Leary Barnette, that he felt the church as the sum- 
ological Seminary, 
made plans to 
C. C. Warren, 
Rev. Glenn. Also, 
Jenn. 
sons joined the 
Worship 

According to several charter members October 2, 1955 was a miracle day. It was just pure joy to see that cow barn converted into a place of worship. The beautiful velvet drapes and the new floor somehow transformed the old barn into a temple for the Lord.

On October 12 Aubrey Wright reported that the Pulpit Committee, after considerable deliberation, had decided to call before the church two candidates for pastor. They brought the first man to Charlotte and met with him one evening until 11:30 PM, quizzing him and answering his questions. Then he was brought to the pulpit. It is recorded in the minutes that “the committee now suggests that we no longer consider this man as a candidate.” Subsequently, the committee presented the Rev. Mr. Charles Wagner of Sheffield, Alabama, and the church voted him to be the first full-time pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church.

On October 19, 1955 the church voted to buy 14 acres of land from Mr. Harvey Morris and his sister Mrs. Janie Miller, for $32,000. This property is located at the corner of Hickory Grove Road and Delta Road, at that time called the Delta Air-Base Road. The mother church gave $15,000, and the Mecklenburg Baptist Association agreed to provide $5,000 toward the purchase price. Mr. Morris informed the church he would accept $20,000, and give a clear deed. He requested a note be signed by 3 of the members for the remaining $12,000, to be paid in 12 months, with no interest charged.

It is a book on Christian stewardship, emphasizing man is not a proprietor but a steward, and that the individual's stewardship development strengthens him and enhances the kingdom of God.

Going on eight years, Rev. Wagner has pastored the 146-year-old First Baptist Church in Gainesville since 1982 and has been historiographer of the seven million-member National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. In 1984, he became director of the National Baptist History Workshop of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Articles written by him have appeared in the Times, Gainesville, Ga.; the First Baptist Chronicle, Catholic Digest, Scripture Press, Quiet Hour; Standard Publishing Co., Today's Christian Parent; Dictionary of Georgia Biographies, the Senior Bible Quarterly of the Sunday School Publishing Board.