds in his honor toward the purchase of twenty-four new choir robes for the senior choir. Miss Virginia Belle Cooper passed away in October. The Board designated the Memorial Gifts in her honor toward the purchase of choir robes for the children's choirs.

The Church was truly indebted to its faithful, life-time member, Virginia Belle Cooper, the Church Organist and often times Choir Director. She served the church in that capacity from the twenties to the seventies, contributing the salary she

received back to the church for all those years. She was a dedicated, Christian servant. Her parents were among the very early members of the Ayden Christian Church. Her father, George Franklin Cooper came to Ayden in 1899. Her mother, Annie Leona Gertrude Allen moved to Ayden in 1895. They were married on January 9, 1901, in the Chapel at Carolina Christian College, the formal ceremony was performed by the Rev. C.W. Howard. Mr. Cooper died in Ayden on June 19, 1932. The funeral was conducted from his late home by his pastor, Rev. W.H. Brunson, and he was buried in the Ayden cemetery. "Buddy" Cooper was a faithful member of the Christian Church serving as a deacon. His place in the choir was never vacant as long as he was able to go. Mrs. Cooper died on January 20, 1952. The funeral was conducted from her late home by the Rev. Gilbert Davis, and she was buried in the Ayden cemetery. The Coopers had one daughter, Virginia Belle, born in Ayden on October 23, 1901. Some of her accomplishments is best described in an article printed in the "Ayden Dispatch" around 1950 which follows:

*Miss Virginia Belle Cooper has been a piano instructor in music since her college days. Miss Cooper was born in Ayden and is the daughter of the late George F. Cooper and Annie Allen. She is a graduate of Ayden High School and furthered her education in piano at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Va., and Woman's College in Greensboro.*

*While Miss Cooper was chairman of the Music Department of the Ayden Woman's Club, the club sponsored choral work in the local high school, with the Winterville and Snow Hill schools being included in the group, and had for their director Lewis Bullock. An adult group was also formed. Then while she was president of the department, the choral group of 45 members, made a northern tour and received an invitation*

*from Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to give a concert at the White House in Washington City. Following the concert the wives of the senators and representatives gave a reception on the south lawn honoring the choir members and the chaperones.*

*In 1941 the chorus made a transcontinental tour, going to California and to the National Federation of Music Clubs in Los Angeles. During the tour the chorus carried a letter of good will from our Governor Broughton to the governor in each state en route in which they gave a concert. On the visit in Nashville, Tenn., they were the guests of Governor Cooper at the same time he was also entertaining members of Vanderbilt University and among the other guests was the president of the Metropolitan Opera Company. And another highlight of the tour was when all 45 members were the guests of Kay Kyser, for a day and night on Catalina Island.*

*Miss Cooper was head of the Music Department in the Ayden schools for years and directed the High School Chorus for several years. The High School annual, The Wheel, of 1947 was dedicated to her for her outstanding kindness, interest and loyalty. She is proud of all of her many students and in particular of one who has recently been in the news, Loonis Reaves McGlohon of Charlotte.*

*In addition Miss Cooper has been very active in religious circles. She is a member of the Ayden Christian Church where she is church organist, and is a member of the Christian Woman's Fellowship. She has served as instructor in music and worship of Youth and Adult Conferences in*

*Wilson. For two years she has been a member on the State Board of Business and Professional Guild of the Christian Woman's Fellowship. Miss Virginia Belle is also a member of the Book Club.*

There was much Christmas activity in 1982. The CMF gave fruit baskets to the shut-ins. Ross Persinger, Glen Gaylor and Steve Sudor volunteered to handle this project. There was a birthday party for Christ for the children, \$700 worth of food stuff was delivered to the needy, the CMF took three children Christmas shopping, the Christmas Bazaar was a tremendous success and the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service had an attendance of 320 people of the community.

The budget for 1983 amounted to \$51,079. Dr. Stephen Sudor was elected Chairman of the Board for 1983. He began developing the functional committees before he took office in January. This would prove to be a very important development for the Ayden Christian Church. Therefore, just who the officials and committee members were who would guide the functions of the church for the monumental year of 1983 are listed as follows:

## **AYDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

### **Officiary**

**1983**

#### **Officers 1983**

Chairman - Stephen Sudor  
Vlce Chatrman - J,D. Allen  
Secretary - Bert Sudor  
Financial Secretary - Mildred McLawhorn  
Church Clerk - Dorothy Venters  
Treasurer - Charlie Tripp

#### **Trustees**

Burt Tripp - 1983  
Steve Sudor - 1984  
Clay Stroud - 1985



## Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses

### Elders 1983

M.C. Baldree  
Les Stocks  
J.D. Allen

### 1984

Ross Perslnger  
H.W. Gooding  
Steve Sudor  
Stuart Tripp

### 1985

Wayland McLawhorn  
Joe Tripp  
Burt Tripp  
Davld Harold Smith  
Charlie Tripp

### Women-Elders 1983

Lib Tripp

### 1984

Addie Allegood

### 1985

Margaret Shelton

### Deacons 1983

Ray Hardee  
Robert Lee Tripp  
Coy Buck

### 1984

Horace Tripp  
Jeff King  
Llnwood Allegood  
Todd Kittrell  
B.P. McLawhorn

### 1985

Steve Tripp  
Gene Smith  
William McLawhorn  
Marcus Whichard  
Bob Bateman

### Deaconesses 1983

Clara Heuay  
Bert Sudor  
Ruggie Gooding

### 1984

Sue Venters  
Pauline Cox

### 1985

Sue Branch  
Mamie Smith

### CWF Officers

President - Janette Sumrell

### CMF Officers

President - Coy Buck

## Committies

### Pastor Nominating Committee

Clay Stroud  
Burt Trip  
Steve Sudor

Coy Buck  
Janette Sumrell  
Dorothy Venters

Joe Tripp  
Bert Sudor  
Sue Branch

**Membership and Evangelism**

Ray Hardee, *Chairman*  
Carol Ann Hardee  
Sandra Garris  
Ross Persinger

**World Outreach**

Hannah Gaylor, *Chairman*  
Sue Venters  
Allie Allegood  
Catherine Gaylor  
Horace Tripp  
Les Stocks

**Stewardship and Finance**

Burt Tripp, *Chairman*  
Margaret Shelton  
Marvin Baldree, Jr.  
Joe Tripp  
Mildred McLawhorn  
Charlie Tripp

**Christian Education**

Steve Tripp, *Chairman*  
Monica Stokes  
Diane King  
Sandra Garris  
Carol Ann Hardee  
Brooks Buck  
Les Stocks

**Property**

Gene Smith, *Chairman*  
Joe Tripp  
Jeff King  
Horace Tripp

**Worship**

Jeff King, *Chairman*  
Kathleen Jackson  
Glen Gaylor  
Linwood Allegood  
Sue Branch

Eight hours before the first Board meeting of the new year, January 25, 1983, Rev. Victor Wilson came to the office of Dr. Sudor to make a startling announcement. He advised the chairman that he would resign as pastor of Ayden Christian Church, effective February 28, 1983, as he had accepted a call to the Philadelphia Presbyterian Church at Mint Hill, near Charlotte, North Carolina. He explained that the "call" was an opportunity to extend and develop his ministry. He further explained that when he came to Ayden he felt called but now felt a calling from God to go elsewhere. He said that since coming to Ayden he had received a number of requests from churches asking for his services but his love and

dedication to the Ayden Christian Church had kept him here. He said that the opportunity was an enormously challenging one, as the new church founded in 1770 had 930 members, three full-time staff and eight part-time staff. He made a request of Dr. Sudor not to reveal his resignation to anyone as he wished to convey that decision to the Board personally. Dr. Sudor honored his request.

The truth of it was that Ayden was but a stepping stone to greater challenges for this bright and talented young man. He was destined to achieve greatness. Ayden was fortunate to have him for a short time because he did make a difference. It was because of him that the church became viable again. He set a standard of quality and a challenge to grow numerically and spiritually.

The Chairman had eight hours with which to prepare the Board and committees to function independent of a minister. He had four goals; to make sure the church stayed together, to not lose the new members, to involve as many people as possible and to make sure the minister's replacement would be qualified and capable of continuing growth. The committees were already appointed. The supporting officers were already elected. He needed a strong Pulpit committee, one that would choose someone right for the Ayden Christian Church. He named nine: The three trustees, Clay Stroud, Burt Tripp and Steve Sudor who was also the ex-officio member; CMF president, Coy Buck; CWF president, Janette Sumrell; Board secretary, Mrs. Bert Sudor; Church Clerk, Dorothy Venters; Organist and choir member, Sue Branch and Member at Large, Joe Tripp.

Listing the preceding list of officers, committee members, pulpit committee, elders, deacons and deaconesses serves a purpose. These were the people who kept the church going. This is to show the unique ability of a Disciple Church to conduct itself without a minister. The Ayden Church had done just that a number of times in the past, but that year, 1983, a new fervor took place!

Rev. Wilson offered his resignation at the Board meeting and reiterated what he had said to the Board chairman. He advised he was sending a letter of explanation to each and every member of the church. The Board accepted his resignation with regret and wished the minister the very best in all that was before him and thanked him for serving the church so well. Additional business was conducted at that Board meeting. The Board authorized hiring John Proctor and Co., CPA to audit the churches books and to set up a new permanent bookkeeping system. Charlie Tripp was appointed the new Treasurer.

The challenge began! From the third Sunday in February until June 12, 1983, the church functioned without a minister. Rev. Wilson, however, did not neglect last minute details. He wrote a precise outline of duties for each committee. He wrote church service prayers for the lay leaders. He listed an outline of church activities and functions and a calendar of events for the next minister who would then have a format to follow.

The first Pulpit committee meeting was held at the home of the Board chairman, Dr. Sudor. The committee elected Clay Stroud, Jr., Chairman, by unanimous vote. This was an excellent choice. They decided to meet with the Regional minister, Bernard Meese and met with him a few days later. Rev. Meese provided excellent direction and advice during the meeting that lasted two hours. The committee was instructed to develop a church profile. That took several days. The committee met frequently to study and discuss prospective candidates that were submitted by the Regional office. All in all, nine meetings were held and thirty phone calls made by chairman Stroud in a short period of three months before a new full-time minister was called to the Ayden Christian Church. The complete minutes of the meetings were recorded by chairman Stroud and can be found in the archives. He did such an excellent job that it would be wise for a Pulpit committee in the future to follow his guidelines.

Rev. Wilson's last Sunday was February 20, 1983, after which a fellowship luncheon was held in his honor. During the luncheon a beautiful cut glass bowl was presented to the Wilsons as a farewell gift. The chairman presented the gift with the following words:

*“On behalf of the Ayden Christian Church, all of us, the church family and especially the women of this church who re-organized the CWF specifically to have this presentation and covered dish luncheon in your honor--to you Victor and to you Jane, I present this gift which symbolizes our love for you, and carries with it our best wishes as you proceed in God’s work with your next congregation. It is our hope that we will not be remembered for the gift--rather that the gift will remind you of our love for you. May God bless you both.”*

In the meantime, Pulpit committee chairman, Clay Stroud, was busy getting visiting ministers to preach the Sunday services. Among them were: John Brick, Harold Deitch, Dan Hensley, Joe Bennett, Roy Turnage and Lewis Lint. A complete worship service was held each Sunday. A different lay leader (elder) led the entire service including the communion service. All the visiting minister was obligated to do was the sermon and morning prayer. The variety of ministers kept the congregation interested. Attendance and contributions did not fall off.

The first Sunday service after Rev. Wilson's departure was developed by Clay Stroud with approval of the Pulpit committee. Dr. Sudor presided to explain to the congregation the plans for the church and Sunday services until a new minister was engaged. Mr. Stroud developed a questionnaire asking 37 questions of what the members expected or wanted of a new minister. So, from the beginning, this involved every member, who attended, a say in what kind of minister they preferred. A short worship service was conducted by Wayland McGlohon with the

communion service conducted by the elders. The result of the questionnaire was helpful to the pulpit committee and to the next minister to be. From the beginning, the committees functioned with energy. All the committees and organizations accepted their responsibility. It was this cooperation that made the church successful.

The budget for 1983 was set at \$51,146 of which \$15,000 was designated for the next minister. The World Outreach goal was set at \$4,8000. Trustee, Burt Tripp, reported the contents of the safety deposit box as follows:

1. 75 shares of National Oil Stock, value \$2,025
2. Original note, Deed of Trust of new building--paid off
3. Deed for property sold to Rudy Robinson (Snow Hill, 2nd St.)
4. Deed for property church sits on (Sauls property)
5. Lease for off street parking from Town of Ayden
6. CD \$5,000 @ 11.75% Southern Bank & Trust Co.
7. CD \$20,769.77 @ 11.70% Southern Bank & Trust Co.
8. PB account, \$2,606.35 @ 5.25% Planters National Bank

Rev. Joe Bennett offered his services for any emergencies until a new minister was installed. Ray Hardee, Chairman of Membership and Evangelism committee advised that all sick and shut-ins were being visited. CMF sponsored a chicken-rice & sandwich lunch in March to earn \$205. CYF president, Wesley Hardee, reported they would have a spaghetti dinner and flea market to earn money and that the CYF was meeting regularly with their leaders the Oehrli's. All of the committees reported on their work at the March meeting. The Board chairman complimented the Board members on the efficient way each had executed his or her responsibility and that the committees were functioning better than anyone could have anticipated. He thanked everyone for their excellent cooperation.

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE JAMES DAILY YEARS

“so neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

I Corinthians 3:7 (RSV)

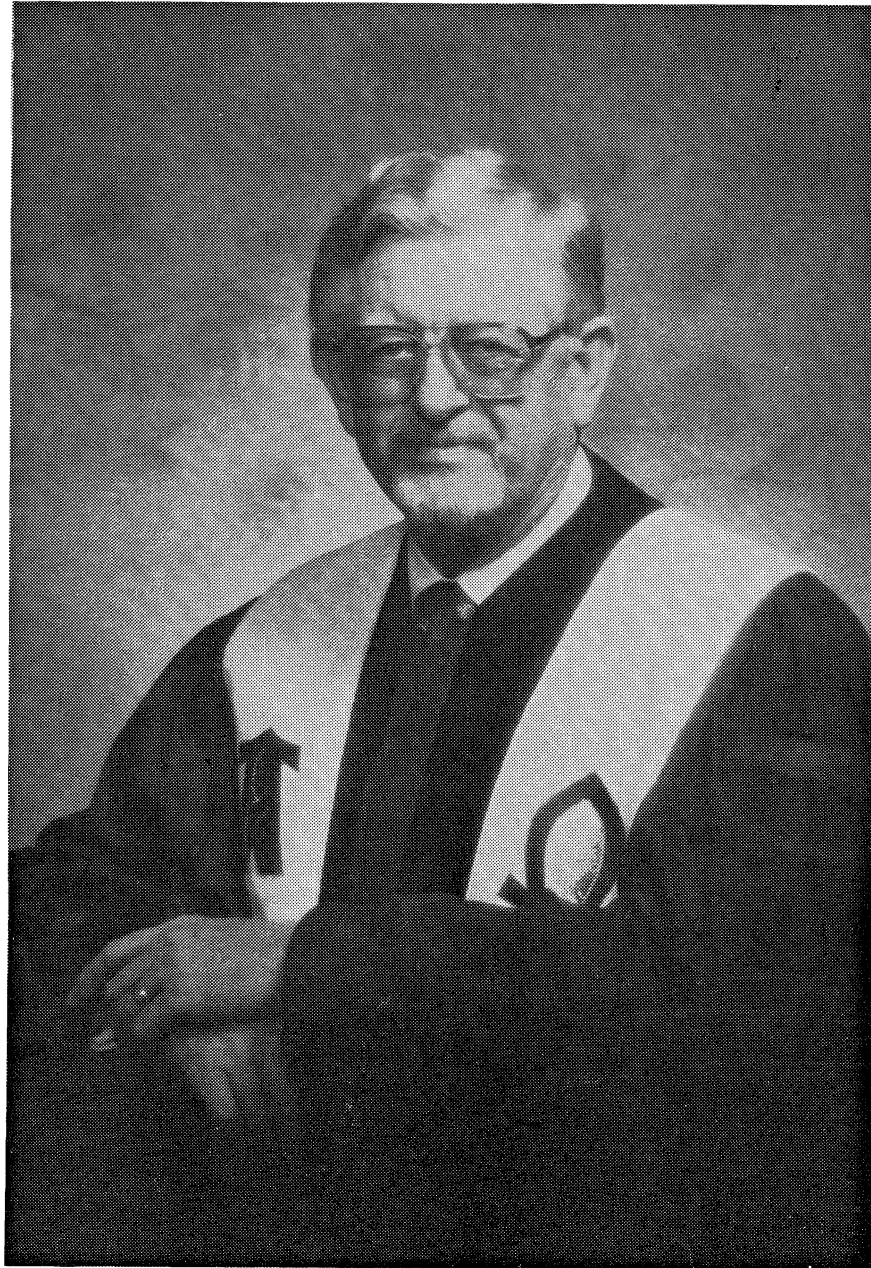
It was Dr. William O. Paulsell from the Lexington Seminary who sent the name and resume of Jim Daily to Bernard Meece at the State Regional office and consequently to the Pulpit committee. When the committee received his profile and listened to a taped sermon he sent, they were enthusiastic and unanimous in voting to have him come to Ayden for a visit and interview. The visit transpired on April 4 to 6 with the church paying all expenses amounting to \$557.13. On April 5, 1983, the Pulpit committee recommended to the Board that James Daily be given the call. The Board responded with a unanimous yes vote. A reception was held that same evening, immediately after the Board meeting, to meet the congregation. On April 17, 1983, the congregation approved the call with no dissenting votes. The Pulpit committee under the excellent leadership of its chairman, Clay Stroud, fulfilled its obligation to engage someone they knew would make the church grow in numbers and in the building of the Kingdom of God. God surely smiled on the Ayden Christian Church when He called James and Jean Daily to serve.

The contract between the church and Rev. Daily follows:

1. Begin ministry June 12, 1983
2. Moving expense borne by church
3. Utilities borne by church
4. Salary \$15,000
5. Parsonage free
6. Base phone expense borne by church
7. Pension plan
8. Health Care \$480 annually
9. Vacation; 10 days (1 Sunday) 1983, 3 weeks (3 Sundays) 1984, 4 weeks (4 Sundays) thereafter and 2 Sundays for conventions
10. Auto \$2,000 annually
11. Convention expense \$200 annually
12. Books and journals \$100 for church, \$100 for minister annually
13. One day per week off
14. Termination 60 days notice by either party
15. Review contract each year



On June 1, 1983, a Timothy from the Ayden Christian Church, Dr. James B. Hemby, was named as acting president of Atlantic Christian College. The Property committee headed by Eugene Smith and Joe Tripp made necessary repairs to the parsonage and volunteers paved a double driveway to make the parsonage ready for the new minister. The total expense amounted to \$1,297.83.



**James Milford Daily**  
**Current Minister from June 12, 1983**

The twenty-second minister to serve the Ayden Christian Church was James Milford Daily beginning June 12, 1983. Who was this servant of God the church was

waiting for? Rev. Daily was born on July 9, 1926 in Fairmount, Indiana. He graduated from Fairmount High School receiving awards in music, journalism and art. He then received his B.S. degree in Education from Ball State Teachers College in 1952. He was one of two graduating seniors to receive the Distinguished Military Graduate Medal from Air Force ROTC. However, he was drafted into the army as his commission into the Air Force had been rejected because of a heart condition. He challenged this rejection at the Pentagon and won his commission in the Air Force. Then, typical of the Air Force, he was sent to bases all over the country from New York to California as well as overseas assignments in French Morocco and Saudi Arabia. His duty was primarily as a Training and Education officer and then as Director for Materiel and Supply officer. While in California, he met and married Twila Jean Parker in 1962. Together they had three children; Thomas Ray, Shelly Lynn and Michael Fillmore. He and his family were assigned to a missile base in Germany. While there he directed the base Chapel Choir and had the honor of directing the U.S. Air Force Band with his choir for Handel's Messiah at Christmas in 1965. He then served in Texas, North Carolina and Viet Nam, continuing additional work with directing choirs and Sunday evening services. He received the Distinguished Service Medal. He retired from the Air Force while at Seymour Johnson, North Carolina with a rank as Major.

After retirement from the Air Force, James Daily worked five years for the Cumberland County Mental Health Center as counselor educator and director of both alcoholic and drug programs. He received a "call" to the ministry and served as associate minister of the First Christian Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina for a period of one year. He then entered Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky. As a student he served as minister of the Morgan Christian Church in northern Kentucky. He received the George V. Moore Award for major accomplishments in the area of field education and was chosen for Who's Who among persons pursuing

a theological degree. At Lexington he earned his Master of Divinity degree in May, 1983. He was ordained at the Morgan Christian Church in June, 1983.

On June 12, 1983, he began his ministry at Ayden Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) giving his first sermon. What a joyous day it was. The Sanctuary was full. There was an air of celebration and anticipation. Board chairman, Sudor, presided to open the service with the following remarks: "This is a special day--a great day, because all of us have been looking forward to welcome our new minister, James Daily. Because he has been called to this church, let us celebrate in the knowledge that God has been kind to us. People have been kind to us also. In particular I refer to the organ--this Allen Digital Computer Organ that sounds so beautiful which has been given and installed for this special day. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Johnnie G. Beland who has contributed this magnificent instrument to this church in memory of John B. Beland, her husband and Ruby G. McLawhorn, her sister, both of whom loved this church dearly. We thank you Mrs. Beland for this is truly a gift that will be appreciated for a long time to come. This is a great day! Almost like a new beginning--a fresh start."

It was Joe Tripp and Gene Smith who persuaded Mrs. Beland to contribute the organ in time for Rev. Daily's arrival. They also persuaded the company to have the organ installed, adjusted and ready to go. The chairman saw to it that every member of the Pulpit committee was involved in the service: Leader, S. Sudor; Greeters, Janette Sumrell and Dorothy Venters; Organist, Sue Branch; Children's Message, Mrs. Bert Sudor; Introduction of Minister, Clay Stroud; Communion Table, Burt Tripp, Joe Tripp and Coy Buck. Shirley Barfield, a former member, sang a *solo* for special music. Joe and Louise Tripp placed flowers in the sanctuary to honor James and Jean Daily.

It was a great day!

But, there was no rest. Steve Tripp, Education chairman, saw to that by having Vacation Bible School at the Christian Church, independent of the Methodist Church, beginning Monday, June 13, the very next day, from 6:45 until 8:30, one day after Rev. Daily began his pastorate. Not only children but adults were included as well. Then, the following Sunday, June 19, a covered dish lunch was held after the church service to welcome Rev. and Mrs. Daily. It was time to let the Daily's know how famous the Christian Church was for their Fellowship Dinners.

For some time, Rev. Daily had been concerned with the declining membership of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) everywhere. He saw a need and felt called to help improve the status and reverse the decline by working through a local congregation. Before coming to Ayden he made a study of the Ayden Christian Church looking at the attendance, the growth and decline of its membership. By the time he arrived in Ayden, he had enough information to develop a plan. He shared his vision for the Ayden Christian Church by the following statement he read to the Board: "To provide for the orderly spiritual and physical growth of Ayden Christian Church through planning by its committees with assistance from the membership." The basis for this statement came from Proverbs 29:18 (KJV): "For where there is no vision, the people perish." He indicated to the church board that; "Initial efforts in this direction will be made for a period of five years. It is further proposed that consideration be given at an appropriate time to add one year to the plan each succeeding year, thus always having a current five-year plan, and that the board, committees and membership consider a ten-year plan in the near future."

Working with the church committees already established, he began to develop a variety of goals. A basic goal was that of new members. A goal was set for 15 new members per year. Goals were set for both Sunday School and Worship attendance. The training of church officers soon after elections was another goal. Involvement of the laity was to become a major theme of Rev. Daily's ministry.

Soon after Rev. Daily began his work, Sue Branch, organist took a leave of absence for health reasons. Miss Phyllis Griffin was hired as organist at \$25 per week. Rev. Daily proposed a "Ministers Cabinet" which was adopted by the Board to include the Board Chairman, Presidents of CMF, CWF and CYF and all committee chairman. The purpose was to have open discussion of grievances, proposals and wishes of lay persons of the church. The Worship committee proposed that ladies be included to serve at the communion table as elders and deaconesses. The Board approved.

The Board chairman had the property committee chairman, Gene Smith and Joe Tripp, list an inventory of everything the church possessed and placed in the safety deposit box at the bank. An organ recital by Mr. David Kirk was held Sunday afternoon, June 26, at 3:00 p.m. to demonstrate the versatility of the new church organ.

The formal installation service of Rev. James Daily was held the afternoon of August 14, 1983, at 4:00 p.m. Those participating in the service were:

Leader (Board chairman), Dr. Stephen Sudor  
Guest Organist, Mr. David Kirk  
Prayer of Reconciliation, Rev. Roy Turnage  
Installation and Sermon, Dr. Bernard C. Meece, Regional minister  
Installation Prayer and Communion Service, Dr. Arthur W. Lilley, Sr., Minister  
Broad Street Christian Church, New Bern, N.C.  
Affirmation of Faith, Dr. Will R. Wallace, Sr., minister First Christian Church,  
Greenville, N.C.  
Guest Minister, Rev. Jeffry Bell, Wendell Christian Church, Wendell, N.C.  
Guest Minister and professor of history, Atlantic Christian College, Dr. Ronald  
Wachs, Roundtree Christian Church  
Guest Minister, Rev. Tom Tunstall, Northwest Christian Church, Kinston, N.C.  
Guest Minister, Rev. Neill Grimes, First Christian Church Grifton, N.C.  
Wife, Mrs. Jean Daily  
Guest Choir, First Christian Church, Fayetteville, N.C.  
Guest Choir Director, Mrs. Maxine Strickland, First Christian Church,  
Fayetteville, N.C.

A reception was held in Fellowship Hall immediately following the service of installation.

Miss Clyde Stokes, life-long member of Ayden Christian Church passed away on August 23, 1983. In her will she designated \$61,000 be given to Atlantic Christian College for two undergraduate fellowships. To the Ayden Christian Church she gave her car which was sold for \$4,000. The money was deposited in the Memorial Fund.

Education committee chairman, Steve Tripp, was energetic. He believed in the Sunday School. He was determined to make it grow. Consulting with the minister, he called a special meeting for August 17, 1983. Seventeen people attended to discuss and plan an all-out meeting and "kick-off" picnic for anyone interested in Christian education, scheduled for Saturday, September 17. The young people, interested in getting a leader, requested both Steve Tripp and Mike Daily be designated as their youth leaders. CMF president, Coy Buck, had as his guest speaker, Dr. Louis Lint, Pastoral Care Director at Pitt Memorial Hospital, who was no stranger to the Ayden Church. The men then planned a barbecue chicken dinner and three yard sales to help raise the \$1,500 they pledged toward World Outreach. The Board hired Mrs. Sheila Benson as church secretary at \$4.00 per hour. The minister requested full support of the Board in attending worship services during the month of September for a series of sermons entitled, "The Task Ahead." On behalf of the Board, Chairman Sudor sent a letter of congratulation to Dr. James B. Hemby who was named tenth president of Atlantic Christian College. The Board granted permission to Mr. K.C. Lennon, Seminary student, to do his student ministry at Ayden Christian Church. A Service of Dedication for the Allen Digital Computer Organ, given by Mrs. Beland in time for Rev. Daily's first sermon, was held on September 25, 1983.

Rev. Daily wasted no time in sending a tape copy of his sermons to the shut-ins and a church news-letter to the membership. The CWF elected Sue Venters to direct their Christmas Bazaar in November. They earned \$1,350.80. Half was given to World Outreach and half to the Building Fund. Without a choir director, Rev. Daily directed the choir for the Candlelight Christmas Service and K.C. Lennon, student minister, did the narration. The CMF had an active year under the leadership of Coy Buck especially at Christmas time. They gave a children's Christmas party, prepared 16 fruit baskets for shut-ins, took a needy child Christmas shopping and had a joint Christmas party with the CWF with 55 persons attending. They elected William Earl McLawhorn, president for 1984.

1983 was an eventful year, one in which the author of this written history was deeply involved. He sent the following letter to the congregation:

*"If you believe as I do that 1983 was a successful year in the life of our church, then you should know that the success should be attributed to the people of our church. Let me review the events that took place last year.*

*In January our former minister resigned. To some this seemed catastrophic. But it did not turn out that way. The Pulpit Nominating Committee supplied our pulpit with a minister each Sunday, the Worship Committee procured lay leaders, and the elders conducted the communion service. Many people were involved in this participation and as a consequence our attendance and contributions did not falter during the period we were without a minister.*



*Just as our Sunday worship services continued effectively, so did the conduct of our general board and church organizations. The officers, the committees (especially the chairpersons), and the entire board membership exhibited their ability to make our church function in a praiseworthy manner. Problems were solved, decisions made, and projects were completed.*

*The Pulpit Nominating Committee accomplished (in record time) the procurement of our present minister and we should be grateful that he answered the call to our church. With him I sense growth; numerically, financially, but most of all spiritually.*

*The entire membership of our church needs to be complimented for their agreement and acceptance of decisions made.*

*By now you have noticed I have not mentioned any names. The fear is that I would unintentionally omit one -- there are so many that need to be thanked.*

*It has been a privilege to serve as your chairman of the board this past year. I can truthfully say I am proud to be a member of this church family."*

*Stephen Sudor*

By the end of 1983, everyone agreed that a new inspiration and fervor had taken place. The church lost a man who made a difference and gained a man who would

move the church forward. Everyone was excited and felt good about the church. It was a great year!

