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NEWS STAR
CLAYTON, N.C.

7 am

JAN 12 00

291



Unity 2000 choir

Members of the joint choir from five local churches sing during the Unity 2000 celebration held on New Year's Eve at Clayton High School. Between 400-500 people attended the event sponsored by Faith Community, First Missionary Baptist, Just Blest Baptist, Horne Memorial United Methodist and Trinity Missionary Baptist churches in Clayton. The five churches held a series of revival meetings leading up to the event, with pastors reporting about 180 people attending as each church played host Sunday through Thursday nights. More photos, page 5.

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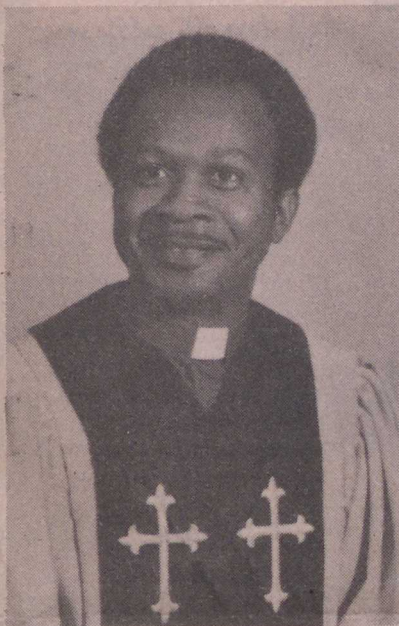
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NEWS
CLAYTON, N. C.

AUG-13-85

Rogers to be speaker



Rev. Joseph R. Rogers..

Sunday's activities will be highlighted with the appearance of the Rev. Joseph R. Rogers at 3 p.m. He will be accompanied by his senior choir, deacons and ushers of Johnston Piney Grove Baptist Church.

Dinner will be served in the fellowship hall of the church immediately after the homecoming service.

The First Baptist Church located on the corner of N. Lombard and E. Stallings Streets, Clayton, will celebrate its annual homecoming Sunday, Aug. 18, at 3 p.m.

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NEWS STAR
CLAYTON, N. C.

Clayton 1st Miss BC

MAR 10 98

291 -

Church

First Missionary Baptist *132*

Spring Revival will be held at First Missionary Baptist Church of Clayton this week, March 11 - 13, Wednesday through Friday. The revival speaker will be Rev. Charles Brooks, pastor of Poplar Springs United Christian Church of Garner. Choirs for the revival are as follows: Wednesday, Trinity Baptist Church; Thursday, Mt. Vernon UCC; Friday, Poplar Springs UCC.

Services will open with praise and worship at 7:30 nightly. Rev. Blanzie Williams is pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church of Clayton.

Dr. Dumas Harshaw, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, will be the guest minister for Missionary Day at First Missionary Baptist Church of Clayton at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. Dr. Harshaw will be joined by his gospel choir and congregation.

Dr. Harshaw, who came to First Baptist as pastor in 1997, previously served as Senior Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Los Angeles and as Area Director for Africa, Europe, and the Middle East through the American Baptist Churches, USA.

He resides in Raleigh with his wife, Sharon, and their three children, Dennae, Dumas III, and Shanise.

NEWS STAR
CLAYTON, N.C.

OCT 14 1987

Clayton 1st Miss

Church Briefs

B5

First Baptist Missionary Church

First Missionary Baptist Church of Clayton will present its 127th Homecoming service on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 4 p.m. Rev. John H. Parker, pastor of Central Baptist Church on the corner of Branch and Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C. will be the guest speaker. Come join us. A Homecoming feast will be held from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

New Hope Baptist Church Homecoming

A yard sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 18 at the church, 700 West Stallings Street, Clayton. Proceeds will go toward the carpet fund. If you have items you wish to donate, please contact Wilma Evans at 553-4076 or Mary Crowder at 553-6743.

New Hope will hold Revival soon. Dates and speaker will be announced later.

Are you divorced or considering divorce?

Realizing that divorce and separation are part of today's society, WellSpring Community Church in Clayton will be offering two classes on these topics. They are "Before You Divorce" starting Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. and "DivorceCare" starting Sunday, Nov. 9 at 5:30 p.m.

"Before you Divorce" is a five week course to give those considering divorce facts and information that will help you learn what to expect if you do divorce. This will not be a counseling program.

"DivorceCare" is a 14 week series of support groups and seminars conducted by people who understand what you are experiencing if you are separated or divorced. More importantly, you'll learn how to deal with the pain of the past and look forward to rebuilding your life.

Call 553-0413 for more information and registration.

Helping Hand Mission

The Helping Hand Mission is in dire need of food to replenish its food supply for needy families. The mission is completely out of canned vegetables, soup for the sick and toiletries. The mission provides 35 to 45 families with food assistance daily.

"It hurts my heart," said Sylvia Wiggins, director of the mission, "when we have to turn people away that need food and we don't have any to give."

When available, the Helping Hand Mission's love baskets are filled with meats, canned goods, fresh fruits and vegetables. Persons returning home from the hospital receive specially prepared baskets made according to their dietary needs. Families with small children receive diapers, milk and baby items. Items can be dropped off at the mission, located at 217 East Main St. in downtown Clayton between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday - Saturday.



Royal Descendants to sing at Everett Chapel FreeWill Baptist.

The Royal Descendants from Goldsboro will present the Gospel in song at Everett Chapel on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m. The pastor, Rev. Fred Johnson and the congregation invite everyone to come.

Everyone is also invited to the Fall Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 8. All proceeds will go to the building fund. There will be gifts for moms, dads, teachers, babies, brides and more. There will be a general store, a Christmas shop, a bakery and sweet shop, and a florist and garden shop. A special secret shop for the little folks is also planned. We will have face painting and button making for the kids.

The Ladies Auxiliary will have Christmas bulbs for sale starting in November. These bulbs will have a picture of Everett Chapel as it was before renovations began. This is the first edition of the collection. Bulbs are \$12 each.

The Ladies Auxiliary will hold a prayer retreat on Friday, Nov. 14 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. All ladies of the community are invited to bring a covered-dish and enjoy the blessings of the Lord.

West Clayton Church of God

The West Clayton Church of God annual Harvest Festival will be held Saturday, Oct. 18 beginning at 7 a.m. with a yard sale. The fun begins at 9 a.m. with games, prizes, a moon walk, dunking booth, country store, BBQ chicken and much more.

An auction will be held at 1 p.m. McGruff the Crime Dog and the Clayton Police Department will be doing child identification. Come early and spend the day. The church is located at 1008 Lombard Street.

Mount Moriah Baptist Church Fall Festival

Mount Moriah's Fall Festival is slated for Friday, October 31 at 6 p.m. on the church ballfield. Come in your favorite costume (non-scary please). There will be candy and games for the young and young at heart. Come join us for a night of fun, food and fellowship.

NEWS STAK
CLAYTON, N.C.

Clayton 1st Missionary

JUN 24 97 SF5

Clayton
June 24,

Local participants first to benefit from program with meals, activities

By RON HASSON
Staff writer

At the corner of Lombard and Stallings streets, First Missionary Baptist Church is having a summer full of activity and service, which began last week, with a program for youth and as a local site for a state nutrition program.

Summer Program of Academics and Recreation for Children (SPARCS) will operate every week at the church, and these kids were the first in line for the state's Summer Food Service Program.

SPARCS is a joint operation between First Baptist and St. Augustine's Church in Raleigh. Kids ages 5 to 13 participate in academic games and classes in Clayton and recreation activities in Raleigh each day.

Pastor Blanzie Williams Jr. said First Baptist member Polly Lamberth was the catalyst for putting SPARCS together and has been involved in getting grants to enable more children to attend.

The program involves kids in reading, basic keyboarding and computer work, math games, brain puzzles and nature programs. Some of the recreation programs include skating, swimming, martial arts, rhythmic movement and a special talent program called SPARC Search.

