"Miss Bert'ha" is at this time an interested member who worships from her bed in a local nursing home. She was born May 4, 1896, to Harvey and Nora Poole not far from the Samaria neighborhood in Wake County, NC.

The Hodge family has made a great contribution in dedicated services to Samaria Baptist Church. The end seat on the second row, right side, just didn't seem the same when "Miss Bert'ha" became unable to attend services in person.

Members of her family -- children, grandchildren and great grandchildren -- represent the largest single family in the church.

"Miss Bert'ha," may your seeds of dedicated service to your church continue to bless the lives of your church family.

As Samaria Baptist Church goes into its 103rd year, the Raleigh Baptist Association celebrates its 175th year. The program was very interesting, including a pageant depicting happenings during those years including costumed members.

Themes were "On Mission-Then," "On Mission-Now" and On Mission Tomorrow"; also, "After 175 Years We are Ready, We are Willing and We Are Able." Yes, Samaria Baptist Church stands with her sister churches in believing in Missions--having goals and meeting them.

I feel this is a good time to report the two special mission-emphasis programs of all Southern Baptists. Our Lottie Moon goal was $1,600, and our total giving was $1,738.39. The Annie Armstrong goal was $800, and our total giving was $875.64. For the year 1981 the Mission budget of Samaria was $6,800. As our budget increases, so does our Mission giving. Nineteen hundred eighty-one is $600 over 1980.

For the past few years improvements have been made to the physical church. Last year our hope was for a steeple to again adorn Samaria Church,
but monies were not collected to meet the expense. Next year will surely report a steeple in place.

While plans were being carried out making improvements, thieves were carrying out some of the improvements. Our newsletter in January reports the sound system being stolen. Our February newsletter reports another break-in, this time with much vandalism and taking the sound system elements that had been left behind—even the sound chambers of the organ. This makes four robberies in seven years. I believe you will agree the burglar alarm purchased in February 1981 was a needed addition to the church.

In the Nursery warm water was needed in tending to the babies. Mr. Garland Elliott came to the aid in meeting this need. A hot water system was installed.

Pianos need to be kept in good condition and need the help of "damp chasers." Virginia Jeffreys supplied this need.

The Sunday School has 193 on roll with an average attendance of 90. The church has 419 on roll; some are non-resident.

During this church year there were two baptisms: Sharon Pegram, daughter of Carolyn Roberts Pegram and granddaughter of Mrs. Rachel Roberts; and Mrs. Fran Brickhouse.

Ten members were lost this year through death:

Violet Brown (Mrs. William Garvon McClain Poole)  Archie Patton
Garvon McClain Poole  George W. Johnson
William McKinley Garrett  Billie Barefoot (Mrs. Joel)
Robert A. Hunnicutt  Veritas W. Jennings (Mrs. Cecil L.)
Reginal A. Bradley  Cecil Leroy Jennings

Only five births have been reported this year:

Bradley Clark Troutman, son of Mrs. Judy Liles Troutman, was born December 25, 1980.

Tim and Betsy Privette had a son born April 27, 1981, named "Jr." Grandmother Hallie Privette is proud to add another grandson to her family.

Donald and Sandra (Doris) Smith have a son who was born April 30, 1981, named Philip. Grandparents are former Samaria members Ivy and Elwyn Smith.

Willard Rusk Dunlop, III, was born June 10, 1981, to Rebecca Mills Dunlop. Proud grandparents are former members Dave and Doris Boggs.
Don and Lisa Carter have a daughter, Cassie Lynn, born July 23, 1981. Grandparents Clyde and Vivian Carter are happy to have a grandchild.

Samaria had nine members who married during the year:
- Karey Speight, October 11, 1980, married Howard Ellis, Jr.
- Elvie Lowery, November 22, 1980, married Cecil W. Roberts.
- Donnie Lewis, March 14, 1981, married Peggy Lynn Johnson.

The budget for 1981 is $69,625 and needs $1,338.94 each week. At the end of the Sunday School year, September 30, 1981, the monies are short $3,800, but last year at this same time we were $6,000 short. Our needs for each week includes $153 for payment to the bank to cover the bonds which were sold for the renovation that was done in 1978.

Having an Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Youth Ensemble and Puppet Team has involved more people in the music program of the church.

"An Old Fashioned Christmas" by Don Wyrtzen was performed at Christmas by the Adult and Children's Choirs. In June the Adult Choir gave Mark Blankenship's "Kneel at the Cross." Soloists for the programs were Jennifer Mishoe, Del Thomas, Chuck Harris, Jenny Mills and Ronnie Gegax. The choir is under the direction of Kim Lee and accompanied by Kim Sipe.

The Women's Missionary Union continues to grow with 18 members in our Baptist Women's Organization.

Some ministries the WMU has been a part of this year are: Assisting the GA's in their White Christmas tree project; a Christmas party at the Raleigh Rest Home; presented gifts to Hilltop Home; gave a monetary gift to a member of the church who served as a Christian Service Corps worker in
the summer; gave an offering to Foreign Mission's "Hunger Relief Fund"; also ministered to several of our homebound people.

Our newest WMU organization, Acteens, held their first meeting in September 1981 with Fran Brickhouse as their director.

(This report is from Margie Reeder, WMU Director.)

The GA girls had a very good year. We had a membership of eleven. We sent a lot of cards to the sick; we had four projects that were successful. Our main project of the year was our White Christmas. We also gave $80 to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Our adopted grandmother was Mrs. Myrtle Thompson. We had eight girls to go to GA camp at Umstead Park, Camp Lapihio. We learned a lot about missionaries and had a lot of fun.

(This report was submitted by Mrs. Naomi Elliott, GA Director)

Quotes from the News and Observer and the Biblical Recorder give me information in this part of the 103rd year History of Samaria Baptist Church:

"One hundred and one pastors were fired from Southern Baptist Churches in North Carolina in the year of 1980."

Studies have been made during the year by a special commission on ministry. They will recommend to the messengers of the Baptist State Convention in Greensboro November 3, 1981, that pastors and churches consider the establishment of a covenant relationship.

Mr. Hardwick S. Hatcher, our minister for over six years, until the month of July 1981, will be included in the list for 1981.

As we end this the 103rd year, may we search our roles as church members seeking to find strength. May we try to find answers to disruptive conflicts as we study and pray about relationships between our church and our world.

Mrs. Creighton G. Williams
Church Historian

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . .

Thanks to those furnishing reports. Thanks to Peggy Price for typing.