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Clifton Forge Baptist Church

CLIFTON FORGE, VIRGINIA

1882 - 1965

A Brief History
of
The Clifton Forge Baptist Church

1882-1965

Foreword

The Historical Committee appointed by The Rev. Walter Farrar has compiled this history as a labour of love for the church in which we have spent our lives. Many of you, our fellow members, have helped us with information and interest. We thank you. We regret that it has been impossible, for many reasons, to name each individual who has given his time and devoted service to the growth of this congregation through the years. In fairness to all we have included only the names and events related to the records in our archives.

The numerous thoughtful memorials which have been presented to the church are being listed in a separate BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE which will be placed in our office safe. There, too, will be put the invaluable SCRAPBOOK begun with the clippings left to all of us by the Misses Irene and Emma O'Conner. To these have been added other contributions from interested members. This scrapbook is a unique possession to be cherished.

Now we present this volume to you, The Clifton Forge Baptist Church, with all our hearts. We hope that your joy in owning it will be as great as ours has been in its preparation.

Bernice Green Ford, Chairman

Merle Westerman Paxton

Jennie Snead Wysor



Rev. Walter Farrar

Introduction

In the eighty-third year of our history the Clifton Forge Baptist Church has felt the need and responsibility of recording the significant and outstanding events which go into the story of Baptist life in the foothill of the Alleghanies.

The Clifton Forge Church has played no mean part in the growth and development of Christian witness in this part of the state as it has been for many years the largest and strongest Baptist congregation west of Roanoke, Staunton, Waynesboro and the Virginia valley. The task of such an endeavor can only be appreciated by those who have set themselves to one of similar nature. Time has a way of losing, scattering, and aborting facts, events and records; however, our committee, through long hours of tedious and often trying effort, has accomplished monumental results in collecting, assorting and editing the material concerning our church's story in Clifton Forge.

A history is often taken as an end result, but we would hope such is not the case with our people. We pray that in our reading and reflecting upon the past that it might be a means of projecting our vision and thoughts toward the future. In the past ten years, our community has broadened itself to a more diversified and industrial nature, so must our church meet this new area of demand as the complexion of our city and county undergoes this growth and expansion.

For the good work of our historical committee composed of Mrs. W. Kent Ford, Chairman, Mrs. F. L. Wysor, and Mrs. J. W. M. Paxton, and for every loyal member and faithful servant of Clifton Forge Baptist Church through the eighty-three years of her life, not all of whom could be named, we humbly thank God.

Through these records which follow we may see the real progress of the church, not merely as an organization, but an organism whose life movement and sole purpose is for the spiritual attainments and salvation of lost souls through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, to whom be all glory, both now and forevermore.

Walter E. Farrar, Pastor

The four pictures on these two pages show the buildings we have occupied since our organization as a church. The story has been one of constant growth, from our beginnings in the little church with the steeple to our present building with its adjoining Sunday School building.



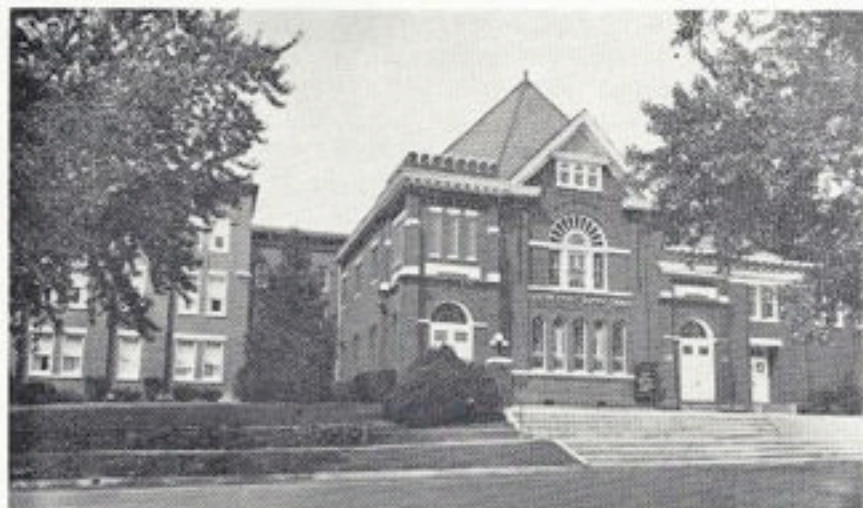
The First Church — 1886
Main Street



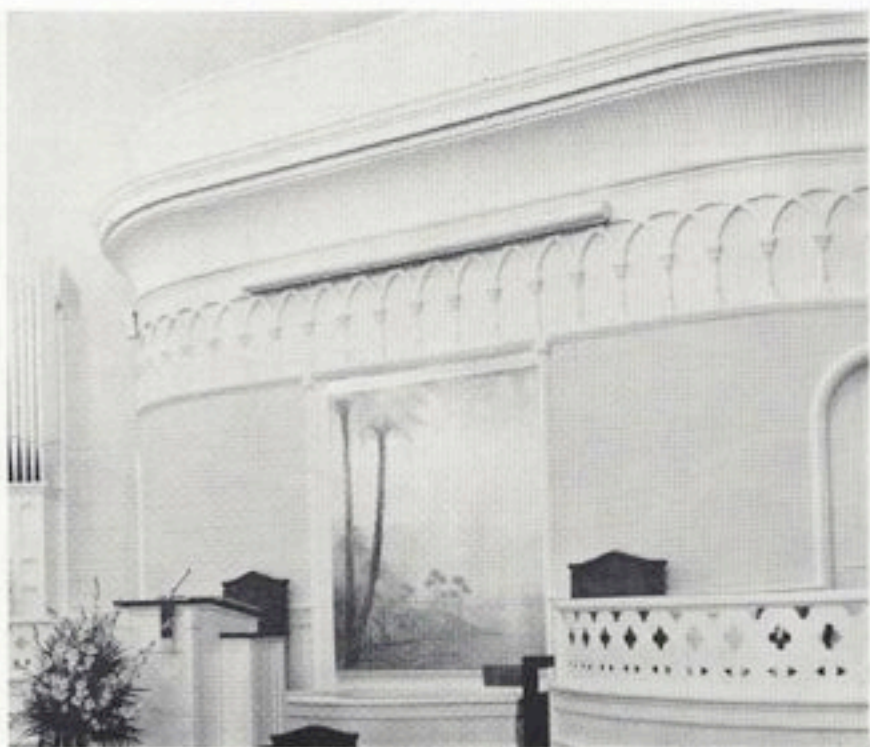
The Church — 1906
(During the pastorate of Rev. George E. Davis)



After the first Sunday School Rooms were added — 1912



The Present Church — 1965



Sanctuary — 1965



The Road We Came

By Jennie Snead Wysor

Traveling the roads and byways into the past makes a fascinating journey. Formal, recorded minutes of regular procedures; clippings from newspapers and periodicals painstakingly saved through the years; happy reminiscing with our early members have opened wide highways and sunny paths of discovery. This history is an authenticated account of eighty-three years of progress in the service of our Almighty God which has brought the Clifton Forge Baptist Church from its beginnings in a log schoolhouse with fourteen charter members to our present warm and forceful congregation of fourteen hundred souls.



Rev. John M. Pilcher

The continuity and clarity of our first minutes are remarkable, confirming each statement made in a letter written to Rev. R. T. Marsh in February, 1916, by Rev. J. M. Pilcher, the pioneer preacher in this vicinity. We found this communi-

cation attached to the minutes for that month kept by Mr. Otha Kittinger, church clerk. Since it tells so clearly of the beginning of both our town and our church, we quote it in its entirety:

Petersburg, Virginia, February 5, 1916

Rev. Robert Thornton Marsh, Th. M., D.D.,
89 McCormick Boulevard
Clifton Forge, Virginia

My Dear Brother:

In acceding to your request recently made for an account of "Beginning here," in Clifton Forge, I present you a hurried sketch of my work there.

I went to Covington, in November, 1871. Sharon Church, at Cowpasture River Bridge, became pastorless in 1875, and I added it to my field of labor. Once a month I used the road from Covington to Clifton Forge in the gap, enroute to Sharon. I noticed that the C. & O. Railway Company had erected a large tank at the Eastern edge of Mr. Williamson's field. It bore the name of Williamson's Tank." A short distance east of the tank, under the bluff, Mr. Craft opened a rather large boarding house for the trainmen who changed their runs at this point. Further east of Mr. Craft was the mouth of the hollow, in which there was a small log house, called the "School House." In this house we had a small Sunday School and I first preached in it on Sunday afternoon, March 24, 1876. As long as I remained in the county I held that appointment but not always in that house. I preached an initial sermon in the house built on the lot purchased as stated below on October 5, 1879.

Let it be remembered that there are three places which bear the name of Clifton Forge; the real Iron Forge down in the gap, the C. & O. Railway Station opposite the gap near Wilson's Creek, and the new village at Williamson's Tank. Of course, after Williamson became a town the railroad company removed the station of Clifton Forge, and a mile away, to Williamson, and gave Williamson the name of Clifton Forge.

Mr. Craft's boarding house near the tank, Mr. Williamson's farm house on Jackson's River, and Mrs. Williamson's home on Smith's Creek, were the three houses which grew into a village located between the railroad and the river. In November, 1877, I saw a disastrous flood in Jacksons River, 20 feet above the usual current, wash away the building. It was slowly rebuilt in the village.

On July 3, 1878, there was an auction sale of lots on the West side of the railroad. One of the proposed streets had its eastern terminus at a gap, which was the only outlet from the newly laid out town, through the hollow already mentioned, as the location of the house in which I preached, to the county road. The first lot offered for sale was next to the gap, and was selected by me because it was accessible to people living outside of Williamson. The little crowd of bidders ran the price up to what I considered an unreasonable sum of \$40.00. As soon as I bought it, I took my hat in my hand saying "Gentlemen, you have made me pay such a high price for the lot that I think you ought to make

the cash payment for me." When I counted the money I collected, I had merely the sum of \$13.33, which was the amount of one-third of the payment. It may interest you to know the names of the contributors of this amount, they were: Paul Gleason, H. Simpson, George Mustoe, J. T. Jones, Mr. Craft, J. L. Irvine, Mr. Rhor, Wm. Engart, Christopher Roadcap, D. L. Roadcap, Mrs. Gleason and George Byrd. When I finished paying for the lot, I had the deed recorded and the court confirmed as trustees, Wm. G. Payne, George Mustoe, J. T. Hughes, J. Y. Lemon, Louis Payne, and J. M. Pilcher.

The Ladies of the congregation under the leadership of Mrs. Agnes Jordan, erected on the rear of the lot, a plain house for Church and Town Hall purposes, and I held an evangelistic meeting at the opening of the house for worship in which Miss Georgia McCoy and Mr. Richard Hughes made professions of faith.

Several times I thought I might organize a Church, but was compelled to defer the organization from time to time, by the transfer of many railroad employees to other stations. When, therefore, in November, 1880, I left the county to become the executive officer of the Sunday School Bible Board, located at Petersburg, I left an unorganized congregation. My impression is that Rev. Wm. Francis Harris, my successor, organized the Church, and Rev. Samuel F. Chapman, his successor, erected on the front of the lot a new building, which is now occupied by our colored brethren.

John M. Pilcher

Pastors Note:

R. T. Marsh to whom the letter was written. Dr. J. M. Pilcher is in error as to the one impression that Rev. W. F. Harris organized the Church. It was after his work that Rev. S. F. Chapman organized the Church, as may be seen by record of the organization. Brother Chapman is still living at the time this note is written, November 23, 1916.

R. T. Marsh

Mr. Pilcher's foundation was well laid. The small band of worshippers he left at Williamson was soon taken in hand by a group of women led by Mrs. Agnes Jordan, a teacher in the school, and united into a church. Mrs. Jordan's picture shows us that she was small of stature but evidently her consecration and influence

was large in her Lord's work. In 1905 she wrote our first known history for "The Clifton Forge Baptist," a local paper published monthly by our church in 1905-07. Mr. F. W. King was Editor, Mr. E. A. Snead and Mr. L. F. Alley were Business Managers and Mr. D. A. Roadcap was Treasurer. Through the words of her own story she will be the next personality we meet on our journey. She wrote:

In the year of 1879 there were three Baptist ladies who felt there was a field of labor for some one at Williamson (now Clifton Forge) and they determined to make an effort to do something for the good of those by whom they were surrounded. The proposition was made that they would try and build some kind of a house for preaching. The way seemed hedged in by difficulties too numerous to mention here, but with a determination to make the effort and to trust in the Lord that the way would be opened for them, they would go ahead. On inquiring they found that when the town of Williamson was laid off in lots and sold, that Rev. J. M. Pilcher, who was pastor at Covington at that time, had bought a lot for a Baptist church for which, if I remember aright, he was to pay \$36.00 and with his usual energy and business ability, he took off his hat and took up a collection with which he then and there made the first payment on the lot. The ladies afterwards raised the balance and the lot was paid for. Having the lot in hand, the next question was, How can we raise the money? and What kind of a house can we build? At that time there was not a single house on the north side of the railroad, and only eight families living at the place and three out of the eight who held to the Baptist faith. But we heard of some other Baptists who lived at Old Clifton Forge, and we sent for them to come up and help us, which they did nobly. Well, we determined to build a sort of hall to be used by all Christian denominations and any public meeting of a moral character that might be held in the town, (not very orthodox sentiments) but such were the surrounding circumstances, that we thought that the best thing to do.

Now the next thing on our program was to raise money to pay for the lumber. This was raised by a series of lawn parties, picnics, festivals, etc., and with the kind assistance of Mr. J. W. Woodward, who was agent and yard master here, we bought the lumber at a reduced price (as it was for a church) and also a reduction on the freight. We were out of debt this far. Now the house must be built. Mr. R. R. Tribbett agreed to build it for \$200, and in two months from the time the idea was conceived the house was under cover and had comfortable seats, and we were having

services in it whenever we could get anyone to preach for us, and we had a Sunday School, too.

Mr. Pilcher had his appointments to fill and in order that we might have preaching as often as possible, he said he would come down from Covington on Saturday afternoon, spend the night and preach for us at 9 o'clock, go on to Sharon and fill his 11 o'clock appointment there, or preach at Sharon in the morning and give us the afternoon or night. We would circulate the appointment and ask everybody to come.