Also planned are Friday field trips

and leadership classes at First Baptist.

Williams hopes to involve business and community leaders wherever possible, and expose the kids to many different paths to success. During meals, he invites local leaders to come out and "encourage and motivate our youth."

Williams said the church was enrolled in the nutrition program because of its location in a low-income area and that the two programs will work in conjunction.

The N.C. Department of Environmental Health and Natural Resources nutrition program is open to youth under age 18 for a nutritious meal at breakfast and lunch at no cost.

"This guided time of nurturing and fellowship will enhance youth-adult relationships as well as alleviate the safety hazards involved when children try to cook without adult supervision," Williams said.

Handling the meals in the food service program is Linda Pryse, a church member and a cafeteria worker at Selma Middle School. Her experience with Pate-Dawson Co., the food service that sells to the schools, and in meal preparation for children have served her in readying 20 to 25 plates at each meal served in the first week.

"They (the church) needed my help, so I gave up my summer vacation," she said. "It's a challenge for me having to do it on my own."

Williams expects the number of meals served to increase as word gets out. He



Youngsters taking part in the SPARCS program at First Baptist Church enjoy a free lunch funded primarily by the state.

is also expecting other churches with summer programs to start sending their kids to First Baptist at meal time. The meals are funded primarily through the state.

"We feel really blessed to be entrusted with this child nutrition program. We look forward in faith to a summer filled with fun, food and fellowship. Our goal is not to provide a service, but to provide a ministry."

With SPARCS, too, Williams sees an opportunity beyond community

service. He said the church had received funding that will add four or five positions for senior citizens to participate in the program.

Williams and church member Kim Barbour have been working with the 10-12 children involved in SPARCS so far. Donations of time and money from the church and grants from businesses may allow more low-income children to attend the program, he said.

SPARCS and the nutrition program

run through Aug. 15.

Williams is optimistic that the programs will develop into something that can be offered during the school year.

Meals are served in the First Baptist kitchen every weekday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. for breakfast and from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch. There is no registration necessary.

For more information on the SPARCS program, call Williams at 552-5510.

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NEWS
CLAYTON, N. C.
WED 2,400

FEB-13-80

291
First Baptist

Johnston District
08

To host Baptist regional workshop

By Thelma Heartley

First Baptist Church will host the General Baptist State Convention's Regional Workshop on Monday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.

The theme of the workshop is: How A Church Can Lead Its Members To Participate In Its United Program."

The schedule is as follows:

1. How a church can lead its members to participate in its United Program of Budgeting and support the unified Program, by Dr. C. C. Craig;

2. How a church can lead its members to participate in its United Program of Teaching Missions and performing Missions Activities, Dr. Priscilla Brodie;

3. How a church can lead its members to participate in its United Program of Bible teaching and Church Training; Dr. Leo Williams.

4. How a church can lead its members to participate in the United Program of Teaching Missions to men and boys, and its United Program of Teaching Church Music; Waverly Camp.

At 8:30 p.m. the Rev. Thomas McCullers Jr. will deliver the sermon following the workshop.

All church officers and leaders are urged to attend and participate in one or more of the topic discussions.

The monthly conference will be held on Friday evening Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Johnston District **First Baptist News**

By Mrs. Thelma Heartley
And Mable Lamberth

Mr. James W. Campbell, an appointed deacon of the church gave the review of the Sunday School lesson. The topic was "Who Is This Jesus?"

Christmas practice is held each day from 5-6 p.m.

The Christmas pageant title "One Night In Bethlehem" along with reading and Christmas songs from the pupils of the Day Care Center and other Sunday School pupils will be given December 16 at 5 p.m. After the program all children will be given a bag of fruit from the Sunday School. Everyone is invited to attend.

Clarkton: Southeastern Times
Clayton News

Clemmons Courier
Clinton: Sampson Independent
Clinton: Sampsonian
Cooleemee Journal
Creedmoor: Butner-
Creedmoor News
Danbury Reporter

Ne Geo
12-12-73

The PTA of the Day Care Center with the cooperation of the community has put a greenish-grey indoor-outdoor carpet on the basement of the church that is used for the Day Care Department for the children.

The church thanks everyone for their cooperation.

A new water fountain has been added for the Day Care Center.

Friday night, Dec. 14 the business meeting for the month of December will be held at the church. All members are urged to be present.

First Baptist invites everyone to attend services at the church Sunday, Dec. 16.

Personals

William H. Clayton of Rollingwood Hills, has been admitted to Johnston Memorial Hospital.

The funeral of Mrs. Etta Lassiter Sanders of Raleigh, formerly of Johnston County was held at the First Baptist Church on Wilmington Street Saturday, Dec. 8. Attending were Mrs. Lessie Nance, Lena Smith, Eliza Sanders, Dessie Hodges and Thelma Heartley.

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HERALD
SMITHFIELD, N. C.

MAR-01-85



Lucy T. DeLaine, vice president of the Clayton Branch of the National Association of University Women, presents a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Bertram D. Haywood of Raleigh.

Black History Program Packs Clayton Church

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" filled the rafters of the First Baptist Church of Clayton as an overflowing crowd gathered for a Black History Month celebration sponsored by the Clayton Branch of the National Association of University Women.

Several guest speakers discussed the achievements of blacks in the past and present, and expressed faith in the future.

Wake County Sheriff John Baker Jr. spoke on law enforcement, and suggested several valuable safety measures for women in the audience.

The Rev. James N. Sheares, pastor of St. Paul AME Church in Raleigh, discussed blacks in religion, and reminded the audience that it was faith in God and self that have brought blacks to where they are today.

The achievements of blacks in the field of medicine were discussed by Dr. Bertram D. Haywood, a Raleigh gynecologist, who encouraged youth to strive for excellence in all pursuits.

Music was presented by the Glory Gospel Singers of Johnston County, the Mount Vernon United Church of

Christ Junior Choir, and the Spiritual Singers of St. Augustine's AME Church of Clayton.

Nonie Jones, program chairman, presided. The invocation was given by Eula Carter, chaplain, and the speakers were introduced by Rosa Watson. Lucy T. DeLaine, vice president of the sponsoring organization, presented a certificate of recognition and appreciation to each speaker.

The president, Shirley Sheares, introduced special guests, including members of the Smithfield and Raleigh branches of the National Association of University Women; the Rev. James Ingram, pastor of St. Augustine's AME Church; Juanita Baker, wife of Sheriff Baker; and Donna Haywood, daughter of Dr. Haywood. Appreciation was expressed to the Rev. Lacy Simpson, pastor of the First Baptist Church.

At the conclusion of the program, the audience was invited to view a display compiled by Mrs. DeLaine depicting the achievements of blacks in Johnston County, North Carolina, and the nation.

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NEWS
CLAYTON, N. C.
WED 2,400

FEB-27-80

First Baptist

291

Johnston District

156

Workshop focuses on involvement

By Thelma Heartley

Last Monday evening was a very special evening at First Baptist, in that the General Baptist State Convention held a workshop for region seven. The theme involved was in which a church can lead its members to participate in its united program of budgeting, teaching mission, and carrying out mission activities, Bible teaching and church training, and teaching church music in a way that the entire church is involved.

Dr. Priscilla Brodie

discussed the teaching of mission and its activities; Dr. Leo Williams discussed Bible teaching and church training; and Waverly Camp, the teaching of church music, as well as the dress as robes that choir members should wear.

Each speaker elaborated upon his topic, expanding upon each detail in a way that would bring church members into an awareness of their Christian responsibilities.

There was a question and answer period conducted at the end of the discussions.

At 8:30 p.m. Dr. A. A. Crum, moderator of the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association, introduced the speaker for the sermon. The speaker was the Rev. Thomas C. McCullers. He was at his best. The Young Adult Choir rendered music for the services. There were representatives present from throughout the area. A social hour was held. A repass of coffee, punch, cookies, and nuts.

