



# Church

## ARCHIVES HONORS CHURCH...

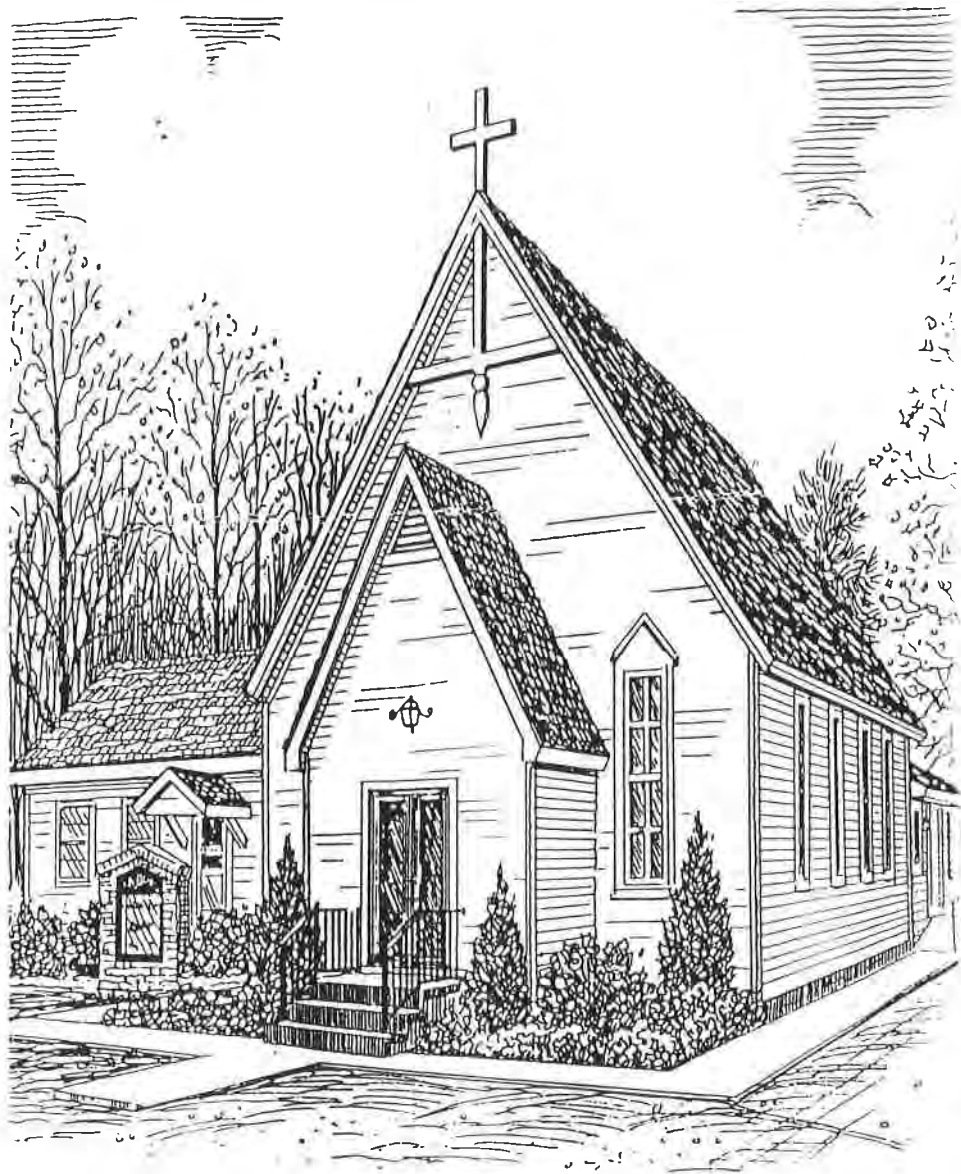
Representatives of the State of Delaware and Hickory Hill U.M. Church gathered recently to dedicate a state historical marker commemorating the history of the church. The dedication ceremony was held in conjunction with the church's annual Homecoming Service. The marker was formally presented to the congregation by C. Russell McCabe of the Delaware Public Archives and Rep. Charles P. West, project sponsor.

Shown are, from left, Kenny Walton, Chris Bradner, Rev. Phillis Walton, Church Historian Luray McClug, Daniel Hudson and Rep. West.



**HICKORY HILL METHODIST CHURCH**  
For many years local Methodists were forced to travel a considerable distance to attend services. In 1873, Hickory's School House was established as a preaching place within the local circuit. The success of this effort soon led interest in building a church. On September 11, 1873, Robert H. Knottin conveyed six acres of land at this location for that purpose. Construction of Hickory Hill Methodist Episcopal Church was completed the following year. The church became the focus of community life, hosting traditional events such as Children's Day, Homecoming, and Christmas Entertainment. Outdoor activities or "bush" meetings were held nearby, bringing spiritual renewal to those in attendance. The church was founded in 1874.  
Delaware Public Archives 401  
40118

*Hickory Hill  
United Methodist Church*



*Millsboro, Delaware*

# HICKORY HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Phyllis Walton, Pastor  
Church 934-6612 Home 856-7616  
October 26, 1997  
HOME COMING

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## PRELUDE

\*INTROIT (Insert) He is Lord

## RECOGNITION of the HISTORICAL MARKER

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made,

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: This is none other than the house of God,

People: Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and  
into his courts with praise!

ALL: Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty Father, we pray for our Church and the Church  
throughout the world. Sanctify its life, renew its worship,  
empower its witness, and restore its unity. We ask You to  
give us the strength to do Your will. And bind us together in  
common obedience to do your will.

\*HYMN #228  
"On a Hill Far Away"

\*PSALTER #596  
"Peace Be Within You"

\*GLORIA PATRI #794

\*APOSTLES CREED #738

OLD TESTAMENT Job 42:16 10-17

SPECIAL MUSIC

Millville United Methodist Choir

EPISTLE LESSON

Hebrews 7:23-28

JOYS AND CONCERNS

QUIET MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER LORDS PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mike & Ann Hurley

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

WORSHIP THROUGH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY

\*HYMN

#84 RB

"There's a Mansion Over the Hill Top"

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 10:46-52

Leader: This is the Word of our Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WITNESS TO THE WORD

Rev. Ivan Downing

"The Way of Abundance"

\*HYMN

# 539

"God be With You Until We Meet Again"

\*BENEDICTON

POSTLUDE

We wish to thank Rev. Ivan Downing, the Millville Choir  
and Mike and Ann Hurley for making our Homecoming  
Service so special. May God bless each of you as you  
continue to serve Him.

## He Is Lord

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He is Lord, he is Lord! He is ris-en from the  
dead and he is Lord! Ev-ery knee shall bow,  
ev-ery tongue con-fess that Je-sus Christ is Lord

WORDS: Emily, 1914  
MUSIC: Fred. H. H. By Tom Feltz, 1956

HE IS LORD  
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## Calendar of Events

- October 26 Disciple Bible Study "When God Draws Near" 6:00 p.m.  
27 Church Conference 7:00 p.m.  
29 Bishop Weaver comes to Hickory Hill 9:00 a.m.  
Everyone is welcome to attend!
- November 1 UMW Dinner 5:30 p.m.  
3 Administrative Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
4 UMW Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- December 16 UMW Christmas Dinner at Doyles Restaurant

## Prayer List

Marian Hickman	Sara Bunting
Connie Webb	Myrtle Mumford
Ford Parker	Mabel Mitchell
Juanita Hudson	Oscar McCabe
Irene LeCates	Olivette McCabe
Bob Hickman	Marie Mitchell
Madelyn Mitchell	Marie Mitchell
Myrtle Hitchens	Emma Atkins

## A Favorite Recipe

Take a cup of Kindness, mix it well with love,  
Add a lot of Patience and Faith in God above,  
Sprinkle very generously with Joy and Thanks and Cheer  
And you'll have lots of "Angel Food" to feast on all the year.

the writer has seen which had the inscription traced with a forefinger while the cement was still soft. It is certainly a tribute to the man who was determined to have a memorial for his loved ones even though he had to fashion it with his own hands.

**Gumboro Methodist Church (M.E.).** In 1865, Gumboro M. P. Church was built on land donated by Ebenezer Gray, south of Gumboro. In 1870, the newly-organized Union M. E. Church purchased the building for \$350.00, moved it into Gumboro and the entire congregation came with it.

The church site was donated by John Ake on Dec. 25, 1877. Nine perches of land were bought from Jane S. Hearn on Sept. 25, 1880. It was incorporated by the General Assembly on Mar. 17, 1881, as "Union M. E. Church of Gumboro Hundred." The church was incorporated as "Gumboro M. E. Church," on June 5, 1890. Improvements were made during that year. Land was donated to the church by David R. Baker on Aug. 16, 1924.

A new church was built on the new site in 1925 and the old building was sold to James J. Esham who used it for a storehouse. The new church was formally opened with an all-day service on Sun., Aug. 2, 1925, conducted by the pastor, the Rev. C. S. Larrimore. Two acres of land were purchased from Norman C. Baker, on Nov. 13, 1940. A new parsonage was built in 1941.

**Gumboro Pilgrim Holiness Church** was organized after a series of tent meetings. The half-acre church site was purchased on Mar. 2, 1935, from Leonora E. Daisey. The church was completed and was dedicated on June 9, 1935.

**Westwood Methodist Church (M.E.)** is located two miles northeast of Gumboro. The church was built in 1890. Trustees were elected on Mar. 23, 1891. On that day the church site was secured from Joshua G. West at a cost of \$50.00. It was located on the road to Good Hope School. The trustees were Shadrack Short, James F. Jones, Robert Short, Joseph B. West, George W. Jones, Jr., Joshua G. West and Philip T. West.

**Houston Methodist Church (M.E.),** at Hickory Hill, was organized in 1876. Meetings were first held in temporary quarters. Late in 1876, the erection of a church was started by the Rev. J. E. Kidney. It was completed and was dedicated, in 1877, by the Rev. E. H. Nelson. The site was secured on Sept. 11, 1877 from Robt. B. Houston.

**Dickenson A. M. E. Church** is located three-quarters of a mile west of Millsboro. It was founded, in 1868, when the first church was built. The church site was purchased on May 2, 1868, from John M. Burton. It was rebuilt in 1916 and in 1924. Additional land was purchased on July 28, 1928, from John S. Dobson. There is a graveyard beside the church. This church is known locally as "Old Field" from the name of the camp-ground beside the church.

**Carey's Methodist Church (M.E.)** is located five miles s. w. of Millsboro. This church was organized and met in Mission Hill School. The corner-stone of the church was laid in 1886. The site was donated by Elijah W. Carey on July 26, 1884. The church was incorporated on Feb. 5, 1891. More land was purchased on Sept. 14, 1908 from Ulysses G. Carey and on Aug. 17, 1925, from M. H. Mitchell. In 1933, the church was enlarged. There is a prosperous camp-meeting conducted each year in the grove beside the church. Camp-meetings have been held here by the churches in the neighborhood since 1836.





# Hickory Hill Heritage

1877 - 1977

# Hickory Hill Heritage

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*"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void;  
and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.  
And God said let there be light: and there was light."*

Genesis 1:1-3



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## Foreword

Nineteen hundred and seventy-six has marked the most significant event in our nation's history, America's two-hundredth birthday. Likewise, 1977 is important to us at Hickory Hill as it is the one-hundredth birthday of the small country church that has been a major influence in our lives. Therefore, we cannot allow this opportunity to pass by without penning a succinct history of our quaint country church by the side of the road. Although Hickory Hill United Methodist Church, formerly known as the Houston's M. E. Church, has had her ups and downs during the past one hundred years, she has managed by the grace and mercies of God to hold fast and to let her light shine in the community.

Hickory Hill United Methodist Church, today, exemplifies a church in which God's Holy Spirit dwells and leads His people, a church in which worshiping, praying, reading and studying God's word, the Holy Bible, and fellowshiping together are resources of Christian growth, a church in which old-fashioned class meetings are conducted, testimonies are given in, and the sacred songs of the saints are still sung.

Now, there are three major reasons for this book. Initially, one needs to be reminded of the vitality and the simplicity of the country church. Secondly, God has been so good to us; therefore, we wish to share His goodness with other Christian families. When Joshua crossed the dry Jordan, by God's instruction, he commanded one from each of the twelve tribes to take a stone from the midst of Jordan for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever. We, too, must never forget our Lord's blessings to our founding forefathers and to us during the past ten decades. Lastly, although the reader may or may not be of Methodist Country Church roots, nevertheless, in sharing these memories, hopefully one will appreciate the information set forth upon these pages and join in the love, joy, fellowship and traditions of God's people in an old-fashioned country church.





## Greetings and Congratulations



BISHOP JAMES K. MATHEWS

To the church at Hickory Hill,

I am pleased to send my heartiest greetings and congratulations on your 100th birthday. It is no small thing to establish a new congregation and to sustain its life for ten decades. This can only be done by the power of God's spirit and the devoted response of His people. I am sure those who have gone before have had great joy in their commitment and service. Likewise, I am confident you share in this commitment.

May this be for you a season of well-being and deep awareness of God's continued presence.

Very sincerely,

James K. Mathews



REV. WILLIAM H. REVELLE, JR.

To the Members of the Hickory Hill United Methodist Church:

It is a pleasure for me to bring greetings to the members of the Hickory Hill United Methodist Church on its 100th Anniversary. These greetings are extended from me personally and also from the Dover District and the Peninsula Annual Conference.

The church is to be congratulated for its record of both history and ministry to people in this part of the State of Delaware. It should also be congratulated for the extension of its ministry through mission funds to the parish that is the world.

My prayer is that this church and its people may continue to make an impact for good in its area and its age. And may this impact grow from more to more, and to more and more people and places.

God Bless!

Sincerely yours,

W. H. Revelle, Jr.



REV. J. J. VON HAGEL

Dear Members and Friends,

Congratulations to the loyal members and friends of Hickory Hill United Methodist Church on your 100th Birthday. I have heard many good reports of the growth and accomplishments of your Church.

I rejoice with you at what has been done and pray that God will continue to bless Hickory Hill United Methodist Church.

J. J. Von Hagel,  
A former pastor

Dear Members and Friends of Hickory Hill,

Congratulations on the occasion of your 100th anniversary. Reverend George and I enjoyed very much the time that we spent serving your church. We loved the people, and you were all so good to us. My late husband had fondest memories of you all. I still recall the wonderful leadership of Estella, Preston, Hazel, Miss Burtie and others, and the many good times we all shared together.

Love and the best to you all,

Mrs. Amelia George

To the Members of the Hickory Hill Church,

Congratulations to you on your one hundredth anniversary! I know my father, the Reverend Howard McDade, served you in the late 30's, and he always loved the people at Houston's Church. My father also loved to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and win souls for the Lord. Once, on the grounds at Houston, I remember helping my dad build an outdoor revival camp, which he called a "bush meeting". We had to cut trees and bushes which were used for support and a roof. We decorated the pulpit and the grounds with Christian and American flags. There were many, many conversions during those outdoor revival meetings. After the expenses were met, the remaining collections were donated to a boy's orphanage.

Once again, congratulations on your first one hundred years. If the Lord doesn't come soon, may your Hickory Hill Church be able to celebrate its bicentennial.

Love in Christ,

Mr. David John McDade



REV. H. R. McDADE



REV. AND MRS. J. P. GEORGE



REV. ARTHUR G. BACKUS

Dear Members and Friends of Hickory Hill United Methodist Church:

Greetings to you in the name and spirit of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I congratulate you as you celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Houston's Methodist Church, nee Hickory Hill United Methodist Church. This is a joyous occasion, and I join you in giving thanks to God for your heritage. You are a part of that "Endless Line of Splendor" which makes up the Body of our Lord. To you has been given the glorious opportunity of continuing to be and to do in the world what Christ began in His own life.

As a former pastor, I count it a privilege and an honor to be a part of you and to have played a small part in your lives, both individually and collectively. It has been a joy to see you grow to your present strength and to have been a part of that growing experience.

As you celebrate the centennial birth of your church, no doubt you will look back over the years, recalling good times and hard times; joys and sorrows; victories and disappointments which you have shared. All of these experiences have served to refine and to strengthen you for the task that lies immediately before you.

You will also be looking ahead trying to "fore tell" the future and to anticipate what blessings and experiences await you in this next century. As you do, I admonish you to continue faithfully in our Lord's service, for both our forefathers' and our children's faith is "made perfect" through ours. "Though the great men of faith trusted God and won His approval, none of them received all that God had promised them; because God had decided on an even better plan for us, that their faith would be made perfect through us." (Hebrews 11:39-40)

May the Lord bless you as you continue to be His church. I pray that you "be not weary in well-doing," that you keep aglow the light of Christ's love and the warmth of His Presence in your midst.

Fraternally,

Arthur G. Backus

To the people of Hickory Hill Church,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ and congratulations on your one hundredth birthday.

The Bible says that a church is a congregation of believers. That was surely so at Hickory Hill as I found it when I began my pastorate there in 1961. I found a congregation of believers, not playing games, not pretending anything, but "for real" Christians practicing what they preached. During my ministry the congregation grew, and continues to grow, even in these days of falling away in the church. Disciples make disciples!



REV. IVON DOWNING

Perhaps I ought not to mention names, but one of my fondest memories involved that old saint, John Mumford. "You have been good for us, preacher," he once told me. I wonder if he ever knew how good Hickory Hill church has always been for her preachers?

Briefly, that's how I remember Hickory Hill United Methodist Church, a congregation of believers making disciples and helping people.

Sincerely,

Ivon Downing



REV. ELMER BENNETT

My dear friends at Hickory Hill,

Congratulations on your centennial year! For several years now, I have stood behind the pulpit "as one who would not be ashamed proclaiming a message for those who would see Jesus." Since I have been retired, it has been a real joy to see old Christian friends and hear from them. I pray this letter to you at Hickory Hill will be a blessing in one way or another.

One never knows really the good or harm he has done to others. Every man can be a wonderful influence for good or a damaging influence for evil, resulting from what he says or does from day to day. First of all I thank my God for a good father and mother. My home, where I grew up, was a wonderful influence for good. My mother led me to Christ at an early age. I'll never forget my earthly home and my church home. One will find Christ there if he looks for Him.

I want the best of everything. Don't you? Christ will give it to you. Things that are the best last longer and give joy for many years. What is true in the material realm is also true spiritually. Is this why Christ appeals to people today? Jesus Christ is the best. He still calls men to follow Him. The followers of Christ see in Him the best there is. Young man or woman, if you desire to follow the very best example, then follow Jesus. He is the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes into the Father but by Him. This is the best advice I can give you. So, may the Lord bless you all.

Your friend always,

Elmer Bennett

P.S. It was a joy to serve you for five years.

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, . . . thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now . . ." (Phil. 1: 3, 5) The Apostle Paul's words express well the regard I have for the congregation of Methodists at Hickory Hill. From the morning of my arrival in May 1971 -- (I came early and found Sister Carrie Lowe already there) -- God led us into many good works and witnessing, for the extension of His kingdom.

When a pastor, moving on, severs professional ties with a parish, he still has many warm human ties and feelings of affection. He is glad to keep those relationships alive through prayer and correspondence. So, in the continuing life of a congregation, each pastorate leaves its mark; and some of its strengths abide.

Hickory Hill church has endured through ten decades. (And the going was sometimes difficult!) But this family of God has done more than "hold on": you all have tested and proved the power of God and have seen some of the depth of Christ's love. In short, you have shown *quality* of Christian living as well as quantity.

May your look at past years, now, encourage you to move into the years to come -- in faithfulness, in joy, and in God's peace.

C. W. S.



REV. C. W. SMITH





REV. WILLIAM A. TURNER

To the Members and Friends of Hickory Hill United Methodist Church  
on your One Hundredth Birthday:

I first would like to congratulate the older members for their faithfulness in making it possible for the church to remain open through the troubled periods of life, and for their encouragement they have given to the young adults as they began their Christian life.

I would like to challenge the young adults to a greater experience of Christian faith in Jesus Christ that they may continue to be an inspiration to the youth of the area to put their trust in the Lord and to have faith in His promises.

To the youth of the church, I commend you to a life's work that is worthy of your effort, time, and talent, in helping to build the Kingdom of God in the hearts of men with the help of Jesus Christ and under His leadership.

To all groups of the church, there is a work for each of us to do honorably and consistently in the years ahead, that our church may accomplish great things for God. For the church to continue as an institution of Christian influence, there must be first people in it who love the Lord, and who have a concern for their fellowman. There must be people willing to put the church and the Lord first in their life.

For the church to continue as a growing church and one of Christian influence, the membership of Hickory Hill Church must ground their faith in the Christian beliefs in the New Testament as taught by Jesus Christ.

You as a church are to be congratulated for your past achievements, but don't lose sight of the fact that there is yet much to be done to advance God's Kingdom. Let us wait upon the Lord to reveal His will and purpose and remain faithful in our tasks that Hickory Hill United Methodist Church will remain open another one hundred years.

Your pastor,

Reverend William A. Turner

# Houston-Hickory Hill Appointments

## 1873 - 1977

	Rev. T.O. Ayres	1873-1876
Circuit: Frankford, St. Georges, Salem & Houston's School	Rev. J.E. Kidney	1876-1878
Houston's Methodist Episcopal Church	Rev. E.H. Nelson	1878-1881
	Rev. W.J. O'Neill	1881-1882
	Rev. W.J. DuHadway	1882-1885
	Rev. A.D. Davis	1885-1886
	Rev. S.N. Pilchard	1886-1889
	Rev. C.F. Sheppard	1889-1891
	Rev. E.S. Mace	1891-1892
	Rev. C.P. Swain	1892-1895
	Rev. J.S. Wickline	1895-1899
	Rev. F.F. Carpenter	1899-1900
	Rev. M.D. Nutter	1900-1901
	Rev. A. Burke	1901-1903
	Rev. G.R. Neese	1903-1905
	Rev. G.W. Hastings	1905-1907
	Rev. A.W. Goodhand	1907-1910
	Rev. J.P. Outten	1910-1911
	Rev. G.W. Hastings	1911-1913
	Rev. G. Harris	1913-1916
Circuit: Frankford, Houston, Omar	Rev. C.W. Strickland	1916-1919
	Rev. D.J. Ford	1919-1921
	Rev. W.C. Poole	1921-1923
	Rev. G.A. Cooke	1923-1928
	Rev. J. Price	1928-1919
	Rev. E.B. Taylor	1929-1930
	Rev. J.H. Gardner	1930-1932
	Rev. W.L. Hess	1932-1934
	Rev. J.C. Bolton	1934-1937
	Rev. H.R. McDade	1937-1939
Houston's Methodist Church	Rev. J.A. Clark	1939-1942
	Rev. A.W. Strickland	1942-1943
	Rev. W. Everett	1943-1945
	Rev. O.G. Brewer	1945-1946
	Rev. J.J. Von Hagel	1946-1951
Circuit: Millville, Houston	Rev. J.P. George	1951-1952
Circuit: Dagsboro, Houston, Zoar & Providence	Rev. A. Backus	1952-1955
Houston's Methodist Church becomes Hickory Hill Methodist Church		
Circuit: Roxana, Sound, Hickory Hill	Rev. G.H. McWilliams	1955-1957
	Rev. W.H. Kohl	1957-1961
	Rev. I.P. Downing	1961-1966
Circuit: Frankford, Hickory Hill, Ebenezer	Rev. E.L. Bennett	1966-1971
	Rev. C.W. Smith	1971-1976
Circuit: Frankford, Hickory Hill	Rev. W.A. Turner	1976-

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

St. John 1:1

## Introduction

The history of the Houston's Methodist Episcopal Church actually began with the history of the Houston people. About 1650 the Houstons sailed from Scotland and settled in the area presently known as Pocomoke and Princess Anne, Maryland. Years later many of the Houstons moved to southern Delaware. Mrs. Mary Houston Robinson of Georgetown explained that there were many Houston families in the county of Sussex, particularly Robert Houston's. The forefathers of Mr. Robert G. Houston, a former Congressman, settled in Laurel and were the builders of Old Christ Church in the latter half of the eighteenth century, 1771. Mr. Robert I. Houston's descendants settled in Millsborough, and another Robert Houston of the Houston-Wilson lineage settled in Lincoln, Delaware. In addition to these Robert Houston's was Mr. Robert B. Houston of near Dagsborough. It was Mr. Robert B. Houston, the father of John M., Charles, Robert, and Henry Houston, who sold the Houston trustees property on which to build a house of worship. When the church was completed and dedicated on October 28, 1878, naturally it bore the name *Houston*. The brief history which follows gives an account of the Houston Methodist Episcopal Church, its leaders, and its progress during the past ten decades of Methodism.



*"... and upon this rock I will build my church;  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

Saint Matthew 16:18

## In the Beginning

"In the same year (1873) Houston School House was taken up as a preaching place, and a class formed, but there is little hope of ever accomplishing much unless they build a house of worship. School House appointments do well for a year or two and then go down." Thus wrote the Reverend T. O. Ayres who was appointed to the circuit in the spring of 1873. During that year, Centenary School House near Frankford was dropped as a preaching place, and Houston's School House, joining Frankford, Salem, and St. George's, was added to the circuit. By December 22, 1873, our forefathers who met faithfully at Houston's School, had raised \$24.75 for the support of the ministry.

In that first year of worship at the schoolhouse, thirty-two names were recorded by Reverend Ayres in the *Record of the Methodist Episcopal Church 1870-1876*. The old records revealed that the pastors were most strict in their reports. If members of the societies had backslidden or were disloyal or delinquent, then this notation was made by the appointed pastor beside the parishioner's name. In those days great care was taken in receiving probationers, who were actually on a six-month probationary trial. During the twenty-six week probationary period, an individual's life was his only testimony. Men, women, and youth had to prove themselves to God and to Christian believers of Jesus Christ before they were taken into the full membership of the congregation and church. The appointed pastor was responsible for recording the probationer's class, or where he attended church, his residence, his state in life, and the fact as to his being baptized or not. Not all probationers were received into full membership as the Reverend T. O. Ayres indicated. "The Lord knows where they are. I don't." The first pastor also advised the formation of an adult Bible class at Houston's School and suggested that the teacher of the class address the school and give black board exercises when convenient since some of the parishioners had not received much schooling and therefore could not read the scriptures.

Among those thirty-two original names of class eleven at Houston's School, Mr. James J. Williams was the first leader, steward, and Sunday School superintendent. Mr. James P. McDowell was listed as the first exhorter in 1875, and in May of the same year Jacob M. McDowell became the second superintendent succeeded by Jeremiah Wagamon in March of 1876. On the class records please notice the early "sound" spellings of Cary, now Carey, Murry, now Murray and Tumy or Tumey, now spelled Toomey. According to the class record of 1874, twenty persons were added to the congregation.

On April 10, 1875, the Quarterly Conference met at Antioch M. E. Church. In the minutes, which included the pastor's report, Reverend T. O. Ayres wrote:

"We think the time has come to strike at Houston's. We have called upon the brethern to meet us at our next appointment to take a step looking to the erection of a Church. Brethern pray for us and help us. Stand by us this year as you have in the two that are passed. Quicken your energies and let us make this our last year the best of the three. By God's blessings it shall be so."

Yours truly,

T. O. Ayres

On March 25, 1876, upon his departure, Reverend Ayres recorded the following note in the historical records: "Conference is over. Reverend J. E. Kidney is appointed to be my successor. During my stay of three years the charge has gained about 125 by the blessings of the Lord."



*"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."*

Ephesians 2: 20:22

Within four years that "little hope of ever accomplishing much" grew into a great hope. Although the Sunday School classes were closed during the winter months, nevertheless, during the spring of May 26, 1877, at Houston's School House, five men of faith were appointed trustees, and on September 11, 1877, a transaction was made between the grantor, Mr. Robert B. Houston, and the grantees, the first five trustees of the Houston M. E. Church. Written in the actual deed, a sum of twenty-five dollars was paid in hand to Robert B. Houston by James J. Williams, John M. Houston, Peter H. Carey, John T. Wagamon and Elijah Adkins for an acre of land, the premises to be a place of divine worship. During this transitional period, the pastor of the circuit was the Reverend J. E. Kidney. On the pages which follow are copies of the first schoolhouse class records and the deed and its contents, recorded in book 91, page 457 in the Recorder of Deeds Office, County Court House, Georgetown, Delaware.

# Class Records.

Class No. *225* / *James J. Williams*, Leader. Meets *Houston's School House.*

Register.	Names.	State in Life.	Residence.	Remarks.
1	<i>James J. Williams</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Near Houston's S. House.</i>	
2	<i>Peter H. Cary</i>		"	
3	<i>Elizabeth Cary</i>		"	
4	<i>John Wagamon</i>		"	
5	<i>Jeremiah Wagamon</i>		"	
6	<i>Joshua T. Cary</i>		"	
<i>r</i> 7	<i>Fobitha E. Murry</i>		"	<i>Removed, no letter</i>
8	<i>Lizzie Cary</i>		"	
9	<i>Martha Turney</i>		"	<i>Removed, no letter, not called for</i>
10	<i>John W. Cary</i>		"	
<i>r</i> 11	<i>Edward H. Littleton</i>		"	<i>Removed by letter <sup>Dec</sup> 20.73</i>
<i>r</i> 12	<i>Margaret Littleton</i>		"	<i>Resid by letter Dec. 20.73.</i>
<i>r</i> 13	<i>Lafayette Dukes</i>	<i>S</i>	"	<i>Backslidden</i>
14	<i>Adelaide Houston</i>	<i>M</i>	"	
15	<i>Jenny Adkins</i>	<i>S</i>	"	
16	<i>Clara Dukes</i>	"	"	
<i>r</i> 17	<i>Mary Adkins</i>		"	<i>Backslidden</i>
18	<i>Nelly Adkins</i>		"	
<i>r</i> 19	<i>W. B. Rickards</i>		"	<i>Dropped</i>
20	<i>Oliver Adkins</i>		"	
21	<i>Louisa Adkins</i>		"	
22	<i>Harrick Turney</i>	<i>M</i>	"	
<i>r</i> 23	<i>Jacob E. McDowell</i>	"	"	<i>on No. 1.</i>
<i>r</i> 24	<i>Martha Jane McDowell</i>	"	"	<i>Died " 1876</i>
25	<i>Mary E. Johnson</i>		"	
26	<i>Catherine Turney</i>		"	
27	<i>Mary W. Rickards</i>		"	
28	<i>Sarah M. Burton</i>		"	
29	<i>Hariett Truitt</i>		"	
<i>r</i> 30	<i>Lovey C. Turney</i>		"	<i>Backslidden</i>
<i>r</i> 31	<i>James P. McDowell</i>	<i>W</i>	"	<i>Removed by letter June 13<sup>th</sup></i>
32	<i>Fanny A. Cary</i>			

# Class Records.

Class No. 11.