Thus matters were in 1880, when Mr. Pilcher left Covington, and Rev. W. O. Harris came in his stead. We did not have much Baptist preaching about that time, and I guess somebody must have said something about the "Little Struggling Band" at the Augusta Association, for soon after the meeting of the Association there were steps taken to organize a Baptist church at Clifton



Rev. Samuel Forrer Chapman

Forge. In the meantime Rev. S. F. Chapman had succeeded Rev. W. F. Harris, and in August 1882 with the assistance of Rev. H. W. Graves and Rev. C. F. Fry, our little band of 14 members was organized into a church, with Chas. Burger and Davis Mustoe our first deacons. I can recall each individual member, and how happy we all felt that we were a church at last. We lived along in unity, love and peace for several years in our little church building. The town increased in population, new members came in from sister churches, and we had to look for a larger house. The plan was put on foot to build a church with

"a steeple" to it. Our membership had grown and we now had some male members to take the lead in the matter, and the building of a new church progressed rapidly and culminated in the building represented in the picture on page 6. With considerable aid from other sources and the united efforts of the "faithful few" the church was paid for.

The old house has been recently demolished, but the church with the "steeple to it" has been sold to the colored people, and

stands as a reminder of the efforts of a few Baptist ladies to lay the foundation for the Baptist cause at Clifton Forge when the outlook was gloomy in comparison with the present time. After the new church was finished, Dr. W. E. Hatcher, of Richmond, came up and preached the dedication sermon. He remained with us a week or ten days, and held a meeting. The result was the conversion of some of the most influential men of our town. We felt greatly strengthened spiritually, as well as in numbers, and felt too that we could take care of a minister if he would give us all of his time. So Bro. Tucker came to us. The church prospered under his care, and he did much good among us, and quite a number were added to the church.

Then came the gentle, quiet, Godly man, Rev. J. R. Fizer, who went to every home and saw that all his flock were at work for the Master. Now in after years, I pray that the good seed that he endeavored to sow among the children especially, may bring a rich harvest for the Lord. He left us to the regret of every member of the church. Then came Rev. Rutherford Brett; his stay with us was short. While here he did a good work among the young men of the Baptist church.

Rev. E. Pendleton Jones came to us next, and was with us during the building of our present house of worship, which is here represented. The church was greatly revived, and grew both spiritually and numerically under his pastorate.

Bro. Jones was succeeded by Bro. J. A. Barker, who served us earnestly for eight years, during which time a large portion of the debt incurred for our church building was paid off.

We now have Bro. Davis, who comes to us in the full strength of life, and who has entered faithfully upon the duties of his charge.

The splendid church building of which we are proud, has not one cent of indebtedness against it, and we are hopeful of great things for the Master in the future.

A.M.J.

This old schoolhouse of which both Mr. Pilcher and Mrs. Jordan have written was built in the area that was first known as Hazel Hollow, later as Slaughter-pen Hollow and now is the location of our modern water facility. The first church mentioned in both histories was a frame structure roughly planked up and

down with no inside finish, leaving cracks through which winter snows blew onto the benches. This was a place of worship and assembly for all denominations though owned by the Baptist. After the several churches had erected their own homes, it was used eventually to house the town's first printing press.

It was in this first rough meeting house that our firm road of records has its beginning as we read the minutes of the first meeting:

August 27, 1882—"After preaching at 11 a.m. in the accustomed place of worship, the Union Meeting House, by Rev. A. W. Graves, Rev. S. F. Chapman, assisted by Rev. Graves and Rev. C. F. Fry, proceeded to organize the Baptist Church to be called the Clifton Forge Baptist. Letters of dismission were handed in and read from the following; Thomas M. Kincaid, Mrs. Elizabeth Kincaid, Mrs. Lucy J. Pugh, Mrs. E. J. Alley, Mrs. Hettie A. Huddleston, Mrs. Mary J. Butler, Mrs. Rachel Simms, Miss Annie N. Byrd, Mrs. A. M. Jordan, Mrs. Dora N. Strong, Miss Mary Jordan, L. F. Alley, George A. Payne and J. D. Mustoe.

After reading the letters, the above named members who were present received the right hand of fellowship from the pastor, S. F. Chapman. Rev. Graves was requested to act as moderator and Mr. Mustoe, clerk Pro-tem."

Mr. Graves must have called the new membership to order immediately for a business meeting since a long and detailed Covenant of Principles was adopted that same morning. This Covenant covered beliefs and rules of conduct, personal and in relation to other denominational beliefs, which were very strictly enforced. The line of behavior was straight, narrow, and closely followed or your church Hand of Fellowship was promptly withdrawn. The minutes continue: "On motion the church adjourns 'til 3:30 P.M."

That afternoon, "At 3:30 P.M. after a sermon from Bro. Graves on the origin and uses of the Deaconate, the group unaminously chose Brethren J. D. Mustoe and C. W. Burger as Deacons.

On motion, G. W. Payne was chosen Clerk of the church.

On motion, the deacons were ordained; Revs. Graves, Fry and Chapman laying on their hands. On motion, the church adjourned." Both records were signed by A. M. Graves, Moderator and J. D. Mustoe, Clerk pro-tem.

A determination to build a church home appears in the very next minutes. Several plans involving the Masons, the Methodists and others were discussed but did not mature. For October 3, 1884 we read: "At a call meeting in Mr. Michael Ham's parlor, it was resolved to empower the trustees, Lewis and W. J. Payne, George Mustoe, J. L. Lemon and J. F. Hughes to sell the present building and part of the lots and denote the proceeds, after giving \$50 to the Methodists, to the construction of a new church on the same lot." Signed S. F. Chapman, Moderator.

Mr. Chapman lived in Covington and served the church there. His daughter married Mr. George A. Revercomb, Sr. Their sons, George A. Jr. and Edmund are still among that city's most prominent citizens.

The Ham family came into the church here almost at once and their hospitable home was the scene of much of our history. They entertained the visiting dignitaries and generally played a leading part in the work.

Michael and Tranquilla Ham started a dynasty of church service which has remained unbroken through the years. Their daughters were Nola Ham Graves and Hettie Ham Hatch. Mrs. Graves daughter was Thelma Graves Sanders whose son, John Graves (Jimmy) Sanders and grandchildren, Thelma Graves, Johnny, and Ellen are still constantly active. Mrs. Hatch's daughter is Gwendolyn Hatch McPherson, a leader today along many lines.

Mrs. Hettie Huddlestun, a sister of Mr. Ham, is represented by her granddaughter-in-law, Mildred Stinespring Huddlestun.

On October 12, 1884, Brethren Hughes, Berger, W. F. Powell and Ham were appointed as a committee to direct the construction of a new church, a subscription to be taken for the purpose.

By this time, 1884, the town had been incorporated under state law. It is interesting to note from a history written by Judge George K. Anderson, our pioneer circuit judge, that the land on either side of Dry Creek was owned by two families whose descendants are still area citizens. The land on the west side belonged to the Hayneses whose home was built on Jackson River near our present Y.M.C.A. and that on the east side, to the Williamsons whose homestead stood where the Mathews Lumber Company stands today. The C. & O. Shops, which gave Clifton Forge its greatest momentum were moved here in 1890 from Staunton and Bumpass.

Judge Anderson also noted that in 1891 the town experienced its only lynching; three men who had invaded the city, mistreated its citizens and shot a railroad employee who had tried to stop them. Times were still rough, tough and wet. Saloons outnumbered the churches. When Local Option came to Alleghany County these saloons were banished and there had been no legal sale of liquor until the repeal of Prohibition brought in the A.B.C. Store.

In the first minutes book there is a large impressive headline at the top of a blank page "Church Dedication" but the minutes were evidently not kept for several months. There is no data on the completion of the new church "with a steeple" or any dedication service. We find, however, in March 1886, that a balance sheet for the new building had been "prepared, presented and accepted" and in May "it was resolved that each male member be requested to pay the sum of fifty cents per month and each female member the sum of twenty-five cents until the church debt is paid." That we joined the Augusta Association at once we know, for in July 1886, we sent W. F. Powell, R. B. Paxton (father of J. W. M.), J. J. Mills and E. B. Harnsbarger as delegates to Greenville, Va.

On June 11, 1888, Mr. Chapman resigned as pastor; and in July Rev. R. A. Tucker was called from Amhurst County, Va., at a salary of \$35 per month. Raising money for the pastor and for general expenses became so arduous that the envelope system of finances was discussed but this was not accepted until 1897.

For December 3, 1888, we found the following interesting item:

"On motion, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted—

WHEREAS, our esteemed Presbyterian friend, our neighbor, Miss Flora McDonald, was married and left on Wednesday, the 28th, and whereas this is our first meeting since she left our community, therefore be it resolved,

That the hearty thanks of this Church are due and are hereby extended to Miss Flora for her kind service as organist so freely and cheerfully rendered on all occasions.

That in thus parting with our friend and neighbor, we will cherish as a precious legacy, her cheerful and happy disposition, her pure and unselfish example always willing to accommodate her friends and neighbors. She will be greatly missed in our

community and especially by the members of this church, who had learned to love her no less than one of our own.

That while we shall miss her sweet music and smiling presence, we congratulate any people with whom her lot may fall, and count him especially happy who has been so fortunate as to make her his bride. That we, as a Church, earnestly invoke God's richest blessings upon her and her young husband. May the unerring hand of God guide and direct them both through life, to an abundant entrance into that upper and better world above. That these resolutions be spread in the record and a copy, after publication in the Alleghany Sentinel, be sent to our esteemed friend in her now distant home.

Jno. R. Payne
W. F. Powell
T. N. Reynolds

R. A. Tucker, Pastor
Jno. Wright, Clerk

Miss Flora McDonald had married Mr. George Farrar and they had gone to Bristol, Va., to live. Distances were greater in those days and maybe appreciation was, too. The Alleghany Sentinel was an early county paper. The Farrars moved back to Clifton Forge in 1892 and Mr. Farrar restored his membership in our church. He gave the wine for communion until he died many years later.

In August 1889 there are recorded resolutions at the death of Mr. Robert P. Murray saying in part: "That in the death of Bro. Murray we feel that our community has lost one of its best citizens, our church a true and faithful member, and the Baptist cause in Clifton Forge one of its most liberal supporters."

The Murrays lived across Jackson River near Spout Spring where they owned a large part of the land. On the early town maps this area was known as "The Murray Addition." Mr. W. S. Goode, himself a third generation native, says that the Murray name still appears on many deeds. Mrs. Hatch, Mrs. Davies and Mrs. L. C. McGuire speak of a hospitable home there which later was destroyed by fire. In response to our plea for information we have the following letter from a daughter-in-law, Mrs. R. F. Murray, nee Maggie Dunn, sister of Mrs. Kate Butler:

"Mrs. Robert Palmer Murray (called Mrs. Mollie Murray) kept all the preachers who came to Clifton Forge after the War Between the States. Mr. Chapman boarded with her. (Mr. Tucker

did, too.) There was a schoolhouse on the property which was sometimes used for church. The property on the southside of Jackson River was owned by Robert S. Murray as was Spout Spring. He donated this spring to the people of the town. A plaque made at the C&O Shops by men under the leadership of a son, Elmer Murray, then Master Mechanic, was placed there to show its history."

In addition to the two sons there were two daughters in this family, Misses Alice and Vergie. Verge Street was named for Miss Vergie. Later Mrs. Maggie Dunn Murray gave yeoman service in Sunday School and followed Miss Josie Payne as choir director.

Kemper Murray, a loyal young worker today is a grandnephew of Mr. Robert P. Murray.

In August 1889 "this church pledged itself to raise the sum of \$325 for the pastor's salary for the ensuing year. Sharon agreed to raise \$75, the pastor to serve both places and the Virginia Mission Board was to be asked to give \$200." How long this agreement continued is not recorded.

Mr. Tucker must have gone on to greener fields, although there is no note of his resignation; for in December of 1890 the name of Rev. John R. Fizer was submitted as "a suitable man." It was recommended "that the church call him by unanimous vote, that we pay him \$700 per year and that he preach to us every Sunday morning and night." The salary increases as do the duties.

In January 1891 Mr. T. N. Reynolds was authorized to procure additional lights for the church and there began talk of a new building and some parsonage lots. Bros. Reynolds, Gleason, J. N. Karnes and Hamilton were the finance committee. In February a church roll call was ordered to be held annually. We know that this was done regularly for some years for in 1893 we have a small church paper, printed by the Review, containing the entire church roll and the notice that a roll call would be held on the following Wednesday night. This valuable item was given for the scrapbook from the papers of Mr. W. T. Wade, Jr., by Mrs. Wade.

In 1892 we find the name of the first recorded member organist, Sister Kate Alley. She was reappointed with much appreciation. This year a committee was authorized to borrow the first payment on the house on Alleghany Street which had been bought for a par-

sonage. This residence is presently occupied by Mr. George Wright and family. In September we read "The Church accepted a donation from Bro. J. C. Carpenter of three building lots west of Smith Creek and a vote of thanks was extended to him." There is no further record concerning this property.

On August 2, 1893, Mr. Fizer resigned. These minutes contain much business including the following excerpt: "Bro. J. C. Carpenter kindly offered to give the last hundred dollars due on the present parsonage provided the church would pay the rest" and "The following were appointed to collect this remainder: L. F. Alley, C. W. East, E. A. Snead, J. N. Karnes and Sisters A. B. Davies, Daisy Tribbett, Bessie Payne, and Byrd and Elsie Bailey." Bro. Carpenter offered a handsome gold watch to the lady who collected the most. The minutes speak of our helping to furnish the new Y.M.C.A. rooms and Mr. Beckner moved that this be done jointly by the town churches. A Ladies Auxiliary was formed for the purpose.

A committee was appointed to find a buyer for the church building since "circumstances make it advisable to move our meeting place" and the name of Rev. Rutherford Brett of Bell Buckle, Tenn., was presented. Mr. Brett was called and came to us in September 1893.

It has been of interest to me that for the first twelve years, each minutes of a church meeting has included the report of the Discipline Committee. This group continues to function until 1895. For a good while after that we have records of strict church action regarding straying members but there was no special committee.

In December 1894 Rev. Brett resigned and resolutions of appreciation were adopted. Rev. E. Pendleton Jones of Charlottesville, Va., was called at a salary of \$800 plus a parsonage value of \$200. It seems that Mrs. Jones didn't care for Clifton Forge and never really lived here.

The next year in January we find that J. C. Carpenter, E. A. Snead, F. B. Westerman (father of E. C. Westerman and Mrs. J. W. M. Paxton), W. F. Powell (father of Mrs. L. C. McGuire), W. O. Petticrew, J. N. Karnes (father of Mrs. Harry Hall), and A. S. Beckner (father of Mrs. Ethel Burt) were elected by the church to be "invested with full power to dispose of the present church on Main Street, select a site, purchase same and erect a new church thereon." The congregation pledged itself "on motion,



Fred B. Westerman

as a unit, to abide by the action of this committee and to support same."

There is no data concerning the sale of the Main Street Church here, but in November 1894 Deacons Powell and Carpenter were given full powers to sell it for a sum not to exceed \$3500. We do know from the Main Street Baptist records that it was bought for \$1500 by a group of seven colored Baptists, all named Perkins, and a new congregation to be called Main Street Baptist started there by Rev. Caesar Perkins.