The choir class still have the attendance banner.

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STAR
CLAYTON, N. C.

BC-C

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A-7

Governor Taps Minister

Simpson Named to Board

Dr. Lacy E. Simpson, minister of Clayton's First Baptist Church on N. Lombard Street, has been appointed by Republican Governor James G. "Jim" Martin to serve on the Council of Developmental Disabilities.

Dr. Simpson and Charles F. Tyson of New Bern were appointed to the Council by the Governor Friday.

Simpson, who lives in Selma, is a vocational rehabilitation unit manager for the NC Department of Human Resources' Division of Rehabilitation Services.

The Council studies ways and means of promoting public understanding of developmental disabilities and considers the need for new state programs and laws.

The panel also examines the programs of all state agencies which provide services to persons



DR. LACY SIMPSON

with developmental disabilities.

Dr. Simpson is one of 32 members of the select Council, who are all appointed by the Governor.

NEWS STAR
CLAYTON, N.C.

Clayton 1st Miss.
MAR 10 98 BC

Area churches rally to fight AIDS

By RON HASSON
Staff writer

When Pastor George O. Lights spoke at the Harrison Chapel in Selma, he read from Mark 5: 5-8. The story was of a sick man who was healed from the touch of Jesus and proclaimed to all he saw that there was no trace of the disease.

"Stopped by on my way to heaven to tell you I know a man that we used to call a doctor. A doctor might leave a trace. But I've learned in my experience that my Lord and Saviour is a healer," Lights said.

Once the man was touched by God, there was no trace. The power of God can heal them and there can be no trace, he said.

His sermon on Sunday, March 1 kicked off a week of events called the Revival of the African American Faith Community for the Prevention and Healing of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Pastor Blanzie Williams of First Missionary Baptist Church in Clayton spoke on Tuesday.

Lights serves the congregation at Alpha and Omega Full Gospel Ministries.

"This is a generation that has inherited things they did not bring about.

Before we can make a change in this generation, there must be a change in you, the ones who are trying to change a generation," he said.

"The reason why people don't want to accept change is because it's like admitting they were wrong from the beginning.

"The problem with this is our fathers, mothers, grandfathers did it that way. The wrongness had to come from somewhere."

He said that the tendency to hide from AIDS has been passed down through generations. Once it was tuberculosis, then venereal diseases, and now people are hiding AIDS.

"This generation is the first that will inherit a lesser lifestyle than its parents. We are leaving our children a national debt, unemployment, toxic waste, Social security let-down, drug experiments and the president being indicated in a

sexual scandal. And they are left with the deadly disease AIDS," Lights said.

The pastor believes that the churches have to get involved. This belief was reinforced at Saturday's meeting, when he learned of AIDS clients who had received Christ but whose pastors refused to baptize them for fear of spreading the disease.

We need to learn, Lights said. This is an event that brings the issue to a wider audience.

Lights is working with a local AIDS prevention agency whose motto — "Each one, reach one, teach one" — is a concept that the pastor appreciates.

"I am only one man. But what I say to my congregation can reach hundreds," he said.

The agency has made outreach to churches part of its focus. The executive director, James Wise, and his wife, Dr. Janice Wise,

are great teachers, Lights said.

In 1992, Wise was sitting at home with broken legs looking out of his window on a Smithfield street.

He saw some neighborhood kids dealing drugs. Soon, the dealers became bolder, stopping cars on the street when once the transactions were made behind houses.

Wise thought about the risky behavior. He considered the fact that these young people were missing something — that no one was talking to them about the dangers their behavior posed and the connection between drugs and alcohol and AIDS.

In 1993, the agency DAPAA (now known as Drug Awareness & Prevention Against Aids, Inc.) was formed under contract with the Eastern North Carolina AIDS Coalition to perform case management of HIV positive people in Johnston County.

Working with the agency, Wise's suspicions were confirmed as case reports correlated with drug crimes along the Interstate 95 corridor.

Now, Wise is executive director of DAPAA, which operates out of the James Building on U.S. 70 in western Smithfield. The director of outreach at DAPAA is Jim Bagley. He said the corridor was the first focus of the program's prevention educa-



James Bagley (left), James Wise and Pastor George O. Lights talk in the Day Room at Drug Awareness and Prevention Against AIDS, Inc.

tion. An important part of this process is to recruit volunteers within the communities at risk. "We're a community-based organization. This is a problem that wasn't being addressed in our communities. There is a stigma attached to this disease," Wise said.

Bagley said the problem in getting the facts out and the risk factors became a public health concern.

DAPAA received a grant to perform outreach from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, then

the agency contracted to hold an adult day care for people with AIDS.

"We were finding that people were hiding away all day because of the stigma the disease carries. We were able to pick them up and give them activities to do during the day," Wise said. "These people have a disease. They can't get rid of it, and the final result is death. We want them to have some dignity in their death."

DAPAA can be reached by calling 989-1122.

NEWS STAR
CLAYTON, N.C.

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D.M. Lassiter Choir carries on mission of its namesake

By Ron Hasson
New-Star Staff

The D.M. Lassiter Choir, which will soon enter its third year of performing, continues to follow the dream of its namesake almost eight months after his death.

Ron Cornelous and David M. Lassiter organized the youth choir at Clayton's First Baptist Church in 1992. Since then, the membership has grown to 80 plus and has gone from being a church choir to being a community choir. The choir honored Lassiter by changing its name after his death last June.

When the choir began, Cornelous and Lassiter would take the kids to dinner or roller skating.

They never turned anyone away. The extra effort paid off in increasing membership.

Cornelous said, "The kids in the community saw a lot of positive things happening here and wanted to join."

"After the kids would sing others wanted to come," said Lassiter's mother Gracie. It did not matter if the children attended First Baptist. According to Mrs. Lassiter, the children do not have to attend a church in order to be a member of the choir.

The group changed its name to the Clayton Community Youth Choir near the beginning of 1994. The membership has grown to in-

clude kids from Raleigh, Garner and Smithfield, Cornelous said. But the D.M. Lassiter Choir has its strongest support in the Clayton community.

"The parents have been very supportive as adult advisors and drivers when we need them," said Cornelous.

The choir travels often, having performed at Johnston Community College, Celebrate the Arts in Smithfield and several churches as far away as Rocky Mount at Greater Mount Hermon Baptist Church.

The choir also participated in an African-American history celebration held Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, at JCC in connection

with Johnston's 250th anniversary.

"I am so excited about the group," said Mary Sauls, president of the Johnston County Arts Council. "They performed for our Celebrate the Arts and did a marvelous job."

"In big cities there is lots of coverage of this kind of thing — to do something constructive with the kids," she said. "This keeps them off the streets and away from drugs. I think they're great."

"They (the choir members) told me they wanted to show everyone that all black kids weren't on the streets, but were doing positive things," she said. "Everyone needs to see them."

She noted that the group performs its gospel music different from what she is used to but it is representative of the culture of its members.

Keeping the children off the street was part of Lassiter's mission, said his mother.

"He loved music and working with the children in the choir," she said. "He prayed and asked the Lord to give him 40 children to work with." There were about 70 children involved in the choir when Lassiter died at the age of 33.

Music was always a part of Lassiter's life, said his mother. He started out by singing at church at an early age and when he reached

Clayton High School he sang in the school chorus.