*James J. Williams*, Lender. Meets *Houston School House*

Class No. 11.

*Location*

Register.	Names.	State in Life.	Residence.	Remarks.	Register.	Names.
1	<i>James J. Williams</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>Near Houston School House</i>			<i>Jeanette Brascoe</i>
2	<i>Peter H. Barry</i>	"	" "			<i>Isaac J. Williams</i>
3	<i>Elizabeth Barry</i>	"	" "			<i>Jas. Wilkerson</i>
4	<i>John Wagamon</i>	<i>s</i>	" "	<i>Removed Oct 6 -</i>		<i>Mary E. Layton</i>
5	<i>Samiah Wagamon</i>	"	" "			<i>Charles Selingsworth</i>
6	<i>Joshua T. Barry</i>	<i>m</i>	" "			<i>Joshua T. Short</i>
7	<i>Lizzie Barry Parsons</i>	"	" "			<i>Wm S. Kollock</i>
8	<i>Adelaide Houston</i>	"	" "	<i>Deceased.</i>		<i>Benjamin Middleton</i>
9	<i>John W. Barry</i>	<i>s m</i>	" "	<i>Discontinued member m.p.s.</i>		<i>Nathaniel J. Mumford</i>
10	<i>Elara Duke</i>	"	" "	<i>Removed without certificate</i>		<i>Harmon D. Layton</i>
11	<i>Jimmie Hitchens</i>	"	" "	<i>Discontinued</i>		<i>Mahala L. Lowe</i>
12	<i>Hattie Adkins</i>	<i>m</i>	" "			<i>Belle Baker</i>
13	<i>Eljah. Adkins</i>	"	" "			<i>Priscilla Brittingham</i>
14	<i>Louisa Adkins</i>	"	" "			<i>Anna B. Long</i>
15	<i>Harriett Truett</i>	<i>s</i>	" "	<i>Dropped</i>		<i>Leonora T. Long</i>
16	<i>Harriett Truett</i>	<i>m</i>	" "			<i>Mary E. Murray</i>
7	<i>Mary E. Johnson</i>	<i>s</i>	" "	<i>Dismissed by letter.</i>		<i>Sam. H. Layton</i>
18	<i>Catharine Truett</i>	<i>m</i>	" "			<i>Julia E. Layton</i>
19	<i>Mary M. Richards</i>	"	" "	<i>Dropped</i>		
20	<i>Sarah M. Burton</i>	<i>s</i>	" "	<i>Dropped</i>		
20	<i>Mary A. Barry</i>	"	" "			
21	<i>Elisha Wilkinson</i>	"	" "			
22	<i>Martha Truett</i>	"	" "			
23	<i>Elija E. Kollock</i>	<i>m</i>	" "			
24	<i>Estimie Low</i>	"	" "			
25	<i>M. A. Low</i>	"	" "			
26	<i>Miner B. Low</i>	<i>s</i>	" "	<i>Discontinued</i>		
27	<i>Mary E. Low</i>	"	" "	<i>Discontinued</i>		
28	<i>Martha J. Low</i>	" <i>m</i>	" "			
29	<i>Stephen J. Winbrow</i>	"	" "			
	<i>Robert Parsons</i>	"	" "			
	<i>Peter Hudson</i>	"	" "			
	<i>Noah Adkins</i>	"	" "			
	<i>George Brascoe</i>	"	" "	<i>Withdrawn July 5, 1884</i>		
	<i>Mary Hickman</i>	"	" "			





# Deed Translated



Robert B. Houston

to Trustees

Houston M. E. Church

Deed Robert B. Houston to Trustees Houston M. E. Church

State of Delaware, Sussex County SS -- Know all men of those presents that I, Robert B. Houston of the Co. of Sussex in the state of Delaware in consideration of a desire to promote public morale of religion of the sum of twenty-five dollars to him in hand paid of James Williams, John M. Houston, Peter H. Carey, John T. Wagamon and Elijah Adkins Trustees of the Houston Methodist Episcopal Church of Dagsboro Hundred in the Co. of Sussex state of Delaware the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have granted, bargained, sold and released of these presents do grant, bargain, sell and release unto the said Trustees of the Houston Methodist Episcopal Church of Dagsboro Hundred all that tract of land situated in Dagsboro Hundred and Co. and state aforesaid, described as follows to wit Beginning at a post planted on the south-east side of the public road leading from John M. Houston South  $48\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  East 20 poles \* and thence with the same North  $36\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  East 8 10 poles and home to the place of beginning, containing and now laid out for one acre of land to the same more or less -- Together with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments, and appurtenances to the same belonging and in any incidents appertaining to have and to hold all and singular, the premises above mentioned unto the said Trustees of the Houston Methodist Episcopal Church of Dagsboro Hundred their successors and assigns forever in trust that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of divine worship, for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, subject to the discipline, usages and ministerial appointments of said church as from time to time authorized and declared by the general conference of said church, and the annual conference within whose bounds the said premises or situation whenever it shall become necessary may be deemed expedient of the said Houston Methodist Episcopal Church of Dagsboro Hundred to sell or otherwise dispose of the said bargained premises or any part thereof empowered to sell or otherwise dispose of the said bargained premises or any part thereof the said Methodist Episcopal Church may, and it is hereby empowered to sell or otherwise dispose of the same, by and through the said Trustees and their successors under persuant to the rules and regulations of the discipline of the said Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, then and at that time in power, and the said grantor does hereby bind himself his heirs executors and administrators to warrant forever defend all and singular the said premises unto the said trustees of the Houston Methodist Episcopal Church of Dagsboro Hundred their successors and assigns against every person whomever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof, in testimony whereby the said Robert B. Houston has hereunto set his hand and seal this eleventh day of September, A. D. 1877.

Robert B. Houston

\* pole -  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet

*"And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house;  
and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."*

St. Matthew 7:25

Having received the official deed for the land, the people acted quickly to build a house of worship. Construction of the Houston Church was soon begun in the fall of 1877. In an interview with Mrs. Sallie Hudson, she stated, "I don't remember the hands who built the church. Charles Houston gave the timber, and my father, John S. Breasure, helped to haul it." Although it was not recorded (unless in the cornerstone), Peter Hudson, whose name appeared on the second class list, did help to build the Houston Church. The organizer of the construction was thought to be John Howard, a house builder. There was a saw mill nearby, perhaps operated by the Houstons, where the trees were sawed for the construction on the church. Much of the timber was hauled in late afternoon hours and probably at night as most of the workers were farmers and labored many hours in the fields during the harvest season.

Shortly after the foundation had been laid and the standing frame built, misfortune came. It was told to Dallas Hudson, Maggie Mumford and John McCabe that a great wind storm leveled part of the standing frame. However, these founding men and women of Houston's were not easily discouraged. They withstood the test, and soon the broken pieces were replaced. December of 1877 had come and gone, and the Houston's M. E. Church was near completion. In 1878 Houston's Methodist Episcopal Church was finished and dedicated in that same year by Reverend E. H. Nelson, who had been appointed to the Houston, St. George's, Frankford and Salem circuit.

By the time Houston's M. E. Church was dedicated, the sanctuary, scented with fresh-sawed pine, most likely contained long center benches with short ones to the sides. To the left of the pulpit, called the Amen corner, there were also two benches. On the walls by the windows on each side of the sanctuary were several lamps in their sconces, and in the center suspended from the ceiling was a brass-colored kerosene lamp candelier ornamented with vines and flowers. Upon the minister's stand in the pulpit rested the old Antioch M. E. Bible (1853), probably received as a gift or a loan, and found in the church library today. To keep the parishioners warm during the severe winter months were two flat-topped chimney wood stoves, which were probably fired up late on Saturdays. It is not known if any other furniture was acquired for the church that first year. Perhaps an organ, a marble-topped table for use by the church librarian, and a library, or storage closet, were soon made available.

The parishioners of the new Houston's Methodist Episcopal Church realized that organization and leadership were a must. Found in a 102-year-old Bible in the church library, information was written that the first organized Sunday School, described as "wide awake and prosperous", elected officers and teachers on April 21, 1878. The names of officers and teachers were Ephraim W. Lowe, superintendent; Joshua T. Cary, assistant; Jeremiah Waggamon, church treasurer; James J. Williams, librarian; Elisha Wilkerson and Jehu Burton, teachers. The scholars numbered twenty-seven that day and only twenty on the following Sabbath. The old historical records, dated December 23, 1878, indicated that Houston's Church had six officers and teachers, thirty scholars, an average attendance of twenty, and thirty-five volumes in the library. About a year later, December 22, 1879, Houston Church hosted the 4th Quarterly Conference meeting.

With the fine organization of the Sunday School, the congregation of believers at Houston's Church knew, too, that God's Holy Word was the most important book to read and study. As there were very few testaments available, Bibles, costing a dollar each, had to be purchased by each member for his Sunday School or Bible Class, to which it was referred. Some of the Houston Bibles, which were probably ordered by Reverend Ayres or Reverend Kidney, were purchased during the schoolhouse meetings. According to some 1875 notations, Mary and Joseph Layton had paid one dollar and brother Williams had contributed fifty cents toward their Bibles. Mr. Peter Hudson, Elisha Parsons, B. Wagamon and John Tumey had paid a quarter each. Elijah Lowe had given fifty cents and J. Waggamon one dollar. Many of the Houston Sunday School Bibles, which these men and women of God purchased, are found in the Hickory Hill Church today. Not only were payments made toward the purchase of Bibles, but also a benevolent circuit collection was taken. This collection, totaling \$10.00, was received for the sufferers of yellow fever. In addition to the new Bibles in the church, were also new hymnals. Probably the first book of songs used at Houston was the *Hymnal of the Methodist Episcopal Church with Tunes*, containing hymns on worship, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, the sinner, the Christian, the church, some doxologies, chants, and, of course, the last hymns of Charles Wesley. The only other Christian literature in the new church was a copy of the *Christian Advocate*, one of the seven papers ordered by the entire Frankford circuit.

During Reverend Nelson's appointment, Ephraim Lowe, Samuel H. Layton and William S. Kollock were elected as trustees in December of 1880 replacing Elijah Adkins, John Wagamon and Peter Carey. James Williams and John M. Houston, former trustees, were reappointed, and Stephen J. Wimbrow became the fifth Sunday School superintendent. Also, by 1881, Elijah Adkins had succeeded Ephraim Lowe as class leader. Although the sextant's name was not recorded, a responsible person had to see that the globes were cleaned, the lamps filled with oil, the wicks trimmed, the wood cut, the church yard swept, and the house of worship in order. Probably one of the first sextants at Houston's was Peter Hudson. Nor was any Methodist Episcopal church complete without an organ or piano. It is not known precisely when the first organ was purchased for the church. However, in those early years, one of the first organists was Berdie Layton Houston, wife of Robert Houston. Upon

*"And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel.  
Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth."*

I Samuel 3:10

the pastor's departure after three years, Reverend Nelson reported, "Nothing of special note occurred during 1879 . . . A revival broke out in February of 1881, resulting in over thirty conversions. My salary was paid each year. A gold watch was presented to me just before going to conference of '81. Have had a pleasant time."

Very little is known about the church and her pastors in the 1880's and early 1890's. Reverend W. J. O'Neill succeeded E. H. Nelson and stayed only one conference year, 1881-1882. The Reverend DuHadway was appointed in 1882 and remained three years until the late winter of 1885. Strictly spiritual work was accomplished during this period. Also, about this time W. S. Kollock and E. Lowe served as church stewards while Aaron T. Layton, Elija E. Kollock and Jennie K. Williams served on the Houston's Sunday School Committee. A meeting of the Frankford circuit stewards was held in February of 1885, and the following was recorded in the *Quarterly Conference Record*:

"Is there any other business? On motion, the following resolution was read and approved as follows Whereas the Rev. W. J. DuHadway our pastor is closing up his third year of successful labor in this circuit. Therefore resolved  
1st That to him we have found an able preacher an earnest worker and a true Christian gentleman  
2nd That we have been greatly benefitted by his faithful labor encouragust us and part from him with great regret  
3rd That we commend him to the people who may be sufficiently fortunate to secure his services, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.  
4th That a copy of this paper be sent to the Peninsula Methodist and the County papers.  
On motion this meeting adjourned."

J. T. Long, secretary

Following Reverend DuHadway's pastorate, preacher A. D. Davis came on March 19, 1885. Reverend Davis reported very successful "protractin' meetings" on August 9th and 14th during which many souls were converted at Houston Church. The conversions during that conference year numbered about 140 in all the churches of the circuit. Then Reverend Davis left the conference in 1886 to do evangelical work in Virginia. In the spring of the same year, Reverend S. N. Pilchard was appointed to the circuit. Only one decade and two years had passed, and Salem became a station on her own leaving Frankford, St. George's and Houston's to compose the new three-church circuit. For reasons unknown to the writer, Reverend Pilchard was removed by the conference of 1889. The next appointment was Reverend Charles F. Sheppard, the eighth preacher since the schoolhouse appointment in 1873. With the coming of Reverend Sheppard, Houston Church continued to grow spiritually.

A great wood's meeting was held at Houston's Church in the summer of 1889. That wood's meeting included a sacred ceremony. On July 21, Reverend Sheppard baptized twenty-two infants and children "in the presence of great congregation". This mass christening of children was not uncommon during those days. Many were also baptized at camp meetings at Lamb's Woods near Frankford. Reverend Sheppard commented, "In many of camp meeting baptisms, pastor was assisted by Rev. C. T. Wyatt of Roxana . . ." In addition to a great wood's meeting was a great revival. "In the fall of 1889 a revival of considerable interest took place at Houston's Church, resulting in some 27 conversions . . . Congregations were sometimes larger than church would contain."

Meanwhile, the trustees at Houston during these years, 1889 to January of 1891, were Joshua T. Carey, Charles Ellingsworth, James Brumbley, Elijah Adkins and Ephraim Lowe. There were a total of twelve stewards of the Frankford Circuit from January 1890 to January 1892. Representing Houston's Church were Joshua T. Carey and Ephraim Lowe. On May 28, 1892, William S. Kollock, Minos Mitchell and Isaac Williams were elected trustees at Houston. The church exhorters during this period were Elijah (Elisha) Wilkerson, Ephraim Lowe and Peter Mitchell, who resigned in 1893. Again, Ephraim Lowe had been appointed class leader. Later, he was succeeded by Minos Mitchell. Since no other information was recorded concerning election of officials, more than likely, there were very few, if any, changes made. From 1890 until 1892 Reverend E. S. Mace served the circuit. The pages which follow show the class records of members and probationers after nearly two decades of Houston history. (See pages 20, 21, & 22)

Following Reverend Mace was the Reverend C. P. Swain, who came to church by horse and carriage. During Swain's pastorate, on August 28, 1892, another wood's meeting was held at Houston, and four children were baptized. The following year on June 18, 1893, the first recorded Children's Day was celebrated. On this occasion, which is a tradition today, there were eight baptisms recorded. (Please refer to the section on baptisms.) Mrs. Martha Moore, then a Donaway, who was ninety last birthday, remembered Reverend Swain with his whiskers to his chest and how the people and children loved him so. Mrs. Sallie Hudson, now 92, not only recollected fond memories of the preacher, but also recited a few lines from one of her Children's Day speeches:



# Class Records.

Class No. 11. Ephraim Lome Leader. Meets Western M. E. Church.				
Register.	Names.	State in Life.	Residence.	Remarks.
1	Ephraim Lome	M		
2	Margaret H. Lome	"		
3	Peter H. Carey	"		
4	Elizabeth Carey	"		
5	Elizabeth Adkins	"		
6	Samuel H. Layton	"		
7	Walter Layton	"		
8	Joshua T. Carey	"		
9	Samuel T. Layton	"		
10	Martha J. Layton	"		
11	Mrs. S. Koollock	"		
12	Ediza E. Koollock	"		
13	Louisa Adkins	W		
14	Isaac J. Williams	M		
15	Annie H. Williams	"		
16	Stephen J. Wimbrow	"		
17	George Brasure	S		
18	Editha Wilkerson	M		
19	Hettie Adkins	"		
20	Robert Parsons	"		
21	Lizzie M. Parsons	"		
22	Peter Hudson	"		
23	Isaac Brittingham	"		
24	Colonora Brittingham	S		
25	Charles Ellingsworth	M		
26	Sarah Ellingsworth	"		
27	James Wilkinson	"		
28	Bicilla Williams	"		
29	John W. Carey	"		
30	Elizabeth Carey	"		
31	Elizabeth Littleton	W		
32	Eli Campbell	M		
33	Matilda Campbell	"		
34	Abahale A. Lome	S		
35	Nathaniel Mumford	S		

Class No. 11. Ephraim Lome		
Register.	Names.	State in Life.
36	Mary E. Moore	"
37	John M. Moore	"
38	Mary A. Moore	"
39	Julia Layton	S
40	Martha Tume	M
41	Elizabeth Wagoner	"
42	Mary E. Adkins	"
43	Elizabeth Hudson	"
44	Jeanetta Brasure	W
Pro. 45	Stephen Hickman	M
46	Mary Hickman	"
Pro. 47	John Littleton	"
48	Belle Littleton	"
49	Levin J. Parker	"
50	Sarah E. Parker	"
51	Catharine Dickens	"
Pro. 52	John Bramfield	"
53	Jennie H. Bramfield	"
" 54	Frederic P. Campbell	"
" 55	Mary Baker	"
" 56	Harriet Truitt	"
" 57	Asbury Jones	"
" 58	Martha Jones	"
" 59	Louisa E. Lome	"
F 60	Simon Koen	"
F 61	Elizabeth Koen	"

# Class Records.

Class No. Ephraim W. Lowe, Lender. Meets Sabbath Afternoons.

Register.	Names.	State in Life.	Residence.	Remarks.
✓ 1	Ephraim W. Lowe m.			Left with certificate March 20, 1891.
✓ 2	Margaret K. Co. m.		do.	do.
3	Elizabeth Carey m.			
4	Samuel W. Layton m.			
5	Sallie Layton m.			
6	Joshua J. Carey m.			
✓ 7	Aaron J. m.			Left with certificate March 20, 1891
✓ 8	Martha J. Layton m.		do	do.
9	W. Sheppard Kollock m.			
10	Eliza E. Kollock m.			
11	Louisa Atkins m.			
12	Isaac J. Williams m.			
13	Anna K. Williams m.			
14	Stephen J. Wimbrow m.			
15	George Brasure S.			
16	Elisha W. m.			
17	Hattie Atkins m.			
18	Robert Parsons m.			
19	Lizzie M. Parsons m.			
20	Peter Anderson m.			
21	Moary Walls m.			
22	Isaac Brittingham m.			
23	Chas. Ellingworth m.			
24	Sarah Ellingworth m.			
25	James Wilkerson m.			
26	Priscilla Williams m.			
27	John W. Coates m.			
28	Elizabeth Carey m.			
29	Anna S. Walls S.			
30	Viola Ellingworth S.			
31	Joseph S. Cooper m.			<del>Left Oct 27th, 1889.</del>
32	Anna Cooper m.			do. Received into full membership July 1890
33	<del>Lizzie Cooper S.</del>			
	<del>Mary E. Cooper m.</del>			do. Nov. 3, 1889.
	John W. Burman			Received into full membership July 1890



# Class Records. *Houston*

Class No. *2* *Elijah Atkins* Leader. Meets *Sabbath afternoon*

Register.	Names.	State in Life.	Residence.	Remarks.
✓ 1	Elijah Atkins	m.		Left with certificate March 20, 91
✓ 2	Sarah Ann Atkins	m		Probationer Oct 20, 1884. do, do.
3	Elizabeth Littleton	m.		
✓ 4	Mahala C. Tingle Lowe			Left with certificate March 20, 1891.
5	Nathaniel Mumford	m.		
6	Mary E. Mumford	m		
7	Julia J. Mumford	m.		
	Mary E. Atkins			
9	Elizabeth Hudson	m.		
10	Jeanette Brasore	m.		
11	Stephen Hickman	m		
12	Mary Hickman	m.		
13	Levin J. Parker	m.		
14	Sarah E. Parker	m		
15	John Cranfield	m.		
16	Joseph Brumley	m		
17	Pettie Brumley	m.		
18	Meinus Mitchell			
19	Mary A. Mitchell	m.		
20	Catharine Mitchell	m		
21	Mary Baker	m.		
22	Harriet Truitt			
23	Abury Joines	m		
24	Martha Joines	m.		
✓ 25	Souranie E. Lowe	S.		Left with certificate March 20.
26	Caleb Primer	m		
27	Emma	m.		

32  
 32  
 ———  
 65

Prob Oct. 27. 1889

- 28 Isaac L. Brumley ✓
- ✓ 29 William B. Tull S. Dropped
- 30 La 1 J. Lowe S. Received into full membership July 1890
- 31 Emma Hudson m. Received " " " "
- Nov 10 Wm J. Donoway m Received " " " "
- Mary J. Mitchell do do do do.

*"But Jesus called them unto Him, and said,  
Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not:  
for of such is the kingdom of God."*

St. Luke 18:16

*"Sadly bend the flowers in the heavy rain,  
And after beaten showers sunbeams come again.  
And the little bird silent all the dark night through  
When the morning dawneth, our song was sweet and new."*

Those early Children's Days included individual and group recitations, congregational singing, a word from the pastor, and selections from the children's choir. Members of the early children's choirs included Martha Donaway, Ida Hitchens, Lizzie Mitchell, Mealie Parker, Sallie and Eva Breasure, Nora and Hester Long, Lillie and Gertrude Williams, Annie and Hettie Davis and perhaps Robert Long.

On Children's Day the church was decorated with chains of flowers around the altar. As there were few rambling roses, whatever could be found in bloom in the woods was utilized, especially honeysuckle and magnolia. The little urns on each side of the altar contained fresh bouquets of colorful wild flowers. Not only was the church beautifully clothed in blooms, but the children were also dressed neatly and handsomely as well. In those days Mothers took great pride in making their children's clothes for this special day. Mrs. Lillie Williams Collins recalled, "the little girls wore white fancy dresses, some with smocking, with lace frills about the neck and pretty puffed sleeves. About the waist were nice satin sashes with big, beautiful bows tied neatly in the back. It was stylish to wear the streamers of ribbon to the hem but never below it. On our feet were button shoes." It was told that Mrs. Berdie Houston and Mrs. Ida Esham, like many other mothers, hand-sewed several dresses for the young girls during those days.

Very much like Children's Day was the memorable Christmas Entertainment, an evening before Christmas for children's speeches, group recitations and songs of the Yuletide. Although it is not officially known when the first entertainment was held at Houston's Church, nevertheless, Christmas trees were trimmed in the church years before the twentieth century. The trimmings were simple, little spangled angels; presents for the children were also tied on the tree. Some recollected the pageant to include a manger scene with three young lads portraying the wise men. The little girls gave their recitals in satin-flowered or velvet dresses. It was told that once Maggie Hudson Sharer sang her recitation which delighted all the children. The lines were "I just keep living along; I just keep singing a song . . ." Another speech partly remembered by Mrs. Hudson has some good advice for the listener:

*"There's an hour I must die  
And do I know not how soon to come  
How many children as young as I  
Called by death to hear their doom.  
So let me improve the hour that I have  
There is no repentance in the grave!  
Pardon off to the dead."*

Following all the singing and reciting, the children began to grow restless. Then a couple of men of the church went forward and cut down the wrapped packages from the Christmas tree which thrilled the little ones. Upon their departure the participants and all the congregation received little packages of candy. Time has not altered our celebrated Christmas Entertainment.

In the spring of 1895, the Reverend J. S. Wickline was appointed to the circuit. During his term, the following elections took place:

#### RECORD OF OFFICIAL MEMBERS, ELECTED 1898

Sunday School Superintendent

Richard C. Baker

Exhorters

Lemuel Brumbley  
John H. Brumbley

Stewards

Minos Mitchell  
Charles Ellingsworth  
John H. Brumbley

Trustees

Isaac Williams  
Charles Ellingsworth  
Joseph Brumbley  
Minos Mitchell  
William S. Kollock

Class leader

Minos Mitchell

Again on December 30, 1899 an official election was held. Richard Baker was reelected superintendent. The Houston stewards were Peter Hudson, Peter Mitchell and Minos Mitchell, and the trustees elected were John Davis, Charles Ellingsworth, Peter Mitchell, Joseph Brumbley and Isaac Williams.

Prior to the turn of the century, the men, women, and children of Houston's Church enjoyed the fellowship of wood's meetings or basket meetings. On some Sundays during the summer months, the services were held outside under a simple board roof covered with straw and shats above an open framework. This structure, called a bower, was built behind the church, and old board benches were placed there for the convenience of the parishioners. Upon the arrival of the church families, the ladies opened their baskets or boxes which contained a delectable afternoon dinner for the family and the preacher. The food was spread out and shared. Following a prayer of thanksgiving, all sat down to enjoy this fellowship meal together. After dinner, the basket meeting offered excellent preaching and singing and some testifying. Basket meetings were also popular after 1900 during Reverend Neese's term. By this time the pavilion-like bower had most likely received some repairs including a new roof.

Basket meetings were not the only means of Christian fellowship in the early history of the Houston Church. There were "stove blackin's", "churchyard cleanin's" and the Wednesday afternoon "woodcuttin's". The wood stoves had to be kept clean and occasionally needed a new shine with Black Silk stove polish. Also, the yard had to be swept especially during autumn and after wind storms and on special occasions. Mrs. Lizzie Marvel, Peter Hudson's daughter, remembers making huckleberry brush brooms used to sweep the churchyard. Also, on designated Wednesdays, the men of the church gathered to cut the wood to be used to heat the church during the harsh winter months. All of this working together was good for the church.

In addition to the basket meetings, stove blackin's, yard-cleanin's and wood cuttin's were the delightful church picnics. The refreshments included dip ice cream for 5c or 10c and a variety of delicious cake. It was told that Mrs. Berdie Houston baked the best chocolate cake around, and every youngun at the picnic wanted a big slice of her cake. Other tempting treats were stick candy with a ring around it for a penny, children's prizes for a penny, bananas for 2c, and bags of peanuts for a nickle. Hokie pokies also sold two for a nickle. To quench one's thirst, huge tubs and tubs of lemonade were made and two full glasses could be purchased for only five cents. Many of these treats were bought with church school attendance tickets. One blue ticket, valued at  $\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ , was received for a Sabbath Sunday School attendance. Two blue tickets could be traded for a red ticket. If one attended fifty-two Sundays, a perfect record, then he or she would have fifty-two blue tickets or twenty-six red ones valued at twenty-six cents. No doubt, a few had great difficulty deciding how to spend their ticket money.

After an enjoyable time and a full stomach, the picnic-goers listened to tunes played on the Jew's harp, mouth organ, or harmonica, which added to the fun of the church fellowship. The method of attendance tickets continued for many, many years and was probably discontinued in the late '40's or early '50's. Although the ticket system discontinued, the annual church picnic held at different locations including Riverdale, Oak Orchard, and Trap Pond has become a tradition.

Meanwhile, the church began to grow spiritually, and the Bible class attendance increased during these years. In an old book, *Methodist Hymnal with Ritual*, someone, probably the church librarian, had recorded the names of Bible class members who had paid or were making payments for the Bibles, which was the only literature used in Sunday School. The names on the list and their payment were recorded as follows:

Louder Mitchell	.50	John Davis	.50	Joe Williams	2.00
Peter Mitchell	.50	Hannah Davis	.50	Mary Moore	.25
Joe Bowden	.50	Will Parsons	1.00	Isaac West	.50
Rens Mitchell	1.00	Hester Parsons	.50	Sallie Hudson	.50
John Carey	.50	George Lowe	.50	Minos Elliott	.50
Harry Easham	.25	Stella & Baldwin Moore	1.00	Minos Mitchell	.50
Shep Kollock	1.00	Robert Hall	.25	Lizzie Mitchell	.50
Ken Easham	.50	Liz. Brumbley	.50	Annie Lowe	.50
Luther Parsons	1.00	Benj. Mitchell	.50	Walter Moore	.50
Severn Hall	1.00	Laura Hall	.50	Wolsey Moore	.50
Henry Parker	.50	Ollie Lowe	.50		

*"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,  
and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

I John 1:7

This record including an earlier one in which eight parishioners were buying Bibles, indicated that about the turn of the century the Houston Bible class had at least forty Bibles.

Before 1900, the first recorded marriage had been celebrated at Houston's M. E. Church. On the 27th of November in 1898, with the Rev. J. S. Wickline officiating, Miss Rhoda A. Dorey, twenty years of age, became the wife of John H. Brumbley, twenty-three. According to the old marriage records, both the bride and the groom resided near Hickory Hill and did, indeed, celebrate the occasion in the church. (See record of marriages, 17th entry.) The young bride, Rhoda, was the sister of Mr. Will Dorey, Mrs. Ruth Wilkin's father. The groom, John H. Brumbley, was the brother of Elijah Brumbley, Mrs. Beatrice West's father. The marriage of Rhoda and John was brief as she died at child delivery a couple of years later. The groom had the misfortune of a gunning accident and lost his sight in one eye.

Reverend Wickline was not necessarily remembered because of his marrying the first couple at Houston's Church. He was a hard-working man and very sociable. The preacher did much visiting in the community, and people didn't mind his coming. He'd pitch in and help the farmers. With his big hands he could throw up corn in the stack with great alacrity. He seemed at home in any situation, and the people appreciated his help. For his efforts Reverend Wickline was rewarded with many fine dinners. John Willard Carey always said he liked Wickline and called him a "good preacher".

