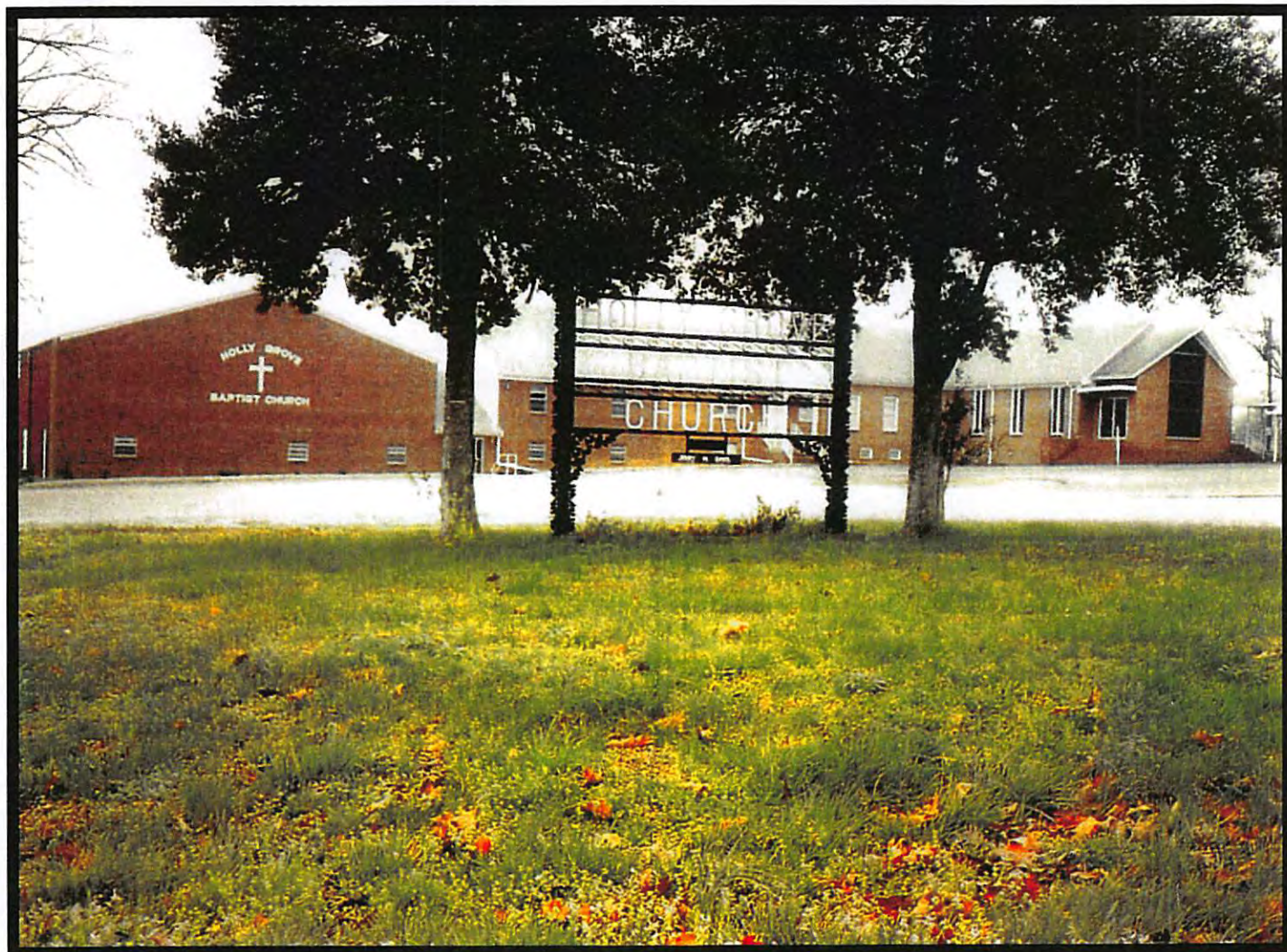


WHERE LOVE AND HOPE ARE FOUND



HONORING THE PAST, STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE

# HOLLY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

8488 POPLAR CORNER ROAD, BELLS, TENNESSEE

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF WORSHIP AND MINISTRY  
1885-2010

**ESTABLISHMENT  
OF  
HOLLY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

## THE HISTORY OF HOLLY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Some time shortly after 1875, near where the Holly Grove Church now stands, was a heavily wooded area covered with virgin timber such as pine, oak, gum, hickory and holly trees.

The community had no free public school. Mrs. Nancy Castellaw gave one acre of her land for this purpose. The men went into the woods, cut the timber, hewed the logs and built a one-room log school building in a cluster of holly trees. When the new school began, the teacher and the children named the new school "Holly Grove."

During those years and many years after, the only means of transportation was by walking, horse back or wagon. There were very few buggies in the community in those days. The Baptists who lived in the community at that time were members of the Zion Baptist Church. There was only a wagon road from Holly Grove to the Zion Church, and the distance between caused the Baptists living at Holly Grove to consider establishing a church in their community.

After meeting with the church at Zion and relaying their decision to the pastor and the deacons, a business meeting was held and the church acted on their request. Thirty-eight members who lived in Holly Grove would be leaving Zion to form the new church.

The following is minutes of the meeting at Zion Baptist Church, dated September 27, 1885...

The church worshipping at Zion met in a called meeting on the fourth Sunday of September. Following preaching by our pastor, we sat in conference. The floor of the church was opened for the reception. Bro. Moses Lockard came forward and was received into the Christian fellowship of the church after being baptized. The committee to procure lumber and build the stand made a report and the report was received. Bro. J.F. (Jeremiah Fletcher) Castellaw and W.T. Morris were appointed as a standing committee to make collection for the purpose of paying for the stand. Bro. Morris asked the church to relieve the committee on repairing the cemetery, which was granted.

Bro. J.A. (John Ambrose) Thomas presented a list of names of the members of the church petitioning letters of dismissal for the purpose of organizing a church at Holly Grove, where upon, Bro. J. (Joshua) Jones, in order to save the clerk from writing so many letters, moved that the names of the brethren and sisters who would be going into the organization of the church at Holly Grove be dropped from our roll book and the following brethren and sisters went into the organization. Adjourn.

M. Whittle, Pastor  
J. T. Boseman, C.C

Brethren:

1. J.W. Castellaw Sr.
2. J.A. Thomas
3. J.H. Carvin
4. Joshua Jones
5. G.W. Castellaw
6. G.R. Thomas
7. J.F. Castellaw
8. J.B. Booth
9. A.C. Booth
10. W.E. Williams
11. M. White
12. W. P. Outlaw
13. M.E. Lockard
14. J.W.Castellaw Jr.
15. B.F. Hughes
16. J.G. Livengood
17. T.L. Rawls

Sisters:

18. Mary C. Carvin
19. Jane W. Jones
20. M.A. Castellaw
21. M.C. Shaw
22. N.M. Castellaw
23. Nettie White
24. M.E. Castellaw
25. Catharine Booth
26. Lucy A. Castellaw
27. Lizzie Holland
28. M.J. Castellaw
29. Alice E. Castellaw
30. M.E. Watridge
31. S.E. Hall
32. A.E. Castellaw
33. Reba M. Williams
34. A.P. Stewart
35. Elisabeth Thomas
36. R.C. White
37. Amanda Williams
38. C.E. Williams

A.J. Outlaw C.C.

Another list included J.W. Baker, E.M. Jones and Fannie Stanfield. We conclude that they became a part of Holly Grove Baptist Church some time later.

The following is information from the deeds:

In 1886, D.H. Watridge gave a plot of land for a church building. This can be found at the Haywood County courthouse in Brownsville, TN, in Deed Book No. 11, pages 45-46, dated July 23, 1886. We have in our possession a copy of the said deed. Following is a portion of that deed.

D.H. Watridge  
Deeded to  
J.B. Booth and J.W. Castellaw  
Deacons of the Baptist Church  
Filed July 23, 1886 at 9:00 a.m.

Know all men that whereas the congregation of people in the Civil District No. 5 of Haywood County, state of Tennessee, known as the Baptist Church desire to build a house of worship for the furtherance of the cause of Christ and the teaching of the principles of religion as taught by Missionary Baptists.

I, D.H. Watridge, of the county of Haywood and state of Tennessee, have this day given, granted and bargained and conveyed unto J.W. Castellaw and J.B. Booth as Deacons of the Baptist Church and in trust for the use and benefit of the congregation known as Baptist worshipping there and their successors in office, a certain tract or parcel of land lying and situated in District No. 5 in Haywood County and state of Tennessee. In witness whereof, I have hereto signed my name on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 1886.

D.H. Watridge  
John Haywood, County Clerk and John Clinton Jr., Dept. Clerk

William Watridge (born 1798, died 1864) and Mildred Thompson Watridge were the parents of Dorsey H., Daniel, James Finus, William, and Mary. Dorsey H. (born 1840, died 1890) married Mary E. ?? in 1866. We believe the initial "H" stood for Haywood, because Dorsey H. had a grandson named Haywood. Dorsey and Mary had seven children. Their son Dorsey Thomas married Ida Marie Cobb. They were the parents of a daughter, Effie, who married Chester A. White, and son, Haywood, who married Edna Haynes. Dorsey and Mary's other children were: Eller, who married Ola White; Benard who married Maggie Hollingshead; Stella who married Leck Parks; Floy who married Lawrence White; Sarah who married Russell (Tony) Hart. Their seventh child was a daughter, Ida.

Dorsey H. Watridge's brother, James Finis, and wife Martha had a son William Henry. William Henry was the father of William H. (Will) Watridge Jr., Champ, James Thomas (Jim Tom) and Eddie. Will Jr. and wife Maude Taylor Watridge were the parents of Lacy, John Dorsey and Everett Watridge.

The following is the eulogy given for Dorsey H. Watridge – Brother deacon Dorsey H. Watridge died in 1890 at his residence of malarial fever. He had professed faith in Jesus and was baptized into the fellowship of the Zion Baptist Church in September of 1854 and was ordained a deacon of the church in May of 1885 and served faithfully. He was a devoted husband and an affectionate father, a true friend, a good neighbor and citizen. Bro. Watridge left his wife and seven children to mourn his loss. (Rev. Josiah Daws was the pastor.)

On February 29, 1900, Jeremiah Fletcher Castellaw (born 1847, died 1915) gave a plot of land west of the church to be used as a cemetery. A copy of the deed is in our possession. It can be found at the Haywood County courthouse in Brownsville, TN, in Deed Book No. 26, page 257.

The following is taken from that deed, which was filed October 29, 1900.

J.F. Castellaw and Wife  
Deeded to  
J.B. Booth and the Deacons  
Holly Grove Baptist Church  
Filed 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1900  
At 1:00 p.m.

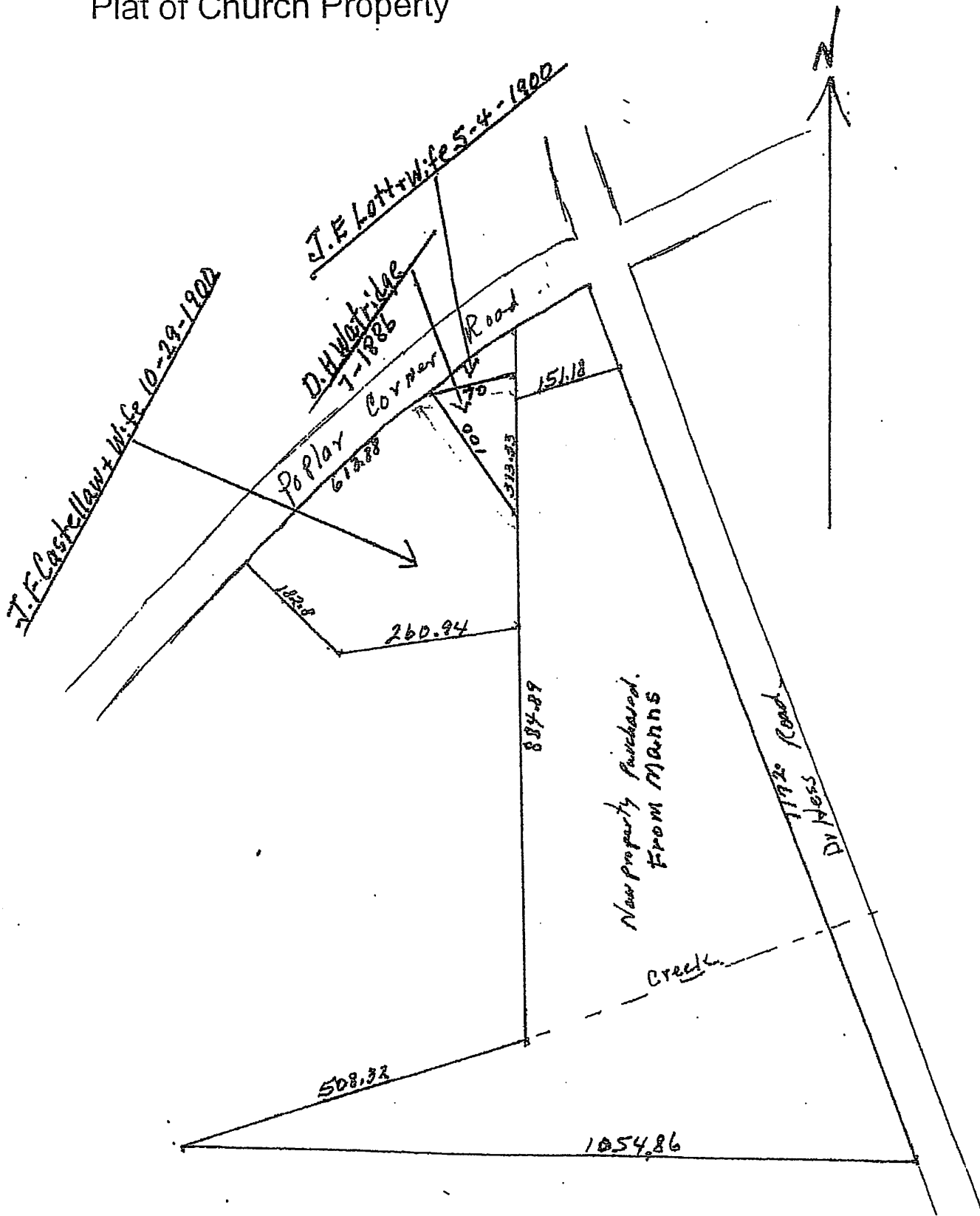
For and in consideration of the sum of one dollar and of the interest we have in the Baptist Church, we, J.F. Castellaw and wife, M.A. Castellaw, have this day bargained and sold, given and granted and hereby transfer and convey unto J.B. Booth, E.B. Bowen, L.A. Williams and J.W. Castellaw, deacons of the Baptist Church of Holly Grove and their successors forever in office, in trust for the use and benefit of the congregation organized into a Baptist Church and worshipping at that place. We are lawfully owners of the said tract and have the right to convey the same and that it is unencumbered and that we will forever warrant and defend the title to said tract of land to the said deacons and their successors. In testimony whereof we have hereunto affixed our hands and seal this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1900.

