Pender County Ministerial Association to sponsor ‘Help Glenda Knowles Day’

A year ago during a routine physical, Glenda was diagnosed as having C.M.L. (Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia).

For three months, she traveled weekly to Chapel Hill for treatment. She was given Interferon shots every day but could not tolerate them so doctors thought it best to try Gleeve, a new drug recently approved by the FDA.

Glenda was one of four patients in North Carolina chosen for testing of the drug—a pill that retails at $100 per pill.

On Monday, March 11, she went back for a bone marrow test to see if Gleeve is working for her. The results of the test are not known at this time.

The Knowles have no health insurance.

“It became cost prohibitive,” David said.

The daughter of J.P. and Sophia Wells of Watha, Glenda and her husband David have three children—Shawn, 24; Lisa, 21; and Phillip, 14.

C.M.L. has three stages—chronic, accelerated and blastic. Because hers was caught in the first stages, doctors have hope for Glenda’s recovery.

So does she.

“I don’t know what God’s plans are,” she said at her home on Sunday. “I just want Him to use me in any way He can and if my illness can glorify God in any way, that’s what I want.”

“Glenda never complains,” her husband said. “Nor does she want to impose on others.”

“There are so many others in need,” she said of the offer of help.

She believes God will provide as He has in the past. Her life has been one of continuous faith in God.

After graduation from Penderlea High School, Glenda went to work at Branch Bank in Wallace. When the bank president hired her, he asked if she was planning marriage.

“Absolutely not!” she replied.

Soon afterwards, she and her mother were in the family car when a long-haired, hippy-looking, barefoot man wearing overalls with pink fringe walked by.

“I hope my daughter never marries anyone who looks like that!” Mrs. Wells exclaimed.

Within a year, Glenda was married to the guy. He was David Knowles.

The hippy became a minister and in 1980, David and Glenda left Penderlea for Fruitland Bible College. They were driving an old station wagon, pulling a home-made trailer with everything they had, she said.

“Parents and friends were concerned that we had no jobs, but we believed God would provide,” Glenda recalls. He did then and He will provide now, she said.

Anyone wishing to help Glenda and David with medical bills may mail a check to The Glenda Knowles Fund, c/o Glenda Teachey, FNB Southeast, P.O. Box 1077, Burgaw, NC 28425.

GLENDA KNOWLES

WATHA—The Pender County Ministerial Association is sponsoring “Help Glenda Knowles Day” on Sunday, April 7.

“All churches are invited to participate,” said Atkinson Baptist pastor Doug Warnock.

A Glenda Knowles Fund has been set up at FNB Southeast in Burgaw.

Glenda is the wife of Willard Baptist pastor David Knowles who is more widely known as Pender High School’s Bible class teacher.
Lay couple promotes younger leadership

By DORA CORBETT

ATKINSON - A.H. and Janie Pridgen cannot imagine life without their church.

Nor can they believe their community could survive without its church families.

Pridgen, who grew up in the Atkinson Baptist Church, made his profession of faith in the Caswell Presbyterian Church, and attended all the churches in town, says Pridgen, "Church is just a major part of my life - if I don't go I feel guilty."

The sixth child and only son of the late Sarah Bailey Henry Pridgen and A.H. Pridgen, Sr., A.H. said communion Sunday was always important to him.

"In the days of the old wood frame church at Atkinson Baptist, I watched Mr. Will Lewis leave Sunday school, walk across the road to his house, and return with a pitcher of pure homemade grape wine with a cloth over it," he said.

The daughter of the late Mary Alice and Lee Bowen of Burgaw, Janie recalls the high school days when the Atkinson boys were popular in Burgaw. This included A.H. Pridgen, but, as fate would have it, both Janie and A.H. married someone else.

But the two remained friends through the years and were both widowed long before Janie came to an Atkinson Senior Citizens meeting and sat in the kitchen with A.H.

Six months later, the couple married, the same year that Pridgen's daughter Lynn married.

The couple expressed concern that senior adults are still being asked to hold offices in the church. They feel they should be given a rest and encourage the younger folks.

A.H. points to middle-aged people who he says are doing an excellent job and is proud of having a part in their Christian growth.

A.H. AND JANIE PRIDGEN

Pridgen has taught Sunday school, served as deacon, taken over prayer meetings, and more for the past fifty years.

Only once was he called upon to fill the pulpit unexpectedly. Rev. L.D. Munn was interim pastor and was called on a Sunday afternoon to return home due to the illness of his wife.

Pridgen said Roland Horrell came to his home at 5:30 Sunday evening with the message, "You are chairman of the board of deacons - take over," Horrell told him. He did.

Together, the Pridgens have four children and 12 grandchildren ranging in age from 3 to 27 years.

Janie is well known for her Hospice work. She is also an avid reader and loves to travel, but her real hobby she says is "people". And people know Janie cares about them.
THE LONGVIEW SINGERS BRING CHRISTIAN MESSAGE IN SONG TO THEIR LISTENERS.

The Longview Singers may be contacted at 283-5603.

By DORA CORBETT

ATKINSON — The Longview Singers are fast becoming one of the most popular church music singing groups of the area.

Five years ago, Sophia and Eugene Floyd and Kelly Marie Retherford began a quartet.

"We just sing about Gods love and praise Him in song," Sophia said.

Recently, Mavis Kelly joined them as alto. Jimmy Eakins gave the group the name - Longview - because the Retherfords and Floyds live on the portion of Black River called by that name.

"We all love to sing," said Mrs Floyd, "and all of us have been members of the Atkinson Baptist Church choir for many years." The group sings in nursing homes, senior centers, and wherever they are invited.

Wanda Kelly is the accompanist for the group.

A member of the executive board of The Wilmington Baptist Association, Eugene Floyd serves as the area pastor group II leader and is liaison between his church and the association.

For the past quarter century, Eugene has been a deacon of the Atkinson church and has served in virtually all capacities.

The Women's Missionary Association secretary for The Wilmington Baptist Association, Mrs Floyd has served as church clerk for Atkinson Baptist for 25–plus years. She has been director of both Bible School and training union and helped organize the church media center.

Kelly Retherford leads, "Teen Kids" of the church every Wednesday night. She also teaches and has taught Sunday school classes from pre-school to college age to senior adults.

In addition to his contribution to the church choir for the past 14 years, Doyle Retherford served as vice chairman of the pastor search committee last year. He is now Sunday school superintendent and a member of the nominating committee.

Mavis Kelly's talents include decorating and flower arranging as well as singing.

Assistant pianist for the church, Wanda Kelly also serves on the homecoming committee.

The Longview Singers may be contacted at 283–5603.
Church deacon and wife are known for their kindness, energy, humility

By DORA CORBETT

ATKINSON - "Louise and Jay Woodcock may be the most humble - yet active - Christians that I have ever known," said their pastor Rev. Douglas Warnock.

Louise, who recently retired after 24 years with Black River Health Services, Inc., was honored with a reception given by Black River Health Services Board of Directors on Sunday, March 12.

"After working with Louise for 20 years, I know her as an humble and compassionate Christian person who lives her faith always," said Bruce Williams FNP.

Mrs. Woodcock was known for her kindness to everyone and loved for her dedication to the patients.

The youngest of five children of John and Esther Woodcock, Jay was brought up in the Atkinson Holiness Church. But he says all three of the churches in the town at that time had an impact on his life.

Jokingly, Jay said, "I'm half Baptist, and half Presbyterian now." His first Sunday school attendance was in Caswell Presbyterian Church and he has many friends there.

Woodcock joined Atkinson Baptist in the fall of 1962. He said some of his Baptist teachings may have come from the late Mr. Leslie Moore who taught Sunday School at Atkinson Baptist on Sunday mornings, then taught the same lesson at Atkinson Holiness - where Jay attended - that afternoon.

The daughter of Lillie Mae and the late Robert DeBose, Louise joined the fellowship of Shiloh Baptist at age 10.

She loved Sunday School, Bible School, Bible Drills and never considered the three mile walk to church a burden.

Louise expressed gratitude to teachers Betty DeVane at Shiloh and Josephine and Clara Horrell at Atkinson who she said had a positive influence on her life.

Jay said he chose Louise when she was very young, then waited for her to grow up.

Louise says she doesn't recommend marriage for very young girls but she and Jay have had 43 years of happiness. She attributes that to their commitment to one another and to God.

Soon after Jay joined Atkinson Baptist, he was asked by Pastor W.L. Blanton to serve as head usher and has remained in that capacity for nearly 40 years.

Later, he was ordained as a deacon and has served on the finance committee, the nominating committee, as assistant Sunday school director and the tape ministry.

Jay has served numerous 3 year terms as trustee and

LOUISE AND JAY WOODCOCK has given many hours looking after church property.

Through the years, he has been called upon to look after shrubbery, fix drains, play the chimes and to oversee paving projects at both the church and parsonage.

Long time member and deacon A.H. Pridgen said, "I don't know when Jay does it all. He makes no big show, he just gets the work done and expects no praise."

Louise has served as Sunday School teacher for nursery, toddlers, juniors, and adults. She was church treasurer for several years.

"I guess my calling is to be a caregiver," Louise said. Jay's mother - who lived to be 99 1/2 years old - lived with Jay and Louise for 8 years and was totally dependent for the last 4 years of her life.

Now, Louise's mother is ill and she and 3 siblings are caring for her.

The Woodcocks have two children - Richard and Diane Woodcock Norris. They also have two grandchildren - Brandon 14 and Rebecca, 11.

The couple expressed their love and appreciation to their church family and added, "we owe our allegiance to the Lord."

They use the gifts God gave them for his glory!
Area Baptists Attend Meet at Ridgecrest

“God Touch Our Lives” was the theme for the Annuitants’ Conference held at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly. Hundreds attended, including three Pender County Baptists.

Attending were Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Blanton, of Burgaw, and Mrs. Eswood Malpass, member of the Atkinson Baptist Church, where Rev. Blanton was pastor until his retirement.

Mr. Blanton led a group session one hour each morning, on “Care, Share and Prayer”.

Program personalities included Donald F. Acland, of Nashville, Tennessee, who was the Bible teacher each morning. He is retired editor of the Sunday School Board.

Baker James Cauthen, of Richmond, Virginia, was also among the outstanding speakers. Dr. Cauthen is now retired; however, prior to retirement he served as a pastor, then spent 12 years in China as a missionary and 26 years as Director of the Foreign Mission Board.
Atkinson
Missionary Baptist Church
1903 - 1977
History of Atkinson Missionary Baptist Church
1903 - 1977

Author
Dora Ludlam Corbett

The Pender Post, Inc.
Burgaw, N. C.
A Dedication

Atkinson Baptist Church

Reader, tarry here a moment, while yet you have the time; Learn from this the story of a happy church sublime.

Born out of need in a growing town nearby; Delivered from her Mother without a pain or cry.

Nourished with the milk of member love and such; Growing into the temple of The Atkinson Baptist Church.

Read herein the listing of those who had a part In developing her history from her very start.

Ministers alike and laymen, always with heart and mind; Oft without reward or money, for the betterment of mankind.

Some with gifts of speaking; others with gifts of land; Some with talents of music; other with talents of hand.

Today, she stands a monument to the eternal God above; Builded with stones of labor and morticed with tears of love.

Hearken, you who follow in the sunlight of her glow; By prayer and true devotion, be sure she continues to grow.

Rev. L. D. Munn, February, 1977
The Story of Atkinson Baptist Church is one of faithfulness. It is basically the story of families who have composed the church; who in their services have both added blessings to others and drawn strength from the Fellowship of Believers.

There have been few dramatic achievements and no major desentions. Like the families who founded her or joined in her infancy and have remained faithful throughout two, three, four and five generations, the church has overcome her trials and tribulations by standing steadfast in her doctrine - acknowledging the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Our is the story of the “Gifts” of the members of the “Body”. Everyone has possessed some special talent or personality making a unique contribution to the history of the church.

Compassion for the unfortunate and distressed has been a distinctive characteristic of our people for almost a century. The community has known that a Christian church existed here, for its members have loved one another.

Gathering materials and compiling this brief history has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

Until recent years the only records available are those in the annual report to the association and in many cases dates are less than exact. In my research I found one common denominator applicable to the persons mentioned in these short records. The church played a vital part in their lives. To have taken no part in the work of the church would have been as unthinkable to them as living in a community without a “House of Worship” was to the founders. There are a number of persons without whom I could not have completed this task.

My sincere appreciation is extended to Reuben L. Moore, Publisher of “THE PENDER POST” who donated the camera work, supplies and use of machinery as well as the know-how to get this booklet “press-ready.”

A special thank you to Hazel Horrell, Clara Horrell and others who were as near as the telephone when I needed verification or information; to Neal Eakins who gave us the account of Rev. E. P. Hart’s pastorate; to Kelly Marie Floyd who compiled the list of “Memorials”; to Sophia Floyd who helped with letter writing and to Mary Frances Pridgen who wrote the section on the library.

Wayne Arnold, Burgaw and D. G. Shaw, Atkinson, probably the two best informed local historians in the area, shared their knowledge of time, dates and places with me.

Senior citizens who led me back through their experiences have included: Mrs. Addie Moore, Mrs. Esther Woodcock, Mrs. Katie Corbett and Tom Smith of Atkinson; Mrs. Mamie Coker and G. B. Smith, Wilmington and Mrs. Ola Batson, Burgaw.

Data was obtained from the Wilmington Baptist Association, the J. Smith Reynolds Baptist Historical Library at Wake Forest University; Pender County Register of Deeds office and Pender County Board of Education.

DORA LUDLAM CORBETT

Author
The iron horse had replaced the steamboat! There was mass migration from Point Caswell, Still Bluff and other riverboat communities to the railroad. The Cape Fear Yadkin Valley Railroad had come in 1875 and built a Section House in Atkinson in 1882. The people found fertile soil in the Atkinson area. They found a turpentine industry. The railroad was a means of shipping their surplus food and forest products. Of great importance to ambitious parents desiring culture and education for their children, they found a school. (Later railroad tax monies were to educate their children while folks in less fortunate districts away from the railroads were unable to build schools.)

In the village of Atkinson at the turn of the century stood Excelsior High School, symbol of a brighter future for future generations.

But for those of Missionary Baptist Heritage, there was no place to worship God. Upon the faith of five hardworking farmers; one real estate man; the village blacksmith; three housewives; two lady school teachers and a dedicated Headmaster of the only High School in the area, Atkinson Baptist Church was constituted.

Those present on the third day of May, 1903 at Excelsior High School were: Males, Rev. J. J. Payseur, W. H. Lewis, J. D. Lewis, D. M. Lewis, J. A. Lewis, C. A. Barnhill, A. D. Horrell and G. W. Horrell; Females, Mrs. Jennie Payseur, Mrs. W. H. Lewis, Mrs. Jessie Lewis, Mrs. Carrie Woodcock and Miss Ola Mitchell.

Their purpose was to constitute a church where they and their neighbors could, "give unto the Lord Glory due into His name" and worship according to the dictates of their conscience.

Excelsior High School was located on the corner of Front Street and Washington Avenue. (The lot behind Mrs. Henrietta Turner's home today). In 1903, it was recorded as a private school, which is all intents and purposes was a Baptist school as it was conducted by Rev. J. J. Payseur, a Baptist minister and vice moderator of the Wilmington Association.