Our February 1895 minutes indicate that we have moved and are meeting in Nettleton Hall which was located upstairs in the structure we know as the Lavin Building with Rev. Jones as pastor.

At the suggestion of Bros. Snead and Powell it was decided to rent the Opera House after our present month was out. Financial difficulties continued and a number of brethren were appointed to collect dues each month from those members living nearest them. Mr. A. B. Davies put the motion and it was carried. Imagine doing this today! A motion was also made "to request a report from the finance committee on the first Wednesday of each month and every member who is able and has not paid anything toward the church at the end of a specified time should be waited upon; and if, at the end of six months, they had shown no disposition to contribute, the member be cited to appear before the church and show why the hand of fellowship should not be withdrawn from him." The above resolution was to be read at every quarterly meeting.

During this time, since we had no baptistry, all candidates were baptized in the Smith Creek Blue Hole near Moody School or in Jackson River.

In 1895 plans were made to sell the West Clifton parsonage; the Augusta Association met in Clifton Forge for the first time; and the first application to the Alleghany Circuit Court for legal trustees was authorized. Deacons F. B. Westerman, George Swann and J. C. Carpenter were appointed in that capacity.

Tired of moving about, the church voted to select the Old Presbyterian Church, then vacant, as a regular place of worship until our new home was finished. The rent to the Presbyterians would be \$10 per month.

At the regular meeting on January 1st, 1896, the Ladies Aid reported a surplus of \$297.70 and a vote of thanks was extended to both Miss Kate Alley, organist and Miss Josie Payne, choir leader, for the past year. These minutes continue: "The Clerk (Mr. A. S. Beckner) arose and when the church had assumed a deathlike silence, he read, in clear unbroken tones the resignation of Rev. E. Pendleton Jones as pastor of the church. After an elapse of some moments in silence, a motion was made and carried that this resignation be laid on the table until the following Monday." Mr. Jones was asked to reconsider and did so. His salary was \$1000 yearly. The following year, however, he again resigned and Rev. John A. Barker was called to begin his ministry in January 1887.

Written in the beautiful Spencerian hand which characterized the minutes for several years was this account of a very important occasion. "The Dedication—The brick church in which we worship was dedicated to God on Sunday the 12th day of July, 1896. The services were conducted by the pastor, E. Pendleton Jones. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Dr. F. C. McConnell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lynchburg, Va. He congratulated the church and the Building Committee on erecting so fine a house of worship. The sermon was one of great power and encouragement in church work. After services a collection of \$475.88 was taken toward liquidating the debt for the building. The choir sang very impressively at the close of the services the old hymn "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again." W. L. Alley, Church Clerk.

Mr. Will Alley is the son of Mr. L. F. Alley and brother of Mrs. Ira Payne. He lives in Huntington.

The Review reported this service "A Perfect day, large attendance and an interesting occasion." That "the church is by far the most beautiful, commodious and costly of any building of its kind in Alleghany County." That "nearly one thousand people attended the service, that Dr. Pitt of Richmond, Editor of the 'Religious Herald' was here."

In February and March 1897 we again met in the old Opera House, which by the way, was located over the Clifton Forge Grocery Company. This building today houses Hall's Transfer

Company. Also, I was interested to read that, in neighborly fashion, we had borrowed a chair from the Episcopalians across McCormick Street and mislaid it. Whether this was ever found was not recorded.

In June 1897, during Mr. Barker's regime, because of "financial arrearage" the envelope system was adopted for all operating expenses, thus giving each member a sense of responsibility for the Lord's work in his church.

In September 1897 Mr. Ingalls and Mr. Stevens, C & O officials, were thanked for refunding the freight on church building materials. Mr. Ingalls was president of the C&O Railroad at that time. It was to honor his daughter that the new hotel, built originally on the site of the present hospital, was named "Gladys Inn." For greater traveling convenience this hostelry was later moved to the upper floors of the C&O Station which are now occupied by the Y.M.C.A.



The Sanctuary — about 1908

A complete overhauling of the organ was ordered including a new pump for Bud Dunn and other church boys to operate. This repair job came to the sum of \$6.00. Bud was the brother of Mrs. Kate Dunn Butler, one of the first organists after our move to McCormick Street.

That the congregation felt itself growing stronger is indicated by the fact that, in 1898 it authorized the W.M.U. to invite the State organization to hold its annual meeting here. We have no record of their accepting this invitation until 1916.

In the minutes for February 1900 appears a vote of thanks extended to the Ladies Aid for wiring and equipping for lights the Main Auditorium without cost to the church. This expenditure amounted to \$121. The lighting was furnished free for one year by Bro. J. C. Carpenter. This was the year of the smallpox epidemic which the town experienced. We had no services during May and June.

In 1901, when President McKinley was shot, the Union Memorial services were held in our church, with the ministers Revs. Barker, E. W. McCorkle, J. M. White, F. A. Hodge, C. S. Stanton, Rabbi M. Rozenburg and Rev. Father Gaston Payne taking part. The schools were closed for the day and students attended in a body. The Clifton Forge Rifles were there in full uniform. In the Review there was an editorial by the editor, George W. Warren, and a black bordered Proclamation by the town's Mayor, Mr. W. F. Tinsley.

Our heretofore smoothly traveled road is blocked very effectively by the loss of church records from 1900 to 1906. From the meager sources of information we have, we find that in 1904 the first annual Sunday School Convention of the Augusta Association was held in Clifton Forge and two years later our town became the City of Clifton Forge with a population of 5250.

On the other side of this regrettable chasm begins an avenue smooth and broad, paved for us, not only by the resumption of our regular records, but by a wealth of clippings from periodicals, leaflets, programs and correspondence saved for posterity by two beloved women of our congregation, Misses Emma and Irene O'Conner. We owe them a debt of gratitude which we can pay only by keeping them forever in our memories as faithful and devoted co-workers, who loved their church, their friends and their God. It has been said of them that one had only to visit their home on

Rose Street to come away warmed and cheered, ready to face life's problems with added courage and faith. Our eternal gratitude is their's.

These clippings were given to Mrs. LeRoy Reynolds for safe-keeping. She passed them on to your historians who put them, together with much material from other donors, into a permanent scrapbook in chronological order and placed that in the church archives as an irreplaceable possession to be cherished and protected.

On January 3, 1905, Mr. Barker resigned. "What Mr. Barker's plans are for the future are known only to himself as he has not made public any statement as to where he will go." He was, however, a missionary at heart and spent a part of his later life on the foreign fields in Brazil and elsewhere. Mrs. Barker, after their return to this country, became president of the W.M.U. of the Southern Baptist Association.



Rev. George Davis

Rev. George E. Davis came to us on June 10, 1905, from Greenbrier Church in Alderson, W. Va. The Davis family was given a reception at the Nettleton Hall when Rev. W. H. Sanders of the Methodist Church welcomed them on behalf of the community. Mr. Davis had held a ten day meeting for us prior to his call which "showed that he was truly the right man in the right place." He promptly reorganized the Low Moor Baptist Church under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Means and Mr. Joseph Lipscomb and continued to preach there throughout his ministry here. This joint responsibility was kept up by Rev. George Green, Rev. Marsh and others.

The first steps toward acquiring a new parsonage were taken when three lots on McCormick Street were purchased for \$1000 cash. Since the church was at last free of indebtedness, some members were reluctant to assume new ones. The matter was being studied.

About this time, we have for the first of several appearances, the Rev. Dr. Curtis Lee Laws of Baltimore. Dr. Laws ranked with Stoddard and Holmes as a traveler, and reported his experiences in a series of Illustrated Lectures on Europe. The tickets were 50 cents each and the community was urged to attend.

The drive to build a parsonage increased in spite of opposition. When two members, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Westerman, promised to pay the thousand dollars for the lots already bought if the church would put up the house, the matter was agreed. Bros. Carpenter, Westerman, Snead, and F. W. King were appointed to obtain plans and raise funds for the project which was estimated to cost \$3200. By April 1906 Mr. Frye of Lynchburg had submitted plans and work had begun. At its completion a year later the final cost was \$6500.



The Parsonage — 1909

As we pick up the resumed minutes on the other side of our chasm of lost records we read that the question of a new organ is hot. Miss Lottie Mahaney had been elected organist, a position she held for several years both for the old pump organ and the new instrument. In May 1907 Mr. Carpenter gave \$1000 toward the organ purchase, if the church would raise the rest. A Committee composed of Mr. Westerman and Misses Josie Payne, Ellen Carpenter and Lottie Mahaney had been appointed to find a suit-

able one. They selected an Estey Pipe organ at a cost of \$2700 which was bought and installed in "the rear of the church."

Rev. Laws returned for another series of lectures and Mr. Laurus Loomis of Elderson, N. C., presented the church with a pulpit Bible and some hymn books. Mr. Loomis had spent about \$3000 for Bibles for Southern churches.

It was in April 1907 that one of the saddest tragedies our community has ever experienced occurred. Two young people, a girl and a boy, jumped from the Jackson River swinging bridge into the river and were drowned. The funeral service was held in the Baptist Church with Revs. George Davis, L. H. Paul, and W. H. Sanders, officiating.

Around the turn of the century private schools were the thing and so Clifton Forge had'em. The first was founded in 1887 by two sisters from Tennessee, Misses Dora and Mamie Bryant. It was originally known as Clifton Forge Institute but in 1890 the name was changed to The Clifton Forge Seminary and it moved into larger quarters on Jefferson Street across from the present Catholic Church where it operated successfully until 1914. About 1890 we find The Alleghany Female Institute flourishing with Miss Fannie K. Taylor as principal. In 1900 Mr. Rupert Powell, a kinsman of Mrs. Phillip Pendleton, reorganized it. Our own Mr. F. W. King came to teach there while he developed his law practice. This school was located on the corner of Jefferson and Church opposite the present Presbyterian Church, and was active until about 1910. In 1908 The Virginia Collegiate Institute was established in the old boomdays Bagby Hotel on the upper end of Rose Street. Mr. George Davis, our pastor, was dean and Mrs. Ellen Carpenter Goodwin was principal. This venture only lasted for three years. All of these institutions took girls only to board but their day classes were co-educational. There was also at this time a private school for Negro boys and girls built on the north section of Fischer's Hill. This was founded by Rev. Fountain, pastor of the First Baptist Church under the name The Colored Industrial Institute.

On January 17, 1908, we read from the Review under the headlines, Handsome New Organ Graces Baptist Church, "The organ was made by the Estey Organ Co. of Brattleboro, Vermont. It contains 960 pipes, is run by water power and has all the latest attachments known."

Prof. W. W. Whaddet of Norfolk had been engaged to give a recital on the new instrument. "He, as a master musician, was chosen organist of the Jamestown Exposition. In addition to playing, he will render several vocal selections." Prof. Brereton of Staunton, played the cornet. The tickets were 50 cents. This organ still adds beauty and satisfaction to our church. As the years have passed experts in its care have kept it in order and up to date. In 1948, Mrs. Cora Everett and Miss Birdie Smith added chimes in memory of Mrs. Everett's son, Herman Everett.

Since neither Mr. or Mrs. Davis was well at this time, they were given an extended leave of absence and went to Florida. In the scrapbook there is a characteristic exchange of letters between the pastor and his neighbor, Deacon Snead. From it we find that after assuring Mr. Davis that all was well with his church affairs, Mr. Snead wrote: "I took a look over the parsonage once or twice and find everything there in good shape. Have had a little trouble with cows but think I have them stopped from the yard." Cows ran at will in the city streets of that day so, for protection, every lawn was enclosed by a fence.

Mr. Davis replied with a church letter of love and gratitude in which he asked for prayers for himself and wife. The church and Mr. Snead returned notes expressing love and good wishes.



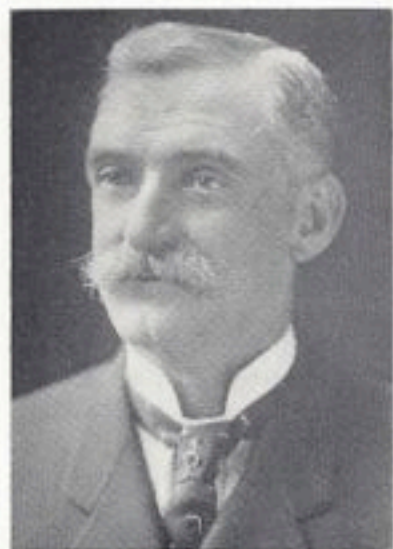
Rev. George Green

The next year Mr. Davis resigned and Rev. George Green of Versailles, Ky., was called with a salary grown to \$1500. He was installed on a Wednesday evening in March 1909 with the other denominations invited to welcome him and his family. In 1909, too, we were given our first memorial gift. Mr. W. R. Calhoun gave a combination piano and player in memory of his wife. This piano is still in the church carrying its silver inscription plate, painted white.

During Mr. Green's pastorate the Virginia B.Y.P.U. Encampment Auditorium at Virginia Beach was dedicated with Dr. Pitt, Editor of

the Religious Herald, Dr. E. W. Winfrey of Culpeper, Dr. T. S. Dunnaway and Dr. J. R. Sampy of Louisville speaking. Mr. J. W. M. Paxton reported the affair after attending a B.Y.P.U. conference there. Our pastor, Rev. Green was the first president of the Virginia B.Y.P.U. organization and remained in that office during his ministry here. Before coming to Clifton Forge, Mr. Green had been privileged to attend the first meeting of The Baptist World Alliance when it met in London in 1905.

"Miss Lottye," our organist, was asked to fill a much needed position in a neighboring church and, with her usual zeal to follow her Christian duty left us briefly and Miss Grace Bell of Covington and Miss Nellie Fringer played our organ. In 1910, Miss Mallie Payne and Miss Merle Westerman were appointed alternate organists at \$10 per month to be divided between them.



J. C. Carpenter, Sr.

This year our church lost one of its backbones in the death of Mr. James Clivie Carpenter who throughout his membership had heard every call for help and from his plenty and generous spirit, supplied it. The people mourned his passing.

Church interest increased when a revival minister, Rev. George W. Perryman came for a series of meetings. Miss Kate E. Puller of Richmond gave a Recital and Musical. Talk of a new Sunday School addition was started. Mr. Carpenter had bought and donated eighteen feet of land adjacent to the church for that purpose. This year, too, we find ourselves with our first paid

Financial Secretary. He was to have 12% of the gross receipts.

