1926 - Const. 12 Mr. Admit. to ROANOKE[E] as Johnson Tabernacle.
1955 - Dism. from ROANOKE[E]. Charter member of N. ROANOKE.
1973 - Became Sunset Avenue.
Church Notes

Kid's Camps: St. Paul UMC will offer spring children's mini-camps 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, through May 21. There will be snacks, Bible study, activities, music and crafts for children 3 years-old through those in fifth grade. Cost is $15 per child. To register, call 443-3468.

Harvest Fair: Taylors Chapel invites all area children, ages 3-16 to a Son Harvest County Fair beginning at 6 p.m. June 1. There will be games, live animals and fellowship. For more information or registration information, call 451-2727. Supper will be provided for the children.

Yard Sale: Unity in Christ Worship Center, 132 Western Ave., will have a yard sale and hotdog sale, featuring homemade chili, beginning at 8 a.m. today.

Kid's Camps: Englewood Baptist Church and Acting Up Productions will offer summer camps for kids at the church this summer. The camps are: Drama Camp June 23-26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Interpretive Movement Camp July 21-24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Beginner Clown Camp from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 11-13; Clown Skills Camp from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 16-19; and Puppet Camp July 7-10. To register for the camps call 1-877-600-5964. All camps will be held at the church.

Celebration for

Women's Day: Zion Hill Baptist Church in Littleton will celebrate Women's Day at 11 a.m. Sunday. Speaker will be Alice Branch.

Women's Day: Salem Chapel Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate Women's Day at 11 a.m. Sunday. Guest speaker will be Evangelist Cynthia Knight.

Family Relationships Workshop: Sunset Avenue Baptist Church will have a teaching series about Family from 11 a.m. to noon on Sundays, Sunday through June 15. Topics for the workshops are: “A Mother’s Touch, Sunday; “Handling Conflict in the Home, May 18; “Maximizing Your Marriage”, May 25; “God’s Plan for Children and Their Parents, June 1; “Giving Romance a Chance in Your Marriage, June 8; “What Make a House a Home,” June 15. For more information, call 443-2531.

Women's Day/ Mother's Day: The Greater St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Whittakers will observe Women's Day at 11 a.m. Sunday. Speaker will be Deaconess Willa Glass.

Revival: Cedar Grove Baptist Church will have a spring revival at 7:30 p.m. nightly, Monday through Friday. Speakers will be the Rev. Ernest Battle.
The Rev. Mark Morris, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snow Hill, will be preaching at 11 a.m. worship services Sunday at Sunset Avenue Baptist Church. A fellowship meal will be served following the service. Loyd and Eunice Rivers will be sharing in the 7 p.m. Worship Hour about their recent trip to Poland.
Revival services will be Nov. 5 through 9 at Sunset Avenue Baptist Church, with services nightly at 7.

Dr. Billy Cline, pastor of the Merrimon Avenue Baptist Church of Asheville, will speak. He is also presently serving as Chaplain for Billy Graham Radio Station.

Special music will be featured nightly, and a nursery will be provided.
Revival

Dr. Roy J. Smith, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, will be preaching in revival services at Sunset Avenue Baptist Church from April 23 through 26. Sunday morning service will begin at 11 and Sunday evening and weekday services will begin at 7. A nursery will be provided.
Revival At Sunset Ave. Baptist Church

The Rev. Billy Mobley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, N. C., will be the guest speaker at revival services to begin Sunday at Sunset Avenue Baptist Church. The revival will conclude Oct. 3. Services will begin nightly at 7:30 and special music will be provided for each service. A nursery will be provided for small children. The public has been invited to attend by the Rev. Winfred W. Porter, pastor of the church.
Film

A special showing of the new World Wide Pictures release, “Jesus Is Victor,” is scheduled this Sunday at Sunset Avenue Baptist Church, 3732 Sunset Ave., at 7 p.m.

“Jesus Is Victor” is a personal and intimate portrait of Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch Christian who, until she was silenced by a stroke in 1978 at the age of 86, traveled the globe telling of her experiences in Nazi-occupied Holland during World War II. She and her family were responsible for saving the lives of hundreds of Jews through their work with the “underground.”

Miss ten Boom’s experiences have been related in a number of best-selling books, as well as through World Wide’s award-winning theatrical release, “The Hiding Place.”

“Jesus Is Victor” gives the viewer an opportunity to meet Corrie face-to-face — to travel with her through 35 years of ministry in some 65 countries around the world — to discover the qualities of faith and courage that have made her a respected and beloved servant of God.