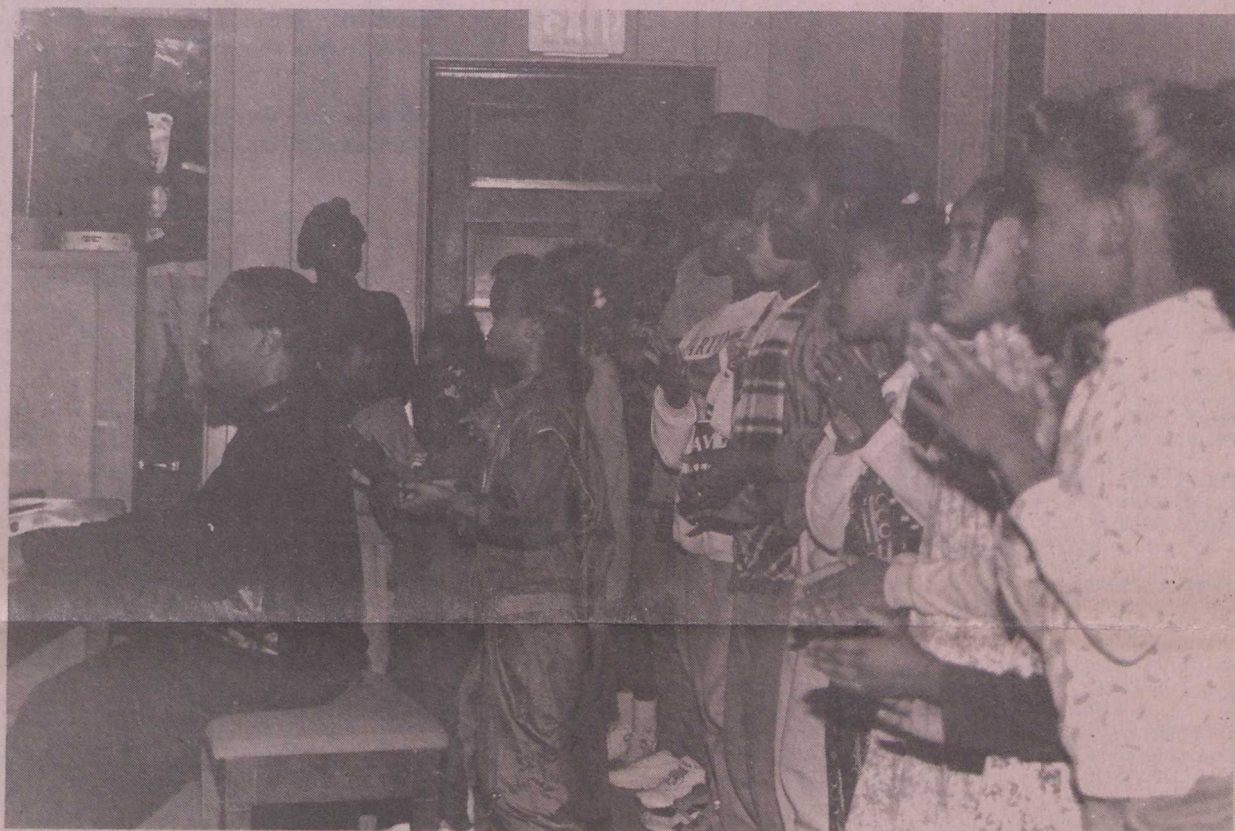
After graduation performing was still in his blood. Lassiter and some of his high school friends formed the Almighty Male Singers after graduation.

As time went on the group started falling apart. It was at this time, said Mrs. Lassiter, that her son decided it would be better for him to work with children.

When he died he was responsible for the youth and mass choirs at both First Baptist and at Johnston Piney Grove.

"He was very religious (always involved in church) and loved ev-

(See CHOIR, Page 16)



Members of the D.M. Lassiter Choir rehearse for an upcoming performance. The group of 80 young people practices at Clay-

ton's First Baptist Church. (CN-S staff photos by Ron Hasson)

Choir

(Continued from Page 1)

everybody," said his mother lovingly. "As far as I know he never had an enemy in this world."

The group practices in the sanctuary at First Baptist and most of its performances are there or at neighboring Mount Vernon United Church of Christ. Cornelous plays the piano for the group.

The director of the choir is Charlene Atkinson of Raleigh and the drummer is B.J. Whitley, a senior at Clayton High School. The president is Tiffany Laws.

Cornelous graduated from Shaw University in 1995, where he played for the gospel choir and directed the pep band. His degree is in music and he hopes to pursue a master's degree in August at N.C. Central University.

At Shaw, his mentors were band director Charles Brown and gospel choir advisor Loniela Cornwall. But Cornelous said his parents give him much encouragement and inspiration. He was raised in Chicago, Ill., and began his music career playing trumpet. He said he appreciated the support of his family and church in Illinois.

Cornelous finds that he is often the first musical outlet for these children. "One thing I haven't seen stressed (in the schools) is the importance of music and the arts. If children are taught at a young age of the importance of music and art history, they will learn how to better appreciate the arts."

Gospel music has always been



B.J. Whitley provides the rhythm for the D.M. Lassiter Choir on the drums. The choir was named after one of its founders.

important to Cornelous, he said. "I've listened to it, played it, been around it all my life. It gets me going."

Through his many experiences as a musician, Cornelous said he has "learned to listen to choirs from a different standpoint." The purpose of gospel music, he said, is to achieve three-part harmony. He has heard gospel music that sometimes falls short.

"They had a lot of spirit," Cornelous said, remembering the choir members at Broughton High School. "But they needed musical improvement." While at Shaw, Cornelous also played for the Enloe

High School choir and attended an event with Broughton.

Of the D.M. Lassiter Choir, Cornelous said he sees it recording one day. "If the Mississippi Children's Choir can record, we can too," he said. He has done studio work in the past in Apex with the group, The Consolations.

The D.M. Lassiter Choir has a repertoire of 12 to 15 songs, Cornelous said. They perform three or four times a month and open every practice with a prayer and a scripture reading.

The next big event for the choir is its annual anniversary, the first Sunday in May.

Carolina

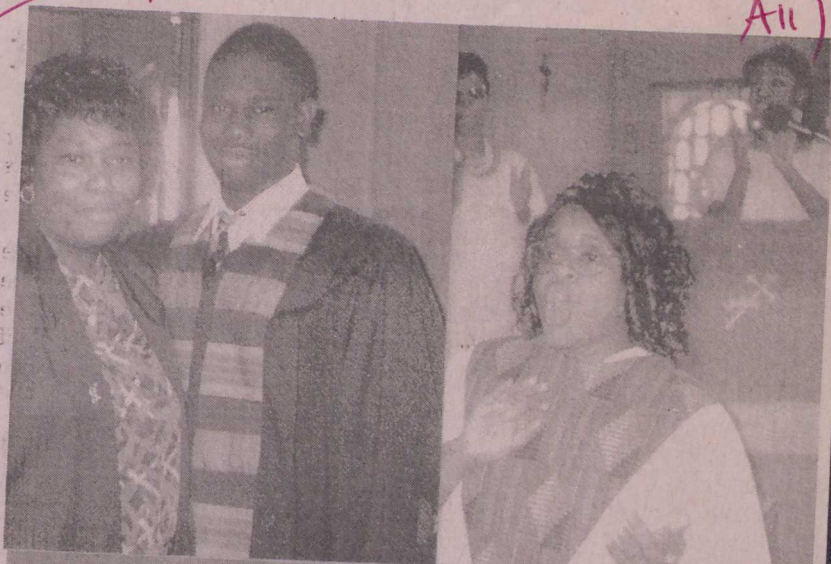
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CAROLINIAN
RALEIGH, N. C.

JAN 15 98

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All)



ATTEND ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PROGRAM—Left: Rev. Barbara Davis poses with son, Rev. Dameion Royal after service at the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration at the First Baptist Church in Clayton, N.C. Right: Miss Charlene Atkinson is pictured as she directs the D.M. Lassiter Choir at First Missionary Baptist Church in Calyton at the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program. Bottom: Members of the D. M. Lassiter Choir perform at the First Missionary Baptist Church Annual Dr. King service on Sunday, Jan. 10th. (Annie W. Shand Photos)

Clayton, N.C.