When Reverend Wickline left in 1899, Reverend F. F. Carpenter was assigned for one conference year, 1899-1900. At the start of the twentieth century, twenty-three years since the construction of the church, Reverend M. D. Nutter was appointed to the circuit of Frankford, St. George's and Houston's. As nothing was recorded in the historical records except baptisms, marriages, and members in full connection, there is very little history to share. Preacher Nutter, who entered the ministry in 1890 and who served thirty-nine years, remained at Houston only one conference year, 1900-1901. He died September 16, 1941, at the age of eighty.

The Reverend Asbury Burke followed Reverend Nutter's pastorate at Houston's. He was considered to be a very handsome man ordained by God. During this time, either Annie or Hettie Davis, daughters of John Davis, was probably playing the organ for the church. Preacher Burke, who served thirty-one effective years in the ministry, remained at Houston's until late winter of 1903.

On March 21, 1903, Reverend G. R. Neese was appointed to the charge. Mrs. Burtie Mumford recalled, "Mr. Neese had a large family; I don't know how many children there were. His wife could really preach, too." Reverend Wilkin's wife also remembered Neese and his wife. "They went to my grandfather's house, Mr. Peter Mitchell's for supper. It was during revivals. Mrs. Neese took along her little girl's dress to sew and complete it so the child could wear it to revival that very night. We children were there and watched her make the dress. She finished it, too." Reverend Neese, who was very well thought of, remained only two conference years, 1903-1905. Records indicated that he served a total of forty-one active years in the ministry.

During Reverend Neese's pastorate at Houston's Church it was believed that John Davis followed Mr. Baker as superintendent of the Sunday School. Mr. Will Hudson was sextant and was followed by others including John Moore, Albert Parsons, Luster and Kate Long and Elijah Hudson. Also, by this time the congregation had adopted *The Methodist Hymnal*, the official hymnal of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The hymns of the Wesleys naturally were given prominence in this book. The best works of other eighteenth century hymn writers, Doddridge, Watts, Cowper, Newton, and Montgomery, also appeared in this hymnal. In addition to the Davis sisters, Annie and Hettie, some of the young ladies who played on the pump organ from this hymnal book were Gertrude Williams, Martha Donaway, and Annie Parker.

The sixteenth pastor since the schoolhouse appointment was the Reverend G. W. Hastings, 1905-1908. During Hastings' pastorate, the second wedding was performed at Houston's M. E. Church. On December 20, 1905, Miss Gertrude Williams, daughter of Joe Williams, became the wife of Dr. Clifton West. Although nothing was recorded in the historical records concerning the success of revivals and the salvation of souls, it was always said that the Reverend G. W. Hastings, both a fine singer and preacher, was a revival-oriented man.

In 1908-1909 Reverend A. W. Goodhand, only five years young in the ministry, was appointed to the charge. Reverend Goodhand purchased a church record book which can be found in the Frankford parsonage study today. This inscription was written on the inside cover. "This book is the exclusive property of Frankford M. E. Church -- purchased and revised by the pastor 1909. A. W. Goodhand." There were many fond memories of this pastor and his wife. According to Mrs. Burtie Mumford, preacher Goodhand rode his white horse from Frankford on snowy days. His wife, who played the organ very well, taught the children clever verses. "Little flies, they have eyes, and they can see so much better than we." The people thought highly of this pastor and were revived spiritually during the strong revivals at Houston's during Reverend Goodhand's stay.

Preacher Goodhand was also responsible for performing the third wedding at Houston's M. E. Church. On December 26, 1909, the bride, Martha Donaway, became the wife of Baldwin Moore. According to Mrs. Moore, it had snowed as high as the fences the day before, Christmas Day, and the twenty-sixth was very cold. The pastor

## VI. RECORD OF

## MARRIAGES

DATE		NAME OF THE MAN	NAME OF THE WOMAN	Age of the Man	Age of the Woman	Residence of the Man	Residence of the Woman	Officiating Minister	Remarks, or Names of Witnesses
Year	Month and Day								
1897	Dec. 24	Harry J. Mitchell	Lena H. Evans	20	21	near Ocean View	near Millville	J. S. Thickett	Married at the house
"	" 28	Luster Long	Hate H. Houston	21	19	" Hickory Hill	" Hickory Hill	" " "	" " " "
1898	Jan. 2	Edward Betts	Hannah McEe	24	22	Millville	near Millville	" "	" " " "
"	" 4	James E. Brasure	Lora Baker	24	22	Sussex county	Sussex county	" "	" " " "
"	" 5	William J. Wither	Hollie Gammie	21	22	Williston, N.C.	Williston, N.C.	" "	" " " "
"	" 6	Peter Humford	Mary G. Downs	25	22	near Gumboro	near Gumboro	" "	" " " "
"	" 6	Virgil McEe	Jennie McEe	23	21	Ocean View	Whites Creek	" "	" " " "
"	" 23	Sharon F. Furman	Hand P. Layton	22	19	near Blackwater	near Blacksville	" "	" " " "
"	Feb. 6	Edgar A. Evans	Hannie A. McEe	19	15	" Millville	Whites Creek	" "	" " " "
1898	April 3	Harry O. Moore	Mary L. Hudson	19	18	Hickory Hill	Hickory Hill	" "	" " " "
"	July 17	George E. Davidson	Harris Edgley	21	18	Dagobert	Frankford	" "	Marriage at O. Long's
"	" 21	Oliver McEe	Virginia Gray	21	20	near Selbyville	near Robyana	" "	Larry's Woods
"	Aug. 24	Chas. W. Derricks	Julia Poole	33	25	Balt. Md.	Frankford	" "	Chas. Fennell's
"	Oct. 10	Chas. H. Hancock	Lida L. Atkins	30	22	" "	Dagobert	" "	" " " "
"	Sept. 18	Larra Thomas	Arnie Hudson	21	18	Dagobert	" "	" "	" " " "
"	Nov. 7	Thaddeus Lockwood	Alice Keelin	21	19	Frankford	Frankford	" "	" " " "
"	" 27	John H. Brumby	Rhoda A. Dorey	23	20	near Hickory Hill	do	" "	Colored couple, held back in church
"	Dec. 1	George Mitchell	Hettie Keelin	22	21	Pittsboro, N.C.	Frankford	" "	Colored couple
"	" 18	Robert W. Carey	Hannie E. Howard	24	20	near Blackwater	near Blackwater	" "	" " " "
"	" 22	Eric H. Houston	Joana Hickman	21	17	" Blacksville	Leidas Creek	" "	" " " "
"	" 28	Thomas Ruste	Valerie Joins	24	15	" Williston	Williston	" "	" " " "
"	" "	Geo. H. Murray	Eva L. Steel	24	17	" Blacksville	Willville	" "	" " " "
1899	Jan. 31	Gale F. Lewis	Jennie Stevens	20	20	Ocean View	Frankford	" "	" " " "
"	" 18	Mary B. Bailey	Sallie Harevil	27	15	near Willville	Willville	" "	" " " "
"	" 22	Helen G. Long	Virginia Bunting	26	24	" Selbyville	Bunting, N.C.	" "	" " " "
"	" 25	Jacob H. Pusey	Elizabeth Hulse	32	24	Snow Hill	Frankford	" "	" " " "



*"But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*

St. Matthew 4:4

came to the wedding on his white horse, and since some of the country roads had been broken open, other invited guests came to the wedding, too. Although there weren't any fancy wedding decorations in those years, nevertheless a tall trimmed Christmas tree stood near the front of the church beside the pulpit. Oil lamps provided the light for this lovely evening winter wedding, and Berdie Houston provided the wedding march music.

In an interview with Mrs. Mumford, she explained that there were many means of transportation in those days. Like preacher Goodhand, some came by horse or mule. There were durbans, carriages, hacks and surries, too. Durbans had no tops. These were simply open wagons with nice spring seats. In those early days, prior to 1900, Mr. John Davis drove a durban and his two daughters rode in the back. In addition to durbans, some came to church in horse-drawn carriages. These were one-seated with lids behind the front seats. The carriage tops were black, and the wheels were usually painted bright red. Also, a few of the congregation owned hacks which had fringed tops.

As well as durbans, carriages, and hacks, surries were quite stylish in those times. Mrs. Lillie Collins, granddaughter of James Williams, the first superintendent at Houston's, recalled the big, black four-doored surry which her father, Joe Williams, bought in Philadelphia. The surry had convenient coal oil side lights for evening travel, a whip socket on which the reins were wrapped, and shiny black wheels. "My sister Gertrude and I sat on the back seat, and in the winter months we were protected from the cold by the beautifully lined cow hide lap robes. We never stayed home from church because of bad weather, and we never caught flus either." Two big western bay horses about 1200 pounds each pulled the surry. Both Molly and Maggie, the horses' names, had pretty manes and tails which were accented by their leather harnesses with plaited chrome design. The bright chrome, the martingales, extended downward to the horses' chests between their forelegs. That surry and team were one beautiful sight, and the Williams' girls were delighted to drive in it to Houston's Church.

Of course, many walked to the services, and those who did were most faithful in keeping their appointment with God on those Sabbath afternoons. The advantage of walking was the healthy exercise and the socialization with others along the paths and shady woods' roads. However, this means of transportation sometimes caused a little inconvenience. (Read Elizabeth Mumford's anecdote.) Regardless of how one arrived at church, there were no parking meters and no traffic jams. The congregation had a very unique and systematic way of parking. As there were no hitching posts in the churchyard, each driver had his own tree, probably a hickory, and ordinarily he was to take nobody else's parking place. Naturally, there was no offense if a visitor had parked in a member's place. Similar transportation continued for many years until the first car, owned by Mr. Willie Parker, appeared in the churchyard about 1910.

Succeeding Reverend Goodhand was the Reverend J. P. Outten. At the age of fourteen John Outten was soundly converted at a Methodist revival and was called at a very early age to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the memoirs of John Perry Outten which appeared in the *Peninsula Annual Conference Journal* 1955, Reverend C. W. Strickland wrote:

"... The Church soon realized his usefulness and gave him license to exhort, and soon after, license to preach. . . . He then attended the Conference Academy, taking the four year course in three years, graduating from the Conference course of Study in 1898 and from the University of Chicago in 1899. Brother Outten was evangelistic in spirit. He wrote his sermons in full, then left them at home and usually preached without notes. He held revivals on all the charges which he served, and in this way, built up the church membership."

Pastor Outten, who died at the age of 85 after forty active years in the ministry, served only one conference year at Houston's, 1910-1911. At this time Charles E. Parsons was superintendent, Minos Mitchell was class leader, the stewards were Robert Donaway and Wolsey B. Moore and the exhorters were Lowder and Peter Mitchell. The Houston trustees were Wolsey B. Moore, Lowder Mitchell and William T. Parsons.

During the pre-World War I years which followed, the Reverend G. W. Hastings, who had served the circuit 1905-1908, was appointed to the Frankford circuit again serving 1911-1913. After his second appointment on the charge, he was succeeded by the Reverend Garfield Harris from 1913-1916. Reverend Harris, who was very socialable and likeable, enjoyed teasing the youngsters. Although he had a hairlip, nevertheless this did not hinder his ability to preach the word of God. Many of his sermons centered about idolatry, and repeatedly he would preach, "If Baal be Baal, let him be Baal." During these years, Robert Donaway, who usually walked to church, was elected superintendent after Joe Williams' term. There were also several exhorters including Minos Mitchell, Elijah Adkins, Peter Mitchell, Lowder Mitchell, Rob Donaway, Ken Esham, Burt Lowe and Joe Ben Mitchell. Miss Burtie Carey had become the organist.



*"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."*

St. Matthew 5:8



REV. HARRIS

*(picture made available by Mrs. Burtie Mumford)*

In those days a pastor preached only on alternating Sundays. Therefore, when no preacher came, one of the congregation would exhort on God's Holy Word. Of course, this followed the Sunday School which included prayer, a brief song service, and the study of the Bible. There was no oral reading of scripture and congregational response as today's church school is conducted. The men methodically met in the Amen corner during class and used the Bible, especially the "sams", as the Psalms were called. After Sunday School, the exhorter for that Sunday came forward and preached. Sometimes his text would include a Bible story like Noah's ark, the ten virgins, or the prodigal son. These men would exhort for twenty minutes or better, and then they'd begin a song and turn in their testimony. Everybody participated in this after-service as it brought spiritual food for the soul. In addition to the exhorters of Houston, there were many visiting exhorters who came during those years. These men included Joshua Hamblin, Charlie Revel, whose son John is an evangelist, Mack Dukes, Mitch Hall and Wilson Clogg.

Following Reverend Harris was the Reverend C. W. Strickland, who served from 1916 to the spring of 1919. In 1916 the circuit had changed to compose of Frankford, Houston and Omar. Strickland was both a preaching man and a very good singer. On occasion he visited many in the Houston community for dinner. He knew the book of Revelation backward and forward, and if that book were destroyed, it was said that Strickland could write it again. Twenty-six years later this pastor's son also served the Houston Church. Although nothing was recorded about the leadership of the church, John Carey was probably a trustee, Burtie Mumford was organist, and Lowder Mitchell and Peter Mitchell were class leaders. Also, about this time a set of new song books, *Jubilate: A Modern Sunday School Hymnal*, had been purchased and was being utilized by the congregation.

After Reverend C. W. Strickland's pastorate came the Reverend D. J. Ford in the spring of 1919 at which time Mr. Baldwin Moore served as Sunday School superintendent. During this period of late teens and early 1920's, Elizabeth Mumford recalled the Sabbath day recesses between Sunday School and class meeting or preaching. For a few minutes the children, in order to break the monotony of hard benches, would retire jovially to the church hand pump beneath the tall hickories to get a refreshing drink of cold spring water. Following a brief recess, all went back into the church to their places to hear testimonies and songs or the minister's message. Having served in the ministry for thirty years, Reverend Daniel Ford known as "Uncle Danny" died October 23, 1945, at the age of seventy-five.

*"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.  
The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:  
But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.  
And this is the word which by the gospel is preached to you."*

I Peter 1:24, 25

The Reverend W. C. Poole succeeded Ford. Reverend Poole, whose brother Luther was also a minister, owned much land in the Ocean City and Fenwick Island area, and at present day prices he would have been extraordinarily wealthy. When he came to Houston, he was a bachelor and continued in that state of life until 1945. At that time he married Miss Grace Holmes, a teacher from Easton, Maryland. While at Houston, Reverend Poole demonstrated his love for education. He enjoyed poetry and was himself a poet. He loved music and wrote music but always claimed he had no tune. He wrote "The Church by the Side of the Road," "The Old Village Church," "The Church of my Childhood Days," "Sunrise," and over two thousand more gospel songs which he sold to various publishers. The following was written by his wife Grace:

"His analysis of a good minister was: A great soul winner, a great pastor, a good preacher. He studied great men, past and present. Francis Asbury was his ideal. When asked for suggestions for a perfect Methodist preacher, He said, 'As industrious as Asbury, as sane as Wesley, preach like Whitefield, love like Moody, keep out of debt, and be pure, patient and simple with others as Jesus was.'"

Wherever Reverend Poole went in the Hickory Hill neighborhood, so did his old leather satchel which contained Bibles, books of poetry, his songs, special papers and sermon notes. Once the people at Houston thought about buying him a brand new valise, but the idea was soon dropped. However, a purchase was made during Reverend Poole's pastorate, a new organ for the church.

The historical document found on the rear wall of the sanctuary today was actually prepared by the Reverend Poole. The document which included an historical record of the Berlin circuit and the beginning of Houston's history read:

"In 1853, Frankford Methodist changed their place of worship from old Antioch half way to Dagsboro and built the new Antioch in Frankford on a lot bought from Johnathan and Elizabeth Carey, the deed being dated November 20, 1852.

Frankford was then a part of the Berlin circuit, which was formerly part of Snow Hill Circuit organized in 1809. This was in turn formerly a part of Saint Martin's circuit being one of the four appointments named in the minutes of 1802 with Wilmington, Dover and Milford.

It is difficult to say whether the minister who preached at Frankford came from Berlin or Georgetown Circuit between 1840-1846. We do know that they came from Berlin in 1853. Frankford was part of Berlin circuit when the first church was built in Frankford which was dedicated on August 28, 1853.

It is evident that Frankford was served from Berlin until 1857. The ministers listed below served Frankford M. E. Church and other churches including Houston M. E. Church now known as Hickory Hill United Methodist Church."

The document also listed the pastors who had served the circuits. Printed below this historical document (1922) was an original poem written by Reverend Poole:

"Some day upon that heavenly shore  
with reapers who have gone before  
We'll talk the toil and battle o'er  
and reign with Jesus evermore."

Reverend Poole, who traveled in a curtain-topped touring automobile, visited in the homes regularly. If he came unexpectedly and accepted a hospitable invitation to dinner, he appreciatively enjoyed fat meat and cabbage like a sumptuous banquet. It was Reverend Poole who gave many youth of the Houston Church their very own Bibles, which seemed to be pastor Poole's pleasure. His term ended in the spring of 1923. Twenty-six years later Reverend Poole died as a result of injuries from an accidental fall.

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;  
teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
singing with grace in your heart to the Lord."*

Colossians 3:16

Succeeding Reverend Poole was the Reverend George Alfred Cooke. At the age of four, he sailed from Armagh, Ireland to America with his parents and four brothers and sisters. From the memoirs of preacher Cooke, it was claimed that his father was the first minister to go West of the Missouri River in the Dakotas. At the age of nineteen, young George was called into the ministry of the gospel. He wrote, "I am determined with the help of the Holy Spirit to obey Christ's call and command -- 'Go work in my vineyard.'" In the spring of 1923, he was appointed to the Frankford charge. The pastorate family included his wife Bertha, who taught Sunday School, and their family sons, Raymond and Don, both ministers, daughter Evelyn, a preacher's wife, and daughter Lucile Ogden.

Until the pastorate of Cooke, preaching service was not held every Sunday. If there was a preaching service on the first Sunday of the month, a class meeting in addition to Sunday School was held the second Sunday. However, the congregation desired to have a worship service every Sabbath. Reverend Cooke requested enough money for his gas expense, \$100.00 and agreed to come to Houston's Church each Sunday. Therefore, it was during his ministry at Houston that the church received a pastor on a regular schedule.

The church had many fond memories of Reverend Cooke. Wilbur Mitchell, in his youth, remembered an experience concerning this spirit-filled man of God. "Once on a cold winter's day, I had walked to Clifton Mumford's house to see young Arley who was not well. The snow was very deep, and the roads weren't clear for traveling. When I neared Houston's Church enroute home, I could hear Reverend Cooke just preaching to the benches. He was, indeed, a dedicated man of God."

During these years of Cooke's pastorate, John Carey was the church treasurer and George Mitchell was superintendent and exhorter. The trustees' names were recorded in a book labeled *Houston's*, located with the Roxana circuit historical records. Reverend Cooke recorded the following minutes:

"Meeting of Church at Houston, called for the election of trustees, announcement made and notice published as required by Law of Delaware. Meeting held in church at 9 p.m. Oct. 21, 1924. Rev. G. A. Cooke, pastor presided. On motion of Kendall Esham, seconded by Berdie Mumford the following were elected to serve for a period of three years: Ollie Lowe, Elijah Brumbley, John W. Carey, Lorenzo B. Mitchell, Severn W. Hall and John Mumford. The vote was unanimous in their favor. The trustees then elected John Mumford as treasurer for trustees. Election holds good until successors are elected."

G. A. C.

The twenty-fourth pastor since the schoolhouse appointment in 1873, Reverend Cooke remained until late winter of 1928.

In the spring of 1928 Houston received the Reverend James Price who remained only one conference year. This tall, gray-haired pastor was quite a disciplinarian and commanded the respect of his children. Much of his ministry centered about the importance of family and respect for one another and love for the brother. He detested unrespectable slang like "my old man". He told his congregation that once, when a bad wind storm came, he purposely went to the beach to see the height of the water and to hear the roaring waves mightily pounding the shore. Since preacher Price was at Houston's M. E. Church only one year, the parishioners scarcely got to know him. About this time Kendall Esham was both superintendent and exhorter, and Miss Carrie Mitchell provided flowers for the sanctuary during the spring and summer months. It was believed that the Sunday School teachers had begun to use study literature in addition to their Bibles.

The Reverend E. B. Taylor followed Reverend Price. He, too, remained only one conference year, and, therefore, little information is known to report. Nothing was recorded concerning revivals or special meetings or elections. Reverend Taylor did have a very young wife who brought their little baby to church each Sunday. Years later, the Reverend Taylor died in Charleston, South Carolina.

In the spring of 1930, the Reverend J. H. Gardner was appointed to the charge. This pastorate family included his wife, Emma, and two children, Marian and James H., Jr. During his term, the years proved spiritually productive for those who worshiped God. However, there was very little enthusiasm among the community during the years of the Depression, and, therefore, the church grew very little in membership. It was said that Reverend Gardner preached so hard that because of perspiration, even in winter, it was necessary for him to bring a change of clothes. Gardner, an excellent preacher, was especially remembered for his radio ministry and for his ability to quote scripture and poetry from the pulpit. During his pastorate the special collection on Children's Day was first designated for the general budget of the church including the pastor's salary, the conference benevolence, and other church expenditures. Reverend Gardner died only ten years later

*"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee,  
but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"*

Micah 6:8

and was laid to rest in the American Mechanics Cemetery, Millsboro, Delaware. (It was at Millsboro that Gardner held a nine-week revival with over one hundred conversions in 1909.)

In the early 1930's the first Homecomings were held at Houston's Church. Invitations were sent out on penny postal cards to all those who had formerly attended the church. Guests on that first Homecoming were invited to parishioners' homes for dinner. However, in the years that followed, a covered-dish fellowship dinner was prepared for everyone after the Homecoming service. Through the years until the present the Homecoming Sunday School teachers have included Elisha Steele, Roy Jones, Elias Tingle, Saunders Darden, A. Wayne Burton, Silas Dukes, Donald Dukes, Sr., Horace Downs, John Revel, Lottie Milliner, Jacob West and others. Usually, the district superintendent in office at the time was invited to preach the Homecoming service. However, if this was inconvenient, then visiting pastors came including Reverends Francis Short and Edward Wilkins. Also, our former pastors were invited, Reverends C. W. Strickland, McDade, Downing, George Backus and others. We also had special singing, often by the Cambell sisters, Mrs. Zale Donaway and Mrs. Pearl Vickers, whom we enjoyed very much.

Following Reverend Gardner was Reverend Hess, 1932-1934. Preacher Hess, a graduate of Swarthmore College and approximately sixty years old at the time of his appointment, was especially remembered for his excellence on the piano than his sermons in the pulpit. During Reverend Hess's pastorate, Elmer Adkins was elected Sunday School treasurer in 1931. In 1932, John O. Mumford was elected superintendent, succeeding Ken Esham, and served the church faithfully in that office until 1967. Near the close of Reverend William Lyndon Hess's pastorate, his wife Mrs. Nellie Vaill Hess passed on. Funeral services were held in the Antioch M. E. Church on April 19, 1934.

In the years that followed a great spiritual revival came. The ministers greatly responsible were Reverends Bolton and McDade. In the spring of 1934, J. C. Bolton was appointed to follow Hess. Preacher Bolton, who drove a '33 Chevy, was sent to the charge from Pittsville, Md. He had served as chaplain during World War I and often related war-time experiences like his being nearly gassed to death in 1918. Bolton also served on a preaching team with the famous Billy Sunday, a great man of God. Bolton, too, had a delivery like Sunday, and it was told he would jump over the altar railing and would walk up and down the aisles of the church preaching the Word of God. His sermons focused upon a Heaven to be gained and a Hell to be shunned. Concluding his sermon, his favorite altar-call number, according to Mrs. Myrtle Parker who was converted during Bolton's pastorate, was "Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior". He encouraged his parishioners to stand up for the Lord if it was only to make a shadow on the wall. One of the greatest revivals at Houston's Church was during the tenure of Bolton. It was in the fall when people were making holly wreaths to sell. However, the people laid aside their wreath-making to attend the revival services. The Lord blessed Houston's Church and sent a great revival, the greatest in the history of the church. The services continued for six consecutive weeks, and an undeterminable number of souls were saved. In addition to a successful revival, in the fall of 1934 a very memorable Homecoming was celebrated. Following Sunday School and preacher Bolton's sermon, a fine fellowship supper was enjoyed by all. Tables, which the men made from boards, were placed outside for the occasion, and the ladies brought covered dishes of fried chicken, potato salad, turnip greens and other vegetables, including just about everything a Sussex County farmer would have. For dessert a variety of cake was served. Some of the ladies bought new dishes for this special day, and it was told that a politician was there.

Reverend J. C. Bolton remained on the charge until late winter of 1936. It was reported a few years later that he died a sudden and most untimely death in the early '40's. One of the outstanding teachers and exhorters during this period of Houston's history was Mr. Herbert Hudson, a praying man of God. He probably was also the sextant of the church following Mrs. Horace Gray. George Donaway had been elected Sunday School treasurer and served the church loyally until his death in 1968.

The next preacher, Reverend McDade, who was reared in a Mennonite family, came to Houston's in March of 1937. He drove a big automobile, a gift he received from a Wilmington organization for a speaking engagement. This parsonage family included eight children, sons Howard and David, daughters Marie, Marian, Mabel, Ruth, Carolyn, Jean, and wife Carole. His son Howard, having been seriously injured in a college football game, underwent three operations and died in May of 1932. While on the Frankford charge, preacher McDade, in his late 50's and his wife, whom he often called "mom", sang many lovely duets during the services. His daughters, too, were very good singers.

In July of 1938, Reverend McDade, a great orator in his time, initiated the bush meetings. Behind the church a platform was constructed, and in front of the platform were rows of benches covered with newspaper for the congregation. The platform was decorated in red, white, and blue bunting with lovely gladiolus in the background. The organ had also been removed from the church and was on the right side of the platform. Also on the platform beside the podium there were a few chairs for the guests. The grounds were decorated with American flags, making a very patriotic setting. Much of the construction was done by the Reverend McDade



*"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh;  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:  
And also upon the servants and the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."*  
Joel 2:28, 29

himself. The floor under the benches was simply sawdust, and the ceiling was many, many bushes to protect the congregation from the hot summer sun. During the outdoor meetings in the bush, the congregation enjoyed excellent singing and preaching of the Word. There was much spiritual renewal for the church during McDade's pastorate.

In a report to the conference treasurer for the year 1937-1938, Reverend Howard McDade reported:

Total cash payment for all purposes	\$232.00
Apportioned for World Services	217.00
World Service paid on apportionment	110.00
Support of District Superintendents	90.00
Support of Bishops	38.00
Support of Conference Claimants	50.00
Domestic Missions	5.00
Hospitals and Homes	23.00
Conference Budget	20.00
District Parsonage	9.00
Smith's Island Fire	18.00

After many great works at Houston's Church, Reverend McDade, a most outstanding orator, and his family left in late winter of 1939. By this time Houston's M. E. Church had a battery-operated Delco Plant which provided electricity.

#### BUSH MEETINGS OF 1938



This front view of the meeting in the bush captures the entire pastor's platform, his podium, the organ, the flowers and flags. Observe the bushes overhead which protected the parishioners from the hot summer sun or sudden showers. In addition to the wooden benches, chairs were brought from the sanctuary for the special singers and invited guests. The men pictured at the right side of the photograph could not be identified.

*(From Miss Mabel Mitchell's collection)*

In this rear view of the bush meeting, bunting of red, white and blue covered the back of the platform. The boards on the ground may possibly have served as extra pews.

*(From Leonard West's collection)*



Among those who attended the bush meetings were Leonard West, Jr. and Elizabeth Hamblin in the front row and behind the youths Alice West, Lizzie Hudson, Sallie Hudson, Laura Hall, Wilbur Mitchell and his mother Arabella Mitchell.

*(From Miss Mabel Mitchell's collection)*

*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters."*

Psalms 23:1, 2

In April of 1939, the Reverend J. A. Clark was appointed to the circuit. In the new parsonage family was the preacher's wife, Mary, and two children, Violet and Ridgway Clark. Reverend Clark began a missionary project in which the congregation participated. Each member supported the project and also had to collect \$2.00 from a non-church member. For their financial efforts, preacher Clark made the members pins of wood with their names printed with macaroni. The pastor's wife, Mrs. Clark, also initiated the first Ladies Aid Society at Houston's and served as the first president of the organization, which met in the homes. Reverend Clark, who received his call to preach in 1915, served twenty-two active years in the ministry. The Reverend John Edward Jones, a nephew of the preacher, summed up Reverend John A. Clark's life in these words: "He dearly loved God and people." During Clark's pastorate in the fall of 1940, God sent another great revival and many men, women, and youth were converted and joined the family of God. The church exhorters during this period were Herbert Hudson, Casher Lewis and visitor John Walls. Also, the Houston's M. E. Church officially became the Houston's Methodist Church.

The Reverend A. W. Strickland followed Clark and remained only one conference year, 1942-1943. After his pastorate at Houston's, Mr. Strickland left the ministry and began work as a bookkeeper at Paramount Poultry Plant in Frankford. Then came Reverend Willard Everett from 1943-1945. At that time the membership totaled fifty-four with a Sunday School enrollment of forty-six. Preacher Everett, like Strickland, left the ministry and entered a farming career in Centerville, Maryland where he owned a large farm. Reverend O. G. Brewer, the thirty-fourth preacher since the schoolhouse appointment came in the spring of 1945 and remained only one conference year. At this time John Mumford continued as superintendent and trustee, and Reverend Brewer taught the men's Bible class. The family of John and Eva McCabe became the next sextant of the church and served the church faithfully in this duty until 1966. Mr. McCabe also assumed the responsibilities of worship usher along with Preston Hudson, and Mrs. McCabe provided lovely flowers for the church during spring, summer and early fall. She continues this good work today, and the beautifully arranged bouquets are sent to our hospital patients, shut-ins, and friends of the community following the Sabbath services. Also, by the early '40's oil burners had replaced those old wood stoves with their chrome-decorated foot rests which periodically fell loudly on the floor and caused unnecessary distractions and scowling looks on parents' faces.