A report filed in 1904 reads as follows: "Payseur and his wife Jennie have made numerous sacrifices. They have assembled a faculty to put the school in a vital relation to Religious Education. They have aided the poor to become educated. Payseur is now pastor of the Atkinson Baptist church which he was instrumental in founding."

Students came from miles to the High School, many boarding in Atkinson and returning home on weekends. "This school offers advantages to our boys and girls that they can hardly get elsewhere," said the education report to the association (1903). "In view of the matchless energy and sacrifice of its faculty, we would recommend that a committee be appointed to advise steps to be taken to put this school in a more vital relation to our denomination. May we (Baptist) aid in every way the poor boys and girls in their efforts to become educated."

These dreams of Excelsior High School becoming a Baptist supported institution were never realized for the school burned less than two years later, leaving for awhile, the church and the home to educate the children.

"He ran the school with an iron hand," said a former student of Payseur's. "He was smart, energetic and a strict disciplinarian."

The Lewis family was the first family of Atkinson in that they were the first to live here. The mother of the four Lewis brothers, named as charter members of the church, was the daughter of John Robert Bonham who once owned the land now known as Atkinson. (Bonham is buried near the Jay Woodcock home.)

Joe, Jeff and Dave Lewis were farmers. Jeff Lewis was married to Jessie Stringfield Lewis who died of Influenza in 1918. Later, Jeff married Jessie's sister, Miss Callie Stringfield who ran a boarding house in Atkinson. A son of Jeff Lewis, Tommy, is a member of the church today.

W. H. Lewis was Atkinson's first mayor when the town was incorporated in 1909. He was also a local magistrate and surveyor as well as a church deacon. "Mr. Will" was a member of the North Carolina Legislature in 1923.

Mrs. Clyde Lewis Payne, daughter of W. H., rememberers living in the house owned by Mrs. Bertha Johnson today located behind the Harold Atkinson home. "Our house was the only building in Atkinson except the railroad section house," she said.

W. H. (Will) Lewis married Miss Carrie Peterson from Clinton. Miss Carrie had attended Woman's College in
Winston-Salem where she majored in Music and Education.

MRS. CARRIE PETERSON LEWIS

Miss Carrie had operated a grade school in her home prior to the Payseur days. Theirs was the gift our Pioneering!

CLARENCE BARNHILL

Clarence Allison Barnhill was a likeable guy with a word for everyone. He was a blacksmith, a farmer and a store owner. Barnhill had a large family and in later years operated a grist mill. His father had been a Civil War veteran whose home was on the Colvin’s Creek Road (now known as Rankin). C. A. Barnhill was not only a founder of the church. He was the first clerk.

The impact that family relationship has had upon this congregation might be emphasized by naming Barnhill’s descendants remaining in the church today. There is: a daughter, Noami Baker; a son Floyd Barnhill; a grandson Clarence Baker; two great grandsons, Roy Baker and Wayne Haire; three granddaughters, Gladys B. Haire, Evelyn Barnhill and Sandra Baker; a niece, Inez Harrell; two great nieces, Edith Woodcock and Clara Horrell; a great nephew Marion Harrell and two great nieces; Kenneth Barnhill and Eddie Alton Harrell. Their gifts have been that of friendship.

George Washington Horrell, present on that Day of Destiny, was a deacon at the Haw Bluff Baptist Church before he and his wife Martha Woodcock Horrell settled in the Colvins Creek Community.

MRS. ADRAIN HORRELL

The church membership today includes grandchildren of George W. Horrell - Jeff Horrell, Sadie Henry, Ethel Horne Bordeaux, Roland Horrell and Roderick Horrell; great grandchildren Phil Horrell, Carlton Henry, Jay Woodcock, Raymond Horrell, Tommy Horrell, Sara H. Lanier and Odessa Cromartie. There are also nine great great grandchildren in the church and Sunday School. For five generations, theirs has been the Gift of Faithfulness.

Rev. J. J. Payseur was called as the first pastor and received $100 per year. Services were held in the school building on the first Saturday and the Sunday after of each month.

John Jerome Payseur was born in Lincolnton, N.C. in 1867. A graduate of Wake Forest College, he received his D. D. degree at Southern Seminary. Atkinson’s first pastor was a Doctor of Divinity!

After Excelsior High School burned, Payseur was principal at Six Forks Institute, a Baptist School. Later, he moved to Oklahoma.

On June 1, 1903, C. A. Barnhill, T. H. Woodcock and G. Mitt Woodcock Horrell were charter members of the church.
W. Smith were appointed as building committee and Trustees of the infant church.

Other members of this family who made their contributions to the church include a son of G. W. Mack and his wife Sarah Edens Horrell who worked in the church from 1910 when they moved to the community until their deaths.

Miss Ola Mitchell was a sister-in-law of Payneur and a teacher.

Mrs. Graham Woodcock was the mother of Mrs. Eva Long. (Both are deceased).

T. H. (Tom) Woodcock, one of the 24 children of John B. Woodcock (See next chapter) was not only a trustee, he was an enthusiastic fiddler. Whenever the occasion called for song, he and his wife Margie, who played the autoharp, were available.

This musical couple through a daughter Mittie who married Adrian Horrell has "replenished" the church choir. Theirs is the Gift of Music!

George William Smith had moved to Atkinson in 1902 with a family of three sons and three daughters. Smith was an ordained deacon at Bethlehem Baptist Church before the school and the railroad enticed him and his wife Mehetabel (1 Chronicles 1:50) called Hettie to bring their family to Atkinson and build one of the first homes there. (The home where Mrs. Katie Corbett lives today.) Three of the Smith...
children, Mrs. Katie Corbett, Mrs. Mattie Johnson and Tom Smith remain in the church today. Theirs has been the Gift of Hospitality!

A 100 ft. x 150 ft. lot located on the corner of church street and Washington Avenue (location of the present educational building) was donated by W. H. Lewis for the purpose of building a sanctuary. In a period of one year, a church building with a seating capacity of 250 was completed.

Although the deed for this property made November 12, 1903, was not recorded in the county courthouse until November 4, 1940 when Mrs. Lorena Bostic recorded it, the people had established a "House of Prayer!"

THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING was completed in 1904 and used until 1948.
For the families who came by letter from the Colvin's Creek missionary Baptist church as charter members of the Atkinson Church, this was the second venture of faith in an effort to assemble themselves together in Brotherly Love.

Founded in 1879 and disbanded in 1902, Colvin's Creek Baptist, locally known as "Jack's Chapel", served a unique purpose in bringing together those of Missionary Baptist beliefs.

By Faith, these farm families who lived up and down Colvin's Creek sought a place to study God's word together. Their desire was to learn more of the ways of the Lord and to walk together in paths where He led, but they had no meeting house in which to sing Praises and render Reverence.

By faith, John Bizzell Woodcock (Jacky) and his wife Elizabeth A., made a gift of a church building site to Washington Henry, George W. Horrell and Hanson M. Woodcock, trustees.

Recorded in 1879, the deed read, "In consideration of an earnest desire which they in common with their neighbors have to see the cause of Religion and Sunday School advanced in the Colvin's Creek Community and of their Intentions to erect a building in which to worship God, John B. Woodcock and wife, Elizabeth A., deed to the trustees of Colvin-Creek Missionary Baptist church, a plot of land at the fork of the road just above Woodcock's house." (This site is the present location of Jack Woodcock's home.)

Two provisions were stated in the deed (1) that the Presbyterians may use the church as a place of worship at any time not conflicting with regular appointments of the Missionary Baptist and (2) that if said land shall cease to be used as a place of worship or for Sunday School, the land shall revert to Woodcock's heirs.

Since Elizabeth could not sign her name, she made her mark (X). Afterwards, the notary public, C. P. Moore, took Mrs. Woodcock in private where she swore that her husband had neither threatened nor forced her to sign her mark and that she did so of her own free will and accord.

John Bizzell Woodcock, is said to be the grandfather of all the Atkinson Woodcock's. He had two wives and 24 children--12 by each wife.

There are stories about this man's arrival in the area but space does not permit their telling here.

Jacky was a professional fiddler, playing for dances, etc. Although early Baptist excluded many for dancing "the Gift of music" possibly inherited from this man has been a blessing to the church.

"Grand-daddy Jacky" not only gave a acre of land and a talent to the church, his descendants have been so numerous and so many of them have remaineded in the community that one wonders whether the church would have survived without them. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the church today are direct descendants of "Grand-daddy Jacky". Their Gifts have included the gifts of gifts--charity.

Hanson Woodcock was the son of John G. He was also the grandfather of Jack, Wilbur and Gurney Woodcock who live in Atkinson today but are Presbyterian.
Washington Brown Henry, a grandson of R. J. Bonham, was a large land holder and the father of eleven children. Three daughters and a son were lifetime members of the church. Lorena Henry married E.G. Bostic; Mamie Henry married W. S. Carter and Sarah Bailey Henry married A. H. Pridgen Jr. Through the years, theirs has been the gift of trusteeship.

It was at Jack's Chapel that W. G. (Billy) Horrell, the tall red-haired freckled-faced crippled church clerk saw his daughter, Esther (now Mrs. Esther Woodcock) baptized, but not before he used his walking cane to reach across the isle and pok his giggling daughter, thus reminding her that she was in the Lord's house.

When services were discontinued at Colvin's Creek in 1902, the Billy Horrell family (as did some others) united with the Colvin's Creek Free Will Baptist Church. (The church was located where Graham Cromartie lives today.) A grandson, Jay Woodcock, has returned to the Missionary Baptist faith and serves as a deacon.

The Free Will Church originated at Point Caswell and has been disbanded for many years.

In 1881, Colvin's Creek Missionary Baptist Church was granted permission to enter the Eastern Baptist Association, which then included the area now in the Wilmington Association. The report sent to the Association named J. W. Gurganus as pastor; W.G. Horrell as clerk, and R. C. Henry as Sunday School Superintendent.

R. C. Henry was the grandfather of James Tate Henry.

By 1882, the church reported Baptizing six and receiving by letter seven making a total of 46 members. Pastor's salary was $50.00 for the year and $2.00 was sent to foreign missions.

Sunday School superintendents at Colvins Creek were W. G. Horrell, David Lewis and R. C. Henry.

Pastors were: J. W. Gurganus, 1881-1882; W. A. Melvin, 1883-1888; Julian P. Faison, 1889-1891; R. M. Hilburn, 1891-1894; C. B. Peterson 1895; John D. Larkin 1896-1897 and J. H. Dobson 1898-1902.

Records are available on five of the seven. Rev. Rufus M. Hilburn was a lay minister ordained and licensed by the Galeed Baptist Church, Bladenboro. He served as moderator of the Bladen Association from 1906-1910.

Jack's Chapel reported no record of what they paid the good Reverend who came monthly to lead the worship. The previous pastor, Faison received $37.00 per year. Hilburn had prayed that God would give him 50 years of service. At 74, he had been on the fields over rural roads with poor pay for 50 years when he died "en route to the churches" in 1929. His was the gift of perseverance.

John D. Larkins was ordained by the Point Caswell Baptist Church and pastored the Colvin's Creek Church in 1896. He berated dancing in his associational sermon at Mount Holly Baptist Church in 1899, calling for continued "Exclusion" from the congregation for this sin. Larkins graduated from Wake Forest College and Southern Seminary. He pastored in Henderson, 1904-1906, and in Georgia for several years. In a brief Biography of his life, Larkins is called a "dynamic speaker who earnestly opposed all evil." His was the gift of speech.

The Larkins family lived on Moore Hill near Black River, having settled there two generations earlier. Eli Larkins (Rev. John's father) became Postmaster at Atkinson in the early 1900s. After losing property in the Grover Cleveland depression, he moved to Main Street, Atkinson. A daughter, Miss Caroline Larkins was a long time Sunday School teacher. Remaining with the assembly today are a great nephew Norris Corbett; a great great niece Emily Simpson and a great great nephew Clyde Corbett.

W. A. Melvin was ordained at Harrell's Store in 1881 and preached twice monthly at Jack's Chapel for $65.00 annually in 1883.

Julian P. Faison was a Civil War veteran and chaplain. For 35 years, he was "an honored and useful minister." He was visiting by the fireside of parishioners in Colvin's Creek and Point Caswell when "the fatal illness came upon him and he died July 3, 1890.

J. H. Dobson began his ministry with the Colvin Creek families in 1989. He lived in the community and walked to Haw Bluff Baptist Church where he preached
for nearly 20 years, crossing Black River in a boat. "Many were the days he came home with 'blistered feet' wrote his daughter, Mrs. Lillie Thomas, Richlands. "He felt the sweetest place to be buried was in a church graveyard," she added. Dobson lived to be 69 and had spent forty of those years as pastor. He is buried at Haw Bluff. His was a gift of Dedication.

Mrs. Thomas writes that she attended Sunday School at Atkinson and remembers Miss Blanche Lewis, Miss Clyde Lewis and Miss Caroline Larkins as Sunday School teachers. Both Dobson's mother and a one year old son of the minister are buried in the Woodcock Cemetery.

Dobson supplied at the Atkinson Church in 1918 and was Sunday School superintendent in 1904.

In a report for fellowship day on October 27, 1930, Mrs. W. H. Lewis wrote of the church's first Revival, "Many were converted and Baptized."

By the fall of 1904, Atkinson Baptist Church had grown to a total membership of 71. There were 37 males and 34 females 12 had been Baptized; 4 had joined by letter and one had been restored to fellowship.

The most common causes of exclusion in the early days were dancing, drinking, gambling and non-attendance. The brethren were very strict in their discipline calling conferences regularly and showing no discrimination in their exclusions. Sometimes they turned out members of their own families.

The Rev. J. A. Smith came to the church as her second pastor. He was a confederate war veteran who had served as courier for Major General Whitney, having joined at age 17. A graduate of Davidson College and Theological Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina, he had been wounded at Fort Fisher January 15, 1865. Smith closed saloons, fought for temperance, education, civic righteousness and soul winning. Smith was one of the temperance committee who wrote to a new Wilmington Baptist Association in 1904 saying "Ladies and Gentlemen, don't poison your bodies with Coca-cola." His was a gift of Evangelism.

When Smith moved on to capture larger audience with his fiery preaching, Atkinson called Rev. J. B. Newton of Kerr. The long walk from Kerr on the 1st week-end of each month only served to aid Brother Newton's long windedness during his sermons in 1906. That year the church budget increased to a grand total of $259.25 and the Sunday School enrollment rose to 103 pupils. Newton's niece, Miss Clara Newton taught school and lived at Kelly until her death. The long winded Brother Newton was asked to preach at the Presbyterian church in Kerr one Sunday and long after twelve noon, a young fellow in the congregation pulled out his watch opened the case, looked at it and popped it closed.

Without losing his train of thought, Rev. Newton removed his own watch, opened the case, said loudly, "click", and continued his message. His was a gift of Endurance.

Newton who was a Wake Forest graduate had a brother who was a missionary to Africa. His son, "Doc" had been football coach at both Wake Forest and State.

Families who had moved to Atkinson in the early days of the church included the Will Peterson family who came from Clear Run near Ingold in Sampson County. Peterson and his wife Mattie had eight children and drove a carriage (a two-seated buggy).

