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Harris, Harlan (1948 – 1953)

Pastors of First Baptist Shelby

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Harlan Harris

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First Baptist Church

BOX 56

OVERTON, TEXAS

1920
Jan. 5, 1952
Year 1952
Young Men's Conf. Pastor's
Pres. N.C. Conference

Nov. 47. airt
May 48. Pastor

% First Baptist Church

Mr. Hubbard Hamrick
Shelby, N. C.



First Baptist Church



T. R. HARRISON, PASTOR

MRS. HATTIE WALKER, CHURCH SECRETARY

BOX 56

Overton, Texas

Greetings, Brother Hamrick,

It is a hot, hot day in Texas. The temperature at this moment is 105 degrees and it has not reached its maximum.

Twice I have gotten together material that I thought might be helpful in the gathering of information about First Church History. Almost everything I know is included in the notes or minutes of the church. However, I want to help in any way possible.

I feel sure the church has the articles published by the Shelby newspapers when I left there. They had a complete run-down upon my life and the activities of the church during my years in wonderful Shelby. The Daily Star had quite a few articles about the work.

Is there something particularly needed? I will be delighted to answer any question I can answer about the years I was there, if I just knew what you want.

I will be happy to have an 8" by 10" picture made, if you desire. I also have the negative of the picture on the enclosed pamphlet, maybe that would be more satisfactory.

In 1948, Dr. Zeno Wall was in a meeting at the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Washington, D.C. He spoke at an early morning Breakfast with the pastors and evangelists present. It was at this breakfast that I met Dr. Wall. I led the music for the occasion. He asked me to call him the next day, which I did. He met Madalene and our little baby girl (Lenee Lee, aged about 4 months). He asked me to visit Shelby. We had our vacation that year (October) in Shelby. I spoke at the College and at the church. A call was later extended to me.

When I first moved to Shelby, I lived in Mrs. Whitaker's apartment. After a couple of months, the church called me as pastor. I was moved to the parsonage. It seemed like I was in a paradise....never did I dream that the Lord would allow me such a place and such a church.

Harlan Jr. was born in the hospital in Charlotte, N.C. in 1950. Now we were beginning to fill up the home provided for us.

Roland came to be with me a short time after I became pastor. He had been with Dr. R.C. Campbell in First Church, Little Rock, Arkansas.

I was 28 years old when I accepted the Shelby Church and left when I was 33 to assume the responsibilities of the Plainview church. Madalene was 22. I guess the main things during my years there were:

Reorganization of the Sunday School.

Building of the Educational Unit behind present Auditorium.

Finding Roland Leath.

Things:

Young Life Meetings in my home every Monday night.

Trips out west.....chartered trips.

Establishment of library.

City meeting with Billy Graham (my personal friend)

Dr. Wall was a blessing and encouragement to my ministry. No preacher ever worked with more devoted people or more understanding people. I shall always feel that God led me to Shelby. I owe my entire ministry to the encouragment and blessings of my years in Shelby.

I have a book with letters written by many of the Shelby folks. I would be glad to send this if it would help. One letter gives much of the activities.

The Shelby High School Annual was dedicated to Madalene and to me. This I believe meant more to me than my doctorate.