# REACHING HEAVENWARD

## THE HISTORY OF IVY GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

## 1916-2016




DANIEL MERRITT

# REACHING HEAVENWARD

## THE HISTORY OF IVY GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH 1916 to 2016

---

**Daniel Merritt**

Reaching Heavenward
Copyright © October 2016 by Daniel Merritt

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the author.

Printed in USA by 48HrBooks (www.48HrBooks.com)

First Printing – October 2016

Cover Photo: A picture of Ivy Green Baptist Church as it is today with the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain foothills serving as a picturesque background. The church has been upon the same site since its organization in 1916.

# DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all past, present and future members of Ivy Green Baptist Church. Members of the past carved a historical path that the members of the present must continue to follow and the members in the future must be willing to stay the course to the Glory of God.

# A SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks must be given to Mrs. Ethel Callaway Smith (b. 1925) and Mrs. Dorothy Smith Hicks (b. 1929), without their knowledge and connection to the past history of Ivy Green Baptist Church this book would not have been possible. The marvelous stories they were so willing to share with me breathed life into what would have otherwise only been historical facts and dates.



**Picture taken at Ivy Green Baptist Church Homecoming, August 7, 2016**

History is created by people just like each person who reads these pages. Their historical journey comes alive when we understand the events and circumstances which shaped and molded them. To understand their story is to have a greater appreciation for who they were and what they accomplished. I am most thankful for the vivid memories of Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hicks in sharing history that has helped shape the present.

I am truly beholden to and will forever be grateful to these two ladies for their Christian kindness and enthusiam in sharing

their accumlated wealth of memories regarding Ivy Green Baptist Church. Above all I want to thank them for their exemplary Christian lives.

Daniel Merritt, Th.D.

## A TRIBUTE
## TO
## IVY GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Ivy Green – shining as a Lighthouse for Christ over the last one hundred years,
and those she's guided to His Port hold her forever dear.

Ivy Green – a place where one can find the right Path when they've seemingly lost their way,
a place one's soul can find strength, courage and hope to face each challenging day.

Ivy Green – a place where God's people can gather to pray, laugh, and share,
a place where it's easy to find love and the warmth of those who truly care.

Ivy Green – a place where one can grasp the hand of a cherished friend,
both knowing they are possessors of a Life that death cannot ever end.

Ivy Green – a place that is able to enrich one's life during our sojourn here on earth,
by pointing to the One who gives and makes the living of life of much greater worth.

Ivy Green – a place where one can bring their joys, hurts and tears,
a place where one can find calm and comfort amid life's storms and fears.

Ivy Green – a place where young and old alike are taught the
Christian life is the best life to live,
and that the measure of one's life is not found in what one has,
but in how much one gives.

Ivy Green – for a century now she's been God's sheltering tree
for many a weary and seeking heart,
And as the present merges into history she'll continue the life
of Christ to others impart.

Daniel Merritt
October 16, 2016



**Ivy Green Baptist surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction ..... 11

## CHAPTER 1

It Began With a Vision ..... 13

## CHAPTER 2

The First Twenty-Five Years ..... 21

1916-1941
From Infancy to Growth

## CHAPTER 3

The Second Twenty-Five Years ..... 49

1942-1966
From Stability to Expansion

## CHAPTER 4

The Third Twenty-Five Years ..... 89

1967-1991
From Tragedy to Triumph

## CHAPTER 5

The Fourth Twenty-Five Years ..... 119

1992-2016
From Faith to Faith

## CHAPTER 6

Deacons of Ivy Green Baptist.....151

## CHAPTER 7

Church Clerks of Ivy Green Baptist ..... 153

## CHAPTER 8

Treasurers of Ivy Green Baptist..... 155

Additional Pictures ..... 159

References Consulted ..... 189

# INTRODUCTION

*"In the beginning God created..." Genesis 1:1*
*"In the beginning was the Word..." John 1:1*

The birth of new life is always an exciting event for those involved. When new life first appears, it is impossible to calculate the influence and impact that life will have on a person as the present becomes history. An influence and impact it will have though.

One hundred years have passed since Ivy Green Baptist Church was organized. There was no way those pioneer, visionary Christians could have known the impact and effect the birth of Ivy Green Baptist would have on those who would come under her influence. Each member of Ivy Green Baptist Church has the privilege of being a part of this history. Each member has the privilege of continuing to pass on that life begun in 1916. Out of diverse talents and abilities God has brought a unity in love and in service to Him.