In 1911 the congregation authorized an issue of thirty bonds at \$500 each to pay for the parsonage and the proposed addition for the Sunday School. F. B. Westerman, Frank M. Reynolds (father of Mr. Roy Reynolds), George T. Davis, L. F. Alley and E. A. Snead were appointed to attend to the details. This they did with such dispatch that on May 7, 1912, we find this record: "The

cornerstone of the Sunday School rooms of the Clifton Forge Baptist Church was laid by the Clifton Forge Lodge #166, AF and AM Alleghany Commandary #23 acting as escort."—"The stone was donated by Mr. R. V. VanHorn of the Clifton Forge Marble Works. After laying the stone in due and ancient form according to the Masonic ceremony, the crowd went into the church where Deacon F. W. King read a brief history of the church and Dr. Wm. E. Hatcher of Richmond delivered the dedicatory address. At the conclusion of this address, a red rose was given to all who had been present at the dedication of the Main Street Church, while a white rose was given to all who were present at the dedication of the present church. The services were concluded with a prayer by the pastor." Signed by Otha Kittinger, church clerk. The contents of this stone is noted elsewhere from a list given us by Mr. Stanley Nichols, one of our deacons.

In September 1912, Mrs. Kate Hinkle, sister of the pastor's wife, was employed by the church as a city missionary, a position we would do well to duplicate. In October, the Sunday School addition itself was dedicated. Mr. King read a history of the movement, Mr. W. T. Graham delivered to the Building Committee the keys, plans and Masonic working tools, Rev. Joseph T. Watts of Richmond preached and Mrs. John R. Payne, Jr. sang a solo.

As we travel the road of Christian experience we come to the path of full time service. This by-way often means rough going but those who choose it are strengthened by their great love for God and man. In 1912 we will turn into this path to meet the first child of our church to give his life for such ministry, C. Roy Angell. He had grown up in our congregation along with his brother, Webb. His mother was one of the Boatwright sisters, Miss Eudora, Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Angell. He was ordained here on December 22, 1912. Mr. Green delivered the sermon at the impressive ceremony and Deacons J. N. Karnes, W. F. Powell, F. W. King and T. E. Gibbs performed the other offices. Since then Rev. Angell has brought honor to his family, his church and his Lord through a very devoted and successful career as a minister.

Down the years there have been others to follow this rough bright path. Miss Virginia Hagood, one of our Youth Directors, entered her service from our church. She prepared to go to Africa.

Jack King, who sang so feelingly and dearly the song "Don't Take My SHUN-Shine Away" while in the Beginner's Department,

grew up to be Dr. Ernest King, Medical Missionary. He is the son of Mrs. E. L. King of our membership. After an extensive education he received a personal call to go to the foreign field, was accepted and left with his family for Indonesia in 1940. He served for four years in the Baptist Hospital in Kedire after which he returned to this country. He lives in Roanoke where he is a very active layman.

Rev. Paul Stanley is one of our own. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Stanley of our church. He was trained at Marshall College and the Southern Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas, where he served several neighboring churches. While at Russell, Okla., he helped build the church in which he was ordained in 1951. His ministry has been in the middle west until he entered the Army where he serves at present.

Our dear Marie (Polly) VanLear was born in Clifton Forge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. VanLear, to become an active church member very early in life. She was educated here, at Madison College and at Southwestern Seminary of Fort Worth. After graduation she became, in turn, Director of the Baptist Student Union at Radford College, Missouri State College and in New Mexico. She received her appointment to the Foreign Mission Field in December 1954 and sailed in February 1955 for Nigeria where she will complete ten years of enthusiastic and effective service this year.

Richard Lansey Horton, whom we know as "Lanny," was ordained in our church on July 25, 1965. The son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Horton and grandson of Mrs. R. W. Horton he has been a dedicated Christian since early boyhood and has directed his education toward ministerial work. With the willing help of his church he graduated from the University of Richmond and is currently attending the Theological Seminary in Louisville. He has recently accepted a call to the Sparta Baptist Church in Sparta, Ky. Rev. Walter Farrar preached the sermon of ordination with Revs. John S. Moore, John Brisendine, James Fox, William Tiffany and Messrs. T. S. Reynolds and Vernon Hudson taking part in the ceremony. His brother, James Horton, together with Ray Doyle and G. D. Fauber, Jr., sang an anthem.

Tommy Reynolds, son of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Reynolds and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Reynolds, and of Mrs. Eugene Driscoll McGuire, offered himself for service as a worker in relig-

ious music. He was educated here and at the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville. As a gifted musician and a very real Christian, he is now studying and serving in Durham, N. C.

Joseph Henry Liptrap is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Massie Liptrap and attended our church during his boyhood. He was educated here and at Richmond College. During his career he has been a teacher, a coach and has pastored several churches. He is now serving a congregation near Baltimore.

Robert Stover, another native son, had the good wishes as well as some financial aid from his church during his two years at Bluefield College. He left there to study in Georgia and is still active as a teacher and pastor in that state.

Miss Nadine Paxton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Paxton, is a very gifted and dedicated young woman, alive to the needs of her denomination and her community. She prepared herself for missionary service but circumstances beyond her control prevented this. She is married to Dr. Whitefield Rankin, son of missionary parents. They have two sons. Nadine lives nearby and serves her Lord with devotion and effectiveness. Mission fields are not necessarily in far away places.

Rev. John Kinsey, active in our area as a member of a different faith, found himself dissatisfied with his way of life and felt a call to the Baptist ministry. He requested that he be ordained in our church and was given that privilege by Rev. Connelly who conducted the ceremony on a Wednesday evening. He now serves near Winchester.

At this writing, two of our young men are studying to continue religious work in the ministerial field: Gilmer D. Fauber, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Fauber, and Donald W. Walker, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Walker.

Through the years there have been many others to offer their lives to the Master's service who have, for various reasons, been prevented from entering their chosen field. They labor as laymen with zeal and devotion.

So, tall they stand in the sunshine of God's love. We are justly proud of this wonderful band of consecrated workers and most grateful to the Lord of us all that He directed their steps in the path of His service.

As we return to our main road of travel we find Evangelist R. D. Garland had joined Mr. Green in a very effective meeting. The church had held a number of bazaars, Saturday Markets and Brunswick Stew Suppers. Since its beginning our church had been plagued by financial struggles. That we were not alone, we know from the following paragraph from Dr. Bales' History of the Clifton Forge Presbyterian Church. This expresses the difficulties so aptly that we quote it:

"The deacons seemed to be mainly concerned with raising the pastor's salary. In almost every meeting they struggled with a deficit in support of the minister or discussed the precarious financial condition of the church. Any very comprehensive conception of the great Biblical principles of Christian stewardship and sharing in the world-wide program did not find adequate expression in the official records." This was to be more or less true for us until we adopted the co-operative program and made a concerted effort to tithe our personal incomes.

Miss Louise Carpenter, on her return from a trip abroad in 1912, brought for the new Sunday School rooms a gold framed copy of Raphael's "The Madonna of the Chair." While in Paris, Miss Carpenter had acted upon a suggestion made by Mr. Green. She had had executed by a noted artist, E. Zelle, an oil painting showing a scene on the River Jordan. This painting was given to the church by Mrs. Sallie Carpenter in memory of her late husband, Mr. J. C. Carpenter, and placed over the baptistry there. Deacon Snead presented the picture for Mrs. Carpenter and Mr. Green accepted it on behalf of the church. Sara Donovan, the oldest Carpenter grandchild, unveiled it while the standing congregation sang the old hymn "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand."

This ceremony was of particular interest since it brought to a close the pastorate of Mr. Green. A farewell reception was given the Green family on Tuesday, June 10, 1913, in the church with Revs. Stevens, Paul, and Andrews on the program. Mr. Green had resigned to join the Adonirum Judson Centennial Fundraising Campaign for the Southern Baptist Mission Board. He later became Camp Director for that body.

In February of this year the Carpenter Cottage, built with money left by Mr. Carpenter for that purpose, at the Virginia Baptist Orphanage in Salem had been dedicated by Mr. Green.

Rev. R. T. Marsh came to us from Richmond College where he had helped raise a half million dollars for that institution. Throughout his ministry which began September 1, 1913, he served his people here faithfully although for some time he continued his work with Richmond College fundraising. He also edited "The Augusta Baptist."



Rev. Robert T. Marsh

In 1914 we ordered our first Duplex Envelope system for overall financing and in 1915 the lot next to the parsonage was bought; and Mr. George Davis and Mr. Green came back to preach for us.

In May, 1916 Mr. Marsh was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity, conferred upon him by a Missouri college. This year, too, we read from the church minutes: "The W.M.U., Auxiliary to the General Association of Virginia, met in annual session at this church November 7-11 inclusive with 281 delegates. By unanimous vote the church's appreciation was expressed to every resident of the city who in any way assisted in entertaining the delegates and especially to Mr. L. W. Farrier and Rev. J. Paul Tyler of the Methodist Church for their efforts in promoting an automobile trip to Covington for the entire delegation."

The next month a deputation of six young men from the University of Virginia came to Clifton Forge for three days of their Christmas holiday tour to do evangelism among the boys in our community. A committee was appointed to help them: E. D. Foster, Frank Davies, and E. A. Snead.

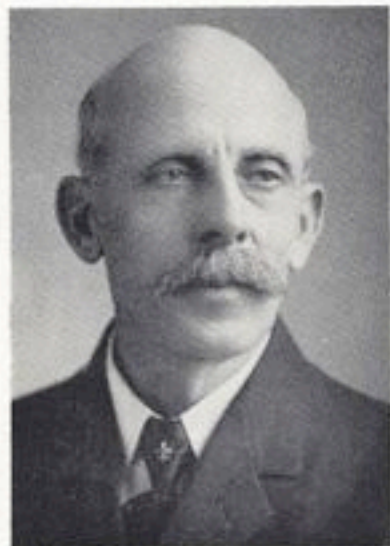
The Daily Review of October 9, 1916, reported an outstanding event:

MR. L. F. ALLEY HONORED BY BAPTISTS

Presented with Loving Cup in Recognition
of Success in Lifting Church Debt

"The congregation present at the morning services in the Bap-

tist Church Sunday received a surprise in that the order of the exercises was somewhat changed so as to permit those present to witness the last act in the payment of the church debt, which was accomplished through the activities of Mr. L. F. Alley, a member of the board of deacons. Speaking for Mr. Alley, Mr. F. W. King presented to Mr. John R. Payne, Jr., treasurer of the church, the cancelled bonds and the release deed, showing that every dollar due on the bonded indebtedness had been paid in full. Mr. King's remarks were very appropriate and much enjoyed by those present.



L. F. Alley

Before taking his seat Mr. King paid a high tribute to Mr. Alley for his faithfulness in raising the money that lifted the debt from the church. Mr. Payne accepted the bonds and release deed on behalf of the church, and said that he was sure the members of the church rejoiced with him in seeing the church free of debt.

With this part of the exercises concluded, the pastor, Rev. R. T. Marsh, presented Mr. Alley with a handsome silver loving cup with an appropriate inscription engraved thereon, a gift of appreciation on the part of several members of the church for the great service rendered by Mr. Alley in raising the more than \$16,000 that was necessary to

lift the mortgage on the church property. Mr. Marsh spoke at some length and said the members had a reason to be proud of the fact that the debt had been paid. The loving cup was handed to one of the deacons by the pastor and was conveyed to Mr. Alley through the hands of all the deacons present. Mr. Alley was taken by surprise and said that he was too much overcome to express his appreciation for the gift. He had not expected anything of the kind and had suggested that no demonstrations be made over his part in raising the money for the church, but the deacons and other friends decreed otherwise, hence the presentation as here reported.

At the close of the services a large number of people in the congregation inspected the loving cup and all were pleased with

its beauty, as well as the motive that prompted the donors in presenting it to Mr. Alley, for to him is due the credit of soliciting and collecting the money that had made the exercises Sunday morning possible. Mr. Alley has not only been congratulated on receiving a handsome present but for his untiring efforts towards freeing the Baptist Church of its entire indebtedness."

Mr. Alley was a charter member of our church and during his long life never ceased giving his best efforts in his Lord's work. His daughter, Mrs. Ira Payne says he gave to the church the first individual communion service.

The descendants of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Alley, charter members of our church who are active here today are Mrs. Lena Alley Payne, her daughter, Miss Catherine Payne, her eldest son, Ira J. Payne, Jr., his son Ira J. III, and daughter Eleanor Sue, and her second son Leonidas F. Payne and his daughter, Mrs. Mary C. Payne Higgins. Mr. Alley's elder daughter Miss Kate and his son William were quite active before they moved away from town.

In April 1917 there is recorded a letter from Mr. Marsh which presented a resolution to be sent from the church to Mr. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, asking him to use his authority to make the National Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic an emergency war measure to conserve the grain supply, and preserve the strength of the soldiers. This resolution was adopted by the congregation and sent to Washington. Rev. Marsh, along with Rev. George E. Davis spoke and wrote energetically in favor of prohibition. Mr. Marsh was also sincerely opposed to dancing, as many of his young people, the writer included, can testify. Mr. George W. Swope came to us for a meeting. There was much war activity and news. Our boys left to go into service and to Europe. This year the town felt the need of more school facilities and a large addition was added to the Moody School, built in 1896. This school system has developed over the years with the building of Old Jefferson in 1926, the High School in 1928, Jefferson Addition in 1951 and the High School Cafeteria in 1960. In 1965 the entire system was integrated and the names of the elementary schools changed.

In April 1918 Mr. Marsh resigned to return to Richmond College. The minutes immediately following show the church to be at a very low ebb in attendance and finances. There was a resolution passed that the minute books be put into shape and that records be kept more accurately in the future. We had no pastor and the

committee was having difficulty finding one. Rev. J. M. Roddy of Middleboro, Ky., was called but did not accept. At the request of many of our people, Mr. George Green was asked to return to minister to us. He came just in time to officiate at my wedding. That his second term was a time of general rejoicing is recorded on January 6, 1919. "Before the services closed Bro. Green, Mrs. Green, their daughter Bernice, and sons George McClure, James Edwin, and Thomas Coleman were heartily welcomed as members of the Clifton Forge Baptist Church upon letters of recommendation from the Second Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga."

In December, 1919, a stereopticon machine and new hymn books were purchased by a committee: J. B. Goodwin, Mrs. W. T. Hayth and J. W. C. Johnson and Treasurer John R. Payne, Jr., reported that our finances were in better condition than they had been for some time. This must have gone to our heads for in March, 1920, we bought our first automobile for the pastor's use, an Essex for \$1500. We celebrated the 25th anniversary of our pastor's ordination and Mr. Weldon Whitlock gave a concert for us.

On October 7, 1920, Mr. Green resigned to go to the First Baptist Church in Brownwood, Texas, although we had urged him to remain here. In December, Rev. H. B. Cross was called from Louisville, Ky. He accepted to begin his ministry the following May. Rev. W. C. Blair of Beckley, W. Va., became interim pastor.