Succeeding Reverend Brewer was Reverend J. J. Von Hagel, a 1932 graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary, now the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. When Reverend Von Hagel came in the spring of 1946, he immediately expressed a special interest in the children of the church and called them to the front during worship service to sing scripture songs, which he had taught them and which are occasionally sung today. The following selections were taught to the children and sung at worship service during Von Hagel's pastorate.

**"CLIMB, CLIMB UP SUNSHINE MOUNTAIN"**

Climb, climb up sunshine mountain  
Heavenly breezes blow.  
Climb, climb up sunshine mountain  
Faces all aglow.  
Turn, Turn from sin and doubting  
Looking towards the sky.  
Climb, climb up sunshine mountain  
You and I.

**"THE B-I-B-L-E"**

The B-I-B-L-E  
Yes, that's the book for me.  
I stand alone on the word of God  
The B-I-B-L-E.

It was during Reverend Von Hagel's term that the floors of the church gave way and required much repair work. The Sunday School teachers in these years included Mrs. Virginia Von Hagel, John Mumford, Ken Esham, Mrs. Burtie Mumford, and Mrs. Marie Mitchell. George R. Donaway remained treasurer of the Sunday School, and Mr. Wilbur Mitchell received the title of church treasurer. At this time Houston's Methodist Church had fifty-three church members with a church school enrollment of forty-six. The benevolences were \$105.00, and the pastor's salary was \$420.00.

Reverend Von Hagel was the only pastor since the turn of the century who made a notation in the historical record's section of the Frankford circuit books. On May 22, 1951, upon his departure, he wrote the following:

HISTORICAL RECORD

Houston Methodist Church, (often called Hickory Hill Church) has been on the Frankford Charge since its beginning. From a record written on Dec. 28, 1876, in an old Frankford Circuit record, I find this word - "In the same year (that is 1873) Houston's School House was taken up as a preaching place, and a class formed." That <sup>I suppose</sup> was written by Rev J. O. Ayres whom, he writes was "appointed to the circuit in the Spring of 1873 and remained three years". The next note of interest was signed by Rev E. H. Nelson, who writes "Appointed in 1878 and remained three years. The first year Houston was finished and dedicated. Was commenced by J. E. K." This J. E. K. stands for Rev J. E. Kidney.

Frankford Church became strong enough to be a station, so as for that standing at the Annual Conference, meeting in May 1951. Houston was thereupon, put on with Millville Church.

Rev. J. J. Von Hagel, May 22, 1951.

After forty-two years in the ministry, Reverend Von Hagel retired in May of 1974. At that time he became Minister of Visitation at Grace United Methodist Church, Wilmington, Delaware. In 1975 he became Minister of Visitation of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Stanton, Delaware, and he is presently serving in that capacity. J. J. Von Hagel and his wife reside in Newark, and they have two married daughters, Jean Churn of Middleton, Michigan and Margaret Mayo of Salisbury, Maryland.

For the third time the circuit was changed, and Houston's joined the Millville Methodist Church under the pastorate of the Reverend J. P. George. Born in Annapolis, Maryland, he grew up in Baltimore City and attended Randolph Macon Seminary in Virginia. The congregation dearly loved this pastorate family who resided at their home in Harbeson as there was no parsonage. Reverend George, who had come out of retirement to serve us, was both a fine minister and singer. He and his wife frequently sang duets; a favorite was "Sweet Hour of Prayer". On numerous occasions his wife Amelia rendered inspirational solo selections; one especially remembered was "The Man of Galilee". During pastor George's term, Amos Collins was the class leader and initiated the first prayer meetings. Mrs. Clinton Collins was elected Sunday School secretary following Estella Adkins, and Preston Hudson became teacher of the men's class succeeding John Mumford. Also, a big piano was purchased for the church. Records indicated that there were only thirty-six active full members with a total Sunday School enrollment of eighty. Preacher George and wife, of whom there are many fond memories, served the Millville-Houston charge only one conference year, 1951-1952. On October 27, 1976, at the age of ninety-one, Reverend George was laid to rest. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter the joys of Heaven." Surviving the late Reverend George are his wife and daughter Virginia of Harbeson and a son Sam of Silver Spring, Maryland.

Again in 1952, the circuit was changed for the fourth time to include Dagsboro, Houston, Zoar and Providence. A young student minister, Arthur Backus, served the charge. His wife Marilee, and four children, twins Harold and Howard, Steven and Janice, attended the services faithfully. Mrs. Beverly Mitchell remembered the instant discipline of the Backus children with just a quick snap of their father's fingers. This young man of God possessed many fine qualities of one in the ministry, and his youthfulness was appreciated. Prior to entering the ministry, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war, he worked on a farm and operated a grocery business for four years.

During Rev. Backus' term in the summer of 1953, the church received major repairs, choir chairs were purchased, and a new altar was built and carpeted in the same year. Also, gas floor heat replaced the oil stoves and chimneys. Meanwhile, the Methodist Youth Fellowship, organized in the early '50's, had purchased the American and Christian pulpit flags and altar set, and Mrs. Caroline Cowan had presented Houston's Church with a communion set. By this time, Mrs. Estella Adkins was teaching the older women's class, previously taught by Ken Esham.



*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

Hebrews 11:1

Reverend Backus served the charge three conference years, 1952-1955. Since that time both he and his family have worked faithfully for the Lord. He became an ordained Deacon in 1953 and an ordained Elder in 1954. Reverend Backus was a delegate to the World United Methodist Conference, held 1971 in Denver, Colorado and 1976 in Dublin, Ireland. He was also a delegate to both the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon, 1976, and the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1976. He has served as District Superintendent in West Virginia and is presently vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Methodist Charities of West Virginia, Inc. Reverend Backus, who has accepted an invitation to preach the Special Homecoming service 1977, resides in St. Albans, West Virginia. His son Howard is an Episcopal Church priest in Clemson, South Carolina, and Harold is a United Methodist minister in Kansas City, Missouri. The third son Steven is presently a director of a home for runaways and status offenders in Atlanta, Georgia, and daughter Janice is the wife of the Reverend Erenrich serving in Follansbee, West Virginia. All four of the Backus children were graduates of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W. Va.

The year 1955 marked a very significant transitional period in the history of the church. To avoid confusion with the Methodist Church in Houston, Delaware, our Houston Methodist Church officially became the Hickory Hill Methodist Church. The name Hickory Hill, which was agreed upon unanimously, was derived from the several hickory groves in the vicinity of the church and the many hickories which stood in the churchyard. Hickory Hill Church was also placed on another circuit with Roxana and Sound. While on this circuit, Hickory Hill was served by three pastors, the Reverends Guy McWilliams, 1955-1957; William H. Kohl, 1957-1961; and Ivon Downing, 1961-1966.

The Reverend McWilliams was appointed in the spring of 1955. A tither to the church he served, this man of God was very emphatic and dramatic in the pulpit. He made stories of the Old Testament, like that of Sampson, very real to the listener's ear. Preacher McWilliams was married and had a son who taught school. He especially liked horses, owned several and drove them himself at Saturday matinee shows. This pastorate family served Hickory Hill two conference years. Meanwhile the church had begun to grow. There were 104 members with a Sunday School enrollment of 137. Also joining the other teachers was Miss Elizabeth Mumford, youth class teacher, who gave this writer a white leather Bible.

In the spring of 1957 Reverend Kohl was appointed. Although he had a wooden leg, nevertheless his handicap did not deter him from getting about, making home calls, and visiting the sick. It was Reverend Kohl who prepared and preached fifty-two sermons on the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost. He is also remembered for this favorite chorus which he taught the people:

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,  
Praise Ye the Lord.

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,  
Praise Ye the Lord.

Praise Ye the Lord, Hallelujah,  
Praise Ye the Lord, Hallelujah,  
Praise Ye the Lord, Hallelujah,

PRAISE YE THE LORD."

This chorus was often sung during worship services. One side of the congregation sang the first line, and the other side sang the second line. Then the whole congregation joined loudly in the last "Praise ye the Lord." Reverend Kohl also introduced us to the lovely spiritual hymn, "Blessed Quietness".

During Reverend Kohl's pastorate, new oak pews were purchased for the sanctuary. A better heating system was installed. Two center-aisle gas furnaces replaced the four smaller units. Meanwhile, the old hand pump was removed from the churchyard. As Hickory Hill grew in spirituality and in number, more space was needed for church school instruction and Christian education. Therefore, in 1961, the foundation was laid for Sunday School rooms. This new labor-free addition to the northeast side of the sanctuary was soon completed and later dedicated by Dr. Roy L. Tawes, the District Superintendent, on January 7, 1962, during Reverend Downing's appointment. During these years the building fund treasurer was Mrs. Marie Mitchell, the secretary of Sunday School was Mrs. Joyce Lecates, and Norris Hearn, who had joined John McCabe, Jr. as usher, was also appointed financial secretary. Also, Mr. Ken Esham had become inactive; therefore, Preston Hudson was appointed church lay leader.

*"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise:  
be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good:  
His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations."*

Psalms 100:4, 5

The next pastor to serve Hickory Hill and the fortieth one since the first schoolhouse appointment eighty-eight years before was the Reverend Ivon Downing. Originally a farmer of Earlville in upper state New York, Mr. Downing came to Delaware as an insurance salesman. He tried a variety of careers but realized that men and women needed their insurance in Jesus Christ. This lovely pastorate family included Reverend Downing, his wife Helen, and six children, Paul, Carol, Bill, Mary Ellen, John and Judy. While at Hickory Hill, Reverend Downing was most concerned about the challenge God had given him. "Feed my sheep." On each Sabbath he called the youth of the church aside and prepared, in addition to his sermon for the congregation, a mini scriptural lesson for them. Many of the youth to whom he preached are active in God's work today. His encouragement and work at Hickory Hill shall long be remembered. Reverend Downing was also involved in the work of the gospel at the Hospital for the Mentally Retarded in Stockley. This man of God, who shared many experiences with us, was a fine preacher. He was active in revivals for the church and Bible study. The first daily vacation Bible School was also initiated during his pastorate. In his five-year term, the church grew spiritually and in one accord. Mrs. Burtie Mumford, who had retired as pianist, was succeeded by Mrs. Emma McCabe, who donated a piano for the church's use. Reverend Downing has returned to the Hickory Hill pulpit on occasion to preach the Homecoming service or revivals. Presently, he is serving the St. George's circuit in Clarksville, Delaware.

After Reverend Downing's term, Hickory Hill Church was again placed on another circuit. This last transition made the sixth circuit change in the history of the church. However, the sister church Frankford was no stranger as the first two circuits were shared with her, 1873-1912 and 1912-1951. On the present circuit Frankford and Hickory Hill have been served by three pastors, Reverends Elmer Bennett, 1966-1971; Curtis W. Smith, 1971-1976; and presently William Turner.

Reverend Bennett said that the verse that led him into the ministry of Jesus Christ was II Timothy 2:15. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." A real athlete in his college days, he claimed his early baldness at age 23, was caused by the use of Lucky Tiger hair tonic. At Hickory Hill he showed much enthusiasm for the youth choir, who received new choir robes, and the worship choir. Reverend Bennett taught in Bible School and led the adult Bible study. A Latin teacher for nine years, Reverend Bennett, like Reverend Poole, loved poetry. Many of his sermons included quoted Bible verses and lines from his favorite poems, especially S. W. Foss' "The House by the Side of the Road". Occasionally, he brought his accordion and surprised the congregation with a selection or two. Preacher Bennett also introduced us to the beautiful hymn, "Make Me a Blessing". He has three children, a daughter Joyce, and two sons, Donald and John. His wife Agnes, a retired teacher, whom we dearly loved, passed on in the summer of 1976.

During Reverend Bennett's appointment, Hickory Hill saw many new organizational changes and additions to the church. Mr. Vernon Cordrey was elected the first chairman of the Council on Ministries, and Mr. Wilbur Mitchell was voted the first chairman of the Administrative Board. Ivan Lecates became the next superintendent of the church succeeding John Mumford, and Norris Hearn became the assistant superintendent following Wilbur Mitchell. After a brief teaching assignment in the children's class, Mildred Timmons assumed the responsibility of the young married class teacher, and Hazel Hudson assisted Burtie Mumford with the older women's class. The Curt Harper family became the next sextant of the church. In addition to the many changes, God sent two very fine young talented pianists in the spring of 1966. Linda Parker and Oscar McCabe, Jr. played the piano on alternating Sundays.

In 1968, a lovely vestibule was added to the church. The steps and sidewalk were also completed on October 9, 1968. Spacious storage closets and needed rest rooms were constructed, but the outdoor facilities still remain behind the church. Also, during the late sixties, the attendance increased, and a superintendent of youth was needed. Mrs. Ann Hudson was elected to this post in 1968 and served two years. In 1969, Mr. Oscar McCabe was elected Sunday School treasurer following Mr. George Donaway. In the same year Mrs. Ann Taylor presented the church with a most thoughtful gift, a lighted picture of our Savior, seen in the pulpit today.

During Reverend Bennett's pastorate, opportunity meetings were held. In March of 1970 the guest ministers during the opportunity meetings were Reverends Flater, Kirwan and Downing. The music was provided by our own local talent. On Palm Sunday evening the youth choir, conducted by Luray McClung, provided numerous selections. A duet was also rendered by Mildred Timmons and Myrtle Parker. On Monday evening the children's teachers provided the music, on Tuesday Mrs. Estella Adkins' women's class sang and on Wednesday Preston Hudson's men's class filled the choir. Maundy Thursday evening service was led by our pastor with a holy communion. On Friday evening Mrs. Burtie Mumford's class furnished the music. The opportunity meetings offered a spiritual renewal for the believers and a chance for men and women to receive Christ and come into a new covenant with God.

Elected to the board of trustees of Hickory Hill Church in 1971 were John Mumford, president, Preston Hudson, vice-president, Estella Adkins, secretary, Dallas Hudson, Vernon Cordrey, Lawrence Wootten, Ivan

*"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God,  
to them who are the called according to His purpose."*

Romans 8:28

Lecates, John McCabe and Ralph Timmons. The Andrew Hudson family became the church sextant following the Curt Harper family. Debbie Rogers assumed the responsibility of Sunday School secretary, succeeding Marion Warrington and Joyce Lecates. The present assistant secretary is Della Hitchens. The communion stewards over the years have been the families of John Mumford, Estella Adkins, Lloyd Mumford and presently William Hitchens.

The Reverend Curtis Smith was appointed to the charge in the spring of 1971. In his youth an exchange student to the Orient, this humble man of God came to Hickory Hill having served a former pastorate in Townsend, Delaware. Reverend Smith enjoyed the out-of-doors, especially activities of canoeing, trail hiking, mountain climbing and swimming. Hickory Hill grew spiritually under C. W. Smith. Two of his most memorable sermons were taken from St. Matthew 23:23. "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint, and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." Another most memorable sermon was preached from the text St. Matthew 9:17. "Neither do men put new wine into old wine skins: else the wine skins break, and the wine runneth out, and the wine skins perish: but they put new wine into new wine skins, and both are preserved."

Reverend Smith was very interested in sharing Christ through music. He not only played the piano but had one of the best male voices in the entire East. He not only faithfully led us in Bible study and worked in vacation Bible School, but also conducted the worship choir, teaching us many new selections including "In the Bleak Mid-winter", "When the Green Blade Riseth", "Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees", "For God So Loved the World", "There is a Balm in Gilead", "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying" and many others. The regular worship choir under Reverend Smith's direction included Bill Hitchens, Harry McClung, Bob Hickman, Vincent McCabe, Eva McCabe, Jolene Figgs, Beatrice Murray, Sue McCabe, Marian Hickman, Elizabeth Mumford, Irene Lecates, Marie Mitchell, Mildred Timmons, Della Hitchens, Luray McClung, Olivette McCabe, occasional recruits and pianist Linda Parker. Reverend Smith was most encouraging which led many of us to participate in the Billy Graham Crusade Choir at Harrington. Also, three persons, Linda Parker, Frances Hall, and Jolene Figgs, participated in the seventy-eight member Bicentennial Choir which performed the Cantata "Our Religious Heritage in Song."

During his pastorate, Reverend Smith revived the Maundy Thursday Communion service and made it a very special occasion at Hickory Hill. The antique chalice used for the '76 service was engraved Antioch M. E. Church, December 25, 1881. Reverend Smith's pastorate too, was during a special time in our nation's history. On July 4, 1976 an old time basket meeting was held commemorating our nation's two-hundredth birthday.

Hickory Hill Church received many new looks in the 1970's. Some of the improvements included the following:

- landscaping with white stones around the church by the Bobby Fisher family
- outside carpeting for the church steps given by Mr. and Mrs. Ira Murray
- volleyball courts by Bill Hitchens, John F. McCabe, Jr., Preston McCabe and Mark Hitchens
- altar paraments by Marie Mitchell
- Bible study maps
- communion table by Frances Bunk
- a sanctuary clock to replace a stolen one
- purchase of public address system

In 1972, the church was painted, the parking lot was paved, pole lights were added and the water pump was repaired. In 1976, again the sanctuary received a new look. The pews, purchased in 1958, received red seat pads. New altar curtains and altar kneeling pad were made, and the pulpit furniture was reupholstered by R and R Upholstering of Frankford, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Luzier. Also, new matching wall-to-wall carpeting, purchased by the church, covered the old hard-wood floors. As the reader can see, there were many, many accomplishments during Reverend Smith's pastorate. He is presently serving the Allen, Maryland charge of five churches, Allen, Mt. Vernon, Siloam, Washington, and John Wesley. He and his wife Rosemary have three children, two daughters, Susannah and Margaret, and a son Phillip who is attending college in Franconia, New Hampshire.

The present pastor serving Hickory Hill is the Reverend William A. Turner, who actually exchanged pulpits with Reverend Smith. During Reverend Turner's pastorate, the Share Group choir was organized, Bible studies were conducted by the pastor, and a membership class was held, resulting in five new members at Hickory Hill. We welcome Marie Rogers, Ella McCabe, Frances Hall, Jay Willey and Karen Nadine Hudson. The youth have had an opportunity to conduct their own evening worship services with Betsy West as guest speaker. During Christmas '76 an inspirational candlelight service was held at church. Handmade wooden candleabras were prepared by our pastor and placed in the sanctuary with the help of others. In the late winter of this year the revival meetings, preceded by a twenty-four hour prayer vigil, were most successful with several conversions.



The revival song services were led by members of the church. Visiting ministers and guests included the Reverends Jicha, Brittingham, Clendaniel, Downing, Daniels and our own pastor, Reverend Turner. Evangelists John Revel and Robert Wheatley also preached. Mrs. Barbara Turner's singing during revivals was greatly appreciated. The congregation of Hickory Hill regrets that we have missed out on her wonderful musical talents which Mrs. Turner is presently unable to share for reasons of her ailing health in recent years. Shortly after revivals, during Easter week, the Maundy Thursday Communion service was held for the second consecutive year.

There have been other improvements of the church and the Frankford parsonage. In June picnic tables were constructed and red-wood stained in the same evening at the home of John and Eva McCabe. There were twenty-six volunteers on this project, and a \$100.00 donation by the Jacob West family helped to bear most of the expense of materials. Also, in July of our 100th birthday, a three-man committee of Norman Figgs, Preston Hudson and Parris Sexton was appointed to a special project, and shortly thereafter four large air-conditioning units were installed by Collins and Ryan of Millsboro. Mr. Dallas Hudson did the wiring for the units. The completed project cost \$3,275.85. The Frankford parsonage, too, received a new look. The church purchased a lovely kitchen carpet and nice paneling for the laundry room. The United Methodist Women purchased a comfortable recliner and a table lamp for the parsonage upstairs' study. The Share Group financed the long wall-to-wall book shelving, built by Merrill Parker and stained and installed by him with the help of Leroy Hooper and the pastor. The Methodist Youth Fellowship bought a beautiful bedspread and matching drapes.

In briefly reviewing the 100 year history of the church, one can see that Hickory Hill has maintained many traditions including Homecoming, Christmas Entertainment, Children's Day, the Sunday School picnic, revivals, and class meetings, now held after Church school with class leaders including Ivan Lecates, Preston Hudson and Jake West. In addition to these special and weekly services, the United Methodist Women meet at the church on the first Wednesday evening of the month, except July and August. On the second Thursday evening of each month is a prayer meeting, led this past year by lay leader Preston Hudson or by Parris Sexton, who has received and accepted the call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Both the youth and Share Group choirs practice on Tuesday evenings, and the Methodist Youth Fellowship meets on the first and third Sundays of each month except during the summer. Fellowship suppers for the entire church and invited family and friends are usually held the first Saturday night of the month except during October and the summer months. Worship service is every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. followed by Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

The Hickory Hill Church today offers a great fellowship for all its members. Although we are highly individualistic in our talents and personalities, nevertheless, we are one body of believers of Jesus Christ working together for the glory of God. Our church, too, is a family-oriented church. For example, six members of the Hudson family attend church faithfully, three sisters, Anna, Eva, and Retta and three brothers, John, Andrew, and Preston. Also, there are four brothers of the McCabe family who are faithful to the church, Clarence, Oscar, Horace and John. Most unique are two families with four generations attending. The first family includes great-grandmother Carrie Lowe, her daughter Madeline Mitchell, who recently rededicated her life to Christ, son Don Mitchell and his daughter Carey. The second family includes great-grandmother Burtie Mumford, her daughter Marion Hickman, her children Kendall O. Warrington III and Beverly Mitchell and their offspring Kenny, Jill, baby Jodie and Carey. Including Peter Carey and John Carey, now deceased, the latter family for six generations has been a part of the church from its beginning. A small country church is richly blessed to have strong family ties like all of these previously mentioned.

In concluding this section of our 100-year history, it was told that Mr. Ken Esham once said, "I hope this church will never be closed. How will our people ever walk to another church?" Many, many years have come and gone since that statement was made and that question asked. Each of us in our own heart, soul, and mind is free to share his same hope. A congregation of believers in Jesus Christ, an obedient people in a true covenant with God, men, women, and youth seeking and trusting God, and Christians in one accord, who are faithful in that which is least, will never die.



## A Look at the Past in Pictures



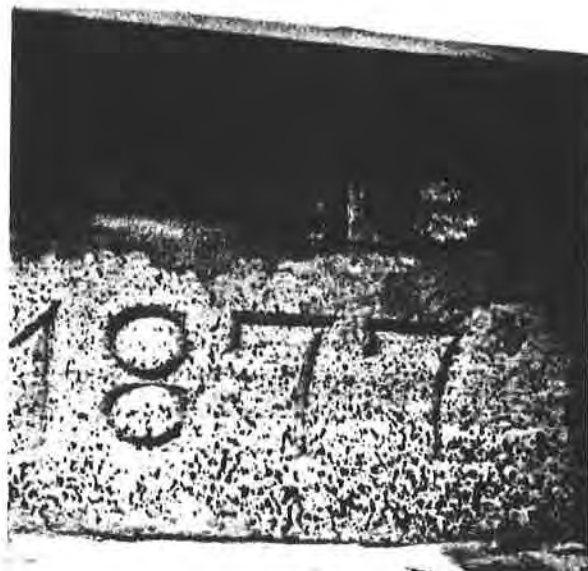
This antique handmade library was one of the first pieces of furniture in the Houston M. E. Church. Today it is still used for the storage of Sunday School material, class records and Bibles.



The Antioch and the Houston Bibles have been the only pulpit Bibles used in the one-hundred-year history of the church. Here they rest on an antique marble-top table, a part of the Houston heritage prior to 1900.



Several examine the deteriorated contents of the recession in the 1877 cornerstone, which was probably sealed October 28, 1878.



The 1877 cornerstone can be seen to the left of the church's front steps.

"They rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

## Silent Chapter of Pastors Who Have Served the Charge<sup>+</sup>

<u>Entered Ministry</u>	<u>name of pastor</u>	<u>Time of Death</u>	<u>age</u>	<u>Years Effective</u>
1870	Rev. Thomas O. Ayres	Oct. 4, 1891	53	21
	Rev. J. E. Kidney			
	Rev. E. H. Nelson			
1859	Rev. W. J. O'Neil	Mar. 9, 1887	55	28
	Rev. W. J. DuHadway			
1860	Rev. Andrew D. Davis	Apr. 13, 1899	72	35
1881	Rev. Sewall Pilchard	June 9, 1927	68	40
1859	Rev. Charles F. Sheppard	Apr. 13, 1903	65	41
	Rev. E. S. Mace			
1888	Rev. Charles P. Swain	May 22, 1900	41	12
	Rev. J. S. Wickline			
1888	Rev. Frank F. Carpenter	Jan. 7, 1925	58	37
1890	Rev. Melvin D. Nutter	Sept. 16, 1941	80	39
1886	Rev. Asbury Burke	Sept. 4, 1917	66	31
1878	Rev. Gordon R. Neese	Feb. 10, 1921	62	41
1900	Rev. G. W. Hastings	Feb. 28, 1934	73	26
1903	Rev. Arthur W. Goodhand	Feb. 6, 1949	86	38
1893	Rev. John P. Outten	June 25, 1954	85	40
	Rev. G. Harris			
1892	Rev. C. W. Strickland	Aug. 8, 1966	99	42
1905	Rev. Daniel J. Ford	Oct. 23, 1945	75	30
1900	Rev. William C. Poole	Dec. 24, 1949	74	35
1891	Rev. George A. Cooke	Jan. 19, 1936	70	37
1908	Rev. J. Price	May 4, 1964	80	28
1904	Rev. Edwin B. Taylor	died in Charleston, S.C.		
1902	Rev. James H. Gardner	Aug. 19, 1942	71	40
	Rev. W. L. Hess			
	Rev. J. C. Bolton			
1905	Rev. H. R. McDade	Aug. 12, 1959	81	16
1927	Rev. John A. Clark	May 17, 1955	72	22
	Rev. A. W. Strickland	Left the ministry		
	Rev. Willard Everett	Left the ministry		
1922	Rev. O. G. Brewer	Sept. 19, 1965	68	40
1916	Rev. John P. George	Oct. 27, 1976	91	32
	Rev. Guy McWilliams			
1931	Rev. William H. Kohl	Dec. 14, 1967	70	31

<sup>+</sup>Compiled from Annual Conference Journals



*"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethern, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.... For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."*

I Thessalonians 4:13,16

## Silent Chapter of Members and Friends

Adkins, Amelia	1873-1919	Hudson, Henry M.	1860-1943
Adkins, Benjamin T.	1868-1931	Hudson, Hettie	1856-1927
Adkins, Elijah	1828-1910	Hudson, Lizzie	1887-1970
Adkins, Elmer B.	1903-1947	Hudson, Louise	1929-1934
Adkins, Stanton E.	1925-1953	Hudson, Mary F.	1931-1934
Atkins, Clayton M.	1860-1946	Hudson, Peter	1855-1934
Atkins, Ida	1887-1954	Hudson, Reese	1919-1921
Atkins, Lucinda	1889-1973	Hudson, Robert T.	1888-1965
Atkins, Martin	1907-1974	Hudson, Viola	1922-1934
Breasure, Angie	1849-1895	Hudson, William T.	1883-1970
Breasure, John S.	1843-1926	Johnson, James	1896-1961
Breasure, Kate	1871-1963	Kollock, Emma	1842-1908
Brumbley, Elijah	1873-1939	Kollock, Shepard	1837-1926
Brumbley, Florence	1879-1943	Kollock, Willie S.	1877-1948
Carey, Elizabeth B.	1860-1941	Layton, Dr. Joseph	
Carey, Elsie E.	1898-1964	Layton, Mary A.	1829-1887
Carey, George W.	1898-1959	Lewis, Casher	1875-1952
Carey, John W.	1859-1930	Lewis, Ella	1883-1960
Carey, Peter H.		Long, Katie	1878-1952
Collins, Barbara J.	1948-1969	Long, Luster	1876-1951
Cowan, Caroline	1887-1973	Lowe, Burton	1851-1920
Cowan, William L.	1886-1949	Lowe, Ephraim W.	
Davis, Hannah	1867-1933	Lowe, Lydia	1883-1974
Davis, John M.	1860-1927	Lowe, Margaret R.	1837-1897
Donaway, Charlie	1889-1962	Lowe, Matilda	1853-1919
Donaway, Deborah W.	1866-1949	Lowe, Ollie	1883-1949
Donaway, George R.	1896-1968	Lowe, Walter	1891-1960
Donaway, Robert	1867-1954	McCabe, Ella	1880-1963
Esham, Annie	1877-1960	McCabe, John F., Sr.	1889-1960
Esham, Kendall	1873-1958	Mitchell, Arabella	1878-1962
Haines, William J.	1917-1965	Mitchell, Carrie M.	1895-1940
Hall, Laura	1876-1973	Mitchell, Delbert	1905-1963
Hall, Severn	1875-1959	Mitchell, Elwood	1914-1941
Hearn, Diane	1946-1946	Mitchell, Jerry Lee	1939-1939
Hitchens, Kate	-1934	Mitchell, John B.	1853-1938
Hitchens, Minnie M.	1890-1947	Mitchell, Joseph B.	1873-1964
Hitchens, John P.	1888-1962	Mitchell, Julia	1851-1938
Houston, Addie	1843-1884	Mitchell, Kermit E.	1937-1962
Houston, Ann	1753-1822	Mitchell, Lorenzo B.	1874-1938
Houston, Berdie	-1916	Mitchell, Louder	1849-1938
Houston, Isaac H.	1795-1860	Mitchell, Martha J.	1851-19
Houston, John M.	1832-1893	Mitchell, Mary	1853-1906
Houston, Lydia B.	1809-1878	Mitchell, Minos	1852-1938
Houston, Robert	1746-1821	Mitchell, Peter J.	1854-1930
Houston, Robert B.	1802-1892	Mitchell, Sallie A.	1850-1927
Hudson, Anna	1859-1936	Mitchell, Sarah E.	1852-1936
Hudson, Della M.	1883-1936	Moore, Baldwin B.	1886-1955
Hudson, Elizabeth	1892-1955	Moore, Harry B.	1910-1961
Hudson, Elijah	1883-1951	Moore, John S.	1873-1928
Hudson, Elsie	1895-1965	Moore, Mary H.	1879-1960
Hudson, Harold	1897-1974	Mumford, Arley E.	1890-1909