The film features Jeannette Clift, who starred as Corrie in “The Hiding Place.” Cliff Barrows of the Billy Graham Crusade Team, who has been a personal friend of Corrie’s for several years, also appears in the film.
The Rev. E. Coye Still Jr., of Sunset Avenue Baptist church in Rocky Mount, will be guest evangelist for revival services March 23-28 at Mount Hermon Baptist church on route 3, Reidsville.

The pastor, the Rev. Grover C. Holder, extends a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

Services will begin with the 11 a.m. worship Sunday and will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m. through Friday.

A native of South Carolina, the Rev. Still has held pastorates in both North and South Carolina, including Durham and Winston-Salem. He is a graduate of Furman university, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the School of Pastoral Care of North Carolina Baptist hospital.

He and his wife are the parents of twin daughters, both of whom are juniors at Meredith college, and a son, a tenth grader at Rocky Mount senior high school.
Mission trip

Chris Turner, a junior at Northern Nash Senior High School, is preparing for a 13-day mission trip to South America.

Turner will join other members of a mission team in Cary on Dec. 26 and will drive to Miami, Fla., where they will leave for Lima, Peru, on Dec. 27. After leaving North America, Turner will spend 10 days at a campsite 40 miles outside of Lima at the Mision Bautista with Missionary David Miller. He and eight other high school youths will be accompanied by three adults: a doctor, construction worker and a spiritual leader. They will be under the direction of Tommy Puckett of Cary.

The group will work on various projects, including renovation and small construction at the campsite, putting up a ropes course. They will share their testimonies and the gospel of Jesus Christ at different area churches and to other people in the surrounding area. Turner plans to return Jan. 9.

As a member of Sunset Avenue Baptist Church, he applied to join the missions team through the N.C. Baptist Men's Department of the N.C. Baptist State Convention. He is being supported financially by the Baptist Men's Organization at the church.

He is the son of William and Judy Turner of Rocky Mount and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Fisher of Red Oak.
Revival services planned

Dr. Charles B. Bugg

Revival services will be held at Sunset Avenue Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, April 13-16, according to the church pastor, Rev. Robbie Best.

Services will begin Sunday at 11 a.m. and each night at 7 o'clock, led by Dr. Charles B. "Chuck" Bugg, who has been Professor of Preaching and Worship at Baptist Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia since 1966.

Special music and special emphasis on youth during the revival will be led by evangelist Steve Freeman of Steve Freeman Ministries of Chester, Va.

A native of Miami, Florida, Dr. Bugg is a graduate of Stetson University, Texas and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has pastored churches throughout Florida, Kentucky and North Carolina, serving from 1993 to 1996 as senior minister of Providence Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC.

Rev. Freeman is a graduate of UNC Wilmington and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. For the past few years, he has traveled to churches all along the East Coast preaching and singing and sharing his testimony.

"This will be a great inspirational revival for children, youth and adults," said Rev. Best. "We are fortunate to have these two men of God coming to share with us and to lead us, and we invite everyone to come and take part in these special services."

During the services each evening a nursery will be provided. Light refreshments will be served in the church fellowship hall following each service.
SCOTT WILKERSON

Wilkerson Will Speak At Church

Rev. Scott Wilkerson, director of Ancient of Days, in Rocky Mount will be the guest speaker during a special program at the Sunset Avenue Baptist Church in Rocky Mount on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

The program is sponsored by the Young Women of the Church.

Rev. Wilkerson is the assistant pastor of the Saint Paul Methodist Church and works with the Youth Program at the Ancient of Days.

He is a 1974 graduate of N. C. Wesleyan College, and plans to attend Duke Divinity School in the fall of 1975.

He will tell about the work at the Ancient of Days during the program and will field questions during the discussion period.

The public is invited to attend.
NOTE BURNING — The Rev. Coye Still, pastor of Sunset Avenue Baptist Church, holds the platter for the note burning as Mrs. Faith Evans touches flame to the instrument. Assisting the ceremony is T.T. Ward. The ceremony on Homecoming Day, Sept. 14, marked final payment on $200,000 in church bonds that paid for the sanctuary. (Contributed photo)

Sunset Baptist Church
Sanctuary debt-free

Sunset Avenue Baptist Church in Rocky Mount lifted a $200,000 burden on its Homecoming Day, Sept. 14, when it conducted a note-burning service signifying that its sanctuary is debt free.