A Brief History

PAMPHLET FILE
CLAYTON, NORTH CAROLINA



Meredith C. Library
Raleigh, N.C.

First Baptist Church

CLAYTON, N. C.



A BRIEF HISTORY
of
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CLAYTON, N. C.

1811 — 1958

Prepared and Presented by

JOHN T. TALTON

June 20, 1958

*Dedicated To My Wife Mrs.
Ruth B. Talton, who has been
organist more than twenty-five years*

CHURCH DIRECTORY 1958

Pastor	F. Eugene Deese
Adult Choir Director	J. N. Bryan
Evening Choir Director	Mrs. Harry Garvey
Organist	Mrs. John T. Talton
Prayer Meeting Pianist	Barbara Nappier
Clerk	S. T. Anderson, Jr.
Treasurer	John T. Talton
Librarian	Mrs. J. C. Ellis
Bookkeeper	Mrs. F. E. Allen
Vacation Bible School Director	Mrs. J. J. Tew
Sexton	Clannie Sanders

DEACONS

Life: W. P. Creech and John T. Talton

ONE YEAR	TWO YEARS	THREE YEARS
W. G. Massey	Lacy Coats	James Little
J. H. Austin	O. N. Gulley	R. B. Ellis
Roy Allen	Silas Jones	M. P. Stallings
C. E. Capps	M. W. Knott	M. B. Oldham
G. T. Page	Clarence Pender	W. B. Pittman
Dr. J. J. Tew	D. C. Poole	James Cash

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

James Little, Superintendent	Wm. R. O'Neal, Adult
G. T. Page, Associate	M. W. Knott, Young People
Mrs. Ben Duncan, Training	Mrs. E. W. Ellis, Intermediate
Mrs. D. G. Wall, Pianist	Miss Grace Smith, Junior
A. H. Adams, Secretary	Mrs. James Little, Primary
Mrs. H. G. Frink, Extension	Mrs. Rudolph Pender, Beginners
Mrs. Rudolph Allen, Cradle Roll	Mrs. Ed Morgan, Nursery

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Mrs. F. E. Allen, President	Mrs. B. A. Hocutt, Treasurer
Mrs. G. T. Page, Enlistment V. Pres.	Mrs. John Talton, Sr., Pianist
Miss Grace Smith, Program V. Pres.	Mrs. E. W. Ellis, Y. W. A. Director
Miss Grace Barbour, Secretary	Mrs. M. W. Knott, G. A. Director
Mrs. Zeb Austin, Cor. Secretary	Mrs. John T. Talton, Jr. Sunbeam Dir.

TRAINING UNION

Mrs. Glen Wall, Director	Mrs. Lacy Coats, Junior Leader
Lacy Coats, Associate	Mrs. Ed Morgan, and
James Nappier, Secretary	Mrs. G. F. Lancaster, Int. Leaders
Jean Byrd, Story Hour Leader	

BROTHERHOOD

W. Gattis Lee, President	B. C. Powell, Jr. and
Winfred Sorrell, Secretary	Frank Weeks, Jr. R. A. Leaders
Rudolph Allen, R. A. Chairman	L. G. Godwin and
	Clifton Creech, Inter. R. A. Leaders

TRUSTEES

W. C. Allsbrook, S. E. Barbour, Jr. R. L. Cooper, W. R. O'Neal, Turner Vinson

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CLAYTON, NORTH CAROLINA

For a long time I have wished that we had a history of First Baptist Church, but it seems that no one has ever undertaken to do anything about writing it.

On Sunday morning, January 12th, 1958, I made a talk at the church about some of the things I have known about since I commenced to attend. Many have expressed appreciation for the information, much of which was new to many of the members, and I have had many requests that I write something along this line. So because of the interest manifested I am attempting to make this feeble effort.

As no one else has written any history of the church, I am now "rushing in where angels have feared to tread" and am attempting to record something of what I have known and heard about the church. Although not too well done it is done with much love and interest in the great work the church has done in the town and the community. During this time it has been my good fortune to have known and observed the work of the church composed of as fine people as ever lived.

The Church was organized in October, 1811, and now when this is being written in 1958 the church is almost 147 years old. I came to Clayton in September 1899, and the first Sunday I was in Clayton I attended Sunday School and Church at the Baptist Church. I have been a regular attendant since that time, and for more than 50 years I have been a member. So I have seen and known something of the work of the church for more than a third of the life of the

church.

The Clayton Baptist Church was organized under the name of Johnston Liberty Meeting House, in October 1811. I have heard that the Johnston Liberty Meeting House was organized by Regdon Johnson and Sallie Avera, and that Regdon Johnson was the first pastor. The Johnston Liberty Meeting House was located just across the railroad from what is now Bartex Mill, and near where the cemetery is now. The significance of organization and name is plain when we recall that the persecuted, especially of Virginia, sought liberty for their religious expression in North Carolina, and that this is one of the pioneer Baptist Churches in the State.

In 1816 eight members had been received since organization.

There is no further record until about 1839 when there seems to have been a re-organization as the result of a great revival, which added unto the church during that year 48 members. The following year the church had become so vigorous that the Baptist State Convention was invited to meet with it on the condition that three consecutive sessions should be held here. And the Convention did meet with the Johnston Liberty Meeting House in the year 1840 and 1841. The introductory sermon in 1840 was preached by J. J. Finch, and in 1841 the sermon was preached by William Hill Jordan. The third year the Convention asked to be excused so that they might meet with another church, but promised to come back to Johnston Liberty Meeting House any time that they were invited. This triple hospitality rather staggers us now when we consider the present proportions of our State Convention and our limitations.

From now on Johnston Liberty Meeting House was as a city set upon a hill, standing as a beacon light to the weak and faltering of

the country around about, and a steady bulwark of protection for the gospel in its purity. Many great and powerful preachers of the passing years were pastors of this church, and a great and loyal people grew up around her.

The town of Clayton, located within a mile of Johnston Liberty Meeting House, was becoming a thrifty and aspiring village, and, being the home of some of its most loyal members, it was unanimously decided in September of 1882 to move the organization to Clayton and change its name to Clayton Baptist Church.

A large and commodious church was built on Whitaker Street to which was added convenient Sunday School rooms as needed. They had working in conjunction with the Church, several organizations, such as the Sunday School, Woman's Missionary Society, Young Women's Aux., Sunbeams, Jr. Union, and all societies were in a progressive condition.

In 1909 the Church property, including a nine room parsonage, convenient and comfortable, was valued at \$8,000.00 When we compare this valuation with the valuation of our property today, which is now valued at about \$225,000.00, you can realize that great progress has been made.

The Church building was a long box-like wooden structure with a high and beautiful steeple, two aisles down the church, long benches in the center, and short benches on both sides, and down in the back corners were some short benches running lengthwise of the church. These were often referred to as the "Amen Corner". There was a platform or rostrum for the pastor and pulpit furniture, and a table and desk in front of the platform for the Superintendent and Secretary of the Sunday School. At that time the church paid the sexton \$3.00 per month for sweeping out the build-

ing, bringing in wood, building fires, and keeping the property in order. The Sunday School decided that it would help the janitor some so they liberally allowed \$.20 per Sunday to supplement the janitor's salary. This gives you some idea of financial conditions at that time. The congregation decided to do something to improve the appearance of the auditorium, so they arched over the side-walls and ceiling, which greatly improved the appearance of the interior.

This I call Building Program No. 1, as it was the first building program that I knew about or had any part in.

As time went along the Church and Sunday School continued to grow and the need for more room was realized. The Trustees went to the back of the church and added two class rooms, one for the young men and one for the young women. And while this was being done an alcove was arranged for a choir loft, and underneath the choir a baptistry was built. This baptistry was built long before there was any water works in the town, and you may wonder how water was secured for baptizing. But the good folks were smart enough to take care of that by putting gutters under the eaves of the house, and arranging a drain pipe that could be hooked up and run the rain water into the baptistry. An overflow drain was put in so that any excess of water would overflow under the building and drain off the lot, with another drain to empty the water after the baptizing. You could get religion any time you wanted to but you had to wait for it to rain to get baptized.