The Board elected Clay Stroud Chairman of the Board for 1984. The budget adopted amounted to \$50,747. The World Outreach goal was \$4,500. Chairman Stroud appointed Steve Sudor and Pat Tripp on the History Committee.

Beginning his first full year as minister to Ayden Christian Church, Rev. Daily sent the following letter to the congregation:

*"I firmly believe that this must be a year of intensive action! Our officers must give considerable time to the idea of church growth. If their work is to be effective, the appointed committees and membership must work--I mean really work!*

*I will have met with the board of the church but soon I will be meeting with committee chairs and church officers in a group called the Minister's Cabinet. I think you need to know why, in 1983, I asked for the formation of this group. If I am expected to serve this congregation in a strong leadership role, I must have the opportunity to meet with these people to share my ideas, to receive reaction to those ideas and to receive council. I would also hope that a considerable more amount of coordination will be done in this group. It is not always possible to take board time for all these matters.*

*I want to assure you that this is not a group which will be running the church. All items considered in this group will first have to be passed by the board before they become church policy. This group has no authority to spend any money. It can only recommend to the board.*

*It will be my intent to support very prominently the idea to move ahead with building plans. Though we may well not build this year, we must, I believe, move toward building, make decisions as to what we are going to build, where it will be built, and what it will cost. From these decisions can come plans for the future: how much must we have before we can build and how we will raise that money without interfering with the regular budget.*

*Further, I will be making proposals for a five year plan to this group, then to the board and then to the congregation. I have many of these plans on paper now and will be putting them into a form which can be seen and understood by all in the near future. These plans include proposals for growth in membership and in income.*

*However, no plan is perfect and your input will be needed when the plans are presented. There will be appropriate channels for your response to those plans. We must work through those channels if our progress is to run smoothly.*

*Remember that St. Paul said: "...all things should be done decently and in order." I Corinthians 14:40*

Rev. Daily began 1984 by having an elders and deacons training session, believing that they should have thorough knowledge of their position and incentive to implement their duties. He held a cabinet meeting composed of officers and committee chairs, believing that the leadership needed to work closely together.

At the Board meeting held on February 28, 1984, Joe Tripp made a plea to reactivate the Building Expansion committee for much needed space. He was not willing to lay back and wait. This would turn out to be an important date. He promised to get an estimate on the expansion by the next Board meeting.

A delay occurred when a disastrous tornado struck Ayden with devastating damage to homes and businesses and the cause of three deaths. Farmers Funeral Home was completely demolished. The church offered its facilities to the funeral home and one funeral was held there. Rev. Daily donated his time to the Disaster Relief Program, taking charge of the program to aid and assist the many victims in and around Ayden.

In April, Joe Tripp, representing the property committee encouraged the Board to have aluminum siding placed over all outside woodwork at a discounted price. The contract was given to Jo Pa Associates at a cost of \$1,720. Joe knew how to get a bargain.

The church received a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Associate Regional Minister, Ralph G. Messick, in recognition of contributions to the camp and conference program.

At the April Board meeting, Rev. Daily pursued his goal by submitting a five-year plan as follows:

**1984 Special Projects**

1. Firm decision about building--either for or against
2. Increase publicity
3. Choir increased to 20 people (now have 15)
4. Education program for the Elders of the church
5. P.A. System
6. Faith recommitment program

### **1985 Special Projects**

1. Breaking ground for Education/social units
2. Education Program for committees
3. Acquire choir director
4. New office typewriter
5. Having a Homecoming

### **1986 Special Projects**

1. Complete new unit
2. Complete parking area and landscaping
3. Hoping to have a Youth Choir
4. Homecoming

### **1987 Special Projects**

1. Elders Training Program (to be given every 3 years)
2. Homecoming
3. Hope to have membership of 275 with participating membership of 230--  
choir of 30
4. Average worship attendance of 160
5. Office copy machine

### **1988 Special Projects**

1. Training Program of the Diaconate (Deacons)
2. Hand Bell Choir
3. Homecoming
4. Sunday School attendance at 75

Mr. Daily stated these long range plans can only be accomplished if we work closely with the Stewardship and Finance Committee and if our Membership and Evangelism Committee sets a precedence that other committees will follow.

What Joe Tripp started in February, 1984, he continued at the April Board meeting. He stated that the original building plans included two options for expansion, a new building on the vacant lot or add on (at the back) to the existing building. Joe advised that many people were in agreement that building expansion should begin as soon as possible and that he already had \$17,000 pledged for that purpose. That amount added to the Building Fund totaled \$51,497.70. He had a tentative bid from Melvin Coward of \$10 per square foot using doors, windows, etc. from the old education building, and finishing work done by men of the church, for an estimated cost of \$60,000. A lengthy discussion was held after which Chairman Stroud appointed a Building Expansion committee: Joe Tripp, Chairman, Sue Venters, Elsie Stocks, Steve Sudor, Marguerite Shelton, Ross Persinger and Linwood Allegood.

At the Board meeting in May, Joe Tripp advised that his committee recommended building onto the back of the existing building rather than a separate building on the adjacent lot, and that he had received a bid from J.H. Hudson Co. for \$70,000 and a tentative bid from Mr. Coward for between \$50,000 and \$55,000. He further advised that pledges had increased to \$29,800 and that the total money available was \$64,297. It was moved by Burt Tripp and seconded by Steve Sudor to accept the committee's recommendation and to present it to the congregation for a vote. On June 3, 1984, the congregation approved the Board's recommendation. Chairman Stroud appointed the following committees: Solicitation of Funds, Elsie Stocks; Liaison for Church and Contractor, Wilner Heuey; Financial Transactions, Dr. Gooding; Inside Planning, Dorothy Venters and Charlie Tripp. The building expansion vote transpired in only one year after Rev. Daily's arrival.

Excited and involved, the church did not stop its regular functions. Vacation Bible School was held in June with Henrietta Rowe and Jean Daily as co-directors. Twenty-nine children attended. The Board hired a new church secretary, June B.

Whaley, who began work on July 2, 1984. The Board approved study time for Rev. Daily toward earning his doctorate degree.

In July, 1984, a ground-breaking ceremony was held and construction began. At a special Board meeting held in August, Joe Tripp advised that Thelbert Worthington had contributed \$7,000 for the new heat and air condition system. Joe recommended a plaque be placed in the education area, honoring Thelbert's mother, Mrs. Laura Garris Worthington, as she was a long time member and teacher of children in the Sunday School. The Board approved the recommendation. The up-dated cost of the addition with new expenses incurred amounted to \$95,070. The added expenses included in that amount was \$23,000. The Board voted to borrow the money in order to complete the project. It is interesting to note that the bulk of the money contributed came from 1 person who gave \$7,000, 1 person who gave \$5,000, 23 people who gave \$1,000 and 8 people who gave \$500. The Board requested the following statement be included in the September, 1984 minutes: "The Board wished an expression of gratitude be placed on record for all of the time and unselfish effort made by Joe Tripp in initiating the building program and seeing to the details of the entire project that made it so successful." Joe asked that Gene Smith, Wilner Heuay and Marvin Baldree, Sr. be included for all they had contributed. The annex expansion amounted to 4,300 square feet with a fellowship hall, 2 kitchens, 8 classrooms, a complete nursery, 3 walk-in storage rooms and 2 rest rooms. Doors, chalk and tack boards, coat hanger racks and an old sink were among many things used from the old education building. The rest of the old building items was sold at different times. By the November Board meeting, only \$19,500 was owed on the new annex.

In September, 1984, Flower Vases were given in memory of Churchill G. Moore, Sr. and Venetia Baker Moore by their family: James and Marie Pittman, Clinton and Georgia Foster, Rev. Goodwin Moore and Mrs. Sallie M. Davis.

In November, 1984, Rev. John Brick and wife Joanne came into the Ayden Church by letter of transfer. On November 18, Allen Brick and Jodie Brick were baptized in the Ayden Christian Church by their father, Rev. John Brick.

At the November Board meeting, Rev. Daily presented a chart exhibiting growth in attendance and money over the preceeding year. The average increase was 28 per Sunday. In 1984, seven people came into the church by letter of transfer and six by baptism. Blanche Kittrell, Evangelism committee chairman reported that there were thirty new prospects for the next year. Growth in the Ayden Church did not go unnoticed by the Regional Board of Christian Churches in North Carolina when they asked Rev. Daily to serve on the Board.

Rev. Daily was named "Man of the Year" for 1984 and Billie McLawhorn was named "Woman of the Year."

Joe Tripp was not satisfied, neither were other Board members who wanted to see a finished job for the new annex and voted to spend \$3,200 to carpet the new facility.

Burt Tripp was elected Board Chairman for 1985. The budget amounted to \$60,276.

January, 1985, was the beginning of another busy year. The minister became involved with all the committees and organizations. The committees were creative and very active, encouraged by the challenge and interplay between them. One committee that increased its duties was the worship committee chaired by Ray Hardee and ably assisted by J.D. Allen, Sandra Garris, Addie Allegood and Bert Sudor. The committee was innovative, and with the help of the minister, refined the order of worship, making changes and additions throughout the year. They helped train the acolytes, greeters, Elders and Deacons and had much to do with the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



The minister had another goal of high priority, the Sunday School and Education committee. Rev. Daily was very pleased with Steve Tripp as Education Chairman for his first six months, and then with the excellent work of Henrietta Rowe, a professional teacher who led the growth of the Sunday School. An attendance goal of 75 was set for March 3, 1985, which was exceeded by 32 when 107 attended that day. Materials, supplies and equipment were requested and provided. She had teacher meetings. Vacation Bible School doubled in attendance. Videos were shown, opening exercises held and Bibles were purchased for the children. A TV and record player were purchased from money contributed by the cook book committee. Junior Church was started with Janette Sumrell directing.

Other committees "caught the fever" of Rev. Daily's persuasiveness. The World Outreach committee, chaired by Hannah Gaylor, reached their goal of \$4,500 thanks to a contribution made by the CWF Cookbook committee and the CMF profit from barbecue dinner sales. The Membership committee chaired by Ann Carraway, Evangelism committee chaired by Ross Persinger and Stewardship and Finance committee chaired by Steve Sudor received new pamphlets, brochures and guides to broaden their work and enhance the effect of their work.

CWF president, Sue Venters and later in the year, Louise Tripp, had the ladies meet regularly. They held a kitchen shower for needed equipment. Special committees were formed from this group of ladies for important tasks. The CMF elected David Harold Smith their president. In May they earned \$957.78 from a chicken barbecue dinner. Glen Gaylor and Steve Sudor once again prepared fruit baskets for the shut-ins.

CYF was led by Jeff and Diane King. They had money making projects to help toward World Outreach. The Kings had to resign due to his work schedule, therefore no meetings were held during the summer months. In September, Keith and Mary Hill volunteered to be their leaders. The Hills were also District Advisors

involved in District Retreats. They brought expert leadership to the youth, advising that the purpose of CYF was; worship, recreation, community and church service, mission and study.

Without a choir director, Rev. Daily was directing, but in January, 1985 he advised he could not continue in that capacity. Chairman Burt Tripp appointed a choir committee; Dr. Sudor, chairman, Glenn Gaylor and Sue Branch. Sue Branch volunteered to direct the choir until a director could be found. In March the committee recommended hiring Danny Dial who had received his Bachelor of Music degree from East Carolina University in 1982 and at that time was the drama and choral director at North Pitt High School and Wellcome Middle School. The choir was very pleased with his leadership. The following is part of the July Board meeting minutes:

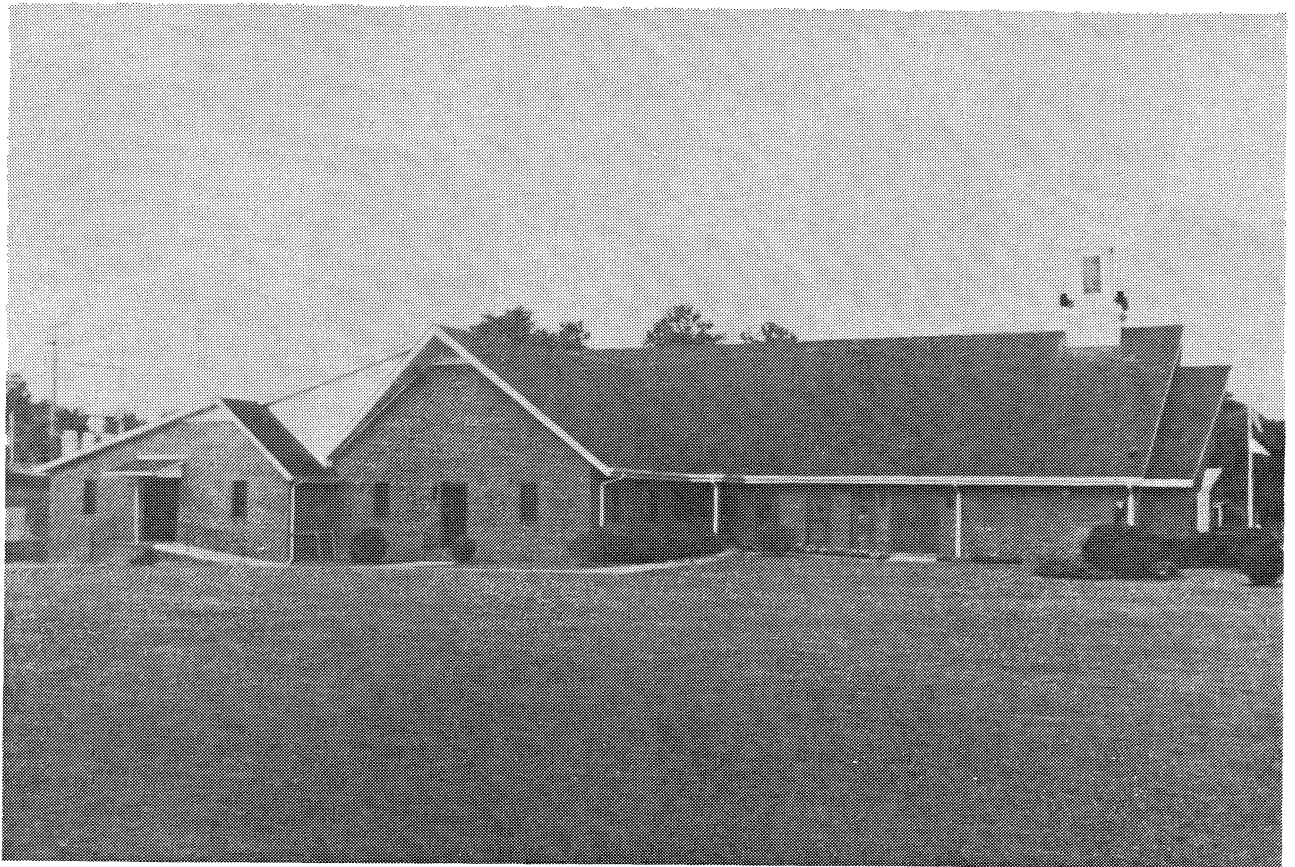
*“Mr. Daily showed the board members a copy of an anthem composed by our choir director, Danny Dial. The title is ‘First Anthem’ and was taken from Psalms 96. This is Mr. Dial’s first anthem and was written especially for the choir of the Ayden Christian Church. Mr. Daily wants the record to show that Mr. Dial’s quality of work is greatly appreciated by the membership of this church.”*

In January, Chairman Tripp appointed a committee to update the constitution and by-laws: Clay Stroud, chairman, Coy Buck and Addie Allegood. They completed their work by March. In the same month, Steve Sudor reported that the glass cases and shelves were completed. They were designed by his friend, a former museum curator to display historical artifacts. Joe Tripp directed the installation. Pat and Burt Tripp contributed a refinished antique oak file cabinet to house historical records. Both were placed in the library.

Pauline Cox was appointed chairman of the Christmas Bazaar committee which was held on October 19, 1985. It was a money making project that involved many women of the church to sell food, handmade items, Christmas decorations, country pantry products, crafts, snack bar, bakery goods, flowers and cookbooks. The Bazaar was very successful realizing a profit of around \$1,700.

At the January Board meeting, Bert Sudor suggested a moneymaking project, a cookbook of Ayden Christian Church member's favorite recipes. Quick as a flash of light, she was appointed chairman of the Cookbook committee and directed to find her own committee members. Bert followed the philosophy "secure the busiest people you know and you will get results." She appointed: Sue Venters, Elsie Stocks, Ester L. McLawhorn, Jean Daily, Joanne Brick, Brooks Buck, Louise Tripp and Laurie Higginbotham. They named it "Fellowship Favorites Cookbook, Ayden Christian Church, Disciples of Christ." The foreword read, "Ayden Christian Church is famous for our Fellowship Dinners. Everyone prepares his or her favorite culinary delights for these occasions. There are usually so many platters, dishes, bowls and dessert trays filled with these heavenly treats, one can hardly see the white tablecloths on which they are so temptingly arranged." The project began in January, 1985. It was sent to the printer on May 30, 1985. The first order of 800 cookbooks was delivered on August 9 and paid for on September 6. 144 persons submitted 591 recipes . They cost \$5. 35 and sold for \$9. 95. By late October the cookbooks were sold out . A profit of \$3,813.78 was realized for the first order. The Cookbook committee under the auspices of CWF contributed a check amounting to \$1, 881.89 toward the new annex and another check amounting to \$1,881.89 to World Outreach and yet another check amounting to \$379. 80 to the Education committee. On July 12, 1987, another 200 cookbooks were ordered and quickly sold. The project yielded a total profit of nearly \$5,000, one of the largest money making projects ever undertaken.

Early in 1985, the "Man of the Year" award went to two men in a tie vote, Joe Tripp and Eugene Smith. The "Woman of the Year" award went to the Financial Secretary, Mildred McLawhorn. In July, Gene Smith passed away. He had worked as Property committee chairman with his good friend Joe Tripp almost to the end. It was fitting that he shared the "Man of the Year" award in 1985.



### **Second Church with Education Annex Dedicated November 3, 1985**

The highlight of 1985 was at Homecoming, November 3, 1985. It was a joyous day of celebration with the largest attendance in many years. During the morning worship service a Litany of Dedication was read to dedicate the new Education

Annex Building. The annex, over 4300 square feet, included a Fellowship Hall, two modern kitchens, eight classrooms, a complete nursery, three walk-in storage rooms and two rest rooms. Debt free! \$105,000 was paid out for a building appraised at \$150,000. Joe Tripp campaigned for contributions as it was his goal to have the annex completed and paid for by Homecoming day. It was accomplished by so many that participated. Taking part in the burning of the note was Rev. James Daily, Joe D. Tripp, chairman of the Building committee, Burt Tripp, chairman of the Board and Linwood Allegood, Treasurer. Others participating in the morning service were: Mamie Smith, Danny Dial, Sue Branch, Angelene Venters, Keith and Mary Hill, Cora Pauline Lee and Rev. Billy Adams. A cover dish lunch followed the morning service where over 300 people were served.

At 1:30, Dr. Stephen Sudor and Mrs. Pat Tripp placed a fifty-year Time Chest behind the Cornerstone. Participating in the Cornerstone Laying Service were: Rev. James Daily, Joe D. Tripp, Burt Tripp, Dr. Stephen Sudor, Mrs. Pat Tripp, Mrs. Henrietta Rowe and Rev. Ralph Messick.

Items placed in the fifty-year time chest included the 7 items from the first time chest placed behind the cornerstone of the old education building on June 10, 1929 which was opened and displayed in 1979. Added were many new items prepared by Dr. Sudor and Mrs. Tripp. The chest was designated to be opened in the year 2035. The following is a list of all items placed in the Fifty-year Time Chest on November 3, 1985:

#### **CONTENTS OF 50-YEAR TIME CHEST 11/03/85**

##### ***Items in original 50-year Time Chest 6/10/29 (opened 1979, returned 1985)***

1. A Bible
2. Ayden Dispatch June 6, 1929
3. The Christian Evangelist
4. 58 Sunday School money booklets

5. A letter "To Whom It Might Concern Later" (S. A. Jenkins, Justice of Peace)
6. Copy of a complete list of the 381 membership roll.
7. Copy of a complete list of the 295 Sunday School members.

*Items added to second 50-year Time Chest 11/3/85*

1. Church Membership Roll as of 10/24/85
2. 1985 Proposed Budget
3. Constitution and By-Laws
4. Ayden News-Leader 10/31/85
5. Short History by C.C. Ware
6. Bulletin, Dedication Service of new Sanctuary 1975
7. Bulletin, Installation service of Rev. Gilbert D. Davis, Jr.
8. Bulletin, Ordination Service of Rev. Elbert L. Davidson
9. Bulletin, Ordination Service of Rev. Billie Adams
10. Bulletin, first sermon Rev. James M. Daily 6/12/83
11. Bulletin, Installation Service James M. Daily
12. Bulletin 11/3/85 Homecoming-Dedication of Building Expansion
13. Copy, Photo of old Church and Members 1915
14. Copy, Photo Loyal Men's Class 1929
15. Photo of original Church after addition of front Sunday School Rooms and Education Building.
16. Photos Chrismon Tree, Christmas 1984
17. Photos Sanctuary Easter 1985
18. Photos New Church
19. Photos construction of Church Expansion 1984
20. Photos, Homecoming 1984
21. Photos, Homecoming 1984
22. Photos, Homecoming 1984
23. Photos, Homecoming 1984
24. Photos, Homecoming 1984
25. History, Ayden Christian Church

Joe Tripp pursued completion of the Annex project by getting approval to have the old Education Building demolished and the lot leveled. Demolition of the building began on November 18, 1985. The older members were saddened by this as

the Education Building had served them well for sixty-eight years, bringing back fond memories of many happy events that occurred there.

By years end the CYF was responding to the excellent leadership of Keith and Mary Hill, earning money through projects and contributing to outreach programs. November was the month that Marvin Baldree, Jr. was elected mayor of the Town of Ayden and Stuart Tripp was elected Town Commissioner. The CWF and CMF had a successful year culminated by a joint Christmas party proving that Christian adults had fun also.

The Board authorized a housing allowance of \$570 for the minister and his wife who wanted to own their own home. That expense was offset by renting the parsonage.

A memorial gift of \$400 was given by Sydney Britt in honor of his mother, Mrs. Marguarette Shelton, to upgrade the church library.

1985 was a very good year. Attendance at the Sunday Worship Service averaged 27 more than the previous year and Sunday School averaged 29 more. Rev. Daily was recognized for an article published in the "North Carolina Christian," October, 1985 and "The Free Will Baptist" November, 1985 entitled "Attitudes and Church Growth." Bert Sudor resigned as Board Secretary reminding everyone that Rev. Daily's opening devotional words were about service, and while we cannot do everything, there is always something we can do to make our church the happy, organized, growing house the Lord intended it to be. Mildred McLawhorn resigned as Financial Secretary thanking the members for being so kind and so easy to work with during the years she served. Burt Tripp thanked everyone present for making 1985 such an outstanding year. Steve Sudor presented a realistic budget for 1986 amounting to \$69,395 for which all the committees and organizations participated in defining their actual needs.

Glenn Gaylor was elected Chairman of the Board for 1986. At his first Board meeting, Pauline Cox agreed to develop a new church directory with color photos of each member in cooperation with Olan Mills Co. William Earl McLawhorn became Property committee chairman to relieve Joe Tripp of working so much in the new annex addition.

The Worship committee chairman, Bert Sudor, the chairman of Elders, Callie Stocks and the minister held an elders meeting to review the responsibility of eldership in different phases of church growth and to enhance the proper procedure of serving communion. Henrietta Rowe, Education chairman began awarding perfect attendance pins in the Sunday School.

A special Board meeting was held on March 9, 1986. The following is a partial transcript of that meeting:

*The main purpose of this called board meeting was to discuss the plans for growth of the Ayden Christian Church. The chairperson of each committee attended in order to present the immediate and future goals of his committee. Mr. Daily opened the meeting by presenting each chairperson with a gift and a letter from himself and Board Chairman Glenn Gaylor. This gift, a Chalice and Cross stud pin, was a token of their appreciation to these people for the unselfish way they give of their time and talent to the church. They also received a leaflet explaining the symbolism of these pins, and Mr. Daily added that there are only 100 of them in North Carolina at this time.*

*Before introducing the committee chairs, Mr. Daily expounded upon the idea that a church must have a theological basis for growth. He stated that Christianity proclaims a message of love and that love must*



*be at the center of our theology. He noted that symbolism is a great part of worship, and he sang the chorus of a children's song which exemplifies the Cross. The thrust of this message was about looking upward to God and reaching out to the needs of humanity, even down to the sinners. You cannot cut out any part of the cross without the cross becoming incomplete, he added.*

*Mr. Daily stated that the Ayden Christian Church must have a Statement of Vision as well as a Statement of Growth, and the first proposal of the evening concerned visionary planning. Mr. Daily proposed that we should always have a current five-year plan by always adding a plan for each succeeding year. Robert Spence proposed an addition to this, that, "... each of the preceding plans (five-year plans) be evaluated and updated each year to provide and enhance planning and growth." Glenn Gaylor then asked that we accept this proposal and its addition by acclamation, and the board members complied.*

What transpired before the special board meeting was called was that each committee had held a separate meeting, by themselves, to develop a five-year plan. At the special board meeting each committee presented their five-year plan which was then voted on by the Board members. Details of each plan is preserved in the archives (Board minutes--March 9, 1986). The following committees and chairpersons made a presentation:

1. Worship and Fine Arts, Mrs. Bert Sudor
2. Christian Education, Mrs. Henrietta Rowe
3. Evangelism, Mr. Robert Spence
4. Membership, Mr. Charlie Tripp
5. World Outreach, Mrs. Dot Respass
6. Stewardship and Finance, Mr. Pat Paxton

7. Christian Action and Community Service, Mrs. Hannah Gaylor
8. Property, Mr. William Earl McLawhorn

Former minister, Rev. Ralph Messick, held a training session for Evangelism committee on a Sunday afternoon in March. In April the CWF was enlightened by Rev. Steven Reed, minister of Proctor Memorial Christian Church in Grimesland, North Carolina, who presented a program on the "Shroud of Turin" (the *supposed* cloth that covered the body of Christ after his crucifixion). Rev. Reed had made an extensive study of this and was in great demand for that program.

212 persons were in attendance at the church service on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1986, and 112 attended Sunday School. The Woodhaven Bell Choir presented a program on a Thursday evening in April. The group of mentally handicapped bell-ringers were fed and housed by members of the church. The audience was amazed and "touched" by their ability to perform so well.

The choir director, Danny Dial, resigned due to a heavy schedule. Chairman Gaylor appointed a committee to find a new director. They were: Glenn Gaylor, Sue Branch, Addie Allegood, Kathleen Jackson and James Daily.

Rev. Daily was busy for many months, studying, researching and writing for his doctorate which was no easy task. He accomplished his goal, graduating at Lexington Theological Seminary on May 16, 1986, earning the doctor of ministry degree. A reception was held in his honor at the minister's home at which time an authorization letter was presented to Dr. Daily which read:

*James Milford Daily, B.S., M.Div., D.Min.*

*"On behalf of the official Church Board, the Board of Trustees, the membership and friends of the Ayden Christian Church, it is our pleasure to present you with this authorization to purchase the clerical robe of your choice.*

*This is to be your own property regardless of cost, style, fabric, tailoring, colors, et cetera.*

*We are happy to give this gift, Jim and perhaps each time you don this garment, you will be embraced by the love we have for you as a man and the respect we share in what you have accomplished in your academic pursuit."*

*"There is no road too long to the man who advances deliberately and without undue haste: there are no honors too distant to the man who prepares himself for them with patience."*

*Jean De La Bruyere*

In the meantime, the CWF was happy to send Jean Daily to the International CWF Convention at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana especially since she was the International CWF Representative for the State of North Carolina.

A special Board meeting was held on June 15, 1986 at which time Davis Clark was hired as Chancel Choir Director for \$50 per week. Mr. Clark, a music student at East Carolina University, came highly recommended. He had served as a faculty assistant at the School of Music. He was selected as Pi Kappa Lambda's most outstanding freshman and sophomore in 1985 and 1986. He served as vice-president of the Music Educators National Conference in 1985 and 1986. He was a recipient of the Harold Grant Brass Scholarship, the Women of the Church of Orange Presbytery Scholarship and the Order of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter Scholarship. The choir and the church soon benefited from his work.