## Silent Chapter of Members and Friends

Mumford, Arley II	1916-1927	Parker, Harvey E.	1905-1967
Mumford, Aubrey L.	1908-1960	Parker, Ida	1884-1952
Mumford, Clifton L.	1892-1940	Parker, John W.	1883-1955
Mumford, George W.	1861-1929	Parsons, William T.	1860-1950
Mumford, Hettie A.	1867-1948	Stevens, Carl	1886-1962
Mumford, James	1896-1969	Stevens, Janie K.	1885-1967
Mumford, John O.	1893-1974	Timmons, Aaron W.	1840-1910
Mumford, Louise	1920-1976	Timmons, Martha J.	1843-1930
Mumford, Martha S.	1887-1972	Walls, John	
Mumford, Mary E.	1829-1920	Warrington, Kendall O. II	1925-1955
Mumford, Walter G.	1899-1933	Williams, James J.	1827-1895
Parker, Adelphia	1913-1976	Williams, Joseph H.	1864-1940
Parker, Bonard	1913-1966	Williams, Mary	1828-1904
Parker, Dorothy	1929-1975	Williams, Priscilla E.	1863-1938



## Hickory Hill Church

### Weddings

<u>GROOM</u>	<u>BRIDE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MINISTER</u>
John H. Brumbley	Rhoda A. Dorey	Nov. 27, 1898	J.S. Wickline
Dr. Clifton West	Gertrude Williams	Dec. 20, 1905	G.W. Hastings
Baldwin Moore	Martha Donaway	Dec. 26, 1909	A.W. Goodhand
Wilbert E. Powell	Doris Ann Mitchell	June 12, 1954	A. Backus
Ralph Adkins	Margaret Harrison	Sept. 1, 1962	I.P. Downing
Thomas Atkins	Carolyn Hickman	Mar. 1, 1963	I. P. Downing
Don W. Mitchell	Beverly Ann Warrington	Aug. 3, 1963	I.P. Downing
Ervin Goff	Minnie Parker	Dec. 6, 1963	W.H. Kohl
Richard McCabe	Patience Hudson	Dec. 19, 1963	I.P. Downing
Gerald Williams	Frances McCabe	June 11, 1965	I.P. Downing
Allan G. Collins	Barbara J. McCabe	Dec. 31, 1966	E.L. Bennett
Gary A. Cordrey	Bertha M. Steele	April 6, 1967	E.L. Bennett
J. Ford Parker	Myrtle Parker	June 7, 1967	C.D. Baker
Parris Sexton	Gail Waples	July 27, 1968	E.L. Bennett
Harry R. McClung	Luray Virginia Mitchell	Aug. 9, 1968	E.L. Bennett
Dale Steele	Linda Sexton	Sept. 3, 1968	E.L. Bennett
Roy Rogers	Marie McCabe	Nov. 15, 1969	E.L. Bennett
Allan Rogers	Debbie Hudson	Aug. 3, 1971	C.W. Smith
Edwin Hudson	Sue Ella McCabe	June 23, 1972	C.W. Smith
Bruce Rogers	Regina Magee	Oct. 13, 1973	C.W. Smith
Lloyd Lewis	Elva Headley	Sept. 21, 1974	C.W. Smith
Charles Bradner	Deborah Atkins	Feb. 14, 1975	C.W. Smith
Gregory Short	Deborah Haines	Sept. 25, 1976	W.A. Turner
Dennis V. Cordrey	Debbie H. Donaway	Feb. 11, 1977	W.A. Turner
Guy Baker, Sr.	Virginia Sammons	July 19, 1977	W.A. Turner

# Weddings of Hickory Hill Church Members and Friends Who were not Married at Hickory Hill

<u>GROOM</u>	<u>BRIDE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MINISTER</u>
Benjamin Ellingsworth	Martha Tumey	Oct. 1, 1876	J.E. Kidney
Isaac Williams	Anna Hickman	Nov. 30, 1876	J.E. Kidney
John W. Carey	Lizzie B. Moore	Dec. 6, 1880	
Peter Hudson	Hetty Layton	Dec. 22, 1881	W.J. O'Neill
Joseph Williams	Pricilla Prettyman	Dec. 1883	W.J. DuHadway
Thomas Moore	Mary E. Layton	Dec. 1883	W.J. DuHadway
George W. Mumford	Hettie A. Revel	Nov. 24, 1889	
John Bunting	Rubie Brasure	Oct. 5, 1892	C.P. Swain
John Layton	Lavinia Baker	July 15, 1894	C.P. Swain
Kendall Esham	Annie Donaway	Aug. 12, 1894	C.P. Swain
Joseph Mitchell	Katie Baker	Nov. 8, 1894	C.P. Swain
John Moore	Mary Parker	Aug. 7, 1895	J.S. Wickline
William Dorey	Mary Mitchell	Dec. 1, 1895	J.S. Wickline
Lorenzo Mitchell	Arabella Brasure	Sept. 18, 1895	T.N. Given
Luster Long	Kate Houston	Dec. 28, 1896	J.S. Wickline
Harry Moore	Mary Hudson	Apr. 3, 1898	J.S. Wickline
William Hudson	Sallie Brasure	June 14, 1902	
Horace Hickman	Anna Hudson	Dec. 25, 1907	G.W. Hastings
William Murray	Mat Brumbley	Feb. 29, 1908	G.W. Hastings
Elwood Sharar	Margaret Hudson	Aug. 19, 1908	
John Collins	Lillie Williams	1910	
Charley B. Donaway	Estella Moore	Feb. 9, 1911	J.P. Outten
Robert Hudson	Eva Rowe	Apr. 21, 1912	
Walter Lowe	Carrie Mitchell	March 15, 1913	J. Buarington
John O. Mumford	Mary Burton Carey	Aug. 7, 1915	G.R. Ellis
Ollie Lowe	Lydia Short	Jan. 16, 1916	W.G. Harris
Roddy Moore	Emma Coffin	Dec. 24, 1917	C.W. Strickland
Rollie Lewis	Ollie Donaway	March 17, 1918	Hopkins
Harold Hudson	Elizabeth Wyatt	Nov. 23, 1918	McLain
James Mumford	Maggie Brasure	March 15, 1919	C.W. Strickland
Herman Hitchens	Eva Lewis	Jan. 10, 1924	G.A. Cooke
Dallas J. Hudson	Hettie M. Stevens	Mar. 24, 1924	H. Fox
George Donaway	Gertrude Mumford	May 3, 1924	Hallman
Elmer Adkins	Estella Collins	Aug. 23, 1924	Wilson
William Ellingsworth	Ethel Revel	June 27, 1925	
James Johnson	Janie Wilkerson	Dec. 31, 1925	Hudson
Walter Donaway	Edith Lawson	Mar. 14, 1926	G.A. Cooke
Charles Nissley	Naomi Mitchell	Sept. 3, 1926	Hamilton
Charles Mumford	Marie Ellingsworth	Oct. 31, 1926	J.C. Bolton
Raymond Atkins	Elva Griffin	Dec. 24, 1927	
Delbert Mitchell	Emily Cowan	July 17, 1928	Cope
Ira Murray	Beatrice Downes	Mar. 30, 1929	R.H. Wilson
Louis Taylor	Anna Toomey	May 20, 1930	W.H. Kohl
Preston Hudson	Hazel Lowe	June 28, 1930	Rice
Adelphia Parker	Pearl Collins	Dec. 12, 1931	W.H. Kohl
Russell Lynch	Idetta Murray	Mar. 5, 1932	McWilliams
Lloyd Cash	Etha Revel	Oct. 29, 1932	W.H. Kohl
James McCabe	Olivette Lewis	Mar. 31, 1934	Powell
Clarence McCabe	Anna Hudson	Dec. 1, 1934	W. Gray
John F. McCabe, Jr.	Eva Hudson	April 11, 1935	Graham
Oliver Parker	Sarah Long	April 20, 1935	Wimbrow
William Atkins	Mary Donaway	Sept. 7, 1935	

## Weddings not at Hickory Hill

<u>GROOM</u>	<u>BRIDE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MINISTER</u>
Ollie Mitchell	Helen McCabe	Oct. 3, 1936	R. Jones
Merrill Donaway	Thelma Murray	Feb. 21, 1937	J.P. Landon
Clifford Mitchell	Madelyn Lowe	Aug. 21, 1937	O.H. Connelly
Harry Clark	Dorothy Donaway	Oct. 12, 1937	
Norris Hearn	Alma Parker	Dec. 23, 1937	A.E. Knicely
Lawrence Wootten	Flo Parker	Dec. 7, 1937	Archer
Walter King	Sophie Linker	Jan. 3, 1938	
Vaughn Holloway	Eva Hudson	May 10, 1938	
Horace McCabe	Myrtle Baker	Aug. 22, 1939	Clark
Lloyd Mumford	Louise Leonard	Aug. 29, 1939	Eckard
Elwood Coffin	Lathryn Daisey	Dec. 23, 1939	J.A. Clark
Jake Atkins	Emma Hitchens	Jan. 20, 1940	F. Baker
Wilbur Mitchell	Marie Wingate	May 18, 1940	A.F. Greene
Oscar McCabe	Emma Radish	July 30, 1940	
Howard t. Games	Emma James	May 29, 1941	
Jesse C. Rowe	Ruth Dukes	Oct. 10, 1941	
Ralph Timmons	Mildred Conaway	Dec. 24, 1941	Wheatley
Kendall O. Warrington, Jr.	Marian E. Mumford	June 5, 1944	J.A. Clark
Ivan LeCates	Joyce White	Jan. 1, 1944	Z. Adams
Wade Sexton	Henrietta Hudson	Feb. 9, 1945	O.G. Brewer
William Oboryshko	Elizabeth Johnson	Feb. 14, 1947	E. Crockett
Vernon Cordrey	Pauline Shockley	Sept. 26, 1947	P.K. Lambert
Jacob West, Jr.	Betty Mitchell	Mar. 26, 1948	
Norman S. Hudson	Margaret Tindall	May 15, 1948	Hudson
Fred Atkins	Barbara Taylor	May 14, 1949	Elliott
Andrew Hudson	Juanita Sexton	April 7, 1950	Perdue
Frank Johnson	Mary Coffin	June 1950	J. Stewart
Oliver Fisher	Nettie B. Carey	Dec. 29, 1950	C.E. Davis
Samuel Hudson	Ann Spicer	Oct. 21, 1952	Brooks
Norman Figgs	Jolene Murray	Nov. 21, 1953	C.E. Davis
Donald Hall	Frances Duncan	April 17, 1954	Hackett
George B. Donaway	Betty Ann Hunter	Sept. 12, 1954	J.E. Jones
George Adkins	Nancy Bunting	Feb. 25, 1955	G.A. Leukel
William Hitchens	Della McCabe	Dec. 30, 1955	Justice-Backus
William Haines	Norma L. Hudson	Feb. 4, 1956	G. McWilliams
Frank Outten	Mattie Townsend	Mar. 17, 1956	J.J. Von Hagel
Robert Tribbitt	Joan Mitchell	May 5, 1956	
John Parker	Yvonne Riddle	June 9, 1956	J. Conley
Clarence McCabe, Jr.	Sue E. Long	July 6, 1956	W. Garrett
Vernon Hitchens	Grace Mitchell	Sept. 21, 1956	W.J. Garrett
Vincent Hudson	Dorothy Riddle	Jan. 17, 1957	
Donald Collins	June Murray	Nov. 16, 1957	D.O. Hornung
Curtis Harper	Shirley McCabe	Mar. 15, 1958	H. Flater
Richard Coulter	Lavinia McCabe	Mar. 21, 1958	Garrison
John Lingo	Shirley Parker	Feb. 14, 1959	J.J. Von Hagel
Frank G. Murray	Shirley Messick	July 11, 1959	
Merrill McCabe	Jeanette Lynch	Mar. 12, 1960	Garrison
Russell Dayhoff	Catherine Atkins	June 11, 1960	A. Jenkins
John E. McCabe	Margaret Luzier	June 25, 1960	J. Bishop
Ronald Moore	Patricia McCabe	Aug. 16, 1960	F. Wilson
Robert J. Hickman	Marian M. Warrington	May 19, 1961	W.H. Kohl
Paul Hitchens	Norma L. Massey	Aug. 5, 1961	

## Weddings not at Hickory Hill

<u>GROOM</u>	<u>BRIDE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MINISTER</u>
E. Wayne Cropper	Darleen Mumford	Sept. 2, 1961	R. Starnes
Jesse E. Rowe	Beatrice Collins	Mar. 16, 1962	Strucker
Leroy R. Hooper	Nancy McCabe	June 16, 1962	
Merrill J. Parker	Betty Lou Mitchell	Sept. 14, 1962	J.J. Von Hagel
Preston A. McCabe	Pat Wooten	June 14, 1963	R. George
Ralph Timmons, Jr.	July Long	Aug. 28, 1965	R. Givens
Jewell Franklin	Bonnie Atkins	Oct. 25, 1965	S.E. White
Lewis Collins	Karen Lesley	Feb. 12, 1966	Dr. Link
Stephen Mumford	Karen Workman	May 10, 1968	W. McDaniel
Kendall O. Warrington, III	Diane C. Wilson	June 28, 1968	W. McDaniel
Clifton Mumford	Connie Koston	April 19, 1969	
Jerry Passwaters	Susan West	Sept. 27, 1969	E. Wilkins
Van A. Mitchell	Neva L. Hudson	July 26, 1970	F. Truitt
Harvey M. Atkins	Catherine Scarmozzi	July 3, 1971	C.W. Smith
Gerald McCabe	Ella Willey	Aug. 7, 1971	Rev. Dole
Larry Gum	Christy Hurley	Dec. 18, 1971	C.W. Smith
John Timmons	Shelly Hudson	May 27, 1972	D. Clendaniel
Dennis Oliphant	Carolyn Hudson	Dec. 29, 1973	
Oscar McCabe, Jr.	Martha Hylinski	June 30, 1974	Father Montgomery
John P. Taylor	Denise Mumford	Oct. 18, 1974	E. Bennett
F. Owen Atkins	Carol King	Jan. 11, 1975	F. Wilson
Michael McCabe	Iris Richardson	Oct. 25, 1975	F. Wilson
Terry McGee	Vanessa Adkins	June 12, 1976	C.W. Smith
Kevin Fisher	Nadine Davidson	Aug. 6, 1977	C. Baker



## Baptisms at Houston Woods Meetings

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Infant Child Adult</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Charles Oscar Rogers	I	John T. & Mary C.	July 21, 1889	Chas. F. Sheppard
Georgie Burton Rogers	C	"	"	"
Stella Kate Mitchell	I	John B. & Mary Ella	"	"
Roddie William Moore	C	Charles H. & Sarah E.	"	"
Effie Mary Sockriter	I	William G. & Lettie	"	"
Stanton Atkins	I	Levin T. & Lillie A.	"	"
Hattie Jane Atkins	C	"	"	"
Birdie Ann Parsons	C	William Thomas & Sarah A.	"	"
Mollie ellen Moore	I	Wilson Thomas & Martha R.	"	"
Lucinda Adkins	I	Clayton M. & Mary E.	"	"
Annie May Jones	I	Jacob J. & Elizabeth	"	"
Allie Kate Burton Cooper	I	Joseph & Anna	"	"
Mary Olivia Cooper	C	"	"	"
Sarah Martha Hudson	I	Peter & Hettie A.	"	"
Joseph Enoch Hudson	C	"	"	"
John Layton Hudson	I	"	"	"
Hettie Rogers Davis	I	John M. & Hannah E.	"	"
Caleb Howard Brimer	I	Caleb & Emma	"	"
Laura Ellen Hudson	I	Seth A. & Mollie	"	"
Mary Lizzie Moore	C	Leonard W. & Zipporah	"	"
Joseph Walter Moore	C	"	"	"
Annie Lizzie Johnson	I	John & Sallie M.	"	"
John Wesley Waples Low	I	Ananias & Mary H.	August 28, 1892	C. P. Swain
Clara Virginia Parker	I	Isabella & Joshua H.	"	"
Charles Edgar Brittingham	I	Matilda C. Brittingham	"	"
Rosa May Adkins	I	Levin & Lillie	"	"

## Baptisms near Houston's

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Infant Child Adult</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Anna T. Murray	I		July, 1883	W. J. DuHadway
Elizabeth A. Murray	I		"	"
Ely C. Parker	I		"	"
Lovey J. Hickman	I		"	"
Thomas R. Parsons	I		"	"
Anna E. Parsons	I		"	"
Ida May Parsons	I		"	"
Talbot B. Short	I		"	"
Bertha May Wagamon	I		"	"



## Baptisms near Houston's

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Infant Child Adult</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Mary Gertrude Walls	I			
Elizabeth Adkins	I			
Effy Adkins	I			
John Thomas Brumbley	I	Lemuel & Mollie	Aug. 31, 1902	A. Burke
Rhoda Jane Dora	I	Wm. R. & Mary J.		"
Wilson Clogg	I	Wilson C. & Sallie M.	Oct. 14, 1902	"
Bessie May Clogg	I	"	"	"
Myrtle Clogg	I	"	"	"
Ollie Brumbley	I	Thomas J. & Alice	"	"
Delia Thomas Brumbley	I	"	"	"
Lizzie Helen Dukes Brumbley	I	"	"	"
Annie May Mitchell	I	George Henry & Stella May	Oct. 21, 1902	"

## Church Baptisms

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Infant Child Adult</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Noah Wesley Adkins	I	Milby & Mary E.	May 5, 1879	Edwin H. Nelson
Wm. Sheppard Kollock	I	Wm. S. & Eliza E.	"	"
John alexander Gillis Layton	I	Sam'l. H. & Sarah C.	"	"
Mary Jane Wilkerson	C	Elisha T. & Anna	"	"
John Franklin Bowers		Nancy Wise Bowers	"	"
Mary Hester Elizabeth Middleton	C	James B. & Hettie C.	July 11, 1880	"
Albert Woolsey Parsons	C	Lemuel & Mary A.	"	"
Lemuel Harrison Parsons	C		"	"
James Wilkerson	A		Feb. 13, 1881	"
Chas. Ellingsworth	A		"	"
Peter Hudson	A		Mar. 13, 1881	"
Mary Kate Williams	C	Isaac J. & Annie K.	June 14, 1885	A. D. Davis
Lou Brimer	C	Phillip & Emma	"	"
Wm. Thomas Hutson	C	Peter & Hettie M.	"	"
Geo. B.	A		Sept. 2, 1888	S. N. Pilchard
Lizzie Adaline Moore	I	John M. & Mary A.	Sept. 3, 1891	Edgar S. Mace
Elijah Marshall Adkins	I	Mary E. & Layton	"	"
Effie Isabelle Tull	I	William M. & Lizzie	"	"
George Washington White	I	Samuel M. & Amelia J.	"	"
Ephriem Ellensworth	I	Thomas & Sadie	"	"
Charlie William Mitchel	I	Peter J. & Sallie A.	"	"

## Church Baptisms

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Infant Child Adult</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Larry Washington Mitchel	I	Peter J. & Sallie A.	Sept. 3, 1891	Edgar S. Mace
Peter Ottis Mitchel	I	"	"	"
Bertha Anna King	I	William E. & Jane E.	"	"
Mary Hester Mitchel	I	Rufus M. & Lizzie E.	"	"
Lillie May Mitchel	I	"	"	"
Kendel Joshua Williams	I	Joshua & Hettie	"	"
Gertrude Williams	I	Joseph & Priscilla	"	"
Lillie Williams	I	"	"	"
James Henry White	I	George T. & Hester E.	Sept. 6, 1891	"
Joseph Kollock White	I	"	"	"
Larry Elwood Burton	I	Wm. T. & Sarah J.	"	"
Roy James Williams	I	Isaac I. & Annie K.	"	"
Stella J. Moore	I	Joseph & Rachel Ann	June 18, 1893	C. P. Swain
Della Baker	I	Sampson & Mary E.	"	"
Frederick J. Williams	I	F. J. & A. K.	"	"
	I	John & Mary B. Rogers	"	"
Seth Long	I	John H. & Ella	"	"
Myas Burton Lowe	I	Benj. B. & Mary	"	"
M. C. Lowe	I	"	"	"
Elijah Mitchell	I	Sallie & Peter	"	"
William T. Parsons	I		Oct. 8, 1893	"
Rachel A. Moore	A		"	"
Charlie Parsons	I	Robert & Margaret	June 17, 1894	"
Alice Ethel Roggers	I	Mary C. & John	"	"
Hattie J. Truitt	C	Phil T. & Mary C.	"	"
John Tinley Atkins	I	Levin & Lillie	Sept. 23, 1894	"
Mary Ellen Daisy	I	John E. & Emma	"	"
Walter Harrison Lowe	I	B. B. & wife	"	"
Sallie Brasure	C	John & Angie	"	"
Eva May Brasure	C	"	"	"
Edna Maria Bunting	I	John & Rubbie	"	"
Annie May	I		Dec. 2, 1894	"
Zipporah Moore Revel	A	John & Nettie	Mar. 10, 1895	"
Nancy A. Mumford	A	Wife of John L.	"	"
John H. Williams	I	Isaac J. & annie K.	Nov. 3, 1895	J. S. Wickline
John William King	I	William C. & Jane E.	"	"
Myrtle King	I	"	"	"
Delia May Williams	I	Joshua & Hettie C.	"	"
Bertha May Layton	I	John E. & Lavinia H.	"	"
Delie Littleton	I	John A. & Hettie	"	"
John Walls	A		Aug. 22, 1897	"
George H. Walls	A		"	"
Olivette R. Baker	I	Richard C. & M. M.	Mar. 5, 1899	"
Hettie Mariah Parker	I	Levin & Orpa	May 12, 1901	Asbury Burke
Edna May Lowe	I	George W. & Annie E.	"	"
Mattie E. Lowe	I	Ollie D. & Ellie L.	Sept. 9, 1906	G. W. Hastings
Nellie O. Lowe	I	"	"	"
Lenora Long	A		Oct. 11, 1908	A. W. Goodhand
Allice Derrickson Sockrider	A		Oct. 25, 1908	"
Julia Kate Sockrider	A		"	"

## Church Baptisms

<u>NAME</u>	Infant Child Adult	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Mary Etta Rowe	I	Julius & Mildred	Oct. 2, 1921	W. C. Poole
Henrietta Hudson	I	Henry & Della May	Oct. 4, 1921	"
Margaret Hitchens	C	Mr. & Mrs. John	Oct. 5, 1921	"
Emma Hitchens	I	"	"	"
Alden Hitchens	I	"	"	"
John Timothy Adkins Wilkerson	I	John & Gertrude	Oct. 9, 1921	"
Calvin Luther Mitchell	I	George & Stella	"	"
Mary Elizabeth Mumford	I	George & Hettie	"	"
Aubrey Linford Mumford	I	George & Hettie	"	"
John Carlton Hudson	I	John L. & Lizzie	"	"
Osbourne Washington Hudson	I	Harley W. & Edna	"	"
Ellen Elizabeth Mitchell	I	Herman & Beatrice (Bertie)	"	"
Lloyd Clifton Mumford	I	Mr. & Mrs. Clifton	"	"
Arley Mumford	I	"	"	"
Julius Rowe	A	"	Oct. 13, 1921	"
Mildred Rowe	A	"	"	"
Nina Cornelia Mumford	A	"	Oct. 8, 1922	"
Jane Johnson	A	"	"	"
Elizabeth Johnson	I	James & Jane	"	"
Mildred Catherine Mumford	I	Lee & Nina C.	"	"
Ashball Lee C. Mumford	I	Lee & Nina C.	"	"
Gladys Revell	I	Charles & Milla	Oct. 26, 1924	Geo. A. Cooke
Layton Revell	I	"	"	"
John Revell	I	"	"	"
Doris Revell	I	"	"	"
Emma Collins	I	Alfred & Ella	"	"
Jerdie Collins	I	"	"	"
Ralph Collins	I	"	"	"
John Henry Hudson	I	Henry & Della	"	"
Edward Junior Reese	I	Edward & Nellie	"	"
Stanton Elmer Adkins	I	Elmer B. & Estella	Oct. 4, 1925	"
Hilda Hettie Mumford	I	Clifton & Martha	Mar. 13, 1927	"
Marian Elizabeth Mumford	I	John & Berdie	"	"
Dolly Jenette Hitchens	I	John & Minnie	Mar. 20, 1932	J. H. Gardner
Bertie B. Hitchens	I	"	"	"
Aliene M. Hitchens	I	"	"	"
Edward H. Hitchens	I	"	"	"
Twins		"	"	"
Edna E. Hitchens	I	"	"	"
Elmer B. Adkins	A		July 3, 1932	Wm. Lyndon Hess
Caroline Lee Hudson	I	Herbert C. & Myrtle M.	Nov. 1, 1935	J. C. Bolton
William Milton Revell	C	Joseph & Anna May	"	"
Bobbie Alden Revell	C	"	"	"
Mary Francis Revell	C	"	"	"
Alnor Lee Revell	I	"	"	"
Elizabeth Norma Jean Collins	C	Harry L. & Edna	"	"
Wilsie Evelyn Collins	C	"	"	"
Vincent Carlton Collins	C	"	"	"
Norma Lee Hudson	I	Dallas G. & Hettie	June 19, 1937	H. R. McDade
Normond Norwood Collins	I	Normond & Hattie	"	"

## Church Baptisms

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Infant Child Adult</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Alvin Layton Greenwalt	I	Marshall & Erma	June 19, 1937	H. R. McDade
Grace Ann Mitchell	I	Isaac C. & Madaline	June 19, 1938	"
Mary Collins	C	Wiliby & Beatrice	"	"
William Collins	C	"	"	"
Clarence V. McCabe	C	Clarence & Anna	"	"
Della E. McCabe	C	John F., Jr. & Eva	"	"
John Lee Hamblin	C	Joshua & Flossie	"	"
Nancy Lee Parker	C	Bonard & Flora	Sept. 10, 1939	John A. Clark
John Harvey Parker	C	Harvey & Myrtle	"	"
Emily Mitchell	C	Delbert & Emily	Dec. 1939	"
Burton Mitchell	C	"	"	"
Kathryn Marie Wingate	A	William & Virginia	Nov. 17, 1940	"
Dukes	C		"	"
Dukes	C		"	"
Louise E. Mumford	A		Feb. 1941	"
W. Clifton Mumford	A	Lloyd C. & Louise E.	"	"
Shirley A. McCabe	I	Clarence H. & Anna A.	Mar. 1941	"
Ralph James Adkins	I	Elmer B. & Estella	1943	Willard Everett
Richard Henry McCabe	C	John F., Jr. & Eva M.	Apr. 24, 1949	J. J. Von Hagel
Barbara Geen McCabe	I	Clarence H. & Anna A.	"	"
Barbara Lee Mitchell	C	Ollie D. & Helen M.	"	"
Horace M. McCabe	A		March 18, 1951	"
Lavinia E. McCabe	C	Horace M. & Myrtle G.	"	"
Merrill F. McCabe	C	"	"	"
Gerald L. McCabe	C	"	"	"
Frances R. McCabe	C	"	"	"
Marie E. McCabe	I	"	"	"
Carolyn Lee Hudson	C	John C. & Bertha Eliz.	Apr. 22, 1951	"
Kathy Eliz. Hudson	C	"	"	"
Arlene Francis Hudson	C		"	"
Stephen Robert Mumford	I	Lloyd C. & Louise E.	"	"
Flora Patricia Lee Parsons	I	Manford B. & Hazel	"	"
Helen Irene Parsons Wooten	A	"	"	"
George Walter Mumford	Y	Charles & Marie	"	"
Rebecca Ann Hudson	Y	John & Lizzie	"	"
Deborah Ann Hudson	I	Andrew & Juanita	Apr. 5, 1953	Arthur G. Backus
Michael Henry McCabe	I	Clarence H. & Anna A.	"	"
Wendell Lee Donaway	C	Walter & Edith	Apr. 18, 1954	"
Sharon Hope West	I	Leonard & Mary	"	"
Martin Thomas Atkins	Y	Jacob & Emma	"	"
Wayne Virgil Dukes	Y	Arvil & Pauline	"	"
Bonard Baker Timmons	Y	Bonard & Margaret	"	"
Harvey Melvin Atkins	C	Jacob & Emma	"	"
Jacob Mitchell Atkins	C	"	"	"
Joyce Ann Atkins	C	"	"	"
Linda Jane Parker	I	Harvey Edward & Myrtle E.	Jan. 16, 1955	"
Ivan LeCates	A		Apr. 3, 1955	"
Sue Ella McCabe	I	Clarence H. & Anna A.	Mar. 25, 1956	Guy H. McWilliams

