

Gardner-Webb University

## Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University

---

Shelby Presbyterian Church

Series 3 - Church Histories

---

9-1958

### A History of Shelby Presbyterian Church

Unknown

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/fay-webb-gardner-shelby-presbyterian-church>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Unknown, "A History of Shelby Presbyterian Church" (1958). *Shelby Presbyterian Church*. 1. <https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/fay-webb-gardner-shelby-presbyterian-church/1>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Series 3 - Church Histories at Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Shelby Presbyterian Church by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@gardner-webb.edu).

# **A History Of The SHELBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Shelby, North Carolina**

**Published  
September, 1958  
In  
Celebration  
Of The  
Centennial Year**

**A Church  
At Work**

**100  
YEARS**

**1858 - 1958**







## Acknowledgments

The following history of the Shelby Presbyterian Church would not have been possible without the assistance of the following persons:

The late Rev. W. R. Minter, an early pastor of the church who compiled its early history; Elder John S. McKnight and the late Miss Margaret Tiddy, who compiled subsequent histories of the church; David E. Gillespie, who condensed and rewrote these histories for the Centennial History; and Elder Henry Lee Weathers, who planned and assembled this booklet.

The church also gratefully acknowledges the work of the Centennial Committee, composed of Henry Lee Weathers, chairman, Paul R. Arrowood, Fred L. Baird, Paul Seal, W. R. Wallace, Jr., Mrs. David P. White, and Miss Frances Lowry.

The Centennial Celebration would not have been possible, either, without the cooperation and work of the pastor, the church staff, the Women of the Church, and the Church Choir.



**Rev. George M. Webb**  
**Present Pastor**

The Rev. Mr. George M. Webb was installed as Pastor of the Shelby Presbyterian Church by commission of Kings Mountain Presbytery, on February 2, 1958. He is originally from Knoxville, Tenn. and was educated at Webb School, Bell Buckle, Tenn. and the University of Tennessee. He also attended Davidson College, Union Theological Seminary and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

His wife is the former Carolyn McSween. They have four children, Daniel, George, Jr., Carol and Anne, the latter born in Shelby.



## Foreword

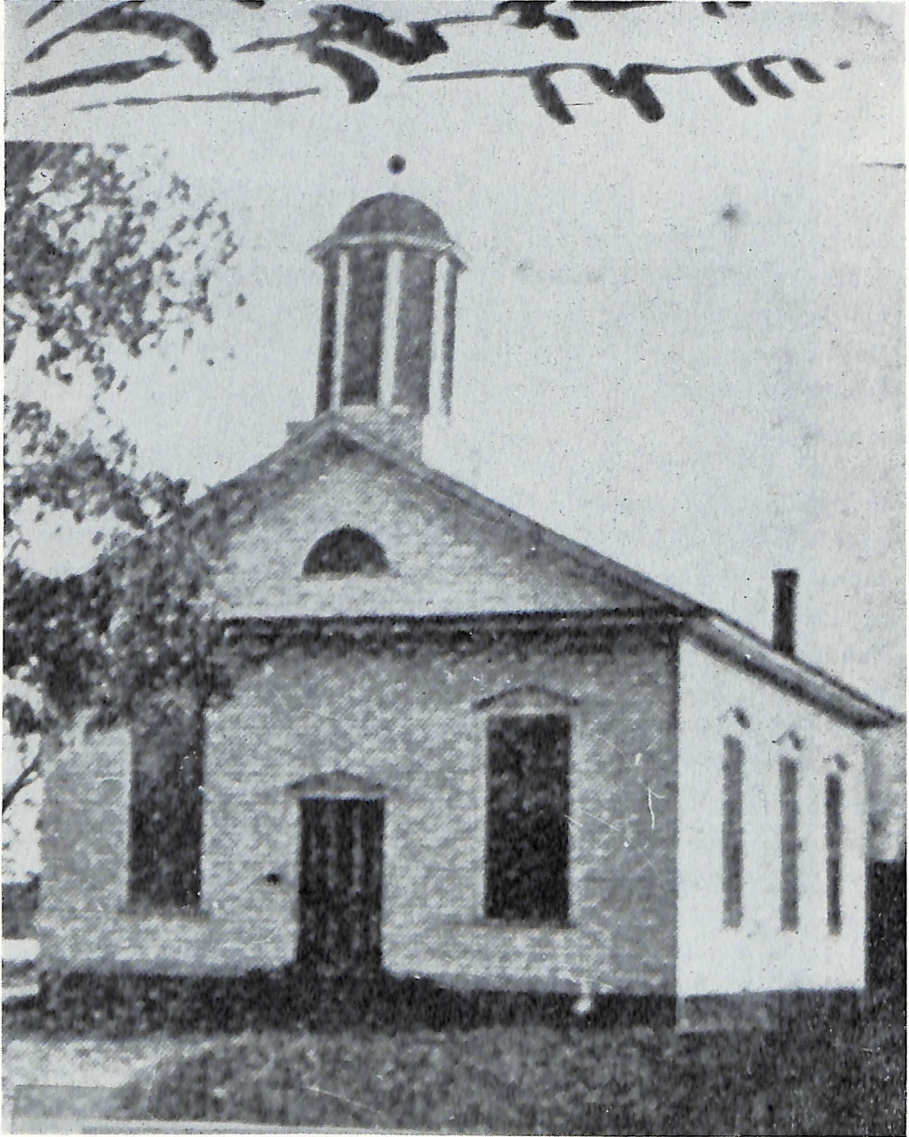
A century in the service of God and man! A landmark to celebrate and remember! It is a time to look back to review the course by which we arrived at this place; a time to take inventory and locate our present position in our pilgrimage to the City of God; a time to pause for a long look ahead, to reconnoiter the future and to see where we are to go.

We can gaze with foresight to the future with confidence in receiving the same Providential care which has marked the past. The evidence of this Providence may be traced, as with hindsight we look back in this history and marvel at the grace of God which nursed this congregation from a small, struggling handful, which lost in strength before it gained, to the present, vigorous, happy congregation which is ready to dedicate, debt free, only four years after completion, a magnificent sanctuary to God as a thank-offering and to declare our readiness to venture out in certainty of even greater things.

As we read these pages let us be conscious of the unseen hand of God working through all these human events to work out His will. Let us commit ourselves anew to "attempt great things for God and expect great things from God."

*George M. Webb*

## THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING



Original Church Built Between 1871-1875

Between 1871 and 1875 the first house of worship for Presbyterians in Shelby was erected at a cost of \$1,800. It was in September, 1875, that the committee reported to Mecklenburg Presbytery that the church building was completed and paid for.



# Chapter 1

## Organization and Early Church

In 1841, when Cleveland County was established, there was one Presbyterian Church within its bounds. That was Shiloh Church at Grover, which was established in 1780.

However, Methodists and Baptists apparently came to Shelby first. A Methodist church was built in 1844 at what is now the corner of East Warren and South DeKalb Streets. The Baptists constructed a church in 1848 on the spot where the First Baptist Church now stands on North LaFayette Street.

As early as 1849 there were a few families of the Presbyterian faith living in Shelby. They heard the Gospel from the lips of a member of their own faith. The Rev. W. T. Savage, a pioneer Presbyterian preacher, offered sermons in the courthouse.

A little later, the Rev. J. R. Baird and the Rev. I. N. Davis of Lincolnton preached occasionally to the Presbyterians. The group was not formally organized.

A historical statement of Kings Mountain Presbytery gave the organization of Shelby Presbyterian Church as 1852, but this was apparently in error.

The Rev. Jesse Rankin, of uncertain tenure as pastor of the flock, reported that he "had organized on 19 September in 1858, the church of Shelby in Cleveland County." He further stated that this church had been taken under the care of presbytery and enrolled.

This is the report taken from the Minutes of Concord Presbytery of the spring meeting in 1859.

At the organization, the Rev. Mr. Rankin was assisted by Dr. Samuel Phars in holding a three-day meeting at Shelby Methodist Church and on Sunday morning observed the Lord's Supper.

Original members of the church were listed as: Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Erwin, Mrs. Ellen Quinn, Mrs. E. B. Jennings, Mrs. W. E. Ryburn, Mrs. Jane Wilson, Mrs. Margaret Dellinger, Mr. Martin Mullen, and Mrs. Margaret Forbis. Mr. Erwin was listed as an elder from 1859 to 1874.

The church, having no building of its own and meeting at



times in the Methodist Church and at other times in the Baptist sanctuary, was supplied by a number of pastors. They included the Rev. A. A. Porter of Bethel Presbytery, the Rev. J. N. Davis of Lincolnton, and the Rev. Nathan Shotwell, pastor of Brittain and Rutherfordton Churches.

The church's second elder was not elected until 10 years after its organization, with J. H. Gouger joining Isaac Erwin in that capacity.

In 1871 Mecklenburg Presbytery held a meeting in Shelby, with the Methodist and Baptist Churches again offering their facilities. At that time a building committee was appointed for Shelby Presbyterian Church. It consisted of the Rev. John Douglas, the Rev. Nathan Shotwell, and Elder William Tiddy, the last-named of Lincolnton. They were asked to confer with members of the Shelby congregation to devise means of building a house of worship.

Mrs. Martha Beattie, a member of Pisgah A.R.P. Church in Gaston County, but later a member of Shelby Church, gave a lot to the Presbyterians which they in turn sold for \$225. This was the beginning of a building fund for the tiny congregation.

The church inherited one of four lots bequeathed to the Town of Shelby for church purposes by Mr. James Love in 1843. A deed, dated Nov. 4, 1872, was given to the Presbyterian Church from Cleveland County Commissioners. That deed gave the church a lot on West Marion Street where the residence of Mrs. W. H. Hudson is located today.