M.C. Castellaw  
J.F. Castellaw

Jeremiah Fletcher Castellaw's parents were Thomas Jefferson Sr. (born 1808, died 1878) and Mary E. Cole Castellaw (born 1809, died 1875). He had two brothers: Thomas Jefferson Jr. and George W., and a sister, Zilpah Elizabeth. He also had three half-brothers: John E., Joseph D., and James W. Jeremiah married Mary Aurelia Blaydes (born 1848, died 1933). She was the daughter of Jessie B. and Lucy Ann Coleman Blaydes. Jeremiah and Mary had nine children: Lucy A., Egbert, Thomas Jefferson (Tom), Jack Coleman, Charles, Arthur, Myrtle, Jelks F., and Jessie B.

On May 4, 1900, J.E. Lott and wife gave a strip of land in front of the church. We have a copy of the deed in our possession. It can be found at the Haywood County courthouse in Brownsville, TN, in Deed Book No. 25, page 565.

# Plat of Church Property



## BAPTISM IN THE EARLY YEARS

Between the two curves in the road and off to the left stood the home of Hardy and Hattie Cobb. Behind their house was a lake used by Holly Grove Baptist Church to baptize their new converts. Baptism by immersion is an ordinance of Baptist churches. Like Holly Grove, most of the country churches in those years did not have a baptistery. Therefore, baptismal services were conducted on Sunday afternoons at a lake.

Family and church friends would gather on a lake bank and sing, "Shall We Gather at the River," and usually another selection. After a chosen Scripture was read and a prayer was offered, the pastor made his way down into the water. Those who were to be baptized took hands and followed the pastor. One by one, they moved in front of the pastor as he recited the words, "I baptize you my brother (or sister) in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." The individual was then dipped backwards into the water until they were immersed, portraying the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

### WILLIAM LEE STYERS, A DEPUTY AND DEACON OF HOLLY GROVE

The following was taken from the Jackson Sun, published July 12, 1926, and given to Martha Herbert Jones by Lee Styers', daughter of Catherine Styers Hollingshead...

"William Lee Styers was born September 19, 1886 and died July 12, 1926. He was married to Mattie Pearl Herbert in 1913.. To this union were born four children, two daughters and two sons. Lee was survived by his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Styers, one sister and five brothers.

Early in life, Lee professed faith in Christ and joined the Baptist Church of which he was an active member. He was a deacon of the Holly Grove Baptist Church and superintendent of Sunday School at the time of his death. Funeral services were conducted by a former pastor, Rev. W.B. Perry, who was assisted by Rev. D.A. Deshazo, the pastor of the Providence Methodist Church. He was laid to rest in the Providence Cemetery..."

In 1926, Lee Styers, along with Haywood County Sheriff E.C. King and former Sheriff Ernie Drake and several other deputies, went out at midnight on a Friday night to find and destroy a whiskey still near the Madison County line. Lee was shot through the abdomen and carried back to his home. His daughter Catherine remembers her father lying on a cot before they carried him to the hospital in Jackson where he died the following Monday. His youngest, Jerline, was only about two years of age, Catherine was eleven, Terrell was nine, and Robert Lee was four.



# **CHARTER MEMBERS**

The following is a brief description of the charter members of Holly Grove Baptist Church.

1. J.W. Castellaw (James W. Castellaw, born 1839, died 1918) was married to Rebecca M. Thomas. They were the parents of Sam Castellaw, who was Becky Stewart Booth's great grandfather, so James W. was the great, great grandfather of Becky Stewart Booth.
2. J.A. Thomas (John Ambrose Thomas, born 1844, died 1922) was the son of Rev. George E. and Laodicea Rayner Thomas, and a brother to Dr. George Rayner Thomas. John A. married Mary Elisabeth (Bett) Williams. He was the grandfather of Lavern Thomas Styers.
3. J.H. Carvin (James Henderson Carvin) married Mary Caldonia White. He had brothers George Bunyon (Bun) and Morgan Moore (Morg). Morgan was James Carvin and Marjorie Carvin Roberts' grandfather, so J.H. was their great uncle.
4. Joshua J. Jones (born 1820, died 1896) was the son of John King Jones and wife Sally. He married Nancy Jane Woods. Joshua was a brother to John J. Jones, the great-grandfather of Martha Herbert Jones, so Joshua was her great, great uncle.
5. G.W. Castellaw (George W. Castellaw, born 1845) was married to Mary Emily Watridge; they had a son Joseph. When Mary died, George married Mollie E. Watridge. His parents were Thomas Jefferson Castellaw Sr., and his mother's name is unknown. George was the great, great uncle of Billy Castellaw, G.C. Mann and others.
6. G.R. Thomas (Dr. George Rayner Thomas, born 1848, died 1922) was married to Mary Frances Booth. He served the Holly Grove, Wellwood and Zion communities as their physician before Dr. F.P. Hess came to the area. G.R.'s parents were Rev. George E. Laodicea Rayner Thomas.
7. J.F. Castellaw (Jeremiah Fletcher Castellaw, born 1847, died 1915) married Mary Aurelia Blaydes. They were the parents of nine children, one being Tom Castellaw who married Helen Moody. Tom and Helen were the parents of Grace Powell. J.F. Castellaw gave the property for the Holly Grove cemetery.
8. J.B. Booth (James Bembery Booth, born 1848) was the father of Vernon, Jim, Irene and Lela Mai. His first married Elizabeth Ellen Clark, a sister to John T. Clark. At her death, James married her sister Katie Clark. Following Katie's death, he married Eldorator Thomas, the daughter of Frank Thomas. James was a half-brother to Cicero Booth, the grandfather of Milton Booth, so J.B. was a great uncle to Milton Booth, Jean Climer and others.
9. J.W. Castellaw Jr. (James William Castellaw Jr., born 1863, died 1918) was the son of James W. Sr. and Rebecca Thomas Castellaw. He was a brother to Sam Castellaw, Becky Stewart Booth's great grandfather; therefore James W. Jr. was Becky's great, great uncle.

10. M. White (Media Mathias (M.M.) White, born 1850, died 1886) married Mary E. Booth. They had a daughter, Mandy. When Mary died, he married Laura ?. He had sisters, Nellie Elizabeth and Rebecca Caroline. Nellie married Sim Cobb. At her death, Sim married Rebecca Caroline White, Nellie's sister. Media's parents were Jacob O. and Martha Ann Elizabeth Nowell White.

11. A.C. Booth (Albert Cicero (Roe) Booth, born 1859) was the son of William G. and Eliza Booth. Cicero Booth was first married to Rebecca Manie Williams; they had one daughter, Blanch. His second marriage was to Sally Watridge; they were the parents of four girls and three sons: Albert, Bryant and Dorris. So Cicero Booth was the grandfather of Milton Booth, Jean Climer and others.

12. W.E. Williams (William (Will) E. Williams) married Eliza A. Chandler. They were the parents of Blake, Nellie Kate, Lizzie W., Mable L. and Daniel B. Williams. Will's parents were Solomon and Catherine A. Novell Williams. He was the great, great uncle of Alsey (Squatsie) Williams.

13. W.P. Outlaw (William Price Outlaw, born 1862, died 1917) married Leanna Catherine Mann. He was Gene Outlaw's great grandfather and Taylor Outlaw's great, great grandfather. W.P.'s parents were Andrew Jackson and Harriet A. Williams Outlaw.

14. M.E. Lockard (Moses (Mose) Lockard, born 1859) was the son of G.W. and Lee Lockard.

15. B.F. Hughes (Benjamin Franklin (Ben) Hughes) was the son of Jacob and Mary Hughes. He married Mary Abernathy; they had two sons and two daughters, one being Mary Etta Hughes who was Martha Herbert Jones' grandmother. Therefore, Ben was Martha's material great grandfather and the great, great grandfather of Milton Booth, Terry Brown, Betty Brown Doyle, Alan and Lorie Jones and Kathy Simpson Hopper.

16. J.G. Livengood (John George Livengood, born 1820, died 1898) was the son of John D. and Sophia Eddinger Livengood. They were Jewish and of the Moravian Christian faith. John G. married Sophia Fouts and they had six children, one being Bryant Livengood, the grandfather of Martha Herbert Jones. Therefore, John was the great grandfather of Martha Jones. He was also the great, great grandfather of Kathy Simpson Hopper, Alan and Lorie Jones, Milton Booth, Terry Brown, Betty Brown Doyle and others.

17. Jane W. Jones (Jane Wood Jones) was the wife of Joshua Jones, the brother to John J. Jones, the great, great grandfather of Martha Herbert Jones. Jane Jones was Martha's great, great aunt.

18. M.A. Castellaw (Mary Aurelia Blaydes Castellaw, born 1848, died 1933) was the wife of Jeremiah Fletcher Castellaw. They were the grandparents of Grace Powell.

19. T.J. Rawls (Thomas Lemuel (Tommy) Rawls, born 1856) - His parents were Dr. Joseph W. and Emily Nowell Rawls. Their home was located between Wellwood and Holly Grove. An 1860 census showed Tommy to be four years of age at that time, so he was born in 1856. Other children in the home were William L., John N. and Cena F., who was a twin to Tommy. He married Laura A. Heath, and they had five children: Joseph E., Beulah, William N., Thomas N., and Thomas L. When Laura died, Tommy married Amanda ??.

20. Mary C. Carvin (Mary Caldonia White Carvin, born 1859) married James Henderson Carvin. They had no children, but reared six or seven nieces and nephews. Mary's husband was a brother to Morgan Moore Carvin, the grandfather of James Carvin and Marjorie Roberts; therefore, she was their great aunt. Mary's parents were Jacob and Martha A.E. Nowell White.

21. M.C. Shaw (Mary Catherine Rawls Shaw) was probably related to Tommy Rawls. She was married to William J. Shaw whose parents were Capt. Neil Kilen and Flora Cameron Shaw. Mary Catherine and William J. had a son, Tom Shaw, who was the grandfather of June Cobb Childress; so Mary Catherine was June's great grandmother.

22. N.M. Castellaw (Nancy Mariana Johnson Castellaw, born 1844, died 1921) was the wife of Thomas Jefferson Castellaw Jr. They were the great grandparents of Billy Castellaw, G.C. Mann and others. Nancy was the lady who gave the property for the Holly Grove School.

23. Nettie White (born 1836) - An 1890 census showed Nettie to be a widow with three children: Earnest E. (born 1870), Richard C. (born 1873), and Biddie (born 1880).

24. M.E. Castellaw (Mary Emily Watridge Castellaw, born 1848, died 1910) was the wife of George W. Castellaw. Her parents were James Finis and Martha Watridge.

25. Catharine Booth (Catharine Percy Booth) was the wife of Willie K. Booth. They were the parents of daughters: Mary Frances who married Dr. George Thomas, and Willie Katie who married William Edgar Hill. After William's death Willie Kate married John T. Clark, whose first wife Katie Williams had died.

26. Lucy A. Castellaw (Lucy Albina Castellaw, born 1867, died 1898) was the oldest child of Jeremiah F. and Mary A. Castellaw. She married Albert Lafayette (A.L.) Cobb in 1887, and was the sister of Tom Castellaw.

27. Lizzie Holland - She was probably related to Rev. J.B. Holland who served as pastor of Holly Grove Baptist Church from 1928 to 1932. She may have been his mother.