## Church Baptisms

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Infant Child Adult</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Lucinda Atkins	A	Clayton & Elizabeth	Feb. 10, 1957	Guy H. McWilliams
Donna Mae Hitchens	I	William & Della	"	"
Parris Allen Saxton	Y	Joseph & Loretta	"	"
Phillip Dean Saxton	C	"	"	"
Linda Lee Saxton	C	"	"	"
Paul David Gray	Y	David & Nettie	"	"
Marian Lee Gray	Y	"	"	"
Phyllis Mae Gray	C	"	"	"
Russell James Baker	C	Chester & Retta	"	"
Fred Owen Atkins	I	Fred & Barbara	Apr. 21, 1957	"
Carolyn Jane Hudson	C	Andrew & Juanita	"	"
Deberah Lynn Haines	I	William J. & Norma Lee	"	"
Debra Sue Atkins	I	Jacob & Emma	Nov. 17, 1957	Wm. H. Kohl
John H. Parker	I	John & Mary	Feb. 2, 1958	"
Malinda R. McCabe	I	Clarence & Sue	Apr. 6, 1958	"
Bart H. Donaway	I	George & Elizabeth	Apr. 13, 1958	"
Gregory N. Hudson	I	Norman & Margaret	June 15, 1958	"
Twins		"	"	"
Jeffrey M. Hudson	I	"	"	"
Stanton A. Adkins	I	George A. & Nancy	Nov. 16, 1958	"
Vanessa A. Adkins	I	"	"	"
Elsie Lee Carey	A	John & Ella	Mar. 28, 1959	"
Barbara A. Fisher	C	Oliver & Nettie	Mar. 3, 1959	"
Kevin R. Fisher	I	"	"	"
Billie Jean Haines	I	William J. & Norma Lee	Mar. 29, 1959	"
Jodie A. Harper	I	Curtis & Shirley	June 14, 1959	"
Gloria A. Pauley	A	Wm. & Maggie	July 8, 1959	"
Donna A. Pauley	I	Wm. & Gloria	"	"
Cathy L. Pauley	I	"	"	"
Donald G. Pusey	A	Wm., Jr. & Maggie	"	"
William H. Pusey, III	Y	"	"	"
Merrill J. Pusey	A	"	"	"
Dale D. Pusey	Y	"	"	"
Curtis E. Harper	I	Curtis & Shirley	July 31, 1960	"
Oscar William McCabe, Jr.	C	Oscar W. & Emma	"	"
Gary A. Cordrey	Y	Vernon & Pauline	Apr. 2, 1961	"
Dennis V. Cordrey	C	"	"	"
Mark H. Cordrey	C	"	"	"
Karen Sue Hudson	I	Samuel & Anne	"	"
Ann S. Hudson	A	John & Mary	"	"
Billie L. Hitchens	I	William & Della	"	"
Jannie A. Stevens	A	Clayton & Mary	"	"
Carol A. Collins	I	Norwood & Charlotte	"	"
Valarie H. Hudson	I	Paul & Dorothy	"	"
Merrill A. McCabe	I	Merrill & Jeanette	"	"
Gay L. Coulter	I	Richard & Lavinia	Apr. 2, 1961	"
Victoria L. Collins	I	Donald & June	"	"
Melody Renee Haines	I	Wm. J. & Norma Lee	May 23, 1961	"
Guy Calvin Baker, Jr.	C	Guy Calvin, Sr. & Elva Lowe	Oct. 18, 1961	Clarence Wilkins

## Church Baptisms

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Infant Child Adult</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Mark William Hitchens	I	William & Della	Apr. 15, 1962	Ivon P. Downing
David Keith Parker	I	John H. & Mary Yvonne	"	"
Clarence Vincent McCabe, II	I	Clarence V. & Sue Ellen	May 13, 1962	"
Stephanie Ellen Hudson	I	Samuel & Ann Spicer	Dec. 9, 1962	"
Teresa Ann Mumford	I	William C. & Carol Lowe	Apr. 7, 1963	"
Chad Anthony Mitchell	I	Clifford & Madelyn Lowe	"	"
Timothy Robin Tribbitt	I	Robert & Joan Mitchell	"	"
Kim Denise Tribbitt	C	"	"	"
Keith Ray Tribbitt	C	"	"	"
Tracy Ann Tribbitt	I	"	"	"
Richard Joseph Hitchens	C	Vernon J. & Grace Mitchell	"	"
Michael Allen Hitchens	C	"	"	"
Mark Anthony Hitchens	C	"	"	"
Steven Craig Hitchens	I	"	"	"
Beverly Ann Hitchens	I	"	"	"
Cynthia Lou Murray	I	Frank G. & Shirley Messick	Apr. 14, 1963	"
James Don Parker	I	Merrill J. & Betty Lou Mitchell	Nov. 24, 1963	"
Cathy Lynn Collins	I	Howard Vernon & Vivian Lucille Riddle	"	"
Lisa Marie Lowe	I	Norwood & Irene Cordrey	Mar. 22, 1964	"
Kelly Renee McCabe	I	Richard & Patience	Jan. 9, 1965	"
Dawn Lynn McCabe	I	Preston & Patricia Ann	"	"
Bonnie Lee Hitchens	I	William & Della	"	"
Eric Wilson Moore	I	Ronald & Patsy Lee	"	"
Michael William Hitchens	C	William & Shirley	Apr. 3, 1966	"
Patricia Ann Outten	C	Frank & Mattie	"	"
Gregory James Outten	I	"	"	"
Dana Lynn Rogers	I	Larry Allen & Sandra West	June 19, 1966	Elmer L. Bennett
Teresa Lynn Timmons	I	Ralph Atkins & Judith Long	"	"
Pamela Denise Mitchell	C	Kermit & Pauline	"	"
Karen Lee Mitchell	C	"	"	"
Sharon Kay Moore	C	Joseph & Pauline Mitchell	"	"
William Joseph McCabe	I	Clarence V. & Sue Ellen	"	"
Pamela Lee West	I	Wayne Virgil & Patricia Hudson	Jan. 15, 1967	"
Beth Ann Hudson	I	Paul Vincent & Dorothy Riddle	Feb. 5, 1967	"
Lori Ann Riddle	I	Glen & Harlene Bentley	"	"
Linda Marie Outten	I	Frank & Mattie	Aug. 6, 1967	"
Christopher Lane Goff	I	Ervin & Minnie Parker	Dec. 2, 1967	"
Elizabeth Ann Parker	I	John H. & Mary Riddle	"	"
Dean Allen Parker	C	Merrill & Betty Mitchell	"	"
Ralph Atkins Timmons, III	I	Ralph, Jr. & Judith Ann Long	Mar. 3, 1968	"
Angela Kaye Baker	I	Russell & Patricia Ann Robbins	Mar. 9, 1969	"
Jennifer Lee Figs	I	Norman & Jolene Murray	Apr. 13, 1969	"
Todd Alan Timmons	I	Ralph Atkins, Jr. & Judith Long	Apr. 26, 1970	"
Leah Michelle Sexton	I	Paris Allen & Gail Waples	Nov. 1, 1970	"
J. Todd Mumford	I	W. Clifton & Constance A.	Sept. 1971	Curtis W. Smith
Kendall O. Warrington, IV	I	Kendall O., III & Diane Wilson	Feb. 6, 1972	"
Lisa Collins	C	Donald & June	Apr. 30, 1972	"
Donald Collins, Jr.	I	Donald & June	"	"
Frank Murray, Jr.	I	Frank G. & Shirley M.	"	"



## Church Baptisms

<u>NAME</u>	Infant Child Adult	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Dawn Tingle	I	Gary & Sharon Lowe	Apr. 30, 1972	Curtis W. Smith
Keith Allen Cordrey	I	Gary A. & Bertha A.	Dec. 31, 1972	"
Twins		"	"	"
Kevin Lynn Cordrey	I			"
Nathan Mitchell	I	Van & Neva Mitchell	Mar. 4, 1973	"
Dana Lynn Passwaters	I	Jerry & Susan W.	"	"
Charles Henry Hudson	I	Edwin Brooks & Sue Ella McCabe	"	"
Kenneth Edward Lecates, Jr.	C	Kenneth E., Sr. & Wanda Mills	"	"
Steven Michael Rogers	I	Roy Frank & Marie McCabe	June 8, 1973	"
Scott Allen Rogers	I	Allen Lee & Deborah Hudson	July 29, 1973	"
Jennifer Lynn Parker	I	Linda J. Parker	Nov. 25, 1973	"
Schejn Dennis Oliphant	I	Dennis allen & Carolyn Hudson	Dec. 2, 1973	"
Carey Elizabeth Mitchell	I	Don & Beverly Warrington	Dec. 23, 1973	"
Jessica Lynn Rowe	C	Jesse E. & Beatrice Collins	Dec. 30, 1973	"
Linda Ann Rowe	I	"	"	"
Jon Wesley Mumford	I	W. Clifton & Constance A.	Apr. 1974	"
Jennifer Lynn Sexton	I	Parris Allen & Gail Waples	June 8, 1975	"
Jill Lynn Warrington	I	Kendall O., III & Diane Wilson	Feb. 15, 1976	"
Tanya Michelle Rogers	I	Roy Frank & Marie McCabe	May 16, 1976	"
Millie Dee Passwaters	I	Jerry & Susan W.	"	"
Pamela Kaye Hitchens	Y	Paul & Norma Lee	"	"
Jeffery Paul Hitchens	C	"	"	"
Wesley James Scott	C	Alton & Barbara Hitchens	"	"
Wendy Ellen Scott	I	"	"	"
Kimberly Ann Banks	Y	Sherman G. & Thelma J. Hitchens	"	"
Glenn Sherman Banks	C	"	"	"
Shannon Leigh Hickman	I	John P. & Bonnie Collins	July 24, 1977	Wm. A. Turner
Jodie Lea Warrington I	I	Kendall O., III & Diane Wilson	Sept. 25, 1977	"
Billy Joe Betts	A	(Received into full membership)	Sept. 25, 1977	"

## Baptized in Hickory Hill Church

Dates not Recorded & Minister Unknown

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
Patsy Lee McCabe	John F., Jr. & Eva M.
John Edward McCabe	"
Preston Andrew McCabe	"

## Other Baptisms

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Infant Adult Child</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Ernest Timmons	I	Isaac W. & Charlotte Jane	Feb. 16, 1891	C. F. Sheppard
Charlotte Elizabeth Timmons	I	"	"	"
Charles Lynch Esham	I	Andrew & Emma	"	"
Essie May	I	"	"	"
Ottis Brumbley	I	Lemuel & Mollie	Oct. 8, 1897	J. S. Wickline
Eva Mae Mitchell	I	J. B. & Emma	Oct. 13, 1897	"
Annie Dora	I	Wm. R. & Mary	"	"
Eva Holloway Hitchens	I	Elijah & Rose	Oct. 15, 1897	"
Ebe Milby Atkins	I	Elijah D. & Carrie	Dec. 2, 1897	"
Lydia Kate Bouden	I	Wm. S. & Virginia	"	"
Harry James Bouden	I	"	"	"
William Samuel Bouden	I	"	"	"
Elizabeth A. Long	A		Dec. 27, 1898	"
Lida May Marvil	I	Sarah (Widow)	Jan. 18, 1899	"
Edward Mitchell Marvil	I	"	"	"
Raymond Henry Brumbley	I	Lemuel & Mollie	Feb. 4, 1899	"
Ralph Wickline Eashum	I	Andrew & Emma	Feb. 26, 1899	"
Annie Elizabeth Williams	I	Charles & Sadie	"	"
Daniel Burton Carey	I	Joe & Sidney	Mar. 18, 1899	"
Elizabeth Hettie Carey	I	"	"	"
Maggie Lena Brasure	I	John & Kate	Sept. 28, 1902	Asbury Burke
Charles B. Houston Brasure	I			"
Harry Edward Brasure	I	John S. & Kate		"
Naomi Mitchell	I	Lorenzo & Arabella		"
Pasher H. Parker	I	Lara L. & Sarah E.	Oct. 10, 1905	G. W. Hastings
Dorothy May Donaway	I	Robert & Wisa	May 10, 1908	A. W. Goodhand
Richard Long	I		Oct. 11, 1908	"
Hester Long	A		"	"
Howard W. Hudson	A	Wm. & Madge	Oct. 4, 1914	W. G. Harris
Wilbur Louder Mitchell	I	Lorenzo B. & Arabella	Oct. 7, 1921	W. C. Poole
Elwood John Mitchell	C	"	"	"
Mabel DuPont Mitchell	C	"	"	"
Delbert Brasure Mitchell	C	"	"	"
Clifford Lloyd Hudson	C	Lloyd & Cora	Nov. 4, 1923	Geo. A. Cooke
Hazel Alice Ellingsworth	I	Scott & Flora	Oct. 28, 1924	"
Norman Earl Ellingsworth	Y	"	"	"
Mary Elizabeth Truitt	Y	Wm. W. & Mary E.	Dec. 25, 1924	"
George Burgette Short Donaway	I	George R. & Gertrude M.	July 17, 1932	F. B. Short
George Allen Adkins	I	Elmer B. & Estella M.	Oct. 7, 1932	Wm. L. Hess
Betty Jolene Murray	I	Ira & Beatrice	April 11, 1934	O. H. Connelly
Preston Lee Parker	I	Oliver & Sarah	May 2, 1936	J. C. Bolton
Merrill James Parker	I		Jan. 31, 1944	Willard Everett
Twins		Harvey & Myrtle	"	"
Minnie Florence Ann Parker	I	"		"
Luray Virginia Mitchell	I	Wilbur L. & K. Marie	Nov. 24, 1944	"
Harriett Ann Lewis	I	Clifford & Elizabeth	Jan. 18, 1945	Walter Beckwith
Beverly Ann Warrington	I	Kendall O., Jr. & Marian E.	June 29, 1945	O. G. Brewer
Kathaleen June Murray	Y	Henry D. & Kathaleen	Mar. 20, 1951	J. J. Von Hagel
Frank G. Murray	C	"	"	"
Alton G. McCabe	A	"	Apr. 1, 1951	"
Gladys E. McCabe Ellis	A	"	"	"

## Other Baptisms

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Infant Child Adult</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Gail Waples	I	William & Doris Lawson	July 8, 1951	John Edw. Jones
Jerry Lynn Figgs	I	Norman D. & Jolene M.	Apr. 16, 1959	Chas. H. Squires
Melissa Mae Rowe	C	Jesse Errol & Beatrice C.	Aug. 17, 1967	E.L. Bennett
Keith Aaron Rowe	I	"	"	"
David Errol Rowe	C	"	"	"
Jesse Errol Rowe	A	Jesse Clayton & Ruth Dukes	"	"
Patricia Gay Willey	Y	Gerald & Ella M. McCabe	1972	Millard Benner
Virginia Marie Willey	Y	"	1972	"
Chad Taylor	I	John Paul & Denise Mumford	Apr. 3, 1977	F. G. Wilson

## Emersions

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Mildred Virginia Timmons	1943	Possum Point	Wm. T. Archer, Sr.
Ralph A. Timmons, Sr.	1947	"	"
Ralph A. Timmons, Jr.	1958	"	"
Pearl Elva Parker	July 28, 1968	Georgetown	Al Jewell
Judith Ann Timmons	Sept. 15, 1968	Fenwick Island	E. L. Bennett
Merrill James Parker	May 22, 1976	Sandy Landing	Curtis W. Smith
Betty Lou Parker	"	"	"
James Don Parker	"	"	"
Dean Allen Parker	"	"	"
Ella Mae McCabe	"	"	"
A. Jay Willey	"	"	"
Leroy R. Hooper	"	"	"
Nancy M. Hooper	"	"	"
Kenneth David Hooper	"	"	"
Beverly W. Mitchell	"	"	"
Don Mitchell	"	"	"
Mary Burton Mumford+	"	"	"
John I. Timmons	"	"	"
Kendall O. Warrington, III	"	"	"
Irene Josephine Lecates	May 29, 1976	"	"
Mary Elizabeth Mumford	"	"	"
Constance A. Mumford	"	"	"
W. Clifton Mumford	"	"	"
Luray Virginia McClung	"	"	"
Harry Ray McClung	"	"	"
Parris Allen Sexton	July 27, 1976	Ingram's Pond	Ellery Adams
Gail Sexton	"	"	"
Leah Michelle Sexton	"	"	"
Preston Hudson	Unknown (1940's)	Trap Pond	Gerald Henderson
Hazel Hudson	Unknown (1940's)	"	"

+ Sprinkled

## Amusing Anecdotes

Houston, now Hickory Hill, has had Christmas celebrations since I can remember. They used to get great tall cedars out'n the woods; we'd trim it up and put gifts under the tree. Once Ethie Megee, who married Sam Smith and now lives in Selbyville, was visiting me. My stepmother, Kate Breasure, put a glass dish under the tree for Ethie. I got an ornament the shape of an angel -- that's what I got one time. Ethie told me she still has her glass dish, but I told her my angel went bad.

Sallie Hudson

In the days of our yesteryear, when we thought the world was at peace, one of the highlights of our week was going to our church -- Hickory Hill. Every Sunday people trod the paths, lanes and dirt roads to this place of worship. A little dust on our shoes in those days did not matter one bit. After Sunday School, the Word of God was preached to us. This was followed by a good old testimonial service. After the service, the people would walk home in groups, talking about their crops and about the Lord. One Sunday, Mr. Burton Lowe was so happy and involved in talking about the Lord that he forgot that he had come to church by way of his mule. He was seated at the supper table that night when he suddenly exclaimed to his wife, "Hey yo today, Tildy, I left the mule to church!"

Elizabeth Mumford

During the 1920's it was the practice at our church to give out tickets each Sunday for the congregation to use to buy confections at our annual summer picnic. Having five older brothers and one older sister, I was on the receiving end of much teasing and practical jokes. Knowing how much I was looking forward to spending my tickets at the picnic, my brothers told me they were going to take my tickets and spend them at the picnic. Believing that they would, I decided to hide my tickets in a safe place until the time came to use them. When the day of the picnic arrived, I could not remember where that safe place was. I searched and searched but could not find them and went to the picnic without any tickets. Some months later I found the tickets right where I had put them -- in the rafters of the attic of our house. At the next year's picnic, I had double fun.

Elizabeth Mumford

Many, many years ago during the height of revivals at Houston, visiting evangelists would come to preach. I distinctly remember one particular preacher. The emphasis of his sermon that revival evening was on the evils of sin. (Please note that in those days Ocean City, Maryland, was not too frequented by the people of this area.) The preacher in the fashion of Billy Sunday, began preaching the evils of that sin-filled place. When the preacher paused briefly, one of the Houston parishioners interjected, "Well, I've been to Ocean City, and I came home as good as I went."

"Just shot in the hole, brother! I didn't know you were in there," answered the evangelist and continued with his sermon.

Wilbur L. Mitchell

On a hot Sunday afternoon in August of 1939, our family arrived at Houston's Church before the pastor or the others. My mother and sisters, Mabel and Carrie, took their seats promptly. I happened to be browsing around the pulpit. Suddenly, before my eyes lay a full-grown copperhead snake behind the minister's stand. I quickly ran for the old woodstove poker which rested against the corner wall by the chimney. Hurriedly, I entered into the pulpit and stood in front of the preacher's podium with the stove poker gripped in my right fist. Quietly leaning over the stand, I swiftly gave the poisonous snake a death blow. Then, I removed the dead snake outside in the church yard where arrivers viewed it. From that day forward, Reverend John A. Clark never entered the pulpit without carefully looking behind his stand.

Wilbur L. Mitchell

During the 1940's and 50's it became the practice for the Women's Sunday School Class to try to have a larger collection on Children's Day than the men's class. The amount collected by both classes was a big secret until the amount collected by each class was read aloud by the secretary. Ollie Lewis and I had great fun visiting area businesses and others in the community who might not be in church on Children's Day to collect contributions which increased the collection for the women's class.

Marian Hickman

## Amusing Anecdotes

In the spring of 1952, we had a new, young minister by the name of Arthur Backus. It was his first Sunday in the pulpit of Hickory Hill Church. My younger brother, who was 3 years old at the time and who was often described as "all boy" was in the congregation with our mother. Some time during the worship service, he became restless and decided to stroll around the sanctuary and slipped past our mother before she could stop him. His mother, not wishing to disturb the congregation, started after him. Seeing her get up, my brother began to run. At this point, his Grandfather Mumford got up on the opposite side of the church to go get him. Seeing that he was going to be stopped either way, my brother immediately made a dash for the pulpit where our new young minister was in the midst of his first sermon at Hickory Hill. Being quicker than his grandfather, he made it to the pulpit, ran behind Mr. Backus, grabbed him by both trouser legs, peered out from behind and shouted to Mr. Backus, "Where's he at?" By now his grandfather was in the pulpit and returned my brother to his seat in a most ungentle manner. I do not remember the physical punishment, but it was severe enough that my brother was content to sit in his seat at church from then on. When we see Mr. Backus he reiterates that this incident made his first Sunday at Hickory Hill one that he remembered. Remembering this episode, I chuckle to myself each time I see this brother give his own young son a stern look when he becomes restless in church.

Beverly W. Mitchell

On the afternoon of October 15, 1954, many from the Hickory Hill Church and community were preparing and serving a chicken and dumplings and oyster supper at the V.F.W. home on the Dupont Highway near Millsboro. A hurricane watch had been forecasted, and by late afternoon the winds were quite forceful. In spite of the more-than-gale winds, crowds, who had purchased supper tickets, kept pouring in. The storm was too great, and soon we were without water and electricity. The "big blow", remembered by us as Hurricane Hazel, had struck. Some of the children were taken to the home of Adelpia Parker and then to the Cordrey Country Store where many had gathered to hear reports of the storm damages and to wait out the more than 125-mile-an-hour winds. There was much destruction everywhere. Many sheds, barns, and chicken houses were completely flattened. Although twigs and tree limbs littered the churchyard, fortunately the Hickory Hill Church was not damaged. We were also blessed with baby Sue, Daughter of Clarence and Anna McCabe.

Mabel D. Mitchell

I first saw my husband, Jesse E. Rowe at Hickory Hill Church. Our M.Y.F. from Roxana Methodist Church had come to sing there on a Sunday night. We were singing "Showers of Blessings."

Beatrice Rowe

When I came back to my church home after my college days, I was asked to be the Methodist Youth Fellowship counselor, and I agreed to assume this responsibility. One of our very first meetings was a program planned with the Gumboro youth. Our teenagers came, and so did many from our guests' church. At last, 7:30 p.m. approached, but there was no minister. I waited about ten more minutes and finally questioned one of the oldest-looking youth of our visitors. "Excuse me. Isn't your preacher planning to come tonight?" I inquired.

With a smile on his face and a gleam in his eye, "I am the preacher," replied the young Don Clendaniel, present pastor of the Roxana Circuit.

Luray McClung



## A Day to Remember



Reverend William A. Turner removes the contents from the cornerstone as others watch intently.



These 1977 Mint Proof coins displayed by Mrs. Adkins and given by Mrs. Emma McCabe will be placed in the cornerstone together with witness sheets of the cornerstone removal, some Sunday church bulletins, etc. at a later date.



On August 27, 1977, many people, about 350, attended the cornerstone ceremony and the old-fashioned ice cream social, summer bazaar, and recreational activities sponsored by the United Methodist Women.



Mrs. Beverly Mitchell and Mrs. Jolene Figgs, members of the Hickory Hill Centennial Committee, were most helpful in the August 27th celebration and in the preparation of *Hickory Hill Heritage 1877-1977*.



*"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness,  
not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;"*

Titus 2:3

## **The History of the United Methodist Women**

The ladies of Houston Church, now Hickory Hill, had discussed having a society for the church. It was thought that a ladies' society would be beneficial, not only for participation in several church projects, but also for individual spiritual growth and for a closer fellowship in the church.

At this time, Reverend John A. Clark was pastor of the charge. On the evening of January 30, 1942, Mrs. Clark cordially invited the ladies and men to the Frankford parsonage. It was Mrs. Clark who was primarily responsible for helping us to organize the Ladies Aid Society of Houston Church. The first elected officers of the society were President, Mrs. Clark; vice-president, Myrtle Parker; secretary, Miss Elizabeth Mumford; treasurer, Myrtle Hudson. There were fifteen present for the first meeting and a collection of 75¢ received. Men were invited to the first meetings because many of the ladies did not drive. Since there was no program material available, the early meetings included hymns, scripture and prayer. Probably some of the first business ever discussed and voted upon was sending cards to the sick and giving gifts to the new babies of the church, which are still done today. Following a brief business session, games were played and lots of refreshments were served. We were all so very happy to become a strong organization of the church and were blessed to have such a lovely lady like Mrs. Clark who was so eager to see us move on up the ladder.

Later, we began rainy day bags. We all were to give a penny for each rainy day of the month. However, if we forgot, we could pay for the month which could amount to \$8.72 for all the society. Mrs. Clark continued as president until May 29, 1942 when the pastor and she received another appointment. Succeeding Mrs. Clark as president was Myrtle Parker. Myrtle Hudson held the office of treasurer until February of 1947.

From the founding year to the present, some of the officers who served as president were Burtie Mumford, Estella Adkins, Eva McCabe, Marian Warrington, Della Hitchens, Marie Mitchell, Ann Taylor, Jolene Figgs and Luray McClung. Many of these mentioned also served as vice-president. The secretaries following Elizabeth Mumford were Rena Collins, Hazel Hudson and Emma McCabe. The treasurers since Myrtle Hudson's term were Myrtle Parker, 1947-1966, and Mrs. Estella Adkins from '66 to the present.

On June 5, 1948 our Ladies Aid Society became the Houston's Women's Society of Christian Service or the W.S.C.S. Our first pledge of \$2.00 was paid to the district treasurer, Mrs. John M. Burris. Again, in 1959 Houston's W.S.C.S. became Hickory Hill W.S.C.S.

The old records indicated that the W.S.C.S. purchased a piano for \$10.00 on April 26, 1946. During that winter we spent \$12.00 on wood for the church stoves. Other purchases included carpet from Collins and Ryan for \$98.71, oil burner stoves to replace the old wood stoves, another piano, clocks, flowers and 50 Cokesbury red hymn books. Later in 1950 we purchased blue hymnals.

Our work has definitely varied over the years -- cutting window shades, papering old chimneys, buying screens for windows and batteries for the Delco plant.

One of our activities has always been enjoyed since the very first function. On July 30, 1943 the Ladies Aid Society sponsored its first doggie roast at the expense of \$11.26. On July 17, 1965, the W.S.C.S. picnic expenditures were \$59.83. Our other obligations, which we have always met, include Frankford parsonage rent, our individual pledges, missions projects emphasized during the week of Prayer and Self Denial, Christmas baskets to shut-ins and many other worthwhile projects.

Myrtle Parker

Our Ladies Aid was organized by Mrs. J. A. Clark, the wife of Reverend Clark, who served us 1939-1942. I don't know when I was president, but I served quite some time. We just didn't have a special term of years. In those days we met in the community in homes where we were invited. The people were very clever and kind to invite us. We didn't have program books then; we used the Bible and other materials like poems or whatever we could get together that would suit our meeting. After a few years, we were the Women's Society of Christian Service, and then later we became the United Methodist Women. We were and are happy to belong to such a great society. We didn't stand very tall, but praise the Lord we are still standing on the solid rock, Christ Jesus. "Praise the Lord all ye people. Praise Him all nations for the love of God endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord."

Mrs. Burtie Mumford

*"Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and alms-deeds which she did."*

Acts 9:36

The W.S.C.S., now the U.M.W., has been an established organization for several years. The very first services and business meetings were held at members' homes. One of those meetings, I remember, was the time there was a Halloween party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hudson, where John McCabe, Sr., resides now. Everyone who came was dressed up in a costume. Prizes were given out, and all enjoyed themselves. Prior to that occasion other Halloween parties were held in the barn lofts of Wilbur and Delbert Mitchell in 1940 and 1943. In the fall of 1940, a total of 110 people came from Houston's and the community. The ladies charged a 10¢ admission fee. It was thought that the judges of the costumes were Elmer Adkins and John Mumford. Everyone had a difficult time guessing Jim Mumford, whose own mother Hettie did not know him, and Elizabeth Hamblin, who won first prize.

Della Hitchens

During my presidency of the W.S.C.S., monthly meetings were held. The worship service, conducted by an appointed leader, was followed by a brief business meeting as it is today. During those years I remember the faithful hard-working women who were willing to do their parts. Cards and flowers were sent to the sick, and fruit baskets were given to the shut-ins each Christmas. Upon graduating, Bibles were also presented to our seniors. Our major projects included bakes and rummage sales. Summer picnics were held with all the congregation invited.

On Mother's Day flowers were presented to the oldest and youngest mother and to the mother with the most children. These flowers were always provided by Mrs. Emma McCabe, and we did appreciate her thoughtfulness. On this day I remember the presentation of a book to me by the Reverend Elmer Bennett.

Our W.S.C.S. always observed the week of Prayer and Self Denial. The collection was sent to poverty areas where needs were greatest. We also set aside the first meeting of the new year for a pledge service. Each lady would pledge the amount she could give willingly. We all know God loves a cheerful giver.

With our pledge service and special projects we were blessed spiritually and financially. Later, we were able to purchase several items for our church and to the glory of God. Also when my second term ended in December of 1969, the W.S.C.S. officially became the United Methodist Women.

Marie Mitchell

The Secretary of Missions job has been a very rewarding experience. I knew nothing whatever about the office when I was elected back in 1960, and after all these years, I am still learning. We have changed from Ladies Aid where we paid small dues each month of the Women's Society of Christian Service where we paid pledges. Now our title is the United Methodist Women. However, our purpose was and still is to reach others for Christ. We contribute to various local projects which include a sponsorship at the Hospital for the Mentally Retarded in Stockley, the Manor House for senior citizens in Seaford, the Neighborhood House in Wilmington and the local Foreign Exchange Student Program. For three years 1974-1976 we contributed to the Kewadin Indian Mission in Michigan. We have also helped to support missionaries abroad both in Borneo and in Seoul, Korea.

The activity that stands out in my mind is the Day of Prayer and Self Denial now called the week of Prayer and Self Denial which we observe each year in March. Each of us spends time in prayer for ourselves that we might be better Christians, for the salvation of others, for the missionaries in our universal church, and for the lost who need Christ but do not seem to realize it. Our observance ends with a special service in our church at which time all are invited to share in a special offering to be divided between home missions and foreign missions. Our offerings have aided victims of floods, schools for young people, projects in Appalachia and earthquake victims in Alaska and Guatemala. In 1964 when we held our annual Missions service, 19 people, including an entire family of five, were gloriously converted. We forgot about our Sunday School service and just praised the Lord.

Another highlight of my years of service was during Vacation Bible School. The youth class which I taught unanimously voted to give \$25.00 of their small fund to the American Bible Society's Bible-a-month Club. One does not receive but gives a Bible a month to persons of other lands.

As I write this, I am listening to a man sing "How Would It Be with You, My Brother, If Today Were the End of the World?" I thank my God for permitting me to be born in a free country where I can openly read and teach the word of God. In my heart is a prayer for those who do not have this privilege. I pray that we, who are blessed with so much, will continue to be concerned about the spiritually starved people of the world. Jesus told the man whom He had healed in Mark 5:19, "Go home to thy friends and tell them what great things God hath done for thee." So, our purpose in missions is go and tell. God has promised us (Isaiah 55:11) "My word shall not return unto me void but it shall accomplish that for which I purpose it." Therefore, "let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." (Galations 6:9)

Joyce Lecates

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"*

St. Matthew 28:19

I served as president of United Methodist Women in 1972-1973. During my presidency we continued with many of the procedures of former years, giving gifts to new babies, sending flowers to the ill and Christmas baskets to the shut-ins, participating in the World Day of Prayer, awarding flowers on Mother's Day and Bibles to our graduating seniors of the church. To help with our financial needs, in addition to personal monetary pledges of the members, we also held bake and rummage sales each fall in various locations in Millsboro. Since these projects were quite successful, the women were able to purchase a much needed outdoor brick bulletin, which has been a great source of inspiration to the Hickory Hill community and to us. In addition to the lovely brick bulletin, a communion table, matching flower stands and vases, Apostle altar appointments and paraments were also bought. These new pulpit furnishings were greatly appreciated by all the congregation. Thank you to all the hard workers.