The minister was dedicated to promote Christian education and was fortunate to find someone who was creative and persuasive in building interest and growth in

the Sunday School, Christian Education Chairman, Henrietta Rowe. On June 1, 1986, Rev. Daily recognized the Sunday School Teachers during the morning worship service, preaching a sermon entitled, "The Christian Teacher." The staff had grown considerably in just a short time. Those honored during the service were as follows:

Officers:

Marvin Baldree, Jr., Supt.  
Ross Persinger, Asst. Supt.  
Clara Heuay, Secretary  
Elsie Stocks, Asst. Secy.

Nursery Teachers

Billie McLawhorn  
Sharon McLawhorn  
Robbie Richardson

Primary Teachers:

Sue Venters  
Janette Sumrell  
Linda Little  
Rose Crumpler  
Ginger Haddock

Middler Teachers:

Diane King  
Helen Stroud  
Cindy Haddock  
Mary Hill  
Joanne Brick

Junior High Teachers:

Jean Daily  
Kaye Everett  
Christine Tripp

High School Teachers:

Steve Tripp  
Vickie Smith

Young Adult Teachers:

John Brick  
Art Rouse

Ambassador Teachers:

Linwood Allegood  
Clay Stroud

Loyal Women Teachers:

Dorothy Venters  
Louise Tripp

Loyal Men Teachers:

Stuart Tripp  
Leslie Stocks  
Callie Stocks

Chi Rho Leaders:

Jean Sugg

Piano:

Sue Branch

Minnie Pierce

Rob Oehrli

CYF Leaders:

Keith Hill

Mary Hill

Jeanne Gaylor

Greg Gaylor

A beautiful brass vase was given by Jean Cannon Hancock and Allan Fuller Hancock in memory of Mrs. Marguerette Pierce Shelton. Colin Baldree gave 3 cassette tapes of inspirational music and a book of famous hymns. Mrs. Ruth Venters contributed several inspirational books.

On Mothers Day, Dorothy Venters was chosen "Woman of the Year." An article appeared in "The Ayden Christian" as follows:

*"Dorothy is very active in the Ayden Christian Church as a Sunday School teacher, a Board member, an elder, and a very active member of the Prayer Group. Throughout the years she has served on many committees and now serves on the Membership Committee. She is also a member of the Eastern Star - Ayden Chapter.*

*Dorothy has five children, two of which are members of Ayden Christian Church.*

*Her service to God, her church and her fellow human beings certainly attributes to her being chosen "Woman of the Year."*

On Fathers Day, Leslie C. Stocks was chosen "Man of the Year." An article appeared in "The Ayden Christian" as follows:

*"On Father's Day, Leslie C. Stocks was chosen 'Man of the Year.'*  
*Through the years, Les has served wherever and whenever his services*  
*were needed. For over forty years he served as treasurer of the church.*  
*The Loyal Men's Sunday School Class benefited from his love for God's*  
*Word with Les as its teacher. His quiet wisdom and knowledge are*  
*available to those who ask for it. He has come through some serious*  
*illnesses with his faith whole and stronger than ever.*

*He is a Mason, a member of the Eastern Star, York Rite, a Rotarian*  
*and for twenty-five years worked with the Boy Scouts in one capacity or*  
*another. Les and his wife, Lib, have two sons and several grandchildren.*

*So congratulations to Leslie Stocks! Ayden Christian Church is richer*  
*today because of his love and support."*

In June, 1986, Vacation Bible School was led by co-directors Jannette Sumrell and Henrietta Rowe. They had a staff of 30 people and an attendance of 101, the largest and most successful VBS in those recent years.

Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Huffham were proud parents at the Sunday worship service on July 6, 1986, when their son, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William L. Huffham had the sermon that day. He was assigned to the office of the Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon.

It was by the suggestion of Rev. Daily that a change was made in the Constitution and By-Laws to have the election of officers and approval of the up-

coming budget in the month of October which would give time to the new leaders to make plans for the next year.

It was Bert Sudor who chaired a small committee of ladies who met 6 Monday nights to repair the Chrismons, then had them displayed in Beland Hall with a written explanation as to the meaning of each symbol.

In October, Rev. Daily held revivals at Airy Grove and Rountree Christian Churches. Rev. Billy Adams, a Timothy from Ayden Christian Church was the guest speaker at Homecoming.

In 1986, the average attendance at the worship service was 125.6 while the Sunday School showed an increase of 9% to 68.6. Church membership grew to 267.

All during the year of 1986, lay persons were asked to submit articles in "The Ayden Christian" newsletter. Examples of what those persons were thinking follow:

*"People are, by and large, happy when they are giving up themselves for something bigger than they are. Jesus spoke about such happiness in the beatitudes: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God.*

*If you are fellowshiping with God and serving Him, peace and happiness will be there despite the circumstances; you can be happy in the midst of all problems. Ayden Christian Church is a very happy congregation!"*

*Ross Persinger*

*"There is a saying that is so meaningful at our home, we thought we would share it with you. 'Only one life twill soon be past - only what's done for Christ will last.'*

*Think of it - all that we do, all that consumes our time, all that presses us - and yes, nothing will last save what is done for Christ.*

*That's the challenge. Let's keep our priorities in the right place . Let 's not let one day go by without making it count for Christ. Let's all commit to do something for Christ each day of our lives or the day's efforts will be in vain.*

*Remember - 'Only one life twill soon be past -only what's done for Christ will last.' Everything else is meaningless."*

*John Brick*

*"Witnessing for Christ is simply being who you are. It does not mean that you need to preach, it doesn't necessarily mean you have to go door-to-door telling strangers about Jesus. All it means is living for Jesus every day so that not only your words tell of Christ, but your life reflects His life as well.*

*How do you witness with your life? By doing what you know is right: obeying God's Word, being directed and controlled by God 's Love and displaying the fruit of the Spirit in your actions and behavior.*

*This does not mean you have to become a prude, wear strange clothes, and be unable to have a good time. It doesn't even mean you have to carry your Bible around all day either. It simply means you stay attached to Jesus at all times.*



*Jesus described it as branches attached to a vine. He is the vine. We are the branches. If we stay attached, we will bear fruit and our lives will be a testimony to all around us.*

*However, just being a witness with your life is not enough. Christian growth means you will also witness with your mouth. The redeemed of the Lord will 'say so,' says the Psalmist. That means once you accept His loving Spirit, you are going to want to tell others about this wonderful way of life. It will come as naturally as telling others about the person you love, or about your new car, or about your child or grandchild. God will give you the right words - and will provide just the right people to talk to. All you have to do is make yourself available."*  
*from "Power for Living"*

*Bert Sudor*

*"As the Christmas season approaches, one thinks of giving. Much time is spent in planning, shopping and getting ready for the holidays. We should stop to think how small our gifts are compared to the gift of our Savior, 'eternal life if we only believe.' There could be no greater gift! What can we give to Him?"*

*Addie Allegood*

Coy Buck was elected Chairman of the Board for 1987. A budget in the amount of \$73,535 was approved by the congregation. A carryover project of the Property committee was the protection of the valuable stained glass windows of the church with a covering of lexan. The project was completed in January, 1987 at a cost of

\$4,665. All except \$500 had been paid. The replacement value of all stained glass windows was estimated to be \$33,000, a good enough reason to protect them.

Leslie A. Stocks gave a memorial contribution in memory of his father, Leslie Stocks, for the purchase of a computer for the church. It was necessary for chairman Coy Buck to appoint a Computer Selection committee to select and install the system. They were: Keith Hill, Pat Paxton, Rob Oehrli, Clay Stroud and Linwood Allegood.

Sydney Britt gave an additional \$2,800 to be used in the library in memory of his mother, Marguerette Shelton. 1987 was the "Year of the Reader" and much attention was paid to use of the library. A new library committee was formed. They were: Addie Allegood, Florence Brocato, Billie McLawhorn, Irma Belle Morris, Blanche Kittrell and June Whaley.

The minister established a policy of "Associate Membership" which was adopted to permit the church to claim as members those who participated in church activity but chose to keep their primary membership with another church. Such persons had to be members of a church that required baptism.

The Ayden Christian Care Center opened its doors in February, 1987 at the old Ayden High School on South Lee Street. The center was sponsored by four churches: Methodist, Baptist, Free Will Baptist and Christian. The minister and a few church members were very active at the center and the CMF immediately contributed \$100 to it. Food, clothing, furniture, appliances and money were provided for the needy.

The minister was concerned enough about widows and widowers to have an informal luncheon and forum after the church service on February 15, 1987. The purpose was to share thoughts and concerns as to how the church family might better minister to the needs of those who lost a spouse. Dr. Daily became a member

of the Governor's Council on Prevention of Substance Abuse Among Children and Youth.

An article entitled "Don't Forget to Laugh" appeared in the Church Newsletter in March, 1987 as follows:

*"One hot summer Sunday, a faithful member of the congregation invited the visiting minister and his family to come to dinner. Wanting to impress the guests, the mother asked her five-year-old son to say grace before the meal. 'But I don't know what to say' the boy exclaimed. 'Oh, just say what you heard me say, dear,' the mother prompted. Obediently the boy bowed his head and murmured, 'Oh Lord, why did I invite those people here on a hot day like this?'"*

*Virginia Franks*

Robert Spence, chairman of the Evangelism committee promoted "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday in May with refreshments and fellowship following the morning service. Attendance at the Easter service on April 19, 1987 was 240, and 88 attended Sunday School. New members of the church were recognized and honored at a Fellowship Dinner on May 31. Also in May, the long-term Planning committee held its first meeting. This was advocated by Dr. Daily early in his ministry when he said: "A growing congregation must look ahead at least ten years, but an even more immediate goal is to look to the year 1993 when our congregation will be 100 years old." The committee was composed of Joe Tripp, Pauline Cox, Henrietta Rowe, Marvin Baldree, Jr., Coy Buck and James Daily. At their first meeting they established three priorities; classroom and storage space, landscaping and improved sound system.

By the time the minister had completed 4 years of service to the Ayden Christian Church he had this to say:

*"The goal of each Christian and congregation must be to 'strain forward to what lies ahead.' Paul reminds us to 'forget what lies behind...,' and though we can remember what we've done the past four years, we must now turn our attention and effort to the future and its possibilities.*

*Major possibilities face us, but we must move quickly and decisively to take advantage of them. Let's begin year five determined to 'strain forward' by sharing the opportunity for helping with children and youth."*

On Mothers Day, May 10, Pauline Cox was chosen "Woman of the Year" 1987. The following was written about her in "The Ayden Christian:"

*"Pauline is very active in the Ayden Christian Church. She serves as a Greeter, an Elder, a member of the Official Board and a member of the Long-Term Planning Committee. She is very active in Circle 2 and the CWF. Pauline also comes in every Monday morning and straightens the sanctuary, makes sure the communionware is clean and polished and that everything is ready for the next service. In addition to all these duties, Pauline took over the position of Treasurer for Ayden Christian Church this year. Her service to God, her church and her community certainly attributes to her being chosen "Woman of the Year."*

On Fathers Day, June 21, Glenn Gaylor was chosen "Man of the Year," 1987. The following was written about him in "The Ayden Christian:"

*“Mr. Glenn Gaylor was chosen by the congregation as its “Man of the Year” for 1987. It is easy to see why he was chosen when one looks at his involvement in church and community activities.*

*Glenn is and has been a loyal member of the choir, singing solos, in duets, quartets and the entire choral ensemble. He has served as chair of the board and of various committees and as a committee member. He now serves as an elder and has served as a deacon in the past.*

*He is a member of the Knights and Ladies of the Library of our church and regularly helps us to put out the monthly edition of the church newsletter.*

*He has served Meals-on-Wheels regularly for the past five years and now also serves as a volunteer at the Ayden Christian Care Center where he also serves as the Vice-President of the board. Glenn is a long-time member of the Ayden Rotary Club where he has served in most all leadership positions, including president.*

*But perhaps most important is Glenn’s role as husband and father.*

*Congratulations, Glenn, for a title well earned!”*

Dr. Daily's attention to work at the church apparently affected his health as verified by the minutes of a special Board meeting held on July 26, 1987, at which time Dr. Daily stated that his doctor had recommended he take three weeks off from

work to rest. The Board had no problem with that and it was arranged that Rev. John Brick would hold the worship service in his absence.

The Ayden church supported summer camp. Three served as counselors; Jean Daily, Mary Hill and Scottie Garris. Several attended camp; Wendy Wainwright, Tracy Little, Tracy Braxton, Katie Voigt, Shannon Hardee and Tammy Gaskins.

Bill Everett constructed a booktruck for the Library. The Ayden church was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the Pitt County Council on Aging for five years of service in delivering Meals-on-Wheels. Serving from the church were: Glenn Gaylor, Ross Persinger, William Earl McLawhorn, James and Jean Daily. In September Dr. Daily held a Revival at Riverside Christian Church.

An article appeared in "The Ayden Christian" as follows:

*"At age 20 we worry about what others think of us. At age 40 we don't care what they think of us. At age 60 we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all."*

*Mildred McLawhorn*

The CWF held a "Harvest Bonanza" on October 3, 1987. Maggie McGlohon chaired the event with the help of; Hannah Gaylor, Sheri Smith, Lucille Cannon, Elsie Stocks, Lib Stocks, Dot Respass, Addie Allegood, Kay Everett, Pauline Cox and Sue Venters. Many people in the church were involved to provide homemade baked goods, pantry goods, a large variety of craft items and Christmas ornaments, and a yard sale. The time consuming project yielded \$2,175.

Pat Tripp was placed in charge of Homecoming held on October 25, 1987. 249 persons attended. Rev. Victor Wilson, minister to Ayden Christian Church from 1979 to 1983, delivered the morning message. His wife, two children and his mother visiting from England were among the guests welcomed by the membership. His

pleasure in having participated at Homecoming was verified by the following letter he sent to the congregation:

*Dear Ayden Christian Church Family,*

*What a joy it was to be back with you for Homecoming! We have talked about it over and over so many times, reliving the wonderful day from start to finish.*

*You all looked wonderful and how good it was to hug each of you and tell you we love you and have missed you. The worship service and music were just beautiful! The food, as always, was simply delicious!*

*The only regret we had was that time slipped away too quickly and soon it was time to head our "crew" back to Wilson, then to Charlotte.*

*Please know we've returned sure of several things; One, you are in excellent hands with Jim and Jean Daily. They are a super team! Two, we love you! We will always consider you our first congregation, one of the most special groups of people we could ever know and love.*

*If you are ever in Charlotte, we hope you will find an opportunity to see us.*

*God bless you all as you continue to serve Him.*

*Love in Christ,*

*Victor, Jane, Carolyn  
and Katherine*

Mr. and Mrs. John Coward gave a Chalice and Host Box in memory of his mother, Mrs. Blanche Coward. A Runner for the Communion Table was given by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Gaylor, Miss Pauline Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Cannon. Dr. Daily attended the National Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky in October.

It is interesting to note that Rev. William O. Paulsell was named president of Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky. In 1981 he served as dean and professor of church history at the seminary. For 19 years prior to that he was a member of the faculty at Atlantic Christian College and while in Wilson, North Carolina he served as interim minister to Ayden Christian Church. Of great importance was that it was Dr. Paulsell who directed Dr. Daily to consider a pastorate at Ayden Christian Church.

On December 20, 1987, the children's department with over 25 children participating performed a Christmas play during an evening program that attracted a full house. Earlier in December, the CMF and CWF held their annual Christmas party.

1987 proved to be a busy and exciting year in the life of the Ayden Christian Church. Regular meetings were held throughout the year by all the committees and organizations. Keith and Mary Hill were complimented on their re-organization of young people activities. By years end 18 were in CYF, 8 in Chi Rho and 5 in Jr. CYF. Did the church reach its goals for 1987? The new member goal was 15, the church gained 18. Membership goal was 270, the church reached 183. Participating membership goal was 225, the church reached 252. The worship service goal was 134, the church reached 129 but was 3 ahead of the previous year. Total receipts was \$85,359.31.

Stuart Tripp was elected Chairman of the Board for 1988. The budget was set at \$77,728. Dot Respass became president of CWF. Chairman Tripp welcomed all new



Board members at his first Board meeting and admonished everyone to renew their commitment to Christ and His Church.

Rev. Daily had significant meetings outside the confines of the Ayden Church throughout 1988, attending the Governor's Council in Raleigh, an Aids Workshop in Greenville, an Ecumenical meeting in Charlotte, a Regional Assembly in Wilmington, an Alcohol and Drug Abuse training session in Charlotte as well as other similar meetings. All the meetings helped him with his counseling mission. He served as a representative from the Regional Board of the Christian Church in North Carolina to the Southern Conference Board of the United Church of Christ, the goal for which was possible unification in the future. He also became a member of the Academy of Parish Clergy. It was commendable that he continued to broaden his role as a minister.

Goals were established for 1988: new membership, 15; participating membership, 235; total membership, 280. The Evangelism committee along with Rev. Daily created PIE (persons involved in evangelism). Forums were scheduled for Sunday nights for adults to cover subjects such as: "The Christian Father," "The Christian Family," "The Strong-Willed Child," "Authority," "Attitudes," "Godliness" and "Aging."

Rev. Churchill Goodwin Moore, Jr., a Timothy from the Ayden Christian Church passed away on March 1, 1988. In February, 1988, the CWF made a change in their format. The separate circle meetings were abandoned in favor of all three circles meeting together once per month with the president presiding. On April 10, 1988 the LMC and LWC joined together as one Sunday School class. The CMF and CWF joined forces for a covered dish supper. The speaker was Walter B. Jones, Jr. who presented a program on child abuse. They met together again on June 6 to listen to Dr. Bernard Meece, Regional minister, to celebrate Alexander Campbell's 200th birthday.

An article appeared in "The Ayden Christian" as follows:

*"Mrs. Billie McLawhorn was honored Sunday, April 24, 1988, as one who constantly gives far beyond the average church worker in her devotion to the work with the children of the church. For many years she has given unselfishly of many hours to insure that the small children receive quality Christian nurturing. In addition to a reception given in her honor, Billie was awarded a plaque which read: 'In Appreciation to Billie McLawhorn for her Loving Dedication to the Children of Ayden Christian Church.' Another plaque was placed on the wall at the church."*

June 12, 1988 was Davis Clark's last Sunday as Choir Director. He resigned to accept an appointment as assistantship at the University of Illinois in the College of Music, with full tuition paid, to serve on the faculty while completing his Masters degree. Mr. Clark was selected as the outstanding graduating senior from the School of Music at East Carolina University. Hardly any delay occurred when the following article appeared in "The Ayden Christian:"

*Mr. Christopher (Chris) E. Holliday began his services as director of the Chancel Choir at the Wednesday choir rehearsal, June 22, 1988.*

*Chris comes to us with considerable talent, training and experience. He has participated with the Martin Community Players Orchestra, National Opera Company, and the John A. Holmes Marching Band, plus others. In several of these he served in an instructor role.*

*From his high school, he graduated at the top of his class, and received honors as chief marshall, in U.S. History, Drama and Math. He was a member of the All-State and N.C. Honors Band, received the National Choral Award, was a member of the International Thespian Society, National Honor Society and Key Club, where he served as president. He was also an exchange student to Germany in August of 1983.*

*He is the recipient of five music scholarships and three academic scholarships. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Eta Sigma, Pi Kappa Lambda and Phi Kappa Phi and Kappa Delta Pi, both honor societies. His current grade point average is 3.9.*

*He is a member of the West End Baptist Church in Williamston, N.C. and has been active with the Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenville while a student at ECU.*

*We feel fortunate to have Chris with us, and look forward to a meaningful relationship.*

The following article appeared in "The Ayden Christian" in the June, 1988 issue:

*Mrs. Addie Allegood received the award for the Woman of the Year on Mother's Day, May 8th. She received a certificate and her name was engraved on a plaque that hangs in Timothy Hall leading to the Educational/Fellowship Wing.*

*Addie was chosen by members of the congregation for her many Christian qualities plus her service to the Church over the years, continuing to today. She now serves as chair of the Local Outreach Committee, is active in Sunday School and Worship, and is a regular participant in the Prayer Group. She helps maintain the church library and works weekly in the church kitchen to insure its cleanliness and that it is organized. She has served as a deaconess and is now an elder. She is the mother of three.*

On June 26, 1988, John Brick received the Man of the Year Award. Rev. Brick was a pure example of how a Christian should conduct himself in and away from the church. A true witness for Christ--a definite influence on many who followed him into the Ayden Christian Church. A revelation as to how John Brick thought and acted is best described by an article he wrote for "The Ayden Christian" as follows:

*The Importance of the Ministry*

*Importance is a relative term: it means different things to different people. When one is asked how important their minister is to them, the answer can only come out of their relationship in the past. Was he there when a loved one was sick or hospitalized? Did he call or visit at the appropriate time? Does his preaching challenge my life style? Does his life style challenge my way of thinking? Was he there at those important or tragic times in my life? Can I turn to him with life's problems? Will he understand and not condemn?*

*Those are but a few of the questions that help to answer the idea of the importance of the ministry. The burden of the ministry is far too often put on the shoulders of one person. No one can meet all the needs of a growing congregation. No one can know all of the important dates in your life, especially if you do not make someone aware of the things that are important. Far too often the minister is the last to find out some important date in someone's life and an opportunity to minister is gone.*

*In my mind are rambling two ideas that may be confusing you, and maybe that's exactly what I'm trying to do. The ministry is not limited to one person. All of us as Christians are ministers. All of us are to be sensitive to the needs around us. The paid minister can only do so much and be effective. There are times when he, and only he, can meet a need. At those times we must move over and let God work through him. Yes - let God work through him - but remember, God also wants to work through US. The importance of the ministry will grow as one opens his life to the needs he has, and lets the paid minister, as well as the Christians around him, have the privilege of letting God work through them.*

*John Brick, Elder/Minister*

The Evangelism committee, chaired by Charlie Tripp, conducted an "Inclusiveness Checkup" by members of the Church Board which displayed the seriousness of their work. The resulting consensus attitude of the church membership follows:

POSITIVE ASPECTS:

- a. The board felt that we have many new members on the board.
- b. The number of additions each year to our church offsets its losses.
- c. Our church would react positively if we had twice as many new members next year as this.
- d. Our church nursery is attractive and well furnished.
- e. We can grow in our present location.
- f. We have greeters to meet persons coming to worship.
- g. Our church was considered to be future oriented rather than focused only on the past.
- h. We would be eager to invite a friend or acquaintance to our church next Sunday.
- i. We do not see new members merely as replacements to maintain the church's present program and budget.

NEGATIVE ASPECTS:

- a. About half the board felt that there might be a tendency for some members to resist growth in the church.
- b. The board felt that we had an inadequate calling program for new visitors.

VBS directed by Sandra Garris and Carol Ann Hardee had an average attendance of 60 each night. The parsonage got a new paint job and was available for rent since the minister and his wife had moved into their own home. Contributions were slow in coming the first part of the year but by August, Treasurer, Pauline Cox,

announced, "The bills are paid!" In September, 1988, the church received a special award in recognition of outstanding service from the Pitt County Council on Aging. Money was solicited over a period of several months to replace shingles on the church building which cost \$7076. In the latter part of 1988, a campaign was begun to purchase a set of 37 handbells to have a handbell choir for adults and for children. The cost of each handbell was \$100. The membership responded to purchase them.

Homecoming held on October 30, 1988 had an attendance goal of 250. It was missed by 2 but attendance of children far exceeded years past. There were 7 in the crib nursery, 23 in the toddler nursery and 23 in Junior Church. The congregation was pleased to have former minister, Rev. Ralph Messick, deliver the morning message. Rev. Messick had served the Ayden Christian Church from 1963 to 1969 and was Associate Regional Minister for the state of North Carolina. He was committed to pastor Westview Christian Church in Wilson, North Carolina beginning in January, 1989.

On December 18, 1988, 29 children participated in the annual Christmas play at a 6:00 pm service. They played to a full house of appreciative parents, grandparents and friends. It was one of the best children's play in many years, the title of which was, "Baby Jesus was Born for You Too, Charlie Brown." There were many reasons for growth and enthusiasm in the Ayden Church but one thing that surely was a dominant factor was the effort made to have children come to Sunday School and to provide them with an effective program. The children came because of excellent leadership. After all, Ayden Christian Church was a church family.

The World Outreach committee gave \$2,222 to Local Outreach in 1988. J.D. Allen was elected chairman of the Board for 1989. The budget was \$84,887.

The minister guided the officers and committee chairs by holding his cabinet meetings throughout 1989 which proved to be effective in the creation of new programs, activity within the committees and harmony among them. A Saturday

soup and sandwich luncheon was held on February 25, 1989 to honor and listen to Mr. Allan Eubank, Disciple missionary to Thailand. Mr. Eubank was noticeably dedicated to his work and gave a very interesting talk. The proceeds of the luncheon went to World Outreach. A few members presented the church office with a used but reconditioned copy machine which originally was worth \$2,400.

Young adults between the age of 18 to 35 were not excluded from the plan to serve the whole church family. In February, over 60 young adults and their children met for a carry-in luncheon after the morning worship service. They met for fellowship and the sharing of concern about the ministries for their age group. Similar meetings were held later on.

Also in February, Rev. Dr. Harold C. Doster, past president of Atlantic Christian College gave the morning sermon. He came to represent the National Evangelistic Association. In March, John Erick began serving the LaGrange Christian Church as interim minister.

A congregational meeting was held on April 23, 1989 to amend the constitution, changing the quorum for the official Board from one third of the total membership to one-fourth. The property committee had red-tip bushes planted along the borders of the vacant lot to screen off the backs of the businesses at a cost of \$310.

After thorough discussion, a fee was established for use of the church by non-members as follows:

Sanctuary	\$50.00
Fellowship Hall	50.00
Custodian	10.00 (each area)
Organist	50.00
Pastor	50.00

In May, 1989, a rather undersized, somewhat crudely constructed pulpit appeared in Beland Hall to be used for opening Church School services. It was the



first pulpit used by the ministers and laymen in Ayden Christian Church (circa 1897). In 1986 it was returned due to the interest and tenacious efforts of Joe Tripp, Clay Stroud, Ross Persinger and the kindness of Mr. Tyson Bilbro.

Among the earliest members of the Ayden Church were Mr. and Mrs. J.H.S. Hodges. Their daughter, Myrtie, married Mr. Bilbro and they resided in Greenville, North Carolina. The Hodges were quite aware of the sentimental if not monetary value of the pulpit. So when a new one was acquired for the church, this one was stored in the attic on Third Street until they had both passed away.

After her parents' deaths, Myrtie placed the now quite old pulpit in her own attic. Several years after Myrtie died, Mr. Bilbro remarried. Finding he needed more storage space, he got in touch with Joe Tripp and the pulpit was brought back to Ayden.

Ross Persinger, a member of Ayden Christian Church, was a professional antique dealer, and he laboriously refinished the piece to its original look. As was the custom of the day, the pulpit was made of many different kinds of wood and over the years had acquired coats of many colors. When refinished, the church was presented with a charming and functional artifact.

National CWF celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1989. The CWF was active in Ayden Christian Church and had access to personal information about one of the two women from North Carolina who were instrumental in forming CWF nationally. The mother of Helen Stroud, Mrs. H.H. Settle, met with a group of women from all over the United States forty years ago in Turkey Run, Indiana, and from three different women's groups, they formed Christian Women's Fellowship.

On June 5, 1989, the Ayden CWF held a dinner meeting at Three Steers Restaurant, Greenville, North Carolina to celebrate the 40th anniversary. Mrs. Helen Stroud gave the program explaining how Mrs. Settle, her mother, helped found CWF. Forty women attended the meeting.

The number of children attending Church School continued to increase gradually. The responsibility of the Education committee passed to Cindy Rhue who managed very well and with the help of Monica Lassiter, conducted another successful Vacation Bible School with an average attendance of 40 children and 25 adult volunteers.

The Woman of the Year for 1989 was Jean Daily, a very active member of the church and the wife of the minister. She was frequently scheduled for Worship Leader, Children's Minute, Junior Church, Nursery and Elder at the Communion Table. She taught a Sunday School Class and was an officer of CWF. She gave her time and talent to the church freely with a sunny smile and a kind word for everyone. She showed real concern for all in a true Christian spirit.

The Man of the Year for 1989 was Stuart Tripp, a life-long member of the church. He had served as Sunday School teacher, elder, chairman of the Board, and chairman of many committees throughout the years. He was a member who believed in attendance and in being involved in church activity. He currently served as Town Commissioner of Ayden but had been a public school teacher, principal, and record achieving coach of high school football, basketball and baseball. His church came first!

Youth Directors, Keith and Mary Hill, did not accept pay for several years. The Board wished to show appreciation by awarding them a gift certificate to the Beef Barn in the amount of \$50.

Davis Clark, Choir Director, resigned in June. On August 27, 1989, Mrs. Jan Wagner began serving as director of the Chancel Choir. She was a recent graduate of East Carolina University, majoring in music. Joining the choir with her was her husband, Clay. Mrs. Wagner agreed to direct the adult handbell choir and plans were being formed to have a youth handbell choir as well.