This lot was also sold, with approval of Mr. Love and on condition that the proceeds be used in purchase of a church site. It brought the sum of \$150. Soon another lot was bought from John F. Miller and wife, Sara, the consideration being \$225. It was located at the corner of East Graham and South DeKalb Streets, where the present church stands.

So between the years 1871 and 1875 the first house of worship for Presbyterians in Shelby was erected at a cost of \$1,800. It was in September, 1875, that the committee reported to Mecklenburg Presbytery that the church building was completed and paid for.

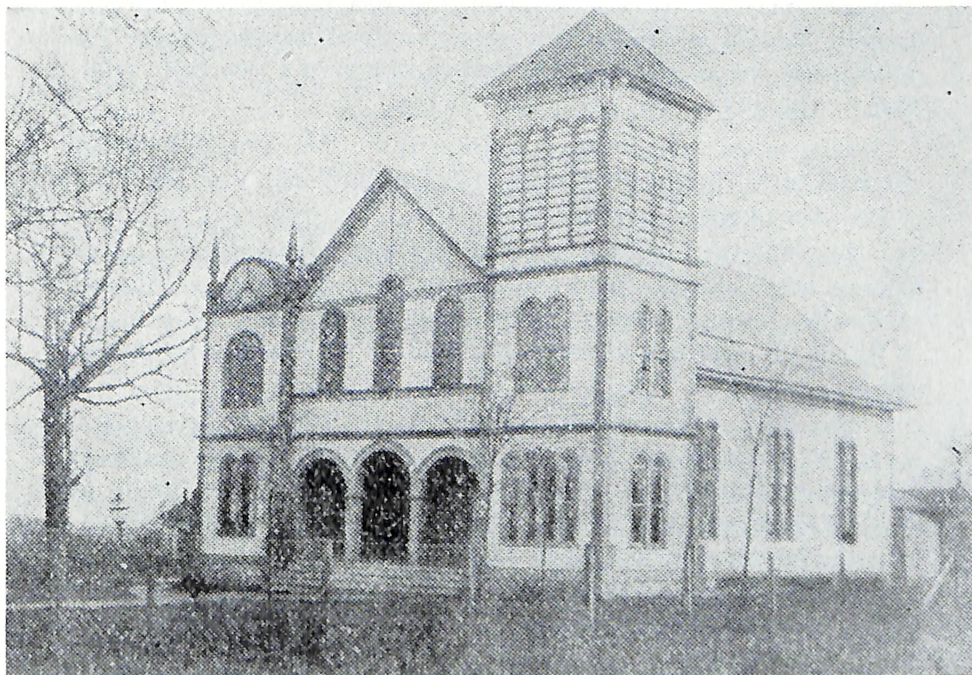
This was followed by a request that the Rev. R. Z. Johnston, pastor of Lincolnton Church, be sent to Shelby to supply the congregation. He was appointed to take charge as evangelist.

The church building was dedicated Oct. 31, 1875, at the 11 o'clock worship service. The dedicatory sermon was preached by the Rev. John Douglas, pastor at Steele Creek.

The Rev. Mr. Johnston served the church one Sunday each month from 1875 until 1883. In a letter dated March 22, 1894, he wrote: "I found only five resident members, all women." By having regular preaching services the congregation increased and officers were elected. The pastor reported a membership of 65 at the close of his ministry.

The original elder, Isaac Erwin, died in 1874. The second elected elder, J. H. Gouger, who also served as a trustee, was no longer a member when the church building was completed.

Shortly thereafter, three elders were elected—J. Pagenstetcher, Henry F. Ramsaur, and J. N. Forney—along with three deacons, R. E. Kerr, B. B. Babbington, and John F. Tiddy. These officers were ordained and installed on June 3, 1877.



Church as enlarged and remodeled in 1893



## Chapter 2

### Missionary Era — 1884-1905

It was on Sunday, June 3, 1883, that the session of Shelby Presbyterian Church learned they were to lose the services of their supply pastor, the Rev. Mr. Johnston, who had been dividing his time between the Lincolnton and Shelby Churches.

The Minute Book No. 2 of the session of the church, covering the years 1884-1900, was destroyed in a fire which razed the Miller Building located on the south side of the square on Warren Street. So during his period dates are approximated.

However, it is known that the Rev. E. P. Davis became the first resident pastor of the church, giving half of his time to the Shelby congregation and the remainder to Kings Mountain, Shiloh, and Duncan's Creek. He arrived on the scene in 1883 after the Rev. Mr. Johnston's resignation.

The church's first manse was purchased shortly after the Davises' arrival. It was a three-acre tract with a five-room cottage located on the northwest portion and was purchased for \$325. A member, Mrs. E. B. Jennings, financed a two-room addition to the house.

This manse was located at the site of the present home of Dr. and Mrs. Hubert Plaster at 525 South Washington St. The rest of the original plot was later sold.

The Rev. Mr. Davis reported that in his first two years as pastor of the church 20 communicants were added and a Ladies Aid Society and a Juvenile Missionary Society were organized. A Sunday School had been in existence for 17 years or so at this time.

The years 1887-1894 were known as the "Missionary Years" as Shelby Church became a Home Missionary Center for the Presbyterians. The Revs. E. E. Erwin, Jesse W. Siler, and William P. McCorkle served the Shelby Church and organized at Waco, Cherryville, Forest City, and Mooresboro. The Rev. T. M. Lowery began his ministry in 1896 and served Shelby Church four years, giving one Sunday each month to mission churches in the presbytery.

He carried on a missionary ministry and during his pastorate a Sunday School was started at the Belmont Mills. About



1898, Mrs. R. L. Ryburn organized a group of young girls under the name of Douglas Missionary Society. The first records were lost in the fire, but in 1902 the session's annual report listed 22 members.

The Rev. W. R. Minter accepted a call to the Shelby Church in 1900. Under his leadership, the church probably had its most fruitful years since its organization.

Shelby Church had been a member of Mecklenburg Presbytery for many years. The presbytery, in its meeting of October, 1902, received overtures from churches west of the Catawba River for a division of the presbytery. This request was referred to the Synod of North Carolina for consideration at its meeting in Winston-Salem on Oct. 24, 1902.

Synod ordered ministers and representatives of all churches in Lincolnton, Gaston, Cleveland, Rutherford, and Polk Counties to meet at Lincolnton Nov. 16, 1902, for the purpose of organization, and specified that the name of the presbytery would be Kings Mountain Presbytery. There were 14 ministers, 31 churches, 2,180 communicants, and 20 candidates for the ministry reported at this meeting.

The Rev. Mr. Minter served the Shelby Church until 1905 and, at the close of his ministry, reported to presbytery that the church had 126 communicants and a Sunday School enrollment of 125.

The session at that time was composed of J. W. Kerr, R. L. Ryburn, A. C. Miller, and J. F. Tiddy, clerk. Deacons were L. A. Gettys, Walter Ramseur, J. M. Black, and B. B. Babbington. So great was the love of the congregation for the Rev. Mr. Minter that on July 30, 1905, the minutes of the session record the following:

"That it is with much reluctance that we give our consent to the severance of the very pleasant relations which have existed between the Rev. W. R. Minter as pastor and people of this congregation" and "that in parting with our beloved pastor, we wish to voice the sentiment of our congregation in saying that we have ever found in him a man of high Christian character."

During the "Missionary Era" of the church, Randolph Shotwell Eskridge, the son of Mrs. Harrison Eskridge, became a candidate for the ministry. He was licensed in 1900 at a meeting of Mecklenburg Presbytery, being the first candidate for the ministry

that Shelby Church had furnished. A year later he became pastor of Swannanoa Presbyterian Church, spending most of his ministry with the mountain folk whom he loved and served so well.

The Shelby Church was one of the principals in establishing in 1901 the Westminster School, working with the pastor of the Old Brittain Church, the Rev. R. C. Morrison, and congregation. The school was located seven miles north of Rutherfordton, in the shadow of Brittain Church, fifth oldest Presbyterian Church in North Carolina.

It was to this Christian school that the Rev. Mr. Minter went as principal when he resigned the Shelby pastorate. The late beloved Miss Margaret Tiddy, who helped assemble this history, was for a number of years a member of the faculty there. The school was operated until about 1918.

It was in September, 1905, that Shelby Church issued a call to the Rev. James Thomas of Wilson to become its new pastor.



Church as remodeled in 1916



## Chapter 3

### New Era of Growth 1905-1952

September, 1905, brought to the pastorate the Rev. James Thomas of Wilson.

Report to presbytery in April, 1910, showed a church membership of 126, Sunday School enrollment of 96.

L. A. Gettys was elected clerk of the session in December, 1911, filling a vacancy caused by the death of John F. Tiddy, who had served as clerk for 23 years.

Lawrence P. Holland was elected treasurer of the Sunday School since the church and Sunday School funds were for the first time to be handled by different treasurers.

After seven years of service and guidance, the Rev. Mr. Thomas resigned Nov. 3, 1912, to accept a call to Clinton (N. C.) Presbyterian Church.

On Dec. 15, 1912, a call was extended to the Rev. T. D. Bateman to become pastor of the church at a salary of \$850 a year for three-fourths of his time, with Shiloh Church of Grover to pay him \$250 for one-fourth of his time.

Report to spring meeting of presbytery that year showed total communicants 136, Sunday School enrollment 106, elders 4, deacons 5, collection for benevolent causes \$1,031 and for the Orphan Home \$99.75.

Kings Mountain Presbytery, realizing the need of a full-time minister as a home missionary, secured the services of the Rev. Thomas H. Watkins. The Rev. Mr. Watkins made Shelby his home, and Mrs. Watkins, Mary, John, and Thomas H. Watkins, Jr., were received into the Shelby Church by letter from Russellville, Ark.