For March 4, 1921, we read "It was a day of unusual enthusiasm, a bright and cloudless day and it seemed that God was pouring an especial blessing upon His people. Bro. Cross spent the day with us and left with a happy heart." There had been 534 in Sunday School, the largest attendance in our history. The men's Bible Class had had 123 present and 7 visitors. That class was taught by Ex-Senator F. L. King, of whom his men said "Bro. King is the best Sunday School teacher in the world."



Rev. Herbert Barclay Cross

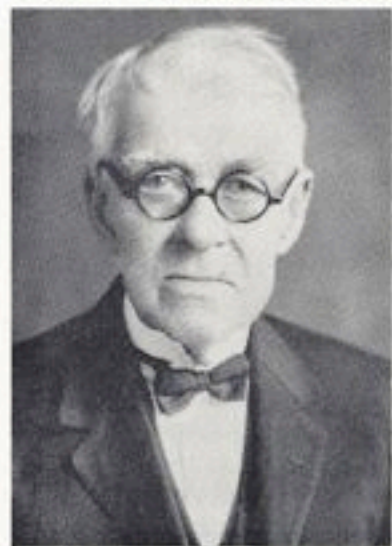
"Bro. J. W. C. Johnson, Superintendent of the school, is very much encouraged and happy over its growth. He commands the highest respect and warmest admiration of

every member, has worked faithfully in the interest of the school and his efforts have not been without avail."

When Mr. Cross came to stay in 1921, a party was given to honor Mr. Blair, as retiring pastor and Mr. Cross as incoming one. The address was made by the City Mayor, Mr. A. B. Davies and the ministers speaking were Revs. Sydnor, Long, Paul and Fultz. The W.M.S. served "bountiful refreshments."

In 1921, a need for a Young People's Worker was felt necessary and was answered for the first time. At the suggestion of Mr. Cross, Miss Alice Johnson of the Louisville Training School was employed at a salary of \$100 per month. During the next few years we held twilight services on the church lawn through the summer. Miss Bernice Kraft resigned as choir director; a permanent music committee was appointed; and Swinton Roadcap became leader of all congregational singing. Mr. Pilcher returned for a visit as the guest of the Ira Paynes and was thought to be "holding his age remarkably." The deacons voted to employ a lady to look after the small children during regular services.

In 1924, to stimulate a new interest in our deaconate, a progressive system of electing deacons was put into effect. The first to be elected in this manner were J. C. Downer, G. M. Farrar, R. J. Bursey, Dr. H. R. Thompson, G. M. Robinson, J. W. M. Paxton, M. G. Carroll, E. L. Crizer, J. W. Lipes, J. B. Goodwin, F. L. Johnson, W. T. Hayth, R. F. Felton, Ira J. Payne and W. T. Wade, Jr.



Thomas Edward Gibbs

Miss Johnson resigns, the first Mother's Day is noted and Rev. Wm. L. Ball, evangelist of Spartansburg, S. C. holds a very successful meeting. Thus we arrive at a very important date, Mr. Gibbs' 90th birthday. He was, at the time, the oldest citizen in town. Our celebration of the event was written for the Review on June 10, 1926. "The occasion marked the 90th birthday of Deacon T. E. Gibbs and a large crowd consisting chiefly of the membership of the church assembled to do him honor and to present him with some small tokens of their regard . . . Practically all of the deacons were present and extended

their hearty congratulations. After services a surprise party was given for the assembled crowd. Those attending were unanimously of the opinion that the evening had been one of the most interesting and happy events in our history." Deacon Gibbs served his church long and effectively. He left to it an invaluable legacy in his children, Mrs. Lucy Lawler, Mrs. Grace Lawler, Miss Lucy Gibbs and Mr. Herbert Gibbs, all of whom have followed their father's example in the Christian cause. In the choir or at the piano, they have been a joy to the congregation. His grandson David Moore is our newest deacon.

Later this year the church joined the Men's Bible Class to buy our first mimeograph machine and an acousticon was installed for the benefit of the deaf.

In January, 1927, there occurred one of the most spiritual events our church has ever experienced. W. Cary Barker, with Henry Collison as song leader, came to us for a revival meeting. Mr. Barker had been in business in Lynchburg until his conversion during a Billy Sunday campaign in that city in 1922. Now he was devoting his full time to evangelical work. And work it truly was for we note that each day during his stay here included a meeting at 10 a.m. in the business section of town, noon hour at the C&O Shops, prayer meeting in the homes at 3 p.m. and preaching at church in the evening.

The Review described him thus: "His appeal to the unsaved was touching and effective, his wonderful earnestness and great love for humanity won for him many friends in this community—The church was filled to overflowing at each service by those eager to hear his gospel message." One evening there had to be two services held for an estimated attendance of two thousand. This church added to its membership one hundred souls and many rededications.

As a result of this revival the men organized "The Men's Service Club" for the purpose of "advancing religious and uplift work in the city." At its first meeting, Rev. D. L. Blakemore, of the Methodist Church, spoke to 70 men. J. C. Carpenter, Jr., was elected president; W. T. Wade, Jr., vice-president; R. E. Sanders, secretary-treasurer and J. W. M. Paxton, W. H. Smith, Jr., J. W. Lipes, J. W. C. Johnson, J. C. Downer, W. F. Andrews and W. T. Hayth, Team Captains.

Rev. Cross was General Chairman of a Committee in charge

of a Union Revival in 1927, held in a tent on Commercial Street. The preacher was Rev. E. G. Caldwell, it lasted for three weeks and was attended by "a great throng of people from Iron Gate, Selma, Low Moor and Covington." They also had prayer services for men each day.

In March 1928, Mr. Cross resigned to go to the First Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky. In April the Cross family was honored with many gifts as tokens of love and appreciation by the church. The Kiwanis Club also gave Mr. Cross a farewell luncheon. Mrs. Cross subsequently was honored by being elected president of the W.M.U. of Virginia.

Just after it had been repaired and redecorated in 1928, the church was heavily damaged by fire. In the minutes for May 6, we find resolutions thanking the fire department for its prompt and efficient care. The loss, amounting to about \$5000, was fortunately covered by insurance. While the damaged area was being rebuilt, new Sunday School space was arranged.



Rev. Wirt L. Davis

Rev. Wirt L. Davis, Assistant Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Richmond, Va., was tendered a call in June, 1928.

This must have been about the time of the devastating cyclone which suddenly wrecked the Millboro neighborhood, for we find a note to the effect that Bro. Moore, pastor of Horeb, had reported that the storm had demolished their church house. He said he was seeking funds from the Red Cross.

In 1929, Mr. King gave the parsonage a new range; the church budget amounted to \$11,500 - \$7500 for current expenses, \$4000 for missions; the pastor requested that there be less talking during services; and some new communion glasses were bought.

1930—The Depression had arrived in full force. Contributions had fallen off. Our pastor requested no gifts be given to him during this period; Rev. H. W. Connelly came from Newport News to

preach for us for only \$25; and the deacons commenced their perennial complaint about the cost of coal. However, we honored our oldest deacon, Mr. Gibbs with a gift on his 95th birthday. In 1931, the custom of giving the Hand of Fellowship to all new members was resumed.

Rev. Henry A. Porter of Charlottesville came to join Rev. Davis in a two-week revival in 1932. We also celebrated our 50th anniversary. The Review says that this occasion was well attended in spite of the heavy rain and continues: "All the former Sunday School Superintendents were still living and all but two spoke." Mrs. E. A. Snead gave a short sketch of the Women's Work, Rev. Davis a brief history of the church and, in the evening, LeRoy Reynolds, O. S. Kittinger, W. H. Smith, Jr., and W. T. Wade, Jr., spoke for the B.Y.P.U. Rev. F. W. Long of the Christian Church greeted the attending members on behalf of the other denominations and Rev. John R. Fizer, our oldest living pastor preached. Greetings were read from former pastors, Revs. Green, Marsh and Cross and from Rev. Roy Angell.

As the depression continues the pastor offered to take a 10% cut in salary which offer was accepted, regretfully, by the deacons.

In May 1934, Mr. J. C. Carpenter, Jr., suggested that the church membership be divided into districts and that each deacon be made chairman of a committee to look after the welfare of the church members in his district in cases of illness, sorrow, or other misfortunes. This suggestion was adopted. Here, too, it is reported that the misbehavior of the boys at B.Y.P.U. had improved.

On March 24, 1935, the entire service, aside from the opening hymns and prayer, was devoted to a discussion of our financial condition. Deacon W. H. Smith, Jr., presided. The budget was \$10,435 and had to be raised, as well as money for other indebtedness. The coal bill was in arrears.

In May, Rev. Davis resigned after seven years of successful spiritual ministry. Three hundred fifty new members had been added to the roll; and in spite of the worse depression in history, the debt had been reduced from \$6000 to \$3500. Mr. Davis thanked the congregation for its goodness to himself, Mrs. Davis, Wirt, Jr., and Doris and announced that they were going to the First Baptist Church in Darlington, S. C.

On July 28th, Rev. H. W. Connelly preached for us and accepted the call which we had extended to him. When the Connelly



Rev. W. H. Connelly

family came in September to stay, the W.M.S. gave a reception for them in the Sunday School Auditorium. In the receiving line were Mesdames E. A. Snead, H. B. Scruggs, G. M. Robinson, T. G. Waldrop and H. M. Newcomb. About 250 attended. The Review tells us that the Kiwanis Club gave him an especial program of welcome with Mr. C. P. Nair, Jr., Leader, and Rev. Long and Mr. Botts Lewis as speakers.

The first important item reported thereafter was the installation of the Unified Budget System with the fervent hope that it would solve our financial difficulties. We also voted to aid families in our communities who were on relief.

On May 11, 1936, because of the crowded condition of our Sunday School, a special committee composed of John R. Payne, Jr., W. H. Smith, Jr., and W. T. Wade, Jr., presented the following report: "We recommend the purchase of the Johnson property on the Southside of the church which consists of a fifty-foot lot with all buildings for the sum of \$7,500. This price is considered less than the original price asked," signed J. W. M. Paxton, clerk. This recommendation was adopted without a dissenting vote.

This year our records show that Mrs. L. R. Rogers nee Emma Hayth was elected organist. One of our own girls, she was well qualified, musically and spiritually. She continued to serve her church in all its phases with warmth, skill and devotion until her death.

On September 27, 1936, the congregation heard a series of recommendations from the deacons, approved them and prepared plans to erect a new Sunday School Addition at an estimated cost of \$54,000 on the lot bought for the purpose. By this time our bills had been paid and we were feeling fine. Mr. J. W. C. Johnson was authorized to have bonds prepared to issue for building funds. John R. Payne, Jr., and J. C. Carpenter, Jr., completed his committee. At this time the Men's Bible Class asked to be allowed to

convert the present Sunday School assembly hall into a meeting room for themselves to be named The King Memorial Class Room. This was in honor of Ex-Senator F. W. King, deceased, who had



Floyd L. King

been their teacher for a quarter of a century. Mrs. King expressed her appreciation and approval of such action. The family of Mr. King remodeled the room and provided the chairs and two of the stained glass windows. Another window was given by Mr. A. C. Ford, a fourth by Mr. W. A. Haley and the oil portrait of Mr. King by the Virginia Public Service Company.

New light fixtures for the sanctuary were presented in memory of Dr. Ernest Griffith by his widow, Mrs. Griffith, and a suitable bronze name plate put in the vestibule. Mr. R. S. Littrell volunteered to install these fixtures at no cost

to the church. Both Mrs. Griffith and Mr. Littrell were sincerely thanked.

In the January, 1937, minutes we read sorrowfully the resolutions at the death of Mr. W. F. Powell. "Bro. Powell was one of our oldest members and has been active from the beginning. He was our Sunday School Superintendent for 25 years and a deacon for almost that long." This year, too, on becoming a deacon, Stanley Nichols promptly organized a Tithing Club—where did it go?

On May 23, 1937, special services were held in the new Sunday School building at 11 a.m. with an attendance of 639 persons. This meeting was marked by the presentation of several memorials and gifts. Mrs. George T. Davis and Miss Elise Davis of Charlottesville, former active members here, presented a six-piece pulpit set in memory of Mr. Davis. The pastor, Mr. Connelly, acted for Mrs. Davis and the gift was accepted on behalf of the church by W. T. Wade, Jr. Miss Davis gave a completely furnished classroom in the new building as a tribute to her mother who had taught in our Sunday School for so many years.

Mrs. E. G. Payne gave the lighting equipment for the Junior Department as a memorial to her family. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. M.

Paxton provided the furnishings for a classroom in memory of their son, William. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. VanLear, as a memorial to their daughter Mary, equipped a room in the Intermediate Department. D. G. McCool's family provided furniture for a room in the Junior Department. The R. L. Glover and H. R. VanLear families equipped a room in the Junior Department. The children of Mrs. Willie Wilkerson furnished a room as a tribute to their mother, a teacher for many years. Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Westerman gave a gas range for the kitchen. Mr. Wade gave the tile for the vestibule. Other pieces of furniture were given by members and friends.

The formal dedication of this new addition took place the next month on June 6 at which time letters from four former pastors were read and Rev. J. R. Bryant of Richmond preached. Messrs. J. W. M. Paxton, W. H. Smith, Jr., and C. W. Barger, the building contractor, and Rev. Connelly spoke briefly.

In 1938 Gipsy Smith, the evangelist, came to town for a revival meeting in the High School Auditorium; for the first time we had the benefit of a ministerial student during the summer months in the person of Mr. Billy Ball; we bought additional communion cup holders since our attendance at services had increased; we thanked Mr. George M. Farrar, Jr., for continuing the gift of the sacrament in honor of his father who had supplied it until his death; and there was a concerted effort by all the denominations to emphasize regular church attendance by the distribution of small pink cards to every man, woman and child in the city. On this card was printed "Come! Bring Others! Let your light shine! Church Going Families Are Happy Families!"

During the next year we adopted the Ministerial Retirement Plan; we bought our first choir vestments; Mr. Spatig called attention to and tried to correct the "confusion and racket in the gallery during evening services;" the Men's Bible Class reported an average attendance of 83½ percent for the year 1939. Nine men, Messrs. E. A. Huntington, R. G. Howard, C. D. Youmans, J. N. Karnes, E. J. Miller, N. C. Paxton, T. T. Tucker, B. A. Hoyleman and L. P. Burchett were 100%. Mr. Stanley Nichols was superintendent at the time and Mrs. Connelly was their teacher.

On September 13, 1942, we celebrated two seventh anniversaries, Mr. Connelly's pastorate and Mrs. Connelly's years of teaching our men. This year, too, small Testaments were given to our boys entering military service; the bulletin for May 10 was dedi-

cated to Mrs. W. T. Tayth, who was ill; Mr. Emmett Honts held our revival meeting and the pastor spoke on the Presidents Proclamation for a Day of Prayer on January 1, 1943. There is a note saying that we had ordered two honor roll boards at this time.