In the six years that Dr. Daily ministered to the Ayden Church there were four choir directors. Each in their own way was highly qualified and professional, yet each was different. The church enjoyed the benefit of their contribution to the music ministry and the members of the choir were the recipients of valued guidance in music which was evident in their performance. Dr. Daily was not dictatorial in any procurement of a director but, because of his understanding and interest in music, he had some influence in the selection. The congregation appreciated the elevated state of achievement.

The church was saddened to learn that a memorial service was held in Texas in September for Rev. Elbert L. Davidson, a Timothy from Ayden Christian Church, who had passed away.

In late summer of 1989, Dr. Daily held a revival at the church in Kentucky where he served as associate pastor. In September he held a revival at Wheat Swamp Christian Church. In October, the CWF earned \$1,847 at their Fall Bazaar, designating the money for World Outreach. The Board granted use of Johnson Hall and the Kitchen to the Community Living Center on Tuesday afternoons. The Center helped adults with developmental disabilities and needed a pleasant Quiet place to meet.

Tom Messick, son of Rev. Ralph and Ann Messick, was ordained at Howard Chapel, Atlantic Christian College on November 26, 1989. For that achievement, the Board passed four resolutions:

1. We commend Tom on the ordination.
2. We elect at least one person to represent the Ayden Christian Church.
3. We invite the entire congregation to attend.
4. We purchase a stole as a gift for Tom.

Clay and Helen Stroud were elected representatives from Ayden. Others attending were Bert and Steve Sudor, Blanche Kittrell, Jim and Jean Daily. The

Board authorized Dr. Daily to spend up to \$100 for the stole. The Service of Ordination bulletin printed the following statement: "Tom has been nurtured in the faith through the Ayden Christian Church, Ayden; Westview Christian Church, Wilson; and Hooker Memorial Christian Church, Greenville." The Ayden Christian Church could claim one-third of Tom as a Timothy from Ayden.

Rev. Lewis E. Lint, Director of Pastoral Services at Pitt Memorial Hospital, made a return visit to Ayden to preach on Homecoming Day. Sue Venters directed the Homecoming arrangements held on October 29, 1989 when 213 persons attended. The choir wore their new robes for the first time. The robes were grey to match the minister's robe. The stoles were red, reversible to white, and green, reversible to purple. The robes costing \$65 were paid for by solicitation by the choir. The robes were dedicated on December 3.

Bert Sudor gathered her committee; Marie Ray, Pauline Cox and Addie Allegood to decorate the sanctuary Chrismon Tree again. 44 children participated in the children's Christmas program on December 17 to a crowd of over 200 people. As it turned out the church was fortunate to have the successful children's Christmas program because the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service "Repeat the Sounding Joy" under the direction of Jan Wagner was canceled! Canceled because of the largest snowfall in fifty years! Ayden was virtually snowed in. The morning service was canceled also. 54 persons were involved in producing the annual event. Much to the disappointment of everyone in the cast, the church and the community, it could not be performed at a later date.

Dr. Daily was published again in 1989 when a sermon based on Luke 6:20-38 titled "Change" appeared in "Dynamic Preaching" August, 1989, Volume IV, No. 8 and an article titled "Our Polar Star" appeared in "The North Carolina Christian," April, 1989, Vol. 70, No. 2.

How good was 1989? Worship attendance averaged 135 (4 more than in 1988), Sunday School averaged 61 (3.5 more than in 1988) and total giving amounted to \$90,351.00.

Linwood Allegood was elected Chairman of the Board for 1990. The budget was set at \$89,837. The population of Ayden reached 4740 although the Town office claimed it was closer to 5000.

In 1990, church activity was much the same as the previous year. The format had been established. What changed was some of the personnel. Programs that were successful were repeated. Variations were added to the programs to stir interest such as the CMF meeting at the Dixie Queen Restaurant rather than in the church. The National Disciple leadership labeled the nineties as the Decade of Dedication, Discipline, Determination and Devotion. Dr. Daily planned to follow that decree. Chairman Linwood Allegood worked with Dr. Daily to effect efficient and constructive Board meetings. Dr. Daily reported that the Christian Care Center served 68 needy families and over 200 children and adults during the past Christmas season. The Ayden Christian Church played a major role in that organization. Dr. Daily continued to serve on the Governor's Council on Drug Abuse. Attendance in both church and Sunday School continued to rise. On January 14, 1990, 205 persons attended the worship service.

Chairman Linwood Allegood appointed excellent committee chairpersons. All were eager to work and tried to outdo each other. The Board was pleased to have the following chairpersons:

<i>Education</i>	<i>Cindy Rhue and Alta Andrews</i>
<i>Evangelism</i>	<i>Hannah Gaylor and Carol Ann Hardee</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Greg Gaylor</i>
<i>World Outreach</i>	<i>Kathleen Stroud</i>
<i>Christian Action</i>	<i>Bert Sudor</i>

<i>Property</i>	<i>Bill Everett</i>
<i>Stewardship</i>	<i>Steve Tripp</i>
<i>Worship</i>	<i>Jeff King</i>
<i>CWF</i>	<i>Marie Ray</i>
<i>CMF</i>	<i>Marvin Baldree, Jr.</i>
<i>CYF</i>	<i>Keith and Mary Hill</i>

The Library continued to receive contributions from Sydney Britt and the Board voted to name it "The Pierce Shelton Library" in honor of his mother.

In April, 1990, the Town of Ayden held a dedication service to name the Little League Park the "Stuart Tripp Ball Field" in his honor for the many years he coached in the high school establishing many records of achievement. It was an honor well deserved!

Property chairman, Bill Everett, advised that the parsonage had been carpeted at a cost of \$1,338.75. Seventy-five persons attended a family picnic sponsored by the Education committee called, "First Annual Family Fun Day." There was much fun as games were held for all ages.

A special service was held on May 6, 1990, to award a certificate and gold pin to the next of kin of deceased elders emeritus: Lyman Baldree, Ross Persinger, Leslie Stocks and Clay Stroud. Similar certificates and pins were awarded to living elders emeritus: Marvin C. Baldree, Sr., Wayland McGlohon, Joe D. Tripp and Thelbert G. Worthington. Dr. Bernard Meece, Regional minister brought the morning message followed by a reception in Beland Hall for the honorees and their families and friends.

On May 13, 1990, Mrs. Sue Branch was named Woman of the Year. Sue had served as organist for Ayden Christian Church since the fall of 1980. She gave generously of her time and talent to provide music for Sunday services and special

occasions such as Christmas programs, weddings and funerals. She was a deaconess, a mother of three and was employed by the Pitt County School System. Her service to God, church, family and community attributed to her being chosen for the award.

On June 17, 1990, Marvin (Bear) Baldree, Jr., a direct descendent of charter members Benjamin Franklin and Mary Winfred McLawhorn, was named Man of the Year. Marvin was a true, dedicated servant of God and His church from his very early years. He was always first to volunteer for projects, a person who could be depended upon to do whatever he promised to do. A teacher, Sunday School superintendent, choir member, lay leader, elder, Board chairman and chairman of many committees. Marvin was sincere in what he advocated and set an example to prove it. He was a Christian leader who deserved to be named Man of the Year.

Callie and Elsie Stocks were proud and elated when their son, Col. Maurice L. Stocks gave the morning sermon on Memorial Day Sunday, May 27, 1990. He served in the U.S. Air Force as Director of Personnel Programs for the Tactical Air Command.

In 1990, Vacation Bible School averaged an attendance of 85 participants each night with classes offered from age two through adults.

Dr. Daily requested and was granted sabbatical leave for further study at the Lexington Theological Seminary for next year from May 6 to June 7, 1991, being absent from the pulpit for four Sundays. He further requested and was granted time to teach a course of Philosophy at Lenoir Community College two nights per week for one quarter only.

On September 6, 1990, Atlantic Christian College officially became known as Barton College, named in honor of Barton W. Stone, a prominent minister in the early formation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He was a native of Kentucky and was present at the Great Revival of 1801 out of which was born the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The college sought the name change to

compete among private colleges by not limiting or suggesting that the college was a Bible institute only. This did not meet with approval of many Christians in the area and voices were heard disapproving the exclusion of "Christian" but, the same voices did not express sentiment for withholding support of the college.

Dr. Daily conducted a revival at Timothy Christian Church in October. The Bell Choir began to practice in the same month. The CWF met to hear Mary Edith Hankins who presented a program on the Passion Plan in Germany. A new pictorial church directory was begun. Homecoming was held on October 28, 1990. Rev. Joe Bennett, past interim minister of Ayden Christian Church delivered the morning message. A brass ensemble was added to the choir to enhance the music for the special day when 267 persons attended the morning service.

The congregation enjoyed a presentation by Mrs. Lois Swander who, along with her husband, Courtney, recently retired from 31 years of missionary work in Mexico. A carry-in dinner was arranged to allow for a pleasant meeting of fellowship and a revelation of her missionary work.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service held at 10:00 pm had for the past several years, developed into a major event at the Christian Church, much to the delight of the church members and to many in the community. The 1990 production of "The Savior Has Come," by Robert A. Basham, was performed by a choir of 20 voices. All in all, 58 persons were involved to create the service which accomplished yearly what a Christian celebration was supposed to be, honoring the birth of the Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

Chairman Linwood Allegood fulfilled his position with grace and efficiency. His control in presiding at Board meetings, where members felt free to speak out on any issue, was evident at the beginning of his leadership. Linwood was an organized person and worked well with the minister who was also an organized person.



Linwood's selection of committee chairs helped him to have a very successful year. It was recorded in the Board minutes that his service was much appreciated.

The church moved on to its 98th year by electing Mrs. Mamie Smith as Chairperson of the Official Board for 1991. The congregation accepted a budget amounting to \$95,445. Chairperson Mamie Smith issued a calendar of events to take place during the morning service for each successive Sunday in January, 1991; Installation of officers, ordination of elders, memorial service, consecration of diaconate. In a statement she placed in "The Ayden Christian" she stated: "There is much work to be done. Throughout the year we should make a habit of reflecting on our actions and look for ways to improve our relationships to God and man. My challenge to you for this year, 1991, is to give of yourself...the greatest gift you can give."

As was the custom in past years, new persons assumed chairmanship of the committees in 1991. They were: Linda Little, Worship; Joyce Barnes, Education; Carol Ann Hardee and Sandra Garris, Evangelism; Hannah Gaylor, Membership; Ann Carraway and Pauline Cox, World Outreach; Cindy Rhue, Christian Action; Roy Richardson, Stewardship; Mitchell Shue, Property. The Board established two funds into which memorial funds could be placed: 1. Memorial Fund was a nonspecific fund to be used at the discretion of the Board. 2. Building Fund was a specific fund to be used only for future building construction. The Board approved acceptance of a symbol designed by Brenda Stocks to be used as a logo commemorating the 100th anniversary.

In February, twelve changes of no great significance were made in the By-Laws to meet the needs of that current time, such as changing words and numbers.

Chairperson Mamie Smith appointed two committees as follows:

**Memorial Designation Committee**

Joe Smith, Chairman  
Cindy Rhue  
Helen Stroud  
Ray Hardee

**Centennial Committee**

Marvin Baldree, Jr., Chairman

Charlie Tripp	Hannah Allen
Bert Sudor	Joyce Barnes
Steve Sudor	Mamie Smith
Pat Tripp	Ester Lee McLawhorn
Hannah Gaylor	James Daily

At the first meeting of the Centennial committee, a number of decisions were reached and presented to the Board for approval:

1. Date designated for Centennial Sunday - September 19, 1993
2. Guest speaker - Rev. Gilbert Davis (oldest serving minister to Ayden Christian Church, living)
3. Logo to be used on stationary, newsletters and bulletins.
4. Invite all past ministers and deceased minister's families.
5. Check old membership roles to send invitations.
6. Invite Loonis McGlohon to participate and encourage him to write a special song.
7. Suggest special gifts commemorating 100th anniversary such as silver tray, stain glass window.
8. Professional audio and video coverage.
9. Complete history of Ayden Christian Church in book form.
10. Include centennial expense in 1991-92 budget
11. Appreciate suggestions from general membership.

The World Outreach committee established a budget of \$4,100. Thank you letters were received acknowledging gifts from Ayden Christian Church from: Flynn Christian Fellowship of Greenville, Real Crisis Intervention Center, Lexington

Theological Seminary, Barton College, St. Louis Christian Home and Mental Health Association of Pitt County.

Rev. Annell George-McLawhorn began directing the children's singing programs. Being a new mother she had resigned her pastorate at Winterville Christian Church.

On February 17, 1991, following the morning service, the Membership committee had a covered dish dinner to raise money for Week of Compassion. \$640.73 was contributed to exceed the previous year by a considerable amount. On March 17, 1991, attendance at the morning service was 201. On Easter Sunday, March 31, the attendance was 246, the largest number reached in a long time.

The Membership committee sponsored an over 50 "Breakfast-Dinner" to honor church members who had reached that age. It was a special affair as the 50+ guests did not have to bring or prepare anything--they just sat down to be served and treated like the special people they were.

Youth Sunday had evolved into a very special day as the young people and children conducted a very meaningful and worshipful service. They were led by their youth leaders and teachers who coordinated the service: Keith and Mary Hill, Mark and Trish Williams, Clay and Jan Wagner, Dixie Gee and Kim Shue and Rev. Annell George-McLawhorn who led the youth choir. 28 young people and children participated in the service.

A summer softball league sponsored by the Ayden Recreation Department was formed in April. 18 young men from the church formed a team to compete in the league.

A sabbatical was taken by Rev. Daily from May 5 through June 8, 1991, at which time he served as minister in residence at Lexington Theological Seminary. He participated in self-study, auditing classes and made a presentation at a student convocation. He did not depart for the sabbatical until everything was covered

during his absence. He secured 4 ministers to fill the pulpit: Rev. Annell George-McLawhorn, Dr. Bernard Meece, Chaplain (Col.) Bill Hufham and Rev. Roy Turnage. He had two ministers on call for emergencies: Rev. John Brick and Rev. Annell George-McLawhorn. He advertised the volunteer elders who served one whole week each in his absence: Steve Tripp and Charlie Tripp, Glenn and Hannah Gaylor, Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Sudor, Ray and Carol Ann Hardee, Keith and Mary Hill. He was confident the church would function smoothly and it did.

While away on his sabbatical he arranged a service at Cane Ridge Meeting House on Sunday, May 19, 1991. It was the church where the Disciples of Christ met for the "Great Revival" to participate in the Disciple beginning movement. It was reserved for the Ayden Christian Church and members of Morgan Christian Church in Kentucky where Dr. Daily did his student preaching. Several Ayden members attended the service.

Dr. Daily expressed to the Board the need for more space. After much discussion by the Board, they agreed to three steps:

1. Agreed there is need for additional space.
2. Agreed to appoint a Building committee to make recommendations.
3. Agreed to have the pastor and Building committee meet with the Town Board to request vacating the water and sewer line easement on the vacant lot.

Chairperson Mamie Smith then appointed the following Building committee: Keith Hill, Mitch Shue, Joyce Barnes, Steve Tripp and Sue Venters.

The following article appeared in "The Ayden Christian" June-July issue:

*"Each year on Mother's Day, the members of Ayden Christian Church present to one of their own the "Woman of the Year" award. The recipient is chosen by the congregation and honored for her service to the church and community.*

*The 1991 Woman of the Year for Ayden Christian Church is Mrs. Bert Sudor. Bert is very active in the life of the church having served over the years as a deaconess, an elder, church clerk, secretary of the church board for five years, as chair of the Worship and Local Outreach Committees and as a member of various other committees, an active member of the CWF...Though her health has slowed Bert down a bit recently, she continues her faithful attendance in worship and Sunday School and service as an elder and member of the Centennial Committee. She is married to Dr. Stephen Sudor, and they have two daughters, Debbie and Marcy, and one grandchild, Alexander Stephen Law. Bert's dedication and service to her God, church, family and community are certainly evidence of why she was chosen Ayden Christian Church's "Woman of the Year."*

The following article appeared in "The Ayden Christian" August issue:

*"For the first time in recent history a husband and wife were chosen as People of the Year. Dr. Stephen Sudor has been a long-time member of Ayden Christian Church where he has served as elder, chair of the official board, chair of special committees, and has served as church historian for many years. He is often seen with his camera, taking pictures of special church events. He does this at the homecoming for our mother church, Rountree Christian Church, also. He is now working feverishly on a complete church history, gathering facts and photographs for use in that history. Due to his initiative and the help of some others, the church hopes to soon have pictures of all the ministers who ever served this congregation.*

*Dr. and Mrs. Sudor are the parents of two daughters, Deborah Law and Marcy Butt. Congratulations Dr. Sudor, Man/Father of the Year for 1991."*

It is noteworthy to mention that Stephen and Bert Sudor were the first husband and wife to serve as elders at the communion table. That was soon followed by David and Mamie Smith and Ray and Carol Ann Hardee. It had been only a short time that women served as elders at the table and just a little longer that women served as deacons at the table. For many, many years only men had served in that capacity. The policy change was effected with no dissent as the Ayden Christian Church realized that women were indeed equal.

The Town of Ayden celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1991 and used the whole year to celebrate with various programs. The Ayden Centennial Celebration Committee presented Ayden's own Loonis McGlohon and Trio in concert at the Ayden Arts and Recreation Center on Saturday, June 15, 1991. Loonis was the son of the late Max and Bertha McGlohon, very early members of Ayden Christian Church. Loonis graduated from Ayden High School and East Carolina University. His early piano lessons were given by Virginia Belle Cooper, a long time organist and choir director at Ayden Christian Church. Pianist-Composer McGlohon was a highly respected composer whose songs had been performed and recorded by top international stars. The Loonis McGlohon Trio appeared all over the world; Rome, Monte Carlo, London, Singapore, Tokyo, Shanghai. In the United States they performed in the most prestigious concert halls, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Ambassador in Los Angeles, the Smithsonian, the Opera House in San Francisco and Fort Worth's Civic Center.

Along with his friend, newscaster Charles Kuralt, McGlohon produced the popular "North Carolina is My Home" show, a project which also included a record

album, a book and, now in production, a video tape. One of the songs he composed for the TV production was "Dinner on the Grounds." The song was based on his experience of Homecoming at Rountree Christian Church. The other reason he appeared in Ayden was to video tape the actual "Dinner on the Grounds" at Rountree Christian Church, outside, under the trees, like he remembered from his youth. A very large crowd gathered at Rountree Christian Church on June 16, 1991, for the video event as well as his appearance during the church service which brought tears to his eyes. The early McGlohons were members at Ayden Christian Church but had close ties to Rountree Christian Church with friends and relatives. Ayden Christian Church was indeed proud of one past member who became famous.

Chris Holliday, a previous choir director, received his Masters degree from the University of Illinois and was employed as coordinator of Percussion at the University of Missouri-Columbia and began his work on the PhD.

Mrs. Sherri Moore, who had joined the Ayden Christian Church in March, was accepted as a divinity student at Duke University School of Religion. She was also accepted by the Regional Commission on the Ministry and duly licensed.

Programming the computer turned out to be more expensive than anticipated. Roy Richardson had chairperson, Mamie Smith, call a special Board meeting on October 13, 1991 to authorize payment of \$1615.48 to P and C Training for their assistance in preparing the treasurer's report into the computer.

In the fall of 1991, a Bible Study was begun on Wednesday nights, which worked very well to allow choir members and parents to attend as choir rehearsals (both children and adults) were held the same night. The elders began to meet the first Saturday each month at Dorothy's Diner for an elder's breakfast.

In November, Joyce Barnes (Education chairperson) related the following message to the Board:

*"The Christian Education Committee has had a busy year but it has been good. Our children's church attendance has picked up overall. We've seen a lot of new spirit generating from our youth. The year closes out soon and I can say we've had a really good time. Most of our goals have been met."*

At the same Board meeting, Trish Williams (CYF leader) gave the following report:

*"Presently we now have 50 active youth, kindergarten through 8th grade. The following activities have taken place:*

- 1. Ice-cream social, weenie roast, hay ride, Easter egg hunt, lock-in.*
- 2. Fall wreaths made by 2nd and 3rd grade groups and presented to the Grifton Rest Home.*
- 3. Other wreaths made by 5th and 6th grade groups were given to shut-ins.*
- 4. A Walk-a-thon is planned and 250 ornaments are being made and sold for Miracle Network Telethon.*
- 5. Everyone is hard at work on the Christmas Program.*
- 6. The leaders are Kim Shue, Dixie Gee, Trish Stancil, Marty Stancil, Brenda Stocks, Sandy Spencer, Jan Wagner and Clay Wagner."*

Jan Wagner, Chancel Choir Director, was voted Teacher of the Year at Ayden Middle School.



Homecoming was held on November 3, 1991. The Rev. Jean Stuart Wake, recently retired as senior minister of First Christian Church, Wilson, North Carolina, preached at the morning service. On December 14, 66 persons attended the annual CMF/CWF Christmas party held at Dorothy's Diner. The evening was festive. A delightful program of seasonal music was presented by Dr. Steve Creech and his daughter Cathy. Over 50 children participated in a narrated mini-musical Christmas play titled "Silent Night" to a large audience of parents, grandparents and friends. Nearly 50 adults were involved in the other highlight of the Christmas season, the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Charlie Tripp, elder, faithful church member, retired from the Ayden Post Office after 47 years of service, 35 of which were spent as a mail carrier. He was as dependable to the post office as he was to his church, always respectful, always willing to help. The newspaper printed a story to honor him and the church honored him also.

A number of memorial gifts were contributed during 1991:

1. Altar in Chapel Cross, Candlesticks, Vases, Flowers and table covering donated by Marvin Baldree family in memory of Louise Sutton Baldree.
2. Brass Dove donated by Mrs. Vallie Barwick in memory of her husband Stuart Barwick.
3. Library Table, Drapery and Furnishings by Sydney Britt family in memory of Marguerette Shelton.
4. Paraments by Kirby H. Smith, Jr. in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Kirby H. Smith, Sr.
5. \$1,000 for Music by Mrs. Hennie McFadyen in memory of Irma Kilpatrick.
6. Wheelchair by Billie McLawhorn.
7. Stained Glass Window which was framed and lighted between the choir room and sanctuary by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tripp. Note: The window was originally designed by Brenda Stocks and adapted by the Statesville Stained Glass Co. Later, Joe and Louise Tripp gave a matching window placed on the opposite side of the sanctuary. The electrical work was done by Don Wilson.

Mamie Smith proved to be a very thorough and efficient chairperson of the Official Board. She appointed excellent persons to chair the committees. She held frequent consultations with the minister and chairpersons, leaving nothing unattended to. She was gracious, caring, informed, alert and appreciative in the conduct of her office.

Steve Tripp was elected Chairman of the Board for 1992. The proposed budget was \$96,935.72.

The theme for 1992 was "Reaching You in 92." It was explained by Dr. Daily in his first sermon of the year on January 5, 1992 when he unfurled a large banner depicting the theme that called attention to the importance of reaching out in an evangelistic effort in the coming year. He said: "It was Jesus who mandated that we 'go into all the world...' and tell others about the saving grace of our Lord. A part of that world is the community of Ayden and there are many who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives, and it is our opportunity and our obligation to make every effort to reach out to them."

Besides those who had no church affiliation he wished to reach out to newcomers in Ayden and to members who did not attend, and for those who did attend, to get involved in serving. Then he said: "Now all this must begin and end with a most important element of Christianity, that is prayer. We must seek God's direction--not just beg Him to provide the way, but permit Him to guide us in what we must do. Please be in prayer as never before for the work of the church in 1992." The theme was promoted further with a covered dish luncheon following the morning worship hour.

The Chairman of the Board, Steve Tripp, worked with the minister to promote the theme. He proposed a challenge to the members for "Reaching You in 92." He advocated dividing the year into four sections and focus on one group of people each quarter; active members, half-active members, non-active members and non-

members. Steve Tripp was an ideal chairman for the evangelistic effort as he was energetic, enthusiastic, persuasive, dedicated, sincere and committed.

Another project was also on his mind to which he gave his all. He became aware of the churches' need for a van which he brought to the Board's attention as he found a nearly new van which was available. There ensued considerable discussion as to the need, the pros and cons of such an expensive venture, as well as the expense of maintenance and operation. After two special called Board meetings, a red, fifteen-passenger van costing \$15,975 was purchased from Leo Venters Motors. It was not done until all the money was donated and pledged to cover the cost. To seal the transaction, the Gooding family designated all memorial gifts in memory of Ruggie Gooding toward the purchase of the van. Eventually a policy was established for use of the van and a van-driver training class was presented by Trooper Donnie Taylor. Through the insistence and perseverance of Chairman Tripp, the contributions came within a very short period of time.

New chairpersons came aboard; Membership committee, Benjy Gee and Evangelism committee, Alta Andrews. Dr. Daily attended a meeting for the North Carolina Council on Substance Abuse in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stokes gave a Royal Electronic typewriter in memory of his mother, Mrs. Mable Stokes. The property committee added lighting for the choir and chancel area to enhance lighting for the lectern, pulpit, communion table and choir at a cost of \$1,200. The Town of Ayden paved a large parking lot behind the church. They also paved the alley and placed curbing behind the church. Cost to the church amounted to \$850. The World Outreach committee presented their budget for the year 1992: World Outreach, \$4,250: Local Outreach, \$2,200.

February, 1992, proved to be a very busy month in the life of the church. Three Board meetings were held in February, mostly to settle the van project. At one of the meetings the Board voted unanimously to give the title of Assistant Pastor to John

Brick, a heartfelt gesture to a person the church members dearly loved. But, there was fun time also. The family of Irma C. Morris held an 85th birthday reception in Beland Hall to celebrate with a member who spent most of her life as an active participant in the Ayden Christian Church. The CYF prepared a beautiful valentine lunch for members aged 50+. Eighty-six persons attended, delighted to be recognized by the young people of the church. Later a 'Lovefeast' was held at Dorothy's Diner.

Activities did not slow down in March. What had been successful in the past was repeated when a Soup-and-Sandwich Luncheon was held on March 8 to climax Week of Compassion. \$459 was collected. The van was used by 15 adults to travel to the First Christian Church in Wilson, North Carolina to listen to Ayden's former minister, Dr. Gilbert Davis, who was at that time, Director of Church Relations at Texas Christian University. Sunday, March 29, 1992, was a full day of activity. Following the church service, a covered dish luncheon was held to welcome friends and visitors who came to participate in "Bring a Friend Sunday." That same evening the first Singspiration was held in the sanctuary under the leadership of Alta Andrews and the Wagners, Jan and Clay. The audience was treated to heretofore unknown musical talent of members of the congregation. The surprise talent augmented the known talent in performing to an appreciative audience.

From funds allotted to Dr. Daily's discretionary use, three round brick planters were built, to surround the three holly trees on town property on Second Street in front of the church to add beauty to the landscaping.

213 people were in attendance at the worship service on March 29, 1992, and on Easter Sunday, April 19, the attendance was 225.

After Mrs. Johnnie Beland passed away in February, 1992, her daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Turner, wanted to give a memorial gift to the church in her memory. Mrs. Beland was a faithful member of the church and displayed her love for the church

with substantial gifts (described previously). The memorial gift chosen was a Carillon Bell System costing around \$7,000. They were known as The Quasimodo Bells by Heliotron, a German company. It was a state-of-the-art system on microchip which housed 75 hymns or bell sounds--the magnificent sound of church bells of Europe. The bell sounds were "burned" into the microchip so that they could not lose their sound quality. It probably was not necessary but the Church Board gained approval from the Town Board permitting ringing of the bells. The bells were dedicated during the worship service held on May 3, 1992. The prayer of dedication follows:

*"Dear God, we thank you for the wonderful gift of carillon bells which have been given. It is our prayer that they may ring joyously to bring people from their homes into your house of worship each Lord's Day; we also pray that the hymns played will remind all those who hear of the wonderful opportunities of worship that are theirs and that all the music will fill the hearers with joy in their hearts. May the bells serve as an instrument to bring all people unto Christ our Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen."*

In May, the family of Mrs. Mary Alice Johnson contributed, in her memory, sofas, chairs and lamps from her home to be used in the church parlor. The Board approved leave for the minister to attend a pastors conference at Lexington, Kentucky without using his vacation leave.

On Mothers Day, May 10, 1992, the "Woman of the Year" was announced.

The following article from "The Ayden Christian" recorded the award:

***1992 Woman of the Year...Mrs. Hannah Gaylor***

*Each year the members of Ayden Christian Church present to one of their own the "Woman of the Year" award. The recipient is chosen by the congregation and honored for her service to the church and community. This year's "Woman of the Year" is Mrs. Hannah Gaylor.*

*Hannah is very active in the life of the church having served over the years as Deaconess, Financial Secretary, greeter, and chair and member of various committees. She also presently serves as an Elder and Vice-Chair of the Official Board. Her dedication and service to God, church, family and community are certainly evidence of why Hannah Gaylor was chosen "Woman of the Year."*

On Fathers Day, June 21, 1992, the "Man of the Year" was announced.