The new pastor of Shelby Church, the Rev. Mr. Bateman, was a native of England. Under his leadership, the church showed much progress. The Batemans bought from the church a vacant lot just south of the manse on South Washington Street about 1915 and built a two-story home. On March 19, 1915, the pastor's salary was raised from \$850 to \$1,000 per year for three-fourths of his time.



On March 31, 1918, after more than five years as pastor, the Rev. Mr. Bateman resigned to accept a charge at Cape Girardeau, Mo.

On Sept. 22, 1918, the pulpit committee reported that the Rev. W. A. Murray of Griffin, Ga., had been recommended as pastor of the Shelby and Grover Churches. He was called at a salary of \$1,350 from Shelby and \$450 from Grover.

The congregation authorized a committee to exchange the manse on the east side of South Washington Street for the I. C. Griffin home across the street at 504 South Washington, paying the Griffins \$2,100 in exchange.

During the seven-year pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Murray, the membership grew from 159 to 165 and contributions to all causes from \$4,760 to \$6,120 annually. The growing need for adequate Sunday School space was so apparent that the session appointed a committee to investigate the situation. It was composed of L. U. Arrowood as chairman, John McKnight, Felix Gee, Mrs. Mary E. Yarbrough, and Miss Maggie Black.

Later, another committee was appointed to consider the possibility and advisability of a new church building. This committee was made up of L. U. Arrowood, John McKnight, and I. C. Griffin.

From the work of these two committees a recommendation was made that there be an addition to the old building to meet the need of Sunday School space. The plan accepted was for a two-story building 40 by 50 feet, brick, and costing \$25,000 without furnishings.

The building was erected in 1924, with the congregation authorizing the building committee to borrow \$10,000 to complete the building and meet the expense of necessary repairs to the church.

The Rev. Mr. Murray resigned the pastorate on April 1, 1925, and on June 28, the congregation issued a call to the Rev. H. N. McDiarmid of Kinston. He accepted the call at a salary of \$2,700 a year. It was the first time the church had a full-time pastor.

The new minister began a progressive program of reorganization. The Sunday School was divided into proper departments, a Young People's Society was formed and the Woman's Auxiliary and Men of the Church established as vital parts of the

work of the church. Boy and Girl Scouts were also given encouragement.

In 1928, statistical report of the church to presbytery was: Elders 11, deacons 10, total communicants 272, Sunday School enrollment 246, benevolent giving \$2,190, and local expenses \$6,418.

On Dec. 14, 1930, the session offered a prayer for the recovery of Elder A. C. Miller, who had also served as a deacon and Sunday School superintendent for many years. He was ill in Shelby Hospital. On Jan. 11, 1931, the session recorded the death of Mr. Miller.

Mr. John S. McKnight was elected clerk of the session on Oct. 15, 1934, after the death of elder and clerk, C. B. Alexander.

Through the pastor's interest in and efforts for home missions in Kings Mountain Presbytery, the Shelby Church continued its efforts in this direction. This resulted in greatly building up the Presbyterian Churches in the area.



Sunday School Building built in 1924



On Sept. 8, 1935, Elder L. U. Arrowood was elected a representative to presbytery, meeting at Long Creek Church, and at this meeting was named Moderator of the Presbytery.

In October, 1935, Mr. R. L. Ryburn, for many years a deacon and elder, died and the session passed a resolution of appreciation for his service to the church. Mrs. Ryburn presented the church a silver urn in memory of her husband. In 1945, through the interest of Mrs. R. T. LeGrand, Sr., a companion piece was given by the Women of the Church in memory of Mrs. Ryburn.

The Minister's Annuity Fund was adopted in 1938 and was placed in the budget. The church in 1939 discussed the rotary plan for election of its deacons and elders, but it was not until Jan. 21, 1940, that this plan was adopted for the deacons.

In 1938, Dr. R. C. Ellis died and in his will left cash, stocks, and notes valued at \$15,000 to Shelby Presbyterian Church with the stipulation that the money be used to erect a Presbyterian Church in Cleveland County as a memorial to his wife, Mrs. Ellen Fitzgerald Ellis.

When a congregational action was called concerning the purchase of an electric organ for the sanctuary, Mrs. E. Y. Webb headed a committee to investigate the possibility. Through their efforts an organ was purchased and installed at a cost of \$1,685. It is the same as was re-installed in 1954 in the new sanctuary.

After a pastorate of 17 years, the Rev. Mr. McDiarmid submitted his resignation on Jan. 12, 1942, effective the following March, in order that he might become superintendent of Home Missions in Albemarle Presbytery.

A pulpit committee on May 24, 1942, recommended the calling of the Rev. Walter Dickson of Anderson, S. C., at a salary of \$2,400 per year, a manse, and 7½ per cent annuity fund. The Rev. Mr. Dickson accepted the subsequent call.

Mr. Dickson came to Shelby from Gatum, Canal Zone, where he had been an evangelist for a year following graduation from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. Before the Dicksons moved into the manse, installation of a new heating plant, interior painting, new drapes and curtains were provided. Extensive renovation of the church sanctuary was also done.

During the Rev. Mr. Dickson's pastorate, the membership increased and benevolent funds and funds for local expenses also increased. The pastor came before the congregation on March



10, 1944, and asked the members to join with him in his request to presbytery that pastoral relations be dissolved in order that he might join the Army as a chaplain. The congregation joined with him in his request, with regret.

A bulletin for Sunday service and announcements was approved and first used in July, 1942. The trustees announced a gift of \$1,000 toward the church building fund given by J. D. Campbell, Sr.

Upon recommendation of a pulpit committee, the church called to the pastorate the Rev. Walter L. Brown of Hopkinsville, Ky., who accepted effective June 1, 1944.

At session meetings of February 6 and February 20, 1944, two important matters affecting the church were acted upon. L. P. Holland and H. S. White were instructed to secure photographs and other information looking toward the erection of a new church. Also, it was decided that the church would secure a Director of Religious Education if funds could be secured to pay the salary.

Statistical report for the year 1945 was as follows: Elders 10, deacons 12, enrollment 368, denominational benevolences \$5,039, and local expenses \$7,076.

In May, 1945, the Hammock lot adjoining the church property was purchased for \$11,700. Miss Thelma Rogers of the Training School in Richmond came to the church in April, 1946, as the first Director of Religious Education.

Later, during the Rev. Mr. Brown's ministry, Mrs. George Carpenter was engaged as choir director, an office and a pastor's study were equipped and Miss Carolyn Quinn was placed in charge of the office. A mid-week prayer service was begun, the young people were reorganized into two groups, and the Men of the Church reactivated.

Mrs. James Wilson continued her faithful service as organist and later became choir director. Serving as directors of the choir in the interim were Misses Williams Merritt and Mary Louise Clement.

The trustees reported to the session on Nov. 30, 1948, that the Ellis Fund left to the church in 1938 had been converted to cash and that it amounted to \$34,000. This was ordered invested in government bonds and building and loan stock.

On Sept. 14, 1948, the session and board of deacons noted the need of a new church building. A committee composed of F. L. Baird, R. T. LeGrand, Jr., David White, Mason Carroll, and Herman Best was named to plan a campaign for funds.

One of the church's outstanding programs during this period was that of supply speakers and leaders for churches which were pastorless. These included Duncan's Creek, Brittain, Ellenboro, and Union Mills. Under leadership of Chairman J. D. Campbell, Jr., men and women of the Shelby Church did this for 25 Sundays and held a total of 32 services.

Statistical report for the year 1950 was as follows: Elders 15, deacons 15, total communicants 410, benevolent funds \$8,533 and local expenses \$12,914.

A congregational election was held by secret ballot on Sunday, Nov. 19, 1950, with the following elected to serve on the permanent Building Committee: Robert C. Barnett, Herman Best, John D. Campbell, Sr., Mason L. Carroll, Brady W. Dickson, John S. McKnight, William F. LeGrand, Mrs. S. F. Parker, Mrs. E. Y. Webb, and David P. White. Mr. Herman Best was elected to serve as chairman.

A Planning Committee for the building fund was chosen from this group in April, 1951, and was composed of Herman Best, chairman; Mrs. E. Y. Webb, vice chairman; William F. LeGrand, secretary-treasurer; Robert Barnett, J. D. Campbell, Sr., Mason Carroll, John S. McKnight, Mrs. S. F. Parker, and David White.

It should be noted that in April, 1949, the Women of the Church had dedicated a portion of their activities to the vision of a new church building. They immediately started a fund for this purpose. Bazaars and dinners were held and circle projects were carried out to raise money for this purpose.

On Oct. 6, 1952, the women voted to assume the obligation of building the steeple of the church at a cost of approximately \$7,000. At that time, they had \$5,166.50 in their fund to be used by the Building Committee when needed.

During the years 1951 and 1952, a campaign was begun to raise \$100,000 to erect a new church building. The campaign was successfully carried out by Ketchum Co. of Pittsburgh, with their representative, A. B. Smith, staying for a period of six



months to direct the campaign. R. T. LeGrand, Jr., was elected to serve as chairman of the Building and Planning Committee for the new edifice.

Plans for the new church plant were prepared by Architect Harold Wagoner. When bids on the plans were taken, Barger Bros. Construction Co. of Mooresville was low with a bid of \$190,000 for the church building and fellowship hall. Chairman LeGrand reported to the congregation that funds available were not sufficient to cover the low bid, and requested that an additional drive for \$35,000 be authorized. This request was approved and the contract was let to the Mooresville company.

When the session met on July 6, 1952, the Rev. Walter Brown announced that he had received a call from Fairland Presbyterian Church of Independence, Mo., and that he desired to accept it.

The Shelby congregation granted, with regret, his request that pastoral relations be dissolved effective Sept. 1, 1952. A pulpit committee was appointed the following week to begin the search for a new pastor.