Matt Peterson who was four years old when his family arrived in 1904 remembers that the church was in the process of building. Peterson bought the home formerly

Numbers

"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Acts 2:47.
owned by J. J. Rayseur. (Part of the same house now owned by Mrs. Henrietta Turner). Matt Peterson grew up to become one of the first deacons to be ordained by Atkinson Baptist Church.

The welfare of the church was utmost in his mind. A beloved mail carrier, there were times during the depression when he paid the church light bill as well as contributing his services and his tithe. "He was one of the Abrahams who were the backbone of the church during lean years," said a present member.

After his retirement, he and his wife, the former Lila Corbett moved to Wilmington.

Theirs was the Gift of Giving!

John Gray Cobb was an inventor of turpentine tools. His family moved from Claxton, Georgia and settled a couple of miles "up the railroad," North of Atkinson in 1901, when Marshall and Ola (Mrs. Edgar Batson Sr.) were young children. The family joined the Baptist Assembly and Marshall who was a life time member later became the Church's first Baptist Training Union Director. He also taught in the Sunday School for many years. His wife Alma Bradshaw Cobb, a son, John Gray Cobb, and several grandchildren are still members of the church. The gift of Inventiveness was added to the body.

Depot agents have brought to the church their support and their talents through the years. Among the first of these was Ben Jones whose daughter Ruth led the first Sunbeam organization.

During the early years Brother Dick Lewis was sitting straight and tall in his regular seat on the front row when the minister asked, "Brother Dick, do you recollect reading the second chapter of Obadiah?"

"Why, yes I've read it a min-u-a time, Brother," he answered.

"Then, your Bible must be different from mine," the pastor answered, "mine has only one chapter in Obadiah."

When C. H. Utley arrived in Atkinson in 1907, Miss Caroline Larkins was 27 years old and feeling the danger of Spinisterhood.

Miss Caroline who remained single throughout her life and in later years denied ever having cared for a man was attracted to the slim dark - complexioned minister. At this stage in his life, Utley, like the apostle Paul had no room in his life for the affections of a woman. He went about his preaching and teaching with a fervent dedication. He was a shepherd to the Lord's people and a dynamic minister of the Gospel. He served as Bender County Supt. of Education from July 3, 1903 - May 3, 1909. This was the period when T. T. Murphy went back to College. Utley asked the Board of Education to accept his resignation as he had other work he wanted to do.

Miss Caroline buried her heartache in the rearing of four orphaned nieces and nephews and by spending tireless hours preparing and teaching a Sunday School class.

Until her death on November 4, 1956, Miss Caroline never hesitated to point her right index finger in righteous indignation at a fellow parishioner who had erred. Neither did she hesitate to aid a needy family nor to pointedly ask a neighbor or a stranger, "Are you a Christian? If her victim answered "yes", she inevitably said, "Then you should be a missionary Baptist." Hers was a gift of fortitude!

Years later her brother-in-law, G. B. Smith remarked, "There was one thing wrong with "Sissy's" true love. She misread Utley. You see, the Reverend Utley was cross-eyed and Caroline only thought he was making eyes at her from the pulpit."

Utley did marry later and had two children. A graduate of Wake Forest College, he
C. H. UTLEY

resigned as pastor of Southside Baptist church to go back to the Seminary.

He wrote a History of North Carolina Baptist; a History of Wake Forest College and was instrumental in indexing church records.

Utley filled the pulpit of Burgaw Baptist Church the Sunday before he died at Rocky Point, where he was teaching at Rocky Point Institute.

A letter from John H. Burnett (Burgaw) written at the time of his death read in part...“Mr. Utley, had more to do with getting me in college than any other person. He was a man with a great mind and a heart of sympathy, especially for young men and women who were sincere desirers of mental and spiritual advancement. His interest had a great influence on my life.”

His was a Gift of Total Commitment.

Atkinson Church has been blessed with educated pastors who were held in high esteem. Among them was James Hilliard Booth, another Wake Forest man. He moved on to be pastor at Lincolnton First Baptist and later to organize a church after spending the years of 1909 and 1910 with the Atkinson Brethren and Sisters.

It was in 1909 the same year the town was incorporated that Atkinson hosted the Wilmington Association for the first time. Thirty-six churches were represented at the two day event. Every family had visitors to stay overnight and business at the local hotel was booming.

By 1911, the church treasurer was able to deposit the collections in a local bank, first located in the back of G. W. Smith’s store, and the offerings had risen to a total of $364.62 that year. The pastor’s salary was raised to $135 for the year and a single foreign mission offering amounted to $23.89. A. H. Costin, the depot agent who was made bank cashier when the “Bank of Atkinson” was built in 1912, was elected church secretary as “the funds have become enormous.”

Thirty-eight years later when the congregation moved into the present day sanctuary, the deacons voted to give the old church “out-door cottage” to this same Mr. Costin who was then living in a trailer which had no plumbing facilities.

Meeting the train was the favorite past time for local residents and Sunday School Services held on Sunday afternoons was scheduled to be dismissed in time for the gatherings at the depot.

It was in 1910 that Mrs. Alice Glisson Corbett with eight of her ten children disembarked from the train in Atkinson. Henry Clifton Corbett, the head of the house and a son Norwood were driving the team and wagon with their furniture from Beaufort in Carteret County. They were “moving back,” having been reared “over the river.” (A term referring to people who live on the Bladen County side of Black River) Corbett had bought the farm now owned by Dalton Downing. The Corbett’s made a caravan down main street to the home of Cousin Eli Larkins where they rested.

A daughter, Mamie Corbett Coker remembers that walk down the wooded dirt street as a pilgrimage into the unknown. The winding street took them practically under the windows of the wood framed Baptist church. “Is this where we’ll go to church Mama?” (And here they did worship for many years joining other families who believed as they believed and feared God as well as loved Him.)

The oldest of the Henry C. Corbett children (W. A.) was away at school when the family moved to Atkinson. He later owned a basket factory here.

The school which was being operated in the church and the one being built on the Wash Henry property enabled the three Corbett daughters to become school teachers. One of them, Lila, who married Matt Peterson was church hostess for many years.

A son, Norwood Clyde (father of Norris Clifton) remained a life time member of the church and loved it with a passion. Like Nathaniel, he was a man in whom there was no guile. His gift was that of undisguised honesty.

But mama (Alice Corbett) had heard that Geneva (Geneva Larkins) had “up and got married” and she hurried her brood onward to learn the details. (Geneva had married George Benjamin Smith son of George William Smith). This had been a gala occasion held on a Sunday afternoon at the bride’s home. The wedding was performed by the Reverend W. B. Rivenbark, the new preacher who drove a horse and buggy from Teachey. Smith, the bridegroom, decided not to spend the night at the local hotel, knowing what would await him there. He had helped to tie a cowbell under the bed in the “Bridal Suite” of the last couple who stayed there.

The Cicero Butler family moved into the community and joined the church about
1910. One of the sons Oscar married a grand-daughter of Jacky Woodcock, Ollie Woodcock. Their son, James Hardy Butler became the first to go out from the church into full time Christian service.

A daughter Mrs. Lessie Barnhill is among the faithful, having been a teacher, a choir member and W.M.U. Director. Another son of Cicero Butler, Joe, has a son Steve, who was chairman of the building committee for the Education Building. Margaret Bostic and Josephine Adams are daughters Jo Butler. Theirs is a Gift of Service to others!

The church now had services on the third Saturday and the Sunday following and so it was on the third Saturday that the people listened expectantly, for the good Reverend Rivenbark would arrive on the seat of his buggy singing the old favorite hymns in his best bass voice. A small dark man described as "not much bigger than five minutes," he was pastor to Centerville, Harmony, Mount Holly and Watha churches at the same time he served Atkinson. Yet he led Atkinson into the beginning for them of new church programs. In 1911 Miss Katie Smith (later Mrs. R. Y. Corbett) became the first W.M.U. president and Marshall Cobb became the first B.Y.P.U. President with 32 youth enrolled.

In 1911, the same year that the Atkinson tax district borrowed $1200 to build a High School, (this was paid off in 1921) church members signed pledge cards for the first time. Church membership reached 133 in 1912—the year that Edward G. Bostic became Sunday School Superintendent. Bostic had come down from Beulaville and married Lorena Henry, daughter of Walsh Henry. He served as church clerk from 1914-1922 and again from 1929 to 1936.

Bostic was also a choir member and at one time song leader for the congregational hymns. Mrs. Bostic was pianist for many years and one of the faithful in W.M.U. They added to the Body the gift of peace-making.

The year 1913 brought 44 new members to the church. Fourteen of these were by baptisms and 30 by letter totaling the largest gain of any one year and bringing the total up to 184 members by 1914. When the "week of protracted meetings" was held each fall, Atkinson High School students and teachers marched over and attended faithfully each morning at 11:00 A.M. Many of the students joined during this time. Later, all who accepted Christ were baptized, either in Black River or a millpond near Rooks," wrote Mrs. Ercelle Corbett Tompson. She added that the crowd always sang, "Shall we gather at the River." The millpond was called the "Woodcock Mill Pond" after its owner Bob Woodcock. Location of the millpond today is on the creek back of Roland Horrell’s and Maurice Kelly’s farms.

Sunday School was on Sunday afternoon except on the third Sunday when the minister came and W.M.U. met faithfully on Monday afternoons once a month.

The church was growing economically as well as spiritually. In 1914, the pastor’s salary was increased to $150 for the year and total collections amounted to $427.44.

The church participated in a layman’s movement in 1915. When Donnie Benson, Archie E. Kelly and Mary Jane Walker attended the Associational meeting at Long Creek in 1915 they doubtless agreed with other delegates who said that no young man should be ordained to preach the gospel who would not give up the tobacco habit. “The coco-cola habit is an evil of such proportions that a true follower of God should not partake of it,” the temperance report concluded. (Temperance reports were dis-continued in the 1920 associational minutes). The Benson’s lived on a farm now owned by Mrs. Adrian Hawes.

Jewell Benson, Donnie’s brother walked the 2 1/2 miles and brought home the Sunday School collection consisting mostly of pennies and nickles in a quart Kerr jar
during the years he served as Sunday School treasurer. His was a gift of cheerful service!

Other members of the family belonging to the Baptist Assembly were Winston and Summerfield Benson. Mrs. Mary Jane Walker was the mother of Mrs. Katie Woodcock.

Archie Kelly lived on College Avenue in Atkinson next door to Jim Flynn. T. S. Teague, a High School principal, was instrumental in the continued growth of the church, serving as Sunday School Supt., and working closely with the pastors. Mrs. H. P. Bell Sr., Currie, was a sister of Teague.

The Testaments

"Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."


The Roaring twenties dawned upon a booming Atkinson and a continually growing missionary Baptist Church, a church that while growing was serving the community. By 1921, the total membership had reached 210 and the year's love offerings reached the four digit figure of $1,255. Pastor's salary was raised to $300.

The families of W.C. Keith, H. E. Mills, A. D. Bordeaux, E. R. Thomas and J.H. Highsmith were among those who joined the Body of Believers in the early twenties.

The W. C. Keith family lived where Miss Lena Lewis lives today. Keith was a brother of Mrs. Annie Faye Shaw and came from the Bethlehem Baptist Church.

J. H. Highsmith moved his membership from the Moore's Creek Church where he was a deacon. "Mr. Jim" served as a deacon in the Atkinson church until his death in 1932. A son George H. Highsmith was one of the first deacons ordained by the church.

Rev. Exile Lennell Weston began his pastorate at the Atkinson church on November 1, 1928 and remained until March 1924. When Weston was called to preach, he had neither money nor education but managed to graduate from Wake Forest College and
Southern Seminary.
Weston had ten children, a
daughter Frances W. Regis-
ter taught school in Atkinson
until her recent retirement.
Two sons Charles and Wil-
liam Albert became mini-
sters. When the Wes-
ton's lived on "Negro Head
Road," neighborhood boys
who hunted nearby woodlands
could hear the Good Reverend
reciting his Sunday sermon
from a stump. His was the
Gift of Preparation.

CHILDREN LOVED HIM! Cecil Franklin, Richard Grayson, Frayser and Robert Simpson are pictured with Dr. G. C. Beard.

Miss Lizzie Jones, a
crippled polio victim and se-
cretary to Penny Chevrolet
in Atkinson was an early
Junior Training Union lead-
er. "She had such an impact
on my life," said Betty Hor-
rell. Miss Lizzie's was the
gift of teaching!

The year 1921 brought to
Atkinson, Dr. Grover Cleve-
land Beard whose contribu-
tions to Atkinson Baptist
Church were surpassed only
by his contributions to the
community. As a doctor he
never refused to make a
house call regardless of wea-
ther, bad roads, etc. It is said
that Dr. Beard never mailed a
bill. Those who were unable
to pay, the crippled, the
downcast, the poorest in the
hardest times knew that they
could call on Dr. Beard and
that he would give them both
physical treatment and
spiritual encouragement.

One who knew Dr. Beard
well said, "On the Board of
curch deacons, Dr. Beard
was an administrator; in Sun-
day School, he was a teacher;
on a committee, he was a
peacemaker and on the build-
ing committee he was finan-
cial advisor. His donations
were a challenge to the weal-
thiest and his kindness an in-
spiration to all who knew
him."

His was the gift of a Com-
passionate heart!

Born October 12, 1887 at
Cedar Creek, Cumberland
County, Dr. Beard was the
son of David A. and Katharine
Thaggard Beard. He attended
Buie's Creek Academy, a
private school in Autryville,
graduated from the Univer-
sity of North Carolina and re-
ceived his medical degree
from the University of Mary-
land in 1912.

While practicing at Har-
rell's Store he married Sallie R. Herring on July 2, 1918. They have two children, Sarah and David.

In Atkinson, Dr. Beard set up practice above the drug store owned at one time by Oto Wells and at another time by George Highsmith.

On February 24, 1961 after forty years of service in this community Dr. Beard suffered a stroke. He died five years later, February 1966.

Leonidas La Fayette Johnson was twice pastor of Atkinson Baptist. His first pastorate began on March 1, 1924 and closed November 30, 1928. On September 19, 1933 Brother Johnson returned as pastor and served until December 30, 1939.

Since that time he has continually been called back for Revivals, Homecomings, Dedications and especially for funerals. Recently, Johnson said, "I have helped to bury more persons than I can call by name today."

A Sampson County native, L.L. observed his 17th birthday by preaching his first sermon. On May 24, 1915, he married May Guner of Duplin County. They have eight children.

The church has benefited by the ministry of this pastor who brought joy to the hearts of those he visited, comfort to those in sorrow and a teaching ministry based solely on the Word of God.

Brother Johnson has also been called upon to perform numerous marriages since leaving the community. Many times a couple would buy licenses in Pender County and drive to Delway to be married.

"I would just bring them back to the 'Marriage Bush'," he said.

The "marriage bush" was a sweet gum bush beside highway #421 just inside Pender County. More recently, Brother L.L. himself has remarried, having lost the first Mrs. Johnson by death. He is married to the former Mrs. Pearl Smith Rich.

His is the gift of Brotherly Love!