In the pages that follow one will discover those who began this noble work and those who have the privilege of carrying on the work begun one hundred years ago. As the reader relives the events and revisits the people who made and continue to make Ivy Green Baptist Church possible, let each give thanks for such a wonderful heritage and for the opportunity to carry the spiritual baton the church's spiritual ancestors passed on to each member.

Let each member keep alive the vision of those who have gone before. Let each seek to live in anticipation and embrace the privilege to pass the Gospel baton to a waiting generation.

Let each who is a part of Ivy Green Baptist Church keep kindled that excitement and enthusiasm that was no doubt found in the hearts of Ivy Green's founding brothers and sisters. Let each member allow Christ to impart a vision of what the church can be; a vision of what He wants each individual to be.

May each who is presently a part of such an inspiring history endeavor as the church enters her second hundred years, do so with Christ as the Guide, the Bible as the standard, the Gospel as the message, His love as the lifestyle, and Heaven the eternal hope.

Before beginning our journey, the reader can be assured in writing about the rich heritage of Ivy Green Baptist that every effort has been made to be as accurate as possible from the research and records available. Also, when writing history the writer is faced with the challenge of what ends up in print and what does not. And it is not always an easy choice. If any mistakes are found in names, dates or detail the reader can be assured they are unintentional and apologies are extended.

Now, let us begin a journey that will lead us down a path that covers one-hundred years of history that in reality is His-Story.

Daniel Merritt, Th.D.

# CHAPTER 1

## IT BEGAN WITH A VISION

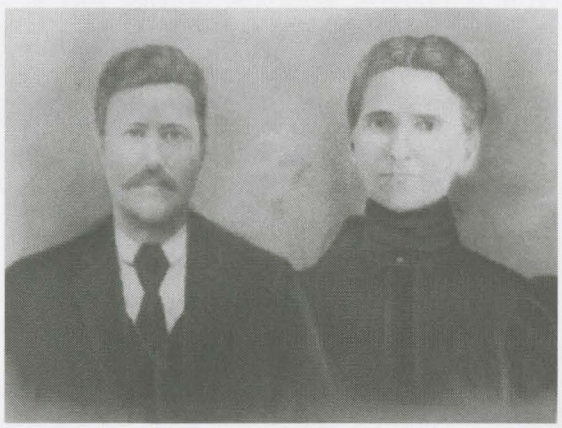
*"Where there is no vision the people perish." Proverbs 29:18*

Found in the Round Peak Community in the northwest corner of Surry County, North Carolina, sits a quaint church house known as Ivy Green Baptist Church. The church is only a little more than a stone's throw from the Virginia state line. Since October of 1916 the church has been quietly nestled in a picturesque setting with the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountain range as its background. The breathtaking view of Fisher's Peak, Cedar Ridge, Round Peak, Horse's Knob, Jim's Knob and Turkey Knob reaching heavenward evokes worship from those who gather weekly to lift their praises to the Creator of such a magnificent sight. How did Ivy Green Baptist, which sits in a scene so beautiful that only the Divine Artist could gloriously paint it, come into existence?

Unfortunately, the minutes of the first ten years of the church, 1916-1926, have been lost. The church minutes were misplaced when the church clerk, Nonnie Rosa Snow (1904-1998), married Henry G. York (1906-1976) in April 1926, and the newlyweds moved to Thomasville, NC. Interestingly, the recorded church minutes that have been preserved begin exactly ten years to the day the church was constituted, recording on October 16, 1926, that Lou Jarrell (1891-1984) was elected as the new church clerk replacing Mrs. York, who had moved her membership to Thomasville Baptist Church. Thankfully the early beginnings of Ivy Green Baptist Church

have been preserved as the result of the vivid memories of those who were present when the church was organized and during the church's early years.

The birth of any church begins as a vision in someone's heart. Oral history holds that Mrs. Hiram (Laura) Jarrell (1860-1924) and two of her daughters, Nancy Lou Jarrell (1891-1984) and Evie Jarrell Collins (1894-1973), had a dream to see a Missionary Baptist Church organized in the Round Peak Community. It seems the vision for a community church was born when one of Mrs. Jarrell's daughters visited New Hope Missionary Baptist Church near Dobson, had her heart stirred by the Holy Spirit and made a profession of faith. Upon returning home, the younger Jarrell began excitedly planting seeds in the garden of her mother's soul of how wonderful it would be to have a Missionary Baptist Church in the Round Peak Community. While Crooked Oak (Zion Hill) Primitive Baptist Church was established in the community in July 1878, there was no Missionary Baptist influence nearby.