At the close of 1952, the former church building had been torn down and erection of the new buildings begun. The State Theater was offered by Mr. J. A. Reynolds, operator, as a place for Sunday morning worship services. The first service in the "Theater Church" was held the first Sunday in December, 1952, by Dr. John McSween, father-in-law of our present pastor, the Rev. George Webb.

Sunday School activities were carried on regularly in the annex while the new church building was being constructed. Neither was there a break in regular Sunday morning worship services at the theater, with a pulpit supply committee functioning faithfully.

The session noted the loss of "a true follower of our Saviour and always a wise counselor" in the death on Oct. 30, 1952, of Senior Elder L. U. Arrowood.

Also in 1952, two deacons, Arthur Lindsay and John D. Campbell, Jr., resigned their offices in preparation for studying for the ministry.

## Chapter 4

### The Latter Years—1952-1958

It was in 1952 that a special committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of Presbyterian outpost work in Shelby. This committee was composed of Hugh Arrowood, Fred L. Baird, Robert C. Barnett, Herman Best, and Eugene LeGrand.

Miss Mildred Mallard of Synod's Church Extension Division came to Shelby and for several weeks made a survey of the potentialities. She made a report to the session recommending that the Shelby Church purchase a lot in the southwest part of the city and that a Sunday School be inaugurated there at once.

The report was accepted and Herman Best was appointed chairman, being requested to select assistants to help him set up the program for the outpost Sunday School. This project was under the supervision of Kings Mountain Presbytery which had \$5,200 on hand for extension work. This money had been secured through the efforts of the Rev. P. D. Patrick of Kings Mountain, presbytery's chairman on church extension.

Also, the late Henry W. Belk, long interested in the establishment of more Presbyterian Churches in Cleveland County, had recently been honored by his children with a memorial gift of \$1,800 for this purpose.

A chapel program was begun with Sunday School in March, 1953, in a rented home on Eastview Street. Through the generosity of Elders R. T. LeGrand, Sr., and John S. McKnight, a building lot on Highway 74 at Eastview Street was given as a chapel site.

Meanwhile, under the direction of Elders R. T. LeGrand, Sr., Hugh Arrowood, and W. Worth Morris, the Date Stone was installed in the foundation of the new sanctuary for Shelby Church. It was placed near the main entrance on East Graham Street. Data placed in the metal box was as follows:

1. Photostatic deeds for the church property.
2. List of all officers of the church.
3. List of all members of the church.
4. Copy of the Rev. W. R. Minter's Historical Sketch of 1858-1904.
5. Copy of Sketch of Church 1858-1952 as prepared by Clerk of Session J. S. McKnight from presbytery minutes.



6. Pictures of original church built in 1871-75; church as enlarged and remodeled in 1916; and Sunday School building erected in 1924.
7. Picture of Mrs. Ellen Fitzgerald Ellis.
8. Set of plans for new church.
9. Copy of Kings Mountain Presbytery Minutes for 1952.
10. Historical Statement of Kings Mountain Presbytery.
11. Plate containing picture of church as distributed by Women of Church in 1950.
12. Miniature gavel made from wood peg taken from original church.
13. Report of Building Committee.

On Feb. 1, 1953, at a joint meeting of the elders and deacons, the pulpit committee appeared to ask that, subject to congregational approval, a certain amount of compensation be authorized as salary which could be offered a minister being sought for the Shelby Church. The sum of \$6,000 a year was set.

This pulpit committee was composed of Hugh Arrowood, Mrs. Frederick Strufe, Mrs. Frank Love, Sr., F. L. Baird, Robert C. Barnett, John R. Dover, III, and W. Worth Morris.

In March, 1953, the congregation unanimously voted to extend a pastoral call to Dr. John S. Brown of South Boston, Va. The report and recommendation were made by Elder Worth Morris, chairman of the pulpit committee.

Dr. Brown accepted the call, effective in June.

There was another problem facing the congregation at this time—whether to remodel the present manse or secure a new one. A committee made up of Paul Arrowood, William Claytor, Brady Dickson, and John S. McKnight made a study and came up with the recommendation that a new manse be secured. This report was made in April, 1953.

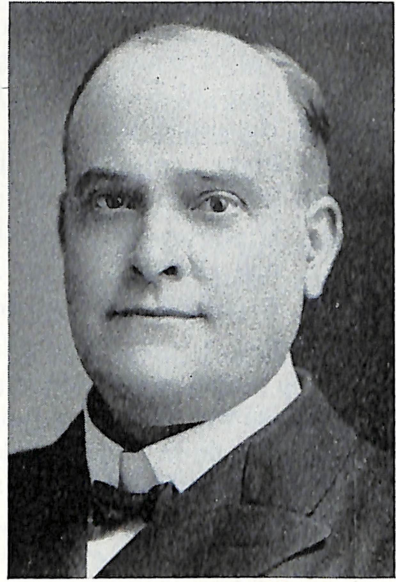
This resulted in an exchange of the old manse at 504 South Washington St. and \$9,500 for the home of Dr. D. M. Morrison at 509 Franklin Ave. The new manse had been built only a short time and had been occupied by the owner only. Some interior decoration was done in preparation for the new pastor and his family in June, 1953.

By request of the session, the Rev. Walter Dickson, pastor of Belmont Presbyterian Church and former pastor of the Shelby Church, was appointed chairman of the commission to install

## FORMER PASTORS



**Rev. R. Z. Johnston**  
1875-1883



**Rev. T. M. Lowry**  
1896-1900



**Rev. W. R. Minter**  
1900-1905



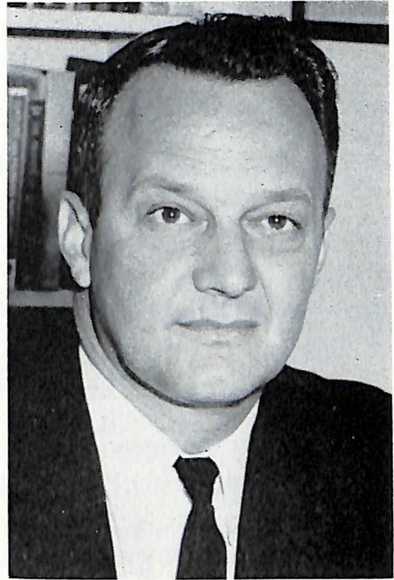
**Rev. T. D. Bateman**  
1912-1918



## FORMER PASTORS



**Rev. H. N. McDiarmid**  
1925-1942



**Rev. J. Walter Dickson, Jr.**  
1942-1944



**Rev. Walter L. Brown**  
1944-1952



**Dr. John S. Brown**  
1953-1957

the new pastor. Dr. Brown preached his first sermon in Shelby on June 7, 1953.

Under his leadership, the church program was greatly broadened with an idea of participation in the work of the church by every member. It was decided to correlate church activities through a planning committee. Also, a Contact Club was formed in the interest of locating, visiting, and receiving new members, and an Ushers Guild was formed.

The Fellowship Hall was completed in December, 1953, and the first service held in it was the Christmas Eve Candle Service. The Fellowship Hall served for Sunday morning services thereafter until April 11, 1954, when the sanctuary was completed.

On Sunday, March 21, 1954, at the 11 o'clock service, the Ellen Fitzgerald Ellis bronze plaque was unveiled in the Fellowship Hall. Relatives of the late beloved faithful member and Sunday School teacher were present for the ceremony.

The plaque bears a picture of Mrs. Ellis and these words: "Ellen Fitzgerald Ellis Memorial Building—the erection of this Fellowship Hall was made through funds left by the late Dr. R. C. Ellis as a memorial to his wife Ellen Fitzgerald Ellis who was a beloved teacher of Young People in this Church for many years."

Shelby Presbyterians' dream of a new church became a reality on April 11, 1954, with dedication of the new sanctuary at the morning worship service. R. T. LeGrand, Jr., chairman of the Building Committee, with words of appreciation for all associated committees, turned over the keys of the sanctuary to Athos Rostan, chairman of the board of deacons, who in acceptance pledged to keep the building beautiful always for the glory of God.

Dr. Brown in his sermon urged the making of a new sanctuary "a house of prayer, a house of thanksgiving, a house of preaching which will always hold up the face and gospel of Jesus Christ."

In the afternoon, open house was held from 3 until 5 o'clock for members of the church and friends, with many visitors from out-of-town attending.

The first Family Night Supper, a popular year-round activity of the church, was held on Sept. 29, 1954. The purpose



was two-fold: to provide for fellowship among members, and an opportunity for organizational meetings after the prayer service.

An air conditioning system was ready for use the first warm Sunday of the summer of 1955. It included the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and church offices. A committee appointed to contract for the work and solicit funds was composed of Mr. John D. Campbell, Sr., John R. Dover, III, Perry Macomson, Lonnie Mitchell, and Mrs. M. M. Stuart, treasurer. Supervising the installation of equipment were Eugene LeGrand, Pegram Holland, and Jack Vincent.

Beginning in 1954, the Women of the Church have been honored at a breakfast on Thanksgiving Day, with the Men of the Church as host. Following the breakfast hour, enjoyed by all members of the church and children who care to attend, a Thanksgiving Worship Service, is conducted.

Spiritual Enrichment Week has also become an annual event in the life of the church, with services held nightly during these weeks. Guest minister in 1954 was Dr. Ben Rose of Bristol, Va. Others include: 1955, Dr. Carl R. Pritchett, Anderson, S. C.; 1956, Dr. Cliff R. Johnson, Alexandria, Va.; 1957, Dr. W. Taliaferro Thompson, moderator of Presbyterian Church, U. S.; and 1958, Dr. Ben R. Lacy, Hampden-Sydney, Va.