Mrs. Ann Taylor

In December, 1973, I attended my first U.M.W. meeting at Hickory Hill Church. Before the meeting was over, I had officially joined the United Methodist Women. At this meeting, new officers for the year were elected. I was almost stunned to find that I had been nominated and elected as the new president. Now, it was up to me to accept or decline this position. Reluctantly, I accepted and immediately asked for help, since I knew almost nothing about U.M.W. or what was expected of me as president. Everyone was most helpful, and because of this, the next two years became easier than I had anticipated.

The U.M.W. meets once each month in the church. At each meeting we choose a different person to select and present the next month's program. We have been blessed with some lovely programs, not only those with a religious theme, but those such as flower arranging and missionary work. Each year the current A.F.S. exchange student gives a presentation on her or his homeland and its customs, etc.

In January of each year, the U.M.W. observes a pledge service, at which time each member pledges to give, during the coming year, whatever dues she feels she can afford. Also, an annual event in late February or early March is the Week of Prayer and Self-Denial, which is climaxed by the women's participation in the morning worship service on a designated Sunday. Another event which we have observed in recent years is the World Day of Prayer. Usually held in March and in conjunction with other churches in the area, this service rotates from church to church.

One of our projects during my presidency was the initiation of monthly covered-dish dinners. Having begun in September, 1974, these dinners, held on the first Saturday evening of each month, were an inexpensive way to raise money (\$1.00 for adults and \$.50 for children + a covered-dish). As they progressed, we found that these dinners provided a great opportunity for fellowship; therefore, they became known as our monthly Fellowship Suppers.

The U.M.W. also presents flowers to certain mothers on Mother's Day -- the oldest, the youngest, and one with the most children present, and the one who travelled the greatest distance to attend church on Mother's Day.

Another annual event is the presentation of Bibles to that year's high school graduates. These Bibles are very much appreciated by the young people of the church.

In conjunction with our annual fall rummage sale, in 1974 we tried a bazaar with Christmas items, baked goods, hand-crafted items, jewelry, white elephant, etc. This was so successful that it has become an annual event.

Among the material things that were accomplished during 1974 and 1975 were the reupholstering of the pulpit chairs. New choir curtains replacing the old ones and new window shades for the pulpit panes were purchased. Also, after much discussion of carpet samples and much persuasion from the U.M.W., the church purchased, in March of 1976, lovely red carpeting for the entire sanctuary. This was a great improvement. The seat cushions for the pews and the choir chairs, which were chosen and ordered in late 1975, arrived in March of '76 just in time for our World Day of Prayer and Friday evening service. We also investigated the prices for stained glass windows, but, after much deliberation, we decided that they were too expensive. In addition to all these improvements made in our sanctuary, the backing on the piano was replaced with new.

Unfortunately in early 1974 our membership had gradually dwindled. Some of our older members had passed on or became inactive and not very many younger ladies became involved. Now our membership has increased and approximately one-third is younger members.

These are some of the remembered accomplishments during 1974-1975. God has blessed us with so much that it is difficult to remember all that was done. We are very fortunate to be so blessed.

Mrs. Jolene Figgs

"....It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but  
by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

St. Matthew 4:4

## Favorite Old-Fashioned

## Fellowship Supper Recipes

### HAZEL'S DUMPLINGS

4 cups flour  
2 teaspoons salt  
2 cups water or enough to make a soft dough

Roll thin with rolling pin. Drop into pot of boiling  
essence from an old hen.

### BURTIE'S CORNBREAD

4 cups cold water  
2½ cups meal  
½ teaspoon salt  
1 cup evaporated milk  
1 cup sugar  
3 eggs  
1 stick butter

Cook above ingredients until thick. Pour into iron  
frying pan and bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

### MYRTLE'S HARVARD BEETS

1 cup beets (drained)  
½ cup sugar  
¼ cup vinegar  
one-third cup beet juice  
1 tablespoon corn starch  
dash of salt

Cook above ingredients, except beets, until  
thickened. Add drained beets.

### MUMFORD DRESSING

1 loaf of bread  
2 medium onions, chopped  
1 stalk celery, chopped  
Chicken giblets or meat from wings  
(cooked and chopped)  
2 cups chicken broth  
enough water to make mixture wet  
salt & pepper to taste

Pour above ingredients into greased baking pan  
and bake at 350 degrees until brown.

### ANNA'S BANANA CAKE

2 Layer	3 Layer
5 Egg yolks (separate whites)	8
2¼ Cups flour	3¼
¾ Cup Crisco	1
2 teaspoons vanilla extract	2½
1 heaping teaspoon baking powder	1½
½ teaspoon salt	¾
1 teaspoon baking soda	1¼
1½ cups milk	2
½ teaspoon butternut flavoring	¾

#### Icing

1¼ cups sugar  
½ cup water  
5 tablespoons Karo white syrup  
5 egg whites  
3½ - 4 lbs. bananas

Cake: Combine egg yolks and milk. Beat for one  
minute. Add sugar, Crisco, flour, salt, baking  
soda, baking powder and mix until smooth. Add  
flavoring just before you finish beating. Pour  
into greased and-floured pan (9½ inch). Bake at  
350 degrees until tooth pick comes out dry.

Icing: Boil syrup and water until it will spin a  
hair. Add to well beaten egg whites (beat to a  
peak and beat at least 2 minutes more).

Cover cake with icing and bananas.

### HETTIE'S OLD-FASHIONED MACARONI & CHEESE

4 cups cooked macaroni (8 oz. pkg.)  
1¼ cups cubed sharp cheese  
½ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper  
2 eggs, beaten  
3 cups milk  
2 tablespoons butter

Combine macaroni, butter, cheese and season-  
ings in a 1½ qt. baking dish. Combine eggs &  
milk, pour over macaroni. Sprinkle with paprika  
or buttered crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-50  
minutes.

*"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?  
Then said I, Here am I; send me."*

Isaiah 6:8

The president of any women's church organization must realize her responsibilities and the amount of work and leadership required for the job. The other elected officers, the committee chairpersons and the entire membership must realize their potential, obligations, and duties. In the 1970's the Hickory Hill U.M.W. have become aware of our commitment to God's work and to His people, and we are beginning to make progress.

There are three special words, faith, works and charity, which identify the growth and success of this band of Christian women at Hickory Hill. Because of their deep-rooted faith in God, their willingness to cooperate and labor, and their Christian love and concern for all, many goals have been realized in the months which have swiftly passed. God has blessed our U.M.W. both spiritually and financially. Hopefully, we, in doing our small parts, have blessed others.

In addition to the activities already reported by our former presidents, we have continued with our most enjoyable monthly fellowship suppers excluding October and the summer months. Our supper cashiers have been Mrs. Mary Johnson and Mrs. Beatrice Murray. In the fall of 1976, in spite of heavy rains and gusty winds, and cool temperatures, a very successful bazaar, bake, plant world, and rummage sale was held on two Saturdays, one uptown in Millsboro and the other at Mid-Sussex Mall. Also, in 1976 a memorial fund was established by the UMW which welcomes monetary gifts, received in the memory of deceased loved ones, to be used toward purchases for the beautification of the church and grounds. In December of '76, for the first time in our history, a Christmas dinner and candlelight service with approximately 50 attending was held at Sam's Restaurant in Millsboro. Lovely table decorations were prepared by Jolene Figgs, Beatrice Murray and Linda Parker and prayer favors by Marie Mitchell and Luray McClung. Mrs. Burtie Mumford gave the invocation, followed by special music, a delectable dinner from the menu, and a lovely candlelight service with scripture and poetry by many participants. Following this service were enjoyable activities and a gift exchange. We hope to repeat this memorable occasion during the Yuletide of 1977.

The first meeting of the new year, 1977, was conducted by Mademoiselle Agnes Rey, the French A.F.S. student residing with the Curt Harper family. Although the meeting was not well attended due to icy roads and severe temperatures, nevertheless, Agnes' presentation was especially informative and educational. In the spring we initiated another first, a sponsorship program at the Hospital for the Mentally Retarded. God gave us Miss Annie Woodrow, a lovely person, who was seventy-nine her last birthday. We ask that you all remember Annie in your prayers and in your correspondence.

During the past two seasons of Lent, Easter gardens of white lilies have lined the altar at Hickory Hill. This arrangement was made possible by very long flower stands built by Mr. Ira Murray and by the church families' lovely lilies in honor of members or in memory of deceased loved ones. Again, in May, red geraniums from Mrs. Emma McCabe were presented on Mother's Day. This year's winners were as follows: most children present, Barbara Atkins and Ella McCabe; oldest, Sallie Hudson; youngest, Linda Parker; and traveled the greatest distance, Janie Johnson's daughter, Elizabeth from Elsmere. In addition to the Mother's Day presentations, other awards were given to our graduating seniors. The 1977 senior recipients of personalized Bibles included eight charming young ladies, Nadine Davidson (now Fisher), Kathy Ennis, Billie Haines, Jodie Harper, Karen N. Hudson, Karen Sue Hudson, Agnes Rey and Virginia Willey. The recipients were quite a contrast to those of the Class of '76: Jerry Figgs, Allen Jones, Kevin Fisher, Bart Donaway, Jeff and Greg Hudson, Guy Baker, Phillip Smith, who received a monetary gift, and only one pretty miss, Ruth Radish.

Instead of our traditional UMW summer picnic, plans were made for an old-fashioned ice cream social on Saturday, August 27, at the church grounds. At approximately 3:00 p.m. on that day a brief service was held at the front of the church with opening remarks by the president of the trustees, Mrs. Estella Adkins, a prayer by Reverend Turner, "The Church in the Wildwood" by the Share Group and the congregation, solos and testimony by Mr. Fred Carey of Dagsboro with accordion accompaniment by Linda Parker and a few brief comments by Luray McClung. The cornerstone, loosened by Merrill Parker and Ivan Lecates, was then removed by our pastor by the authorization of the Administrative Board. In the 1877 cornerstone was found a copy of the *Methodist Episcopal Discipline*. The edition of this text was a pre-Civil War copy as all statements pertaining to slaves and slavery had been stricken with a pencil. This was probably done by either Reverends Ayres or Kidney who may have given the discipline to the parishioners during their schoolhouse appointments and prior to the construction of the church, or the discipline may have belonged to Reverend Nelson who was appointed in 1878, the year the church was dedicated. The copy of the discipline was wrapped in an October 1, 1877 newspaper which contained a headline news item about the Cloud Indians, a Dwight L. Moody sermon, advertisements of lace, ribbons, velvet, bank percents, and a Wilmington Dry Goods ad. The obituary column also included when the deceased were "born again". A copy of the paper entitled Christian Advocate was found, which contained announcements of revivals. It was believed that the news of the September 11th transaction of the deed and the beginning of the construction of the Houston M. E. Church appeared in this column. Also, a small portion of what was thought to be a news clipping was found with an 1878 heading. Perhaps this was an announcement of the completion of the Houston M. E. Church



*"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee:  
for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge:  
thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."*

Ruth 1:16

and the forthcoming dedication. The fourth item found was a badly deteriorated piece of thin cardboard on which was written names, ages, and dates. The names could not be determined: however, these were probably the builders of the Houston M. E. Church. Two ages were quite clear, 60 and 65, as were the dates, Nov. 10, 1877 and March 29 with no year recorded. More than likely, each builder who could write signed his name on the cardboard on Nov. 10, 1877, a date probably after the first standing frame was destroyed. On March 29 of the following year the church was near completion and on the day of dedication, Oct. 28, 1878, the cornerstone was probably then sealed. This is merely speculation. However, what was removed from the cornerstone did help to substantiate that the founding fathers of Houston were more spiritual than materialistic. Some members had anticipated that a few old coins were in the cornerstone, but none were found. Following the signing of the witness sheets and the examination of the contents of the cornerstone, the benediction was given by one of our former pastors, the Reverend Elmer Bennett of Ocean City, Maryland.

With the finding of these precious old relics of the past and a lovely August sky overhead, the afternoon celebration began successfully. Other highlights of the day included sack races, tug of war, horse shoes, volleyball competition with the Oak Orchard Community Church Youth, and MYF lemonade stand organized by Della Hitchens and Pat and Dawn McCabe, a wonderful summer bazaar with Mrs. Beatrice Murray chairman, a children's puppet show presented by Karen N. Hudson, Betsy West and Linda Parker, and the drawing for a beautiful one hundredth birthday cake, baked by Virginia Willey and won by Betsy West. An ice cream freezer was lent to us by Mrs. Isabelle Hurley and the ice to make the many flavors was given by Townsend's, Inc. and gotten by Preston and Mike McCabe. The food committee chairpersons were Myrtle Parker, Barbara Atkins and Anna McCabe, who, with the help of many others, did a marvelous job. Our young waitresses, Amy Gum, Cathy Atkins, Jennifer Figgs and Bonnie Hitchens did an outstanding job, also. We appreciated the efforts of William Hitchens, recreation chairman, and the preparation of the grounds and the clean-up work by Gerald McCabe, Don Mitchell, Butch McClung, Larry and Christy Gum, Ella McCabe and many others.

As we look to the fall of 1977, our plans include the publication of *Hickory Hill Heritage 1877-1977*. Also, a very special Sunday evening service with John Revel as guest speaker was held on September 11th to commemorate our church's centennial. An attractive and most colorful harvest altar was prepared by the U.M.W. Our Hickory Hill Homecoming '77 has been set for Sunday afternoon, October 16th, and the Reverend Arthur Backus has accepted the invitation to preach the service. In addition to these plans, work has begun on a second publication of favorite recipes.

This job as your UMW president has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. God has always seen us through the rough places, and I know He'll continue to guide us and lead us if we totally commit ourselves to His will.

Love in Christ,

Mrs. Luray McClung

#### 1976-1977 OFFICIAL U.M.W. RECORD

President  
Vice-president  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Missions Secretary  
Music  
Flower Committee  
  
Card Sender  
Local Church Affairs ch.  
Innovative Ideas ch.

Luray McClung  
Jolene Figgs  
Emma McCabe  
Estella Adkins  
Joyce Lecates  
Linda Parker  
Olivette McCabe and  
Myrtle Parker  
Hazel Hudson  
Eva McCabe  
Beverly Mitchell

Hospital Visitation ch.  
Recipes Committee ch.  
Member Cultivation  
Spiritual Cultivation  
  
Program Materials  
Nominating Committee

Hettie Hudson  
Myrtle Parker  
Debbie Hudson  
Mildred Timmons and  
Ann Taylor  
Hettie Hudson  
Beatrice Murray, chairman  
Estella Adkins  
Della Hitchens  
Linda Parker  
Hazel Hudson



# The Hickory Hill United Methodist Church Today

*"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord nor of me his prisoner:  
but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God."*

II Timothy 1:8

In 1976 an old tradition known as a "testimony" or "class" meeting was revived at Hickory Hill Church after an absence of several years. After Sunday School each Sunday, the superintendent announces the change of the order of the service and those who wish to remain, usually about 25 people, gather at the front of the church. At this service, many old-fashioned choruses are sung without piano accompaniment and the people take turns in voicing their concerns or blessings. After each person has spoken or "testified", everyone shakes his or her hand as we sing one of the old-time choruses.

*"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.  
The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

James 5:16

Once a month an evening prayer meeting is held at Hickory Hill Church. At this service, the congregation chooses favorite songs to sing, and a lay leader reads scripture and delivers a short sermon. This is an informal service, and the speaker doesn't stand in the pulpit. After he has spoken, all those who so desire go to the altar and kneel for prayer. Each person at the altar prays aloud in turn. Following the prayer time, everyone gathers at the front of the church for a testimony service, with the singing of old-time choruses. At the close of the service, everyone joins hands in a circle and recites the benediction.

*"... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children,  
ye shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven."*

Saint Matthew 18:3

Revival services are held each year during the month of March at Hickory Hill Church. They are held nightly for a period of one week, with special singing and a different guest speaker each evening. In 1977, a week prior to our revivals, a 24-hour prayer vigil, organized by Beverly Mitchell, was held for the first time at the church. The vigil began at 3:00 Friday afternoon and continued through 3:00 Saturday afternoon and ended with a fellowship supper in the church dining room on Saturday evening. The prayer vigil was planned so that someone was at the altar in prayer constantly for 24 hours. Each person took a turn of 30 minutes and the participation was so good that some half-hour periods were covered by more than one person. The opportunity for 30 minutes alone and uninterrupted with God at the altar of our beloved church held a great blessing for all who participated. The result of the prayer vigil was seen the following week when God did truly send a revival to our church. Sixteen souls were won to Christ and everyone who attended did truly feel a revival of their faith in God.

*"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."*

I Corinthians 11:28

Maundy Thursday services were held at Hickory Hill Church in 1976 by Rev. Curtis Smith. Our communion service in 1976 was found to be one of the most beautiful and meaningful experiences in the lives of those who attended. With the pews arranged along the walls of the sanctuary, a table was placed in the center of the floor with seating for "the twelve." In groups of twelve we were seated at the table and received the holy sacrament. A loaf of unleavened bread had been baked by Mrs. Eva McCabe. We drank from a common cup and felt God's presence mightily as we partook. In 1977, Rev. Smith presented Hickory Hill Church with a pewter chalice for use at communion services. It was dedicated and used for the first time at the Maundy Thursday service in 1977.

*"And when one of them sat at meat with Him heard these things, He said unto him,  
Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God."*

St. Luke 14:15

In celebration of the nation's Bicentennial and the forthcoming centennial of Hickory Hill Church, a basket meeting was held on the afternoon of July 4, 1976, in the churchyard. Everyone brought a "basket" lunch, and tables and chairs were set up under the trees. After lunch, which included much sharing of each other's food, we all went inside of the church (due to a sudden summer storm) and had an old-fashioned testimony meeting. At this meeting there were many expressions of thanks to God for the freedoms in this country on its 200th birthday and for the continued blessings of prosperity that the congregation has enjoyed. A good time was had by all.

*"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."*

Galatians 6:2

In 1975, the Young Adult Sunday School Class established a sharing group. This group meets one Saturday evening a month at the homes of various members for an evening of Bible study, sharing and fellowship. In the summertime the meetings are occasionally held on the beach. This is an active group, numbering about 30 people, including their Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Mildred Timmons. Out of this group grew a choir. The Sharing Group sings and witnesses for their Lord at evening services of many other churches, including Carey's Camp. It also makes up the church choir. Through this group its members have learned what sharing through Christian love can do, both in the church and in the community.

The following inspired poem, "My Gift to You", was written by one of the Sharing Group members before Christmas of '76:

The season is now upon us,  
When each is trying to find  
The perfect gift he wants to give  
And have it wrapped on time.

Everyone is rushing around,  
As busy as he can be,  
Baking, cleaning and wrapping gifts,  
And trimming the Christmas tree.

As I can't get a Christmas gift,  
Or fix you a Christmas meal,  
I would like to take the time  
To tell you how I feel.

You have all been so kind to me,  
And shown me your Christian love,  
You have helped me through many a burden,  
With your prayers to God above.

You all had time to listen,  
Whenever I wanted to talk.  
Whether my problems were large or small  
You never seem to balk.

It will soon be a year now,  
That I have been back to Hickory Hill  
And what a beautiful time I've had,  
It had to be God's will.

I have had a wonderful time  
Sharing with each of you  
My daily problems and of course,  
My daily blessings too.

I have been so low sometimes,  
I didn't know what to do,  
But I would sure be lifted up;  
After being with all of you.

So my gift to you this season  
Is my love to all of you  
May you have a Merry Christmas,  
And a Happy New Year too.

Love,  
Frances Hall

## The Youth of the Church

The future of any church lies in the faith and obedience of God's people to do His will. The future, too, is especially dependent upon the youth of the church. God has blessed Hickory Hill with a very active, enthusiastic youth group.

Sunday School: There are a total of seven classes ranging from pre-schoolers to senior highs who meet in the Sunday School room. The children use literature which varies with their age and interest levels. The present superintendent of the children's department is Mrs. Della Hitchens. The teachers and their assistants as of August, 1977, included the following:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Assistants</u>
Nursery	Beverly Mitchell	Anna McCabe, Marie Rogers
Beginners	Jolene Figgs	Barbara Atkins, Hettie Hudson
Primary	Beatrice Rowe	Betty Parker, Linda Parker
Middlers	Andrew Hudson	Bill Hitchens, John McCabe, Jr.
Juniors	Nancy Hooper	Ann Taylor, Parris Sexton
Teens	Leroy Hooper	Jimmy Parker, Clifton Mumford
Senior Highs	Joyce LeCates	Kendall Warrington, Debbie Rogers
Young Adults	Eva McCabe	(meet with adults)

Also, we do appreciate the efforts of our retired Sunday School teachers and assistants, some who taught for many, many years, and some who have died in the faith.

Elisha Wilkerson	Jehu Burton	Emma McCabe	Marie Mitchell
John Carey	Maggie Mumford	Shirley Harper	Herbert Hudson
John Mumford	Burtie Mumford	Louise Mumford	Wilbur Mitchell
Rob Donaway	Sallie Hudson	Hazel Hudson	Marián Warrington
Ken Esham	Kendall Warrington, II	Nettie Fisher, Ass't	Myrtle Parker
Norris Hearn, Ass't	Pauline Cordrey, Ass't	Elizabeth Mumford	Carolyn Oliphant, Ass't

Youth Choir: Hickory Hill is fortunate to have a very active youth choir of nearly 30 members under the fine direction of Mrs. Frances Hall and pianist, Linda Parker. The youth choir has sung at Carey's Camp and several other neighboring churches. Following Sunday School, these youngsters provide the congregation with a variety of spiritual selections for all to enjoy. They practice faithfully and deserve much credit for their contribution to the church. As of August, 1977, the participants of the youth choir included:

Cathy Atkins	Mark Hitchens	Jimmy Parker
Gay Coulter	Kenny Hooper	David Rowe
Jennifer Figgs	Russell Hooper	Jessica Rowe
Angel Franklin	Kenny LeCates	Keith Rowe
Amy Gum	Angie McCabe	Melissa Rowe
Billie Hitchens	Dawn McCabe	Leah Sexton
Bonnie Hitchens	Willie J. McCabe	Dawn Waples
Karen N. Hudson	Teresa Mumford	Betsy West
Lynn Hudson	Dean Parker	Jay Willey

In recent years former directors of the youth choir have been Ann Hudson, Luray McClung and Jolene Figgs.

"The Lord is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation...."

Exo. 15:2

*"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:  
because greater is He that is within you, than he that is in the world."*

I John 4:4

**Methodist Youth Fellowship:** In addition to the active youth choir is an equally active M.Y.F. The present youth counselors are Mr. and Mrs. William Hitchens and the 1976-77 officers are president, Billie Lynn Hitchens, vice-president, Mark Hitchens, secretary, Betsy West and treasurer, Jerry Figgs. The M.Y.F. has established its own Bible Study, has participated in other youth fellowship meetings and suppers, has provided religious movies for the church, has made Christmas favors for shut-ins, and has held special Sunday evening services. The youth, too, have enjoyed numerous activities including ice and roller skating, bowling, Christmas caroling, playing volleyball and softball and summer picnicing at Fenwick Island.

**Traditional Youth Services:** There are three other important events or programs directly involving our youth and children. These special occasions are Children's Day, Vacation Bible School, and the Christmas Entertainment. Children's Day is a special recitation day in late May, always on a Sabbath afternoon, on which practically all of the youngsters of the church come forward to give their speeches as their names are announced. Many of us can reminisce of Children's Days gone-by and the thrill of decorating the altar with lovely pink and red rambling roses and in practicing our individual speeches and group recitations. Whether dressed wearing buttoned high topped shoes, black patent slippers, suspenders or big bow ties, fancy frocks of calico, gingham, taffeta, lace or polyester, a hand-me-down jacket or a new sport's coat, all participants in their Sunday best had to remember one basic rule. The young orator or soloist had to enter the pulpit from the left side and, following his or her recitation, must depart on the right. Not too many years ago young teens were expected to recite many, many verses. Generally, an applause or a reward awaited those who did well.

The Hickory Hill Children's Day 1977 was special for many reasons. First, there were many fine recitations and songs from the youth choir and pre-schoolers and a surprise solo, "Amazing Grace" by Kenny Lecates. Miss Jennifer Figgs (who participated in the Bicentennial play "The Tory Story") also rendered a fine selection on the piano. Secondly, the 1977 Children's Day collection of \$5,643.61 was the greatest amount collected in the history of the church. Therefore, with the enthusiastic participation of the children and youth, the willing work of parents and the financial support of the membership, this special day, first celebrated on June 18, 1893, and for eighty-four years, has become a most significant celebration and has a special place among pleasant memories of yesterday.

**Vacation Bible School:** Vacation Bible School is held each year following the close of public school. The program is designed for one week and in recent years has been held during the evenings. First is a brief worship service with prayer, scripture, songs, offering and pledges to the American and Christian flags and to the Bible. The children then dismiss to their individual classes where they are taught God's Word. Following their lessons, they work on related Christian crafts and enjoy games and refreshments. The 1977 co-ordinator of Bible School was Della Hitchens and the director was Christy Gum. The average attendance this year was 102, which included the adult class and the helpers of the school.

#### Teachers in the 1977 Bible School:

Class	Teacher	Craft Assistant
Nursery	Beverly Mitchell	Marie Rogers, Ella McCabe
Beginners	Betty West	Hettie Hudson
Primary	Beatrice Rowe	Edith Gray
Middlers	Barbara Atkins	Ann Taylor
Juniors	Nancy & Leroy Hooper	Betty Parker
Youth	Joyce Lecates	Eva McCabe
Adult	Parris Sexton	

The secretary for her third consecutive year was Mrs. Karen Collins, and the refreshment committee included Susan Passwaters, Olivette McCabe, Ella McCabe and others. Former directors of Bible School were Betty Parker, Luray McClung, Ann Hudson, Della Hitchens and Estella Adkins. Our former teachers and helpers who faithfully served in Vacation Bible School over the years were Shirley Harper, Marie Mitchell, Myrtle Parker, Jolene Figgs, Luray McClung, Hazel Hudson, Emma McCabe, Anna McCabe, Maggie Mumford, Beatrice Murray, Gertie Donaway, Ivan Lecates, Elizabeth Mumford, Debbie Rogers, Rebecca Prettyman, Burtie Mumford, Estella Adkins, Mattie Outten, Emma Atkins, Dot Hudson, June Collins, Myrtle McCabe, Olivette McCabe, Elva Atkins, Mary Atkins, Pat McCabe, Shirley Murray, Ann Hudson, Emma Moore, Mary Johnson and others.

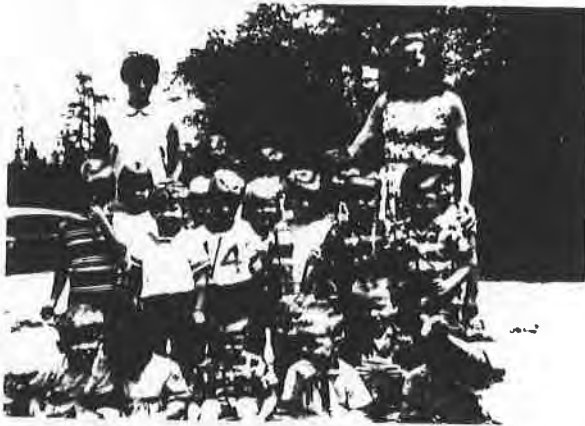


*"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon  
the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."*

Exodus 20:12

Christmas Entertainment: In addition to Children's Day and Vacation Bible School is the third highlight of the year for the children and youth of Hickory Hill. This special occasion is none other than the Christmas Entertainment, a celebration of our Savior's birth. Traditionally, the program is held the last Sunday evening before Christmas; however, in 1976 the entertainment was scheduled during the morning worship and was very well attended. To prepare for the entertainment, the youth busied themselves memorizing speeches and play parts, decorating the colossal Christmas tree, preparing costumes for the pageant and rehearsing carols. As always, everyone did a fine job. Following the entertainment, a brief time was spent for gift exchange and treats, boxes of candy and juicy oranges.

### Memories of Vacation Bible School



(From Estella Adkins' collection)

*"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men."*

I Timothy 2:1

## **A Message from the Members of Hickory Hill**

Dear members and friends of Hickory Hill,

Over the years we at Hickory Hill have been privileged to have had many spiritual Christian pastors sent to us. I personally feel Hickory Hill United Methodist Church to be a refuge, a real place to go in time of trouble to receive spiritual blessings. In our 100-year history, we have had trying times both in finances and attendance. However, during the last few years many sincere younger people have come into the church; all fear is gone. I believe the church will be standing for years to come to witness to all who will listen to God's love and saving power.

**Mrs. Estella Adkins**  
President of Board of Trustees

To the church at Hickory Hill,

It is a most special honor and privilege to serve as treasurer of a church that can pay both its obligated and unexpected expenditures on time. In recent years God has especially blessed Hickory Hill United Methodist Church both spiritually and financially, and I pray that our Father will continue to bless us for His glory and honor and for the advancement of His kingdom.

**Mr. Wilbur Mitchell**  
Church treasurer

Dear friends of Hickory Hill church:

As I look back to the 1930's, when I joined Hickory Hill Church, there was a small group attending, only around 25 or 30. Attendance steadily grew in the 1940's and 1950's. Our average attendance in the 1960's was approximately 90. This is when we changed our services from afternoon to morning. Now our average Sunday School attendance is well over 100 each Sunday morning. Ours is a spiritual church and we have love for one another.

**Mr. Preston Hudson**  
Lay Leader

Dear members of Hickory Hill,

"I am neither a preacher  
Nor a teacher for the Lord,  
But my little bit  
As your Sunday treasurer  
I do with great pleasure."