Lewis Huffman lived in the grove near the church. Having little money in the 1920's, Huffman wanted to give of his time to the church. Each Sunday when others arrived they found a warm fire in the wood stove because Huffman's contribution was one of sacrificial service!

Additions to the church during the 1920's included the families of Huffman Bloodworth, Haywood Kelly, W. R. Lewis, S. L. Moore, and Murchison Downing.

Blessed with a sense of humor, Huffman Bloodworth moved from the Centerville Baptist Church at Kelly to become a part of the Atkinson church. He had married Mae Johnson of Ranklin (formerly Colvin's Creek). Two of their eight children, Morris and Gordon, with their families are active today.

Haywood Kelly moved his membership from Point Caswell. The father of Troy Kelly, "Mr. Haywood's" contributions have included financial aid and working diligently toward a new sanctuary.

His was the Gift of Administration.

W. R. Lewis with his family came to the church and community in 1924. Mrs. Lewis, fondly called "Miss Fanny", is still a member.

From the year 1925 until his health failed in the late 1950's, Atkinson residents knew that Sunday morning had dawned when they saw Leslie Moore with his children on their way to Sunday School and church. Moore had been a deacon at "Caintuck Chapel" and had brought his church affiliation to Atkinson. He taught a morning Sunday School class at the Atkinson Baptist Church and often taught the same lesson at the Free Will Holiness church that afternoon.

It was very seldom that Moore's pick-up truck slowed to a stop without some hitch - hiker dismounting. Anyone wishing a ride would wait beside the road for Moore who always came by and always stopped to give a lift. He added to the body a Gift of True Humility!

Christine Moore, a deacon at Haw Bluff Baptist Church moved his church affiliation to Atkinson during the 1930 and remained until his death.

The Downings moved their memberships from the Centerville church in 1927. A son of Murchison Downing, Her-
man was ordained a deacon in October 1956. A son of Herman Downing, Donald, remains in the Assembly. Another son of Murchison Downing, Dalton, has served as Training Union Director and on Finance Committees. Their gifts to the Body have been that of Patience!

The year 1927 marked this church's first contribution to the Co-operative Program. The amount was $200.
Pastor's salary had increased from $300 in 1924 to $950 in 1927.
Shelton Corbett, baby son of H. C. Corbett was BYPU President that year and Mrs. W. T. Flynn was W. M. U. president.

The Aaron Kelly family joined the Atkinson church in 1935. Kelly had been a member at the Haw Bluff church where he served as deacon. "Mr. Aaron" was made honorary lifetime deacon on September 5, 1976. At the age of 92, he is still attending services and is an inspiration to younger members, supporting their efforts financially and spiritually. His gift is one of stewardship.

Reverend Tasso Wirt Siler pastored the church in 1929 and 1930. He attended Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia and on September 18, 1901 married Miss Mary Valle Phillips a childhood sweetheart. His active pastorate extended over 47 years.
After retirement, Siler was called to pastor Blue Creek Mission. His grandchildren have a memorial at First-Citizens Bank, Jacksonville, which assists ministers in preparing for the ministry.
A daughter of Siler, Alma Studdert lives in Kelly today.

Dr. W. D. Morris of Ingold was called to be the pastor in 1931. Dr. Morris found that the church was not escaping the depression. The pastor's salary had decreased to $400. Total collections in 1932 were $553 compared with $1500 just four years earlier. But the new minister also found Dr. G. C. Beard, faithfully serving as Sunday School Superintendent; he found Mrs. R. Y. Corbett continuing as W.M.S. president with meager funds; he found R. V. Eakins a conscientious church treasurer and E. G. Bostic a faithful clerk. The church was not only hard hit financially, this same year it lost five of its most faithful members by death: Mesdames C. A. Blunt Hill, J. H. R. Highsmith, J. D. Lewis, W. C. Keith and Mr. T. H. Woodcock.
In spite of hard times, spiritual growth continued
MRS. MYRTLE HORRELL CHESTNUT

for members such as Mrs. Myrtle Chestnut constantly used their gifts. Mrs. Chestnut taught in the Sunday School as well as being church treasurer for many years. A daughter of Mack Horrell, hers was a gift of teaching.

A graduate of Wake Forest College and Southern Seminary, Dr. W. D. Morris was pastor of the church in 1930-31. Morris who pastored Temple Baptist in Wilmington for twelve years missed only one Sunday in the pulpit during the first four years after his retirement.

From September 1933 until December 30, 1939, L. L. Johnson was again the church’s pastor. It was during this time that F. R. Lennon became High School principal. Lennon was loved both by the church and his students. He died while active in both.

Rudolph Horrell began serving as church clerk in 1939 and portrayed the gift of caring both as clerk and as choir member until his death on October 1, 1969. Teenagers who joined the adult choir were heard to remark, “Mr. Rudolph cares about our feelings.” His was the gift of Caring!

Elijah Wrightman Pate found a church enrollment of 199 when he accepted the pastorate in 1940. Pate was pastor of Mount Holly, Shiloh, Willard, Centerville and Calvary during his 37 years in the ministry. He retired after six years with the First Baptist Church, Wilmington and returned to Locust, S. C. Pate died January 13, 1975.

In 1941 Pate baptized twelve and saw the church enrollment reach 214.

John Sylvester Pope, born July 1, 1875, came to the church from the Moore’s Creek Baptist bringing his deaconship with him, around 1944. “Mr. Johnny” is remembered by many for having continued as teacher of the Men’s Bible Class after becoming blind, Mrs. Pope reading the lesson to him.

This writer remembers him as the man who called a special prayer meeting (The church being without a pastor) when her two year old son had been unconscious for thirty days.

Johnny Pope faced the March wind at 2 o’clock A.M. to return from the new church sanctuary to his home. Simultaneously, a nurse at Babies Hospital, Wrightsville Beach, paged Dr. Sildbury. She held in her arms, she believed a dying child. But before the good doctor reached the second floor room, Clyde Corbett opened his eyes and recognized his mother for the first time in a month. When the nurse apologized for awakening the doctor, the renowned Pediatrician said, “The greatest reward of my profession is being called to witness another of God’s miracles.”

Mr. Johnny added to the church the Gift of Prayer.

REV. E.P. PATE

J. S. POPE

MR. AND MRS. DURWOOD BOSTIC

Durwood Bostic was a deacon, teacher and Training Union Director. A son of E. G. Bostic, he is pictured with his wife Margaret. Durwood died on December 5, 1971.
"Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of Heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build:"

Nehemiah 2:20.

During the years from 1940 to 1975, the church launched an extensive building program, building a new sanctuary, a parsonage and an Educational Building. At present the church is debt free.

"How are you this very day in the community in which we live?" Church members who remember Rev. T. K. Woody fondly remember him for the above greetings.

Woody pastored the field of churches, Atkinson, Shiloh and Moore's Creek in 1944-45 and '46. It was under his leadership that plans were made for building a new church.

Woody's salary from Atkinson was $697.88 annually.

World War II brought sadness to the church families with practically every home sending their sons to war. It was the unpleasant duty of Depot agent John David Eakins to deliver telegrams bearing the death messages to the families of J. B. Hamilton Jr., and Linwood Corbett. J. B. was the son of J. B. Hamilton Sr. Another son of the Hamilton family, Carroll was ordained deacon in the 1950's.

Linwood was a son of Norwood C. Corbett, one of four brothers on active duty at the time.

The building committee for the new church building appointed in 1946 were J. M. Register, Dr. G. C. Beard, W. H. Kelly, Sr., and Norwood C. Corbett (all are deceased).

Jim Register who had moved his membership from Moore's Creek was a deacon. Although the church was without a pastor in 1947, these four men led the church in building a new sanctuary.

Register has two grandsons, Jimmy and Gene Eakins and a daughter-in-law Dorothy who are active today.

Called a man of faithfulness and humility, George White had been ordained in the Calvary Baptist Church, Wilmington. He and his wife who was a practical nurse accepted the call to pastor the church in 1948 and remained until 1952. Rev. and Mrs. White were killed in an accident on March 23, 1977. They were living in Wilmington at that time.

Miss Alice Cook came to Atkinson in 1936 as a school teacher. She married Otto Wells, one of the eligible bachelors in the town. Alice has served on numerous nominating committees, has been church treasurer and was on two building committees, the Parsonage and the Educational building.

Hers is the gift of decision-making.

John David Eakins had married Miss Neal Graham of Roseboro who became treasurer of the church in 1943. With a talent of Song, Neal was to organize a youth choir which proved a blessing to the church as well as to the youth who participated. She continues to teach in Sunday School, having been active in this capacity for almost thirty years. Hers is the gift of organization.

When Rev. E. P. Hart arrived in Atkinson, June 2, 1953, he was the first pastor to live in a house owned by the
church. A house on Linden Avenue had been bought from Floyd Woodcock to be used as a parsonage. Previously the church had rented the home now owned by Wilbur Woodcock.

A student at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, Ernest Hart was away most of the week leaving his young wife Helen at home. "She was one of the warmest-hearted people I have ever known," said Neal Eakins, "and such a good sport."

It was a cold January night in 1954 when Neal carried her Sunday School class out to the home of Lessie Barnhill. During the course of the evening, Lessie mentioned it was "collard stealing night." Lessie and daughter Joyce Ann, began slipping into dungarees while several members were so emphatically saying they were not going. Neal gave the car all the power it had. Determined to steal a collard, the group let Lessie out behind Maurice Kelly's store where there was another patch. By the time the car was turned around Lessie came running back, "the dog got so near to me, his breath smelled bad," she said.

The story was never published but in the words of Carroll Hamilton, headlines could have been, "Sunday School teacher, Deacon's wife and Pastor's wife shot while stealing collards."

Prior to 1953, only two deacons, George Highsmith and Matt Peterson had been ordained by the church. It was during Hart's pastorate that five new deacons, A. H. Pridgen, M. F. Kelly, John David Eakins, Jeff Horrell and Marshall Woodcock were elected and ordained.

Marshall Woodcock was a descendent of Jackie Woodcock.

Before Rev. Hart resigned on August 8, 1954, a new church budget had also been established.

J. S. Pope introduced a motion that the church call a full-time pastor. Seconded by Jeff Horrell this motion was approved by the church and pastor's salary was set at $3,000 per year.

A budget committee consisting of J. D. Eakins, Mrs. Carl Henry, Mrs. Roland Horrell and Dalton Downing introduced a weekly budget of $146.95.

Rev. George E. Reynolds who came to lead the Atkinson flock in March of 1955 writes, "In January 1955 strange men from the Southeast were seen in the congregation of the Mount Harmony Baptist church (Benah Association). They were Troy Kelly, Durwood Bostic and Oto Wells. Reynolds said that the two years and five months at Atkinson was a joy for the family. He recalls when Hurricanes Connie and Dianne passed by and many spent the entire night in the church basement.

On Easter 1957, he held an
Easter Sunrise Service in Moore's Creek Park and heard a ranger announce that this was the first time ever that there was an Easter Sunrise Service in every national park in the nation.

George Reynolds was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, October 2, 1920. He felt a call to the ministry at age 17 and preached his first sermon in June, 1939. George met Minnie, a student at Carver School, while he was at Southern Seminary. Minnie taught school later.

The Reynolds children are Mark K., Charles and Jeanne. Charles who was their baby in Atkinson preached the student led worship service at Earlysville, Virginia this year. Charles has been appointed as a Missionary Journeyman to Salzburg, Austria. He graduates from the University of Richmond in May. His mother wrote, "Charlie's training began in the Atkinson Sunday School." George completed his schooling at Southeastern seminary graduating in the first class, 1954.

As the first full time pastor, Reynolds instigated a rotating Deacon system. Under his pastorate young people attended the Caswell Assembly in large groups. Reynolds offered his resignation to be effective August 7, 1957 and went to the Bethlehem-Enon church field near Richmond, Virginia.

Rev. Fred Culler, a High Point native came to pastor the church in January 1958. He was attending Southeastern Seminary at the time and graduated while here. Under his leadership the deacons recommended a six point record system for Sunday School and an eight point record system for Training Union. Culler, his wife Margie and children Marc and Gordon left the church May 15, 1960.

Since that time, Culler pastored Stedman Baptist Church, Stedman and Seagate Baptist Church Wilmington. Presently, he is a State Farm agent in Jamestown, North Carolina and has served as interim pastor for several churches in the area.

Rev. Culler returned as a guest speaker on January 6, 1963 when the new parsonage was debt free.

A new pastor's home was begun in December 1957.

The parsonage building committee was A. H. Pridgen, Roland Horrell, Mrs. Otto Wells and Mrs. Carroll Hamilton.

From September 23, 1960 until December 31, 1975, the Rev. W. L. Blanton was pastor. This was the longest pastorate in the history of the church.

Blanton who came from Apex Baptist brought with him a wife, Betty, a school teacher who loved children and two children Larry and Rose.

Larry married Deacon Carroll Hamilton's daughter Janet.

It was Blanton who in a letter to the people wrote, "Since we so badly need an adequate Sunday School Building and are able..."

The end result was an educational building.

A building Committee consisting of Steve Butler, chairman; A. H. Pridgen, Norris C. Corbett, Jimmy Eakins, Mrs. Otto Wells, Mrs. Eswood Malpass and Mrs. Marian Harrell was
REV. LAWRENCE BLANTON

appointed.

Because of time and work
donated, an educational
building valued at $55,000
was built for $35,000.

Ground - breaking cere­
momies for the educational
building were held on Feb­
ruary 8, 1970.

The Enoch Johnson family
had been in the church since
1935. Le Roy Johnson was
ordained deacon in October
27, 1967.
The Gift of Congeniality has
characterized this family
for three generations.

Herman Downing and
Marion Kuydendal were or­
dained as deacons on Decem­
ber 30, 1956.

Stanley Horrell was or­
dained as deacon in the early
1960’s. Stanley’s family had
joined the assembly in the
late 1940’s. His mother, Mrs.
Willie Horrell and brother
John Horrell are still in the
community and church.

“We looked for a church
with Christian Education ad­
vantages,” said Wiley Green
about choosing the Atkins­
town church when his family
moved from Clarkton in 1958.

Green, presently chairman
of the Board of Deacons, with
his wife Jewell and three
children brought to the
church the Gift of Joy. For

them no trial is too great nor
burden too heavy to wipe the
smiles from their faces.

A son Milton was ordained
deacon on October 11, 1970.

R. J. Corbett was ordained
a deacon on October 16, 1960.

R. J. married Edna Keith
Shaw, daughter of Dr. and
Mrs. Colon Shaw. The Cor­
bett family moved their
membership from the Cent­
terville Baptist Church,
Kelly. R. J. will be remem­
bered for the organization of
a young married people’s
class which presently has
more than thirty members.

Eugene Floyd was ordained
as deacon on October 1, 1961.

Eugene came over from Co­
lumbus County and married
Sophia Floyd, daughter of Mr.
and Mrs. Aaron Kelly. Both
Gene and Sophia have served
as Director of Training
Union. She has been trea­
surer and is presently church
clerk.

Regardless of the task at
hand Sophia and Gene can be
called upon. Theirs is the
gift of dependability.

Once again the church was
saddened on December 17,
1964, when Eswood Malpass
was killed in an automobile
accident. Eswood and his
family moved their mem­
bership from Shiloh Baptist
church where he served as
deacon in October, 1943.