The following article from "The Ayden Christian" recorded the award:

***1992 Man of the Year...Mr. Charles Stokes***

*Mr. Charles Stokes, a long-time member of this church, was chosen to be "Man of the Year" for 1992.*

*Associate Pastor John Brick presented a plaque to Charles citing his many hours work on the lawn of the church where the outside appearance of our property has been improved considerably by Charles' work.*

*It is because of such people as Charles and their willingness to do so many things about the church grounds and facility that when people look at our church they say, "Those people must love their church for they certainly do take good care of it."*

*Thanks, Charles, for your significant part in this service.*

For a number of years, Rountree Christian Church used the baptistery at Ayden Christian Church to baptize their people in private ceremony as they had no baptistery of their own. The Ayden Christian Church offered their facility graciously whenever it was needed as there had always been a close relationship between the churches. In 1992, the Rountree Christian Church, after years of delay, finally made the necessary renovations and installed their own baptistery. On July 5, 1992, Dr. Stephen Sudor, representing the Ayden Christian Church, received a certificate of appreciation from Dr. Browning, pastor of Rountree Christian Church, during the morning worship service which read as follows:

*In Appreciation  
This Certificate is presented to  
Ayden Christian Church  
in grateful appreciation for faithful service  
to Rountree Christian Church  
as a friend in  
Baptismal Support  
May our gratitude be renewed in memory and God's  
blessing be yours through the years to come.  
Presented this fifth day of July, 1992  
Phoebe Carman, Board Chair  
Dr. John R. Browning, Minister*

A number of meaningful memorial gifts were given throughout the year which were recorded previously in this text. A dedication service was held during the

worship hour on June 14, 1992. A description and significance of each gift was read during the service. The following is a reprint of part of the service:

*An altar is an item used for worshipping God from Old through New Testament times. The Altar in the chapel, along with the cross, candlesticks, vases, flowers and table covering, were given by the Marvin Baldree family in memory of Mrs. Louise Sutton Baldree.*

*The brass dove which you see above the chancel is representative of the dove of peace which was seen by Noah and the Spirit of God which descended, as a dove, upon Christ after his baptism by John. This meaningful symbol was given by Mrs. Vallie Barwick in loving memory of her husband.*

*The Shelton-Pierce Library was made possible by the generous donations of the Sydney Britt Family. The table, drapery and other furnishings are just a part of the significant gifts. Our church library is used as a chapel, a meeting room for the Prayer Group, the Ayden Christian Care Center Board and church committees, and contains the archives of our congregation. It is the location of nearly 1,000 books and 20 periodicals and reference works. Along with the reading of God's Word is the reading of other books and periodicals that can enrich the life of the Christian.*

*The rich colors of the paraments are constant reminders of great truths and doctrines, and add beauty to the services of the church. The green parament, given by Mr. Kirby (Sonny) Smith, in memory of his mother and father, sets forth the idea of all nature and also represents life itself.*

*The podium, made by the hand of its donor, Bill Everett, is given in memory of his father. It bears the symbol of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in inlaid wood. We must remember that the wood from which this podium was made came from different parts of the world, and we are thus reminded of the worldwide responsibility we have to go to all the world and preach the gospel.*



*The beautiful pulpit chair, located behind the Lord's Table, can remind us of the position of Christ at the Last Supper and is given by the Blanche and Gertrude Coward Family in loving memory of their mother and sister.*

*The lighted stained glass windows which you see at the right and the left of the chancel area were given by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tripp to help us celebrate the 100th anniversary of this congregation. The centennial symbol can be seen in the window to your right. The Holy Bible, God's Word, is at the center of the window to your left, as it should be at the center of the direction of our lives.*

*Much of the work of the church is conducted by way of communication. That communication is made possible through letters, cards and the church newsletter. This is made possible partly by the gift of a fine Royal electronic typewriter given to the glory of God and in honor of Mrs. Mabel Stokes by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stokes.*

*The church van was being purchased at the time of the death of Mrs. Ruggie Gooding. Ruggie had been active in providing transportation for the young people of this church in years past. Because of this, the Gooding Family indicated that memorial funds would be placed toward the purchase of the van and additional moneys were given by the family, as they were by others. The importance of our love and concern for people is indicated in the fact that this van is to insure that people of this congregation are able to get to appropriate activities. Already the youth, the CWF and a group of golden-age folks have used the van.*

VBS was held in late July for age 2 through the 7th grade including a class for adults. The theme was "Team Up With Jesus." The continued growth in the number of children attending Ayden Christian Church was reflected in the largest, most successful VBS to date. Total participation was 114 including 82 in classes and over 30 volunteers each night, teaching, assisting and guiding the youth of the church. Family and friends were invited to the closing program highlighted by several songs learned by the children during the week. The children sang the songs for the

congregation during the next Sunday service. The volunteers who gave their time and talent to make the school successful are listed as follows:

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FACULTY 1992

#### **Preschool**

Amy Gee  
Sheila Foltz  
Patty Buck

#### **Kindergarten**

Trudy Tyson  
Kim Shue  
Donna Wainwright

#### **Primary**

Trish Williams  
Marty Stancil  
Tammy Smith  
Jeanne Gaylor

#### **Middler**

Joyce Barnes  
Jody Venters  
Susan Tripp

#### **Juniors**

Dixie Gee  
Mary Norris  
Lynn Wood

#### **Adult**

James Daily

#### **Music**

Jan Wagner  
Alta Andrews

#### **Recreation**

Greg Gaylor  
George Gee  
Jennifer Brick  
Courtney Holster

#### **Nursery**

Mary Edith Hankins

Linda Tyson

**Refreshments**

Jackie Boswell

Alice Huggins

Sue Williams

Darlene Worthington

**Chairpersons**

Ginger Haddock

Cindy Rhue

Earlier in the year, Chairman Steve Tripp requested help in developing “new ideas” for church activity. He appointed a committee to assist him consisting of Hannah Gaylor, Ginger Haddock, Joyce Barnes, Cindy Rhue and Mary Edith Hankins. The committee developed several new approaches, one of them being permission from the Collard Festival chairman to ring the carillon bells at the 10:15 am opening and 5:00 pm closing of the Festival. Pleased with cooperation of the Board, Chairman Tripp extended an invitation to the Board to a “pig picking” at his home in September. Part of the invitation read as follows:

*“I would like to take time out to thank each Board member for your cooperation and help during ‘Reaching You in 92.’ Your wisdom and leadership has helped me as Chairman of the Church Board. I feel we are indeed reaching others with our ministry and can witness the results with 23 people to join our church. Also, our Sunday School and church attendance has increased this year. More children seem to be joining our youth programs. We are having more people taking an active part of our church ministries. I am indeed very thankful for each and everyone of you and what your ministry has meant for our church.”*

Dr. Daily attended two workshops in Raleigh, one on Age and the other on Clergy Tax and Law. He was appointed by V.L. Bounds, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Corrections, to serve as a member of the Community Resource Council of the Eastern Correctional Institution in Maury. Dr. Daily continued to have articles published: "Church Growth, Is Bigger Really Better?" published in 'Sharing the Practice,' the International Quarterly Journal for Parish Clergy, Spring Issue, 1992. Another article "Involvement is a Growth Hormone" was published in 'Net Results' New Ideas in Evangelism and Church Vitality, June, 1992, Vol. XIII, No. 6. Also published was "The Church; Failing the Substance Abuser?" in 'The Next Step, ' October, 1992.

For a long time, the Official Board, the pastor and especially the Sunday School Staff expressed the need for more space. At the beginning of 1992, Chairman Steve Tripp re-aligned the Building committee, appointing Mamie Smith as chairperson and listed the following as members of the Building committee at that time:

Mamie Smith (Chr.)	Joyce Barnes
Wes Gooding	John Brick
Hannah Gaylor	Steve Tripp (ex officio)
Pauline Cox	James Daily (ex officio)

The Board approved a no-cost visit by a representative of the Board of Church Extension which was requested in February, 1992. Mr. Gary Kidwell, the representative, met with the Building committee on April 28, 1992. He presented a "Building Planning Workbook" to the committee in order to gain the information he needed to provide recommendations. The committee then completed a four-month study, dividing different areas of the needs assessment among the committee members. Several meetings ensued before the committee was able to forward the study to the Board of Church Extension.

Rev. Daily informed the church membership through "The Ayden Christian" why building plans were necessary, stating the following facts as he and the Building committee saw them:

1. Averaged 16 new members per year since 1983
2. Averaged 64 more attendance per Sunday since 1983
3. Anticipate 216 in attendance by year 2000
4. Anticipate over 100 per Sunday in Sunday School
5. Loan rates are favorable now.
6. The more money contributed now to the Building Fund would be less needed to borrow

Prior to this, the committee had secured an estimated proposal from J.H. Hudson Co. on building a complete new church at another site as follows:

Site (land)	\$ 50,000
Sanctuary	325,000
Classrooms	150,000
Fellowship Hall	270,000
Site preparation	<u>73,000</u>
	\$ 868,000

The proposal proved to be cost prohibitive as unforeseen expenses would approach \$1,000,000. The J.H. Hudson Co. also provided an estimate for expansion of the present building amounting to between \$270,000 and \$300,000.

Mr. Kidwell returned on August 17, 1992 to meet with the Building committee. His recommendation was for classroom space of 1632 sq. ft. at an estimated cost of \$73,450 and additional space of 5,400 sq. ft. for fellowship and recreation, including a large kitchen and two restrooms at an estimated cost of \$278,980.

At the September 22, 1992 Board meeting, the Building committee reported their recommendations to the Board, stating the following priorities were listed in order of importance:

1. Christian Education
2. Fellowship, recreation, kitchen

3. Storage
4. Nursery.

The Building committee then proposed the following in two phases:

Phase I. Build a Family Life Center on the vacant lot consisting of 5,124 sq. ft. to include a recreation and fellowship area with kitchen, two rest rooms and storage area at approximate cost of \$300,000. Raise \$150,000 over a 3 year period and borrow \$210,000. Renovate Beland Hall to make two classrooms and church parlor.

Phase II. Renovate existing sanctuary to accommodate 150 additional people. Renovate Johnson Hall by converting it to a library and storage.

Considerable discussion ensued. It was moved that architectural preliminary drawings of three proposals be presented at the next Board meeting:

1. Building committee proposal
2. Joe Ray proposal
3. Ray Hardee proposal

At the October Board meeting the three plans were presented with estimated bids:

1. Building committee proposed a revised plan for additional classrooms extending from Johnson Hall, connected to a steel rigged building for fellowship and recreation. Bid by J.H. Hudson, Inc. amounted to \$278,980 but did not include fire wall or air conditioning for fellowship hall.
2. Joe Ray proposal was identical to Building committee.
3. Ray Hardee proposed a plan for additional classrooms extending from Johnson Hall and additional fellowship and recreation extending from the present fellowship hall. Bid: J.H. Hudson, Inc. was \$223,065 and Eastern Construction Co. was \$225,000.

No agreement was reached. At the November Board meeting, Mamie Smith reported that the Building committee met twice since the October Board meeting to agree that their \$300,000 plan was too expensive to complete at one time. She then proposed their plan be broken down to two or three phases, beginning with four

rooms extending from Johnson Hall for classrooms or choir or restrooms. They also planned to have the Town relinquish easement on the vacant lot by July, 1993 so that actual building could begin. The committee stated they had \$36,700 pledged toward the building program at that time.

Ray Hardee requested his plan be considered also with the following new bids: Melvin Coward, \$180,000 and Smith Construction, \$194,000. It was moved to consider both plans at the next Board meeting, however, at the December meeting the plans were not discussed or acted upon. Therefore, no definite building plan was finalized at the beginning of 1993.

The following appeared to be the consensus of opinion:

1. Building should be done in phases.
2. First to be erected was additional classrooms.
3. Next would be a larger fellowship hall that would also serve as a recreation center with a larger kitchen and storage area, all connected to the added classrooms.
4. Renovate (enlarge) sanctuary to accommodate 150 additional people.
5. Convert Beland Hall to classrooms and parlor.
6. Convert Johnson Hall to library.

Most of the membership favored expansion but caution was also prevalent. At the rate the membership was growing, there was no alternative except to expand. Just how soon a plan would be finalized and acted upon would have to wait until the beginning of the second hundred years in 1993.

Homecoming was held on November 8, 1992. Preaching at the morning service was Rev. James R. Burton, a Development Associate for Lexington Theological Seminary. The annual CMF-CWF Christmas party was held at Dorothy's Diner on December 6. 72 people attended the affair to listen to Dr. Daily who read the Christmas story to the children then everyone participated in singing Christmas carols with song leader Joe Ray.

The children worked hard to prepare their annual Christmas Play. Twenty-six children appeared on "Carolina Today" Channel 9, Greenville to promote their play, singing one of their songs. The directors, Steve Tripp and Jan Waggoner were interviewed to further advertise it. Two days later, on Sunday evening, December 13, 1992, the children presented "Super Gift from Heaven," a Christmas musical fantasy by Betty Hager and Fred Bock. Forty-five children participated in the presentation. An estimated crowd of 220 people witnessed the production.

Back in October the Christmas Choir began rehearsal for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service under the direction of Clay Wagner substituting for the choir director, Jan Wagner, his wife. The choir presented "The King-The Long Awaited Promise" by David T. Clydesdale. Much preparation was necessary to present the highlight service of the Christmas season. Directing All the details to accommodate the crowd of 250 who attended the service was Mary Edith Hankins and Cindy Rhue. Comments heard afterward claimed that the music and message was among the best ever presented over the past thirty years, to the delight of the 50 persons who were involved in the production.

Board chairman, Steve Tripp, sent a letter to the congregation via "The Ayden Christian" thanking the minister, the Board, the committee chairpersons and the church membership for responding to the theme "Reaching You in 92." He listed achievements for the year: 56 people joining church of which 18 were baptized, purchase of a van, contributions of over \$120,000 and another \$17,000 for the van, 100 attending VBS, church bells installed, a new lighting system for the pulpit area, sponsoring a float in the Collard Festival parade and showing a marked increase in attendance at both church and Sunday School. Of course, he alone did not make it happen but he was proud to be part of it, justifiably so. But, in his letter he gave full credit for the gains to the Lord, Jesus Christ.



It was late in December when the congregation voted for the officers to serve in 1993 and adopted a budget amounting to \$114,504.43 the largest and most ambitious budget ever proposed. The complete proposed budget for 1993 appears later in this text.

The office of Chairman of the Board passed to another when Hannah Gaylor was elected Chairperson for 1993. Hannah was eager and ready to fulfill her new role and began working before officially taking office to line up the committees for 1993. It was important that the leaders be in place by the first month of 1993 for that was the beginning of a year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Ayden Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Hannah Gaylor, with cooperation of the nominating committee, was able to find the persons who would propel the work of the church into the second century. Involvement of many was the key to continued success. A complete list of the Ayden Christian Church Officiary for 1993 appears at the end of this history.

In 1983, upon his arrival, James Daily established goals for himself and for the church. He accomplished his goals. In the 9-1/2 years he served as pastor to Ayden Christian Church, the membership had grown to 343 persons. The active membership was 305. Since June 12, 1983, the new members totaled 178, of these, 128 came by letter of transfer and 50 by baptism. It did not end there because he had a list of 37 more who were potential candidates to join the church. Another goal was met when he wanted the children as well as the adults to become involved in the activities of the church. Yet another successful goal had been achieved with continuation of the "church family" concept which was present 9-1/2 years ago but now, with interplay between committees and organizations, an added togetherness was developed. The attitude and deportment of those serving and those being served was conclusive evidence that the Ayden Christian Church truly represented a large Christian family. The membership responded to the leadership of Rev. Daily

but, let it not be misunderstood, the membership, in its long history of loving care for one another and its devotion to God, the Father, had initiated the "Christian Family" togetherness throughout the years.

The Ayden Christian Church was in a period of growth in its 100th year, in numbers, in spirit and in love for one another. It was time to celebrate and to pay tribute to the many members past and present. This chronical is dedicated to the membership, all of them. May God bless each and everyone.

**AYDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH OFFICIARY 1993**

Chairman--Hannah Gaylor  
Vice-Chairman--Doug Hankins  
Recording Secretary--JoAnn Stokes  
Church Clerk--Dorothy Venters  
Financial Secretary--Mary Edith Hankins  
B.J. Oehrli

Treasurer--Cindy Rhue  
Historian--Stephen Sudor  
Trustee--Pauline Cox (1993)  
Trustee--Linwood Allegood (1994)  
Trustee--Burt Tripp (1995)

**Elders 1993**

Steve Tripp  
Linwood Allegood  
Keith Hill  
John Brick  
Stephen Sudor  
Bert Sudor  
Ray Hardee  
Mamie Smith

**Deacons 1993**

Mitchell Shue  
Curtis Tyndall  
James Newman  
Vicki Smith  
Chris Brick

**Elders 1994**

Burt Tripp  
Glenn Gaylor  
Pauline Cox  
Jean Daily  
Coy Buck  
Hannah Gaylor  
Russell Barnes

**Deacons 1994**

Robert Spence  
Cindy Rhue  
Benjy Gee  
Todd Kittrell  
Marie Ray  
Sherri Moore Parker  
Clay Wagner  
Alta Andrews  
Rob Oehrli

**Elders 1995**

Joyce Barnes  
Doug Hankins  
Marvin Baldree  
Dorothy Venters  
Joe Ray  
Carol Ann Hardee

**Deacons 1995**

Charles Stokes  
Trudy Tyson  
Don Wilson  
Lou Anne Sutton  
Greg Rhue  
Mary Edith Hankins  
Jeff Foltz  
Willie Cox  
Bill Everett  
Greg Gaylor  
Jeff King  
Sarah Baldree  
Alberta Dale  
Ginger Haddock  
B.J. Oehrli  
Roy Richardson  
Paul Andrews  
Sandra Garris

**Alternate Elders**

Charlie Tripp  
Stuart Tripp  
J.D. Allen

**Elder Emeritus**

Marvin Baldree, Sr.  
Thelbert Worthington  
Joe Tripp  
Wayland McGlohon  
Clara Heuay  
Callie Stocks (posthumous)

## AYDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH COMMITTEES 1993

### World Outreach

Pauline Cox - Chair  
Sandy Hall  
Jackie Robinson  
Althea McNairy  
Addie Allegood  
Debra Whaley

### Local Outreach

Jackie Boswell - Chair  
Patricia Williams  
Dixie Gee  
Steve Boswell

### Worship

Greg Rhue - Chair  
Linda Little  
Russell Barnes  
Mark Williams  
B.J. Oehrli  
Robert Spence  
Paul Andrews

### Stewardship and Finance

Linwood Allegood - Chair  
Burt Tripp  
Mary Edith Hankins  
B.J. Oehrli  
Cindy Rhue  
Jim Newman

### Personnel

Coy Buck - Chair  
Joyce Barnes  
Doug Hankins  
Sandy Hall  
Roy Richardson  
Linwood Allegood

### Property

Ray Hardee - Chair  
Don Wilson  
Charles Stokes  
William Earl McLawhorn

### Christian Education

Joyce Barnes - Chair  
Sue Williams - Co-Chair

### Membership

Jeff Foltz - Chair  
Susan Tripp  
Mary Hill  
Jan Wagner  
Steve Boswell  
Marie Ray

### Building

Mamie Smith - Chair  
Steve Tripp  
Pauline Cox  
Joyce Barnes  
Hannah Gaylor  
W.H. Gooding  
John Brick  
James Daily

### Centennial

Marvin Baldree, Jr. - Chair  
Coy Buck  
Stephen Sudor  
Bert Sudor  
Charlie Tripp  
Pat Tripp  
Joyce Barnes  
Hannah Allen  
Hannah Gaylor  
Esther Lee McLawhorn  
Alberta Dale  
Sarah Baldree  
Jeff Foltz  
Jan Wagner  
Kim Dale

### Christian Youth Fellowship

Trish Williams - Coordinator  
Marty Stancil  
Clay Wagner  
Jan Wagner  
Leslie Bosse  
Sandy Spence  
Kim Shue  
Dixie Gee  
Jackie Boswell

### CWF

Marie Ray - President  
Jean Daily - Vice President  
Kim Shue - Worship Leader  
JoAnn Stokes - Treasurer  
Dot Respass - Secretary

### CMF 1992

Ray Hardee - Pres.  
Colin Baldree - Treas.

### Team Captains 1993

Linwood Allegood  
Benjy Gee  
Ray Hardee  
Charlie Tripp  
Marvin Baldree, Jr.

### Acolytes

P.J. Andrews  
Marenda Huggins  
Matt Boswell  
Amy Tripp  
Terri Jones  
Melissa Stocks  
Jennifer Davis  
Hunter Buck  
Jenni Tyson

Andrew Shue  
Seth Newman  
Ann Gee  
Sam Gee  
Meghan Stancil  
Elizabeth Stancil  
Ashley Venters  
Amanda Barnes  
Stephanie Williams

**Evangelism**  
Steve Tripp - Chair  
Alta Andrews

**AYDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
1993 BUDGET**

ITEM	Budgeted 1992	Proposed 1993	Amt. Change	% Change
1. Wages, Salaries, Auto				
a. Minister's Salary	20,512.00	21,538.00	1,026.00	4.76%
b. Auto Allowance	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
c. Parsonage Allowance	6,447.00	4,211.96	(2,235.04)	-53.06%
d. Minister's Utilities Allowance	1,800.00	1,500.00	(300.00)	-20.00%
e. Minister's Soc. Sec. Allow.	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
f. Minister's Real Estate Taxes	0.00	948.90	948.90	100.00%
g. Minister's Insurance (Contents)	0.00	360.00	360.00	100.00%
h. Minister's Repairs & Upkeep	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	100.00%
i. Minister's Lawn Care	0.00	375.00	375.00	100.00%
j. Secretary	11,988.90	12,588.00	599.10	4.76%
k. Chancel Choir Director	4,278.75	4,718.00	439.25	9.31%
L. Bell Choir Director	270.00	270.00	0.00	0.00%
m. Children's Choir Director	465.00	780.00	315.00	40.38%
n. Organist	4,462.50	5,048.00	585.50	11.60%
o. Youth Director	2,000.00	0.00	(2,000.00)	-100.00%
p. Janitorial Services	1,890.00	1,890.00	0.00	0.00%
q. Nursery Attendant	800.00	800.00	0.00	0.00%
	\$58,914.15	\$60,227.86	\$1,313.71	2.18%
2. Insurance and Pensions				
a. Social Security	1,786.67	1,996.19	209.52	10.50%
b. Property Insurance	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
c. Minister's Health Ins.	935.64	935.64	0.00	0.00%
d. Minister's Pension Plan	3,774.26	4,218.74	444.48	10.54%
e. Worker Comp.	400.00	500.00	100.00	20.00%
f. Van Insurance	0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	100.00%
	\$8,896.57	\$10,750.57	\$1,854.00	17.25%
3. Utilities & Fuel				
a. Water/Lights	5,500.00	5,500.00	0.00	0.00%
b. Telephone (Parsonage)	200.00	0.00	-200.00	-100.00%
c. Telephone (Church)	750.00	750.00	0.00	0.00%
	\$6,450.00	\$6,450.00	(\$200.00)	-3.20%
4. Other				
a. Continuing Education	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00%
b. Conferences	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00%
c. Office Supplies	500.00	1,000.00	500.00	50.00%
d. Postage	1,600.00	1,600.00	0.00	0.00%
e. Books & Periodicals	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00%
f. Miscellaneous	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00%
g. Printing (Misc.)	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00%
h. Christmas Expenses	700.00	500.00	(200.00)	-40.00%
i. Computer Supplies/Equip.	1,100.00	600.00	(500.00)	-83.33%
j. Discretionary Expenses	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00%
	\$5,250.00	\$5,050.00	(\$200.00)	-3.96%
5. Committees				
a. World Outreach	4,250.00	4,500.00	250.00	5.56%
b. Local Outreach	2,200.00	2,300.00	100.00	4.35%
	\$6,450.00	\$6,800.00	\$350.00	5.15%

**AYDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
1993 BUDGET**

	Budgeted 1992	Proposed 1993	Amt. Change	% Change
c. Worship				
1. Supplies (Communion)	600.00	1,800.00	1,200.00	66.67%
2. Music	500.00	400.00	(100.00)	-25.00%
3. Pulpit Supply	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
4. Tape Ministry	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00%
5. Printing	1,900.00	2,000.00	100.00	5.00%
6. Guest Musicians	200.00	950.00	750.00	78.95%
7. Instrument Maintenance	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00%
	<hr/> \$4,000.00	<hr/> \$5,950.00	<hr/> \$1,950.00	<hr/> 32.77%
d. Membership				
1. Supplies	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
2. Printing & Ads	1,000.00	1,500.00	500.00	33.33%
3. Flowers	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00%
4. Fellowship (General)	500.00	1,000.00	500.00	50.00%
5. Youth	250.00	700.00	450.00	64.29%
6. Miscellaneous	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00%
	<hr/> \$2,850.00	<hr/> \$4,000.00	<hr/> \$1,450.00	<hr/> 33.72%
e. Evangelism				
1. Supplies	175.00	175.00	0.00	0.00%
2. Printing & Ads	500.00	800.00	300.00	37.50%
	<hr/> \$675.00	<hr/> \$975.00	<hr/> \$300.00	<hr/> 30.77%
f. Christian Education				
1. Supplies	600.00	650.00	50.00	7.69%
2. Curriculum Supplies	1,400.00	1,650.00	250.00	15.15%
3. Vacation Bible School	600.00	1,150.00	550.00	47.83%
4. Audio-Visual	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00%
5. Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
6. Youth Directors Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
	<hr/> \$4,900.00	<hr/> \$5,750.00	<hr/> \$850.00	<hr/> 14.78%
g. Stewardship & Finance	100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.00%
h. Property & Repair				
1. Maintenance & Repair	1,750.00	6,000.00	4,250.00	70.83%
a. Copier	0.00	201.00	201.00	100.00%
b. Typewriters	0.00	200.00	200.00	100.00%
2. Lawn Care	550.00	550.00	0.00	0.00%
3. Supplies	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
4. Van Maintenance	0.00	400.00	400.00	100.00%
	<hr/> 53,300.00	<hr/> \$8,351.00	<hr/> \$5,051.00	<hr/> 60.48%
 GRAND TOTAL	 <hr/> \$101,785.72	 <hr/> \$114,504.43	 <hr/> \$12,718.71	 <hr/> 11.11%

Needed Weekly: \$2,202.01

## SOMETHING ABOUT THE KNOWN CHARTER MEMBERS

**John Stanley Hart and Katherine Jenkins Hart.** He was a farmer and cabinet maker but lived in a gingerbread house, the last house standing north on West Avenue (called Railroad Street). They were dedicated and active members of the church. They had ten children. All of them became members of the church. One of their sons was Wilbur Hart who married Lillian . They had a son, John Hart, who was a member and now resides in Greenville, North Carolina. J.S. Hart furnished some of the material and his labor to help build the first church.

**James S. Hines and Elsie Hines.** A farmer who lived in the country but later moved to Ayden in a house on NE College Street near Carolina Christian College. They had a son, John J. Hines, born 1874 and died 1915 who married Lenna Haddon, born 1869 and died 1934 . Both are buried in the Ayden cemetery. J. J. Hines was a merchant who operated a store across the alley from the P.R. Taylor store and across the street from Mumford's market. J.J. Hines built the house across the alley from the first Ayden Christian Church which was later sold to the church to become the first church parsonage occupied by Rev. W.H. Brunson and later Rev. Gilbert Davis families. Another son of James and Elsie Hines was Peter Hines who was a member of the Ayden Christian Church. He was an attorney who had an office in Greenville. His son was George Stancil Hines who is the present owner of the Dixie Queen Restaurant in Winterville. J.S. Hines had two daughters, Lena and Emma. Emma married an Allegood and they had a son, Royce Allegood who married Addie and they had a son, Linwood Allegood, present elder in the Ayden Christian Church. J.J. Hines has one son living, Horace Hines, who lives in Black Mountain. He was a lawyer who was educated at Harvard. J.S. Hines along with W.H. Harris gave the first five acres of land for Carolina Christian College in 1893.



**Mr. and Mrs. Moses Frank Sumrell.** A farmer who moved from the country to a house next door to George Worthington on Third and Blount Streets, facing Blount Street. The house is still standing.