28. M.J. Castellaw (Mary Jennie Castellaw, born 1866) was the daughter of Thomas Jefferson Jr. and Nancy Marina Johnson Castellaw. Jennie married James Jacocks and they had four girls and three sons. We believe they built the Christmas house, which was a Sears and Roebuck house.

29. Alice E. Castellaw (Alice Evelyn Castellaw, born 1859, died 1917) was the daughter of James W. and Rebecca M. Thomas Castellaw and a sister to Sam Castellaw. She married J.W. Clark and they had a son, Percy Raynor Clark. Alice was Becky Stewart Booth's great, great aunt.
30. M.E. Watridge (Mary E. Watridge, born 1844, died 1899) could have been the wife of Dorsey H. Watridge, who gave the property for the Holly Grove Church. If so, she was the great, great aunt of Billy Wayne and Dorsey Watridge and others. (Or M.E. Watridge could have been Mollie E. who married G.W. Castellaw when his first wife died.)
31. S.E. Hall – No information.
32. A.E. Castellaw was possibly Mattie A.E. Coleman (born 1851, died 1886). She was married to John Edward Castellaw. John was the son of Thomas Jefferson Castellaw Sr. whose first wife's name is unknown.
33. Reba M. Williams (Rebecca Namie Williams) was the first wife of Cicero Booth. They were the parents of one daughter, Blanch, who married Mays Williamson. Reba was the daughter of Solomon and Catherine Nowell Williams.
34. A.P. Stewart (Ada P. Booth Stewart, born 1863, died 1943) married George Luther Stewart (born 1858, died 1927). Her parents were William G. and Eliza Booth. She was a sister to Cicero Booth; therefore the great aunt of Milton Booth, Jean Climer and others.
35. Elisabeth Thomas (Mary Elisabeth (Betts) Thomas, born 1844, died 1922) was the wife of John Ambrose Thomas. They were the grandparents of Lavern Styers and Margaret Covington.
36. R.C. White (Rebecca Caroline White, born 1852, died 1899) was the sister of Media Mathis White. She married Sim Cobb after his first wife, her sister, Nettie, died. Rebecca's parents were Jacob O. and Martha Nowell White.
37. Amanda Williams (Amanda Crowder Williams) married Edward W. Williams. They were the parents of seven children: Mary K., Edward, Henry Foster, Nellie Margaret, Marion, Lemuel E., and Loraine. Henry was the grandfather of Alsey Williams and Marnette Williams Thomas. Therefore, Amanda Williams was the great grandmother of Alsey and Marnette, and the great, great grandmother of Peggy Williams Emison, Jimmy and Bradley Williams, and the great, great, great grandmother of Stephen Thomas.
38. C.E. Williams (Catherine E. Williams (Katie) married William L. Booth. She was the daughter of Solomon Catherine Nowell Williams, and a sister to John Nowell Williams, the father of Zelma Williams Simpson. So she was the great aunt of Leland and Roy Jr. Simpson. Catherine was also a sister to Edward W. Williams, the great grandfather of Alsey Williams and Marnette Williams Thomas, making her their great, great aunt. William L. Booth, Catherine's husband, was a brother to Cicero Booth; therefore, Catherine was the great aunt of Milton Booth, Jean Climer and others.

Brother John G. Livengood's Obituary

Sacred to the memory of Brother John G. Livengood, who was born April 16, 1820, and died March 23, 1898, being 78 years old. Brother Livengood was born in North Carolina and professed faith in the Lord in 1843 and joined the Moravian Church the same year. He lived a consistent member of that church as long as he remained in North Carolina.

He moved to Tennessee in 1871, and was one of the charter members to organize Holly Grove Baptist Church. Brother Livengood had gone to Arkansas to live with his daughter at the time of his death; he had been there only two weeks.

Brother Livengood lived a consistent member of Holly Grove Church until his death. He was a kind and indulgent father, a kind neighbor, and beloved by all who knew of his manly and Christian character.

While the hand of Providence falls heavily upon his family, relations and friends, we humbly bow in submission to Him who doeth all things well and pray God's blessings and comfort to the family and prepare them to meet him where parting will be no more.

Resolved first that Holly Grove Church bow in humble submission to the will of God in removing from us our beloved Brother Livengood. Resolved second that we offer condolence to the stricken family in the loss of their father, believing that our loss is His eternal gain. Resolved further that a copy of these resolutions be furnished the family of the deceased brother, and the same be entered on record in the church record book of Holly Grove Church by order of the Church April 23, 1898.

Commyty,  
*L. S. Williams*  
*Dr. A. R. Thomas*

This was copied from an old record found in Alpha Livengood Parker's Bible by her granddaughter, Anne Burnett Crawford. Alpha Livengood was the daughter of John G. Livengood. This obituary is presented to Holly Grove Church by Martha Herbert Jones, daughter of Ida Livengood Herbert. Ida was the granddaughter of John G. Livengood.

**PASTORS  
AND  
MINISTERS OF MUSIC**

From October 1885 to November 2010, Holly Grove Baptist Church has had 44 pastors and 6 interim pastors.

1. M. Whittle	1885 – 1886	26. C. Borum	1936
2. B. W. Brown.	1887 – 1888	27. Vernon Sisco	1937 – 1938
3. R.D. Wilson	1888 – 1892	28. W.A. Gardner	1938 – 1943
4. W.F. Dorris	1892 – 1893	29. E. B. Bowen	1943
5. A.J. Hall	1893 – 1901	30. Clayton Baker	1943 – 1945
6. A.J. Castellaw	1901 – 1902	31. King Thedford	1945 – 1947
7. W.L. Savage	1902 – 1903	32. Bill J. Turner	1947 – 1949
8. W.G. Inmane	1903 – 1905	33. L.M. Mayer	1950 – 1952
9. W.L. King	1906 – 1907	34. A.M. (Roe) Neal	1952 – 1956
10. J.H. Martin	1907 – 1908	35. Eugene White	1956 – 1960
11. Elmer Ridgeway	1908	36. Bill Davie	1960 – 1963
12. J.W. Robertson	1908 – 1909	37. Eldon Byrd (Int.)	1963
13. S.P. Poag	1909 – 1913	38. Earl Wells	1963 – 1973
14. L.P. Royer	1913 – 1916	39. Bob Elliott (Int.)	1973 – 1974
15. E.L. Atwood	1916 – 1917	40. John Skiles	1975 – 1978
16. W.C. Skinner	1917	41. H.B. Woodward (Int.)	1978
17. H.L. Knight	1917 – 1919	42. Wayne Foropoulous	1978 – 1981
18. J.W. Joyner	1919 – 1921	43. H.B. Woodward (Int.)	1981
19. Harry Bickers	1921 – 1922	44. Jerry Davis	1981 - 1986
20. J.O. McMillian	1922 – 1924	45. Slade Johnson	1986 - 1988
21. J.O. Dearing	1924 – 1925	46. John Meadows (Int.)	1988
22. S.P. Poag	1925 – 1927	47. Jerry Davis	1989 - 1995
23. W.C. Neville	1927 – 1928	48. John Adams (Int.)	1995 - 1996
24. J.B. Holland	1928 – 1932	49. Mark Mangrum	1996 - 2000
25. J.W. Joyner	1933 – 1935	50. Fred Campbell	2000

From 1938 to 1956, the pastors of Holly Grove or a member have stepped forward to lead singing. In 1956, the first choir leader was elected. In 1960, the first Minister of Music was called and put on salary, as little as it was. Since that time, Holly Grove has had a Minister of Music, with some them also serving as Minister of Youth.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Julia Carr – Gene White & Bill Davie                       | 11. Gary Aslin – Jerry Davis   |
| 2. Terry Patterson – Earl Wells                               | 12. Clay Hallmark – Jerry Davis  |
| 3. Dan Wynn - Earl Wells                                      | 13. Rick Eaves – Slade Johnson   |
| 4. Steve Smith – Earl Wells                                   | 14. John Kimberley – Slade Johnson,<br>Jerry Davis (2 <sup>nd</sup> time) & John Adams |
| 5. Danny Simpson – Earl Wells,<br>Bob Elliott and John Skiles | 15. Mark Fawn – Mark Mangrum   |
| 6. Gary Lowery – H.B. Woodward                                | 16. Terry Patterson – Mark Mangrum<br>& Fred Campbell                                  |
| 7. Leland Parks – Wayne Foropoulous<br>& Jerry Davis          | 17. Ricky Cartwright (Int.) – Fred Campbell  |
| 8. Jim Burchett – Jerry Davis                                 | 18. Andy Clenney – Fred Campbell   |
| 9. Tommy Couples – Jerry Davis                                | 19. Brennan Uthe – Fred Campbell   |
| 10. Dean Armor (Int.) – Jerry Davis                           | 20. Ralph Brown – Fred Campbell  |
|   | 21. Tim Fain (Int.) – Fred Campbell  |



## PASTORS OF HOLLY GROVE CHURCH

The first pastor of Holly Grove Baptist Church that I recall was Bro. W.A. Gardner, who was our pastor from 1938 to 1943. I was only a small child, but in the last year Bro. Gardener was here, I remember they helped him to the pulpit and he sat in a chair to bring the message. Full-time services began while Bro. Gardner here.

Bro. E.B. Bowen followed Bro. Gardner and was pastor for less than a year. He married Elizabeth Mann, sister of Abner Mann. Bro. Bowen became pastor of the First Baptist Church in Bolivar when he left Holly Grove.

Bro. Clayton Baker, a student at Union University and a single young man, became our pastor in the latter part of 1943. He was pastor until 1945 when he finished at Union University. I have many memories of Bro. Baker. Every Sunday night he urged the Juniors to come down to the front to the first two seats in the center section and he led us in choruses like, "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart...." Revivals were always the last week of July, and at the 1945 revival, I, along with about 15 others, made professions of our faith and were baptized by Bro. Baker in Miss Hattie Cobb's lake. Bro. Baker married while at Holly Grove, and his wife Doris became our Sunday School teacher. Our class met for Sunday School in the northeast corner of the one-room church building. I remember on one occasion Bro. Baker came to visit us in his T-model car that was his mode of transportation. He visited around the community on Saturdays. My brother Oneil and I were picking cotton near the house. Bro. Baker always dressed in a blue suit, with a white shirt and a tie. (It may have been the only suit he had.) He told Oneil to get him a sack and - off with that coat and tie - our pastor picked cotton with us. That made quite an impression on us to say the least.

Bro. King Thedford was here for two years, from 1945 to 1947. He and his wife had two little girls. He was also attending Union while he was here.

Bro. Bill Turner came in 1947 and was here until 1949 while he was attending Union University. He and his wife Lucille had a son Hugh. Bro. Turner and his wife worked with the youth and had fellowships for them. Once, they had the youth to come to Union for a visit. The girls stayed with them that night and the boys stayed in one of the dormitories. Bro. Turner led the church in a building program in 1948. Church services were held in the Centerville School on Sundays while a new brick veneer building was constructed on the old foundation. An assembly room, office and 13 classrooms were added at that time.

Bro. L.M. Mayer came in 1950 and served until 1952. He and Mrs. Mayer had no children. He worked at Penney's Department Store while at Holly Grove.

Bro. Roe Neal became pastor in 1952. He and his wife Jane lived in Jackson during the four years he was at Holly Grove. Jane's mother, Mrs. Leona Powell, lived with them and attended church with them. They had one son, A.M. Some members were disturbed when the Bluff Creek Baptist Church for blacks asked Bro. Neal to come and preach to them one Sunday afternoon. Following our services that Sunday, the Neal's, Mrs. Powell and I ate lunch with Leland and Ottie Simpson. When the time came for Bro. Neal to go to the Bluff Creek Church, he asked if we would like to go with him. Jane, Mrs. Powell, Leland, Ottie and I all accompanied him. When we arrived, some members met and welcomed us to their church and seated us up front. Bro. Neal brought God's message to them. Two classrooms, restrooms and a baptistery were added to Holly Grove Church while Bro. Neal was our pastor. He became a chaplain in the Armed Services after he left in 1956.

Bro. Gene White came in 1956. He and his wife Jane had a teenage daughter Gloria and a little son Buster. Another son William Pierce was born to them while they were here. A new parsonage was constructed about half a mile from the church. Bro. White and his family were the first to occupy it. Dewey and I were the first couple to be married in the parsonage, with only the White family, my brother Oneil, Dewey's brother Bobby Jones, and Melvin and Rosa Holcomb present. My sister Ottie Simpson was to stand up with me, but she was in the hospital to give birth to her daughter Kathy (now Hopper), so Rosa was there to fill in for her.

Bro. Bill Davie came to Holly Grove in 1960. He and his wife Jo had three little girls, Linda, age 9, Kathy, age 6, and Marcie, age 3. After leaving, they had a son Billy and another daughter Susie. Linda and Marcie both married Baptist preachers. Billy was the Minister of Music at a church in Memphis for a time. Bro. Davie also served the Big Hatchie Association as VBS director. The churches in Haywood County were part of the Big Hatchie Association before the Haywood County Association was formed. Bro. Davie formed a VBS team of Holly Grove members, consisting of Jo Davie, Martha Jones, Ruth Haak and ??? Edwards. We attended conferences in Nashville at Belmont College and then taught two conferences in the local association.