Alice has served as church
treasurer, W.M.U. president
and in other capacities since
that time. Their gift has in­
cluded that of encouraging
others in church related ac­
tivities.

CARROLL HAMILTON

His was the Gift of Leadership

Other deacons who were
elected and ordained during
Blanton’s pastorate include
Marian Harrell who was or­
dained October 28, 1962 and
Norris Clifton Corbett or­
dained November 7, 1971.

MR. AND MRS. ESWOOD MALPASS
Although the building program had been successful and mortgage is paid in full, the church has decreased in membership for the past two decades.

Mrs. Henrietta Croom Turner has been Sunday School secretary for the past thirty years. Her son Jack is now superintendent.

On December 31, 1975, Rev. W. L. Blanton retired. He is now living in Burgaw and is supplying in neighboring churches. Blanton is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southern Seminary.

Shortly after Blanton’s retirement, Rev. L. D. Munn was called as Interim pastor. A native of South Carolina, Munn is a graduate of Wake Forest College, received a masters in English at U.N.C. and graduated from Southern Seminary.

He retired in 1969 and has lived in Wallace since that time. While Munn has numerous responsibilities within the Southern Baptist Convention including being board member, College Trustee Chairman and Historical committee, his gift to the church at Atkinson was one of Wisdom. “He taught us to love one another as we had never before,” said a member.

More recent additions have been the families of Paul Wells who came from the Shiloh Baptist and the Yates Colvins who moved their membership from the Haw Bluff Church.

Groundbreaking Ceremonies for the Educational Building were held February 15, 1970. Pictured are: Dr. Nathan Brooks, Director of Church programing, Baptist State Convention; Le Roy Johnson, Chairman of the trustees; Rev. W. L. Blanton, pastor and Steve Butler, chairman of the building committee and contractor for the work.

Rev. Ottis King with his wife Nancy and two sons Eddie and Kevin arrived on
ON SUNDAY MAY 29, 1949, the new church Sanctuary was dedicated. Brother L. L. Johnson gave the dedication sermon. Rev. George White was pastor. Standing in front were Mrs. Graham Woodcock, W. H. Lewis and Jeff Lewis, Charter members.
March 15, 1977. A native of Onslow County, King graduated from Southeastern Seminary. He was ordained by the Bethany Baptist Church, Richlands.

His first week in town, King was called the “picture-taking” preacher. The second week he was called, “a visiting pastor.” After one month the church is anticipating a bright future under his leadership!

Our founders and our forefathers have stood in the gap, endured hardships, and laid the foundation. Their gifts have been numerous, their faith has stood the trials. Ours is the job preserving our Christian Heritage, of continuing God’s work in our church and community and spreading the Good News that we serve a Living Saviour!

DORA LUDLAM CORBETT

A Word from Our Pastor

“Where there is no vision, the people perish:”
Proverbs 29:18.

The writer of Proverbs spoke with much wisdom as he looked through the eyes of faith and realized people must live. Those who perceive the needs of others must live to fulfill the goals and ambitions placed before them. The ones to be reached must live—though at times dependent on others.

Some things will continue—life, death, time, sharing.
Some things will be renewed—hope, love, memories, compassion, cooperation.
Some things will grow—service, commitment, brotherhood, ideas, strength.

From the days of college life, many young people have expressed their faith as they wrote in the yearbooks of their friends, “I know not what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future.”

As we continue the life of service and dedication which others began, we realize that now we “stand in the gap.” One reason we know Who holds the future is that we have seen through the eyes of faith the working power of our God as we walked through life. The experiences of faith call us to continue in our life of faith and realize what we become by a life totally committed to God’s will and leadership.

The opportunities are many. Availing ourselves of each opportunity to serve Christ will help in our sojourn upon earth. With eyes to the future may we pray, depend on God, and work for His Glory:

lives surrendered to Christ
Christians serving Christ
expanded proclamation of the Gospel
ministering to the needs of humanity in the Name of Christ
fellowship and joy in the Spirit
tightening the tie that binds in love
The fields are indeed “white unto harvest” and we can realize the fulfillment of our goals and desires as the people of God.

Three selections of Holy Scripture speak the desires of our hearts and convey our hopes for the future:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
Ruth

Early Weddings

... "For whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

Ruth 1:16.

Batson-Cobb

Wearing a "shoe-top" length dress, Miss Ola Cobb was married to Edgar T. Batson, Sr., on June 29, 1916 in the Atkinson Baptist Church.

The Rev. E. L. Weston, pastor of Burgaw Baptist church performed the afternoon ceremony.

Miss Mattie Smith was maid of honor and Tom Smith was usher.

Little Miss Carrie Lewis was flower girl.

Thompson-Corbett

Most of the church members were married in their homes on Sunday afternoons when the pastor came to preach or by a Justice of the Peace.

Miss Ercelle Corbett wanted to have a church wedding although she had never seen one. Neither had her dear friend Bessie Alderman who found a book with instructions and planned the occasion to be held on September 30, 1919, Atkinson Baptist Church.

Miss Corbett’s intended husband, Herman Thompson of Hampstead, was working in Washington, D.C.

The church was decorated by the Woman’s Missionary Society who used ferns from their hom-s, long leaf pines from nearby forests. Smil-xoimes and goldenrod. A section of the church was reserved for the W.M.S.

Each bridesmaid wore a lovely dress a different color of the rainbow with corsages from a florist.

The bride, however, was persuaded by her mother, Mrs. Alice Corbett, to wear a practical wool suit.

Given in marriage by her father, Henry Clifton Corbett, the bride carried a bouquet of white roses.

Rev. Lacy O. Corbett, brother of the bride, who performed the ceremony waited while some friends helped the groom and the best man through the window as there was no outside door in that end of the church.

Bridesmaids were: Misses Lila Corbett (Peterson), (maid of honor); Bessie Alderman, Winnie Smith (Figg), Mattie Smith (Johnson) and Ruby Larkins (Hawkins).

The newly weds left on the 6 P.M. train and spent the night at Orton Hotel in Wilmington.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Smith of Atkinson announce the marriage of their daughter Mattie to Dallas Johnson, Raleigh.

The Rev. E. L. Weston performed the ceremony in June, 1920 in the Atkinson Baptist Church.
Mrs. A. R. Hilburn announces the marriage of her daughter Alice Iona to Mr. Samuel Leslie Moore on Sunday, March 8, 1914 at 2:30 o'clock P.M. The Reverend E. L. Weston performed the ceremony at the home of the bride in Currie, N.C. (The Moore's were parents of Reuben L. Moore, Publisher of THE PENDER POST.)

Mrs. A. R. Hilburn requests the honor of your presence at the marriage of her daughter Alice Iona to Mr. Samuel Leslie Moore Sunday, the eighth day of March nineteen hundred and fourteen at two-thirty o'clock at her residence Currie, North Carolina.

The last wedding in the church as of May 15, 1977 was that of Mrs. Lessie Barnhill and James Brown of Burgaw. Lessie Butler Barnhill, a life long member of the church was 63 when she and Brown were married on Sunday, May 15, 1977, a second marriage for both. Rev. L. L. Johnson performed the ceremony with Rev. Otis King assisting. The wedding took place after the morning church service with Kenneth Barnhill, son of the bride, giving her in marriage.
Psalms
Church Music

"O Sing unto the Lord a new song. Sing unto All the earth..." Psalm 96

THE CHURCH CHOIR, 1977! Left to right are: Julie Humphrey Horrell, Nancy King, Sandra Smith Green, Sadie Horrell Henry, Sophia Kelly Floyd, Lessie Butler Barnhill, Kelly Marie Floyd, Virginia Barnhill, Eugene Floyd, Dorothy Register, Cindy Henry, Mavis Kelly, Carlton Henry, Rachel Smith and Jeff Horrell.

Mrs. Florence Virginia Glisson moved from Bethlehem Baptist Church to Atkinson in 1920. Mrs. Glisson reared a grand-daughter, Hazel Glisson who married Jeff Horrell and has been church musician for the past thirty-six years. Pastors and visiting ministers have commented that the Atkinson church music was "Spirit-Led" under Mrs. Horrell's leadership. While Mrs. Horrell does not have a church music degree, she has kept abreast with the times, and has taken advantage of oppor-
tunities whenever possible.
She has taken courses in Church music, Choir Directing, Music Appreciation and Pipe Organ. She has never stopped trying to learn and has made every effort to present needed church music, always on a spirit-led basis.

Assisting with the church music from 1948-1976 was Mrs. Dorothy Cobb, a capable musician from New Jersey who married John Gray Cobb during World War II.

Students who assisted Mrs. Horrell during the years she has served as musician were: Gwendolyn Horne (Rogers), Eleanor White (Horrell), Marcia Horrell (Scaggs), Sara Wells Batts, Daphne Corbett (McBride), Susan Eakins (Whitfield), Richard Woodcock and Mrs. Nancy King.

In the early days of the church, Miss Mattie Smith was pianist. Later the Lewis girls, Clyde and Carrie played. In the late 20’s Mrs. Billy Nunalee was pianist, as was Mrs. Claude Keith in the 1930’s. Mrs. E. G. Bostic accompanied for worship prior to Mrs. Horrell.

These have given of their talents and their talents have increased.

The Epistles
Our Church Library

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding."
Proverbs 4:7

Our church library was the brainchild of the Rev. Mr. George Reynolds, a pastor of the church from 1955 to 1957. Rev. Reynolds, a great lover of books, and always with an eye on the future of students young and old, persuaded a beloved school teacher, Miss Bessie Alderman, to take charge and instigate a church library, which blossomed under the enthusiastic endeavors of Miss Bessie for the next several years.

Friends and acquaintances of Miss Bessie’s will remember long those times she placed a gem of a book in their hands and they read it. Or, the times she gently goaded them into remembering the library with a memorial-gift book; or simply suggested that the library could use some help--like the time Charlie Larkins gave the library one hundred dollars--or the time Dr. Marion Keith gave fifty dollars, for books which continue to bless those who seek out the volumes and read them.

Miss Bessie gave much praise and credit to a loyal assistant, Mrs. Sophia Kelly Floyd, a younger school teacher, who did the typing tirelessly, and helped Miss Bessie at every beck and call. Also, Miss Bessie remembers with gratitude the encouragement and support of another church pastor Mr. Fred Culler.

In June, 1970, Miss Bessie with a few well devised persuasions, gained another assistant. Mrs. Mary Frances

MISS BESSIE ALDERMAN
Pridgen would now write the notes of acknowledgement, of thanks to donors, and/or notes to families of those honored or memorialized in any way.

A few years later, when Miss Bessie retired from public life, Sophia and Kelly Floyd and Mary Frances Pridgen together continued the work of the library.

At present, the emphasis has shifted somewhat more to the audio-visual aspects of library work, in keeping with the Media Center concept. The library now owns a typewriter; a filmstrip projector; a 16 mm projector; a rolling wired projection table; and an impressive four-drawer legal-size vertical file. The file was a gift to the library through the efforts of N. C. (Ben) Corbett, and was a hap-
Of all the library properties, the most valued perhaps is the Reference Library so beautifully collected and shelved by Miss Bessie Al-\nderman over the years. These make a fitting memorial to her happy well-ordered life and her contribution will be remembered through time immemorial.

Our Missionaries

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, 'How Beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of Peace and Bring Glad Tidings of Good things.'

Romans 10:15

In 1907 Mrs. J. D. Lewis became the first W.M.U. President of Atkinson Baptist church. Since that time an annual report has been filed with the association every year except in 1970 when no meetings were held for the last six months of that year.

The missionary Society has been continuous although it has fluctuated from a membership of 38 in 1911 to a low in attendance of three faithful members.

In 1911 offering were: State Missions $1.09; Home Missions 72 cents and Foreign missions 29 cents. Contributions have steadily increased since that time until the Lottie Moon offering in 1976 was near $1500.

Miss Katie Smith (Corbett) was Sunbeam leader and president of the Young ladies Missionary Society in 1911. Except for a few years when she taught school away from Atkinson, "Miss Katie" has been active in the W.M.U. work since that time. She served as president from 1929-1935; 1943-44. "When it looked as if we'd give up, 'Miss Katie would step in and keep the organization alive," said another faithful member. From a look at the early minutes, one concludes that when Miss Katie was not president of this organization, she was secretary.

Hers was the Gift of Commitment!

Through the depression years, records show that Miss Eunice Parker, a school teacher was instrumental in keeping the organization functioning. Even in summer months, a donation of $1.00 was sent by Miss Parker each month.

Roderick Horrell remembers Miss Parker as a heavy set lady with cold black hair who wore glasses. She taught in the Elementary School. In October 1936, the State Mission offering amounted to $2.00 including the $1.00 which Miss Parker donated.

Names constantly on the programs in the thirties in-\cluded Mrs. G. C. Beard, Mrs. F. R. Lennon, Mrs. Myrtle Chestnut, Miss Caroline Larkins, Mrs. Durwood White, Mrs. E. G. Bostic and Mrs. Fanny Henry.

An asset to the work of the church and especially to the W.M.S. was Mrs. Annie Faye Shaw Keith. Mrs. Shaw, the wife of Dr. Colon Shaw moved her membership from the Bethlehem church around 1920. "She always found the good in everyone and never hesitated to pass on a sincere compliment," a friend said of Mrs. Shaw. Hers was a gift of Kindness.

Because of her faithfulness, a circle was named, "The Lorena Bostic" circle after her death on November
21, 1962.

Study courses have been a highlight of W.M.U. since the early 1930's when Mrs. R. V. Eakins "kindly consented to teach the book during the week of prayer." (This same phrase referring to Mrs. Eakins was found in the minute book three times).

By the end of 1937 with an improved economy the W.M.U. collections amounted to $102.06.

In 1970 when there was no W. M. U. meeting, it was Lessie Barnhill, possibly the most mission-minded person in the church, who accepted the leadership of the revived organization. Lessie has prepared herself by attending Ridgecrest assembly from 1970-74. She also attended the North American W. M. U. Baptist Convention in Toronto, Canada in 1973.

Lessie Butler Barnhill had joined the church at thirteen years of age, began teaching in Sunday School as a young married lady and has been active in all phases of church work since that time. Hers is the Gift of Telling the Good News of the Gospel!