**Mr. Oscar W. McCabe, Sr.**  
Sunday School treasurer



*"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers;  
For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"*  
Ephesians 4:11-12

Dear members and friends of Hickory Hill,

For the last ten years I have been the pianist for the Hickory Hill United Methodist Church. I began playing at the age of thirteen in 1967. Presently, I play the piano for the Sharing Group, who sings during and after the worship service, and for the Youth Choir, directed by Mrs. Frances Hall, who sings following church school. Both choirs have sung on numerous occasions in various churches in the area. This opportunity has also led to my being asked to play at some of these churches during their special services. Occasionally I have accompanied Mr. Ford Parker, who plays the harmonica, and I have also rendered selections on the accordion. God does inhabit the praise of His people; therefore, surely we can praise Him in song and music. "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord." Psalms 40:3

Linda J. Parker,  
Pianist

Time has brought many changes in the Hickory Hill Sunday School since I have been serving as superintendent. The little one-room church, where 3 adult classes and 4 youth classes were all taught, has been changed into a combination of 5 adult classes taught by one teacher each Sunday in the sanctuary and 7 youth classes which meet in the Sunday School room. When we first experimented with one teacher for all adult classes, there were a few who did not wish to make the transition. However, when such situations arise, we always take a democratic vote, and the majority rules. We now have tried both methods of adult instruction, and the one-teacher way is working very well. We at Hickory Hill have been blessed with spirit-filled men and women ready to teach and to share their faith. Adult teachers at the close of 1976 included Estella Adkins, Preston Hudson, Clarence McCabe, Jr., Luray McClung, Merrill J. Parker, Parris Sexton, John Timmons, Mildred Timmons, Kendall Warrington, and Jacob West, a total of ten teachers in the adult Sunday School.

Time has also permitted growth in attendance. When I joined the church 22 years ago, the attendance was so small that the minister volunteered to sing a solo if there were ever 100 present. For several years now our average attendance for Sunday School has been well over 100. At the time I was elected in 1967, there was one superintendent. Since 1969, however, the need arose to appoint another superintendent for the youth department.

The best thing about our church is the way the people work together. The friendly atmosphere of this little country church kept me coming back years ago. I pray that this spirit will always remain in our church. In the words of Paul (I Cor. 15:58) "Let us be stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord for we know our labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Mr. Ivan Lecates  
Sunday School Superintendent



# The Hickory Hill United Methodist Church in Pictures



This lovely brick bulletin was purchased by the United Methodist Women in 1973.



The Hickory Hill United Methodist Church has sustained ten decades of old-fashioned country Methodism.



The 1977 trustees are, from left to right, Dallas Hudson, John F. McCabe, Jr., Harry McClung, Ivan Lecates, Lloyd Mumford, Louis Taylor, Myrtle Parker, Preston Hudson, and Estella Adkins, with our pastor.



The sanctuary of the Hickory Hill United Methodist Church has seen many improvements in the 1970's.

*"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of bishop, he desireth a good work.... (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)....And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless."*  
**I Timothy 3:1,5,10**

Lay Leader - Preston Hudson  
 Ass't. Lay Leader - Kendall Warrington, III  
 Lay Member at Conference - Walter Littleton  
 Alternate - Kendall Warrington, III

#### COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

Chairman - Luray McClung  
 Ass't. - Parris Sexton

#### Work Area Chairmen

Ecumenical Affairs - Betty Parker  
 Education - Harry McClung  
 Evangelism - Mildred Timmons  
 Missions - Joyce LeCates  
 Social Concerns - Jimmy Parker  
 Stewardship - Norris Hearn  
 Worship - Marie Mitchell

#### Age-Level Coordinators

Children's Ministries - Della Hitchens  
 Youth Ministries - William Hitchens  
 Adult Ministries - Beverly Mitchell  
 Family Ministries - Eva McCabe  
 Young Adult Ministries - Don Mitchell  
 Leroy Hooper  
 Youth Members - Jimmy Parker, Jr.  
 Russell Hooper

#### ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Wilbur Mitchell - Chairman  
 Harry McClung - Ass't Chairman  
 Haszel Hudson - Recording Secretary

#### ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

##### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Barbara Atkins  
 Hazel Hudson  
 Gerald McCabe  
 Beatrice Rowe  
 Norman Figgs  
 Dallas Hudson  
 Roy Rogers  
 Maggie Mumford  
 Leroy Hooper  
 Don Mitchell  
 Ann Taylor  
 Mabel Mitchell  
 Olivette McCabe  
 James McCabe  
 Estella Adkins  
 Sallie Hudson - Honorary Member  
 Burtie Mumford - Honorary Member  
 Janie Johnson - Honorary Member  
 Maggie Mumford - Honorary Member

The

Hickory Hill

### Church Officers



1976 - 1977

#### TRUSTEES

Estella Adkins, President	'78
Preston Hudson, Vice President	'78
Lloyd Mumford	'78
Dallas Hudson	'79
Myrtle Parker, Secretary	'79
Louis Taylor	'79
Ivan LeCates	'80
John McCabe	'80
Harry McClung	'80

#### PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS

##### COMMITTEE

Robert Hickman  
 Hettie Hudson  
 Andrew Hudson  
 Kendall Warrington, III  
 Preston Hudson  
 Beatrice Murray

#### HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Emma McCabe  
 Eva McCabe  
 Beverly Mitchell  
 Myrtle Parker  
 Olivette McCabe  
 Nancy Hooper

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mary Johnson	'78
Harry McClung	'79
Maggie Mumford	'78
Burtie Mumford	'79
Linda Parker	'80
Parris Sexton	'80
Estella Adkins	'80

#### CHURCH TREASURERS

Wilbur Mitchell -  
 Church (General & Benevolence)

Oscar McCabe - Sunday School  
 Harry McClung - Building Fund

Financial Secretary - Norris Hearn  
 Membership Secretary - Maggie Mumford  
 Enlistment Secretary - Jolene Figgs  
 Church Business Manager - Clarence McCabe  
 Superintendent of Study - Ivan LeCates  
 1st Assistant - Norris Hearn  
 2nd Assistant - Clifton Mumford  
 Children's Superintendent - Della Hitchens  
 Representative of United Methodist  
 Youth Ministries - Jimmy Parker, Jr.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

John McCabe  
 Preston Hudson  
 Wilbur Mitchell  
 Norris Hearn  
 Harry McClung  
 Luray McClung  
 Norman Figgs  
 Marian Hickman  
 Parris Sexton  
 Myrtle Parker  
 Clarence McCabe

*"....The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:  
And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,  
and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this,  
Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."*  
St. Mark 12:29-31

## Hickory Hill Community Activities

### Carey's Camp

Most Hickory Hill parishioners, a few of whom maintain tents on the camp grounds, look forward to Carey's Camp each year and to the good singing and gospel preaching during the session. The 89th Annual Session of Carey's Camp, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Timothy Wilkerson, was held from July 27th through August 7th, 1977. Standing outside the tabernacle, surrounded by 46 wooden tents and the boarding tent, are Mrs. Maggie Mumford and Mrs. Hettie Hudson who attended Reverend Milton Milliner's Adult Bible Class in 1976.

### Hay Rides and Teaberryin'

Mr. Andrew Hudson, "Shadrack" or "Sheddie" to us, is both a Sunday School teacher and church sextant. He also knows the Cypress or Burnt Swamp very well as a result of his many coon huntin' experiences there. On one occasion he took some of the Hickory Hill church members on a hay ride through the swamp. The tour included stops at Beaston Ridge, Railroad Island, Wild Cat and Poplar Ridge, and Ten Foot Prong, where the old ditch digger or "mud machine" remains. During short hikes in the afternoon, some of the "swampers" were able to find ripe teaberries.

### Hog Killin's

No one has ever experienced a hog killin' in Sussex County like that of the McCabe-Hudson slaughter in both December and February. Last winter, at the residence of John F. McCabe, Jr., six huge hogs were shot, bled, scalded, scraped, gutted, cut up, cooked or packaged for the freezer all in the same day. The hams and sides were hung in the smokehouse to cure, and fresh sausage and "liver puddin'" were made. There were eight hog killin' pots incessantly in use, and, at one time or another, everyone present had a job to do. The crowd numbered better'n fifty people, mostly relatives, friends and neighbors. There's nothing like the fellowship, a fresh homemade scrapple sandwich, and a hot cup of coffee on a cold winter's day in February.

### Miscellaneous

In addition to the events mentioned above, the area residents of the Hickory Hill community engage in many of the activities which are typical of most agribusiness, rural communities. Many years ago several enjoyed one another's company at the Hickory Hill Country Store, which stood at the present site of the Michael McCabe residence. Today, as there is no country store in Hickory Hill, many of the farmers frequent Revel's Truck Stop, Oliver Jones', Harold Mumford's or Wells' country store. Many of the men enjoy hunting, especially deer, rabbits, squirrels and quail. Occasionally the bark and bay of coon hounds can be heard echoing harmoniously across the cool evening breeze of autumn. Muskrat trapping has also gained some popularity in the area. Many of the women of the neighborhood occupy their time gardening and canning industriously, and in recent years there has always been a fresh-produce stand in Hickory Hill. During the early spring and fall, bicycling is quite popular among all ages, while in the midst of the terribly bitter-cold winter of 1977, many children, youth, and adults enjoyed not only the fun of ice-skating and sledding, but also the warmth of the fire at the ice's edge. Of course, most important of all are functions, services and activities of the church during all seasons of the year.

The perimeter of the Hickory Hill community includes Indian Town Hill, Phillips' Hill, Shaft Ox Corner, line Foot Road and the Burnt. The diameter of the circle is the Molly's Field Road extended. The center of the circumference is the Hickory Hill United Methodist Church which has been for the past one hundred years a place of refuge and a light of inspiration to the community and all passers-by.



## Community Activities



# Songs and Testimony Verses

## 1977 - SONGS SUNG BY CHILDREN

### Running Over

Running over, running over (roll hands over)  
My cup is full and running over (cup hands)  
Since the Lord saved me, I'm as happy as can be (clap hands)  
My cup is full and running over. (cup hands and roll hands over)

### Zaccheus

(using hand motions)  
Zaccheus was a wee little man  
A wee little man was he  
He climbed up in a sycamore tree  
For his Lord he wanted to see  
Then as the Saviour passed that way  
He looked up into the tree  
And he said, "Zaccheus, you come down  
For I'm going to your house today,  
I'm going to your house today."

### If You're Happy

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap hands)  
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap hands)  
If you're happy and you know it, then your life will surely show it,  
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap hands)

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp feet)  
If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp feet)  
If you're happy and you know it, then your life will surely show it,  
If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp feet)

If you're happy and you know it, say Amen (shout "Amen")  
If you're happy and you know it, say Amen (shout "Amen")  
If you're happy and you know it, then your life will surely show it,  
If you're happy and you know it, say Amen (shout "Amen")

If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap hands, stomp feet, shout "Amen")  
If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap hands, stomp feet, shout "Amen")  
If you're happy and you know it, then your life will surely show it,  
If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap hands, stomp feet, shout "Amen")



## YOUTH CHOIR FAVORITES

### "I Wish We'd All Been Ready"

Life was filled with guns and war, And everyone got trampled on the floor-  
I wish we'd all been ready!  
Children died, the days grew cold, A piece of bread would buy a bag of gold-  
I wish we'd all been ready!  
There's no time to change your mind-  
The Son has come and you've been left behind!

Man and wife asleep in bed, She hears a noise and turns her head - he's gone-  
I wish we'd all been ready!  
Two men walking up a hill, One disappears and one's left standing still-  
I wish we'd all been ready!  
There's no time to change your mind-  
The Son has come and you've been left behind!

Life was filled with guns and war, And everyone got trampled on the floor-  
I wish we'd all been ready!  
Children died, the days grew cold, A piece of bread would buy a bag of gold-  
I wish we'd all been ready!  
There's no time to change your mind - How could you have been so blind?  
The Father spoke, the demons dined - The Son has come, and you've been left behind!

### "Get All Excited"

Chorus: Get all excited, go tell ev'rybody that Jesus Christ is King,  
I said, Get all excited, go tell ev'rybody that Jesus Christ is King  
I said, Get all excited, go tell ev'rybody that Jesus Christ is King  
Jesus Christ is still the King of Kings.

Verse:  
You talk about people, You talk about things that really aren't important at all.  
You talk about weather, You talk about problems we have here at home and abroad,  
But friend I'm excited about a solution for the world, I'm gonna shout and sing  
And it's Jesus Christ is still the King of Kings!

## SHARE GROUP CHORUSES

He paid a debt He did not owe,  
I owed a debt I could not pay,  
I needed someone to wash my sins away.

And now I sing a brand new song,  
Amazing Grace.  
Christ Jesus payed the debt that I  
Could never pay.

++++++

I'm learning to lean, learning to lean,  
Learning to lean on Jesus.  
Finding more power than I'd ever dreamed,  
I'm learning to lean on Jesus.

++++++

In the name of Jesus  
In the name of Jesus  
We have the victory

In the name of Jesus  
In the name of Jesus  
Satan will have to flee

Who can tell what God can do  
Who can tell of His love for you

In the lovely name of Jesus  
We have the victory

"....The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

St. Mark 1:15

### TESTIMONY SONGS

#### "Thank You, Lord"

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul,  
Thank you, Lord, for making me whole.  
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me;  
Thy great salvation so full and free.

#### "The Windows Of Heaven Are Open"

The windows of Heaven are open,  
The blessings are falling tonight,  
There's joy, joy, joy in my soul,  
Since Jesus made everything right.  
I gave him my old tattered garment,  
He gave me a robe of pure white.  
I'm feasting on Heavenly manna,  
That's why I'm so happy tonight.

#### "I'm So Happy"

I'm so happy, I'm so happy,  
I'm so happy, happy, happy,  
I'm so happy, happy, happy.  
I'm so happy since the Lord saved me.

1. I'm going to tell it .
2. I'm going to live it.

#### "Oh, I Want To See Him"

Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face,  
There to live forever by His saving grace,  
On the streets of Glory, let me lift my voice,  
Cares all past, Home at last, ever to rejoice.

#### "I Shall Not Be Moved"

I shall not be, I shall not be moved,  
I shall not be, I shall not be moved,  
Just like a tree that is planted by the water,  
I shall not be moved.

#### "Beulah Land"

O, Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land  
As on the highest mount I stand,  
I look away across the sea, where mansions are  
Prepared for me and view the shining glory  
shore,  
My Heaven, my Home for evermore.

#### "Jesus Never Fails"

Jesus never fails, Jesus never fails.  
Heaven and earth may pass away,  
But Jesus never fails.

#### "Joy, Joy, Joy"

I have a joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart.  
Down in my heart, down in my heart,  
I have a joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart  
Down in my heart to stay.

I have a peace that passes understanding,  
Down in my heart, down in my heart,  
Down in my heart,  
I have a peace that passes understanding  
Down in my heart,  
Down in my heart to stay.

#### "Come And Go To That Land"

Come and go to that land,  
Come and go to that land,  
Come and go to that land where I'm bound,  
Where I'm bound.  
Come and go to that land,  
Come and go to that land  
Come and go to that land where I'm bound.

Nothing but love in that land (etc.)

#### "I'm Going To Heaven"

I'm going to Heaven,  
I'm going there when I die.  
I'm going to Heaven  
In the sweet, sweet by and by.  
Angels placed my order  
For a mansion and a crown,  
And in that Book up yonder,  
Just write my full name down.

#### "You May Look For Me"

You may look for me, for I'll be there.  
I'll be there, I'll be there.  
You may look for me, for I'll be there.  
Glory to His name.

#### "Take Your Burdens To The Lord"

Take your burdens to the Lord and  
Leave them there. Leave them there,  
Leave them there. Take your burdens  
to the Lord and leave them there.  
If you trust and never doubt, He  
Will surely bring you out,  
Take your burdens to the Lord  
And leave them there.

"A Home In Gloryland"

I have a home in gloryland  
The outshines the sun.  
I have a home in gloryland  
That outshines the sun.  
I have a home in gloryland  
That outshines the sun,  
Way beyond the blue.

I took Jesus as my Saviour,  
You take Him too.  
I took Jesus as my Saviour,  
You take Him too.  
I took Jesus as my Saviour,  
You take Him too.  
Way beyond the blue.

Do Lord, oh do Lord,  
Oh, do remember me.  
Do Lord, oh do Lord,  
Oh, do remember me.  
Do Lord, oh do Lord,  
Oh, do remember me,  
Way beyond the blue.

"Pray For Me, I'll Pray For You"

Pray for me, I'll pray for you,  
Soldiers of the good old way.  
Pray for me, I'll pray for you,  
Soldiers of the Cross.

1. There's a better day coming,  
Soldiers of the good old way.  
There's a better day coming,  
Soldiers of the Cross.

"Pass Me Not"

Pass me not, Oh, Gentle Savior.  
Here my humble cry,  
While on others, Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.  
Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry,  
While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.

"Oh, Come And Will You Go"

Oh, come and will you go?  
Will you go? Will you go?  
Oh, come and will you go,  
Where pleasure never dies.

"We Are Climbing Jacobs Ladder"

We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
Soldiers of the Cross.

"When The Battle's Over"

Oh, When the battle's over,  
We shall wear a crown,  
We shall wear a crown,  
We shall wear a crown.  
Oh, When the battle's over,  
We shall wear a crown  
In the New Jerusalem.

Wear a crown, wear a crown,  
Wear a bright and shining crown,  
Oh, when the battle's over,  
We shall wear a crown  
In the New Jerusalem.

"Oh, Brother, Aren't You Glad?"

Oh, brother, aren't you glad you ever  
Joined the army?  
Oh, brother, aren't you glad  
You're on your way?  
When Moses smote the water  
And the children they passed over  
And they shouted hallelujah  
And the sea gave way.

Oh, (sister, preacher) aren't you glad?

"Praise The Lord"

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
O my soul.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
O my soul.  
It is religion I believe,  
Praise the Lord, my soul,  
That makes me happy while I live.  
Praise the Lord my soul.

"Shouting Home"

Shouting home, home, home.  
Shouting home, home, home.  
Shouting home, home to glory.  
We will go.

I'll let you know before I go,  
Shouting home, home to glory we will go.  
Whether I love the Lord or no,  
Shouting home, home to glory we will go.

"It's Jesus"

It's Jesus, it's Jesus,  
And oh I love Him so,  
It's Jesus, it's Jesus,  
I need wherever I go,  
I would not be without Him,  
He's ever by my side  
It's Jesus, Oh it's Jesus,  
My faithful Friend and Guide.

"We'll Roll The Old Chariot Along"

Chorus (Sing after each verse)  
We'll roll the old chariot along,  
We'll roll the old chariot along,  
We'll roll the old chariot along,  
and we won't lag along behind.

1. If our brother's in the way,  
We'll stop and take him in,  
If our brother's in the way,  
We'll stop and take him in,  
If our brother's in the way,  
We'll stop and take him in,  
And we won't lag along behind.

2. If the preacher's in the way,  
We'll stop and take him in,  
If the preacher's in the way,  
We'll stop and take him in,  
If the preacher's in the way,  
We'll stop and take him in,  
And we won't lag along behind.

3. If the devil is in the way,  
We will roll right over him,  
If the devil is in the way,  
We will roll right over him,  
If the devil is in the way,  
We will roll right over him,  
And we won't lag along behind.

"Won't It Be Wonderful There?"

Oh, won't it be wonderful there,  
Having no burdens to bear,  
Joyously singing while heart bells are ringing,  
Oh, won't it be wonderful there?

"Oh, How I Love Jesus"

Oh, how I love Jesus,  
Oh, how I love Jesus,  
Oh, how I love Jesus,  
Because He first loved me.

"When The Saints Go Marching In"

Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
I want to be in that number when the  
Saints go marching in.

"In Times Like These"

In times like these, I need a Saviour,  
In times like these, I need an anchor,  
Be very sure, be very sure, my anchor holds  
And grips the solid Rock.

"Oh, What He's Done For Me"

Oh, what He's done for me,  
Oh, what He's done for me,  
If I tried 'til eternity,  
I never could tell what He's done for me.

"I Want To Be Ready"

Oh, I want to, to be ready to meet  
Him by and by. I want to, to be ready  
To meet Him in the sky.  
I want to be more like Him  
And do His blest command.  
For I want to be ready to meet Him  
in Gloryland.

"I Will Serve The Lord"

I am determined, I've made up my mind.  
I will serve the Lord.  
I've left all this world and its  
Pleasures behind, I will serve the Lord.  
I'll follow wherever He leadeth.  
I'll pasture wherever He feedeth.  
For I am determined, I've made up my mind.  
I will serve the Lord.

"Whisper A Prayer"

Whisper a prayer in the morning  
Whisper a prayer at noon,  
Whisper a prayer in the evening  
Twill keep your heart in tune.

"I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"

I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I won't turn back, I won't turn back.

"I've Got A Mansion"

I've got a mansion just over the hilltop  
In that bright land where we will never grow old,  
and someday yonder, we'll never more wander,  
but walk on streets that are pure as gold.

"The Last Mile Of The Way"

When I've gone the last mile of the way,  
I shall rest at the close of the day,  
and I know there are joys that await me  
When I've gone the last mile of the way.

"It Is No Secret"

It is no secret what God can do,  
What He's done for others, He'll do for you.  
With arms wide open, He'll pardon you.  
It is no secret what God can do.

"When We All Get To Heaven"

When we all get to Heaven,  
What a day of rejoicing that will be,  
When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and  
Shout the victory.

"Oh, Lord Send The Power"

Oh, Lord send the power just now,  
Oh, Lord send the power just now,  
Oh, Lord send the power just now and  
Baptize everyone.

They were in the upper chamber  
They were all of one accord  
And the Holy Ghost descended  
As He promised by His word.

"When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder"

When the roll is called up yonder,  
When the roll is called up yonder,  
When the roll is called up yonder,  
When the roll is called up yonder  
I'll be there.

"There Is Power"

There is Power, Power, wonder working power  
In the blood of the Lamb,  
There is Power, Power, wonder working power  
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

"Jesus Is The Sweetest Name I Know"

Jesus is the sweetest name I know,  
And He's just the same as His lovely name,  
That's the reason why I love Him so,  
Cause Jesus is the sweetest name I know.

"I've Been Born The Second Time"

I've been born the second time,  
Hallelujah to the Lamb.  
I've been born the second time,  
Hallelujah to the Lamb.  
I've been born the second time,  
Hallelujah to the Lamb.  
Hallelujah to the Lamb.

"I Will Serve Thee"

I will serve thee because I love thee,  
You have given life to me.  
I was nothing before You found me,  
You have given life to me.  
Heartache, broken pieces,  
ruined lives are why You died on Calvary.  
Your touch is what I ask for, You have given life  
to me.

"Glory To The Lamb"

On Sunday I am happy,  
On Monday filled with joy,  
On Tuesday I have peace within,  
The devil can't destroy,  
On Wednesday and on Thursday,  
I'm walking in the light,  
And Friday is a Heaven below,  
And so is Saturday night.  
Oh, Glory, Glory, Glory,  
Oh Glory to the Lamb,  
Oh, Hallelujah I am saved  
And I'm so glad I am.  
Oh, Glory, Glory, Glory  
Oh, Glory to the Lamb,  
Hallelujah I am saved and bound  
For the Promised Land.

"Glory To God"

Glory to God, we're at the fountain drinking  
Glory to God, we're on our journey home.

I don't care what this world may say,  
We're at the fountain drinking,  
This world may talk and I will pray,  
We're on our journey home.

"Come To Jesus Just Now"

Come to Jesus, come to Jesus,  
Come to Jesus just now.  
Just now come to Jesus,  
Come to Jesus just now.

1. He will save you.
2. Jesus loves you.
3. He is able.
4. He is willing.
5. Oh, believe Him.

"Farther On"

Farther on the way grows brighter,  
Count the milestones one by one,  
Jesus will forsake you never,  
It is better farther on.

"Trust And Obey"

Trust and obey for there's no other way;  
To be happy in Jesus,  
But to trust and obey.

"Where Could I Go?"

Where could I go, Oh where could I go,  
Seeking a refuge for my soul,  
Needing a friend to save me in the end;  
Where could I go but to the Lord?

"Good News Gone To Canaan"

Good news gone to Canaan,  
Good news gone to Canaan,  
Good news gone to Canaan,  
I'm on my way.

1. I love the name of Jesus,  
I love the name of Jesus,  
I love the name of Jesus,  
I'm on my way.
2. I will tell you where I found it.
3. 'Twas at the feet of Jesus.
4. I'm glad I ever started.
5. This night I'm on my journey.
6. I'm going to live forever.

"This Little Light Of Mine"

This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine,  
This little light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine,  
Let it shine.

"The Old Ship Zion"

'Tis the old ship Zion, as she moves along,  
'Tis the old ship Zion, as she moves along,  
'Tis the old ship Zion as she moves along,  
See the great city as she moves along,  
See the great city as she moves along.

2. King Jesus is her Captain.
3. She runs from grace to glory.
4. She's built of gospel timber.
5. We're all good Bible sailors.
6. She's sailing for the City.
7. She's never lost a sailor.
8. She's landed thousands over.
9. There are millions bound for glory.
10. She's making for the harbor.
11. The storms will soon be over.
12. My home is over yonder.
13. We will anchor in the harbor.

"Shout, Shout"

Shout, shout, we're gaining ground,  
Oh halle, hallelujah,  
And the power of the Lord is coming down,  
Oh, halle, hallelujah.

Oh hallelujah, mercy's free,  
Oh halle, hallelujah,  
It's free for you, it's free for me,  
Oh halle, hallelujah.

"We're Marching To Zion"

We're marching to Zion,  
Beautiful, beautiful Zion,  
We're marching upward to Zion  
That beautiful city of God.

"Our Dying Day Is Rolling 'Round"

Our dying day is rolling 'round.  
Our dying day is rolling 'round.  
Our dying day is rolling 'round.  
Get ready, and let's go home.  
O, sinners, come go with us,  
O, sinners, come go with us,  
O, sinners, come go with us,  
Get ready, and let's go home.

"Happy In The Lord"

Good religion keeps a man happy, happy.  
You deny it if you can, happy in the Lord.  
I love the Lord, I know I do, happy, happy;  
The best of all, He loves me too,  
Happy in the Lord.

"Keep Me, Lord"

Keep me Lord, keep me Lord, 'til I die;  
Then take me to the promised land,  
Where my possessions lie.  
We have some friends gone on before,  
Oh, take me to the promised land,  
Where my possessions lie.  
They're shouting on the other shore.  
Oh, take me to the promised land,  
Where my possessions lie.

"The Ark Is Coming Up The Road"

It's coming, hallelujah,  
The ark is coming up the road.  
It's coming, hallelujah,  
The ark is coming up the road.

1. The prettiest thing I've ever done,  
The ark is coming up the road  
Was serve the Lord when I was young,  
The ark is coming up the road.
2. The devil thought he had me fast  
The ark is coming up the road  
Christ broke his chain, I'm free at last  
The ark is coming up the road.
3. I'll tell you what my Lord will do  
If you take one step He'll take two.
4. You talk about me just all you please  
I'll talk about you down on my knees
5. If you get there before I do  
Look for, I'm coming too



"Let Us Walk In The Light"

Let us walk in the light,  
In the light, in the light,  
Let us walk in the light,  
In the light of God.

"Happy On The Way"

Happy on the way, happy on the way,  
Bless the Lord, I'm happy on the way.

Jesus, my all to heaven is gone,  
Bless the Lord, I'm happy on the way!  
He whom I fix my hopes upon,  
Bless the Lord, I am happy on the way.

"Give Me The Old-Time Religion"

Give me the old-time religion,  
Give me the old-time religion,  
Give me the old-time religion,  
And 'tis good enough for me.

1. It was good for our mothers.
2. It was good for our fathers.
3. It was good for our brothers.
4. It was good for the prophet Daniel.
5. It was good for Paul and Silas
6. It was tried in the fiery furnace.
7. It will save a poor, lost sinner.
8. Makes me love everybody.
9. It will do when we are dying.
10. It will carry us home to heaven.

"Blessed Be The Name"

Blessed be the name,  
Blessed be the name,  
Blessed be the name of the Lord.  
Blessed be the name,  
Blessed be the name,  
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

"I Can, I Will, I Do Believe"

I can, I will, I do believe,  
I can, I will, I do believe,  
I can, I will, I do believe,  
That Jesus died for me.

"A Little Talk With Jesus"

Now, let us have a little talk with Jesus,  
Let us tell him all about our troubles,  
He will hear our faintest cry,  
He will answer by and by.

If you feel a prayer wheel turning  
And you know a fire is burning,  
Just a little talk with Jesus makes it right.

"If You Have A Testimony"

If you have a testimony  
Why don't you tell it,  
Why don't you tell it,  
Why don't you tell it,  
If you have a testimony,  
Why don't you tell it,  
Tell it all over the land.

"Beulah Land"

I've reached the land of corn and wine  
And all its riches freely mine;  
Here shines undimmed one blissful day,  
For all my night has passed away.

O Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land  
As on the highest mount I stand,  
I look away across the sea,  
Where mansions are prepared for me,  
And view the shining glory shore,  
My Heav'n, my home forever more.

"Isn't It Grand To Be A Christian"

Isn't it grand to be a christian  
Isn't it grand.  
Isn't it grand to be a christian  
Isn't it grand.  
Isn't it grand to be a christian  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday,  
And all day Sunday, isn't it grand.

"Brothers, Brothers, Meeting's Over"

Brothers, brothers, meeting's over,  
Brothers we must part,  
And if I nevermore see you,  
I love you in my heart.  
We will take up the cross and  
Wear the crown,  
We will follow our Saviour all  
The World around.

Sisters, sisters, meeting's over, etc.

"Isn't He Wonderful"

Isn't He wonderful, wonderful, wonderful,  
Isn't He wonderful, wonderful.  
Saved my soul, set me free,  
Now I'm happy as can be,  
Isn't He wonderful, wonderful!



*"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."*

**Psalms 121:1,2**



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**Mrs. Luray McClung**  
Editor

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