Bro. Earl Wells came in 1963 with his wife Jo and children Elvin, Mary Joy and Delores. Their oldest son Charles was already married, and Elvin was attending Union. While here, Brother Wells taught school at Westover Grammar School near Jackson. Six more classrooms were added, along with more restrooms, a new kitchen and assembly room. These additions were dedicated June 12, 1966. The sanctuary was remodeled in 1974. Bro. Wells was with us for 10 years.

In 1975, Bro. John Skiles became our pastor. His family consisted of wife Norma and two daughters, Jo and Jennifer. His son was attending Union and working at Penney's Department Store. Their oldest daughter Betty had married just before they came to Holly Grove. Their daughter Jennifer was talented and served as our pianist while they were here.

Bro. Wayne Foropoulos came in 1978 with his wife Beverly and their two little girls Waverly and Melody. Bro. Wayne was only 27 when he became our pastor, but he made a wonderful one. The church grew under his leadership.

In 1981, Bro. Jerry Davis came to Holly Grove after serving in Montana with his wife Lois, daughters Hollie and Kellie, adopted daughter Sally, son Paul and adopted son James. Bro. Jerry was a strong leader and a good pastor. He served here five years before returning to Montana. Holly Grove Church called him again in 1989, and he pastored for another five years. While here the second time, the Family Life Center was completed, with a new office, more restrooms and two other classrooms.

Between the times that Bro. Jerry Davis was here, Bro. Slade Johnson came in 1986 with his wife Peggy and their two little daughters Erin and Ellie. Brother Slade was a wonderful pastor and preacher. We were so blessed to have had him here. During their time with us, their youngest daughter contracted juvenile diabetes, and Bro. Slade left to move the family to St. Louis so they could be near a hospital where their daughter could receive treatment. They had a son after they left Holly Grove. Bro. Slade came back to preach on Loyalty Day one year. He said that he was asked by someone in St. Louis if people further down south didn't have lots of nicknames. He said, "Well, I don't know, but the man who lived next door was called "Rabbit" Lovelace; on down the road was a man named "Squatsie" Williams; then there was "Fatty" Watridge; passed his home was "Sonnyboy" Taylor; and "Bo" Williams lived on nearer the church."

After Bro. Jerry Davis was here the second time, Bro. Mark Mangrum came in 1996, with his wife Angie and son Joshua. His daughter Mary was born just a short time after they came to Holly Grove. Bro. Mark left in 1998 and went to First Baptist Church in Parsons.

Bro. Fred and Nancy Campbell came to Holly Grove in 2000. They had been missionaries in Japan for nearly 13 years. Their family is daughters, Rachel, Carey and Christie, and son Aaron. Rachel lives in East Tennessee with her husband John and their three children. Carey and Tony live in Atwood with their three children, and Tony pastors the First Baptist Church of Atwood. Christie married Tim Fain and they have tree boys. Tim now serves as Minister of Music here at Holly Grove. Aaron went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and is the Minister of Music at Matthew Road in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He and wife Becky have two daughters. We are so blessed to have Bro. Fred and Nancy with us. He is a great preacher and a loving pastor who really cares about his congregation. Nancy works with the children and is a wonderful musician, serving as organist and sometimes pianist.

God has surely blessed Holly Grove Church with the godly men he has sent our way as pastors through the years. We also remember dear interim pastors like Bro. H.B. Woodward, Bro. John Adams, Bro. John Meadows and Bro. Bob Elliott. Today we are thankful to have on staff Bro. Fred as Pastor, Bro. Ralph Brown as Associate Pastor; Bro. Greg Baker as Minister of Youth, Bro. Tim Fain as Int. Minister of Music, Linda Hayes as Custodian, and the best church secretary, Ann Faulkner.

## A TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS AT HOLLY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH



Tommy Garstang (born May 27, 1915 in Missouri) enlisted in the U.S. Army at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, in April of 1936. He was later transferred to Hamilton Field, California, where he worked as crew chief on P-36 fighter aircraft. From there, he was transferred to Headquarters Sqdn. 18<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing at Hickam Field, Hawaii.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Tommy was living in the large concrete barracks at Hickam Field. He left his room to go to the mess hall. After hearing a loud noise he looked back and saw smoke coming from his building. It had been hit by a Japanese bomb. Tommy took cover behind a coconut tree and stood there in bewilderment as the Japanese planes seemed to come from every direction, striking and bombing just over the rooftops. At this same time, aerial torpedo bombers were diving and bombing the ships in Pearl Harbor. He saw the bomb hit the battleship "Arizona" and sink it. The explosion almost knocked him down. Shrapnel was falling all around.

Tommy stayed in Hawaii for another year before being sent to the Fiji Islands and then returning to the States. He married Clara Beshears on June 8, 1944 and became step-father to her three young children. Tommy retired as Master Sergeant October 31, 1958.

Leland Earl Simpson went into the Armed Services in 1942, during World War II, and was sent to Liverpool, England. His regiment later crossed the English Channel into France. They went from there to Germany on a troop train. Soon after, they were sent to the front lines. The atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at 8:15 on August 6, 1945. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, another was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. This ended the war. Leland remarked that it saved his life. He married Ottie Herbert in 1950.

Elvis Lynwood (Lynn) Robison (born Dec. 1928, died Dec. 2000) entered the Armed Services in 1954. His basic training was at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. From there he was sent to Fort Carson, Colorado. Lynn was discharged in December 1955. He had married Betty Lewis in April of 1947.

**VETERANS**

Roy Jr. Simpson, brother of Leland Simpson, was also in the Armed Forces, but he never left the States.

Floyd Dezern (Pete) Stewart was stationed in Germany during World War II. He enlisted in the Army on April 29, 1943, and went into active service in May of that year. Pete's Decorations and Citations were: Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, a Bronze Arrowhead, a European African Middle Eastern Ribbon and four Bronze Stars. Some time after being discharged, Pete married Maxine Lovelace, the daughter of Ovid and Olis Lovelace. They attended Holly Grove for several years.

In 1950, The United States draft board interrupted Neil Herbert's musical career for a time. Following his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Neil was sent to Germany. While there, he was accepted into special services and became part of an orchestra to entertain the troops. The leader of special services came to him after several months and asked him to form a country western band. They performed in hotels all over Germany and went out on bivouacs to entertain the groups. Neil received his discharge in 1952 and made his home in Memphis. In later years, he married Alma Pugh.

Wiley Thomas Marbury (born 1919, died 1944) lost his life in service to his country in World War II. He was a member of the 121<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Gray Bonnet Division of the U.S. Army. The day he died, July 13, 1944, the 1st Battalion of the Gray Bonnets was pulled back to cover Hill 92, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions moved to the left of them just before nightfall. Sgt. Marbury was 25 years old when he fell victim to enemy machine gun fire in Normandy, France. Shortly after the family was notified of his death, a memorial service was held at Holly Grove. When his body was later returned to the States, additional services were held at the Brownsville Baptist Church. Sgt. Marbury received the Gray Bonnet Pin with a Blue Ribbon.

Aaron Samuel Castellaw (born 1914, died December 30, 1945) joined the Army before the attack on Pearl Harbor and was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he helped train men for infantry duty prior to being shipped out in January (?) of 1945. Aaron was killed within a month of leaving the States and only four months before the war ended. His remains were sent back to the States to the home of his brother, James Francis. Aaron was buried in the family plot in the Holly Grove cemetery next to his brother, Malcolm R., who also saw action as Sargeant in the Pacific during World War II.

Frank Kemper joined the U.S. Marines in December of 1953 when he was only 17 years of age. His basic training took place in Paris Island, South Carolina. He went from there to Camp LeJune in North Carolina. Frank spent most of his time on a troop carrier as a Sea Radio Operator. He was sent to Puerto Rico where he served until his discharge in December of 1956. We were involved in the Korean War during that time, but it was coming to an end. Later, Frank married Liz ??

Bobby Joe Perry (born October 2, 1934) joined the U.S. Air Force June 18, 1953 and was sent to Lackland AFB for basic training. After graduation from training in August of that year, he was reassigned to Charswell AFB in Fort Worth, Texas. On October 10, 1953, Bobby took time out to marry Janie Bernice Qualls. In October of the next year, he was assigned to Elmendorf AFD in Anchorage, Alaska. He also spent time in Blytheville, Arkansas; Columbus, Mississippi and Barksdale AFD Bossier City, Louisiana. He was reassigned to Dahasan AFB in Saudi Arabia in 1967, where he spent a year. Later, Bobby was reassigned to Ubon AFB, in Thailand and was there from June 1971 to July 1972. He was then reassigned to Columbus, Mississippi and Reese AFB in Lubbock, Texas. Bobby retired and moved back to Brownsville, Tennessee in November of 1977. His Decorations were: Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Clasp, 3 Loops; Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Clasp, 2 Loops; Air Force Commendation Medal Outstanding Unit Award, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; National Defense Service Medal (for outstanding unit award) and the Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon.

Bob Alexander entered the U.S. Navy in July of 1964. He received his basic training in San Diego, California, and was sent to the Millington Naval Training Facility in Millington, Tennessee, for advanced training. Bob was stationed at Miramar Naval Air Station in California before being assigned to a Combat Cruise on the Carrier U.S.S. Coral Sea for 11 months and then to a Combat Cruise Carrier U.S.S. Ranger for another 11 months. Bob says the large carriers were 1,080 feet long and had 5,200 men aboard. He was discharged in California in 1968 and married Cindy Knott in 1989.

William Louis (Billy) Haak enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 1967. He served his country as Corporal in the Scout Dogs as a radio operator. On July 25, 1969, Billy's life ended as he walked near a demolition pit where three men worked to disarm a mine. The mine exploded, killing the three men in the pit also. His mother, Ruth Haak, was notified by a Chaplain and Captain of the Marine Corps. from Millington, Tennessee. Billy was given a full military funeral on August 9, 1969. He was 20 years old when he.

Charles Lynn Haak entered the U.S. Navy on August 17, 1972, in Jackson, Tennessee. He was stationed stateside in Orlando, Florida, Millington, Tennessee and California before being sent to the South China Sea in Vietnam. Charles was later sent back to California and then to Florida where he was aboard the U.S.S. Saratoga in May Port, Florida, and on Port Smith Naval Ship Yards. In 1990 and 1991, he was a part in Desert Storm/Desert Shield and retired in 1993. His Decorations and Medals were: Bronze Star, National Defense Medal, Sea Service, Southwest Asia Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. Charles married Marytean Crutchfield in February of 1993.

Compiled by Betty Doyle, June Childress,  
Dewey and Martha Jones and Bro. Fred Campbell

**GROWTH**



## THE ORGANIZATION AND GROWTH OF THE NEW CHURCH

The members, who would become the charter members of Holly Grove Baptist Church, met in the log school at Holly Grove to organize the church. Rev. M. Whittle, the pastor of Zion Baptist Church, was the first pastor of Holly Grove. Services were held once a month.

In 1886, Dorsey H. Watridge gave a plot of land for the church building, which as built on the lot in 1892, with James B. Booth as contractor.

In October of 1900, Jeremiah Fletcher Castellaw and his wife Mary gave a plot of land west of the church for a cemetery. Earlier, in February of that year, J.E. Lott had given a strip of land in front of the church.

In 1911, the one-room log church was torn down and a new frame building was built under the supervision of James Jacocks.

In 1920, the first BYPU (Baptist Young People Union) was organized in Haywood County at Holly Grove Baptist Church by Irene Booth Crandell.

In October of 1940, Rev. W.A. Gardner started full time services at the church.

In 1948, the frame church building was torn down and a new brick veneer building was built on the same foundation, with W.N. Cooke and O.T. White supervising the construction. The new building consisted of an assembly room, an office, 13 classrooms and a sanctuary. Rev. Bill J. Turner was the pastor during this time.

In 1953, the first addition to the brick building was made. Two classrooms, restrooms and a baptistery were added. The dedication of this new addition was held November 22, 1953. Pastor A.M. Neal presided, and Rev. Bill J. Turner brought the message.

On July 2, 1957, a one-acre lot was purchased from Dorsey Castellaw for \$9,000 and a brick veneer pastorium was built. A lot of free labor from church members was given. Rev. O.E. White was the first pastor to occupy the pastorium.

In 1966, six classrooms, a kitchen, restrooms and an assembly room were added. Noel Reid and Terrell Styers were the contractors. The dedication was held June 12, 1966. Rev. Earl Wells was pastor.

In April of 1974, the sanctuary was remodeled with Danny Simpson as the contractor. After the completion of a new front for the church and a steeple atop, new furniture and light fixtures, the first service was held at the Wednesday night prayer service on November 13, 1974. A dedication service was held November 24, 1974, with coordinator Dewey Jones presiding and Rev. Bob Elliott, interim pastor, leading the service. Dr. Jonas Stewart gave the dedication message.

In January of 1985, with Danny Simpson as contractor, remodeling and redecorating of the sanctuary took place. Ten more pews were added, the choir loft was enlarged and the baptistry was moved and put in the floor under the pulpit. Rev. Jerry Davis was pastor.

In June of 1988, a ground-breaking for a family life center was held, with Danny Simpson as contractor. In addition to the family life center, offices for the pastor and church secretary, a new kitchen, two restrooms and four classrooms were added. At the dedication, Bro. Slade Johnson delivered the message. Later, a parking garage and storage spaced was added behind the family life center and three more classrooms were added to the space upstairs. Rev. Jerry Davis was the pastor.