W.M.U. Presidents

1907 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1908 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1909 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1910 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1911 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1912 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1913 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1914 Mrs. R. C. Lewis
1915 Mrs. D. J. Lewis
1916 Mrs. D. J. Lewis
1917 Mrs. R. C. Lewis
1918 Mrs. R. C. Lewis
1919 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1920 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1921 Mrs. H. Q. Thompson
1922 Mrs. E. G. Bostic
1923 Mrs. E. G. Bostic
1924 Mrs. E. L. Weston
1925 Mrs. W. T. Flynn
1926 Mrs. W. T. Flynn
1927 Mrs. W. T. Flynn
1928 Mrs. W. T. Flynn
1929 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1930 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1931 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1932 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1933 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1934 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1935 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1936 Mrs. G. C. Beard
1937 Mrs. G. C. Beard
1938 Mrs. R. V. Eakins
1939 Mrs. Colin Shaw
1940 Mrs. Matt Peterson
1941 Mrs. Fanny Henry
1942 Mrs. E. G. Bostic
1943 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1944 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1945 Mrs. T. K. Woody
1946 Mrs. T. K. Woody
1947 Mrs. Colon Shaw
1948 Mrs. Colon Shaw
1949 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1950 Mrs. A. H. Pridgen
1951 Mrs. A. H. Pridgen
1952 Mrs. Norris Corbett
1953 Mrs. Norris Corbett
1954 Mrs. Roland Horrell
1955 Mrs. Roland Horrell
1956 Mrs. Eswood Malpass
1957 Mrs. Eswood Malpass
1958 Mrs. Eswood Malpass
1959 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1960 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1961 Mrs. Wiley Green
1962 Mrs. Roland Horrell
1963 Mrs. Eswood Malpass
1964 Mrs. Carroll Hamilton
1965 Mrs. Eswood Malpass
1966 Mrs. Cletus Pridgen
1967 Mrs. Paul Wells
1968 Mrs. Wiley Green
1969 Mrs. Paul Wells
1970 no record
1971 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1972 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1973 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1974 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1975 Mrs. Eugene Floyd
1976 Mrs. Eugene Floyd
1977 Mrs. Vance Barnhill

Timothy

Full Time Christian Service

"They fasted and prayed, placed their hands on them and sent them off."

Acts 13:3.

James Butler

One Who Served

It was a family affair the day James Henry Butler was baptized. Mother, father, grandmother, Aunt Katie, sisters and cousins got on the wagon filled with chairs for the adults and a quilt for the children. The journey to Black River was a happy one although the mule pulled his burden slowly. It was a happy occasion for the church as for the family for another one had accepted Christ as his Saviour.

James graduated from At-
Atkinson High School on April 23, 1929; worked for S. H. Kress and Company for two years and for MCLellan Stores for four. He resigned his job on June 2, 1934, the call to the ministry could be resisted no longer. He married Miss Anne McCanless on June 8, 1934; entered Wake Forest College on June 11, 1934 and graduated June 1, 1937 with a B.A. degree. He received his Masters in Theology on May 3, 1940 from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

James Butler was pastor and organizer of Sunset Park Baptist Church May 1, 1942: he pastored in Indiana; Sylacauga, Alabama and Birmingham, Alabama. He was pastor of First Baptist Tuskegee, Alabama at his death July 23, 1974. During his 63 years he served as trustee of colleges and hospitals; was moderator of his association and "Man of the Year" in Birmingham, Alabama. He was called a builder of churches having been pastor at the time of numerous building programs.

A special issue of the Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association minutes dedicated to Rev. Butler reads, "The Key to James Butler's life was Service--Service to God through Service to Others; Service to Christ's churches and service to his denomination, Service to his family and friends. Surely in the spirit of His Master, he was among us as one who served."

Atkinson Baptist are proud to have sent forth a man of this caliber.

Jimmy Roberts
Our Very Own

It was during the fall revival of 1946 that Jimmy Roberts was saved. T. K. Woody was pastor and Dr. John Bunn was evangelist.

REV. JIMMY ROBERTS

Jimmy's family, the M. D. Roberts were natives of Chester County, S. C. They moved to Atkinson in August 1946.

After graduating from Atkinson High School in 1951 and attending N. C. State College for a year, he knew he was called to preach. Jimmy spent two years in the army before completing his education.

On June 9, 1957 he married Lois Martin, a Meredith College senior. They have three sons.

Jimmy graduated from Southeastern Seminary in 1962 and served on active duty in Vietnam from September 1965 to June 1972 where he was a chaplain.

Having faced several crisis in his personal life, Jimmy feels that God has prepared him to minister to people in crisis situations. He is presently pastor of the Woodfield Park Baptist church, Columbia, South Carolina.

Jimmy Roberts returned to preach the Baccalaureate sermon in May 1962, having been licensed to preach by the Atkinson Baptist church on July 7, 1957.

We are proud that our very own is serving God as an under shepherd.

His gift is one of counseling.

Frank Russ, Jr.
All In The Family

REV. FRANK RUSS

A fifth generation descendant of Jackie Woodcock, Frank Russ Jr., was licensed by the church to preach on February 3, 1974. Frank is the son of Mrs. Barbara Woodcock Russ Honeycutt and Frank Russ Sr.

Frankie was ordained by the Ivanhoe Baptist Church on February 1, 1976 with the Reverend Melvin Hall, W. L. Blanton and Paul Keterson officiating.

Frankie is a graduate of Atkinson High School, U.N.C. Wilmington and has enrolled
in Southeastern Seminary for the 1977 fall semester. Presently, he is serving as Youth Director of the Burgaw Baptist Church. Yes, it's still in the family, "Yours is a great heritage, Frankie."

Memorials

Real Estate
In memory of J. S. Pope by his children.
In memory of Roscoe Vann Eakins Sr., and Harriet Colwell Eakins

Second Chimes and Second Steeple
In memory of Dr. G. C. Beard

Pulpit Chair
Mrs. Adrian Horell 1882-1960 Given By Her Family

Pulpit Bible
Mrs. Fannie Kerr Henry April 11, 1870-November 25, 1952 Given By Her Family

Communion Table
Mr. George Highsmith, Sr. Given By His Family

Communion Chairs
Given in Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hill Pridgen By the A. H. Pridgen Family

Piano
Aaron Horace Kelly, Jr. 1930-1954. Given By His Family.

Chimes On Organ
Rudolph Horrell 1910-1969 Given By His Wife

First Chimes
In Memory of Miss Lena Mae Lewis 1849-1912. Given By Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lewis Family.

Lights in Sanctuary
In Memory of Durwood

Bostic, Sr. Given By His Family

Air Conditioning
Given In Memory of Norwood C. Corbett by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Larkins and Mr. and Mrs. Marion J. Corbett.

A Contribution
In Memory of Miss Caroline Larkins 1871-1956 by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Larkins.

Memorial Windows
Linwood A. Corbett
 Killed in World War II

George W. Smith 1857-1921
Hettie Keith Smith 1855-1942

Baptistry Window Memorial
William Harris Lewis, Father. Carrie Peterson Lewis, Mother. Given by Lewis Children.

Sunday School Superintendents

1903 David Lewis
1904 J. H. Dobson
1905 W. H. Lewis
1906 G. W. Smith
1907 G. W. Smith
1908 G. W. Smith
1909 W. G. Lewis
1910 W. H. Lewis
1911 W. H. Lewis
1912 E. G. Bostic
1913 E. G. Bostic
1914 T. S. Teague
1915 T. S. Teague
1916 T. S. Teague
1917 T. S. Teague
1918 H. E. Mills
1919 H. E. Mills
1920 W. C. Keith
1921 H. D. Bordeaux
1922 E. R. Thomas
1923 J. H. Highsmith
1924 J. H. Highsmith

1925 E. G. Bostic
1926 E. G. Bostic
1927 E. G. Bostic
1928 Dr. G. C. Beard
1929 Dr. G. C. Beard
1930 Dr. G. C. Beard
1931 Dr. G. C. Beard
1932 Dr. G. C. Beard
1933 Dr. G. C. Beard
1934 F. R. Lennon
1935 F. R. Lennon
1936 F. R. Lennon
1937 Matt R. Peterson
1938 Matt R. Peterson
1939 Matt R. Peterson
1940 Matt R. Peterson
1941 Norris C. Corbett
1942 Aaron Kelly
1943 Aaron Kelly
1944 Leslie Moore
1945 Dr. G. C. Beard
1946 Dr. G. C. Beard

Mack Horrell
Sarah Edens Horrell

Anna Balkcum Register 1881-1944.


Adrian Horrell 1873-1933.

Furnishings of Educational Building Given In Memory Of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Alderman, C. V. Barnhill, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Bostic, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Butler, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Croom, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Downing, A. C. Holley, Maurice Kelly, Jr., Wm. R. Lewis, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pridgen, Sr., M. D. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Smith, Lonnie Jasper Turner, Carl Woodcock, and Marshall Woodcock.
The Teachings

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another..." Colossians 3:16.

Presently there are 160 members in the Sunday School and an average attendance of about 100. There has been only one Sunday since 1903 when no Sunday School was held. The temperature was 10 degrees and the furnace was broken.

GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. Phil Horrell, assistant superintendent; Mrs. Henrietta Turner, secretary, and Jack Turner superintendent.

KAY JOHNSON teaches Toddlers, Robin Retherford and Robin Truitt.
TAUGHT BY MRS. CLARA HORRELL, the Senior Ladies Class is called "The Caroline Larkins class." Left to right are: Mrs. Victoria Gurganious, Mrs. Alice Malpass, Mrs. Lessie Barnhill, Mrs. Clara Horrell, Mrs. Josephine Horrell, Mrs. Dorothy Register, Mrs. Mary Frances Pridgen, Mrs. Odessa Cromartie, Mrs. Fannie Lewis, Mrs. Maydee Woodcock, Mrs. Ivy Kelly and Mrs. Betty Horrell.

BEGINNERS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL are taught by Mrs. Julia Horrell. Back row are Jamie Woodcock, Mrs. Horrell, Scott Horrell, Matthew Barnhill, Michael Lanier and Kevin King. Front row are Sherri Horrell, Herman Downing, Alison Turner and Amy Barnhill. Not pictured are David Corbett and Ken Lee.
THE YOUNG PEOPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS were all dressed up on Easter Sunday April 10, 1977. Left to right are: Jennie Simmons, Sheila Bloodworth, Paul Cobb, Kelly Marie Floyd, Diane Woodcock, Dale Woodcock, Sharon Butler and Liles Cobb. Not pictured are Kathy Horrell Corbett, Freddy Fridgey and Mike Woodcock. Dora Corbett is their teacher.

VIRGINIA BARNHILL teaches Primaries in the Sunday School. Left to right are, Bryan Kelly, Jennifer Ann Harvell, Mrs. Barnhill, Lonnie Jason Turner and Nicholas Roland Horrell. Not pictured is Bill Corbett, Jr.
THE REBEKAH CLASS is taught by Neal Eakins. Front row left to right are Louise Woodcock, Kay Johnson, Jane Butler, Thelma Woodcock and Sue Truitt. Standing are Alice Johnson, Neal Eakins, Sophia Floyd, Polly Bloodworth, Lorese Horrell and Julia Horrell.
Not pictured are Jean Bloodworth, Hazel Eakins and Barbara Honeycutt.

THE ADELPHIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is taught by Edma Corbett. Seated are Gloria Barnhill, Hazel Horrell, Sudie Mae Horrell, and Sadie Henry. Standing are Edma Corbett, Alice Wells, Rachel Kelly, Maggie Wallace, Alice Horrell and Eleanor Kelly. Not present were Charlotte Colvin, Mavis Kelly, Edith Woodcock, Mary Croom and Lorena Henry.
JUNIOR BOYS seated around the table are: (left front) Scottie Smith, vice president; Randy Harrell; Stanley Harvell, president; Eddie King; Wesley Clark; Kenny Barnhill, treasurer; Ricky Horrell and Carlton Henry, teacher. Not present was Craig Downing.


Back row are R. J. Corbett, Maurice Kelly, Frank Johnson, Morris Bloodworth, John Horrell, Jeff Horrell and Robert Truitt.

Not pictured are Gordon Bloodworth, Wiley Green, Simon Gurganious, Roland Horrell, Aaron Kelly, Donald Downing, Dalton Downing, Clayton Porter and Cletus Pridgen.
THE JUNIOR GIRLS CLASS is taught by Emily Simpson. Left to right are: Lessie Ann Barnhill, Mrs. Simpson, Ann Woodcock and Natalie Woodcock. Not pictured is Carmen Kelly.

THE YOUNG EXPLORERS taught by Mrs. Rachel Smith are: (seated) Sherry Woodcock, Terri Eakins, Robin Pridgen and Mrs. Smith. Standing are Steven Woodcock, Ross Floyd, and Ronnie Young. Not present were Mark Jordan and Connie Young.
CAMMY BLOODWORTH, Nursery Director holds Wendy Applewhite. Freddy Simpson, Bennie Bloodworth and Katie Foy Horrell watched the Birdie!

ATKINSON BAPTIST CHURCH DEACONS, March 1977! Left to right are Wiley Green, Norris C. Corbett, Maurice Kelly, Jay Woodcock, A. H. Pridgen, John David Eakins, R. J. Corbett, Jeff Horrell and Eugene Floyd.

Not pictured are LeRoy Johnson, Aaron Kelly, Marion Harrell and Stanley Horrell.
A ONE STORY BRICK VENEER PARSONAGE was begun on December 1, 1957 and was debt free January 1963. The parsonage is located on third avenue. Building committee was: Roland Horrell, Mrs. Carroll Hamilton, Mrs. Otto Wells, and A. H. Pridgen.
Church Roll  May, 1977

Mrs. Bessie Alderman
Nancy J. Applewhite
Wayne Applewhite
Russell Adams
Josephine B. Adams
Clarence Baker
Maria Baker
Roy Baker
Mrs. J. B. (Naomi) Baker
Sandra Baker (Married)
Floyd Barnhill
Robert Barnhill
Lessie Barnhill
Joyce A. Barnhill (Married)
Kenneth Barnhill
Virginia Barnhill
Evelyn Barnhill (Married)
Gordon Bloodworth
Polly Bloodworth
Shelia Bloodworth
Kelly Bloodworth
Cammie R. Bloodworth
Maurice Bloodworth
Jean T. Bloodworth
Rhonda B. Retherford
Dewey Bordeaux
Margaret Bostic Williams
Linda Sue Bostic
Mrs. Idell W. Brickhouse
J. C. Butler
Steve Butler
Jane Butler
Sharon Butler
Boise Ray Carter
Jimmy Clark

Lee Roy Cobb
Wanda Cobb (Moved)
John Gray Cobb
Johnny Cobb (Va.)
Annie Cobb (Married)
Margie Cobb
Alma Cobb (College)
Paul Cobb
Liles Cobb
Mrs. J. M. Cobb (Alma)
Yates Colvin
Charlotte B. Colvin
Mrs. Lillie Colvin
Mrs. Dorothy Moffitt
Lacy Corbett
Mrs. Katie Corbett
Freda C. Brittain (Raleigh)
N. C. (Ben) Corbett
Dora Corbett
Clyde Corbett
Emily C. Simpson
Billy Corbett
Brenda P. Corbett
R. J. Corbett
Edna Corbett
Mrs. Odessa Cromartie (Graham)
Graham Croom
Marion Croom
Mrs. Earl Croom
Mrs. J. C. Davis (Dorothy Harrell)
Mrs. Wilma J. (K. M.) Day
Dalton Downing
Betty Downing
Brenda D. Rhyme
Mrs. Ethel K. Downing
Donald Downing
Barbara P. Downing