February 13, 1944, Mr. Connelly asked that a special effort be made immediately to wipe out all of our existing debt. The next month we invited Miss Virginia Hagood to become our Youth Director and Dr. Chester Swor came to hold a Spiritual Emphasis Week.

The following October Mr. Connelly resigned to go to Richmond to assume the duties of Superintendent of Evangelism and Enlistment for Virginia. During his years with us, 784 members were added to our roll and our debt was paid. In the years since Mr. Connelly has organized and helped to build homes for eight churches in the Roanoke area and aided 26 others. According to a letter just received from him he still preaches every Sunday and hopes to pay us a visit on his very first free weekend.

In December 1944, a notice appears in a bulletin as follows: "We shall hold a special service where ten ministers will participate and we shall burn the note on the new building. Dr. Ray McCullough of Covington will preach and there will be other interesting features." This must have occurred while we were pastorless since on December 31, the bulletin carried a picture of the burning ceremony.



Rev. Welford Brooks

This year we made a liberal contribution to the Chapel at Louisville Seminary; called, ineffectually, a Dr. Smith of Roanoke, who suggested the name of Rev. Welford Brooks as a possible candidate; we endorsed the proposed bestowal of an honorary D.D. Degree upon Mr. Connelly; and we adopted resolutions endorsing Miss Nadine Paxton in her application for a scholarship. Miss Paxton wished to study to become a missionary nurse on the Foreign Field.

This year, too, a call as supply pastor was extended Mr. Brooks who accepted. He preached his first

sermon on December 17, at which time he and his family were given a cordial welcome by the church. He was especially interested in the Training Union, the organization which had superseded the B.Y.P.U. Both he and Mrs. Brooks fostered its growth throughout their ministry. The Sweetheart Banquet was started by them, as was the custom of giving small Testaments to our High School graduates. His dearest wish was for a youth center for Clifton Forge.

In 1945, we find that the question of memorial plaques for Service Men continued to come up. A committee was appointed to look into the matter and straighten it out. However, work on the plaque for World War II was postponed until the war was officially over. This time never came.

This year Mrs. S. C. Stone became our financial secretary. She has held, with efficient dedication, this position ever since with the exception of one year, 1948, when Miss Fanny Duncan performed the duties. The budget had grown to the sum of \$22,050. We gave \$500 to the Richmond University Chapel and repaired our own organ. At the pastor's suggestion, a Constitution and By-Laws was adopted by which the deacons might better perform their duties and a church council was recommended. Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Hagood, brother and sister-in-law of Virginia's, went to Syria as missionaries. Bible teachings in the Public Schools was discussed.

On July 8, 1946, Miss Hagood resigned to join her brother on the Foreign Fields. Soon after she left us she lost most of her possessions by fire. We sent her \$250 as a love gift. We invested in our first Visual Education equipment.

The next year we hear the first mention of raising funds to build a Baptist Home for Old Folks. This talk grew into our present beautiful facility in Culpeper. We secure permission from our radio station to broadcast our morning service for a year at no cost to us. Mr. Schellhouse comes to us to direct the choir. We present Nadine with a going away gift when she leaves to begin her training in religious work. And, an anonymous donor gives us a dinner service which we accept with pleasure. It was sorely needed.

After Miss Hagood's departure, we had three Music Directors come and go in rapid succession, Miss Marian Withers in 1947, Miss Grace Lovelace in 1948, and Miss Norma Jane Wier in 1950. For two weeks during his 1950 vacation our pastor exchanged homes and ministerial duties with Rev. W. W. Hasty, pastor of the

Wallace Baptist Church of Wallace, N. C. This novel procedure proved very satisfactory to all concerned.

In our search through a wide area of Christian opportunity and achievement, we are faced with a narrow road of dwindling records. Evidently there was felt no great necessity for the detailed minutes which we had hitherto enjoyed. Life has become too hurried and the hours are too full. Our clippings had given out. We had to dig a way forward among collateral accounts and other sources. During these later years, the work of our church has gone on in abundance even though little has been written about it.

From the itemized record that Mr. E. A. Huntington kept as Chairman of the Building Committee, along with Messrs. N. C. Paxton and R. S. Littrell during 1947-54, we found invaluable information to add to our few clippings and brief minutes.

In 1947, when the church was remodeled our carpet and sub-floors were installed. A year later the balcony was carpeted, Mr. Brooks refused an offer of a new car, the organ chimes were played for the first time and Mr. Brent Miller presented us with a new speaker's stand.

In 1949, the Men's Bible Class chose the Sunday closest to his birthday, May 4, to celebrate as "Deacon Snead's Day." All attending men wore red neckties and a picture of the class was taken.

This custom was continued each year until Mr. Snead's death at 96 in 1953.

On April 3, the Methodist Church was almost totally destroyed by fire but was rebuilt so promptly that it was reoccupied on April 22, 1951.

On January 29, 1951, Miss Marian Davis was called to be our Minister of Music. There is a welcome here and a lovely tribute to her from the First Baptist Church of Columbus, Mississippi, in the bulletin for February 11. This bulletin also announced that Rev. Roy Angell would preach at the evening service. This was a rare privilege and he was warmly received. The



Deacon E. A. Snead

church voted to spend as much as \$13,000 on a complete overhaul of the organ and the carpet was restretched and mothproofed.

This year Mr. Brooks recommended that a safe for the preservation of church records be obtained and resolutions were passed protesting against sending a U. S. Ambassador to the Vatican. We sent a love gift to Paul Stanley and asked Roy Angell to hold our next fall revival. However, before this plan matured, Mr. Brooks resigned on July 11, 1952; and it was thought an inopportune time to conduct such a meeting. Mr. Brooks' last Sunday was September 7, when he was honored with a Union Service in which all of the city churches participated. Seven hundred people were present to hear him preach on "One Great Fellowship of Love." Mayor Whiting, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Carpenter and Revs. Hunt, Renn, Long and Bales expressed regret at his leaving. After service everyone was invited to an informal reception in the King Memorial. Mr. Brooks has spent a great part of the intervening years ministering most successfully to the Baptists of West Point, Virginia.

Mr. Connelly filled our pulpit in October, 1952; and on November 9, Dr. V. W. Sears was called from Appomattox, Va., and came.

We were without an organ during this spring and summer of



Dr. V. W. Sears

1953 while it was being rebuilt and electrified by Mr. Mark E. Wetzel. On October 11, the rededication recital was held at 3 P.M. with Mr. Roger B. Arnold, M.M.S of Roanoke at the console and there were 221 present. During the next several years we repair our stained glass windows, plant evergreens at the church and parsonage, have a record Sunday School attendance of 732 and make an effort to secure a combination Training Union Director and Church Secretary. We recommend William E. Hutchison, son of Mrs. J. T. Hutchison, as a student at the Southern Baptist Seminary, adopt our present church covenant, and receive the bequest of a piano from Mrs. Everett. We also find

ourselves a part of the new Natural Bridge Association which was formed when the Augusta Association had become too widespread.

The bulletin for October 9, 1955, is captioned "Mrs. Bessie Johnson Day" in honor of a lifetime member, Mrs. F. L. Johnson. Her faithful Christian career began in our church with her baptism in 1888 and continued until her departure in 1955. The Vignette ends with the words "We'll miss you 'Mrs. Bessie' but you go with the best wishes of our hearts and our prayers. We count it a privilege to dedicate this bulletin to you."

During this period the church was asked to consider starting a mission in the neighborhood. This was approved and a building was rented from Mr. Karl Bomar in Clifftondale Park. Possibly the location was too near our main church, or for some other reason this project did not prosper long in spite of some individual interests.

In January 1957 permission was given to Dr. Sears to go in March, with other ministers, on an evangelical tour of Jamaica. The next year a resolution was offered to the church that the present parsonage be sold and a new one built. This proposition was vetoed by a very close vote, and the home on McCormick Boulevard was extensively remodeled.

Dr. Sears resigned very suddenly to leave immediately on January 30, 1958, for Annandale, Virginia. During his ministry here the roll was increased by 254, a new Young Adult Department was added to the Sunday School and a three-year rotation plan in church administration which limited jobs and offices to one to a person was installed. Dr. Sears also felt that Clifton Forge badly needed a city youth recreation program.

In February Rev. W. H. Thompson of Culpeper, Va., came to us as Interim Pastor. He and his wife were warm and friendly ministers for the Master and created a lasting place in our hearts. On August 3 they were given a farewell reception under the direction of Mrs. Frank Woolwine, Chairman of the Social Committee. The bulletin for this day carried two items of interest. First, "that the offering plates now being used in the sanctuary were given by Mrs. Jean Woolwine Cliff in memory of her father, Mr. Frank Woolwine." Second that "our new pastor, Rev. W. E. Farrar will be with us for prayer service on August 13 and then on August 17 he will preach at the morning and evening services. Immediately following the evening service there will be a reception in the King

Memorial for Mr. and Mrs. Farrar. All members are invited to attend." Rev. Farrar came from the Ivy Memorial Baptist Church in Newport News, Virginia.

In January 1959 the Trustees are authorized to borrow the money for the purchase of the Otto-Howlett property next door to the church. Miss Margory Reynolds is asked to become Educational Director; and at the request of our pastor, we approve T. E. D. Farrar as a student for the ministry and recommend him to the Virginia Baptist Board of Missions and Education.

The year 1961 will live in our memory as the year Rev. Roy Angell of Miami, Fla., came to conduct our fall revival beginning October 15. As an evangelist he was outgoing, consecrated and compelling. As a friend he was most welcome and beloved. He inspired many hearts here for a larger Christian effort and left with our warm wish that he might soon return.

On January 24, 1962, we adopted a plan for Family Night at our Wednesday prayer meeting. This, altho enjoyable, lasted for only about a year. During this year Evangelist Jack Noffsinger held a revival, Mr. Vernon Hudson, clerk, asked for permission to set up new files and put the church roll in order. After Miss Joanne Clark resigned as choir director, Mr. Ted Farrar was appointed to that position on a temporary basis. Miss Reynolds resigned as Youth Director and Mrs. Helen Carter resigned as organist after several years of successful service. November 11 was designated as Loyalty Sunday with all pledges to be signed. Those members not responding would be contacted by letter. In addition to the pledges we would have two love offerings yearly—at Easter and at Thanksgiving. The pastor suggested that a printed Treasurer's Report be included in the bulletin. Mr. Ted Farrar was appointed organist and director of the three choirs on a permanent basis and we sent money to Miss Polly VanLear to purchase a microphone as a Christmas present from home.

The year 1963 starts out on a high note, for in January we have an historic collection for a single Sunday, \$2,084. During this month the pastor suggested that the church be remodeled and that bonds be sold for the purpose. A Memorials Committee was appointed as well as a Survey and Planning Committee whose duty it was to survey the physical needs of the church and make recommendations from time to time. This committee consisted of Messrs. E. C. Westerman, Earl Green, G. G. Agnor, J. E. Marshall and R. S.

Littrell. The recommendation that we buy a new Steinway Grand piano was defeated but we did acquire an addressograph machine.

After many discussions over a long period of time concerning our pipe organ, in April 1963 it was decided to ask the Southern Baptist Convention expert to come here, survey it and advise us on the best thing to do. On October 21, Mr. Samuel Shanko, Instrumental Specialist, found the organ worthy of repair. Others were consulted but the complete overhaul is very expensive. January 9, 1964, the Deacons and Music Committee recommended that a new organ be purchased for the sanctuary. A congregational meeting was called especially to consider the question, at which time the recommendation was defeated by a 2 to 1 written ballot. The matter remains active and solutions are sought but costs are prohibitive. In February Mr. Cliff Booker, Chairman of the Music Committee, suggested that the organ be repaired; and in March, a contract was signed with Mr. M. E. Wetzel for annual upkeep.

On September 12, 1963, Mrs. Ernestine Black Stinnett was taken from us very suddenly. The wife of one of our deacons, Mr. O. C. Stinnett, and twin sister of Mrs. Pauline Black Surber, she was an indefatigable worker in the choir, the Sunday School and the W.M.U. Our beautiful altar set was presented in her memory by her husband who also gave her piano to the Sunday School.

This year, too, our pastor was elected by the Baptist General Association of Virginia as Trustee of the Virginia Baptist Children's Home and in 1964 he had the great honor of being elected for a three year term as the Virginia representative on the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Survey Committee recommended improvements for the pastorium and as an immediate must, the correction and adjustment for the erratic heating system in the church. Termites had been found in the Beginners Department. The Primary Rooms were structurally rearranged by the contractor Bernard Evans and new equipment bought. Our ministerial student, Lanny Horton, conducted a Youth Revival and our pastor urged a greater emphasis on prayer in our church programs. The question of seating visiting negroes at church service came up for the first time. It was moved and carried that they be seated. During 1963 Mr. Farrar has an enforced visit to the hospital, but he is back with us soon.

In 1964 our pastor asked for time off to go to South Dakota with a preaching mission, the church to pay \$300. This request

was granted. In July we send a large group of our young people to Music Week at Ridgecrest. Mr. Farrar asks that we make a concerted effort to gain more tithers in order that we may keep up our obligations at home without the necessity of cutting down our gifts to missions. It was decided to put aluminum siding on the pastorium at a cost of \$2477.77 and to revise our fire protection program. The pastor was checking on office safes for our records.

In January 1965 Mr. Farrar asked to be given his vacation early in the year in order that he might serve as chaplain on the S. S. Brazilia during an Iberian cruise. This request was, of course, granted.

In February we lost one of our older members who had given devoted Christian service to her church and continued to show her love even after death. A letter was read to the congregation saying that Mrs. Given M. Robinson had left one-half of her estate to the church. After careful consideration this bequest was placed in the bank to be used at some future time as a memorial to both Mr. and Mrs. Robinson.

During this year we have placed hearing aids in some of the pews for use by the deaf. Miss Marian Davis came back for a visit. Dr. James P. Wesberry of Atlanta, Ga., joined Mr. Farrar in our revival beginning September 27th. We decided to mail bulletins to each church family during the previous week, donated surplus chairs to the Fairlea Baptist Church and at long last on November 3, 1965, acquired a safe which has been installed in the business office for the preservation of our records. Eureka.

On these pages we have set down with all possible accuracy the happenings in our church throughout its long life. The leaders who functioned in these events have been faithfully noted as they appeared in the records. These leaders were able to perform their duties only because they were supported by a vast company of consecrated loyal Christians. The church is the whole congregation. The work of the church progresses only by means of the prayers, the interest and actual work of each member in his place. These many names and deeds are eternally inscribed in the Book of Life and have no need to be listed here.