In 2000, a new floor was laid in the sanctuary, with John Herron Construction as contractor. Also the baptistry was moved to the back of the choir area, the two upstairs restrooms were enlarged and remodeled, and the building was completely rewired. New light fixtures, new carpet, painting and papering were also done. Rev. Mark Mangrum was pastor.



Truth Seekers Class, Mrs. Wilma Sullivan, Teacher

**PICTURES FROM  
THE PAST**



Slade Johnson, Pastor and Family



Earl Wells, Pastor and Family



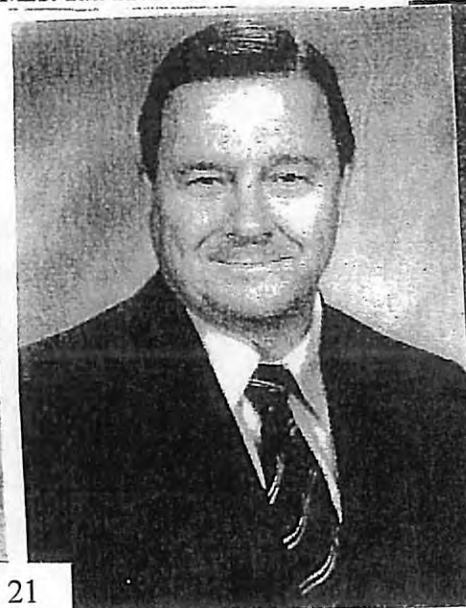
Mark Mangrum, Pastor and Family



Gene White, Pastor and Mrs. Ida Herbert



Dr. Jerry W. Davis  
Pastor





Adult Choir



Alan Jones  
Organist



Kathy Hopper  
Pianist



Youth Choir



Terry Patterson  
MINISTER OF MUSIC



John Kimberly  
Minister of Music  
and Youth



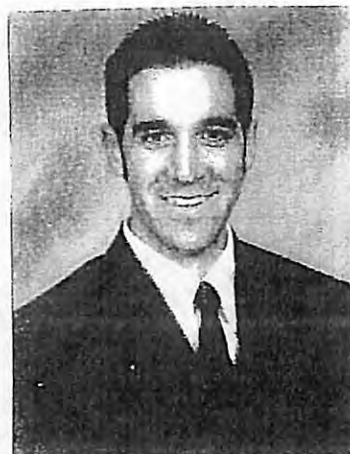
MINISTER OF YOUTH & MUSIC  
Bro. Gary Aslin



Adult Choir-2004



Dan Wynn



Brennan Uthe  
Minister of  
Music/Youth 22



Cindy Alexander  
Pianist



Nancy Campbell  
Organist



Pastorium, Vernon Booth, Bill Davie & Daughters



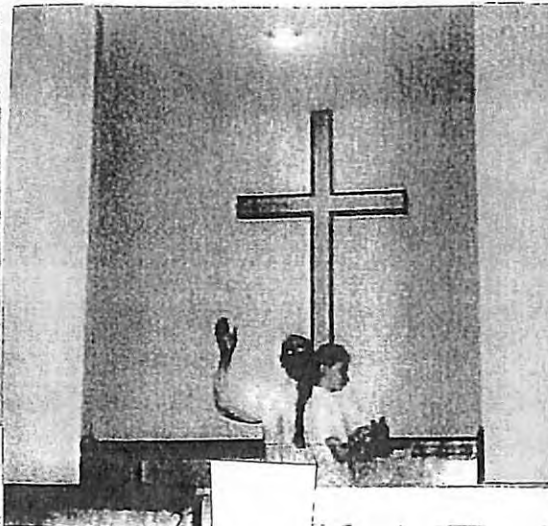
Note Burning, Nemon Cooke, Bro. Davie, Albert Booth and Dewey Jones



Dewey Jones, Sunday School Director; Martha Jones, WMU Director; Bobby Perry, Brotherhood Director; Terrill McLean, Church Training Director.



Laverne Styers-Opening of Pastorium





V B S , Primary Class, Teachers-Willie Mae Borders,  
Josephine Christmas & Ottie Simpson & Bro. Neal



DEACON BODY AND  
YOKEFELLOWS



V B S , Intermediates, Teacher  
Laverne Styers & Pastor, Roe Neal



THE DEACON BODY

Ronnie Vanstory, Ricky Hopper, Noel Reid, Mike Hopper, Terrill Mc  
Bobby Perry, James Lewis, Danny Haynes, Billy Watridge, Doyle Hend  
Dewey Jones.



Boy's Sunday School Class



Children's Church



Children's Choir



Ground Breaking for Family Life Center - June, 198



G. A. Mother and Daughter Banquet



G A Awards Presented



Senior Adult Ladies on Outing



Senior Adult W M U Ladies



Mission Friends, Lorie Jones, Teacher



Wilma Sullivan  
50+ Years of Service



Julia Carr  
Choir Director



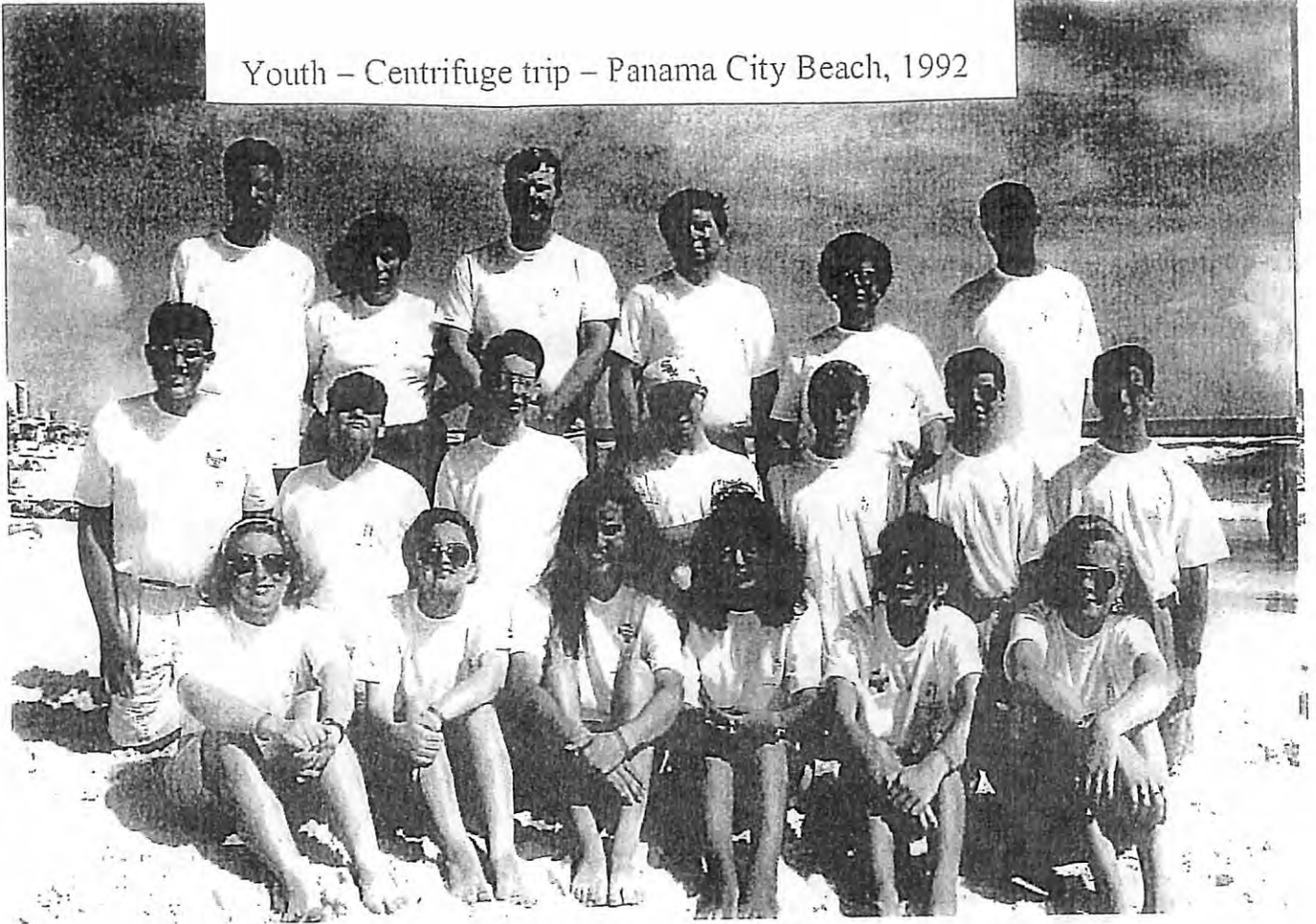
Mary Lewis-Oldest  
Living Member



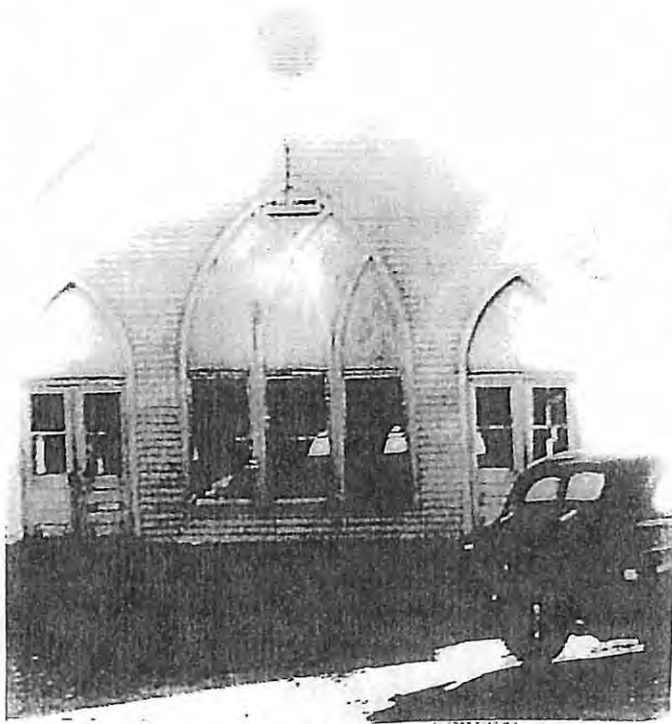


Our first Sunday  
parking on the newly  
paved parking lot  
August 2004

Youth – Centrifuge trip – Panama City Beach, 1992



Children's Riverboat Ride in Memphis July, 2000



1911-1948



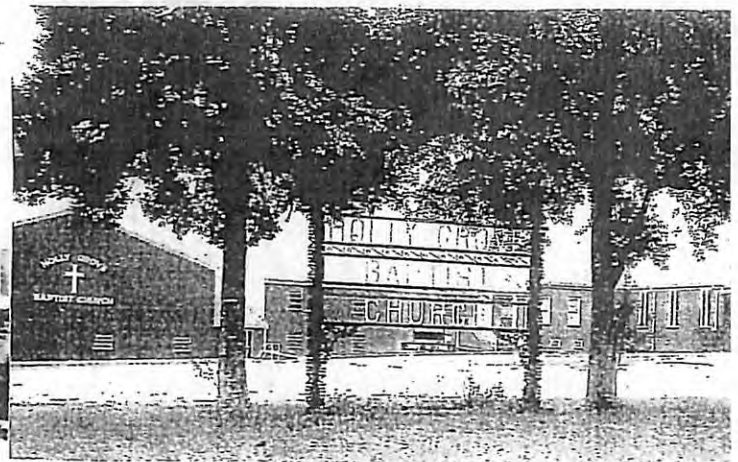
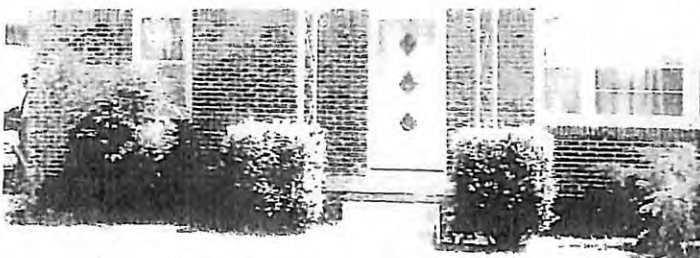
1948-1974



Deacons—Bryant Booth, Terrell Styers,  
Noel Reid, Albert Booth, Dewey Jones,  
Ollie Christmas and Oma Booth.



1974-1988



1988-2005

**LORD,  
THANK YOU  
FOR OUR  
HOLLY GROVE MEMORIES**

We were at Prayer Meeting in '59 or '60 when Bro. Gene White was our pastor. He had just finished talking about the validity and truth of the Scriptures when he asked Mr. Nemon Cooke, who was a deacon, if he believed that Jonah swallowed a whale. Quickly, Mr. Nemon said, "I sure do." Everyone began to laugh. It seemed a light came on in his head, and he said, "If the Bible said it, I would believe it."

I can remember when our cooling system at Holly Grove was hand-operated with little cardboard fans given to the church by the Brownsville Funeral home. At a business meeting in '63, when Dr. Eldon Byrd was our interim pastor, there had been lots of discussion, pro and con, concerning getting a cooling system for the church. It went on and on. Bro. Byrd said, "Are you going to do it or not?" Someone else said, "I make a motion we do it." Someone else quickly said, "I second it." Bro. Byrd said, "All in favor say aye. The ayes have it."