James Daniel (Danny) DeBose
Eugene (Gene) Eakins
Fay Woodcock Eakins
J. V. (Jimmy) Eakins
Hazel K. Eakins
Terri Eakins
John David Eakins
Neal G. Eakins
Eugene R. Floyd, Sr.
Sophia Kelly Floyd
Kelly Marie Floyd
Ross Floyd
Barbara Foster
Susan Foster
Jeanette Flynn
L. J. Gray, Sr.
W. J. Greene, Sr.
Jewel Green
Sandia Green
Mrs. Rodney (Vistoria) Gurganious
Tommy Gause
Mrs. Gladys B. Haire
Wayne Haire
Mrs. Alton Harrell
Edith Woodcock
Marion Harrell
Maude Harrell
Eddie Alton Harrell
Carl Henry
Sadie Henry
Carlton Henry
Mrs. J. T. Henry (Lorena)
Mrs. Joyce H. Barnes
Robert Thomas Henry
Mrs. A. C. Holley (Annie)
David Woodcock
Betty Jean Woodcock
Michael Woodcock
Sherry Woodcock
Stevie Woodcock

Jay Woodcock
Louise D. Woodcock
Richard Woodcock
Diane Woodcock

Sara Woodcock (Married)
Drucille Woodcock (Married)

Roy Woodcock
Stacey Woodcock
Katie Faith Woodcock
Mrs. Thelma Woodcock
Dale Woodcock
Mrs. Cindy Woodcock
Thelma Woodcock (Married)

Mary Ann Woodcock
Aaron Woodcock
William Harris Woodcock
Dorothy Moore
Meta Bloodworth Sneed
Mrs. Maydee Woodcock
Gloria Barnhill

Deacons, Past and Present

Clarence Barnhill
Tom Woodcock
Washington Henry
G. W. Horrell
W. H. Lewis
G. W. Smith
Dr. G. C. Beard
Matt Peterson
J. H. Highsmith
Jim Register
S. L. Moore
Christine Moore
J. S. Pope

George Highsmith
R. V. Eakins Sr.
Jeff Horrell
John David Eakins
Marshall Woodcock
Maurice Kelly
Eswood Malpass
Carroll Hamilton
Herman Downing
F. M. Kuykendall
Durwood Bostic

A. H. Pridgen
Jay Woodcock
LeRoy Johnson
R. J. Corbett
Aaron Kelly
Eugene Floyd
Wiley Green
Milton Green
Stanley Horrell
Marion Harrell
Norris C. Corbett
Deacons, Past and Present

Charles R. Hill
Thomas D. Washington
Washington Mould
C. W. Purvis
R. B. Strong
H. D. Bland
W. H. Simmons
A. W. Goodwin
J. S. Giddens
D. W. Bracken
E. L. Morris
A. W. Mims
R. W. Thomas
H. A. McGhee
C. M. McRae
H. E.     

R. W. Phillips
R. D. Woodcock
William H. Mullen
D. W. Woodcock
H. W. A. Mullen
H. W. A. Mullen
Mrs. Thomas Woodcock
Mrs. Thomas Woodcock
Mrs. Thomas Woodcock
Atkinson Baptist To Hear Social Ministries Director

Miss Marsha Eichenberg, Christian Social Ministries Director of the Wilmington Baptist Association, will be guest speaker at the morning worship service, at Atkinson Baptist Church, this Sunday. Serving under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, her visit is in connection with emphasis upon the work of Home Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions.

Born in Jefferson City, Missouri, she was educated at St. Louis Baptist College; the University of Missouri; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Her work in Christian Social Ministries has been in St. Louis, Missouri; Louisville, Kentucky, and Gadsden, Alabama; before coming to Wilmington.

Miss Eichenberg served with the Home Mission Board three terms in summer missions. She taught and coached speech, drama, and debate in a Missouri high school from 1965 - 1967. During her last year at Southern Seminary, she served as Director of Weekday Ministries at Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky.
Children helping children

By Dora Corbett

ATKINSON—How many pennies does it take to make a mile? It takes 84,440, and it took eleven year olds Doyle C. Retherford and Billy Seale (with Pastor Doug Warnock’s help) quite a while to count the 90,050 pennies brought in by children of Atkinson Baptist Church.

The pennies were collected to help orphan children at North Carolina Baptist Children’s Homes. According to Doyle and Billy, these pennies would go approximately one and a quarter miles if placed edge to edge. It takes 16 pennies to make one foot.

The children have been collecting pennies for several months, and brought them in boxes, paper or plastic bags, jars, dishes and other containers.

They thanked Darleen Langston, an employee of First Citizens Bank, Atkinson, for her help in rolling and depositing pennies.

On Sunday, October 27, the children presented the $900.50 check to Mrs. Marie Knowles of Burgaw, a former housemother at the Thomasville Children’s Home.

One of Mrs. Knowles’s girls at the orphanage—Trudy Hatcher—spoke to the church of her experience at the home.

In a recent letter, N.C. Children’s Home president Michael Blackwell wrote, “For 117 years, hurting children and families have depended upon North Carolina Baptists for prayer and support.”

In his appeal for the statewide Thanksgiving offering of $1.2 million, Blackwell wrote, “The 2002 theme is I’m real.”

He added, “The 1,800 children here are real. Their pain is real. Their hurt is real.”

Even real pennies make real dollars.

The children of Atkinson Baptist Church have responded to the needs of other children by collecting a mile of pennies to help the children of Baptist Children’s Home. Pastor Douglas Warnock and some of the children present a check for $900.50 to former Baptist Children’s Home housemother Marie Knowles on Sunday, October 27. Children pictured are Jacob Cumisky, James Russell Cumisky, Samantha Seale, Brooke Downey, Joseph Lee, Doyle C. Retherford, Samuel Cumisky and Billy Seale.

Photo by Dora Corbett
1900 -
1901 -
1902 -
1903 - Admit. as new church.
1904 -
1905 -
1906 -
1907 -
1908 -
1909 -
1910 -
1911 -
1912 -
1913 -
1914 -
1915 -
1916 -
1917 -
1918 -
1919 -
1920 -
1921 - Close met with
1922 -
1923 -
1924 -
Quartet formed to praise God

WAYNE HORRELL, SAM WOOD, ELTON LEE & RODNEY GARNER

By Dora Corbett

ATKINSON—They call themselves “Blessed” because as they look back on their lives, they realize that God has had a specific plan for each of them, and that He has brought them together in order that they might glorify His name by singing praises and expressing God’s love in a unified spirit.

Members of the men’s gospel quartet have a lot in common. All four are members of the Atkinson Baptist Church choir.

All four are Sunday School teachers. Wayne Horrell teaches the men’s Bible class. Rodney Garner is teacher for “The Searchers.” Elton Lee teaches the young adults, and Sam Wood is always prepared as an assistant teacher.

Each member of the quartet recently attended a Promise Keepers convention in Raleigh, and each of them have been known to pick up a golf club.

The first priority of these men is to praise God, and what better way than by singing gospel music?

Garner is a well-known soloist and guitarist who has been singing all of his life. He has been a part of numerous folk and gospel groups and was in the UNC-Wilmington orchestra from 1996 to 1997.

A member of the Red Springs High School Glee Club, Garner went on to develop his own talent and has used it through the years.

He is remembered in the Burgaw area, both as a former postmaster and for his singing with the Pender Folk trio from 1978-1992. Also singing in that trio was Burgaw Methodist minister Homer Morris and Bebe Brewton, wife of the Rev. Roy Brewton who was pastor of Burgaw Presbyterian Church at that time.

Garner’s wife Donna, an employee of First Citizens Bank in Burgaw, also sings in the Atkinson Baptist Church choir.

Garner, who has two daughters and four grandchildren, is currently site director for the after-school tutoring and enrichment program at Malpass Corner School.

Wayne Horrell grew up singing in the Rowan Pentecostal Free Will Church. At one time, he sang in a trio with Chester and Danny Barnhill.

Horrell has also been a choir member at both Potts Memorial and Caswell Presbyterian churches.

An avid sports fan and former basketball star at Atkinson High School, Wayne enjoys playing tennis and golf.

He owned and operated L.W. Horrell & Son Logging Company until his recent retirement.

Wayne is married to the former Bonnie Savage, and they have two children—Thomas Wayne Horrell and Wendy Horrell Wooten. They also have two grandchildren.

Of his involvement in the quartet, Horrell said, “I just want to do whatever I can do to further the kingdom of God.”

A lifelong member of Atkinson Baptist, Elton Lee is now church song leader and sings tenor in the quartet.

Elton began singing in church choirs at the age of twelve.

His hobbies include acting, arts, sports and archeology. He has played the part of the homeless Vietnam veteran as well as performing comedy skits.

Lee is married to the former Mary Ann Woodcock, and they have a four-year-old son, Joseph. His older children are Ken Lee and Amanda Walker. He also has three grandchildren.

Elton has been employed at General Electric for thirty-three years.

Lee said his greatest reward has been seeing young people of the church become Christians.

...“I have had the opportunity of introducing some of them to Jesus, and I rejoice at seeing them serve God in the church and community,” he said.

Lee has served as youth assembly leader and as teacher for several years.

Sam Wood grew up in Willard and has sung in church choirs in Willard, Penderlea, Shiloh and Atkinson Baptist churches.

Wood said the rest home ministry led to his singing ministry. “I’ve been singing in public for 20 years,” he said.

“I am a painter by trade who loves doing God’s work,” Wood said.

A member of Promise Keepers Taskforce, Sam enjoys fishing, hunting and golf.

He has a daughter, Greta, and two grandchildren.

Wood, who plays the harmonica, said, “God called me into the ministry of evangelism.”

Sam works with the Jesus Video ministry, ordering tapes and discs which aid in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.
HISTORY OF THE ATKINSON BAPTIST CHURCH
(Prepared for Fellowship Day Services in this Church on October 27, 1930)
By Mrs. W. H. Lewis
Atkinson, N. C.

Atkinson Baptist was organized on the 3rd of May, 1903, in the school building which was located on the corner of Front Street and Washington Ave., with the following members:

Males—Rev. J. J. Paysour
Mr. W. H. Lewis
J. D. Lewis
D. H. Lewis
J. A. Lewis
G. A. Barnhill
A. D. Horrell
G. W. Horrell

Females—Mrs. Jennie P. Paysour
W. H. Lewis
Jessie Lewis
Graham Woodcock
Miss Ola Mitchell

These thirteen members constituted the founders of the church.

Rev. J. J. Paysour of Wilmington, N. C. was called as Pastor, serving one year. The time of services was the first Saturday and Sunday of each month.

On June 1st, 1903, a conference was called for the purpose of appointing a Finance and Building Committee, as it became apparent that a church at this location was needed and would progress. A movement was started to secure a site for the building. A lot 100 by 150 ft., located at the corner of Church street and Washington Avenue was donated by W. H. Lewis. In one year's time a church building with a seating capacity of 500 was completed.

The name of the church originated from the name of the town and post office. After the organization of the church a Sunday School, Missionary Society, B.Y.P.U. and Sunbeam was organized.

On September 1st, 1903 a Revival Meeting was held by the Pastor, Rev. J. J. Paysour assisted by Rev. C. B. Paul. During this meeting many were converted and baptized.

After the church was completed Rev. J. A. Smith of Wilmington was called as its first pastor, serving 1903-1904. In the year 1905, the church was without a Pastor, but was very fortunate in securing the services of visiting ministers.

In 1906 Rev. J. B. Newton of Kerr, N. C. was called as Pastor and served one year. Following Mr. Newton's pastorate Rev. C. H. Utley was called and served from 1907-1908.
Rev. J. H. Booth of Rose Hill N.C. served this church from 1909-1910. Then Rev. W. B. Rivenbark of Teachey was called and he served from 1911-1918. During his pastorate many were converted and added to the church.

Rev. J. H. Dobson of Atkinson N.C. supplied until Nov. 1st. Rev. E. L. Weston came to us then and remained until ill health prohibited him from his labors among us. He resigned in 1924. Rev. L. L. Johnson served as Supply for a while and was later called as Pastor, and served from 1924-1928. After Mr. Johnson's resignation the Church was without a Pastor for a few months. They called Rev. T. W. Siler of High Point N.C. in Jan. 1929 and he is the Pastor at this time.
Miss Eichenberg
To Speak In Atkinson

Guest speaker for the morning service, March 16 at Atkinson Baptist Church will be Miss Marsha Eichenberg.

Miss Eichenberg serves under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as Director of Christian Social Ministries in the Wilmington Baptist Association. Her visit is in connection with the emphasis upon Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Born in Jefferson City, Missouri, she was educated at St. Louis Baptist College; the University of Missouri; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Her work in Christian Social Ministries has been in St. Louis, Missouri; Louisville, Kentucky; Gadsden, Alabama; before going to Wilmington.

Miss Eichenberg served with the Home Mission Board in summer missions three terms, two of which were in St. Louis, Missouri. She taught and coached speech, drama and debate in a Missouri High School from 1965-1967. During her last year at Southern Seminary, she served as Director of Weekday Ministries at Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky.
Atkinson Baptists Plan Easter Music Service

The Adult choir of the Atkinson Baptist Church will present a special service of Easter Music, Sunday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m.

"Using a collection of anthems, compiled by John M. Rasley, the message of Easter is presented to bring the worshipper into an awareness of the message of hope. Easter is a time of anticipation and fulfillment. It is a time to anticipate the blessings of God and the fulfillment of life in Christ. The cross event tells us of the magnitude of God's love and the extent to which He went to provide salvation for mankind," said Pastor Ottis King.

The public is invited.
CAST AND PRODUCTION CREW TAKE BOWS at the conclusion of a play held in Atkinson Baptist Church Saturday evening, May 25, to celebrate 100 years of church history. The play, a product of church historian Dora Corbett featured many church members and was enjoyed by a large number of attenders from Atkinson and other parts of the state.

Atkinson Baptist Mark 100 Years of History With a Play, Sat. Night

It was a festive crowd that assembled in Atkinson Baptist Church, on Saturday Night, May 25, to see a centennial play based on the founding of the church. The idea for the play was developed with Neal Eakins, Chairperson for the church's Centennial Celebration Committee.

One of the readers, playwright, Ollie Mitchell, pointed out that the church's cornerstone bore the date of 1896 as the beginning date; however state and associational minutes recorded October 13, 1903 include a petitionary letter presented to W.H. and Carrie Lewis by Elton Lee; the choir was made up of the men already named who were joined by Jerry Fleming and Eugene Floyd;

The playwright included important dates of other area churches in the play. There were references to Mt. Pisgah Baptist, Bethlehem Baptist, Canetuck Baptist, Riley's Creek Baptist, Mt. Holly Baptist, Burgaw Baptist, Colvin's Creek Herrings Chapel Methodist, and Burgaw Presbyterian Churches.

As was specified at the organizational meeting, men sat on the right and women on the left.

Prior to the play, a covered-dish supper was served in the educational building.
Play will celebrate founding of church

"A Church is born in Atkinson" is the title of a skit to be presented by members of the Atkinson Baptist Church on Saturday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m.

A covered dish supper will be held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the play. Although the church cornerstone and the Southern Baptist Convention record the founding date as 1896, there are no documented records prior to an organizational meeting on May 3, 1903.

The play is based on this meeting, from a presentation made by Carrie Peterson Lewis in 1930. She recorded names of those present and that they voted to organize a church which would seek membership in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Shortly afterwards, the Wilmington Baptist Association records that Atkinson Baptist was an official member.

The meeting was held at Excelsior High School in Atkinson, the only high school in the area at the time. Dr. J.J. Paysoure, who ran the school and became the first pastor of Atkinson Baptist, presided at the meeting. Jack Turner plays the part of Paysoure, and his wife, Jennie, an educator, is played by Kay Johnson.