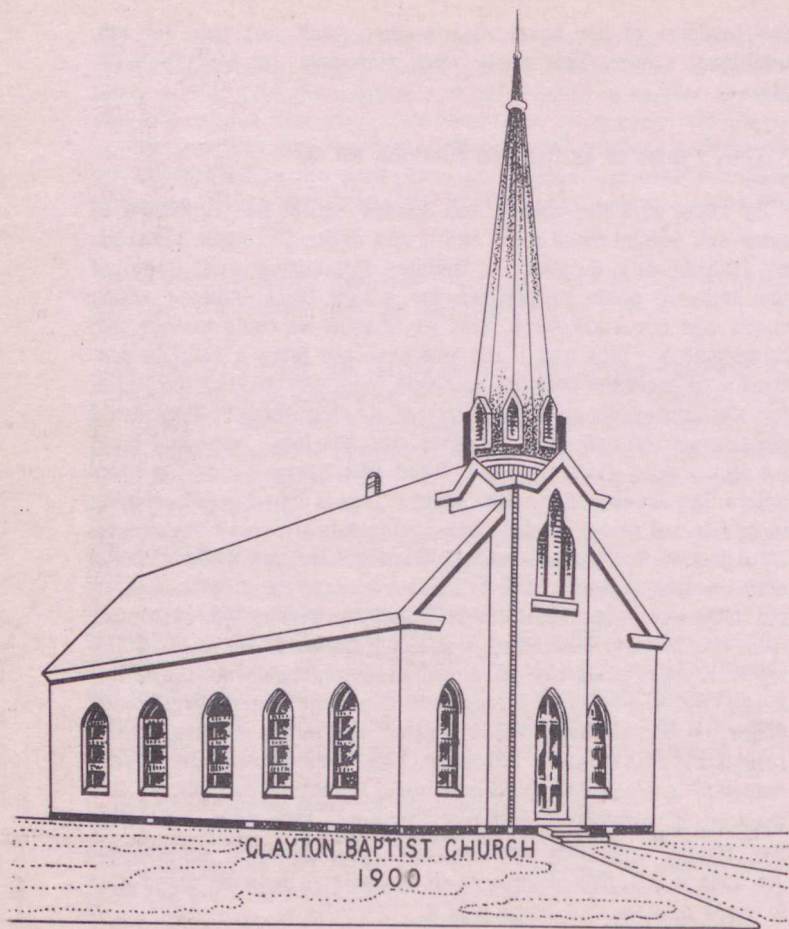
I think of this as Building Program No. 2.

As time passed and the church and Sunday School continued to grow the need for more room was pressing. A certain good sister in the church, realized the great need for more room, and out of

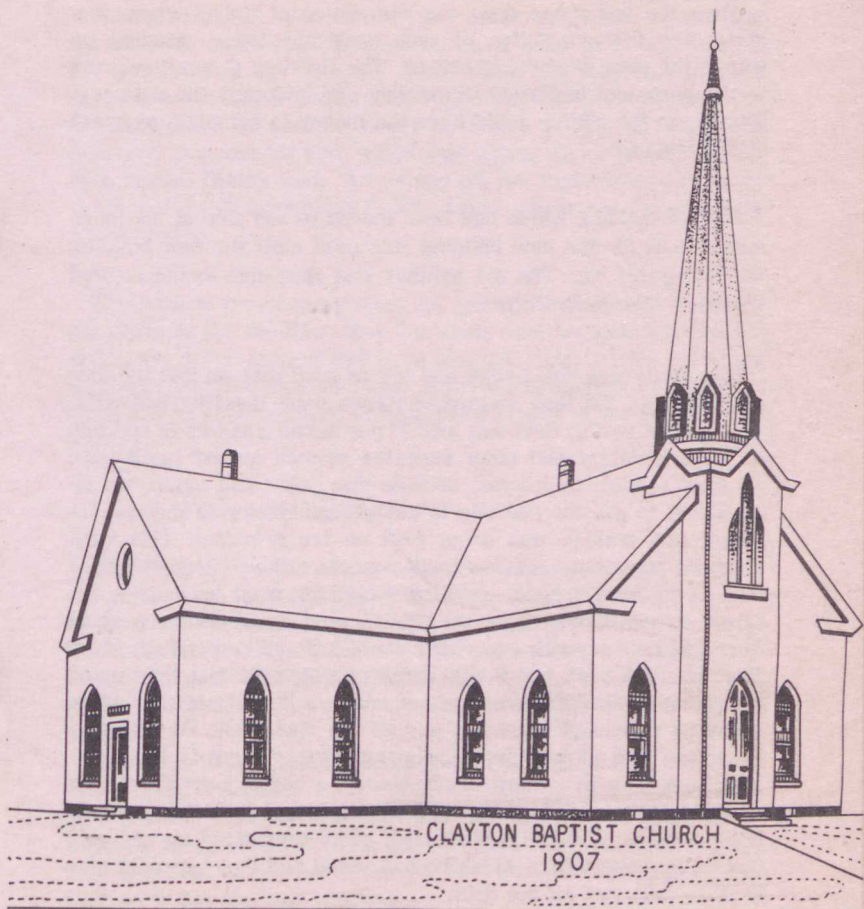
the goodness of her heart she designed, built and paid for two additional rooms. This noble work was done by Mrs. Lula T. Massey.

This, I think of as Building Program No. 3.

By about 1913 the church and Sunday School had continued to grow and needed more room and it was decided to make plans for an entirely new building. A Building Committee was appointed and building plans worked out for a new brick building which would cost about \$30,000.00. This we thought we could finance. We advertised for bids and a bid was received from a reliable contractor to erect the building complete for \$30,000.00, but the Building Committee declined the contract as they thought they could get someone to look after the work and use local labor and build for less money. So a man was hired who began laying the foundation, but about this time the scare of World War I was beginning to be felt and prices of all building materials advanced very rapidly. After we had spent about \$6,000.00 getting the walls up level with the ground we got the original contractor to give us another bid to take over and finish the building. The second bid, even after what had already been done, was much higher to finish the building than the original bid. Memorial windows, the organ, pulpit furniture, and several other things were donated by various members. When the building was finally finished and ready for use, it represented a cost of about \$70,000.00. This building is modern in all respects. Well lighted, steam heated, a seating capacity of five hundred, with twenty-two or more rooms to take care of the Sunday School, and other organizations, with beautiful proportions, set upon a hill, this Temple of God stands as a living inspiration to those who see and worship in it.



PRESENTED BY JOHN



CLAYTON BAPTIST CHURCH
1907

When the work was done the completion of the program was about like the completion of such programs today. winding up with a big debt of about \$30,000.00. The Building Committee went to the bank and borrowed the money and endorsed the note personally, so the church could have the money to complete payment of the program.

The old building which had been moved to one side of the lot to make room for the new building was used until the new building was ready for use. The old building was then sold to the colored Christian Church in Clayton.

Everybody was now happy and felt so good that we had the nice new building, but they seemed to forget about the \$30,000.00 debt. The interest on this debt was \$150.00 per month and this in addition to pastor's salary and other expenses seemed almost beyond us. As time passed the interest became due again and again, we almost had to get out and beg to get enough money to pay the interest, and nothing was being paid on the principal. This went along for some time and one Sunday morning the pastor announced that at the next business meeting something must be done to try to get up some more interest. At this meeting, there were about 25 people present, with everybody depressed and despondent. Much discussion followed, and finally someone suggested that they would be willing to strain themselves and make a liberal payment if we could get up enough money to pay off the whole debt. At that time it seemed like an idle dream. Among those present in the meeting was a little boy, Mark Grady Gulley, a boy of 8 or 10 years of age, not old enough to have reached the age of financial responsibility, who listened to the discussion and finally stood up and said that he had about \$8.00 which he had saved and that he would give it all to help pay off the debt.