As a child and going to church at Holly Grove, there were two paths on the southeast side of the building leading down to the ladies' "restroom" and on nearer the road was the men's. I had never thought about it, but in talking to Billy Castellaw, he said that those restrooms were put there for the school. It wasn't until the early '50's that a men's and a ladies' restroom were added. But most of us back then were acquainted with that unforgettable outhouse because we had one similar out back at our homes.

Holly Grove Church was before its time with a bus ministry. Albert Booth drove a school bus in the '40's to the Centerville School. He owned the bus, so on Sundays he picked up people all along the road and brought them to church. It was always full, with some even riding the fenders.

A memory that lots of us share was being baptized in Miss Hattie Cobb's lake. The pastor led the way into the water and all those who were candidates for baptism took hands and followed him. Then, one by one, they moved in front of the pastor as he recited the words, "I baptize you my brother (or sister) in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." The individual was then dipped backwards into the water until they were immersed, portraying the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Some of us can remember the church building as a large, one-room building with an Amen-corner in the southwest corner, but I can't remember it being used for that, for there were few Amen's as I remember back then. For Sunday School, the classes met in different sections of the building, all except the Young People and Intermediate classes. They met in the old Holly Grove School building on the corner. It was left vacant after the Holly Grove, Centerville and Sunny South Schools were consolidated. Mr. Fonville Carr was the janitor of the church and one day, as he was cleaning outside around the church, he started a fire to burn the dry grass. Before he knew it the fire had spread to the old school. It went down quickly.

Martha E. Herbert Jones

I was never a member of Holly Grove Church, however my family was. I moved away when I was eight years of age. My dad is buried in Holly Grove cemetery. My sister, Grace Lovelace, was a member until she passed away on September 11, 2010. I am sending a memorial to Grace for your building fund.

Flora Mann McNulty

Back in the early '60's, when Bro. Bill Davie was our pastor, Martha Etta and I were the leaders of the GA's (the Girls' Auxiliary Mission Group) at Holly Grove. We had a large group of girls and were well organized. Some of the girls I remember were Betty Gail Brown, Sara and Kathy Carr, Hilda Borders, Linda Stavely and Mary Elizabeth Truell. Later, Linda Davie and Melinda Norwood were members.

Each year when we took the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, then taken only through the WMU, everyone contributed only about a dollar, so our total reached the sum of about \$30. Bro. Davie encouraged us to make the offering church-wide. We got our husbands involved. Billy Castellaw, with the help of Dewey Jones, took a piece of plywood that Martha Etta had glued to a world map to and bored 30+ holes all over it. He then took two strings of lights and placed them in the holes. Each light turned on for the offering cost \$10. We raised \$300 that year. After changing the different colored lights to different amounts years later, the offering went up to \$5,000! That board was used for many, many years.

Aunt Ottie Simpson helped us with GA's. We had a Mothers and Daughters banquet for the girls, and one year carried them to the Children's Home in Memphis and to the Memphis Zoo.

Another memory from Holly Grove Church for me was when Bro. Gene White was our pastor. Martha Etta and I were in charge of planning the Christmas program. We chose the play, "The Blue Overalls Angel." The play's setting was in a church that was planning a Christmas program. Dewey was the janitor in the play and wore overalls. Billy portrayed a young man, and Gloria White was a young girl. Becky Hight, a seven-year-old child, was one of the main characters. Everyone was amazed at how well she learned her lines and became the little girl in the story. The scene of the play was outside, so we went to Brownsville Funeral Home and borrowed the artificial grass they used to cover graves. We used it to cover the floor and placed a large rock in the center of the stage. Everyone seems to really enjoy "The Blue Overalls Angel."

Another Christmas program we planned and worked on was a live manger scene. It began to snow that Sunday morning while we were at church, and by late afternoon as we were practicing to put it on that night, we began to realize that we would not be able to have our play. We all left to attempt to get to our homes. We had a beautiful white Christmas that year.

Peggy Simpson Castellaw

My mother, Nell Raburn Betts, is 95 and she remembers going to Holly Grove to a revival in 1929. She and her sister, Sue, rode in a buggy from the Providence community, where they lived. When they got there the church was already full and people were standing outside. They stood with Mrs. Mary Fry Williams, Frances Reid and Carlyle's mother. They asked her if she would tell their Daddy that they were outside with them, if he happened to ask. Mother was 14 and Sue was 12.

Carlene Betts Wiltshire

I have many fond memories of Holly Grove. I remember Mr. Everett and Miss Edna Watridge taking me to Sunday School when Mr. Nemon Cooke tried to reach a rowdy bunch of boys about Jesus. I also remember Mrs. Lottie Booth, who gave me my first speaking assignment as our Training Union class spoke before the church on a Sunday evening.

Mr. Albert Booth and Miss Mildred picked me up in their bus and carried me to church during revival, and I always received from Miss Mildred and hug and encouragement when I attended RA's. The women were the leaders before the men took over the boys in RA's. I remember hayrides, and roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. That was a find time back then. There were so who made an impression on me, too many for me to name. Those things helped to shape my life as a young boy.

I remember Miss Grace McGee who came home from church with my mother and me one Sunday. When we sat down to dinner, my step-father said, "We don't say the blessing here, so you can go ahead and eat." Miss Grace said abruptly, "Well, I do," and she began asking a blessing on our food and our home. That made quite an impression on me as a young boy.

It took a few years for me to understand and appreciate the thing I learned in my formative years at Holly Grove. I hope that I have been able to pass on some of those blessings from Holly Grove that have meant so much to my life.

Bro. Frank Kemper

There were three Hight brothers: Romus, Ray and Russell. Our parents were Burr and Mai Hight. I was eight years older than Russell and two years older than Ray. Russell being the youngest was always in our hair. When I as 12 and Ray was 10, we made professions of our faith in Christ at a Holy Grove revival and joined the church.

Our mother was a Baptist and belonged to Holly Grove, and our Daddy was a Methodist at Providence Methodist Church. We lived at Wellwood and it was about the same distance to both churches. At that time, neither church had full-time services so we attended both churches, and I was a member of both Sunday Schools. My Daddy would go to Holly Grove with us, and Mama would go to Providence when we went there.

I met a beautiful girl at Holly Grove, Lucille Steele, and when we finished high school in 1945, we decided to get married. On December 1 of that year, we asked Jessie Thomas White to carry us to Hernando, Mississippi, where we said our vows and became husband and wife. In December of 2010, we will be married 65 years. When we came back from getting married, we went by the Oakville TB Hospital in Memphis to visit with Ottie Herbert, my aunt, and my grandmother, Mrs. Ida Herbert, one of Lucille's favorite persons. Ottie was a patient there and Mommaw was there as a nurse.

Lucille and I have two daughters: Becky Drace and Judy Carlton. The Lord has blessed us with four grandchildren, and we are looking forward to the birth of our first great grandchild due in December to Becca Drace Drace. (She was a Drace and married a Drace.)

Two of my favorite persons in the world were my Mommaw, Mrs. Ida Herbert, and Mrs. Irma Steele, Lucille's mother. They were true saints of God.

Romus Hight

I have the fondest memories of sitting down front on the pew with my grandmother, Mrs. Ida Herbert (Mommaw). Aunt Mai Hight took me to church in her truck, and I sat down front with her also.

I remember Holly Grove having a revival with Dr. Harold Hunter on March 13, 1994. My son Kris and I walked down the aisle together, requesting to be baptized. On March 20, 1994, we were baptized by Bro. Jerry Davis, along with 44 others.

Later, I grew very accustomed to the back pew...my favorite place to meet the Lord when I worship. I have wonderful memories of when I was the Children's Director – having about 35 children and spending the night at church for a Children's Retreat. The children were all so polite and respectful. I also have wonderful memories of going on mission trips to Centrifuge in Florida with an awesome bunch of youth.

And now as chairman of the Senior Adults, I love planning trips to go out to eat and having our Christmas party each year with the "cream of the crop" adults – and one of them being my Mom, Viola Brown. There are so many adults that I look up to and respect here at Holly Grove. Many of our senior adults have gone on to be with the Lord. They had my love and respect, as well. Mrs. Wilma Sullivan taught me a lot about the history of the Holly Grove Church.

Last, but not least, are the memories we are making at Wednesday night Bible Study with our leader, Mrs. Lois Davis, and the group of ladies I get to share with on those nights.

Betty G. Brown Doyle

Miss Lura Cobb was an unusual lady, but very faithful to her church. She lived a mile from Holly Grove Church and walked most of the time. Her dresses always reached down to her ankles, and she always came with everything she felt she might need before she went back home: her Bible, a snack and a sweater were some of the things. When the church voted to get an air-conditioner, Miss Lura was disturbed. She said she didn't want to attend with a frozen congregation; but she continued to come.

Elsie Lewis

Although never having been a member of Holly Grove Baptist Church, it has always held a place in my heart. The "roots" of my family run deep in the church and community. My parents, Zack and Frances Castellaw, are buried there, as are my grandparents and many other relatives. I always fondly remember Holly Grove with appreciation for its influence on generations of my family.

Tommy Castellaw

My best memory of Holly Grove Baptist Church is visiting on weekend and summer vacations. I loved riding the school bus to church, driven by my grandfather, Albert Booth. At Christmas we also rode the bus to deliver fruit baskets we had put together with the help of my grandmother, Mildred Booth. Attending Holly Grove's Vacation Bible School was always the highlight of my summer.

Brenda McBride Mahan



I remember in the early 1950's when Bro. Roe Neal was pastor of Holly Grove. The Lord's Supper was prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Booth (I always said Uncle Vernon). They used homemade wine. At Bro. Neal's request, we stopped using wine during the serving of the Lord's Supper and began using grape juice. Bro. Neal had a family member who was an alcoholic, and the change was made out of respect for that person and any others who might have been affected by the use of wine.

Danny Simpson

I grew up in Holly Grove Baptist Church, was saved there and baptized in a lake off the Jackson Highway in 1946. My parents, Everett and Edna Watridge, always took us to church. Dorsey Watridge is my brother. We never had a choice to do anything else, if it interfered with church.

Old time memories – My teachers were my relatives like Wilma Sullivan (Big Auntie). The Carters and Watridges were faithful members. W.H. Watridge donated a plot of land to build the first church which was built of logs. Mom and Dad always sat in the seventh pew from the front. Miss Agnes Castellaw shouted one Sunday morning in church and frightened me. The heating system back then was a pot-bellied stove. Air-conditioning was – open the windows and use fans donated by the Brownsville Funeral Home. The “Amen Corner” was up front in the corner for the deacons. Bible drills were held in front of the entire church. Women wore dresses and hats to Sunday morning services. Men wore suits and ties, probably the only suit they had. Students from Union University came often to preach at Holly Grove. I was told in the early days that pastors of the church would borrow one of Dad's mules to make visits. They also knew that Mom was a good cook and would have some ham and biscuits and tea cakes to serve up.

I moved away from Holly Grove in 1956, but I feel that I owe my Christian upbringing and having a Christian home today to the older people of Holly Grove.

Gwynn Watridge Turner

One of my favorite memories of Holly Grove Baptist Church goes back to the late 1940's and the early 1950's. As a young girl then, I remember enjoying so much attending Vacation Bible School and all the fun things we did, making neat crafts to making new friends, but mostly learning about Jesus. My church home was Union Grove Methodist Church, but my sister Linda and I were always invited each summer to attend Holly Grove's Vacation Bible School. So we attended both Union Grove and Holly Grove's VBS, always having so much fun.

Through the years, I always enjoyed visiting Holly Grove with my sister June Cobb Childress and my mother, Annie Kay Shaw Carr Cobb. They and other relatives are buried in the Holly Grove cemetery. I occasionally return and attend Holly Grove worship services, but more often visit the graves of my loved ones buried there. I always have the sense of God's presence and the marvelous works His amazing grace and unconditional love provide at Holly Grove. Visiting Holly Grove and seeing old friends always brings back wonderful and precious memories of times passed. I am and have been a member of Bartlett Baptist Church in Bartlett, Tennessee for the past 30 years.

Joy Carr Moss

I praise God every day for leading me and my husband George to Holly Grove Baptist Church. Mother and Daddy (Betty and Doyle Henderson) were already members and they invited us to visit. We had not been attending anywhere at the time, but we gradually became more and more interested and involved. Our church family became wonderful friends and supporters, and we both grew in our faith. I saw George become the husband that every woman wants – a man who would worship and serve the Lord with his wife. He had never prayed aloud until Bro. Fred asked him to, and he loved being in Mr. Dewey's Sunday School class. He also enjoyed cooking at the annual stew and singing in the choir. When George left this world and entered Heaven the day before Easter 2007, I wanted to bring him back to Holly Grove one more time for the service. I thank God for using our Holly Grove church family. Because of our being here, I have the wonderful assurance that George is in Heaven and we will all be serving with him again one day.