**Hiram Ellis Jarrell and Laura Bennett Jarrell. Ivy Green Missionary Baptist Church began as a vision in the heart and soul of Laura Jarrell. Hiram Jarrell's name is listed first of the five Trustees on the land deed.**

Like all dreams, it can never become a reality if left buried in one's heart. Mrs. Jarrell began sharing the vision of her heart at least as early as 1910. Her brother-in-law, Richard W. Jarrell (1869-1937), was a member of Beulah Methodist Church in Mt. Airy. He was also a Mason in the Lodge at Dobson and had a desire to see a

Masonic Lodge built in the Round Peak Community. Seeking a way to accommodate both dreams, records reveal that Mr. Jarrell and his wife, Susan (1872-1964), in March 1911 agreed upon the plot of land on which the meeting house would be built. Though the deed was not officially recorded until February 3, 1913, "one and 29/40 of an acre more or less" of land was conveyed to five trustees for the purpose of the land being used for the building of a Missionary Baptist Church with a second story to be used by the Masonic Order. The five Trustees named in the deed were: H.E. Jarrell (1859-1919), R.F. Golding (1872-1938), R.A. Snow (1866-1944), C.P. Stewart (1885-1945), and D.B. Barker (1875-1955). The deed records they were "trustees of Ivy Green Missionary Baptist Church and their successors." See page 161.



**Richard Walter Jarrell and wife, Susan Jarrell, donated the land on which Ivy Green Missionary Baptist Church was built.**

That the name of the church is mentioned in the deed before there was even a church constituted or a church building constructed, indicates the mission mindedness of those who sought to give the name to their dream even before it became an actual reality. Their futuristic vision for a Missionary Baptist Church, and even the church's name, already existing in their mind's eye, was just waiting to be realized.

The deed read in part:

> This deed is made for the purpose of building on said lot a Missionary Baptist Church, also a second story to be used as a hall for the Masonic Fraternity, the Farmers Union organization, the Junior Order of American Mechanics Fraternity....and it is also agreed that said House shall be used for preaching....by the Missionary Baptist Church. To have and to hold the aforesaid tract or parcel of land, and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said H.E. Jarrell, R.F. Golding, R.A. Snow, C.P. Stewart, D.B. Barker, Trustees of Ivy Green Missionary Baptist Church and their successors in office.

With two-room Ivy Green School less than two miles from the site where the new church would be constructed, the visionaries chose the name Ivy Green Missionary Baptist Church. The name would not only give the church a geographical identity in the community, but also a natural identity with the green mountain ivy that was abundant in the surrounding forests of the Round Peak Community.

In the spring of 1913 the men of the community began working to construct the new one-room house of worship and the upper floor where the Masonic Order would assemble. While the labor and most of the building materials for the meeting house were donated, money was in short supply, making it difficult to obtain materials that did need purchasing. To help assist with some of the financial burden in purchasing needed building materials, it is found in the May 29, 1913, and June 5, 1913, editions of *The Mount Airy News* that on Friday, July 4, 1913, the one-hundred-thirty-seventh birthday of the United States, the Masonic Fraternity (the Farmers Union) and the five trustees of Ivy Green Church, "cordially invited the public to meet at Ivy Green Church, Round Peak," for a service where "a prominent speaker" would address the people. There

would be refreshment stands, and "all refreshment stands, watermelons, etc will be conducted under the supervision of the trustees, and the proceeds applied to the benefit of the church." Seeing that the summer of July 1913 was the beginning of four weeks of drought-like weather, no doubt the Independence Day service and festivities proved successful in its celebration and its intent to help raise needed funds to continue construction.

Unfortunately death did not take a day off while construction was taking place. According to Rayburn Snow (1910-1989) the meeting house was not fully completed when the first funeral was held. The funeral was for Lelia Maud Golding Scott (Mrs. John W. Scott) (1895-1913) who passed away from typhoid fever and meningitis on September 9, 1913. Her death occurred two weeks shy of her eighteenth birthday. The September 11, 1913, edition of *The Mount Airy News* stated in her obituary, "Her remains were carried to the Missionary Baptist church near her home (Round Peak), known as Ivy Green Church, where the funeral was conducted and her remains laid to rest in the adjoining cemetery." (See page 159.)

While the structure had been enclosed, much on the inside had not yet been finished, including the laying of the floor. Planks had to be laid in the aisle over the log sills so the casket could be rolled into the church. Those attending the funeral made their seats on the logs where the floor would eventually rest. The final earthly resting place of Mrs. Scott, less than thirty paces from the church's structure, was the first grave dug in the church cemetery where now over 340 who have departed this life await Resurrection Morning.