This promise by this little boy seemed to be the spark that supplied the enthusiasm needed. Surely a little child was leading us. By the time the meeting closed much enthusiasm had been created, and pledges secured for about \$10,000.00, or \$12,000.00 on the condition that enough money be raised to pay off the whole debt and stop the interest which was giving us so much trouble. Mrs. Ernest Hinton said, "let us pay off the whole debt, and let us do it before Thanksgiving," this being about ten days before Thanksgiving.

Everyone at the meeting went out as a committee of one soliciting funds on the condition that the whole debt be paid. By Thanksgiving the whole amount had been pledged, paid and the note paid at the bank. This was the most amazing campaign I have ever known. It was the result of the combined efforts of the whole membership.

I think of this as Building Program No. 4.

The work of the Church and Sunday School continued to grow and go forward, and right away we began to realize that we needed more room. About 1945 the church began to talk about a new Educational Building, and started to accumulate a building fund for this purpose. This was a mighty big program and it was talked about for a long time before the actual work of building was begun.

Plans for the Educational Building had been drawn for some time. About February 1, 1957 the contract for the building was awarded and work started. The contract price for the Educational Building was \$95,000.00. Work was completed and on October 12th, 1957 Entrance Day was observed and the Sunday School commenced to use the new building.

This, I think of as building program No. 5.

This program ended up as most other building programs by leaving us with a rather large debt on hand. But our wonderful membership can easily wipe out this indebtedness if we could just arouse the interest and enthusiasm of the present generation that prompted the former generation to wipe out the indebtedness of that time.

The Church when originally organized in October 1811 was known as Johnston Liberty Meeting House. After moving to Clayton in September 1882 the name was changed to Clayton Baptist Church. About the year 1942 the name was changed to First Baptist Church of Clayton, North Carolina. We are members of the Johnston Baptist Association, founded in 1903. One of our members, Mr. R. H. Gower, was Moderator of this Association for twenty-five years.

Land on which the church is located was bought from J. F. Ellington and wife Christine Ellington, and the deed was made to W. H. McCullers, Sr., J. T. Ellington, J. B. Robertson, A. J. Ellis, and V. B. Tomlinson, Trustees.

Our church founded in 1811, so far as I have been able to learn, is the oldest church in this Association. And maybe the oldest Baptist Church in this section of the state.

During the whole time I have attended church it has always been famous for its excellent music. Many of the best singers and musicians of the town have given generously of their time and ability. Today we have one of the best chiors to be found in any church of similar size.

We are sorry to note that we have had very few bequests from members or friends. I know of only three bequests by will, and one of these was from a man not a member of this or any other church. It is a very noble thing to leave something to your church when making your will, and I hope that each of you will keep this in mind when preparing your will.

It would be wonderful if I could make up a Roll of Honor and mention many of our fine members. But I cannot undertake this for it would be too long, and if undertaken many might be left off that should be included. So suffice it to say that we have had many just as fine people associated with our church as ever lived anywhere. Always devout, progressive, and hard working.

The church recently completed a two weeks Vacation Bible School. The record enrollment of 226, as well as the 33 faculty members, gave us the most successful school ever held with the church. The average attendance for the session was 194.

Our church budget for the year 1958 is \$34,859.74.

This about brings us up to the present time and most of you are familiar with what is going on now.

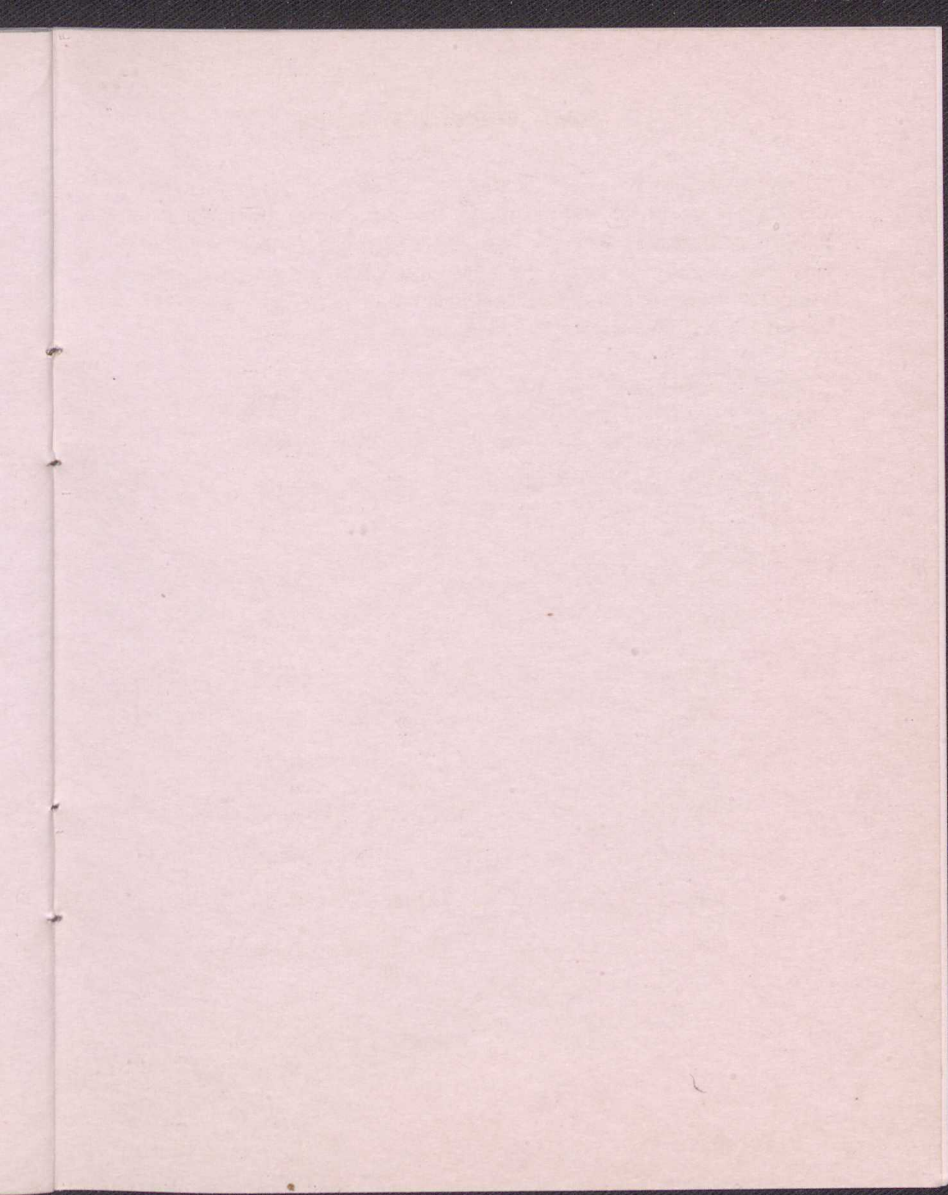
I beg of you all to continue steadfast in the work and keep on going forward as your wonderful predecessors have always done.