Atkinson's first mayor, a state representative, surveyor, realtor and vice president of the Bank of Atkinson, is played by Elton Lee. Ruth Dawson plays the part of Carrie Peterson Lewis, a talented music teacher and organizer of the first grammar school in Atkinson.

Jeff Lewis, (a farmer), is played by Wiley Green. He and his wife, Jessie, (Thelma Woodcock), brought their young sons, Tommy and Guido, to the meeting. The sons are Doyle E. Retherford and Jerad Johnson.

Troy Kelly Jr. is a happily married man, but on May 25 he will portray the bachelor Joe Lewis.

Two members of the cast, C. A. Barnhill and Carlton Henry, will play the roles of his great-great grandfather, C.A. Barnhill and George Washington, respectively.

The greatest mistake Adrian Horrell ever made, some say, was voting for Herbert Hoover. Roy Johnson is Adrian.

Julie Horrell plays the part of Mrs. Alice Woodcock, who always wore makeup, and Jennifer Harvell is the school teacher, Miss Ola Mitchell.

Storytellers for the night are Sophia Floyd and Dora Corbett, who wrote the script.

Not present at the 1903 meeting but playing the roles of early church members are: the community fiddler Tom Woodcock, played by Rodney Garner; Margie Woodcock, who played the auto-harp (Alisha Fleming), and Cicero Butler (guitar player), played by Shane Blake.

The first building committee – C.A. Barnhill (Hans Edwards), G.W. Smith (Steve Butler), and Tom Woodcock (Rodney Garner) – will also be portrayed. Also participating are the Children's Choir, led by Kelly Retherford and Cindy Henry, and the Men's Chorus, led by W.H. Lewis himself.

True to turn- of- the-century style of worship, all men will be seated on the right side of the church and all ladies will be seated on the left.

Official ushers for the event will be David Harrell, Gordon Bloodworth, Jason Turner and Jimmy Eakins.

Polly Bloodworth will be program dispenser. Programs are designed by Neal Eakins, Chairman of the Centennial Committee.

Other members of the committee are Jack Turner (co-chairman), Allison Turner (secretary), Hans Edwards, Jewell Green and Dora Corbett. Other centennial events will be held during the year.

Host and hostess for the May 25 event are pastor Douglas Warnock and his wife, Pat.
The first church building for Atkinson Baptist Church was completed in 1904 and was used until the present sanctuary was constructed in 1948.

Atkinson Baptist Church’s current sanctuary was constructed in 1948. It has experienced several renovations and an educational building has been added.

Atkinson Baptist Planning Pageant

Some members of Atkinson Baptist Church are being seen around the church a lot more than on Sundays and prayer meeting nights these days. They are rehearsing a pageant depicting the history of the church to be presented next month.

The pageant, a product of church historian Dora Corbett who is also directing, will star notables like Doyle Retherford and Jack Turner along with a cast of many more members.

According to a history of the church available in the church library, the church was constituted on May 3, 1903 when Rev. J.J. Payseur (who became the first pastor), W.H., J.D., D.M., and J.A. Lewis, A.D. and G.W. Horrell, Jennie Payseur, Mrs. W.H. and Mrs. Jessie Lewis, Mrs. Graham Woodcock and Miss Ola Mitchell assembled at Excelsior High School (later Atkinson High).

Their purpose being to constitute a church where they and their neighbors could “give unto the Lord Glory due unto His name.” Payseur, according to the history, was Headmaster of Excelsior High School and had dreams of it becoming a Baptist supported institution, but a fire two years later burned the school and destroyed the dream.

Douglas Warnock who came to the church in August of 1995 is currently Pastor of the church.
Atkinson Baptist Holds 19th Annual Homecoming

The Nineteenth Annual Homecoming at Atkinson Baptist Church drew one of the largest numbers of members, former members and other friends in many years, when they gathered Sunday.

Rev. L. D. Munn of Wallace, who served as interim pastor, was the guest speaker at the 11 a.m. worship service.

Special music was provided by the adult choir, the junior choir and by the pre-school group of children. At the benediction, Jeff Horrell sang the verses to “How Great Thou Art”, with the congregation joining on the chorus.

A former pastor, Rev. L. L. Johnson, pastor of Moores Creek Baptist Church, and his wife were present for the fellowship-lunch hour.

Among those attending from the farthest distance are: Mr. and Mrs. John G. Cobb, Jr., of Portsmouth, Va. (former member) and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pawlick, Charleston, S. C. (visitors).

Pastor is Rev. Ottis L. King.

Burgaw: Pender Chronicle
Burnsville: Yancey Record
Canton: Enterprise
Carthage: Moore County News
Cary News
Chadbourn: Columbus Co. News
Charlotte Post
Cherokee: One Feather
Cherryville Eagle
China Grove: S. Rowan Times
Clarkton: Southeastern Times
Clayton News
Clemmons Courier

Wilmington

OCT 19 1977
The Atkinson Baptist Church announces revival services beginning with the 11:00 a.m. service, Sunday, October 8, and continuing through Friday, the 13th. Rev. E. J. Hines will be preaching. Nightly services begin at 7:30 p.m. Special music will be presented by the church choirs.

A native of Holly Ridge, Rev. Mr. Hines is the son of Mrs. Florence Hill and the late Frank Hines. A graduate of Dixon High School, he was further educated at Wilmington College, earning the A.A. degree. Continuing education includes the B.A. degree from East Carolina and the B.D. degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1963. From 1954 to 1956 he served with the U.S. Army in Japan as a cryptographer. Also, during this time, he was active in special ministry of the Zama Gospel Hour, serving one term as president of the organization.

Ordained by the Providence Baptist Church, Holly Ridge, he has served as pastor of the Surf City Baptist Church, Surf City, and the Calvary Baptist Church, Jacksonville. He served on the committee to organize the New River Baptist Association in 1960, holding office as provisional vice-moderator and later as President of the Pastor’s Conference, and Chairman of the Missions Committee.

Married to the former Ann Gibson, they have one son, Stephen. He has been Director of Missions of the New River Baptist Association Jacksonville since 1965. He has served as President of the North Carolina Associational Missionary’s Conference, and on the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Nursery services will be provided at each service.
Atkinson Baptist Church will be observing homecoming on Sunday, October 21, followed by a week of revival services October 22-28.

Speaker at the 11 a.m. worship service on homecoming day will be the Rev. W. L. Blanton, of Burgaw, former pastor of the Atkinson Baptist Church.

Revival speaker for the following week will be the Rev. Horace Hall, pastor of Freedom Baptist Church, Wilmington.

The revival meetings begin at 7:30 each evening, through Friday night, concluding with the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, October 28.

Special music will be provided by the church choirs. Rev. Hall sends word to "come see a nine pound sermon!"

A native of Parkton, Rev. Hall was educated at Stedman High School, Cumberland County, Campbell College, Williams College, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Clarksville School of Theology. He is married to the former Jessie Maxine Page, of Fayetteville, and they have three children.

Prior to entering the ministry, Rev. Hall served with the United States Air Force. Before retirement, he also served the Calvary Baptist Church, Goldsboro. Later he served the Fairplains Baptist Church, North Wilkesboro, and Lake Forest Baptist Church, Wilmington.
The church is our home',
says this Atkinson couple

by DORA CORBETT

IVANHOE—Carlton and Cindy Henry share three great loves: their
talented and athletic daughter—Beth,
their church—Atkinson Baptist, and
their home which includes a beautiful
stretch of Black River.

The couple also have in common
the fact that each of them were
brought up in the church and that
both are totally committed to God.

"The church is our home," Cindy
said. "We have always believed that
God answers our prayers and we feel
an obligation to do the will of God."

The only child of Carl and Sadie
Henry, Carlton said his parents waited
18 years (after marriage) for his birth.

"I was taught to give God my best
and to take my responsibilities seri­
ously," Carlton said.

Both his grandfather, Adrain Horrell
and great-grandfather, George Wash­
ington Horrell were charter members
of Atkinson Baptist.

Carlton joined the church at age 11
and began singing in the adult choir
as a teenager twenty-five years ago.
He is still there.

A 1974 graduate of Pender Academ­
y, Cindy grew up in Wilmington
and Montague, the daughter of Sylvia
Hunt and the late Allen Hunt. She

liked cooking and reading.

"I became a tomboy after I came
here," she said at her Black River
home. "I had been swimming in the
ocean and a pool but never in the riv­
er."

Cindy was watching her brother
play basketball when Carlton walked
into the Pender Academy gym. It was
love at first sight. Thirteen months
later, March 20, 1976, they were mar­
rried in Riley's Creek Baptist Church.

Cindy, who sang in the Riley's
Creek choir, came to the Atkinson
Baptist choir as a bride. She is also an
accomplished pianist but prefers to
sing.

Of his first election to the board of
deacons, Carlton said, "I wasn't ready
for it then." He did accept on his sec­
ond election and calls the office a
challenge.

"I don't always vote as I'd like but
try to do what is best for the Lord's
work and for the church," he said.

Both Carlton and Cindy point to
teaching a Sunday School class as
their most rewarding experience. For
her it was a primary class. For him it
was a class of junior boys.

The Henrys spend a lot of time on
Black River with Beth and her friends.
"We know where she is that way," Carlton said of his daughter who is a
junior at Harrell's Academy.
ATKINSON - Sophia and Eugene Floyd have likely set a record in the number of hours they have contributed to their church and community. And they say they make a serious effort to put God first in all they undertake.

The daughter of Mrs. Iva Kelly and the late Aaron Kelly, Sophia has been a member of Atkinson Baptist Church most of her life. She was church secretary and typed church bulletins for many years.

Mrs. Floyd spent endless hours helping set up the church library. She has served as church clerk for the past 30 years, has taught Sunday School, and helped wherever she was needed including the responsibility of church hostess.

Perhaps her greatest contribution has been through the Woman's Missionary Union where Mrs. Floyd and other faithful members have kept the organization alive — contributing to world wide missions.

The son of Augusta and Eldra Floyd of Fairmont, Gene grew up as a Roberson County Methodist but joined Atkinson Baptist after marriage.

A deacon for the past 37 years, Gene has served as Sunday School secretary for the past 15 years and was training union director previously.

Both Sophia and Gene have been long standing members of the church choir. She is currently taking a break to care for her aged mother.

On the associational level, Eugene has been on the Wilmington Baptist Nominating Committee.

As a current member of the Wilmington Baptist Executive board, he serves as liaison for ten local churches. This means that he keeps the churches informed of associational activities.

Mrs. Floyd has served as secretary for the Wilmington Baptist WMU for 6 years.
ATKINSON - Ask any member of the Atkinson Baptist Church choir, "What is your motto?" Their answer is, "Not for the praise of man, but for the Lord!"

Not too long ago, Linda and Drake Smith of Burgaw were searching for a Bible preaching/Bible teaching church where they could worship and contribute to the worship experiences.

"We found the Bible preaching/Bible teaching church we were looking for - plus we found some of the kindest people we know," the Smiths said.

Linda gives two reasons why she was able to serve as music director while running a business which she owners and manages Options of Burgaw.

"First, she said, "The Lord is 100% involved in it and, secondly, my husband is 100% supportive. We are in this ministry together and my husband is 100% involved in it and, secondly, my husband is 100% supportive.

Drake Smith of Burgaw were named home when Drake Smith walked into her life. Both Linda and Drake say it wasn't love at first sight but both were tremendously impressed at first sight.

"I was impressed because he did not slam the door," Linda said.

Drake said, "I was impressed by a beautiful, friendly and talkative lady."

"Not for man but for the Lord!" His answer was "me"! They married 18 months later.

Drake who calls himself a dience," she said. "I am always amazed that choir members are willing to give time to practice on Wednesday nights regardless of how tired they are," Mrs. Smith said.

Of the Atkinson choir, she said, "These are volunteers, they teach, they are desens. They inspire me for there is only one reason they make the extra sacrifice - to glorify God."

If music does not enhance and enrich the worship experience, it is in vain," the music director said.

One of the greatest fears is that young people today are not encouraged to participate in the music part of worship. They need the opportunity to get over their fear of an audience," she said.

For this choir, it not for the praise of man - but for the Lord!"
Garners key contributors at Atkinson Baptist

By DORA CORBETT

Rodney and Donna Garner say they are involved in the Atkinson Baptist Church "because this is where God wants us right now."

Although they now live in Burgaw, the Garners are a tremendous asset to the choir of Atkinson Baptist as well as the respective Sunday School classes where each is an assistant teacher.

On special occasions, Donna may appear "in costume" appropriate for the event. She is known as a "spreader of joy" who believes that Christians should be happy people who make other people happy.

A seamstress who once owned her own sewing plant in Fayetteville, Donna came to an informal Christmas program as "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer" with a nose which actually lighted up.

The children were expecting Santa, but not Rudolph. She also designs and makes other "for fun" outfits.

Rodney grew up in Red Springs. The youngest of seven children, he said he was taught the importance of religion in one's life at an early age.

He grew up in the Pentecostal Holiness Church and has a brother and a sister who are ordained ministers.

Just out of high school, Garner went to work for the U.S. Postal Service and remained with that organization for 14 years.

After an eight year tenure at Red Springs, he was assigned to Greenville, SC, and to Fayetteville before being sent to Burgaw as postmaster.

"I had never heard of Burgaw before that assignment," he said, "but I am glad I was sent here. God had a purpose for sending me here."

Donna, who calls herself an Army brat, never attended the same school for two consecutive years.

"I grew up as a Southern Baptist who attended Lutheran and non-denominational services and sang in all the choirs," said Donna.

She said she learned not to be judgmental of others by knowing people of all races and religions.

Both divorced from former marriages, Rodney and Donna met through a mutual friend and were married one month and 4 days later.

Rodney comes from a musical family and began playing a four-string guitar at an early age at a time when folk music was popular.

He played clarinet in the band from elementary through high school and was with a singing group called "The Variations" at age 18.

During his post office days in Burgaw, Rodney sang and played guitar with a group called "Pender Folk."

The group made a recording before members Bebe Brewton, and Rev. Homer Morris, moved to other areas.

In 1992, Garner took early retirement from the Postal Service and moved to Fayetteville.

A year later, Donna accepted a position supervising the prison sewing room at the Burgaw unit of NC Prisons. The couple could not find a place to rent in Burgaw, so they moved to Atkinson and became members of the Baptist church there.

Rodney is now a student at UNC-Wilmington, studying psychology. "A college education is very important to me," he said. "I am doing this for myself."

He said his future depends on what doors open and on what God has in His plans for one who wants only to do God's will.
Atkinson Baptist Set Revival

Revival services will be held at the Atkinson Baptist Church, beginning with the Sunday morning worship service, Oct. 9 at 11:00 a.m. and continuing through Friday night, Oct. 14.

Visiting minister for the services will be the Reverend Cecil Carter, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Richlands. Prior to his present pastorate, Rev. Carter has pastored churches in Yadkinville and Kernersville. Special music will be presented each night by the church choirs. In preparation for the revival, cottage prayer meetings are scheduled to be held in various homes of the community.

An invitation is extended to the public to share in this time of spiritual renewal. Nightly services begin at 7:45 p.m.