The session took note in its minutes of Jan. 5, 1954, of the death of their beloved brother elder, Harry S. Speck, and cited his long and faithful service to the church as an example for others.

The first Communicants Class was held in October, 1954, with Annette Caruso, Bobby Morris, and Jo Ann Raymer meeting with Dr. Brown on Sunday afternoon for six weeks for study and instruction. The three became members of the church at the end of the course.

Miss Anne Hopkins, a native of Rock Hill and resident of York, S. C., holding a master's degree from Assembly's Training School at Richmond, was named Director of Christian Education in June, 1956. Miss Hopkins also assisted in the music program of the church and a full program of choral music was undertaken, including the adult, intermediate, junior, and cherub choirs.

Mr. William Frierson of Decatur, Ga., joined the church staff for the summer of 1956 as an assistant to the pastor.

Upon graduation in June, 1956, from Columbia Theological

Seminary, Mr. John D. Campbell, Jr., accepted a call to the pastorate of Henry Memorial Presbyterian Church in Dublin, Ga. Dr. Brown, accompanied by a group from Shelby Church, went to Dublin for the new minister's ordination, and Dr. Brown preached the sermon.

On June 17, 1956, the church voted 102 to 21 to authorize the Building Committee to engage the firm of Marts and Lundy, New York, to proceed with a building campaign fund which would enable the church to complete the new plant by the addition of a proposed educational building and chapel, this to be done after indebtedness on the sanctuary was eliminated.

Mr. F. C. Freeman of Midland, Mich., came to Shelby in September, 1956, to direct the campaign. After an "information dinner" on Oct. 3, Athos Rostan, chairman of the building committee, R. T. LeGrand, Jr., John Wilson, and Henry Lee Weathers explained the need, the proposed additions, and the working of the fund-raising agency. W. Worth Morris and A. W. Archer spoke in favor of the project and Dr. Brown conducted a question and answer period.

More than 85 per cent of the voting members were present and voted by ballot 143 to 25 in favor of the additional building program. At the morning service on Oct. 14, 1956, Dr. Brown used "Once and For All" as the topic of a convincing message on the need of the additional program.

Meanwhile, work had gone forward in the outpost Sunday School and members of Shelby Church had resolved that a Chapel should be built.

Zoning changes led to the release of the building site on Eastview Street, and a new site on Charles Road was secured. R. T. LeGrand, Jr., was elected chairman of the building committee and members were Mrs. George Farmer, Charles Beam, Sam Payseur, L. P. Holland, and H. H. Weaver. L. P. Holland was selected as architect and Virgil McIntyre as contractor for the Chapel building.

The building was completed and the first service held in it on July 3, 1955. Assuming the summer pastorate was Mr. Don Shriver, a graduate of Davidson College and Union Theological Seminary, Richmond. Open house was held on July 10, and the chapel was named John Knox Presbyterian Chapel. Membership at that time stood at 13.

Dr. Brown had conducted Sunday morning services at the Chapel at 9:30 A. M. since June, 1953, and continued to do so



until a regular pastor was secured in 1957. Mr. Adolph Otersen had served as summer pastor in 1956. Elder Everett Pruden was elected as chairman of the committee sponsoring the Chapel work.

The Rev. Ernest Thompson accepted a call extended him by the John Knox Chapel and also to become associate pastor of Shelby Church upon graduation from Union Seminary in June, 1957. He had served as summer pastor in 1954.

The Chapel paid off its \$1,000 debt on March 24, 1956, paving the way for the establishment of a new Presbyterian church in Shelby. Dr. W. Taliaferro Thompson, moderator of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., filled the pulpit Sunday, Feb. 17, 1957, having come for a week of special services. The mortgage burning was supervised at this service by Mr. R. T. LeGrand, Sr., Mr. J. S. McKnight, and Mr. Ted Kale, the last-named a Knox member who had been ordained a deacon.

The ordination of Mr. Ernest Thompson was held at the Chapel on July 14, 1957, by a commission from Kings Mountain Presbyterian. His father, Dr. Ernest Thompson, Sr., preached the sermon.

Organization of John Knox Presbyterian Church was held Sunday, Oct. 6, 1957, at an evening service. Sixty-two members of the Chapel became members of the new church. A number of members of Shelby Church transferred their memberships to John Knox Church in order to lend their strength to the growing Christian flock.

On Nov. 3, 1957, Dr. John S. Brown asked the session to request presbytery to dissolve pastoral relations with the Shelby Church that he might accept the pastorate of West Raleigh Presbyterian Church as of Dec. 1, 1957. His request was granted with deep and sincere regrets. At a meeting of presbytery on Nov. 19, the relationships as of associate and pastor of the Rev. Ernest Thompson and Dr. Brown were dissolved.

At a congregational meeting on Nov. 10, 1957, the pastor presided as a pulpit committee was selected. The committee included Mrs. Athos Rostan, Miss Frances Lowry, Jack Vincent, Hugh Arrowood, F. L. Baird, Perry Macomson, and William F. LeGrand. Mr. Macomson was chosen chairman of the committee.

Members of the church paid honor to Dr. and Mrs. Brown and their four children at a farewell reception in the Fellowship Hall on Nov. 26, 1957. Approximately 300 persons attended.

The pulpit committee set to work purposefully and was ready with a report and recommendation for the congregation in less than a month. On Dec. 22, 1957, Moderator R. T. LeGrand, Jr., called a congregational meeting for this purpose.

After a very detailed report from Chairman Perry Macomson, the congregation asked the committee to call the Rev. George M. Webb of Montreat, former pastor of Lake Forest Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, Tenn., who had recently completed a year's study at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Mr. Webb accepted the call and preached his first sermon in Shelby on Jan. 5, 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. Webb and their children were welcomed at a reception Thursday evening, Jan. 12, 1958, in the Fellowship Hall.

The new pastor and his family quickly found a warm place for themselves in the Shelby congregation and the church work went forward without missing a stride.

The summer of 1958 saw the death of Elder John D. Campbell, Sr., who had devoted many years to the service of Shelby church.

Under the pastor's guidance, the church completed plans for the celebration of its Centennial Sept. 7-14, 1958, and members were spurred to pay their pledges so that the debt on the sanctuary might be paid off before it arrived. This goal was achieved in early August.

The Centennial program consisted of a talk by Mr. Phillip Howerton of Charlotte, moderator of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., at the morning worship service on Sunday, Sept. 7; a historical sketch of the church in narrative form following the Family Night Supper on Wednesday, Sept. 10; an outline of the future plans of the church in several short talks on Friday, Sept. 12; and on Sunday, Sept. 14, dedication of the sanctuary and burning of the mortgage, with several former pastors participating in the program, followed by a church picnic on the lawn with former members and friends as guests.

This climaxed 100 years of organized Presbyterianism in Shelby and challenged members of Shelby Church to even greater effort in the future.

As the Centennial arrived, Shelby Church had 513 members on roll and the annual church budget totalled \$39,843.





INTERIOR VIEW OF PRESENT SANCTUARY LOOKING TOWARDS THE PULPIT

INTERIOR OF SANCTUARY FROM PULPIT LOOKING TOWARDS THE NARTHEX



## MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Given In Memory Or Honor Of	Memorial Or Gift Given
Arrowood, Mr. L. U.	Candlesticks
Andrews, Dr. William Perry	Two pews
Armstrong, Mr. S. C.	Hymnals
Albergotti, Capt. William M.	Hymnals
Albert, Mrs. Henrietta F.	Folding Chairs
Andrews, Mr. Robert	Folding Chairs
Barbee, Mr. Frederick George	Collection Plates
Brison, Mrs. R. Hope	Hymnals
Brown, Rev. and Mrs. Walter L.	The Pulpit
	Two pews
Blanton, Mrs. J. B.	Transept window
Baird, Mr. Dale	Folding table
Blackwell, Mr. H. F.	Hymnals
Bond, Mr. Harvey	Hymnals
Creech, Mr. Robert L.	Hymnals
Crawley, Mr. Harvey E.	Hymnals
Caton, Mr. J. S.	Hymnals
Campbell, Mr. John D., Sr.	Hymnals
Caton, Mrs. I. Knox	Bulletin Board (Narthex)
Dellinger, Mr. Everett, Jr.	Pew frontal
	A pew
Dickson, Mr. Ernest H.	A pew
Dickson, Mrs. Charlotte L.	A pew
Dellinger, Mr. Everett, Sr.	Folding Chairs
Edwards, Dr. and Mrs. A. C.	Sanctuary Cross
Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. C. H.	Chancel pew
Gardner, Mrs. Jean Bost	Dossal curtain
Guffey, Mr. and Mrs. I. P.	A pew



# MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Given In Memory Or Honor Of	Memorial Or Gift Given
Hudson, Dr. William	Hymnals
Hardeman, Mr. W. H.	Communion linen
Hull, Mr. L. M.	Hymnals
Holland, Mr. L. P.	Tester over pulpit
Jones, Mrs. Christian Amanda	A pew
Jones, Mrs .Claude, Sr.	Hymnals, Folding chairs
Jones, Mr. Foster	Folding chairs
Kendall, Mrs. H. E.	A Sanctuary Window Folding Chairs
Lowery, Rev. Thomas McCall	The lectern
Lineberger, Mr. J. D., Sr.	A pew
Luvisa, Mrs. Amelia	A pew
LeGrand, Mr. and Mrs. R. T., Sr.	Registry desk and Memorial plaque
LeGrand, Mrs. R. T., Sr.	Church parlor furnishings
Leaver, Mr. C. L.	Hymnals
McDiarmid, Rev. and Mrs. H. N.	Receiving basin, a pew Collection plates
McDiarmid, Wilson Hines	Collection plates, a pew
Miller, Mr. and Mrs. A. C.	Collection plate and receiving basin
McSwain, Mr. and Mrs. D. F.	Two pews
McSwain, Judge Peyton	Hall Clock, Hymnals East planting area
Moore, Mr. J. B.	A pew
Morton, Mrs. W. E.	Hymnals
Moore, Mr. Larry	Unassigned
Morrison, Mr .and Mrs. M. M.	Chancel pew
McBrayer, Mrs. W. G.	Kings James Bibles
McBrayer, Mr. Lander	Hymnals

# MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Given In Memory Or Honor Of	Memorial Or Gift Given
Mitchell, Mrs. W. F.	— East planting area
O'Shields, Pete	Kings James Bibles
Payseur, Mr. and Mrs. M. S.	A pew
Pruden, Mr. Charles	A pew
Pruden, Mrs. Delia C.	A pew
Pegram, Mr. P. F.	Planting area (front)
Pender, Mrs. John Robert	Lectern and pulpit Paraments
Phipps, Rev. Charles H.	Chancel spotlight
Pressly, Dr. J. H.	Kings James Bibles
Pressly, Dr. James	Hymnals
Pearson, Mr. R. R.	Hymnals
Query, Mrs. R. H.	Folding table
Roberts, Capt. and Mrs. J. Frank	Hymnals
Ropp, Mr. F. B., Sr.	A pew
Ropp, Capt. George	A pew
Roberts, Mrs. Jessie Cabaniss	Two chancel pews
Ramseur, Mrs. Jessie Eskridge	Communion service
Ryburn, Mr. and Mrs. R. L.	A pew
Raymer, Mrs. Virginia Ashburn	East planting area
Riley, Miss Wynona	Hymnals
Riley, Mr. Sam C.	Hymnals
Speck, Mr. Harry, Sr.	Kings James Bibles
Speck, Mr. Harry, Jr.	Hymnals
Stevens, Mrs. Mildred	Hymnals
Stamey, Mr. T. C.	Kings James Bibles
Smith, Mrs. Giles	Folding chairs



## MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Given In Memory Or Honor Of	Memorial Or Gift Given
Tiddy, Miss Margaret	Unassigned
Tiddy, Mr. Mial W.	Candlelighters, pew guards
Tiddy, Mr. and Mrs. John F., Sr.	Candlelighters, pew guards
Tiddy, Miss Nancy Jane	Kings James Bibles
Tiddy, Mr. and Mrs. J. F.	East planting area
Tiddy, Mr. James R.	Bulletin Board
Weathers, Mrs. Williewee Wiseman	Lord's table
Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. D. O.	A pew
Wood, Mr. J. Draper	Casket Pall
Weaver, Mr., H. H.	West planting area
Webb, Judge E. Y.	Library books
Weathers, Mr. Lee B.	Church Record Book
Wharton, Mrs. W. G.	Hymnals

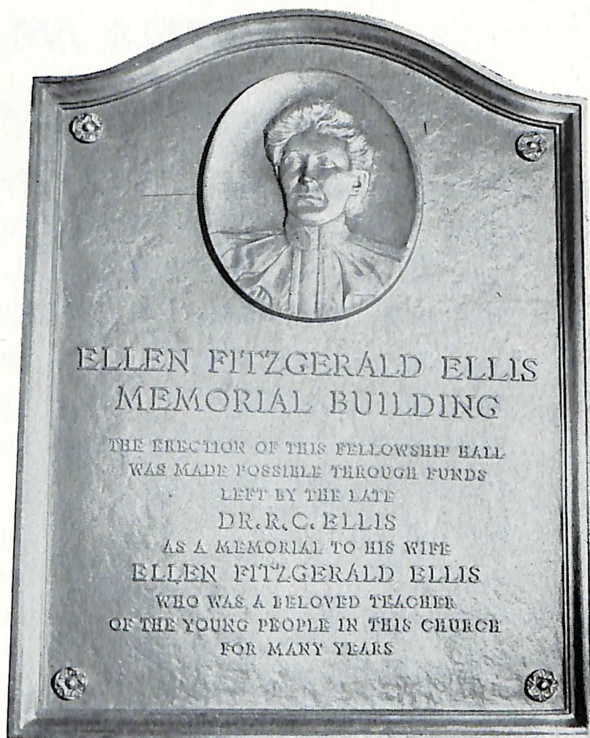
**Church Steeple**—Given by Women of the Church who in April, 1949 prayerfully dedicated themselves to the vision of a new church.

**Air Condition** — Given in 1956 through special gifts to this fund by members and friends of the church.

Other special gifts given to the church, but not as a memorial or in honor of anyone, were given during the construction or completion of the new church and included: the carpet for the sanctuary, concrete walk from fellowship hall to front of church, a study Bible for fellowship hall, electric lantern for sign in front of church, seed and fertilizer for lawn, concrete walk from front of church to street, hymnals, front planting area, desk for pastors' study, a book for memorial listing, and a pew.

\* All memorials and gifts are listed in the "Book of Remembrance" kept by the church since 1950, in which the dates and donors are listed as a permanent record and can be seen at any time.

In 1938 Dr. R. C. Ellis died and left in his will a trust valued at \$15,000 for the erection of a Presbyterian building in Cleveland County as a memorial to his wife, Mrs. Ellen Fitzgerald Ellis. In 1954 the trustees dissolved the trust, valued at approximately \$34,000 at that time, and it was used to build the present Fellowship Hall which is known as the "Ellen Fitzgerald Ellis Memorial Building." Mrs. Ellis was a beloved teacher of young people in this church for many years.



Miss Cockrell

Miss Susan Cockrell, missionary to Brazil, is supported in part by the Shelby church. She is head mistress of a boarding school at Campo Belo, Minas, Brazil. She has visited the Shelby church three times, 1925, 1951, and 1957.



## PRESBYTERIANS IN CLEVELAND COUNTY

Presbyterians have a solid historical heritage in Cleveland County. Indeed, Colonel Benjamin Cleveland for whom the county is named, and Colonel Isaac Shelby for whom the city of Shelby is named were both Elders in the Presbyterian Churches of their native states.

And in point of age it is quite likely that Presbyterians formed the first evangelical congregational church in Cleveland County. Shiloh Presbyterian Church in Grover bears that honor. Even before the battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780, the Shiloh Church was in existence.

Dr. George Howe has recorded, "There was a small church, originally called Calvary and subsequently named Shiloh, on the edge of the Bethel congregation with its house of worship within the North Carolina line."

The Bethel church referred to here was organized in South Carolina around 1770. It is quite possible that Shiloh at Grover was organized even prior to that date.

At any rate, Presbyterians in Cleveland County watched the bloody birth of a nation as the United States was created. At Shiloh, since Revolutionary War days, 32 ministers have served the congregation. The present minister, the Rev. Trent Howell, serves the historic church in its fourth building.

Presbyterians worshiped in Shelby, too. A group of the faithful, mostly women, worshiped in an old academy building and in the courthouse until the present church was established September 19, 1858. It's the second oldest Presbyterian Church in the county.

Kings Mountain Presbyterians were organized into a church April 5, 1884.

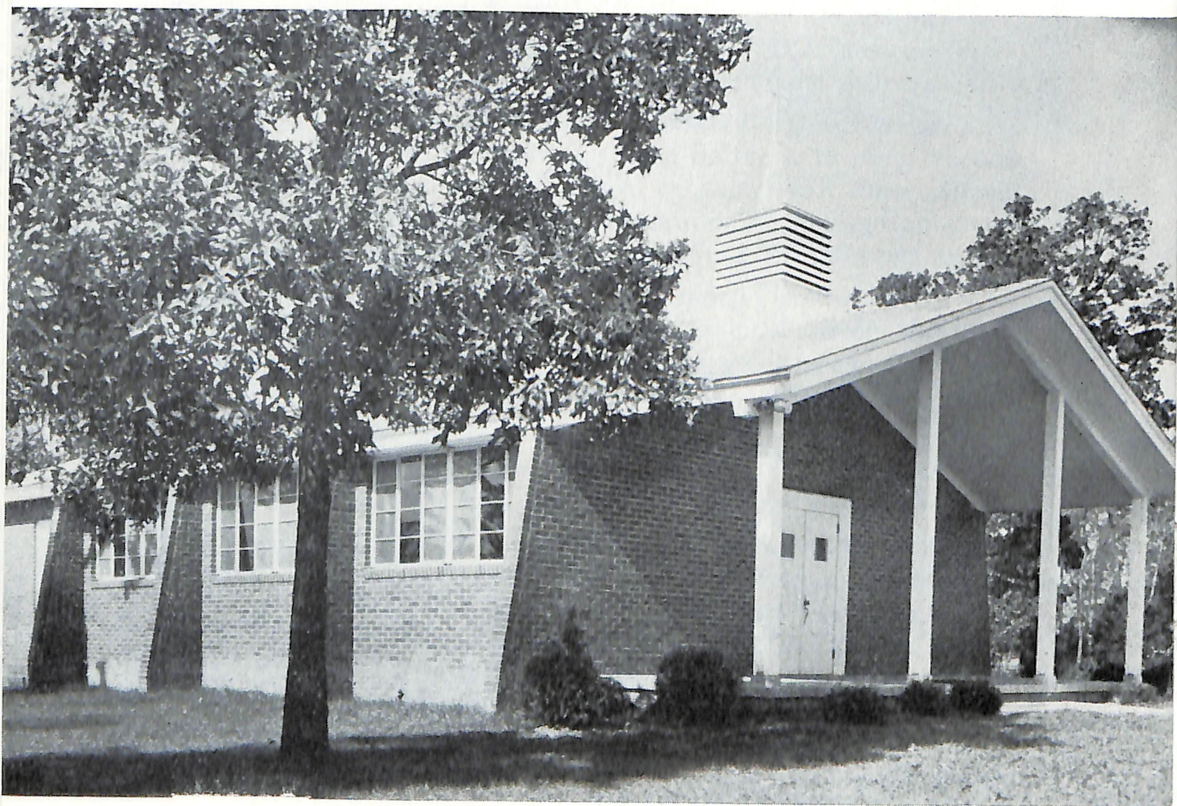
The congregation has had three church buildings. The present structure was dedicated December 5, 1937 and has been hailed as one of the most adequate and beautiful church plants in the county. Fifteen ministers have served the Kings Mountain church. They are listed as the Revs. E. P. Davis, E. E. Ervin, E. A. Sample, J. K. Hall, R. J. McIlwaine, J. R. Milliard, J. M. Forbis, S. S. Oliver, R. A. Miller, C. L. Bragaw, J. E. Berryhill, F. J. Hay, R. C. Wilson, I. S. McElroy, and the present minister, the Rev. P. D. Patrick.