**Benjamin Franklin McLawhorn, Sr.** born July 16, 1845, died June 4, 1923 and **Mary Winfred (Puss) Jenkins McLawhorn.** They were married July 23, 1865. They had six sons and one daughter. Offspring who became members of Ayden Christian Church follow:

Children:

1. Dicie McGlohon
2. Charles Heber McLawhorn
3. William Oscar McLawhorn
4. Franklin McLawhorn, Jr.

Grand Children:

- 1a. Lyman G. Baldree
- 1b. Marvin Colin Baldree, Sr.
2. Loyd Loys McLawhorn
3. Inez McLawhorn
4. Eli Hodges McLawhorn

Great Grand Children:

- 1a. Charles Douglas Baldree
- 1a. Elisha Dalton Baldree
- 1a. Eugene Gray Baldree
- 1b. Marvin Colin Baldree, Jr.
- 1b. Nelson Isaac Baldree
2. William Earl McLawhorn
- 3a. William Burton Tripp
- 3b. Ann Tripp Carraway
- 4a. Billie Powell McLawhorn
- 4b. Gwendolyn McLawhorn

Great Great Grand children:

- 1b. Rebecca Joyce Baldree
- 1b. Lou Ann Baldree

- 1b. Colin Baldree
- 2. Linda Larue McLawhorn
- 2. Daniel Earl McLawhorn
- 2. Teresa Anne McLawhorn
- 2. Patsy Lynn McLawhorn
- 3a. Tony Tripp
- 3a. Susan Tripp
- 3b. Shanna Leigh Carraway

Great Great Great Grand Children:

- 1b. Marcus A. Whichard
- 1b. Matthew Whichard
- 1b. Tyler Whichard
- 3a. Matthew Burton Tripp

**Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Smith.** A farmer who lived near Cannons Crossroads at the site of David Harrel Smith in an old frame house long since torn down. They had a son, Charles Eugene Smith, who built a saw mill and cotton gin at the home farm site. In 1916 he moved the saw mill to Ayden, across the ditch near Levi Tripp's Blacksmith Shop off East Avenue. C.E. Smith had five sons; Marvin, Melton, David, Paul, Charlie Gray and two daughters: Blanche and Lucinda. All children became members of the church except David the oldest as reported by Marvin Smith.

**Caleb Worthington.** A retired farmer married to a lady named Julia, who moved to a house across the street from the present Roy Turnage house on Second Street. He was the father of George Worthington and the grandfather of Thelbert Worthington, presently the oldest living church member.

**William Worthington.** Was a farmer. He married a lady named Lucy. He lived in a house on College Street. He was the father of Lucretia Henderson.

# Membership Roll 1915

Alexander, W.B.	Cannon, Leon	Hodges, J.H.S.
Alexander, Mrs. W.B.	Cannon, Dervill	Hodges, Mrs. J.H.S.
Ange, A.W.	Cannon, Mary	Heath, B.D.
Allegood, Mrs. Emma	Cox, Z.	Heath, Lula
Alligood, Kathleen	Cox, Mrs. Z.	Heath, Thomas
Allegood, Claude	Cox, David	Hart, Jno. S.
Allen, Ruby	Cox, Mrs. J.O.	Hart, Mrs. Jno S.
Allen, P.D.	Cox, Maynard	Hart, Luna
Allen, Mrs. P.D.	Cox, Kathleen	Hart, Wilbur
Brown, Sr. Mr. E.L.	Cox, Jesse	Hart, Johnie
Brown, Sr. Mrs. E.L.	Cannon, Lill	Hart, Vonnie Ruth
Brown, Lucille	Cannon, Mrs. Lill	Hart, Alphonsa
Brown, Edward	Cannon, Ruby	Hart, Mrs. Alphonsa
Brown, Doris	Chapman, Lloyd	Hemby, W.J.
Brown, Jr. Mr. E.L.	Cuthrell, Mabel Clare	Hemby, Mrs. W.J.
Brown, Jr. Mrs. E.L.	Dale, Miss Julia	Hemby, Idalia
Blount, Mrs. Agnes	Deering, Mrs. Robt.	Hemby, Lila
Blount, Ester	Davis, J.A.	Hemby, Cecil
Blount, Jack	Davis, Mrs. J.A.	Hemby, Mrs. Earl
Berry, D.G.	Davis, Bob	Hines, J.S.
Berry, Mrs. D.G.	Davis, Mrs. Bob	Hines, Mrs. J.S.
Berry, Olivia	Dixon, Louise	Hines, Peter
Baldree, Ike	Dickerson, Mrs. Mary	Hines, Lena
Baldree, Mrs. Ike	Davenport, Mrs. Nora	Hines, Lizzie
Baldree, Clifton	Forrest, W.M.	Harrington, J.A.
Baldree, Lillian	Forrest, W.M.	Harrington, W.L.
Barwick, J.F.	Forrest, Benjamin	Hooks, W.E.
Barwick, Mrs. J.F.	Forrest, Mrs. Benjamin	Holland, Mr. E.H.
Barwick, Beulah	Forrest, Lela	Holland, Mrs. E.H.
Barwick, Irene	Forrest, J.A.	Johnson, May
Baker, Mrs. G.G.	Gardner, Mrs. L.C.	Johnson, Robert
Baker, Henry	Gardner, Jasper	Johnson, Allen
Baker, A.	Gardner, Elmer	Jenkins, W.I.
Baker, Nora Lee	Gardner, Dalton	Jenkins, Mrs. W.I.
Brooks, Mrs. Nita	Garris, Geo. W.B.	Jenkins, Jimbo
Burroughs, Mrs. C.F.	Garris, Mrs. Geo. W.B.	Jenkins, Agnes
Coward, J.H.	Garris, Ezra	Jackson, U.S.
Coward, Mrs. J.H.	Garris, Earl	Jackson, Mrs. U.S.
Cannon, R.C.	Garris, Elmer George	Jackson, Soloman
Cannon, Mrs. R.C.	Garris, Esther	Jackson, Alice
Cannon, A.R.	Garris, John	Jackson, Reba
Cannon, C.V.	Garris, Mrs. J.	Jackson, Robb
Cannon, Sudie May	Garris, Ruby	Jackson, Tom
Cannon, Bessie	Garris, Johnnie	Jackson, Mrs. Tom
Carson, Mrs. Mary E.	Garris, J.A.B.	Jenkins, S.A.
Cooper, G.F.	Garris, Mrs. J.A.B.	Jenkins, Mrs. S.A.
Cooper, Mrs. G.F.	Guthrie, Cassie	Jenkins, Lula May
Cooper, Virginia Belle	Holton, J.A.	Jenkins, John Lynn
Coward, Jesse	Holton, Mrs. J.A.	Jenkins, Bruce
Coward, Mrs. Jesse	Holton, Beulah	Jenkins, Alta Lee
Cannon, Jesse	Holton, Rob	Jones, Smithy
Cannon, Mrs. Jesse	Holton, C.M.	Kittrell, Linwood
Cannon, Dixie	Holton, Mrs. C.M.	Kittrell, Leon
Cannon, Irma	Holton, Olga	Kittrell, Ola
Cannon, Hennie	Holton, Jack	Kittrell, Mrs. Ola

# Membership Roll 1915

— Continued —

Loftin, Sim	Smith, J.R.	Worthington, William
Lyons, Zeno	Smith, Mrs. J.R.	Worthington, Lucy
Lyons, May	Smith, R.W.	Worthington, Caleb
Lyons, Julius	Smith, David	Worthington, L.H.
Lyons, Mrs. Julius	Smith, Lloyd	Worthington, Mrs. L.H.
McLawhorn, Jack	Smith, Herman	Worthington, Frank
McLawhorn, Geneva	Sumrell, Sr. Charles	Worthington, Lucretia
McLawhorn, Ernest	Sumrell, Jr. Charles	Worthington, Rebecca
McLawhorn, Sue	Sumrell, Jr. Mrs. Charles	Worthington, Robert
McLawhorn, Alton	Sumrell, Kathleen	Worthington, Mrs. Robert
McLawhorn, Elmer	Sumrell, B.S.	Worthington, Eliva
McLawhorn, Letha	Sumrell, Mrs. B.S.	Wilson, S.S.
McLawhorn, Derwood	Sumrell, Charlotte Ruth	Wilson, Mrs. S.S.
McLawhorn, Asher	Stokes, J.J.	Wilson, Mildred
McLawhorn, Oscar	Stokes, Mrs. J.J.	Wingate, Ollie
McLawhorn, Ben	Stokes, Collie Bell	Wingate, Mrs. Ollie
McLawhorn, Mrs. Ben	Stokes, Joe	
McLawhorn, Will	Stokes, Alfred	
McLawhorn, Alfred	Smith, Mrs. Sarah	
McLawhorn, Mrs. Alfred	Smith, Myrtie	
McLawhorn, Lee	Smith, C.E.	
McLawhorn, Ester	Smith, Mrs. C.E.	
McLawhorn, Dixie	Smith, Marian	
McLawhorn, Luther	Smith, Jim A.	
McLawhorn, Mrs. Luther	Smith, Mrs. Jim A.	
McLawhorn, Joe	Sumrell, W.	
McLawhorn, Annie	Sumrell, Mrs. W.J.	
McLawhorn, Hubert	Sumrell, Dr. Guy	
McKinney, W.M.	Sumrell, M.F.	
McKinney, Mrs. W.M.	Sumrell, Mrs. M.F.	
McKinney, Harold	Tyson, Mrs. Nan	
Moore, Sherrod	Taylor, B.G.	
Moore, Mrs. Sherrod	Taylor, Mrs. B.G.	
Moore, Anna Belle	Taylor, P.R.	
Mumford, Jesse	Taylor, Mrs. P,R.	
Mumford, Mrs. Jesse	Tingle, J.R.	
Mumford, Eunice	Tingle, Mrs. J.R.	
Mumford, Helen	Tingle, Wilbur	
Mumford, Billie	Tingle, Lloyd	
Mumford, Nora	Tingle, James	
Nichols, Lee	Turnage, Mrs. J.R.	
Noble, John C.	Turnage, L.C.	
Noble, Stephen	Turnage, John	
Prince, Mrs. Willie	Tucker, Jessie Mae	
Pittman, Mrs. R.F.	Utle, H.B.	
Padley, Joseph	Vann, Mrs. Mary	
Padley, Mrs. Joseph	Wingate, Mamie	
Pierce, J.B.	Wingate, Julia	
Pierce, Mrs. J.B.	Wingate, Jesse	
Parker, George	Wingate, Mrs. Jesse	
Phillips, Moses	Worthington, Mrs. Laura	
Rollins, Clyde	Worthington, George	
Robertson, Ida	Worthington, Mary	

## Membership added between 1915-1924

Anderson, Mrs. J.J.	Cannon, Leon	Jones, Mrs. J.C.
Alexander, Bruce	Cox, G.D.	Johnson, Robert L.
Anderson, J.J.	Coward, Elizabeth	Jenkins, Ivey
Allen, Bernie	Corbitt, Mrs. D.	Kilpatrick, Hilda
Alligood, Royce	Collins, Rosa	Kilpatrick, J.M.
Allen, L.	Crisp, Mrs. L.	Kilpatrick, L.O.
Allen, D.P.	Clifton, Mrs. E.S.	Kilpatrick, F.M.
Allen, Mrs. D.P.	Dixon, J.G.	Kilpatrick, Bessie
Allen, Hubert	Dixon, J.M.	Johnson, Thelma
Anderson, Edna Grace	Dixon, Mrs. J.M.	Jackson, A.L.
Ballenger, Carl	Dixon, Luna	Jackson, Reno
Baldree, Guy	Dixon, Lossie Belle	Jackson, Mrs. A.L.
Baldree, Mrs. Guy	Dixon, Lamie	Jones, Mrs. W.M.
Bowen, M.L.	Dinkins, Mrs. W.E.	Jackson, Mattie Lee
Bowen, Mrs. M.L.	Dale, Mrs. B.	Jackson, J.J.
Bowen, Harold	Dale, Emma	Jenkins, Mrs. J.L.
Barwick, Foy	Dale, Miss Lillian	Jackson, Victoria
Barwick, Hugh	Darden, Mrs. Fred	Jackson, Evelyn
Brown, J.F.	Darden, Fred	Jackson, Mildred
Brown, Mrs. Sue	Dudley, Althea	Latham, J.H.
Bassinger, Josephine	Davis, Alda Reno	Latham, E.A.
Burges, H.L.	Dinkins, Dorothy	Latham, Mrs. E.A.
Baker, R.L.	Darden, Mrs. O.C.	Lucas, J.B.
Brown, Linwood	Dail, Jaunita	Lucas, Mrs. J.B.
Burroughs, F.C.	Dail, Sallie Bett	Lucas, Carrol
Barden, Mrs. W.M.	Dunn, Mrs. Inez	Lancaster, E.A.
Burroughs, Mrs. L.C.	Esterlin, Mrs. Mary	Lancaster, Mrs. D.E.
Baldree, Clara	Everett, William	Lyons, Estelle
Baldree, Clara	Everett, James	Lyons, W.L.
Baldree, A.T.	Eure, Mrs. J.B.	Lyons, Mrs. W.L.
Baldree, Bennie	Eure, May Johnson	Moore, Ella
Borden, Mayola	Forrest, Elizabeth	McLawhorn, Mrs. Joe
Baggett, R.C.	Forrest, Margaret	McLawhorn, Mrs. Zeb
Baggett, Mrs. R.C.	Forrest, Mrs. D.R.	McLawhorn, Pearl
Baggett, Lois	Garris, Herbert	McLawhorn, John Lewis
Clinard, Mrs. E.J.	Garris, Brown	McLawhorn, Lilia
Collins, Arthur	Gurganus, Harry	McLawhorn, Heber
Collins, Raymond	Garris, Edmond	Mumford, Ruth
Cox, Raymond	Gaylor, Mrs. Raymond	Moore, Evaline
Cannon, Cassie Lee	Harrison, H.K.	McLawhorn, A.D.
Collins, Miss Thelma	Holton, Radford	McLawhorn, Mrs. A.D.
Collins, J.H.	Hatsell, G.L.	McKinney, William
Collins, Mrs. J.H.	Hemby, J. Boyd	Manning, Thelma
Collins, Miss Estell	House, Mrs. W.L.	McLawhorn, Dora
Coward, R.C.	House, Jerry	Manning, Mrs. Green
Coward, Mrs. R.C.	House, Lucy Mae	Martin, Mrs. W.J.
Cannon, Mrs. J.D.	Hart, Mrs. Esther	McLawhorn, Novella
Corbitt, W.C.	Holton, Mrs. J.S.	Morris, Marie
Collins, Jim Ed	House, Miss F.B.	McLawhorn, Kitchen
Cox, Z.G.D.	Hart, Stella May	Moon, Mrs. J.D.
Cannon, James	Hart, Leslie	McLawhorn, Max
Collins, Ralph	Harrison, Rodney	McLawhorn, Mrs. Max
Coward, John Jr.	Johnson, D.R.	Moore, Mrs. C.G.
Cannon, J.E.	Johnson, Mrs. D.R.	Moore, C.G.
Cannon, Mrs. J.E.	Jones, J.C.	McDaniels, Mrs. Henry

# Membership added between 1915-1924

— Continued —

McLawhorn, Mrs. Fannie	Stocks, Sadie Ray
McKinney, Robb	Stocks, William
Moore, Sallie	Stokes, McRaye
Moore, Georgia	Sumrell, Fred
Moore, Marie	Sumrell, Heber
McLawhorn, Ellen	Sumrell, Mrs. Heber
Nunn, B.F.	Taylor, J.R.
Nunn, Molly	Taylor, Kathleen
Nunn, Melba	Teaslin, Miss E.
Nichols Mae	Tingle, Mrs. W.
Nichols, Eugenia	Tripp, Charlie
Nunn, Roy Lee	Tripp, Hent
Powell, Fred B.	Tripp, John H.
Powell, Mrs. Fred B.	Tripp, Lethia
Padley, Eugene	Tripp, N.C.
Pierce, Margaret	Tripp, Mrs. N.C.
Padley, Helen	Tripp, Rufus
Phillips, Mrs. Mamie	Tripp, Mrs. Rufus
Patterson, Mrs. Powell	Tripp, R. Charles
Phillips, Mrs. Kathleen	Turnage, Miss Sallie
Quinerly, Mrs. J.K.	Turnage, Mrs. L.C.
Robinson, Joseph	Twiford, L.L.
Rollins, Mrs. J.L.	Waggoner, S.B.
Rollins, Inez	Waggoner, Mrs. S.B.
Rollins, Hortense	Worthington, Almata
Sumrell, Walter	Wayne, Miss Ella
Smith, J.T.	Worthington, Thelbert G.
Smith, Mrs. J.T.	Worthington, Miss Stella
Smith, C.J.	Williams, Mrs. Corinne
Sumrell, Hilda	Wilson, Mark
Settle, E.E.	Wingate, Brownie
Settle, Mrs. E.E.	Wingate, Joyner
Shaheen, Mrs. R.A.	Worthington, Emmerson
Shaheen, R.A.	Worthington, R.H.
Swain, L.O.	Worthington, Mrs. J.R.
Swain, Mrs. L.O.	
Stokes, Miss Clyde	
Simonds, Miss Nadine	
Sumrell, Clara	
Saulsbury, Mrs. W.W.	
Saulsbury, W.W.	
Sumrell, Jesse May	
Sumrell, Annie Lee	
Sumrell, S.	
Sumrell, Mrs. Guy H.	
Smith, Blanch	
Sumrell, Edna	
Shelburne, W.J.	
Shelburne, Mrs. W.J.	
Shelburne, George Clark	
Smith, Ray R.	
Stocks, John	
Stocks, Mrs. John	

# Membership Roll 1924

Alexander, W.B.  
 Alexander, Mrs. W.B.  
 Alexander, Bruce  
 Alligood, Mrs. Emma  
 Alligood, Kathleen  
 Allen, Ruby  
 Allen, Bernie  
 Anderson, J.J.  
 Anderson, Mrs. J.J.  
 Ange, A.W.  
 Brown, E.L.  
 Brown, Mrs. E.L.  
 Brown, Lucille  
 Brown, Doris  
 Brown, Edward  
 Brown, Linwood  
 Brown, E.L. Jr.  
 Brown, Mrs. E.L., Jr.  
 Brown, J.F.  
 Brown, Mrs. J.F.  
 Blount, Mrs. Agnes  
 Blount, Jack  
 Berry, D.G.  
 Berry, Mrs. D.G.  
 Berry, Olivia  
 Baldree, Ike  
 Baldree, Mrs. Ike  
 Baldree, Clifton  
 Baldree, Mrs. Clifton  
 Baldree, Guy  
 Baldree, Mrs. Guy  
 Baldree, May  
 Barwick, J.F.  
 Barwick, Mrs. J.F.  
 Barwick, Beulah  
 Barwick, Irene  
 Barwick, Hugh  
 Barwick, Foy  
 Baker, Mrs. G.G.  
 Baker, Nora Lee  
 Burgess, Mrs. Hennie  
 Borden, W.M.  
 Borden, Mrs. W.M.  
 Butler, Miss Betty  
 Bowen, M.L.  
 Bowen, Mrs. M.L.  
 Bowen, Harold  
 Beaman, Mrs. Lilia  
 Brunson, W.H.  
 Brunson, Mrs. W.H.  
 Brunson, Louise  
 Brunson, Norman  
 Brunson, Keith  
 Baggett, R.C.  
 Baggett, Mrs. R.C.

Coward, J.H.  
 Coward, Mrs. J.H.  
 Coward, Gertrude  
 Coward, R.C.  
 Coward, Mrs. R.C.  
 Coward, Elizabeth  
 Coward, Jesse  
 Coward, Mrs. Jesse  
 Cannon, R.C.  
 Cannon, Mrs. R.C.  
 Cannon, C.V.  
 Cannon, A.R.  
 Cannon, Jesse  
 Cannon, Mrs. Jesse  
 Cannon, Dixie  
 Cannon, Mrs. J.D.  
 Cannon, Leon  
 Cox, Mrs. J.O.  
 Cox, Maynard  
 Cox, Kathleen  
 Cox, Raymond  
 Cox, Z.G.D.  
 Cox, Jesse  
 Cox, David  
 Cooper, G.F.  
 Cooper, Mrs. G.F.  
 Cooper, Virginia Bell  
 Corbett, W.C.  
 Collins, J.H.  
 Collins, Mrs. J.H.  
 Collins, Raymond  
 Collins, Jim Ed.  
 Crisp (Hart) Mrs. Luna  
 Clifton, Mrs. E.S.  
 Cannon, Mrs. L.R.  
 Deering, Mrs. Robt.  
 Davis, Mrs. J.A.  
 Davis, Bob  
 Davis, Mrs. Bob  
 Dinkins, Mrs. W.E.  
 Dinkins, Dorothy  
 Darden, Fred  
 Darden, Mrs. Fred  
 Dail, Miss Emma  
 Dail, Miss Lillian  
 Dixon, Mrs. J.M.  
 Dixon, Louise  
 Dixon, Lamie  
 Dickerson, Athleen  
 Dudley, Althea  
 Everett, William  
 Esterlin, Mrs. Mary  
 Eure, (Johnson) May  
 Forrest, W.M.  
 Forrest, Mrs. W.M.

Forrest, Benjamin  
 Forrest, Mrs. Benjamin  
 Forrest, Miss Margeret  
 Gardner, Mrs. L.C.  
 Gardner, Jasper  
 Gardner, Elmer  
 Gardner, Dalton  
 Garris, G.W.B.  
 Garris, Mrs. G.W.B.  
 Garris, Ezra  
 Garris, Earl  
 Garris, Elmer George  
 Garris, Ester  
 Garris, Mrs. J.B.  
 Garris, Ruby  
 Garris, Miss Johnnie  
 Garris, J.A.B.  
 Garris, Herbert  
 Gurganus, Harry  
 Holton, C.M.  
 Holton, Mrs. C.M.  
 Holton, Radford  
 Holton, Jack  
 Holton, Mrs. J.S.  
 Hodges, J.H.S.  
 Hodges, Mrs. J.H.S.  
 Hodges, Myrtie Gray  
 Hart, Mrs. J.S.  
 Hart, Wilbur  
 Hart, Vonnie Ruth  
 Hart, Stella May  
 Hart, Alphonsa  
 Hart, Mrs. Alphonsa  
 Hemby, Mrs. W.J.  
 Hemby, Lila  
 Hemby, Cecil  
 Hemby, J.Boyd  
 Hines, Peter  
 Hines, Lena  
 Holland, E.H.  
 Holland, Mrs. E.H.  
 Harrison, H.K.  
 Harrison, Mrs. H.K.  
 House, Mrs. W.L.  
 House, Jerry  
 House, Miss Fannie Bell  
 Hatsell, G.L.  
 Johnson, R.L.  
 Johnson, Robert  
 Johnson, Allen  
 Johnson, Thelma  
 Jenkins, W.I.  
 Jenkins, Mrs. W.I.  
 Jenkins, Jimbo  
 Jenkins, Miss Agnes

# Membership Roll 1924

— Continued —

Jenkins, Margaret	McLawhorn, Mrs. Joe	Smith, Eugene
Jenkins, S.A.	McLawhorn, Annie	Smith, David
Jenkins, Mrs. S.A.	McLawhorn, Hubert	Smith, Herman
Jenkins, Lula May	McLawhorn, Asher	Smith, Mrs. Sarah
Jenkins, John Lynn	McLawhorn, Kitchen	Smith, Myrtie
Jenkins, Bruce	McLawhorn, Zeb	Smith, C.E.
Jenkins, Ivey	McLawhorn, Jack	Smith, Mrs. C.E.
Jenkins, Reno	McLawhorn, Heber	Smith, Blanch
Jackson, Mrs. Tom	McLawhorn, Mrs. Fannie	Smith, Jim A.
Jackson, A.L.	McLawhorn, Letha	Smith, Mrs. Jim A.
Jackson, Mrs. A.L.	McLawhorn, Luther	Smith, C.J.
Jackson, Mrs. A.L.	McLawhorn, Mrs. Luther	Smith, Mrs. Mildred
Jackson, Mattie Lee	McLawhorn, Novella	Stokes, J.J.
Jackson, J.J.	McLawhorn, Max	Stokes, Mrs. J.J.
Jackson, Miss Reba	McLawhorn, Mrs. Max	Stokes, Miss Clyde
Jackson, Charles Thomas	McLawhorn, John Lewis	Stokes, Joe
Jones, Smithy	McLawhorn, Lee	Spain, Mrs. Spruel
Jones, Mrs. W.M.	McLawhorn, Dixie	Shaheen, R.A.
Kittrell, Linwood	McLawhorn, Mrs. J.D.	Shaheen, Mrs. R.A.
Kilpatrick, Hilda	Mumford, Jesse	Simonds, Miss Nadine
Kilpatrick, J.M.	Mumford, Mrs. Jesse	Saulsbury, W.W.
Kilpatrick, F.M.	Mumford, Helen	Saulsbury, Mrs. W.W.
Kilpatrick, Mrs. F.M.	Mumford, Billie	Sumrell, Charles Sr.
Lyon, Zeno	Mumford, Ruth	Sumrell, Charles Jr.
Lyon, Julius	Manning, Mrs. Green	Sumrell, Mrs. Charles Jr.
Lyon, Mrs. Julius	Manning, Theresa	Sumrell, Hilda
Lyon, Katherine	Martin, Mrs. W.J.	Sumrell, Annie Lee
Latham, E.A.	Morris, Marie	Sumrell, B.S.
Latham, Mrs. E.A.	McDaniel, Mrs. Henry	Sumrell, Mrs. B.S.
Lancaster, E.A.	Modlin, (Dixon) Mrs. Luna	Sumrell, Charlotte Ruth
Lancaster, Mrs. E.A.	Moon, Mrs. J.D.	Sumrell, Jesse May
Louis (Hemby) Mrs. Idalia	Mosley, Mrs. Lorens	Sumrell, Edna
Loftin, Sim	Nichols, Mae	Sumrell, W.J.
McKinney, W. M.	Nichols, Eugenia	Sumrell, Mrs. W.J.
McKinney, Mrs. W.M.	Noble, John C.	Sumrell, Walter
McKinney, William	Nunn, B.F.	Sumrell, Dr. G.H.
McKinney, Hazel	Nunn, Molly	Sumrell, Mrs. G.H.
Moore, Sherrod	Nunn, Melba	Sumrell, Miss Clara
Moore, Mrs. Sherrod	Parker, Lee	Stocks, W.E.
Moore, Evelyn	Pittman, Mrs. R.F.	Taylor, B.G.
Moore, C.G.	Pierce, J.B.	Taylor, Mrs. B.G.
Moore, Mrs. C.G.	Pierce, Mrs. J.B.	Taylor, Kathleen
Moore, Sallie	Pearce, Margaret	Taylor, P.R.
McLawhorn, Alfred	Padley, Joseph	Taylor, Mrs. P.R.
McLawhorn, Mrs. Alfred	Padley, Mrs. Joseph	Taylor, Mrs. Fanny
McLawhorn, Dora	Phillips, (McLawhorn) Geneva	Turnage, Mrs. J.R.
McLawhorn, A.D.	Phillips, (Wingate) Mamie	Turnage, L.C.
McLawhorn, Mrs. A.D.	Quinerly, Mrs. J.K.	Turnage, Mrs. L.C.
McLawhorn, Oscar	Robertson, Ida	Turnage, Miss Sallie
McLawhorn, Mrs. Josephine	Smith, J.R.	Turnage, Guy
McLawhorn, W.C.	Smith, Mrs. J.R.	Tyson, Mrs. Nan
McLawhorn, Ernest	Smith, Mary Alyce	Tripp, N.C.
McLawhorn, Joe	Smith, R.W.	Tripp, Mrs. N.C.