Ann Faulkner

One of my memories at Holly Grove was when I was five years old. We were at church one afternoon for Vacation Bible School when a storm came up. It got real dark outside and the wind began to blow real hard. The limbs on the oak trees near the road were moving back and forth. Some of the kids started hollering, and it scared me. My mother was the VBS Director. She and the teachers got all of us in the auditorium and had us sit down on the floor near the front of the church. They began to sing and told us to sing. One of the songs was, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine." When the storm was over, a lot of roads were blocked by trees and limbs. We had to go home to Brownsville by going to Jones and then on to Brownsville.

Lorie B. Jones

My best memory of Holly Grove is of getting married to Marcel (Mac) McBride on February 2, 1947, in the old church building. We both grew up there, attending church every time the doors were opened. We often spoke of how thankful we were for our Holly Grove teachers, including Ollie Mae Booth and Emma Lee Simpson Stewart who worked with the young people. I am especially thankful for my parents, Albert and Mildred Booth, who led and taught in the church throughout their lives. My father was a deacon and my mother worked with the RA's (Royal Ambassadors) before the men began working with them. Plus, she taught a Young Single Girls' Sunday School Class.

Albertine Booth McBride

I was sitting on the back pew at Holly Grove Church with James Davis when Dr. Harold Hunter asked if there was someone present who God was calling to preach. I was a Christian who was not following the Lord at that time, but when Dr. Hunter said those words, somehow I knew that it was me. It took a while of running before I surrendered to that call, but I am happy that I did.

Jay Pratt

I have so many wonderful memories of growing up at Holly Grove Baptist Church. I have several that stand out in my mind. I remember that my Daddy, Albert Booth, drove the Centerville School bus on Sundays and Wednesdays and picked up several families to go to church with us. In the early days, that bus was the only "car" we had.

I remember so well when my little brother, Milton Booth, was born. I was six years old and I remember my parents carrying him to church with us in a little white, painted basket with two handles like a picnic basket. Oh, what a time we had, especially the day we left him on the pew. Mother thought Daddy had him, and Daddy thought Mother had him. Down the road on our way home, we discovered our mistake and quickly returned to the church. There he was in his little white basket just as we had left him, sound asleep.

Another early memory was sitting under the shade tree with friends in Sunbeams and GA's. Cousin Ollie Mae Booth was our teacher. Oh, how we loved her, especially when she brought us those little candy fish that tasted like jelly beans.

My family loved every preacher we had. I remember them eating lunch with us on Sundays. What a joy it was to us as children.

I married at Holly Grove and remember taking my children back home to visit even after we had moved to Memphis. I have had them fondly recall going to Vacation Bible School every summer. They always remember the juice and cookies served. May God bless Holly Grove Church with many more years of ministry.

Faye Booth McAbee

I am Sarah McBride Kee, daughter of Charles (Charlie) and Elsie Maness McBride. We grew up around the Holly Grove community. I was saved during a revival service at Holly Grove at the age of nine. Dr. Jonas Stewart was preaching. After the service, I went home and told my sister, Rubyline, that I wanted her to ask Jesus to come into her heart; she joined the church the following night. We were baptized along with others in a pond. Our sister Reba and our mother were already Christians. Our younger brother was saved some years later. Our mother was widowed when we were quite young. We didn't have a car, so the following are a few of the people who stopped and carried us to church: Uncle Nemon and Aunt Betty Cooke, Mr. Ovid and Mrs. Ollis Lovelace, Pete and Maxine Stewart, Mr. Albert and Miss Mildred Booth and Mr. Buddy and Miss Grade Lovelace. Those ladies were my Sunday School and Training Union teachers. I thank them and my mother for giving us a Christian background. Everyone at Holly Grove was so kind and helped us, and we loved each of them.

I have a good Christian life. The Lord has been good to me and my family. I thank God for Holly Grove Church.

Sarah McBride Kee

What an impact Holly Grove Church has had, and continues to have, on my life! When I think of Holly Grove, wonderful memories flood my mind, I think of the love and patience that a body of believers extended to an extremely "green" Union University sophomore. I think of the tremendous opportunity that this church family provided by allowing me to attempt to serve as their Minister of Music and Youth. Boy, were they ever gracious and forgiving!!! But, above all, they simply loved me as one of their own.

Thank you, Holly Grove family, for being such a vital part of my life. You taught me and showed by example that one of the greatest things a church body can do is to love one another. Always because of Christ! I love you with all my heart!

Leland Parks,  
Former Minister of Music and Youth  
October 1979 – August 1982

The first time we visited Holly Grove, the services were held in the family life center due to the renovation of the auditorium. It rained so hard on the tin roof that day that we all had a hard time hearing anything that was said!

I attended Miss Wilma Sullivan's Sunday School Class. During one of my first visits to her class, I was surprised when I suddenly saw a flash of red as she was teaching. Her red petticoat had slipped to the floor while she was talking! She laughed, pulled it back up and continued with the lesson. She won my heart that day!

I have made a lot of memories in the past ten years as a member of Holly Grove. But my greatest memory of this family will always be the people themselves. It is rare to find a group of people so loving, caring, giving, eager to share Jesus, and so committed to serving the Lord. I can truly say, as Paul said to the Ephesians, "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." I love you, Holly Grove family."

Nancy Campbell

Our lives have been tremendously blessed by the ministry of Holly Grove Church. We were married here, and both our children, Steve and Stephanie Lewis Scott, were saved here. It was a blessing to have our parents and other family members also attend Holly Grove. We thank the Lord for sending us such wonderful pastors to lead us. Our faith is in God, but we have always felt that we should support and pray for our pastors. Our church family has always been there for us in difficult times and has been such a blessing to us. We look forward to continuing to serve God at Holly Gove.

James and Judy Lewis

I had just begun my junior year at Union University, having transferred from junior college, when Bill Lee came to visit me in my dorm room. He stated that Holly Grove Baptist church was looking for a college student to lead their music. At that time, I was a music major and had committed my life to full-time Christian service. I was honored to be considered for that position. I did my best one Sunday to lead the music for worship with Bro. Earl Wells, who was the pastor. I went to St. Louis the next Sunday to lead music at a weekend revival. Upon my return to Holly Grove, Bill Lee told me that the church had voted to call me as Minister of Music at \$20.00 per week.

I learned how to plan each week's order of worship with the help of Bro. Wells and Miss Juanita Hess, the pianist. Bro. Wells treated me like his son. He taught me to be careful how I related to people, especially females. He also warned me about arguing with anyone concerning scripture interpretation. Those sessions have proved to be most helpful through the years as I have served as a minister since my time at Holly Grove. Miss Juanita helped me understand that the congregation did not know all the hymns or songs in the Baptist Hymnal. That was her way of letting me know that she played by ear mostly and struggled to read music quickly!

After serving one year, I was honored with the largest percentage rate increase in pay that I have ever received. My pay went from \$20.00 to \$25.00 per week! A 25% increase! The deacons also encouraged me to be ordained into the Gospel ministry. I was ordained by First Baptist Church in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, on Sunday evening, November 23, 1969, at the request of Holly Grove Baptist Church.

When I shared with you that I was engaged to Bobbye Winstead from Mississippi, you treated us with a wonderful shower. We are still using some of those gifts and we have celebrated 40 years of marriage.

I was honored in May 2009 when our daughter Joy decided to attend Holly Grove before she graduated from Union University. She was surprised at how the people of the church treated her with so much and appreciation for the brief ministry I enjoyed there.

I retired this year (2010) after serving First Baptist Church in Natchez, Mississippi as Minister of Education/Administration for almost 30 years.

Dan Wynn, Minister of Music  
September 1968 to August 1970

There are many wonderful memories experienced during my ministry at Holly Grove 1989-1996. It was a time of growth and expansion, high attendance, and retiring of the building debt.

One of the special memories I have is of the spring of 1994 revival with Evangelist Harold Hunter. During this revival, there were over 40 professions of faith, including several church members. Most of all those who made those professions of faith were baptized at a Sunday evening service. The baptisms, performed by Bro. Jerry Davis, took about 45 minutes, with me assisting the candidates into the water and Bro. David Peace helping them out. Deacons Dewey Jones and Ricky Hopper were among those baptized. It was a time of great rejoicing.

The great success and enduring spirit at Holly Grove can be attributed to a great dependence and faith in God, the people having a mind to work, great cooperation and organization, solid Biblical preaching, missionary spirit, and peace in the church. All of these were in great abundance during this very special time in my life. I give God the glory.

Bro. John Kimberly, Jr.

I have many wonderful memories of Holly Grove Baptist Church during my 60 years of life. Some of my early memories were actually shared with me by my precious family later since I was either not yet born at that time or too young to remember them. My Great Grandfather, Sam Castellaw, sang bass in the church choir. My parents, Pete and Maxine Stewart, were married at Holly Grove. Also, my Grandfather, Ovid Lovelace, was Sunday School Superintendent at Holly Grove.

After Milton and I married in 1983, I became a member of Holly Grove. Some of my most precious memories were seeing my grandchildren, Brad and Taylor Booth, professing their faith and being baptized in June 2003. What a blessing to be their and see them profess our Lord as their Savior. I hope and pray that they will have precious memories of Holly Grove Baptist Church as they continue to worship and grow in Christ at Holly Grove.

Becky Stewart Booth

I have actually attended Holly Grove Church my entire life. My parents, Albert and Mildred Booth, were very active members of Holly Grove where my Daddy drove his school bus and picked up people to go to church. He was also a deacon. My Mother taught Sunday School and also worked with the R A's or Royal Ambassadors.

I was told that when I was a baby I was left at church in a basket which was used to carry me to church. My Daddy thought my Mother had me, and my Mother thought my Daddy had me. When they realized they had left me on a pew at the church, they went back to church to get me.

One of the special memories I have about Holly Grove was a precious teacher and dear friend, Mrs. Wilma Sullivan. She taught and put up with a wild bunch including Bobby Williams, Danny Simpson, Jerry Taylor, Shirley Sullivan, Mary Evelyn McBride and myself.

On one particular time when I was approximately 12-13 years old, I was sitting on a gas heater. It was summer and of course, the heater was off. We were just having a good old time, and I was just sitting there for fun. "Miss" Wilma asked me to get off the heater. I didn't move, so she told me that she bet I would move if she went and got my Daddy. With that statement, I moved quickly off the heater. I did not want to get my Daddy involved. Miss Wilma was such a godly woman with so much wisdom and determination to teach us. We were all so blessed to have her in our lives.

Milton Booth

**Congratulations** Holly Grove Baptist Church for your 125 years of ministry in this community. Over the years, you have ministered to people in the community, across the state, across the USA and around the world. You have touch many, many lives **including mine**.

When I think of my growing up years at Holly Grove, I remember all the dear saints that have gone on to be with the Lord that made an impact on my life. The first ones, I recall in my younger years is Mr. Raymond and Mrs. Effie Covington. They invited me to attend Holly Grove with them. I don't remember the time frame that they carried me to church, but they faithfully stopped each Sunday and picked me up. I loved going to church and I liked being around people that showed me love. I am thankful the Covingtons loved me enough to invited me to church. They took time to invest in my life.

My family moved, when I was about 11 years old to a house on what is now the Albert Booth Road. My memories drift to Mr. Albert and Mrs. Mildred. They provided transportation to church for me from the age 11 to 15. Mr. Albert was my school bus driver and on Friday afternoons, he would say to me "*see you on Sunday*." Even after Mrs. Mildred passed away, Mr. Albert was still faithful to carry me to church. They made a huge invest in my life.

One of my fond memories is going to GA camp at Camp Linden. Mr. J.B. and Mrs. Lucille Simpson transported me and 2 other GA girls to and from camp. I'm sure the church paid my way or someone did. It was such a fun trip. I loved being around the Simpsons. I loved hearing Mrs. Lucille's laugh and we did laugh a lot during the traveling time. One of my friends was saved during the week of camp. That experience made a great impact on my life

That same year, I came to know the Lord at the age of 12 at Vacation Bible School here at Holly Grove. Bro. Bill Davie was the pastor at that time and he baptized me. After being saved, the Lord convicted me of the lostness of my family. I remember walking the aisle of this church numerous times to ask for prayer for my lost family. I prayed "*Lord give me a Christian home*." I did see 2 members of my family come to know the Lord, but instead of all of my family being saved, God moved me into a new family at the age of 15 and a Christian home. My uncle and aunt, Lynn and Betty Robison opened their home to me. I didn't fully understand then, the sacrifice that they under took. After having teenagers of my own, I better understand now. They loved me and I learned many valuable lessons from the both of them that has prepared me for a life in the ministry. They saw that I was in church every Sunday here at Holly Grove. They were the answer to my prayers. They made even a greater impact on my life and I am so grateful to the Lord for bringing them into my life.

The many Sunday School teachers, Training Union teachers, Bible Drill Leaders, VBS teachers and mission leaders made such an investment in my life. Many that have gone on to be with the Lord such as Mr. Neaman Cook, Mrs. Ruth Haak and Mrs. Wilma Sullivan. Many others played a part in teaching me the Word of God. Of course, my dear pastor and his wife, Bro. and Mrs. Earl Wells meant so much to me and were always a great encouragement.

At the age of 19, I married my beloved husband, Charles Pratt here at Holly Grove. Years later, I saw our daughter, Amy marry in this church. Holly Grove ordained and licensed our son Jay, into the ministry. The church been a wonderful encouragement and support to Jay, who is a missionary in Asia. I appreciate all the prayers from church members that have been said for Jay, his wife, Anna and now their little son, Jeremiah.