Research indicates that the second floor where the Masonic Order would meet was completed first, with the Masonic Lodge being chartered on January 20, 1915. While it would be another year and ten months before the Ivy Green Baptist Church was officially constituted, it appears the first floor meeting house was already being used for worship and

revival meetings. Mrs. Grace Easter Smith (1899-1991) remembered attending as a young teenager protracted (revival) meetings held there before Ivy Green Baptist was officially organized. Even before Ivy Green was chartered as a Missionary Baptist Church the echo of various evangelists and revivalists preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ could already be heard echoing throughout the meeting house.



**Grace Easter Smith (1899-1991) ca. 1920. As a teenager she attended revival meetings at the Ivy Green Meeting House before the church was constituted. She would be present when Ivy Green Baptist was officially organized.**

What began as a vision was about to become a reality. It was time for what once was a dream to now be birthed. As the present merged into the future, the quote of poet Robert Frost prophetically, beautifully and providentially spoke of a heritage that was soon to be, "The afternoon knows what the morning never suspected."

A special thanks to Steve Niston for the pictures of Hiram E. and Laura Bennett Jarrell and Richard W. and Susan Jarrell found within a book he graciously shared with this writer, *The Roots and Branches of Fountain Jarrell* by Becky Hackney Fleming, Round Hill, VA, 2004.



**The Ivy Green Meeting House built in 1913. Revival meetings were held there prior to Ivy Green Missionary Baptist being officially constituted in October 1916.**

# CHAPTER 2

## THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
## 1916 to 1941
## FROM INFANCY TO GROWTH

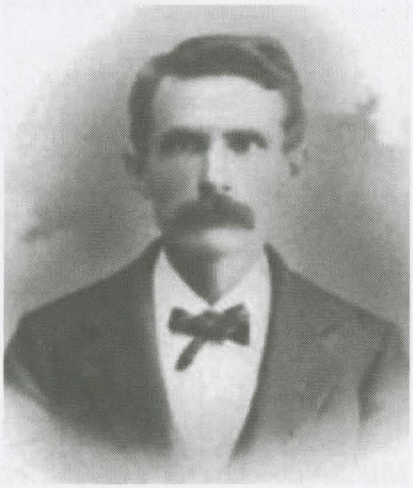
*"Some plant, some water, but God gives the increase."*
*First Corinthians 3:6*

While fellow Christians had been meeting at Ivy Green Meeting House since 1913 and various services and revivals had been conducted under its roof, a Missionary Baptist Church had not yet been officially constituted. The foundation work had been laid and the time had arrived for a church to at last be chartered.

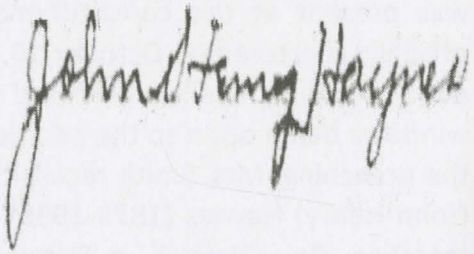
According to Mrs. Grace Easter Smith (1899-1991), who was present at the constitutional meeting, the church was officially chartered on October 16, 1916. Being seventeen years old at the time, she remembered the church being full and the windows being open so the people standing outside could hear the preaching. Mrs. Smith recalls thirty-seven-year-old Rev. J.H. (John Henry) Haynes (1879-1936) delivering the organizational message. Rev. Haynes, a Surry County native who lived in nearby Stewarts Creek Township, was a much in demand revival preacher who was a most persuasive and able speaker. The *Biblical Recorder* called him "a strong and scriptural preacher" (June 15, 1927). He traveled far and wide preaching, speaking at Sunday School conventions, and often serving on a presbytery with other ministers when a church was organized.

The lanky Haynes stood six feet tall and his piercing brown eyes danced with the fire of the Spirit when he preached. He drew large crowds wherever he proclaimed God's Word. It was said when he spoke his words were like magic before the spellbound listeners.

The devil attempted to twice disrupt the organizational meeting. Mrs. Grace Smith remembered as Rev. Haynes was preaching there was a man in the crowd who became disruptive as the result of consuming too many "spirits" from a bottle. He twice interrupted the service and the second time he did he was nicely escorted out of the church. Once the disruptive man who was obviously filled with the wrong kind of "spirits" was ushered out, Rev. Haynes, relying upon the Holy Spirit, continued his organizational message. At the conclusion of his challenging sermon, he opened the doors for church membership.



**Rev. John Henry Haynes. His signature would have appeared in the original church minutes declaring Ivy Green Baptist officially constituted.**



The names of those Mrs. Smith remembered being charter members were: Mrs. Hiram E. (Laura) Jarrell, Mrs. Evie Jarrell Collins, and Mary A. Marshall (Feb. 1890-1964).