Johnson Tabernacle, as the church was known at the time, was rapidly outgrowing the sanctuary in 1972, and the building that had served for over 50 years had already exceeded its capacity to the extent that many worship services found people seated on folding chairs in the aisles.

In February 1982, the church issued $200,000 in bonds to build a new sanctuary, with the promotion of the bonds handled by Equitable Church Bonds Inc. of Atlanta, Ga., with interest paid at the rate of 6 1/2 percent. The bond account was paid in full Aug. 13.

On Homecoming Day, the church pastor, E. Coye Still, and T.T. Ward, who was chairman of the 1972 Board of Trustees at the church, and Mrs. Faith Evans, the 1972 church clerk, burned the original note. Barbara Tyson, the current church treasurer, summarized the activities surrounding the sanctuary bond history, and Albert Boone, current chairman of the Board of Deacons, declared the sanctuary debt free.

"We give God the praise for it all," Still said. "He worked through dedicated men, women, boys and girls in bringing this moment in the church's history to fulfillment, and we are so thankful for the presence of His guiding spirit in the lives of the congregation of Sunset Avenue Baptist Church."
Rev. E. Coye Still, Jr. will become the new pastor of Sunset Avenue Baptist Church Sunday, during special Fourth of July ceremonies planned at the church. Rev. Still replaces Dr. Garland Hendricks, who has been serving as interim pastor for approximately 10 months.

A native of Orangebury County, South Carolina, Rev. Still has pastored six churches in North Carolina and South Carolina since his ordination in 1954. He served a pastorate in the Cypress Chapel Baptist Church in Spring Hope from 1957-1960, and recently served an eight-year pastorate at South Fork Baptist Church of Winston-Salem.

Rev. Still is married to the former Jean Thompson of Easley, South Carolina. They have three children: Deborah and Rona, 17, and Coye Still, III, age 11.

The Stills now make their home at 613 Greenwood Ave. in Rocky Mount.
Church Will Not Be Polling Place

By KIM THOMAS
Telegram Staff Writer

Sunset Avenue Baptist Church will no longer be a polling place. A church business conference voted so Sunday night.

A church spokesman said the next step is up to the Nash County Board of Elections.

Rosanna Murphy of the elections board said the board will have to find another polling place.

Murphy attends Sunset Avenue Baptist Church and said, "A certified letter is being mailed to Arnold Brown, on the church's decision. They are also finding out if they have to give a certain notice."

In question is whether the church might remain a polling place through a special state House of Representatives election scheduled for December.

The Board of Elections cannot order use of the facility, Murphy said. "They own the building," she said.

Wilbur Batchelor, a deacon of the church, said the decision was made after the Nov. 6 election.

"Things went on and we don't approve of it," he said. "We were upset about it and a letter is on its way to the election board.

"When a group violates the rights of others," he said, "it puts us in a spot. "We hate to do this because the election board has been good to us," he said, "but we can't go along with people cussing on our property and carrying on. One man stopped a school bus to get people to sign petitions.

"We work with God, setting an example," he said, "and this violates that."

Arnold Brown, Board of Elections chairman, said: "We'll have to find another place within the Rocky Mount Precinct 7 area. There are no public buildings in the area.

"As soon as we get a formal letter," he said, "we'll go to work.

"We have no idea of the time frame," he said. "There are a couple of churches in the precinct that we plan to contact.

"We hope that they (the other churches) don't get discouraged by this," he said. "We had no problems other than the LBD (liquor-by-the-drink petitioning).

"Another primary is Dec. 18," he said. "I'm assuming we'll have to have it by then."

After the board finds a building, the U.S. Justice Department will have to approve the building.

"We'll call and tell them our situation and follow with a letter," he said. "We hope they will handle it for us quickly."
Witness performs

Witness is the Student Evangelism Team, sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Baptist State Convention, will be at Sunset Avenue Baptist Church this Sunday at the 11 a.m. worship service and the 7 p.m. evening service. (Contributed photo)
Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham and Ruth Bell Graham, will speak at a seminar for women at 9 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 29. The seminar, “Today’s Woman,” will be at the Sunset Avenue Baptist Church.

Lotze is the wife of Daniel M. Lotz, a Raleigh dentist and former University of North Carolina basketball player (played on the 1957 team that won the national championship). They have three children, Jonathan, 17; Morrow, 14; and Rachel Ruth, 12.