# Membership Roll 1924

— Continued —

Tripp, Hent  
Tripp, Charlie  
Tripp, John H.  
Tanlyn, Sarah  
Tingle, J.R.  
Tingle, Mrs. J.R.  
Tingle, James  
Tingle, Loyd  
Tucker (Collins) Thelma  
Tucker (Collins) Estelle  
Tunstall, Mrs. Lizzie  
Utley, H.B.  
Vann, Mrs. Mary  
Vann (Sumrell) Kathleen  
White (Holton) Mrs. Olga  
Wingate, Julia  
Wingate, Ollie  
Wingate, Mrs. Ollie  
Wilson, Mrs. S.S.  
Williams, Mrs. Corinne  
Worthington, George  
Worthington, Mrs. George  
Worthington, T.G.  
Worthington, Mrs. Mary  
Worthington, Almeta  
Worthington, Stella Mae  
Worthington, Mrs. Lucy  
Worthington, Rebecca  
Worthington, Robert  
Worthington, Mrs. Robert  
Worthington, Mrs. Alta Lee  
Wood, W.H.  
Wood, (Nichols) Lee

# Sunday School Membership Roll 1924

## Sunday School Officers

Superintendent	J.H.S. Hodges
Assistant Superintendent	G.F. Cooper
Secretary	J.F. Barwick
Treasurer	J.R. Smith
Organist	Mrs. J.B. Eure
Assistant Organist	Mrs. J.H.S. Hodges

## Primary Department and Cradle Roll

William Lee McLawhon	Katie Stokes	Elsie Cox
J.R. Taylor	Gussie McLawhon	George Wingate
Roland Cox	Margaret Collins	Lois Baggett
William Brunson	Mae Johnson Eure	Wingate Dail
Earle Sumrell	Rodna Harrison	Harvey Clifton
Louise Clifton	Leon Taylor	Montague McKinney
Mary Celia McKinney	Guy Sumrell, Jr.	Mabel Gay Crisp
Edna Grace Anderson	Janie Cox	Rodman Crisp
Marie Moore	Randolph Corbett	John Matheois Burgess
Juanita Dail	Mary Alice Jackson	Graham Coward
Rosa Collins	Francis Holton	Bettie Ellis McLawhon
Ruby House	Eileen Holton	J.T. Allen
Tebo Corbett	Florence Phillips	Charles Blount Quinerly
Orene Wingate	Elizabeth Forrest	Robin Kittrell
Evelyn Jackson	Edna Earle Clifton	Edward Lyon
J.B. Wingate	Wycliff White	Marshall O'Quinn
Charlie Gray Smith	Clyde Woodard Cannon	Julie Bob Davis
James Elmer Barwick	Jean Cannon	Dixie McGlohon
Wayland McLawhon	Bonnie Ruth Jackson	Julia Carolyn Baggett
Junie Lyon	Harry Lee Stokes	W.B. Phillips
Nell Kilpatrick	Brownie Cox	

## Class No. 5

Mrs. Nita Brooks, Teacher

Allen, Delbert	Garris, Edward	Worthington, Milton
Bowen, Bennie	Latham, Raymond	Tripp, Joe D.
Brown, Alton	McKinney, Robert	Bowen, Gordon
Coward, Jno. Jr.	Smith, Paul	
Cox, Roland	Wingate, Alvin	

## Class No. 6

Miss Virgibia Belle Cooper, Teacher

Borden, Mayola	Lyon, Katherine	McKinney, Hazel
Coward, Gertrude	Moore, Sallie	Pierce, Margaret
Dinkins, Dorothy		

# Sunday School Membership Roll 1924

— Continued —

## Class No. 7

Mrs. S.A. Jenkins, Teacher

Bowen, Mary  
Dail, Sallie Bett  
Davis, Aldarena

Lyon, Estelle  
Moore, Georgie  
Stallings, Mabel

Taylor, Martha  
Tripp, Louise  
Wingate, Brownie

## Class No. 8

Miss Almeta Worthington, Teacher

Collins, Jack  
Jackson, Charles Thomas  
McLawhon, Waldo

Stallings, Lindsay  
Stokes, Mac Ray

Tripp, Mark  
Tripp, Tucker

## Class No. 9

Miss Hilda Kilpatrick, Teacher

Alligood, Kathleen  
Baldree, Clara  
Baldree, Louise  
Cox, Ollie Mae  
Dail, Emma  
Dail, Lillian

Dixon, Louise  
Dixon, Lydia Belle  
Garris, Esther  
Hart, Stella Mae  
Hart, Vonnice Ruth  
Johnson, Willie

Moore, Evelyn  
Smith, Blanche  
Sumrell, Charlotte Ruth  
Wingate, Julia  
Worthington, Stella Mae

## Class No. 10

Mrs. J.J. Lyon, Teacher

Baldree, Mae  
Clifton, Eula  
Coward, Elizabeth  
Dail, Inez

Forrest, Margaret  
House, Fonnice Belle  
Jenkins, Margaret  
Jenkins, Reno

Manning, Tessie  
McLawhon, Novella  
Sumrell, Annie Lee  
Sumrell, Edna Reid

## Class No. 11

Mr. R.L. Johnson, Teacher

Dudley, Althea  
Stokes, Clyde

Sumrell, Jesse M.

Taylor, Kathleen

## Class No. 12

Miss Louise Brunson, Teacher

Hodges, Myrtie Gray  
Jackson, Mildred  
Jackson, Victoria

McLawhon, Ellen  
Padley, Helen  
Stokes, Mary Francis

Tripp, Bonnie  
Turnage, Hazel Ruth

# Sunday School Membership Roll 1924

— Continued —

## Class No. 13 Loyal Men's Class

W.H. Brunson, Teacher

R.W. Smith, Assistant Teacher

Alligood, Claud  
Allen, Mack  
Alexander, Bruce  
Anderson, J.J.  
Alexander, W.B.  
Brunson, W.H.  
Brunson, Norman  
Borden, W.M.  
Brown, Ed. Jr.  
Baldree, W.L.  
Baldree, S.K.  
Brown, Ed.  
Cannon, Leon  
Cannon, C.V.  
Cannon, A.R.  
Cannon, J.D.  
Coward, R.C.  
Coward, J.H.  
Coward, Joe  
Cooper, G.F.  
Collins, Jim Ed  
Cox, J.D.  
Cox, Hugh  
Corey, W.H.  
Dail, G.F.  
Dail, Hubert  
Dunn, Wilbur  
Everett, William  
Gardner, E.J.  
Gardner, J.C.  
Gardner, Dalton  
Gurganus, Harry

Gaylor, Herman  
Holton, J.S.  
Holton, C.M.  
Hatsell, G.L.  
Harrison, H.K.  
House, Roland  
Haddock, R.H.  
Hemby, Cecil  
Hart, W.J.  
Hatch, L.C.  
Jackson, A.L  
Jackson, Tom  
Johnson, Robert  
Johnson, Allen  
Jones, Aulcy  
Johnson, O.B.  
Jenkins, J.L.  
Kilpatrick, F.M.  
Kilpatrick, J M  
Latham, E.A.  
Lyons, W L  
Lyons, J.J.  
Lewls, Romer  
Moore, C.G.  
McGlohon, J.D.  
McLawhorn, Max  
McLawhorn, A.G.  
McLawhorn, Jin  
McLawhorn, Heber  
McLawhorn, Carl  
Prescott, R.S.

Pierce, J.B.  
Parker, V.L.  
Padley, Joe  
Roberson, Alva  
Stokes, J.J.  
Stokes, Ray  
Stokes, L.C.  
Stokes, H.M.  
Stokes, L.L.  
Smith, H.C.  
Smith, R.W.  
Smith, Ray  
Smith, Larry  
Smith, M.B.  
Sumrell, G.A.  
Sumrell, C.F.  
Sumrell, B.S.  
Stokes, Jimmie  
Salsbury, W.W  
Tripp, Charley  
Tripp, N.C.  
Tingle, J.L.  
Taylor, B.G.  
Taylor, P.R.  
Taylor, Mack  
Turnage, L.C.  
Vann, J.R.  
Williams, D.W.  
Worthington, Emerson  
Worthington, T.G.  
Wood, W.H.

## Class No. 14

Mr. J.R. Snith, Teacher

Allen, T.R.  
Brown, E.L.  
Cannon, R.C.  
Collins, Jas.

Garris, J.A.B.  
Holton, C.M.  
Jenkins, S.A.  
McLawhon, W N

McLawhon, W.L.  
Smith, C.E.  
Sumrell, W.J.  
Worthington, Robt.

# Sunday School Membership Roll 1924

— Continued —

## Class No. 15

Mr. W.B. Phillips, Teacher

Allen, Hubert	Dixon, William H.	Jolly, Ruben
Alligood, Royce	Dunn, Charlie	McLawhon, Kitchcn
Barwick, Hugh	Everett, William	McLawhon, Perry
Baldree, A.T.	Everett, James	McLawhon, Stewart
Baldree, Bennie	Godley, Charley	Prescott, Wendell
Baldree, Lymon	Godley, Johnnie	Ross, Staton
Burney, Claude	Harrington, Glenn	Stokes, Jack
Burney, William	Harrington, Lloyd	Stokes, Mark
Buck, Clifton	Hart, George	Smith, Marvin
Cllfton, Aubrey	Hemby, James	Smith, Ralph
Collins, Raymond	Hines, Horace	Tripp, Larry
Corbitt, Hassie	Holton, Radford	Tripp, Elmer
Cannon, Alton Ray	Jackson, Thomas	Wingate, Harry
Cox, Randolph	Jenkins, Ivey	Wingate, Joyner

## Class No. 16

Mrs. J.H.S. Hodges, Teacher

Baggett, Mrs. R.C.	Holton, Mrs. J.S.	McGlohon, Mrs. J.D.
Burgess, Mrs. John	Jenkins, Miss Lula Mae	Moore, Mrs. C.G.
Cooper, Mrs. G.F.	Johnson, Miss Nealie	Phillips, Mrs. Moses
Eure, Mrs. J.B.	Latham, Mrs. Elmer	Sumrell, Mrs. Heber
Garris, Miss Johnnie	Mumford, Miss Helen	Smith, Miss Myrtie
Hemby, Miss Lila		

## Class No. 17

Miss Sallie Turnage, Teacher

Cox, Milton	Taylor, William	Wilson, Mark
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## Class No. 18

Mr. R.C. Baggett, Teacher

Barwick, Foy	McKinney, Willism	Padley, Eugene
Cannon, James	McLawhorn, Julius	Smith, Eugene
Collins, Ralph	Moore, Earle	Worthington, R.H.
Cox, Boyd		

# Sunday School Membership Roll 1924

— Continued —

Class No. 19

Mrs. J.R. Tingle, Teacher

Allen, Mrs. P.D.  
Allen, Mrs. T.R.  
Alexander, Mrs. Matt  
Butler, Miss Bettie  
Barwick, Mrs. J.F.  
Blount, Mrs. Agnes  
Clifton, Mrs. E.S.

Collins, Mrs. Jim  
Davis, Mrs. Bob  
Garris, Mrs. Lucretia  
Gardner, Mrs. Lydia  
Harrison, Mrs. H.K.  
McLawhon, Mrs. Luther  
Roberson, Miss Ida

Sumrell, Mrs. Barnes  
Smith, Mrs. J.R.  
Taylor, Mrs. Mack  
Wingate, Mrs. Mary  
Wood, Mrs. Will  
Wilson, Mrs. Lizzie

## Membership added between 1924-1929

Abbott, Lucy  
Allen, Earnest  
Allen, Ellzabeth  
Allen, Hugh  
Allen, Mrs. T.R.  
Alligood, Royce  
Andcrson, Edner Grace  
Baggett, Lois  
Baldree, A.T.  
Baldree, Bennie  
Baldree, Mrs. Bennie  
Barden, Mayola  
Barwick, James E.  
Beland, Mrs. J.B.  
Brown, Alton  
Brunson, William  
Cannon, Mrs. Dixie  
Cannon, James  
Cannon, J.E.  
Cannon, Mrs. J.E.  
Cannon, Mrs. Leon  
Colins, Rosa  
Collins, Jack  
Collins, Ralph  
Corbett, Mrs. L.A.  
Coward, John Jr.  
Cox, Boyd  
Cox, Mrs. G.D.  
Cox, Olive  
Dail, Ineze  
Dail, Juanita  
Dail, Sallie B.  
Darden, Mrs. Olivia C.  
Davis, Alta Rena  
Davis, R.C.  
Davis, Mrs. R.C.  
Everett, James  
Garris, Mrs. John  
Gaylor, Mrs. Herman  
Harrison, Rodney  
Hart, Leslie  
Jackson, Evelin  
Jackson, Mildred  
Jackson, Victoria  
Jenkins, Mrs. J.L.  
Jenkins, J.R.  
Johnson, Mrs. Allen  
Kilpatrick, Miss Bessie  
Kittrell, Jrs. L.L. Jr-  
Lewis, Mrs. R.G.  
Lyon, Estelle  
Lyon, W.L.  
Lyon, Mrs. W.L.  
McLawhorn, Ellen  
McLawhorn, William Lee  
McLawhorn, W.O.  
McLawhorn, Mrs. Zeb  
McLawhorn, Mrs. Lillian  
McGlohon, J.D.  
Manning, Mary  
Moore, Georgia  
Moore, Marrie  
Mumford, Ruth  
Padley, Edgar  
Padley, Helen  
Patterson, Mrs. Ella  
Phillips, W.B.  
Phillips, Mrs. W.B,  
Rollins, Hortense  
Rollins, Ineze  
Rollins, Mrs. J.S.  
Smith, Mrs. Kirby  
Smith, Marvin  
Smith, Melvin  
Stallings, Mabelle  
Stocks, John  
Stocks, Mrs. John  
Stocks, Sadie  
Stocks, William  
Stokes, McRay  
Sumrell, Earl  
Sumrell, Fred  
Sumrell, Heber  
Sumrell, Mrs. Heber  
Taylor, J.R.  
Tingle, Mrs. Lloyd  
Tripp, Benn Tucker  
Tripp, Bonnie Ruth  
Tripp, Mrs. Charlie  
Tripp, Joe Dixon  
Tripp, Larry  
Tripp, Louise  
Turnage, Hazel Ruth  
White, Mrs. W.T.  
Wilson, Mark  
Wingate, Brownie  
Wingate, Joyner  
Wood, Mrs. W.H.  
Worthington, Emerson  
Worthington, Mrs. J.R.  
Worthington, Milton  
Worthington, R.H.

# Membership Roll 1961

Allegood, Royce  
Allegood, Mrs. Royce  
Allen, Dr. C.H.  
Allen, Mrs. Carrie  
Allen, Mr. Dallas  
Allen, Mrs. Dallas  
Allen, David Kent  
Allen, Hugh  
Allen, Mrs. Hugh  
Allen, J.D.  
Allen, Mrs. J.D.  
Baldree, Ikey  
Baldree, Lyman  
Baldree, Mrs. Lyman (Lena)  
Baldree, Marvin  
Baldree, Mrs. Marvin  
Baldree, M.C., Jr.  
Baldree, Mrs. M.C., Jr.  
Basden, Mrs. B.B.  
Basden, Phillip B.  
Basden, Sandra  
Bateman, Billy  
Bateman, Bobby  
Bateman, Dan  
Bateman, Robert  
Bateman, Mrs. Robert  
Borden, Mrs. W.M.  
Braxton, Brenda Joyce  
Braxton, Guy  
Braxton, Mrs. Guy  
Britt, Sidney  
Bright, Mr. Clyde  
Bright, Mrs. Clyde  
Brunson, Miss Louise  
Cannon, Mrs. C.L.  
Cannon, Clyde  
Cannon, Mrs. Clyde (Ruth)  
Cannon, Conrad  
Cannon, J.D.  
Cannon, Mrs. J.D. (Rosa)  
Cannon, Jesse G.  
Cannon, Mrs. Jesse G.  
Cavileer, Curtis  
Cavileer, Mrs. Curtis  
Cavileer, Dave  
Collins, Irma Belle  
Collins, Mrs. J.A.  
Collins, Jack  
Collins, Mrs. Jack  
Collins, Jackie  
Collins, R.L., Jr.  
Collins, Mrs. R.L., Jr.  
Cooper, Virginia Belle  
Corbett, Hubert  
Corbett, Mrs. Mattie Lee  
Coward, Mrs. J.H.  
Coward, Jesse  
Coward, Mrs. R.C.  
Cox, Z. Lee  
Cox, Mrs. Z. Lee (Mae)  
Cox, Patricia  
Cox, Pauline  
Cox, Raymond  
Cox, Mrs. Raymond  
Cox, Sonny  
Cox, Willie  
Cox, Mrs. Willie  
Craft, Gilmer, Jr.  
Dail, Mrs. Holten  
Dale, J. Wingate  
Dale, Mrs. J. Wingate  
Dale, Michael  
Dale, Stephen  
Dennis, J.D.  
Dennis, Jasper  
Dennis, Mrs. Jasper  
Dunn, Mrs. Charlie  
Dunn, Mrs. Wilbur  
Elks, Mrs. Wesley  
Eure, Mrs. Mae  
Evans, Mrs. Dallas  
Everette, Billy  
Everette, James W.  
Everette, W.T.  
Everette, Mrs. W.T.  
Farrish, Stephen  
Forrest, Mary Grace  
Franklin, Mrs. L.L.  
Franks, Ava  
Franks, Catherine  
Franks, Ray  
Franks, Mrs. Ray  
Gardner, Mrs. Dalton  
Gaylor, Glenn  
Gaylor, Mrs. Glenn  
Gaylor, Mrs. Raymond  
Gipson, Leon  
Gipson, Paul L.  
Gipson, Mrs. Paul L.  
Goff, Rev. John L.  
Goff, Mrs. John L.  
Goff, Robert  
Gooding, Dr. H.W.  
Gooding, Mrs. H.W.  
Gooding, Mara Ruggles  
Gooding, Martha  
Griffin, Mrs. Jesse  
Harrington, Jack  
Harrington, Mrs. Jack  
Harris, Mrs. Martin



# Membership Roll 1961

— Continued —

Harris, Nick	Lester, Mrs. Jimmy
Harris, Mrs. Nick	Little, Garland
Harris, Mrs. Thad B.	Little, Mrs. Garland
Hart, John	Little, Godfrey
Hart, Margaret	Little, Monte
Hart, Mary Alice	Lyon, Mrs. W.L.
Hart, Mrs. Wilbur	Manning, David
Heath, Eddie	Manning, Jimmy
Heath, Sadie Ray	Manning, Willis C.
Heath, William	Manning, Mrs. Willis C.
Hemby, Cecil	Marshburn, T.G.
Hemby, James B.	Marshburn, Mrs. T.G.
Hemby, Mrs. James B.	Moore, Mrs. Bartholomew
Hemby, Miss Lila	Moore, C.G.
Herring, Travis	Moore, Mrs. C.G.
Herring, Mrs. Travis	Moye, Meekin
Hodges, Mrs. J.H.S.	Moye, Mrs. Meekin
Holland, Bob	McCormick, Mrs. Marvin
Holliday, Mrs. Charles	McGlohon, Artie
Howard, Ronald	McGlohon, Billy
Howard, W.S.	McGlohon, David
Howard, Mrs. W.S.	McGlohon, Donald
Huff, J.H.	McGlohon, Mrs. Elmer
Huff, Mrs. J.H.	McGlohon, Wayland
Jackson, Mrs. Tom	McGlohon, Mrs. Wayland
Jenkins, J.R.	McGlohon, Wayland, Jr.
Jenkins, Jimmy E.	McGlohon, Mrs. Max
Jenkins, Mrs. Jimmy E.	McLawhorn, Billy Powell
Jenkins, W.I.	McLawhorn, Elton Z.
Jenkins, Mrs. W.I. (Clara)	McLawhorn, Mrs. Elton Z.
Johnson, Mrs. Allen	McLawhorn, Mrs. Hodges
Johnson, Allen, Jr.	McLawhorn, Mrs. Herman
Johnson, Robert N.	McLawhorn, Howard
Johnson, Robert N., Jr.	McLawhorn, Mrs. James Ray
Karachum, Martha	McLawhorn, Karla June
Keel, Mrs. Laura	McLawhorn, Ola Ray
Kilpatrick, Mrs. F.M.	McLawhorn, Mrs. Ola Rsy
Kittrell, Mrs. L.L.	McLawhorn, P.D.
Kittrell, L.L., Jr.	McLawhorn, Mrs. P.D.
Kittrell, Todd	McLawhorn, Perry
Lander, B.W.	McLawhorn, Richard
Lander, Mrs. B.W.	McLawhorn, Sandra
Lang, Amos	McLawhorn, William Earl
Lang, Mrs. Amos	McLawhorn, Mrs. William E.
Langley, C.G.	McLawhorn, William Lee
Langley, Mrs. C.G.	McLawhorn, Mrs. William Lee
Langley, Charles	Newton, Mrs. Henry Lynn
Langley, Watt	O'Bannon, Suzanne Taylor
Langley, Mrs. Watt	Odham, Rebecca Sue
Langston, James R.	Padley, Edgar
Langston, Mrs. James R.	Padley, Mrs. Joe
Lester, Miss Gayle	Persinger, Ross S.
Lester, Jimmy	Persinger, Mrs. Ross S.

# Membership Roll 1961

— Continued —

Persinger, Jimmy  
Phillips, Mrs. Leslie  
Phillips, Mrs. Mamie  
Phillips, W.B.  
Phillips, Mrs. W.B.  
Quinerly, Mrs. Joe  
Ray, Joe A.  
Ray, Mrs. Joe A.  
Ray, Brenda  
Ray, Julia  
Respass, Kathy  
Respass, Mrs. Joe H.  
Reynolds, Jimmy  
Reynolds, Robert E.  
Reynolds, Mrs. Robert E.  
Reynolds, Robert E., Jr.  
Rowe, Floyd  
Rowe, Mrs. Floyd  
Salmon, Roy W.  
Salmon, Mrs. Roy  
Salsbury, Mrs. W.W.  
Satterthwaite, Mrs. Nina  
Schott, Henry J.  
Schott, Mrs. Henry J.  
Schott, Henry J., Jr.  
Settle, Mrs. E.E.  
Shelton, William P.  
Shelton, Mrs. William P.  
Short, Leslie E.  
Short, Mrs. Leslie E.  
Short, Marion Lee  
Short, Robert  
Skinner, Charles  
Skinner, Frances  
Skinner, Fred  
Skinner, Mrs. Fred  
Skinner, Freddie  
Smith, Bob  
Smith, Mrs. Charlie Gray  
Smith, David  
Smith, Mrs. David  
Smith, David, Jr.  
Smith, Eugene  
Smith, Mrs. Kirby  
Smith, Paul  
Smith, Mrs. Paul  
Smith, Sonny  
Stocks, Grady  
Stocks, J.W.  
Stocks, Leslie A.  
Stocks, Leslie C.  
Stocks, Mrs. Leslie C.  
Stocks, Mamie  
Stocks, Mickey  
Stokes, Billy  
Stokes, Charles  
Stokes, Cherry  
Stokes, Miss Clyde  
Stokes, Corey  
Stokes, Mrs. Corey  
Stokes, Mrs. Mable  
Stroud, Elaine  
Stroud, Elizabeth Ann  
Stroud, O.C., Jr.  
Stroud, Mrs. O.C., Jr.  
Stroud, Richard  
Sudor, Dr. Stephen  
Sudor, Mrs. Stephen (Bert)  
Sumrell, Mrs. B.S.  
Sumrell, Mrs. Heber  
Sumrell, Heber  
Sumrell, Miss Hilda  
Sumrell, Drew  
Sumrell, Kermit Poe  
Sumrell, Mrs. Kermit Poe  
Sumrell, Peggy  
Taylor, Mrs. Dave  
Taylor, J.R.  
Taylor, Mrs. J.R.  
Taylor, James  
Taylor, Mrs. James  
Taylor, Johnny  
Taylor, Michael  
Taylor, P.R.  
Taylor, Mrs. P.R.  
Tingle, Mrs. J.L. (Ruth)  
Tripp, Burt  
Tripp, Charlie, Jr.  
Tripp, Mrs. Charlie, Jr.  
Tripp, Hent  
Tripp, Mrs. Hent  
Tripp, Joe Speight  
Tripp, Joe D.  
Tripp, Mrs. Joe D. (Louise)  
Tripp, Larry  
Tripp, Mrs. Larry (Inez)  
Tripp, Lewis  
Tripp, Mack  
Tripp, Marshall  
Tripp, Mrs. N.C.  
Tripp, Stuart  
Venters, A.T.  
Venters, Leo  
Venters, Mrs. Leo (Rosa)  
Walker, Mrs. Howard J.  
Willoughby, Mrs. L.B.

# Membership Roll 1961

— Continued —

Wood, Douglas  
Wood, Mrs. Douglas  
Wood, Henry  
Wood, Mrs. W.H.  
Worthington, Elaine  
Worthington, James Owen  
Worthington, Mrs. James O.  
Worthington, Laura  
Worthington, Mrs. Lucy  
Worthington, R.H.  
Worthington, Mrs. R.H.  
Worthington, T.G.

# Membership Roll 1972

Allegood, Royce  
 Allegood, Mrs. Royce  
 Allegood, Donns  
 Allen, Dr. Cecil H.  
 Allen, Mrs. Cecil H.  
 Allen, James David  
 Allen, Mrs. J.D.  
 Allen, Jackie Sue  
 Allen, David Kent  
 Allen, Hugh Rountree  
 Allen, Mrs. H.R.  
 Baldree, Lyman Gray  
 Baldree, Mrs. Lyman G.  
 Baldree, Marvin Colin, Sr.  
 Baldree, Mrs. Marvin C.  
 Baldree, Marvin Colin, Jr.  
 Baldree, Mrs. Marvin C. Jr.  
 Baldree, Rebecca  
 Baldree, Lou Anne  
 Basden, Mrs. B.B.  
 Basden, Phil  
 Bateman, Dan  
 Bateman, Robert M.  
 Bateman, Mrs. Robert M.  
 Bateman, W.K.  
 Bateman, Mrs. W.K.  
 Beland, John B.  
 Beland, Mrs. John B.  
 Cannon, Mrs. C.L.  
 Cannon, Clyde  
 Cannon, Mrs. Clyde  
 Cannon, Jessie G.  
 Cannon, Mrs. Jessie G.  
 Cannon, Jessie, Jr.  
 Cavileer, Curtis  
 Cavileer, Mrs. Curtis  
 Cavileer, David Curtis  
 Collins, Mrs. Eleanor R.  
 Collins, Irma Belle  
 Collins, Jackie  
 Conklin, Betty  
 Cooper, Virginia Belle  
 Corbett, Hubert  
 Coward, Mrs. J.H.  
 Coward, Mrs. R.C.  
 Cox, Z. Lee  
 Cox, Mrs. Z.Lee  
 Cox, Pauline  
 Cox, Raymond  
 Cox, Mrs. Raymond  
 Cox, Mr. Willie  
 Cox, Mrs. Willie  
 Cox, Willie, Jr.  
 Creech, Mrs. Kevin  
 Dail, Mrs. Holten

Dail, Mr. J.Lyman  
 Dale, Wingate  
 Dale, Mrs. Wingate  
 Dale, Stephen  
 Dale, Kimberly  
 Davenport, Frank  
 Dennis, Mrs. Claude  
 Dennis, Jasper  
 Dennis, Mrs. Jasper  
 Duemler, Nora Lee  
 Dunn, Mrs. Wilbur  
 Elks, Melvin  
 Elks, Mrs. Melvin  
 Elks, Mrs. Wesley  
 Everette, James W.  
 Everette, William C.  
 Everette, Mrs. W.T.  
 Franks, Mrs. Virginia  
 Gardner, Mrs. Dalton  
 Garris, Mrs. Roy  
 Gaylor, Glenn  
 Gaylor, Mrs. Glenn  
 Gaylor, Gregory L.  
 Gaylor, Catherine L.  
 Gaylor, Mrs. Raymond  
 Gipson, Paul  
 Gipson, Mrs. Paul  
 Gipson, Cathy  
 Gipson, Betty  
 Gipson, Letty  
 Gipson, Leon, Jr.  
 Gipson, Mrs. Leon  
 Gooding, Dr. H.W.  
 Gooding, Mrs. H.W.  
 Griffin, Mrs. C.Y.  
 Harrington, Jack  
 Harrington, Mrs. Jack  
 Harris, Nick  
 Harris, Mrs. Thad  
 Hart, Mrs. Margaret  
 Hart, Mrs. Wilbur  
 Heath, Mrs. Sadie  
 Heath, Mrs. Sue  
 Hemby, Cecil  
 Hemby, Mrs. James B.  
 Heuay, J.W.  
 Heuay, Mrs. J.W.  
 Huff, J.H.  
 Huff, Mrs. J.H. (Faye)  
 Jackson, Mrs. Tom  
 Jenkins, Jimmy  
 Jenkins, Mrs. Jimmy  
 Jenkins, Johnny  
 Jenkins, J.R.  
 Johnson, Mary Alice

Johnson, Robert N.  
 Johnson, Mrs. Robert N.  
 Karachum, Mrs. Martha  
 Karachum, Beth  
 Kilpatrick, Mrs. Irma  
 Kittrell, Mrs. Blanche  
 Kittrell, Todd A.  
 Lang, Amos Raymond  
 Lang, Mrs. Amos Raymond  
 Langley, C.G.  
 Langley, Mrs. C.G.  
 Langley, Danny  
 Langley, Charles Glen, Jr.  
 Langley, Mrs. Charles G.  
 Langley, Elizabeth  
 Little, Garland  
 Little, Mrs. Garland  
 Little, Godfrey  
 Little, Monte  
 Lyon, Pearl  
 Manning, Dave  
 Manning, Mrs. Dave  
 Manning, Ronnie  
 Manning, Willis  
 Manning, Mrs. Willis  
 Marshburn, Mrs. T.G.  
 Mayo, Lizzie Tripp  
 Moore, Emma Dale  
 Moore, Venetia  
 Moye, Mrs. Meekin  
 McCormick, Mrs. Marvin  
 McGlohon, Wayland Duke  
 McGlohon, Mrs. Wayland D.  
 McGlohon, David Edward  
 McGlohon, Mrs. Max  
 McLawhorn, Mrs. B.T.  
 McLawhorn, Billy Powell  
 McLawhorn, Mrs. Billy P.  
 McLawhorn, Mrs. Hodges  
 McLohon, Mrs. Lucy Mae  
 McLawhorn, Mrs. James Ray  
 McLawhorn, Richard  
 McLawhorn, Ola Ray  
 McLawhorn, Mrs. Ola Ray  
 McLawhorn, Ben  
 McLawhorn, P.D.  
 McLawhorn, Mrs. P.D.  
 McLawhorn, Mrs. R.H.  
 McLawhorn, William Earl  
 McLawhorn, Mrs. William E.  
 McLawhorn, Daniel  
 McLawhorn, Teresa  
 McLawhorn, William Lee  
 McLawhorn, Mrs. William L.  
 McLawhorn, Karla J.