The Lord has blessed Charles and myself with 41 years of marriage, two children, 3 grand children and over 33 years serving our Lord in the ministry. Through all the years and the many places, we have served, I have always been thankful to Holly Grove for changing the course of my life. I urge the church to continue to minister to children. There are many that need to know someone loves them, that God loves them and He has a very special plan for their life, if they are willing to follow Him.

**Church keep showing the love of Christ to the unloved and the lost. I appreciate your ministry to me.**

Submitted By  
Linda Pratt



One of my special memories at Holly Grove Church was when I was eleven, playing tag around the cars in the gravel parking lot following church services. I ran into Mr. Whit Smith, and he told me that he heard our pastor, Bro. King Thedford, in the outhouse praying for that I would be saved and become a Christian. Bro. Thedford preached that Sunday night before the revival would start the following Monday. The youth were in the choir. When the invitation was given, I made my way to our pastor and gave my life to Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord for providing us a way of salvation.

Another memory I have was when Mr. Fonville Carr came up to me at church and said, "If it wasn't for your mother, I wouldn't be in church today." My mother was Mrs. Mai Hight.

Russell Hight

My fondest recollections of Holly Grove Baptist Church began when we first came here in April '84. Everyone was so friendly and warm and welcomed us with love. At that time, our Training Union class had ages from early twenties to mid-forties in it. We were a large group, but we had so much fun together. Everyone participated in the discussion of our lessons, as well as shared concerns and heartaches. We all supported each other.

We went to Chickasaw and Natchez Trace State Parks for overnight family trips. Bro. Dewey Jones went with us and cooked the breakfasts. I still cook a "Dewey Jones breakfast" myself sometimes. It consists of sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, gravy, hashbrowns and the famous "Dewey Jones" biscuits.

Then there was the Buffalo River rampage. James and Judy Lewis turned their boat over first, and James told Judy, "Don't lose the boat or the oars or we will have to pay for them." Then Jerry Morris stuck his oar in the water and said, "Man, this waaatrrr (water) is deep." Just about that time, his and Edna's boat took a flip. Gary and I went under a tree limb and our boat flipped over. I climbed up into a tree because I couldn't swim. Alan Jones called to me, "Hang on, Miss Judy." I told him not to worry, unless a snake got on the limb with me, I would be there until somebody got me down. Billy Wayne and Perry Watridge came to help me, and when Perry thought their boat was going to flip, so she stood up and jumped into the water like a bullfrog. She was hollering for Billy Wayne to help her. He told her "Perry, if you stand up the water is not up to your knees!"

I also have lots of fond memories of trips with our youth. One of the best was when we went to Mississippi with the Haywood Baptist Association team to help with God's Katrina Kitchen. Belinda Long, Barbara McCage, Whitney O'Neal, Erin Hayes, Terry Brown, Lois Davis and I stayed a week in February and went back for another week in June. We worked in the soup kitchen and distributed food around the neighborhood. We had preaching and singing at night. That was truly a great opportunity to witness those who had lost everything.

I remember all those precious saints who have gone on to be with the Lord: Mrs. Ottie Simpson, Mrs. Edna Watridge, Mrs. Betty Smith, Mrs. Wilma Sullivan and my precious daughter Cindy Blair Watson. God and my Holly Grove family have seen me through lots of difficult times in my 26 years at Holly Grove and for that I will always be thankful. I love each and every one of you.

Judy Hoppers Blair

I first came to Holly Grove Baptist Church when I began dating the most beautiful girl at Haywood High, Kathy Simpson. At first I felt very shy and awkward, but the youth leaders, Betty Carol Williams Haynes and Travis and Kathy Clenney made me feel very welcomed. Brother Bob Elliott was the interim pastor at the time and the church was renovating their auditorium. So, services were being held downstairs in the old fellowship hall. There was no gymnasium then.

I got to go to the Youth Evangelistic Conference, attend youth parties and become a part of this great church. I came from a different background, Pentecostal, and was somewhat skeptical of Baptist at first. However, the more I fellowshiped with the people, the more I realized the sincerity of their faith and love for the Lord.

I have fond memories of each pastor I've had the privilege to be shepherded by. I remember the compassion of Brother John Skiles; the healing touch of Brother H. B. Woodard to our congregation; the ambition of Brother Wayne Foropoulos and his inspiring words; the jolliness and creativity of Brother Mark Mangrum; the strength of leadership and love for the Lord of Brother Jerry Davis; the in-depth knowledge of the Bible of Brother Slade Johnson, and the sensitivity and sincerity of Brother Fred Campbell.

The experiences of being a teenager, young adult, young married couple, parents of children, teens and now of young adults at Holly Grove are and will continue to be some of my greatest memories. I thank God for bringing me here.

Ricky Hopper

We are short-timers at Holly Grove. Brother Fred came to my house and asked me to substitute for a while as Minister of Music and Youth in December 2006. We have been here ever since. Three memories stand out: First, how friendly you have been to Elaine and me. How you took us into your church family so quickly was such a blessing! We never felt like strangers. Second, while I was serving as Minister of Youth, to see so many teens come to accept Jesus as Savior, over thirty students accepted Christ. My love for teens and seeing them get saved made that time exciting. I shall never forget how we went months on end with children, teens and adults coming to Christ and joining Holly Grove Church every week. Finally, how much Elaine and I enjoy working and being with Brother Fred Campbell, our pastor. As a minister, I have worked with no man any more dedicated to every church member as our pastor. His humble spirit and dedication to seeing people come to know the Lord encourages me to do the same. We enjoy just sitting down with him and visiting as well.

I feel God is still using Holly Grove. We are his people serving at His church on this corner of Dr. Hess and Poplar Corner Road. I look forward to what God is going to continually do with our church and our lives.

Ralph and Elaine Brown

I could probably write a book about all my memories at Holly Grove Baptist Church. After all, it has been my home church since I was born. I'll try to give you a condensed version.

I remember when preschoolers were called Beginners, children were called Primaries and Juniors and youth were called Intermediates. Some of my Sunday School teachers were "The Marbury twins," Jean and Jane, Mrs. Betty Robison Barden, Mrs. Betty Smith, my Mama, Mrs. Ottie Simpson, Aunt Martha Jones, Aunt Lucille Simpson, Mrs. Elsie Lewis, Mrs. Jewell Overton, Mrs. Addie Mae Williams, Mrs. Betty Carol Williams Haynes, Mr. Travis and Mrs. Kathy Clenney, Cousin Terry Brown and Mrs. Wilma Sullivan.

Vacation Bible School was always a special time as a child. I remember having V B S parades and yelling out the window of a decorated car, "Come to Vacation Bible School." I still remember some of the songs we sang at V B S commencement services.

I remember the first time singing solo when Terry Patterson was our music director; and the first time playing piano for a worship service when Dan Wynn was director. He started me singing in the choir at age 13 next to my mother so I could learn to sing alto. I also remember special Christmas musicals by Leland Parks and Brennan Uthe.

Revivals bring back memories. In the summer, we would have morning services. I got to go home with Aunt Martha or Aunt Lucille and eat lunch with the preachers who were invited to their homes. I remember Youth Evangelistic Conferences, lock-ins, hayrides.

A special memory was when Ricky and I got married at Holly Grove Church with Brother Wayne Foropoulos officiating. I also have special memories of my children: Timothy, Rebekah, Jay and Katie being saved and being baptized, and Timothy's surrender to the ministry at age 17.

My mind also goes back to special friends, who stood beside us during difficult times and private meetings with Brother Fred Campbell for counseling, prayer and support.

More recently I recall helping with the youth choir practice for Brother Ralph Brown and getting to sing The National Anthem with the youth at Pringle's Park and hockey game, the inspiration of Mrs. Nancy Campbell's piano playing, Christy Fain's solos and getting to be a part of the worship team trio with Kathy McClinton and my daughter Katie.

I've seen Holly Grove at its worst and at its best, but there's always been God-fearing, praying people, who leaned on the Lord to keep us focused on what we're here for. I'm so grateful to be a part of "the friendliest church" where hope and love can be found.

Kathy Simpson Hopper

I have so many fond memories of my home church. The ones that stand out the most are Vacation Bible School with precious Mrs. Martha Etta Jones, Mrs. Ottie Simpson, Mrs. Lucille Simpson, Mrs. Betty Robison and all the scores of other saints, who my senile self has failed to mention. Without these dear ladies and their husbands in my young life, I would have never gotten to go anywhere outside my home, as my precious little mama didn't have a vehicle in my younger days. These dear role models helped mold my life into what it is today.

And, of course, I can still see all my precious aunts dressed fit for a queens (Aunt Ludie, Aunt Edna, Aunt Ruby, Aunt Betty, Aunt Wilma and my mother, that firey headed, Kate Elmer) sitting there for Sunday morning services checking everything and everybody out!!!! Oh! What a glorious day that will be when I see them all again.

Lana Forsythe Lewis

When I came back to Tennessee in 1989, I started attending Holly Grove Church. Brother Jerry Davis was the pastor, what a joy he brought to the church. We had a lot of older members then, but they were hard workers in the church and at the fire station.

After Brother Jerry left, Brother John Adams came as our interim pastor. He was with us for 16 months, and the church really grew. Brother Mark Mangrum came as our pastor for two or three years, and when he left to go to Parsons First Baptist Church, Brother Fred Campbell came, and you know the rest. We lost a lot of good members since then to the Great Reaper. I hope to see everyone on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

Edna Mae Brooks

I grew up at Holly Grove Community and went to church there most of my childhood. Going to church there with my mother, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends was the best.

When I left home, coming back to visit, sitting with my mother and family were all great memories. I miss my mother, and my aunts and uncles who are all gone on now, but Holly Grove is still my home and where I was saved. Another great memory was attending Vacation Bible School. I can still taste that grape and orange drink and those cookies served up each day.

Thanks for giving me this opportunity to share.

Gail Lovelace

**LET'S GET THE  
GOSPEL TO A LOST WORLD**

## LET'S GET THE GOSPEL TO A LOST WORLD

A good motto for a church, and a feeling shared by Bro. Fred Campbell, the pastor, and Bro. Ralph Brown, the Minister of Music and Youth in '07 and '08 at Holly Grove Baptist Church. As a result of their efforts and others, 85 members were added that church year, a large number of them young people making professions of their faith. Some were family members moving their membership and others were being saved. A second van was purchased by the church and Bro. Ralph and wife Elaine, and others, picked up young people for church. The Baptist and Reflector took notice and wrote about it.

Dr. Charles Pratt, Director of Missions for Haywood and Fayette Counties, informed Holly Grove that the First Baptist Church in Braden had closed its doors due to lack of attendance. He urged the churches in Haywood County to help reopen those church doors for worship. Holly Grove took up the challenge. Bro. Ralph Brown surveyed the area in about a 7-mile radius, and 50 members of Holly Grove visited all the homes on two Saturdays, inviting them to worship at Braden the following Sundays. A preacher was provided each Sunday, and members from Holly Grove met with the church, teaching Sunday School and leading in worship. Then other churches in the Association took up the challenge. The Baptist and Reflector also wrote about this endeavor.

Mr. Robert Barden was recently honored by the Haywood Baptist Association for his 50-year anniversary working in jail ministry in Haywood County. You guessed it - he is a member of Holly Grove. Mr. Robert doesn't like to talk much about it and gives glory to the Lord. He and Bro. Lonnie Robinson go early each Sunday morning to tell jail prisoners about God's grace and the salvation He provides. Mr. Robert has seen more than 2,000 prisoners come to know the Lord. His ministry was written about in the Baptist and Reflector also.

Mr. Dewey Jones, another member of Holly Grove Church, was recently honored by the Haywood Baptist Association for his 40 years of radio ministry. He goes every Sunday morning to the radio station in Brownsville to bring the Sunday School lesson to shut-ins and anyone who is listening. Mr. Dewey urges those who are unsaved to come to know the Savior before it's too late; that God has a plan for their lives, but it must begin with trusting the Lord Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Mr. Dewey was written about in a missions magazine a few years ago and again recently in the States Graphic.

Holly Grove has had a number of members to go out in special service. Jay Pratt, who was ordained at Holly Grove, is now serving in foreign missions in Asia with his wife Anna and their little son Jeremiah. Travis Forsythe, who grew up at Holly Grove and attended church here, is in Africa with his wife Kim and family, serving as foreign missionaries. Sharon Wynn, daughter of Andy and Jan Wynn, is in Nicaragua teaching education, singing and telling them about her Lord. Timothy Hopper, also ordained at Holly Grove, is Minister of Youth in Alabama. David Peace, also ordained at Holly Grove, now pastors Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Whiteville. Jacob Watson, grandson of Gary and Judy Blair, is enrolled at Bethany World Changers Bible College in Baton Rouge, LA. and is working to help them establish rehab programs for drug and alcohol abuse victims. Mission teams have gone from Holly Grove to Japan, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas and other places to carry the Word and minister to those in need.

"Stew Day" every August is a big day. Milton and Becky Booth head this up. Dewey Jones and his crew cook breakfast for the working group before they get started. People come from all over to fellowship, eat and carry home a portion of the 12 to 14 pots of stew that are cooked that day.