Lotz is one of five children, who are now all involved in Christian work. She was raised in the Graham’s mountain home in Montreat, N.C. Her mother, the daughter of Presbyterian missionaries in China, is a published writer and poet.

Lotz has traveled extensively. Recently she attended the International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam, and in 1983 she went to the International Congress on Evangelism in Lausanne, Switzerland. Last month she returned from a four-week tour of four cities in South Africa where she spoke on “How To Teach The Bible” at the invitation of the Anglican church there.

She has been invited to Rocky Mount by a group of women from the area (including Wilson and Tarboro) who have studied under Lotz during the past 11 years.

“She is a Christian who has impacted more lives than any other Christian I know,” says Helen George. George is a close friend and class administrator for the Bible study fellowship class of 500 women.

Since 1978, six more classes have been started in Raleigh under Lotz’s guidance, including a class at the N.C. Correctional Center for Women.

For more information on the seminar, call 443-4075 or 823-5765.
Sunset Avenue Baptist Church

Sunset Baptist celebrates 75th anniversary

The days of paying the pastor with a hog's head and having two cents in the bank are being fondly remembered at the Sunset Avenue Baptist Church. The church is poised to celebrate its 75th anniversary Sunday, March 11.

The Sunset Avenue Baptist Church began in 1926, as the Johnson's Tabernacle Baptist Church. The small group of charter members met in a tobacco pack house.

The present property, 3732 Sunset Avenue Drive, was the site of the church's first white frame building. A brick sanctuary was built in 1946 and the current sanctuary was dedicated on July 14, 1974. The church took on the name of Sunset Avenue Baptist Church on Jan. 10, 1974.

Bobby Edwards, the chairperson of the 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee, has found a great deal of satisfaction in leading the committee to inform the current congregation of its history. "It is important to reflect on people who have made sacrifices," said Edwards. "It is good to remember the financial struggles and to see how far we have come. It makes you feel good."

Pastor Coye Still and Minister of Music/Education Steve Robinson both enjoy a special history with the church. Sunset Avenue ordained both of them into the ministry, in 1987 and 1993 respectively.

Dr. Still commented that the anniversary celebration is to be a time to "reflect on what God has accomplished in the last 75 years and to trust in Him to do great things in the years to come."

The schedule of events for March 11 include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds. A display of the church's history will be available for viewing.
Sunset Avenue Baptist Church will celebrate its 50th Anniversary Sunday, and will also begin its Spring Revival. The evangelist for the revival will be a former pastor, Reverend William T. (Bill) Adams, pastor of Forbush Baptist Church, Yadkinville.

Dr. Garland Hendricks, interim pastor of the church, will be in charge of the Sunday morning worship service. Dr. Hendricks is serving the church until a full-time pastor is called.

The church was known as Johnson Tabernacle for more than 40 years, and changed to Sunset Avenue Baptist Church in 1973, prior to the completion of a new sanctuary in 1974. Its beginnings took place in the spring of 1923 when a group of people in a community six miles east of Nashville and four miles west of Rocky Mount in Nash County began conducting prayer meetings in their homes. During the winter of 1923 the church voted to establish a Missionary Baptist Church, and on March 12, 1926 the church was organized with the Reverend B. A. Long as the first pastor.

A white framed structure, built by the members on land donated by J. G. Johnson, was dedicated on November 24, 1927. It was in Mr. Johnson's honor that the church became known as Johnson Tabernacle.

Anniversary Sunday will feature a "picnic type" lunch on the church grounds, and a Singspiration beginning at 6:30 p.m. The morning worship service will begin at 10:45 a.m.

Guest choirs participating in the musical program Sunday night will be the Arlington Street Baptist Youth Choir, Momeyer Baptist Youth Choir, West Edgecombe Baptist Adult Choir, and the Battleboro Baptist Youth Choir. Special music will be presented by Mrs. Faye West Ethridge, and the Youth Choir and Adult Choir of Sunset Avenue Baptist Church will present special music for the birthday celebration.

Immediately following the Singspiration Service Sunday night, there will be an informal social hour in the Fellowship Hall. All members, former members and friends of Sunset Avenue Baptist Church are invited to participate in all of the services and to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the church.
Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham, will speak at 9 a.m. Aug. 29 at the Sunset Avenue Baptist Church.

A group of women and friends of Lotz have been preparing for her arrival. She will present a seminar, "Today's Woman," which will incorporate the teachings of the Bible and address the responsibilities and opportunities available to women.