The newest congregation of Presbyterians in Cleveland County is truly an infant. John Knox Presbyterian Church in Shelby was organized as a chapel of the Shelby Presbyterian Church and was founded as a church in 1957.

Minister at John Knox is the Rev. Ernest Trice Thompson, Jr., and many members are formerly of the Shelby church.

Thus, as the Rev. H. N. McDiarmid wrote in a 1940 newspaper article, "Presbyterian Churches have good reason and inspiration for existing in Cleveland County. But it is to the discredit of the denomination that more pioneer effort was not made in the early days."

No better monument to a church on its centennial can be erected than the living spirit of a new church, pointing to the continued glory of the Lord.



John Knox Church - Shelby, N. C.



## History of John Knox Church

We witnessed God bring a dream into a reality when on October 6, 1957, the Knox Chapel was organized as the John Knox Presbyterian Church. Today in this church we have a visible evidence of our Faith and of our devotion to God. It has come as a result of hard work and real prayer.

The Rev. Walter Brown envisioned such a chapel, and several elders and members worked hard to get the chapel organized and established.

The chapel was then started as a work of Presbytery's Church Extension Committee in conjunction with our church and the other two churches of Cleveland County in 1953.

A house was rented and services held. The Rev. Park Moore of Grover served as preacher. Then Dr. John Brown came as pastor of our church and thus became involved in the work of the chapel.

In 1955, the services of the Rev. Don Shriver were secured for the summer, and an \$8,000 building was erected. At this time membership totaled nine.

Mr. Adolph Otersen, a student at seminary, came and worked during the summer of 1956.

By the summer of 1957, after four years of effort, chapel membership stood at thirty four. At this point the Rev. Ernest Thompson was called as our Associate Minister with view to his working with Dr. Brown to organize the chapel into a new Presbyterian church.

At the September meeting of Presbytery, sixty three persons petitioned Presbytery that they be officially organized as a church. Presbytery sent a commission which organized the church. The new congregation elected three elders and four deacons, and called Mr. Thompson to come as their minister. Presbytery ordained and installed these elders and Mr. Thompson on November 2, 1957.

At present, membership stands at ninety two. Twenty three of these members are former members of our church who have gone to share and serve first hand in this venture.

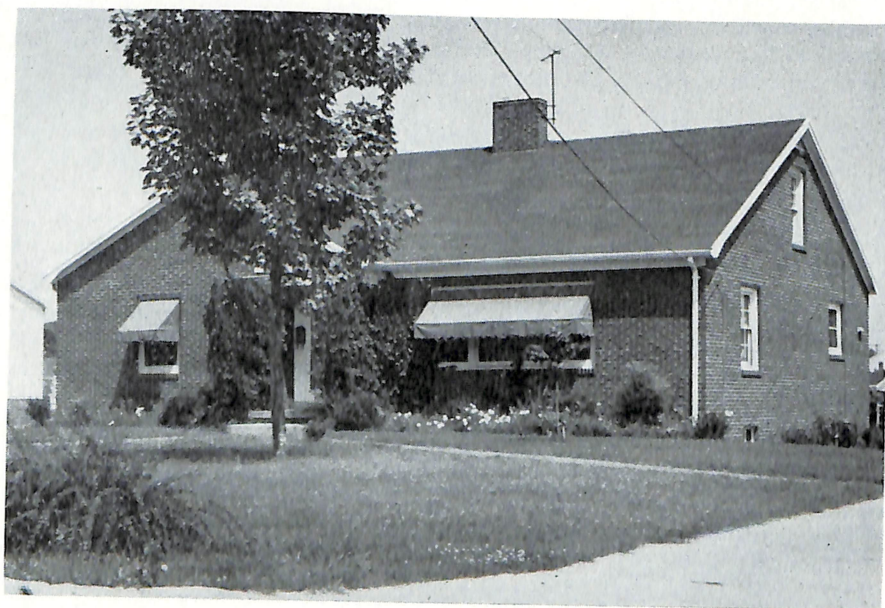
Not only have we contributed members, but we have contributed financially to the pastor's salary and to the building fund which helped enable the church to erect a \$20,000 addition that was completed in August of this year.

**Rev. Ernest T. Thompson, Jr.**  
**First and Present**  
**Pastor**





Manse on S. Washington Street that was purchased in 1918 and used until 1953.



Present Manse on Franklin Ave. which was purchased in 1953.



# PASTORS

## Shelby Presbyterian Church

	Yrs. Served	Approx. No. Yrs.
1. Jesse Rankin	1858- ?	
2. A. A. Porter, D.D.	1864- ?	
3. Nathan Shotwell	1866-1871	5
4. J. W. Query	1874-1875	1
5. R. Z. Johnston	1875-1883	8
6. E. P. Davis	1883-1887	4
7. E. E. Ervin	1888-1889	1
8. Jesse W. Siler	1890-1891	1
9. W. P. McCorkle	1891-1894	3
10. T. M. Lowry, D.D.	1896-1900	4
11. W. R. Minter	1900-1905	5
12. James Thomas	1905-1912	7
13. T. D. Bateman	1912-1918	6
14. W. A. Murry	1918-1925	7
15. H. N. McDiarmid	1925-1942	17
16. J. Walter Dickson, Jr.	1942-1944	2
17. Walter L. Brown	1944-1952	8
18. Dr. John S. Brown	1953-1958	5
19. George M. Webb	1958-	5

## ELDERS

Isaac Ervin	1859	Felix O. Gee, Sr.	1932
J. H. Gouger	1868	Harvey S. White	1939
Henry F. Ramseur	1877	Fred L. Baird	1939
J. N. Forney	1877	W. H. Hardman	1939
J. Pagenstecher	1877	R. T. LeGrand, Sr.	1941
J. F. Kerr	1884	Dr. T. B. Mitchell	1941
J. F. Tiddy	1884	Harry S. Speck, Sr.	1943
R. L. Ryburn	1890	Lonnie Mitchell	1943
F. H. Curtis	1894	Robert Barnett	1948
T. J. Kerns	1887	David P. White	1948
J. M. Black	1893	Mason Carroll	1949
A. C. Miller, Sr.	1900	Hugh M. Arrowood	1949
Lee Kerr	1903	W. Worth Morris	1949
L. A. Gettys	1907	John W. Cannon	1949
L. U. Arrowood	1910	Everett Pruden	1954
W. A. McCord	1922	W. L. Alexander	1954
I. C. Griffin	1922	R. T. LeGrand, Jr.	1954
L. P. Holland, Sr.	1922	Athos Rostan	1954
H. M. Loy	1922	<b>Rotary System Installed</b>	1955
J. B. Jones	1925	B. A. Lefler	1955
G. W. Neely	1925	John R. Dover, III	1955
C. B. Alexander	1928	Dr. C. M. McMurry	1955
M. H. Randolph	1928	Henry Lee Weathers	1955
		Perry T. Macomson	1955
John S. McKnight	1932	Ernest Harrell	1957

### NOTE—

DATES OPPOSITE ELDERS AND DEACONS ARE  
WHEN FIRST ORDAINED AND INSTALLED.  
MANY DEACONS SERVED SEVERAL TERMS AT  
LATER DATES.



## DEACONS

J. F. Tiddy	1877	Athos Rostan	1947
R. E. Kerr	1877	J. S. Mitchem	1948
B. B. Babington	1877	J. L. Raymer	1948
Lee Kerr	1884	H. F. Blackwell	1948
J. M. Black	1884	William Merritt	1948
A. C. Miller	1892	Henry Lee Weathers	1948
D. F. McSwain	1893	W. Worth Morris	1948
Walter Ramseur	1900	R. T. LeGrand, Jr.	1948
L. A. Gettys	1900	W. L. Alexander	1950
Dr. W. F. Mitchell	1907	Robt. M. Maxwell	1950
Harris Ramseur	1907	John H. McBrayer	1950
L. M. Hull	1907	Hugh Pegram	1950
B. A. Lefler	1925	John D. Campbell, Jr.	1952
James R. Tiddy	1925	James B. Taylor	1952
W. M. McGregor	1925	Perry Macomson	1952
C. B. McBrayer	1925	Fred W. Alexander	1952
William McCord	1928	Pegram Holland	1952
Henry Mills	1928	John R. Dover, III	1952
W. J. Irvin	1928	Arthur Lindsey	1952
Harvey S. White	1932	W. B. Claytor	1952
R. W. Shoffner	1932	Everett Pruden	1953
Hugh M. Arrowood	1932	B. P. Sherer	1953
Brady W. Dickson	1932	Frederick Strufe	1954
E. J. Cooper	1932	Carlton Caruso	1954
J. A. White	1932	John McBrayer	1954
M. M. Stuart	1935	John Wilson	1954
Claude A. Jones	1935	Herbert C. Combs	1954
Lonnie Mitchell	1935	Robt. N. Elliott	1955
Peyton McSwain	1939	Dr. C. M. McMurray	1955
<b>Rotary System Installed</b>	<b>1940</b>	Robt. Van Sleen	1955
Dr. T. B. Mitchell	1940	James Corbett	1955
H. H. Weaver	1940	F. W. Collins	1955
R. T. LeGrand, Sr.	1940	William Campbell	1955
T. D. Rose	1940	Snow Reid	1955
J. D. Campbell, Sr.	1940	James E. Tiddy	1955
Paul Whisnant	1940	Don Carpenter	1955
David White	1941	Mason L. Carroll	1956
Paul Reid Arrowood	1941	A. W. Archer	1956
Herman Best	1941	I. Knox Caton	1956
W. J. Johnson	1941	Henry L. Fogle	1956
Whitelaw Kendall	1942	William L. Green, Jr.	1956
Ernest Moore	1942	Virgil D. McIntyre	1956
J. P. Henderson	1942	William A. Lattimore	1957
Joe Piner	1945	W. R. Wallace, Jr.	1957
Frank Crawford	1945	Malcolm Brown	1958
William LeGrand	1947	L. P. Holland, Jr.	1958
Riley McCord	1947	Boyce M. Morrison	1958
S. F. Parker	1947	Lloyd C. Williams	1958