This day, November 6, 1965, brings our journey over 83 years of Christian progress to the crossroads where a familiar past meets the future. This past we have traveled together with unfaltering faith. May our church continue into the future with loyalty to each

other and a steadily increasing devotion to Almighty God's commands.

"His truth is marching on"



Mrs. Michael Ham

Women of the Church

By Jennie Snead Wysor

The Women's Missionary Society of the Clifton Forge Baptist Church was organized on November 10, 1885, during the pastorate of the first regular minister, Rev. S. F. Chapman. In 1884, there had been a meeting of a committee of men from the church in the home of Mr. Michael Ham to "permit and authorize" the women of the church to form a Missionary band. Mrs. Ham, the mother of Mrs. J. W. Hatch, then invited those ladies interested to have their first meeting in her parlor, where they organized the society with Mrs. A. M. Jordan, President; Mrs. Ham, Vice-President and Miss Louise Savins, Secretary and Treasurer. This first group must have become inactive at some time, although we have its consecutive minutes for 1893-94 signed by Mrs. Witte, Mrs. Willie Wilkerson and Mrs. A. B. Davies, as secretaries.

The next records show that the society was re-organized in 1897 with the advent of Rev. John Barker as pastor. Mrs. Barker was President; Mrs. J. C. Carpenter, Vice-President; Mrs. J. M. Jordan, Secretary and Mrs. Witte, Treasurer. Their written constitution stated their objectives in almost the identical words of our present one. The first recorded meeting of this period was on March 21, 1901, in the home of Mrs. John Graves, daughter of Mrs. Ham, with sixteen members present. The subject for discussion was "Cuba."

Following the custom of most early missionary societies, a large part of their work was in packing and shipping substantial boxes of clothes, mostly used, and food for missionary families on the foreign field and the home frontier. The fostering of a greater knowledge of world missions, their needs and accomplishments, has grown through the years until, at present, study, along with our prayers and gifts, is the society's major project. We must learn about missions more thoroughly that we may see the need to give more of our time, our money and ourselves to our great commission.

In the meantime, on April 1, 1885, we read from its first minute book—"We, the Ladies of the Baptist Church have organized an Aid Society. The proceeds are to be appropriated to the Baptist Church of Clifton Forge, Virginia. The following members were

present: Mrs. S. E. Wright, Mrs. L. H. Williams, Mrs. Tranquilla Ham, Miss Annie Byrd, Mrs. S. W. Goodwin, Mrs. Mollie J. Thomasson, Miss Mattie Hughes, Miss Nettie Jordan, Miss Bell Mustoe, Misses Mattie and Ella Bosewell and Mrs. J. Butler." Signed by Mrs. Hettie Ham (Jett) Huddlestun (a sister of Mr. Ham), Treasurer, and Mrs. A. M. Jordan, President. The money received that day was one dollar, which was to be expended on cotton cloth, thread, and trimmings for 1 skirt, 1 chemise, 3 aprons, and 2 bonnets. This meeting was in Mrs. Ham's hospitable parlor.

On April 8, 1909, the Aid Society celebrated its 24th Anniversary in the home of Mrs. J. W. Hatch with the original president, Mrs. Jordan, and three other charter members present. Mrs. W. A. Haley was president at that time and Mrs. B. A. Pettecrew was secretary, as she had been from almost the beginning. Mrs. Pettecrew was an aunt of Mrs. J. W. M. Paxton, Mr. E. C. Westerman and Mr. Herbert Hicks. We quote the following excerpts from a brief resume' of the twenty-four years which was read at this meeting. "They were assembled in the home of Mrs. Tranquilla Ham, a woman of beautiful character, who gave her time and strength to Christian work, not only for her church, but for all with whom she was associated, ministering to the needs of all who needed help and giving comfort and consolation to all when the opportunity was afforded. She has passed to her reward and received the welcomed plaudits." This history of the Aid Society goes on to say: "The work begun was increased as time passed; and from a struggling little band which gathered in Mrs. Ham's parlor, the society has grown to its present membership. The work done by the Ladies Aid is too well known to make it necessary to be mentioned in this paper. From the little wooden building on Main Street in which all denominations worshipped, the Baptist group has gone first to the church on Main Street, which was sold to the colored Baptists, from thence to the commodious and beautiful building on McCormick Avenue. Much of this progress is due to the work and efforts of the Aid Society, and we have more to be thankful for than we asked in our prayers twenty-four years ago." We are not certain who wrote this history, but we think it was Mrs. Jordan.

This Society was active until, in 1922, it consolidated with the Missionary Society to form the Woman's Auxiliary. In 1900 the Ladies Aid undertook the job of wiring the main auditorium of our present church for electric lights at a total cost of \$121.00.

There is a beautiful tribute to Mrs. Joseph B. Driscoll who died in 1916 during her term as president. These resolutions tell of her dedicated life and work in her Lord's service and were signed by Mrs. R. T. Marsh, Mrs. E. A. Snead and Mrs. H. M. Newcomb. The silver cup now used by the W.M.S. to promote monthly attendance was originally given to the Ladies Aid by Mrs. Driscoll in 1916. In 1922, Mrs. Bessie Payne Johnson had it restored for the W.M.S. Mrs. Driscoll was the mother of Mrs. Kenneth McGuire and a grandmother of Mrs. LeRoy Reynolds.

The final recorded meeting of this society was in August, 1921, with 60 members, a yearly average attendance of 57% and an income for the year of \$1474.87, of which sum \$1298.94 was

spent in the interest of the local church. Mrs. Hayth was president at the time and Mrs. Bessie Johnson, Mrs. Candy Carroll, Mrs. J. B. Goodwin, Mrs. Anchews and Mrs. Davis were Circle Captains. That they were called "captains" is, to me, a very interesting and informative item.

Mrs. B. A. Petticrew was still secretary after many years of service. When she moved her home to Lynchburg, she left her scrupulously kept minute books with her neighbor, Mrs. Josephine Gardner Lacy, who passed them on into the care of the church where they are safely stored along with an almost full continuity of Missionary Society records.



Mrs. J. C. Carpenter, Sr.

That the methods of the Ladies Aid for making money were varied and numerous we know from records and memories. There are several leaflets telling of ice cream parties on the Westerman's wide lawn as well as other places, Brunswick stew suppers, bazaars for selling handwork and food, and at least one Tom Thumb Wedding in which little John Corstaphney was so overcome by the magnitude of his job as groom that he became actively ill. These projects kept the women constantly interested in their infinitely worthy purpose and in each other. The results, the Church, and

the personal religious life of the participants profited immeasurably.

The progress of the women's work is summed up in a brief history written in 1930 by Mrs. E. A. Snead, our president for so long. We quote: "In 1919 we had 78 names on our rolls with only 18 active members. The Society was divided into five circles known as "Cheer All," "West End," "Daughters of Hope," "Royal Service," and a "Young Woman's Circle." All members paid ten cents per month dues. That year we gave \$544.48 to missions.

"In January 1922 (during the Rev. H. B. Cross's pastorate), the Missionary Society and The Ladies Aid Society merged to form our present Women's Auxiliary. This society takes in all of the women's work in the church and every resident woman who is a member of this church is automatically a member. Our objective is to direct the religious energies of the women and young people of the church into some definite line of effort and to promote a systematic study of missions. To accomplish this we try each year to hold a church Institute to enlist the interest and cooperation of the whole church, including the young people and children in some phase of mission study and activity. We also have directed mission study classes as we observe the three seasons of prayer for Home, State and Foreign Missions. In 1922, we gave \$2,604.30. Our Auxiliary is fully graded with the following societies: Y.W.A.'s Int., G.A.'s, Jr. G.A.'s, R.A.'s and Sunbeams. For the past five years we have had an A-1 Union, having secured

banners from the State Office for making every point on the Standard of Excellence. At this time we have 225 women on roll, 170 active, and our average attendance is 100. We have twelve circles and last year, 1931, gave \$2,750.00 to missions."

During the next nineteen years, Mrs. Snead remained in the office of president with continued success in meeting the requirements of the State Standards and in attaining a high rate of attendance. In 1950, because of her years and declining health, she found that she could no longer do justice to the work, and



Mrs. E. A. Snead

retired. That year, to express their appreciation for her devoted service, the members of the W.M.S. presented a gift in her honor of \$200 to the Boatwright Memorial Library at the University of Richmond. Mrs. E. D. Fout became the next president. Mrs. Snead's President's Pin was given, after her death, to the W.M.S. by her daughter, Mrs. Wysor, to be worn in turn by each president during her regime. When Mrs. J. A. Tolley became president she gave a pin to be worn monthly by the circle leader with the best attendance at the regular meeting.

In 1950, adhering to the Virginia policy, the name of the women's organization was changed to The Woman's Missionary Union which includes the W.M.S. and all of the young people's groups except the boys R.A.'s. The following year we revised our constitution to limit the term of officers, committee chairmen, etc., to two years. This limit was eventually increased to a possible three years.

Through the seventy years of its life the society has had thirteen presidents: Mrs. John Barker, Mrs. E. A. Snead, Mrs. H. M. Newcomb, Mrs. W. R. Helvestine, Mrs. George Green, Mrs. Helvestine again, Mrs. Snead a second time, Mrs. E. D. Fout, Mrs. LeRoy Reynolds, Mrs. J. W. M. Paxton, Mrs. F. L. Wysor, daughter of Mrs. Snead, Mrs. W. M. McPherson, Mrs. W. B. Evans, Mrs. J. A. Tolley and Mrs. W. Kent Ford, a daughter of Mrs. Green. The two groups which form our Natural Bridge Association are named for two of our members, Mrs. H. M. Newcomb and Mrs. Willie Wilkerson. Mrs. Newcomb was superintendent of the Augusta Association for many years before it was divided to form the Natural Bridge Association in 1954. Both ladies were active on several capacities in the State as well as the local level.

During the years, we have had two Virginia State Presidents from our membership, Mrs. John Barker and Mrs. H. B. Cross, both pastors' wives. Mrs. George Davis held many offices in South Carolina and worked untiringly throughout her long life. Mrs. Barker, after serving with Mr. Barker in Brazil, also was President of the W.M.U. of the Southern Baptist Convention.

We may boast of at least two memorable events. In 1905 we were honored by a visit from Miss Annie Armstrong for whom our Home Mission Week Prayer is named in commemoration of her work in State Office and on the mission field. And, in 1916, we had the privilege of entertaining the State W.M.U. This meeting was on

November 7-11 inclusive and the minutes for November 23, 1916, read in part as follows: "It was a success, as far as we know. There were 300 delegates and visitors and everyone seemed highly pleased with the entertainment, the Church, and the services. It was a fine body of women both in appearances and intellect." Mrs. Newcomb was president at the time and Mr. R. T. Marsh, pastor.

At present we have 159 active members and eleven circles. Several times in the past few years we have met the Virginia requirements for an advanced Society. We have a thriving Mission Study Round Table that meets every two months. Our Young People Societies are completely active. We take our magazines and Open Windows to the local hospitals, cooperate with the White Cross and do personal service at the city nursing homes as well as among our needy citizens.

We cannot fully conclude a history of our Women's Missionary Union without giving credit and "plaudits" to the many wonderful workers, both in office and as members, who have gone to make up the societies through the years. Each one has had her place and given her mite, great and small. Each one's name is properly placed in the heavenly rolls. For us to try to call them all would be impossible and to name even one out of context with the necessary facts would be unfair to the others. The progress made has been because of the prayers of the many as well as the few.

Now let us pray and trust that the dedicated women who met so long ago to bequeath to us His work through the Women's Missionary Society are sitting beside our Lord in Glory and saying along with Him the words "Well Done."

The Sunday School

By Ruth and Leroy Reynolds



Mr. W. H. Powell

As far back as 1879 a little band of Baptists met together for worship service and Sunday school. The present day Sunday school was organized in 1884 with Mr. W. H. Powell as Superintendent. He served the Sunday School faithfully, at two intervals, for 25 years. Mr. Powell was followed by Mr. F. W. King and through the years up to the present the superintendents have been as follows:

Mr. W. H. Smith, Jr.
Mr. J. W. C. Johnson
Mr. J. W. M. Paxton
Mr. J. W. Lipes
Mr. W. H. Smith, Jr. (Second term)
Mr. Stanley Nichols
Mr. Leroy Reynolds
Mr. Earl Green
Mr. Gilmer Fauber
Mr. Ralph Sebastian

Around 1891 the average Sunday school attendance was 99.

It is interesting to note in some of the old church monthly papers: In 1905 the church held a Christmas Sunday School Festival with Santa Claus for the little ones. Another interesting feature was the Sock Socials held on the Westerman lawn by the Sunday School Class, No. 4. The guests brought a little sock with pennies, the amount determined by multiplying your size by two.

In April 1907 the Sunday School had its largest attendance to that date. The motto was "200 members by August."

The crowded condition of the Sunday School (1911) in the main auditorium inspired the Pastor, Rev. George Green to lay plans for a Sunday School addition. Mr. J. C. Carpenter, Sr., donated eighteen feet of land on the north side of the church. On Sunday September 22, 1912 the Sunday School met in the Sunday School addition for the first time. Dedication Service was held on Sunday, October 20, 1912 at 11:00 A.M.

The second addition on the south side, our present Sunday School building, was built in 1937 during Rev. W. H. Connelly's term as minister. Many of us remember the little red church banks and the many memorials that helped pay for the new Sunday School building. In 1936 the old Sunday School Assembly room was changed to the Mens Bible Class and renamed King Memorial in honor of F. W. King who was the teacher for many years.

After our new building was erected Rev. and Mrs. Connelly put on a Sunday School enlargement campaign causing the attendance to pass the 800 mark.

The Sunday School has had many faithful dedicated teachers down through these years. There are too many to name but we are sure that they have not been forgotten by the ones they have taught.

Baptist Young People's Union

By Merle and Massie Paxton

The earliest record of a B.Y.P.U. in the Clifton Forge Baptist Church has been found in a minute book dated 1893. We quote from this book as follows, "This organization known as The Baptist Young Peoples Union of The Clifton Forge Baptist Church was organized Sunday, October 15th, 1893. Upon a motion made by Brother J. C. Carpenter, Sr., it was adopted that the following named officers be elected to serve six months; President; Bro. J. N. Karnes; Vice President, Bro. George Swan; Secretary, E. G. Karnes; Corresponding Secretary, Sister Gussie Bailey; Treasurer, Sister Josie Payne."

The roll carried a list of eighty five members. These were all adults. This minute book carried reports up to and through December 20th, 1896, which meeting reported thirty members present.

The treasurers report of the B.Y.P.U. dated April 6, 1898, which stated, "On hand incidental expenses eight cents. For State work \$1.27; signed J. W. Traub, Treas.