Lotz, her husband and three children live in Raleigh. She is currently preparing to begin her 12th year as teaching leader of a Bible fellowship class of 500 women in Raleigh. The class is affiliated with an independent nationwide group.

She recently returned from a four-week speaking tour in South Africa. She was extended the invitation by the Anglican Church.
Still begins new adventure

Retirement is payday for 18 years of service

- Rev. Elias Coye Still
  Jr. has
  pastored Sunset Avenue Baptist Church since July 1, 1976.

  June 30th was payday for Elias Coye Still Jr. and the payoff came just five days after his 65th birthday, and 18 years after he came to Rocky Mount as pastor of Sunset Avenue Baptist Church.

  Retirement for Rev. Still and his wife, Jean, for they labored here as a team, as pastor and his wife as pastoral secretary - the end of one adventure and the beginning of another.

  "Rocky Mount has been good for us and good to us," Still said. And, although the church and Still stood firmly against the liquor-by-the-drink issue here, "we were not happy with the outcome, but the City of Rocky Mount, as a whole, has been very, very kind to me," he recalled. "We have had no problems and no personal conflicts with anyone."

  Civic involvement
  While in Rocky Mount, Still has taken his civic responsibilities as seriously as his religious responsibilities. On the "civic" side of the ledger, he served as a basketball coach at the Rocky Mount YMCA.

  He helped with the beginning of Meals on Wheels here, and served two terms on the board of directors for that organization. And he has worked with the Rocky Mount Crisis Center.

  On his "religion" agenda, Still has been a strong supporter of the North Roanoke Baptist Association and served as its moderator. He also has served, on two different occasions, as vice moderator.

  In addition, he has served on the general board of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, on the campus and youth committees, the long-range planning committee and currently serves on the resolutions and arrangements committee.

  Veteran
  Still is a native of South Carolina, born in Orangeburg County near Branchville on June 25, 1929. He is a 1956 graduate of Furman University. He enrolled at the university in 1948, but his formal education was interrupted by the Korean Conflict in 1951, and he joined the U.S. Navy.

  He saw sea duty in the South Pacific theater, serving aboard the seaplane tender USS Pine Island in the Strait of Formosa. Discharged in December 1954, he returned to Furman University where he received his bachelor of arts degree in religion and philosophy. After graduating in June 1956, he married Jean Thompson of Easley, S.C., on Aug. 19, 1956.

  Has he always wanted to be a preacher?
  "Not always," he said, "but I felt the call when I was a teenager and still in high school in Bannwell, S.C." He said he finally answered the call while in the South Pacific with the U.S. Navy.

  While still at Furman, he served as pastor of two small churches, Parks Park Baptist and Modoc Baptist. After college, he attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and graduated in May 1969 with a bachelor of divinity degree. During his seminary education, he served Cypress Chapel Baptist Church near Seven Paths in Franklin County.

  His first pastorate, after graduating from Southeastern, was at Union Cross Baptist Church, Kernersville.

  His road to Rocky Mount came via pastorate at Ephesus Baptist Church, Durham, and South Park Baptist Church, Winston-Salem. He came from Winston-Salem to pastor Sunset Avenue Baptist Church on July 1, 1976.

  Membership
  According to church records, under Rev. Still's pastorate, church membership increased from 443 to more than 700, and 157 baptisms were conducted.

  The Stills' son, Rev. Elias Coye Still Jr., grew up in Rocky Mount and followed in his dad's footsteps in playing football and becoming a Baptist minister. He currently serves at Victory Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky.

  The Stills also have twin daughters, Deborah Sasser of Eden and Rona Harden of Northboro, Mass., and six grandchildren.

  Recently, the members of Sunset Avenue Baptist Church honored their pastor and his family with special programs and gifts at the church and a reception at Stonewall, giving them special recognition for 18 years of service.

  And the church made a bit of history when it made Still its first "Pastor Emeritus."

  Church growth
  Looking back, Still says he is proud of the growth of church programs, not for his input so much, but because of the dedication of church members.

  "I like to think we have developed into a 'servant mode' as a church, and a church which is committed to worldwide missions," he pointed out. "The things these members have done which have made me so proud include the Woman's Bible Study Fellowship that is now over 200 strong, meeting here every Thursday. And there is the Kingswood Mission (at Kingswood Mobile Home Park) that is growing so wonderfully. And the Singles' Ministry has grown by leaps and bounds."

  Where do they go from here?
  The Stills are in the process of deciding. But for now, they will still be around.