## Statistical Growth of Church

Year	Number Members	Benevolents Paid	Pastor's Salary	Local Expenses	Total Paid
1859	8	-----	-----	-----	-----
1880	37	\$ 20	\$ 145	\$ 75	\$ 240
1904	122	900	600	680	2,180
1912	136	1,031	850	400	2,281
1925	186	2,728	1,350	2,560	6,638
1935	309	1,928	2,400	1,938	6,266
1940	358	2,863	2,100	2,046	7,009
1945	363	5,039	2,600	4,476	12,115
1950	410	8,333	3,300	9,614	21,247
1955	484	10,797	5,600	20,936	37,333
1957	476	10,246	\$ 6,000	\$21,149	\$37,395

### CHURCH PROPERTY

Date	Desc.	Cost
1875	Built first church building	\$ 1,800
1885	Manse bought—East Side S. Washington Street	\$ 325
1918	Manse exchanged—West Side S. Washington Street	\$ 2,100 difference in exchange
1924	Brick Sunday School building	\$ 25,000
1945	Lot adjoining church bought	\$ 11,700
1953	Manse exchanged— S. Washington Street to Franklin Ave.	\$ 9,500 difference in exchange
1954	Built sanctuary and Fellowship Hall	\$190,000 Paid in full Aug. 1958

OPPOSITE PAGE  
 OFFICERS & CHURCH ORGANIZATION  
 FOR 1958 AS THEY APPEAR ON THE  
 REGULAR CHURCH BULLETINS.



## THE SESSION

GEORGE M. WEBB, MODERATOR

JOHN S. MCKNIGHT, CLERK

### CLASS OF 1958

FRED L. BAIRD  
LONNIE MITCHELL  
W. WORTH MORRIS

### CLASS OF 1960

ROBERT C. BARNETT  
B. A. LEFLER  
R. T. LEGRAND, JR.  
EVERETT V. PRUDEN  
DAVID P. WHITE

### CLASS OF 1962

G. ERNEST HARRELL  
DR. C. M. MCMURRAY  
PERRY T. MACOMSON  
HENRY LEE WEATHERS

### LIFETIME

R. T. LEGRAND, SR.  
JOHN S. MCKNIGHT

## THE DIACONATE

TERM EXPIRES 1958

A. W. ARCHER, CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM E. CAMPBELL  
WILLIAM F. LEGRAND  
SNOW S. REID  
JAMES E. TIDY

TERM EXPIRES 1959

FRED W. ALEXANDER  
FRANK M. CRAWFORD  
WILLIAM A. LATTIMORE  
VIRGIL D. MCINTYRE  
W. R. WALLACE, JR.,  
SECRETARY

TERM EXPIRES 1960

MALCOLM E. BROWN  
HERBERT C. COMBS  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
L. P. HOLLAND, JR.  
BOYCE M. MORRISON  
LLOYD C. WILLIAMS

JAMES R. TIDY, HONORARY FOR LIFE

## THE CHURCH SCHOOL

DAVID L. BASS, SUPERINTENDENT  
WILLIAM A. LATTIMORE, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT  
ZANE HUFFSTETLER, SECRETARY AND TREASURER  
MRS. S. F. PARKER, CRADLE ROLL  
MRS. H. EUGENE LEGRAND, NURSERY  
MRS. T. W. HINSON, KINDERGARTEN  
MRS. F. L. BAIRD, PRIMARY  
DAVID P. WHITE, JUNIORS

BOYCE MORRISON, PIONEERS  
CHARLES P. ROBERTS, JR.  
JACK VINCENT, SENIORS  
DAVE GILLESPIE  
RICHARD L. SHELTON, YOUNG ADULTS  
HOMER HAYWORTH  
MRS. E. D. LEWIS, PRES., RYBURN CLASS  
HERBERT C. COMBS, PRES., MEN'S BIBLE CLASS  
MRS. JENNIE KIRKPATRICK, PRES., WESTMINSTER

## SENIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

BETH WALLACE, PRESIDENT

CECELIA KEEL, SECRETARY & TREASURER

MRS. S. F. PARKER, MR. AND MRS. W. R. WALLACE, JR., ADULT ADVISORS

## PIONEER FELLOWSHIP

RICK LEGRAND, PRESIDENT

PRESTON CARROLL, SECRETARY

MR. AND MRS. JOHN BAIRD, MR. JIM BAIRD, ADULT ADVISORS

## JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

MR. AND MRS. RICHARD L. DEESE

BRENDA LEFLER, VICE PRESIDENT

ADULT ADVISORS

## YOUNG ADULTS

DAVE GILLESPIE, PRESIDENT

ZANE HUFFSTETLER, VICE PRESIDENT

MISS ANN TROY JOHNSTON, SEC. AND TREAS.

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

MRS. DAVID P. WHITE, PRESIDENT

MRS. R. T. LEGRAND, JR., VICE PRESIDENT

MISS ELIZABETH EBELTOFT, HISTORIAN

MRS. PERRY T. MACOMSON, SECRETARY

MRS. BOYCE MORRISON, TREASURER

## CIRCLE CHAIRMEN

NO. 1—MRS. B. W. DICKSON  
NO. 2—MRS. DAVE GILLESPIE  
NO. 3—MRS. ZANE HUFFSTETLER  
NO. 4—MRS. HENRY LEE WEATHERS  
NO. 5—MRS. WORTH MORRIS  
NO. 6—MRS. CHARLES P. ROBERTS, JR.

NO. 7—MRS. ROBERT C. BARNETT  
NO. 8—MRS. RILEY MCCORD  
NO. 9—MRS. LONNIE MITCHELL  
NO. 10—MRS. HUGH ARROWOOD  
NO. 11—MISS MARGARET TIDY

## MEN OF THE CHURCH

RICHARD L. SHELTON, PRESIDENT  
PAUL SEAL, VICE PRESIDENT  
A. M. MATHESON, SECRETARY-TREASURER

## GIRL SCOUTS

MRS. AARON B. QUINN, JR., LEADER  
MRS. W. E. HALYBURTON, ASSISTANT

## CUB SCOUTS

A. M. MATHESON, CUB MASTER

## USHERS GUILD

JAMES B. TAYLOR, CHAIRMAN

DR. THOMAS MOSS, VICE CHAIRMAN

EVANS C. SPARROW, SECRETARY

### GROUP 1

I. B. STREET, CAPTAIN  
R. J. ALBERT, CO-CAPTAIN  
WILLIAM M. ADREWS, JR.  
JOHN BREWER, JR.  
RICHARD L. DEESE  
DR. R. C. HENRY  
ERNEST MOORE  
LES D. ROARK  
PAUL SEAL  
JOHN J. STYERS

### GROUP 2

ROBERT E. MITCHELL, CAPTAIN  
JAMES H. BAIRD, CO-CAPTAIN  
JOHN BAIRD  
HARVEY HAMRICK  
R. L. HORNE  
DR. THOMAS MOSS  
EVANS C. SPARROW  
WILLIAM O. MITCHELL  
JAMES B. TAYLOR  
R. J. WALKER, JR.

### GROUP 3

R. W. WARD, CAPTAIN  
HENRY W. DAMERON, CO-CAPTAIN  
F. W. COLLINS  
DANE D. DAVIS  
NEIL O. JOHNSON  
DR. CHARLES MCBRAYER  
A. M. MATHESON  
HENRY A. MILLS  
WALTER J. PERRY  
RUSSELL R. ROPP

## MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

DAVID P. WHITE, CHAIRMAN  
A. W. ARCHER, (EX-OFFICIO)

MRS. MAUDE KELSEY  
MISS FRANCES LOWERY

## ADULT CHOIR

EUGENE S. ARROWOOD  
MISS NAN ARROWOOD  
PAUL R. ARROWOOD  
MRS. MALCOLM BROWN

MRS. HERBERT COMBS  
MRS. JEAN ELLIOTT  
MRS. W. B. HARRY  
HOMER HAYWORTH

MRS. HOMER HAYWORTH  
MRS. THAD HINSON  
ZANE HUFFSTETLER  
WILLIAM F. LEGRAND  
MRS. R. T. LEGRAND, JR.

MRS. H. EUGENE LEGRAND  
MRS. AARON B. QUINN, JR.  
MISS CAROLYN D. QUINN  
RICHARD SHELTON  
MRS. LLOYD WILLIAMS

## CHERUB CHOIR

MRS. R. C. HENRY, DIRECTOR

## JUNIOR CHOIR

MRS. W. B. HARRY, DIRECTOR