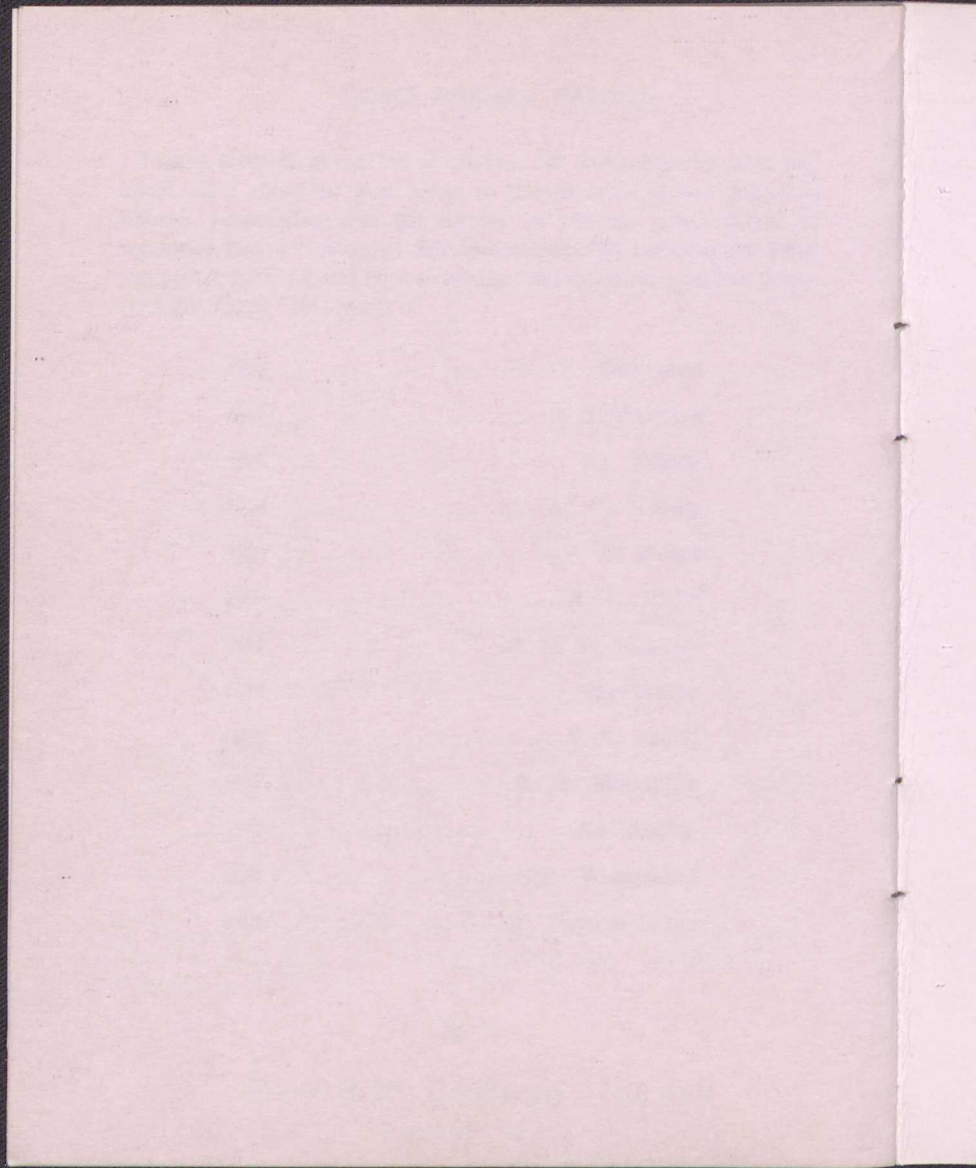
Submitted with love for our church and all of its members.

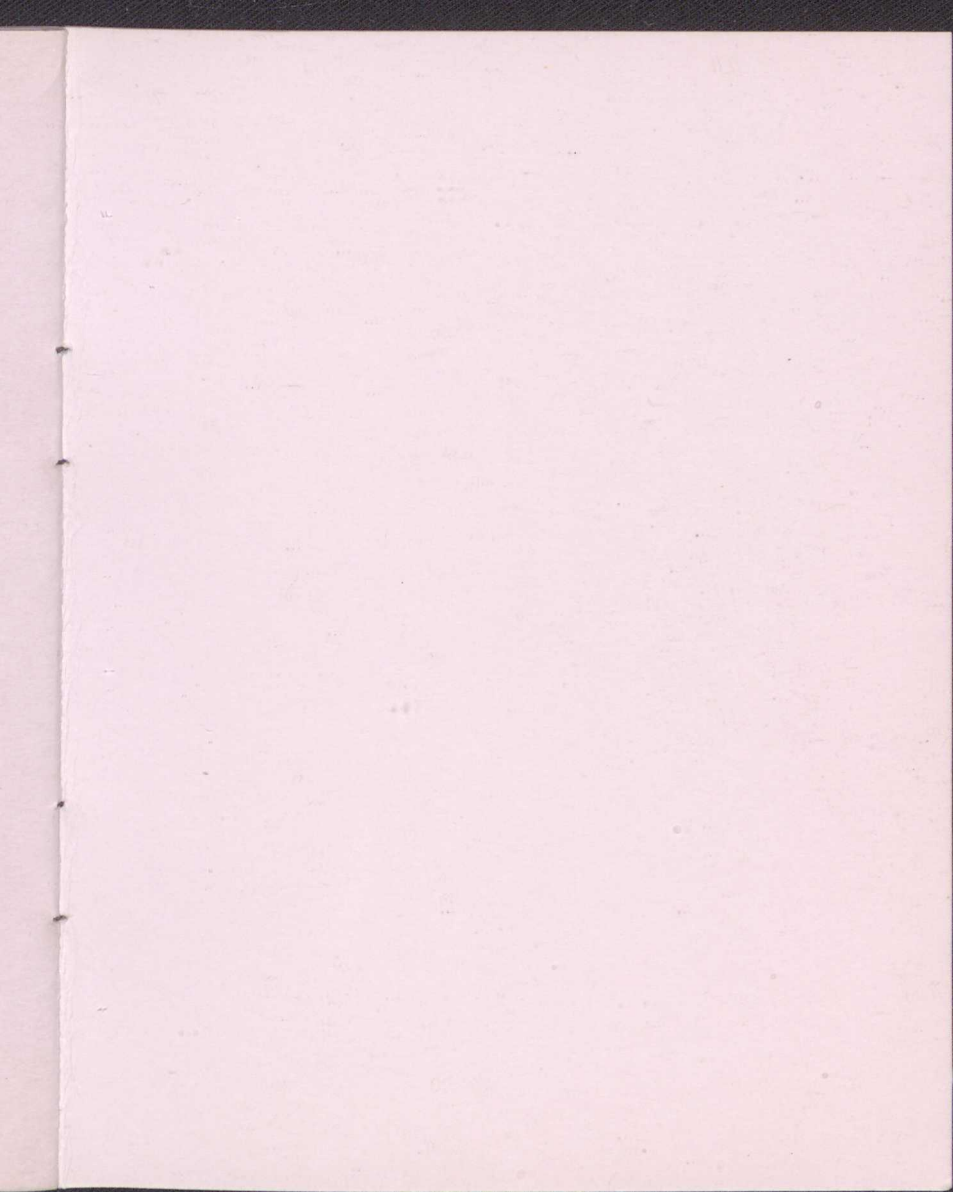
SOME FORMER PASTORS

I have tried to get a list of pastors for several years past but about all I could do was to go to the minutes of the Johnston Baptist Association and get names of pastors listed there. It happened that a few years the Association met between the time one pastor had left and before another had come in, so a few years we were listed "No Pastor".

1903	C. W. Blanchard
1907	T. H. Thornton
1909	No Pastor
1910	A. C. Hamby
1920	A. O. Moore
1923	R. C. White
1926	Ira E. D. Andrews
1932	No Pastor
1933	Y. C. Elliott
1937	R. R. McCulloch
1942	No Pastor
1943	Eph Whisenhunt
1958	F. Eugene Deese







the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has increased from 250 million to 800 million (FAO 1996). The number of people who are malnourished has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.6 billion (FAO 1996).

There is a growing awareness of the need to improve the nutritional status of the world's population. The World Bank (1992) has estimated that the cost of malnutrition to the world economy is \$100 billion per year. The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that the cost of malnutrition to the world economy is \$100 billion per year.

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