These minutes are well written and concise, including the business transacted and a statement of the program topic, and the leader.

Apparently the B.Y.P.U. became disorganized after April 1898 report, or else the records have been lost, or possibly it was caused by the smallpox epidemic, as no Church services were held during this scare. Rev. George Green became our Pastor in February 1909. During his early administration the B.Y.P.U. was re-organized and has continued to be one of the most active organizations in our Church.

Recognition of B.Y.P.U. work in the Clifton Forge Baptist Church came again in 1910 when the Convention met at Virginia Beach, Va. Many Churches were represented at this meeting and a spirit of enthusiasm prevailed. Standard B.Y.P.U.'s were reported in the Clopton Street Church in Richmond, and in the Clifton Forge Baptist Church. It was also at the 1910 Convention that our pastor, The Rev. George Green, was elected State President. From

this time on the B.Y.P.U. in our Church held an important place in the organizational work of the Church.

The B.Y.P.U. Conventions were held annually until 1936 and the influence of these meetings penetrated every section of the State. Because our Church was fortunate to have its pastor as State President, Mr. and Mrs. Green, with their family attended the Conventions and were chaperones for many young people who also attended, including the writers of this article.

The B.Y.P.U. trained and prepared many young men and women to take places of leadership in the local church and in places of larger service. Among these are Dr. Roy Angell, who received his early Christian training here, and who went on to become a successful pastor and well loved speaker throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Angell was a popular speaker at Massanetta Springs, Va., at which place the State B.Y.P.U. Convention was later held.

In the History of Virginia Baptist Union, by E. J. Wright, in the chapter entitled, "Our Kingdom Builders" was the name of Rev. George Green, Clifton Forge, 1910 - 1912, heads the list of Presidents through 1947. The memory of his friendly interest in the young people of his congregation and the inspiration he created among them will be a lasting memory of all those who knew him.

Through the years many outstanding Young Peoples speakers have visited this Church, among them Dr. Chester Swor; Dr. Jack Noffsinger; and our own Dr. Roy Angell. Our young people have conducted "Youth Weeks" and Revivals with teams from Richmond University and Bluefield College as guest speakers. They have participated in speaking contests and sword drills, sponsored by the Training Union as it is now known. They have been host to many College Choirs, presenting inspirational programs in the Church. The old fashioned social of the B.Y.P.U. has been replaced by the Sweetheart Banquet, which is held each February and is considered the outstanding social event of the year in our Church.

Many interesting names and faces are recalled as we read the minutes of the local B.Y.P.U., for the years of 1911 - 1913. We say a sincere "thank you" to those faithful men, women and young people who kept the fires burning and helped promote the work of the Baptist Young Peoples Union.

We read in the Associational Training Union reports, that Mr.

Brent Miller, was director of the Augusta Association Training Union in 1916, and he "provided a successful rally that year and had a challenging opportunity ahead of him." Brent as he was best known was B.T.U. director in our local church.

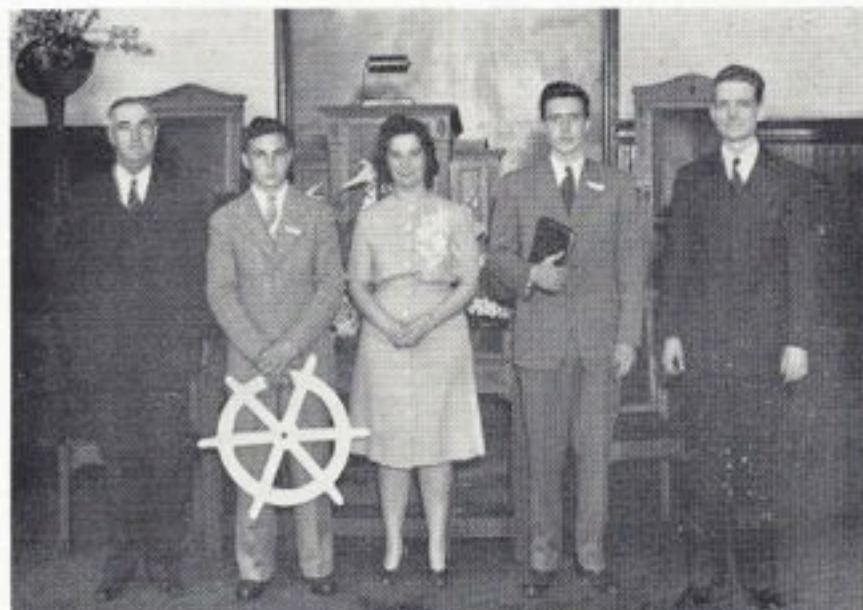
In the 1940 Convention, the name was changed from "Baptist Young Peoples Union" to "Baptist Training Union." From the history of the B.Y.P.U. chapter, "Youth in the Churches of Tomorrow" I quote; "Training Union Achievement of the past are evident in the church life of today. An efficient Training Union program in the churches of today, will mean more useful Christians in the church of tomorrow." Evidence of such training under the leadership of his dedicated father, Rev. H. W. Connelly, a former pastor here, is the work of his son, H. Walton Connelly, Jr., who at this writing is the State Secretary of the Baptist Training Union Department. He too is a product of the local Training Union, which makes us justly proud of Walton.

Upon the Roster of the Hall of Fame of Clifton Forge Baptist Young Peoples Training Union can be found many names, each has a place in its history and for the contributions each one has made, we give thanks. Many people have served as Officers, Directors and Counsellors in the B.T.U. Mrs. Jean King is the present Director, with Adult, Young People, Juniors, and Beginners.

Our thanks to Mr. Walton Connelly, Jr., for supplying the book, "Virginia Baptist Training Union History" by E. J. Wright, which has been the source for much of our State history.



Family Night during Mr. Brooks' pastorate.



Left to right—J. C. Carpenter, Herbie King, Virginia Hagood, T. Dewey Goin, Jr., and Rev. Welford Brooks.

**CHARTER MEMBERS
OF THE CLIFTON FORGE BAPTIST CHURCH**

THOMAS M. KINCAID
MRS. ELIZABETH KINCAID
MRS. LUCY J. PUGH
MRS. E. G. ALLEY
MRS. HETTIE A. HUDDLESTON
MRS. MARY J. BUTLER
MRS. RACHEL SIMMONS
MRS. ANNIE N. BYRD
MRS. A. M. JORDON
MRS. DORA M. STRONG
MISS MARY JORDON
MR. L. F. ALLEY
MR. GEORGE A. PAYNE
MR. J. D. MUSTOE

**MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED
THE CLIFTON FORGE BAPTIST CHURCH**

S. F. Chapman was first pastor served until 1888.
R. Atwell Tucker October 1, 1888 until September 30, 1890.
Jno. R. Fizer, January, 1891, July 31, 1893.
Rutherford Britt, October 1, 1893, January 31, 1895.
E. Pendleton Jones, February 10, 1895, to October 18, 1896.
John A. Barker, January 3, 1897, to January 1, 1905.
George E. Davis, April 23, 1905, to November 15, 1908.
George Green, February 7, 1909, to May 18, 1913.
R. T. Marsh, August 24, 1913, to April 1, 1918.
George Green, November 17, 1918, to October 17, 1920.
H. B. Cross, May, 1921, to April, 1928.
W. L. Davis, July, 1928, to May, 1935.
H. W. Connelly, September, 1935, to 1944.
Welford Brooks, January, 1945 to 1952.
V. W. Sears, December 21, 1952 to 1958.
Walter E. Farrar, August, 1958 to —

CONTENTS PLACED IN THE CORNER STONE OF THE NEW
ADDITION TO THE CLIFTON FORGE BAPTIST CHURCH
MAY 7th, 1912

List of officers, deacons, trustees and members of the Clifton Forge Baptist Church as of May 7, 1912.

List of officers, chairmen of committees and members of the Clifton Forge Baptist Young Peoples Union as of May 7, 1912.

List of officers, teachers and scholars of the Clifton Forge Baptist Sunday School as of May 5, 1912.

List of officers and members of the Woman's Missionary Union.

List of officers and members of the Ladies' Aid Society.

List of members and financial statement of the church as of June 1, 1893.

Picture of the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Butcher.

Sunday School picnic badge worn by Miss Lucy Byrd, at White Sulphur Springs, July 27, 1893.

Copy of "The Valley Star" printed in Lexington, Va., June 17, 1850; contributed by Mrs. J. E. Driscoll; published by her grandfather, Samuel Gillock.

Copy of the Daily Review, May 2, 1912.

Copy of the Weekly Review, May 3, 1912.

Copy of the Augusta Baptist, April, 1912.

Copy of the Alleghany News, May 2, 1912.

Check for \$1,000 collectible in case the church burns down by E. A. Snead.

Check for \$1,000 collectible in case the church burns down by F. B. Westerman.

Business cards Graham & Haynes, contractors of the new addition, Gordon Coutts, F. L. Spinner, G. W. Seasbole and L. A. Emswiler.

Personal cards—Mrs. Samuel Everett, Miss Stella Haynes, Walter Wade, J. R. Williams, O. S. Kittinger, James H. Britton, E. A. Snead and Miss Minnie Damron.

Program for the Women's Missionary Society, 1912-13.

Financial statement of the First National Bank as of April 18, 1912.

Financial statement of the Clifton Forge National Bank as of April 18, 1912.

Letterheads of the Augusta Baptist, The Clifton Forge Review, Inc., Marshall Memorial Association, Clifton Forge Mutual Telephone Company, C. F. Sents, A. O. Surber, W. H. Smith, Jr., and George M. Farrar.

Lock of hair and one dime of J. B. Weeder.

1965-66 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF CLIFTON FORGE BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES: Mr. John Corstaphney Mr. T. S. Reynolds Mr. G. G. Agnor

CHURCH OFFICERS: Church Clerk V. C. Hudson
Assistant Church Clerk L. J. Chiles
Treasurer John Corstaphney
Financial Secretary Mrs. S. C. Stone

DEACONS: September 30, 1966	September 30, 1967	September 30, 1968
J. W. M. Paxton	N. C. Paxton	E. C. Westerman
O. C. Stinnett	S. C. Stone	G. H. Tyler
M. D. Coffman	E. A. Huntington	E. F. Thompson
M. V. Toler	R. W. Felton	Earl Green
G. G. Agnor	W. K. Murray	Stanley Nichols
T. S. Reynolds	W. H. Wilkerson	D. R. Moore
J. H. Dobbins	C. P. Tolley	R. L. Crutchfield

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chm. J. W. M. Paxton, Mrs. S. C. Stone, M. D. Coffman, John Corstaphney, Stanley Nichols, W. C. Thompson, J. W. Booth, Sr., G. D. Fauber.

USHERS: Chm. S. C. Stone, Co-Chm. E. A. Huntington, Co-Chm. W. L. Downey, Co-Chm. L. J. Chiles, Earl Higgins, G. D. Fauber, Herbie King, J. W. Booth, H. F. Chittum, Jr., D. R. Bostic, J. G. Sanders, E. G. Woodson, R. S. Littrell, W. G. Van Lear, J. A. Furry, B. C. Evans, W. A. Tiffany, Jr., W. T. Wade, III, Paul Slusher, Reece Conner, Stanley Wright and all Deacons.

FLOWERS FOR FUNERALS: Mrs. S. T. Walker, Mrs. W. C. Thompson, Miss Mildred Withrow.

BENEVOLENT: Chm. A. E. Henkle, Mrs. C. D. Corron, Calvin Staton, Miss Mildred Withrow, J. O. Dellinger, John Shelton.

AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS: Chm. G. H. Tyler, W. L. Downey, Bruce Clarke, E. P. Thompson, W. G. Downey, W. A. Tiffany, Jr., J. W. Booth, Sr., J. W. M. Paxton.

KITCHEN COMMITTEE: Chm. R. S. Littrell, Mrs. F. H. Woolwine, Mrs. E. A. Huntington, Mrs. J. T. Hutchison, Mrs. J. R. Spatig, Miss Sarah Littrell.

LORD'S SUPPER: Chm. Mrs. E. F. Thompson, Mrs. F. H. Woolwine, Miss Mildred Withrow, Mrs. R. L. Crutchfield, Mrs. Harry Burt, Mrs. R. L. Putnam, Mrs. Doll Smith.

BULLETINS (Folding) Mrs. Doll Smith, Mrs. E. F. Thompson, Miss Marcia Westerman.

ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE:

Group I - Chm. M. D. Coffman
L. J. Chiles
G. D. Fauber
Mrs. L. J. Chiles
G. G. Agnor

Group II - Chm. J. H. Dobbins
C. P. Tolley
N. C. Paxton
O. C. Stinnett
J. A. Furry

BAPTISM: Chm. Mrs. C. A. Burks, Mrs. C. T. Clarkson, O. R. Nicholas, Mrs. W. B. Evans, R. S. Littrell, G. G. Agnor, Mrs. L. J. Chiles, W. C. Thompson.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Chm. N. C. Paxton, Co-Chm. E. C. Westerman, Mrs. C. W. Copenhaver, Mrs. Walter E. Farrar, Earl Green, G. G. Agnor.

CHURCH FLOWERS: Chm. Mrs. C. L. Drewry, Mrs. G. D. Fauber, Mrs. W. M. Dowdy, Miss Mildred Withrow, Mrs. Walter E. Farrar, Mrs. F. L. Wyzor, Mrs. L. F. Jones, Mrs. Stanley Nichols, Mrs. L. J. Chiles, Mrs. H. F. Chittum, Jr.,

Mrs. W. B. Huddleston, Mrs. C. D. Corron, Miss Bernice Karnes, Mrs. John Corstaphney.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Chm. Mrs. F. H. Woolwine, Mrs. Stanley Nichols, Miss Mary Gibbs.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Chm. Mrs. W. M. McPherson, C. H. Booker, G. D. Fauber, Mrs. W. C. Thompson, Herbie King.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: Chm. Mrs. E. E. Fliess, Mrs. G. H. Tyler, Mrs. M. D. Coffman, Miss Elizabeth Shores, Mrs. J. H. Dobbins, T. F. D. Farrar, Mrs. L. F. Jones, Mrs. Earl Green.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: R. W. Felton, Mrs. J. A. Tolley, Mrs. M. D. Coffman.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Chm. Mrs. W. T. Wade, Jr., Mrs. J. W. M. Paxton, Mrs. E. E. Fliess.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: Chm. Mrs. W. Kent Ford, Mrs. F. L. Wysor, Mrs. J. W. M. Paxton.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Chm. Stanley Nichols, Earl Green, R. S. Littrell, M. V. Toler, B. C. Evans.

Approved by Deacons 9-13-65



Left to right—J. C. Carpenter, Stanley Nichols, and J. W. M. Paxton.

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