# Membership Roll 1972

— Continued —

O'Geary, Mrs. Cliff  
Padley, Mrs. Joe  
Plata, Mrs. Lou  
Persinger, Ross  
Persinger, Mrs. Ross  
Phillips, W. Bennett  
Phillips, Mrs. W. Bennett  
Phillips, Mrs. Leslie  
Ray, J.A.  
Ray, Mrs. J.A. (Marie)  
Rowe, Alton Floyd, Jr.  
Rowe, Mrs. Alton F., Jr.  
Satterthwaite, Mrs. Nina  
Schott, Henry J.  
Schott, Mrs. Henry J.  
Shelton, Margaret  
Shelton, Nancy  
Short, Leslie E.  
Short, Mrs. Leslie  
Short, Robert Leslie  
Skinner, Fred  
Skinner, Mrs. Fred  
Smith, Mrs. Charlie G.  
Smith, Murell  
Smith, Mrs. Kirby  
Smith; David Harold, Jr.  
Smith, Mrs. David H., Jr.  
Smith, Darlene  
Smith, Mrs. David, Sr.  
Smith, Eugene T.  
Smith, Mrs. Grover C.  
Smith, Mrs. Paul  
Smith, William R.  
Smith, Mrs. William R.  
Steen, Mrs. Geraldine G.  
Stocks, Grady  
Stocks, Mamie  
Stocks, J.W.  
Stocks, Leslie  
Stocks, Mrs. Leslie  
Stokes, Mrs. C.M.  
Stokes, Corey  
Stokes, Mrs. Corey  
Stokes, Rhodes Cherry  
Stokes, William C.  
Stokes, Miss Clyde  
Stroud, O.C., Jr.  
Stroud, Mrs. O.C., Jr.  
Sudor, Dr. Stephen  
Sudor, Mrs. Stephen (Bert)  
Sudor, Deborah  
Sudor, Marcy  
Sumrell, Miss Hilda  
Taylor, John R.  
Taylor, Mrs. John R.  
Taylor, Johnny  
Taylor, Mrs. P.R. (Mae)  
Taylor, Mrs. Rebecca W.  
Tingle, Mrs. Ruth Calhoun  
Trader, Rev. James Henry  
Trader, Mrs. James H  
Tripp, Mrs. Carolyn  
Tripp, Robert Lee  
Tripp, W. Burt  
Tripp, Mrs. W. Burt (Pat)  
Tripp, Ann  
Tripp, Joe D.  
Tripp, Mrs. Joe D. (Louise)  
Tripp, Mrs. Hent  
Tripp, Mrs. N.C.  
Tripp, Marshall  
Tripp, William Carl  
Tripp, Mrs. William Carl  
Tripp, Paula  
Tripp, Trudy  
Tripp, Stuart  
Venters, A.T.  
Venters, Mrs. Leo (Rosa)  
Venters, Mrs. S.C.  
Venters, Mrs. Ronald (Sue)  
Wainwright, Greg  
Wainwright, Janet Lynn  
Wainwright, Joyce Carolyn  
Wainwright, Mike  
Wells, Mrs. Donald A.  
Worthington, Mrs. Mildred  
Worthington, James O.  
Worthington, Mrs. James O.  
Worthington, T.G.  
Wood, Carolyn  
Wood, Barry

# Non-Resident Membership Roll 1972

Allegood, Linwood  
Bateman, Bobby  
Baldree, Gene  
Baldree, Mrs. Gene  
Collins, R.L., Jr.  
Collins, Mrs. R.L., Jr.  
Dale, Michael  
Dale, Mrs. Michael  
Dunn, Mrs. Charlie  
Firth, Mrs. Frances  
Franks, Miss Ava  
Funderburke, Pattie Ann  
Gooding, Martha  
Harris, Mrs. Martin  
Hart, John  
Heath, Johnny Edward  
Heath, William Henry  
Hughes, Mrs. Emma  
Landers, B.W.  
Landers, Mrs. B.W. (Edna)  
Langley, Donald Randy  
Lester, Jimmy  
Lester, Mrs. Jimmy  
Lester, Tommy  
Lester, Gaylee  
Lewark, Mrs. Frances S.  
Lipson, Mrs. Elaine Stroud  
Lyon, Edward  
Mewborn, Mrs. Patricia Cox  
Nicholes, J.T.  
Nickols, Mrs. Cecil H.  
Persinger, James Ronald  
Plata, Ralph  
Quinerly, Mrs. Joe (Linda)  
Ridgeway, Mrs. Sue Mac  
Schott, Richard  
Skinner, Charles  
Stocks, Michael Thomas  
Stroud, Richard S.  
Sumrell, Mrs. Heber  
Taylor, James Michael  
Tripp, Mr. Lewis Oscar  
Turner, Mrs. Dorothy A.  
Turner, Mrs. Peggy Ann  
Weaver, Mrs. Freddie S.  
Wood, Henry  
Woodman, Mrs. Elaine W.  
Braxton, Guy H  
Bright, Clyde W.  
Bright, Mrs. Clyde  
Bright, Stephen  
Fowler, Joseph R.  
Fowler, Mrs. Joseph R.  
Fowler, Vickie  
Harris, Mrs. Toni Lynn

# Membership Roll 1986

Alderman, Pat  
Allegood, Addie  
Allegood, Linwood  
Allen, Hugh & Hannah  
Allen, J.D. & Hannah  
Allen, Kent  
Allen, Lula  
Baldree, Lou Anne  
Baldree, Lyman  
Baldree, Marvin & Louise  
Baldree, Marvin, Jr. & Sarah  
Barwick, Vallie  
Basden, Lala  
Basden, Phil  
Bateman, Doris  
Bateman, Robert  
Beland, Johnnie  
Branch, Sue  
Braxton, Tracy  
Brick, John & Joanne  
Brick, Chris & Jodie  
Bright, Peggy  
Bright, Stephen  
Buck, Coy & Brooks  
Buck, Mitchell  
Butt, Marcy Sudor  
Cannon, Eva  
Cannon, Jesse G & Lucille  
Cannon, Jesse G., Jr.  
Cannon, Ruth  
Carraway, Ann & Shanna  
Cavileer, Curt & Justina  
Cavileer, David  
Collins, Eleanor  
Cox, Delano & Nellie  
Cox, Pauline  
Cox, Sallie  
Cox, Willie & Irene  
Cox, Willie, Jr.  
Craft, Edna  
Dail, Hazel  
Daily, James & Jean  
Dale, Alberta  
Dale, Kim  
Dennis, J.D.  
Dennis, Marie  
Dennis, Thelma  
Dunn, Alda  
Elks, Juanita  
Elks, Melvin & Susie  
Everett, Bill & Kay  
Everett, Jessica  
Everett, Maude  
Franks, Virginia  
Garris, Sandra  
Gavalek, Frances  
Gaylor, Glenn & Hannah  
Gaylor, Greg & Jeanne  
Gipson, Letty  
Gipson, Paul & Mary  
Gipson, Paul, Jr.  
Gooding, Wes & Ruggie  
Griffin, Jessie  
Guinn, Teresa  
Haddock, Cindy  
Haddock, Ginger  
Hardee, Ray & Carol Anne  
Hardee, Wesley & Shannon  
Harrington, Jack & Barbara  
Harris, Mary  
Hart, Hugh  
Heath, Sue  
Hemby, Mavis  
Henderson, Lucretia  
Heuay, Wilner & Clara  
Hill, Keith & Mary  
Hufhsm, J.L. & Dorothy  
Humphrey, Marjorie  
Jackson, Kathleen  
Jenkins, Jimmy & Alice  
Jenkins, Johnny  
Johnson, Mary Alice  
Jordan, Jerri  
Kilpatrick, Irma  
King, Jeff  
Kittrell, Blanche  
Kittrell, Todd  
LaMotte, Paul & Donna  
Lang, Nina  
Langley, C.G.  
Langley, Elizabeth  
Law, Deborah Sudor  
Leonard, Jackie  
Little, Fanny  
Little, Linda  
Little, Monte & Debbie  
Loftin, Carolyn  
Manning, Willis & Bobby Lynn  
Mayo, Lizzie Tripp  
McAllister, Jeffrey  
McGlohon, David  
McGlohon, Wayland & Maggie  
McLawhorn, Ben  
McLawhorn, Bill P. & Joyce  
McLawhorn, Billie  
McLawhorn, Daniel  
McLawhorn, Esther Lee  
McLawhorn, Mae  
McLawhorn, Mildred  
McLawhorn, Ola Ray & Lois Clair

# Membership Roll 1986

— Continued —

McLawhorn, Ray & Sharon  
McLawhorn, William E. & Bertha  
McLohon, Lucy Mae  
Mohle, Frances  
Moore, Stella  
Morris, Irma Belle  
Murphrey, Diane  
Oehrli, Rob & B.J.  
Owens, Wes & Natoma  
Paxton, Pat & Betty  
Persinger, Ross & Happy  
Phillips, Kathleen  
Pierce, Frank & Minnie  
Quinerly, Linda  
Respass, Dorothy  
Richardson, Eliza  
Richardson, Robin  
Robinson, Jackie  
Rouse, Art  
Rowe, Floyd & Henrietta  
Rowe, Mary Lee  
Royal, Cathy  
Satterthwaite, Nina  
Shelton, Nancy  
Skinner, Stella W.  
Smiley, Kirk  
Smith, David & Mamie  
Smith, Helen  
Smith, Joe & Sheri  
Smith, Kenneth  
Smith, Clara  
Smith, Lucy  
Smith, Rebecca  
Smith, Tim & Vicki  
Smith, William & Buggy  
Spence, Robert & Sandra  
Steed, Audrey  
Steed, Jamie  
Stocks, Callie & Elsie  
Stocks, Grady  
Stocks, J W. & Joyce  
Stocks, Les & Lib  
Stokes, Billy  
Stokes, Charles  
Stokes, Cherry  
Stokes, Hazel  
Stokes, Mabel  
Stokes, Monica  
Stroud, Clay & Helen  
Sudor, Stephen & Bert  
Sumrell, Hilda  
Sumrell, Neal & Jannette  
Sutton, Pearl

Taylor, Annie  
Taylor, Johnny  
Tripp, Burt & Pat  
Tripp, Tony  
Tripp, Charlie & Elizabeth  
Tripp, Christopher E.  
Tripp, Joe & Louise  
Tripp, Kaye Stuart  
Tripp, Robert Lee  
Tripp, Steve & Susan  
Tripp, Stuart  
Tripp, Susan  
Tyson, Mary Ellen  
Tyson, Trudy  
Venters, A T.  
Venters, Dorothy  
Venters, Ronald & Sue  
Venters, Ron  
Venters, Rosa  
Venters, Todd  
Venters, Wilson & Angelene  
Wainwright, Greg  
Wainwright, Michelle  
Wainwright, Mike  
Wainwright, Wendy  
West, Betty  
Whichard, Marcis & Becky  
Wilson, Mamie  
Wood, Barry  
Wood, Carolyn  
Worthington, Mildred  
Worthington, Owen  
Worthington, Darlene  
Worthington, Thelbert



## Membership added between 1986-1991

Allen, Brandt  
Andrews, Paul & Alta  
Barnes, Russell & Joyce  
Boswell, Steve & Jackie  
Boyd, Mary Ellen  
Brocato, Florence  
Bullman, Natoma  
Carnes, Tom & Kathy  
Dowless, Kaye  
Duncan, Carole  
Fore, Vickie  
Garris, Libby  
Gee, Benjy & Dixie  
Gee, George & Amy  
Hankins, Doug & Mary Edith  
Hastings, Katherine  
Higginbotham, Laurel  
Keene, David & Jackie  
Lassiter, Monica  
Manning, Dale & Betty Jo  
Manning, J. Dale  
McLean, Troy  
McNairy, Sydney & Althea  
Newman, Jim & Phyllis  
Parker, Randell & Sherri Moore  
Pierce, Deborah  
Rhue, Cindy  
Richardson, Roy & Patty  
Robertson, Katherine  
Shue, Mitchell & Kim  
Smith, Mary Barton  
Stocks, Stuart & Brenda  
Tingen, Jody  
Tyndall, Curtis & Lori  
Tyson, Carroll & Linda  
Vaughan, Ben  
Venters, Bobby & Jody  
Venters, Cindy  
Voigt, Sam & Pat  
Wagner, Clay & Jan  
Wainwright, Wendy  
White, Ben & Jean  
Williams, Mark & Patricia

# Membership Roll January 1, 1993

Alderman, Pat  
Allegood, Addie  
Allegood, R. Linwood, Jr.  
Allen, Brandt T.  
Allen, D. Kent  
Allen, Hannah (Mrs. Hugh Allen)  
Allen, Hannah H. (Mrs. J.D. Allen)  
Allen, Hugh  
Allen, J.D.  
Andrews, Alta  
Andrews, Paul  
Arnold, Gary  
Arnold, Mary  
Baldree, Colin S.  
Baldree, Mildred W.  
Baldree, Sarah S.  
Baldree, Marvin C., Jr.  
Baldree, Marvin C., Sr.  
Barnes, Joyce B.  
Barnes, Russell H.  
Barwick, Vallie S.  
Basden, Phil  
Bateman, Doris  
Bateman, Robert  
Bever, Laura  
Bosse, Leslie  
Bosse, Mark  
Boswell, Jackie H.  
Boswell, Paul  
Boswell, Steven H.  
Branch, Sue  
Branch, Susan  
Braxton, Tracy  
Brick, Chris  
Brick, Jennifer  
Brick, JoAnne  
Brick, Jodie  
Brick, John  
Brick, Michael  
Brick, Toni A.  
Bright, Peggy  
Bright, Stephen  
Brocato, Florence  
Buck, Coy  
Buck, Nancy Brooks  
Bulow, Karen  
Butt, Marcy Sudor  
Bullman, Natoma  
Cannon, M. Lucille  
Cannon, Stephen  
Cannon, Jesse G., Jr.  
Cannon, Jesse G., Sr.  
Carnes, Kathryn  
Carnes, Thomas A.  
Carraway, Ann T.  
Carraway, Ed.  
Cavileer, Curtis  
Cavileer, David  
Cavileer, Justina  
Comfort, Lori  
Comfort, Scott  
Cox, Irene  
Cox, Nellie  
Cox, Pauline  
Cox, Willie D., Jr.  
Cox, Willie D., Sr.  
Craft, Edna  
Daily, James M.  
Daily, Jean T.  
Dale, Alberta  
Dale, Kimberly D.  
Dennis, J.D.  
Dennis, Thelma  
Dowless, Kaye T.  
Duncan, Carole S.  
Dunn, Alda D.  
Dunn, Floyd L.  
Dunn, Kempie  
Elks, Danielle  
Elks, Juanita  
Elks, Melvin  
Elks, Susie  
Everett, Jessica  
Everett, Kaye  
Everett, William (Bill)  
Foltz, Jeff  
Foltz, Sheila  
Franks, Virginia  
Garris, Elizabeth (Libby)  
Garris, Jacqueline  
Garris, Jennifer  
Garris, Sandra B.  
Gaskins, Scottie G.  
Gavalek, Frances S.  
Gaylor, Greg  
Gaylor, Hannah B.  
Gaylor, Jeanne O.  
Gaylor, R. Glenn  
Gee, Amy  
Gee, Ann R.  
Gee, Dixie E.  
Gee, George B.  
Gee, H. Benjy  
Gee, Samuel C.  
Gipson, Letty  
Gipson, Mary  
Gipson, Paul L., Jr.  
Gipson, Paul L., Sr.  
Gooding, H.W.  
Guinn, Teresa M.

# Membership Roll January 1, 1993

— Continued —

Haddock, Ginger L.	Loftin, Carolyn
Hall, John	Manning, Betty Jo
Hall, Mitch	Manning, Bobby Lynn
Hall, Norris (Buster)	Manning, Dale
Hall, Sandy	Manning, J. Dale, Jr.
Hankins, Doug	Manning, Willis
Hankins, Mary Edith	Mayo, Lizzie
Hardee, Carol Ann	McGlohon, David E.
Hardee, Shannon	McGlohon, Maggie
Hardee, Wesley Ray	McGlohon, Wayland D.
Hardee, Wiley Ray, Jr.	McLawhorn, Ben
Harrington, Barbars	McLawhorn, Bertha Larue
Hart, Carol	McLawhorn, Bill P.
Hart, Hugh	McLawhorn, Billie W.
Hastings, Katherine	McLawhorn, Daniel
Heuay, Clara	McLawhorn, Esther Lee
Heuay, J.W.	McLawhorn, Joyce B.
Hill, C. Kevin	McLawhorn, Lois Clair
Hill, J. Amanda	McLawhorn, Lou D.
Hill, L. Keith	McLawhorn, Mae B.
Hill, Mary B.	McLawhorn, Mildred
Holster, Courtney	McLawhorn, Ola Ray
Hopkins, Anthony	McLawhorn, Sharon
Hufham, Dorothy	McLawhorn, William Earl
Huggins, Alice S.	McLawhorn, William (Bill)
Huggins, Dale	McLawhorn, William (Ray)
Huggins, Marendra	McLean, Troy
Humphrey, Marjorie	McNairy, Althea
Jenkins, Alice W.	McNairy, Sydney
Jenkins, Jimmy	Mohle, Frances
Jenkins, Johnny	Moore, Sherri
Jordan, Geraldine G.	Moore, Stella
Keene, David M.	Morris, Irma C.
Keene, Jackie S.	Murphrey, Diane R.
King, Jeff	Newman, James
Kittrell, Todd A.	Newman, Phyllis
LaMotte, Donna A.	Nichols, Pat
LaMotte, Paul	Norris, Mary
Lang, Nina	Oehrli, B.J.
Langley, C.G.	Oehrli, Rob
Langley, Elizabeth	Parker, Randall
Lassiter, Monica S.	Paxton, Betty
Laughinghouse, Brenda	Paxton, Pat
Law, Deborah Sudor	Paxton, Peyton
Leonard, Jackie	Persinger, Happy
Letchworth, Lisa G.	Phillips, Kathleen
Letchworth, Mike	Pierce, Deborah P.
Little, Debbie	Pierce, Minnie
Little, Fannye M.	Quinerly, Linda V.
Little, Linda	Ray, Joseph A.
Little, Monte	Ray, Marie
Little, Tracy	Respass, Dorothy
Little, Ty	Rhue, Cindy

# Membership Roll January 1, 1993

— Continued —

Rhue, Greg	Sutton, Louis
Richardson, Eliza J.	Sutton, Pearl
Richardson, Patty P.	Taylor, Johnny
Richardson, Robin L.	Tingen, Jody
Richardson, Royce E.	Tripp, Christopher
Robertson, Katherine	Tripp, Joe D.
Robinson, Jackie	Tripp, Louise T.
Rouse, W. Art	Tripp, Pat B.
Rowe, Henrietta	Tripp, S. Lib
Rowe, Mary Lee	Tripp, Steve
Rowe, A. Floyd, Jr.	Tripp, Susan (Mrs. Steve Tripp)
Shelton, Nancy	Tripp, Stuart
Shue, Kim B.	Tripp, Susan (Daughter Burt-Pat)
Shue, Mitchell W.	Tripp, Tony
Smiley, Kirk A., Jr.	Tripp, William Burt
Smith, A. Jean	Tripp, William Charlie
Smith, David H.	Tyndall, Curtis
Smith, Joseph B.	Tyndall, Lori
Smith, Kenneth	Tyson Carroll
Smith, Lucy	Tyson Linda S.
Smith, Mamie	Tyson, Thomas
Smith, Rebecca	Tyson, Trudy T.
Smith, Sheri K	Vaughan, Ben
Smith, Tammy R.	Venters, A.T.
Smith, Tim	Venters, Cindy
Smith, Vicki E.	Venters, Dorothy
Smith, William (Bill)	Venters, Joanne (Jody)
Spence, Robert	Venters, Robert (Bobby)
Spence, Sandra	Venters, Ronald, Jr.
Stancil, Elizabeth	Venters, Ronald, Sr.
Stancil, Martha B.	Venters, Sue C.
Stancil, Tommy	Venters, Wilson
Stocks, Brenda	Voigt, G. Sam
Stocks, Elsie M.	Wagner, Clay
Stocks, Joyce C.	Wagner, Jan
Stocks, Mary Lib	Wainwright, Greg
Stocks, Stuart	Wainwright, Michelle
Stokes, Charles	Wainwright, Mike
Stokes, Cherry	Wainwright, Wendy
Stokes, Hazel	West, Betty
Stokes, Jo Ann	Whaley, Amie
Stokes, Kathryn W.	Whaley, Brock
Stokes, Mabel	Whaley, Debra
Stokes, William (Billy)	Whaley, Mike
Stroud, Helen	Whaley, Sarah
Stroud, Kathleen	Whichard, Becky B.
Sudor, Bertha (Bert)	Whichard, Marc
Sudor, Stephen	Whichard, Marcus
Sullivan, Dorothy U.	White, Ben
Sumrell, Jannette	White, Jean
Sumrell, Neal	Williams, Mark
Surenkamp, Cathy	Williams, Patricia B.
Sutton, Lou Anne B.	Williams, Karen

# Membership Roll January 1, 1993

— Continued —

Williams, Matt  
Williams, Sue  
Wilson, Allan  
Wilson, Don  
Wilson, Iris  
Wilson, Jane  
Wood, Allen  
Wood, Barry  
Wood, Carolyn  
Wood, Lynn  
Worthington, Darlene S.  
Worthington, Thelbert

# Sunday School Membership Roll 1993

## Crib Class

### *Teachers*

Shannon Hardee  
Amy Gee

### *Members*

Benjamin Tyson  
Joseph Bulow  
Lauren Rhue  
Parker Carnes  
Wesley Foltz  
Victoria Wagner

## Toddlers Class

### *Teacher*

Billie McLawhorn

### *Members*

Lauren Barnes  
Adam Buck  
Katherine Bulow  
China Robinson  
Lindsay Richardson  
Amy Tyson  
Christian Jenkins  
Matthew Tripp  
Tanner Carnes

## Beginners Class

### *Teacher*

Violet Langley

### *Members*

Brian Smith  
Adam Andrews  
Ryan Pieshi  
India Robinson  
Austin Shue  
Cody Gaylor  
Josh Richardson  
Ashley Farmer  
Hunter Carnes

## Primary Class

### *Teachers*

Jackie Robinson  
Cindy Venters  
Kim Shue  
Alta Andrews  
Brooks Buck  
Sandy Spence  
Jackie Boswell  
Cindy Rhue  
Sue Williams  
Jodie Brick

## Primary Class Members

Rob Tripp  
Hunter Buck  
Shannon Smith  
Eric Williams  
Lisa King  
Ginny Tyson  
David Roblnson  
Kacie Newman  
Brandon Manning  
Beverly Hines  
Jennifer Davis

## Middlers Class

### *Teachers*

Joyce Barnes  
Patty Richardson  
JoAnne Brick

### *Members*

Amanda Barnes  
Seth Newman  
Mhtt Boswell  
Ann Gee  
Sarah Whaley  
Ashley Venters  
Melissa Venters  
Casey Smith  
Brandon Gooding  
Denise Bosse  
Marenda Huggins  
Stephanie Williams  
Meghan Stancil  
Amy Williams  
Jim Piseski  
Andrew Shue  
Jamie Robinson  
P.J. Andrews  
Ashley Farmer  
Nicole Smith

## Intermediate Class

### *Teachers*

Vicki Smith  
Karen Bulow

### *Members*

Phillip Bosse  
Sam Gee  
Mandy Hill  
Corine Spence  
Elizabeth Stancil  
Amy Tripp  
Amy Whaley  
Amanda Williams  
Terri Jones  
Kristel Wainwright

# Sunday School Membership Roll 1993

— Continued —

## Junior Class

### *Teachers*

Tammy Smith  
Jean Daily  
Lou Anne Sutton

### *Members*

Michael Brick  
Allen Wood  
Brock Whaley  
Kelly Andrews  
Melissa Stocks  
Candace Britt  
Paul Boswell  
Todd Smith  
Kevin Hill  
Mitch Hall  
Jenny Kemery  
Dail Huggins  
Kristel Wainwright  
Glen Langley  
Brandon Voight  
Chad McLawhorn

## High School Class

### *Teachers*

Greg Lassiter  
Steve Tripp  
Trudy Tyson

### *Members*

Jennifer Brick  
Candace Buck  
Courtney Holster  
Karen Williams  
Chris Kemery  
George Gee  
J.Dale Manning

## Young Adult Class

### *Teacher*

John Brick

### *Members*

JoAnne Brick  
Mary Hill  
Keith Hill  
Joyce Barnes  
Russell Barnes  
Trish Williams  
Mark Williams  
Dixie Gee  
Benjy Gee  
Jeanne Gaylor  
Greg Gaylor  
Susan Tripp  
Steve Tripp  
Jackie Boswell  
Steve Boswell  
Brooks Buck  
Coy Buck  
Leslie Bosse  
Mark Bosse  
Marty Stancil  
Tommy Stancil  
Monica Lassiter  
Greg Lassiter  
Sherry Smith  
Joe Smith  
Diane King  
Jeff King  
Kim Shue  
Mitchell Shue  
Phyllis Newman  
Jim Newman  
Jan Wagner  
Clay Wagner  
Patti Richardson  
Roy Richardson  
Alta Andrews  
Paul Andrews  
Linwood Allegood  
Vickie Smith  
Debra Whaley  
Mike Whaley  
Patty Buck  
Alice Huggins  
Karen Bulow  
Tammy Smith

# Sunday School Membership Roll 1993

— Continued —

## **Ambassador Class**

### *Teacher*

Marvin Baldree, Jr.

### *Members*

Linda Little  
Marie Rsy  
Joe Ray  
Helen Stroud  
Mary E. Hankins  
Doug Hankins  
Joe D. Tripp  
Alberta Dale  
Jane Wilson  
Don Wilson  
Hannah Gaylor  
Charles Stokes  
JoAnn Stokes  
Sarah Baldree  
Gary Arnold  
Mary Arnold  
Bill McLawhorn  
Lou McLawhorn  
Bert Sudor  
Stephen Sudor

## **Loyal Men and Women Class**

### *Teacher*

Dorothy Venters

### *Members*

Louise Tripp  
Addie Allegood  
Mildred McLawhorn  
Florence Bracoto  
Pauline Cox  
William Earl McLawhorn  
Nancy Shelton  
Irma Bell Morris  
Minnie Pierce  
Stuart Tripp  
Vallie Barwick  
Willie Cox  
Irene Cox

## **Sunday School Superintendent**

Marvin Baldree, Jr.

## **Assistant Superintendent**

Stephen Sudor



## 1993 List of Nursery Volunteers

Alta and Paul Andrews  
Jackie and Steve Boswell  
Jeanne and Greg Gaylor  
Diane and Jeff King (No Holidays)  
Patty and Roy Richardson  
Kim and Mitch Shue  
Gina and Tony Tripp  
Sue and Matt Williams  
Debra and Mike Whaley  
B.J. and Rob Oehrli  
Linda Tyson  
Alice Huggins  
Karen Bulow  
Jean Daily  
Cindy Rhue  
Violet Langley  
Billie McLawhorn  
Sherri Smith  
Vicki Smith  
Sandy Spence  
Susan Tripp  
Cindy Venters  
Trudy Tyson  
Miss Susan Tripp  
Jody Venters  
Patty Buck  
Sheila Foltz  
Tammy Smith  
Christine Tripp  
Mary Norris

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Periodicals

*Christian Evangelist*  
*Christian Standard*  
*N.C. Convention Minutes*  
*Scope*  
*The Ayden Christian*  
*The Christian Evangelist*  
*The Disciple*  
*The Pine Knot*  
*The Watch Tower*

### Newspapers

*The Ayden Dispatch*  
*The Eastern Reflector*  
*The News-Leader*  
*The Raleigh News and Observer*

### Catalog

Carolina Christian College

### Ayden Christian Church Minutes

Christian Women's Board of Missions  
Official Church Board  
Loyal Men's Class  
W.H. Brunson Bible Class  
Workers Conference  
C.W.F.  
Sunday Bulletins  
Treasurer Accounting Books

## **Taped Interviews**

Blanche Coward  
James Daily  
Marie Dennis  
Glenn Gaylor  
Jesse Griffin  
Mary Alice Johnson  
Blanche Kittrell  
Eugene Smith  
Bert Sudor  
Stephen Sudor  
Charlie Tripp  
Joe Tripp  
Louise Tripp  
Pat Tripp  
Stuart Tripp  
T.G. Worthington

## **Books**

*A History of Atlantic Christian College* by Charles Crossfield Ware  
*Albemarle Annals* by Charles Crossfield Ware  
*Hookerton History* by Charles Crossfield Ware  
*1942 Year Book, Disciples of Christ*  
*North Carolins Disciples of Christ* by Charles Crossfield Ware  
*Rountree Chronicles* by Charles Crossfield Ware  
*Somewhere A Voice is Calling* by C. Manly Morton

## **Libraries**

Discipliana Library, Atlantic Christian College  
Sheppard Memorial Library, Greenville, N.C.  
Town of Ayden Library, Ayden, N.C.