As was discovered in the first chapter, it had been for years a dream of Mrs. Laura Jarrell and her daughter, Evie, to see a church birthed in the community. Ms. Marshall lived near the church in the Stewarts Creek Township and had developed

close ties with the Jarrell's. Each of these ladies was instrumental in their commitment of seeing a Missionary Baptist Church constituted and established in the community. What had once been a vision in a few people's hearts at long last had become a reality. Those early brothers and sisters, with a vision for the community, had no way of knowing the future lives that would be impacted from what once was only a dream in their hearts.

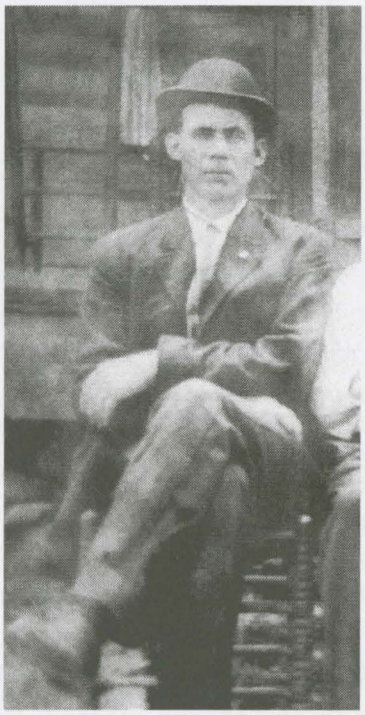
Ivy Green Baptist Church had foresight from the beginning to realize laboring for Christ is easier and more productive when fellow Christians are yoked together in unity in spreading the Gospel message. When the churches of the Surry Baptist Association gathered at Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, NC for their annual meeting on August 15, 1917, Ivy Green Baptist is found requesting to join the association that had been formed from the Yadkin Baptist Association in 1903. Ivy Green Baptist was lovingly and joyfully voted in as a sister church to join in the associational spread of the Gospel. The 1917 Surry Baptist Associational minutes read: "On motion an invitation was extended to new churches, Ivy Green came forward, [and] on motion was received." The church has been a member of the Surry Baptist Association ever since.

The 1917 Surry Baptist Associational minutes reveal Ivy Green's membership consisted of eighteen members: three men and fifteen women. David Turney (1865-1946) is listed as messenger from the church. Turney was also one of the early deacons in the fledgling church. The value of the church property is listed at $350.

### Rev. M.B. Phillips

Rev. M.B. (Merriman Baconrngray) Phillips (1872-1958) is listed as pastor in 1917. Rev. Phillips was born in Randolph County, NC, but upon meeting Jane Easter (1874-1936) from Grayson County, VA, and marrying her in 1892, settled in Surry

County. (See page 163.) They are listed as residing on Round Peak Road. Rev. Phillips was a seasoned minister who had preached in most churches in Surry County. A man of deep convictions, in 1908 he helped lead a campaign in Surry County "against liquor and its attending evils" (*The Mt. Airy News, May 21, 1908*). A mission minded man, in the 1918 Surry Baptist Associational minutes he is listed as receiving $12.17 for associational mission work. His experience and convictions were what Ivy Green Baptist needed in its infancy as a church.



**Rev. M.B. Phillips, the first pastor of Ivy Green Baptist.**

Nat Satterfield of Round Peak is listed as the first Sunday School Superintendent in 1917. Associational minutes indicate Ivy Green from the beginning had Sunday School, though it struggled in the beginning it eventually became one of the stronger aspects of Ivy Green. Sunday School was usually held from April to December, but because of usually rough winter months, it would take a hiatus until spring.

The year 1917 also saw the first wedding performed in Ivy Green Baptist Church. On October 7, 1917, Evie Jarrell, one of the charter members of the church, married Alger Sampson Collins (1898-1981). The ceremony was conducted by the pastor, Rev. M.B. Phillips. It was a marriage that would last fifty-five years, broken only by the death of Mrs. Collins in 1973. Sampson Collins is listed as one of the early members of Ivy Green Baptist and served over the years as a Sunday School Superintendent, a deacon, and a

messenger to the association. He and his wife remained members until November 1944, when they moved their membership to a church closer to their home in Mt. Airy. Sampson Collins was later ordained to the Gospel ministry and filled the pulpit of Ivy Green Baptist on many occasions.

In 1918 the membership had grown to thirty-eight members, twelve men and twenty-six women. The church that year gave $6.30 to state missions, $1.33 to home missions and $5.00 to the Baptist orphanage.

**Rev. G.W. Oakley**

Rev. M.B. Phillips led Ivy Green Baptist through 1920, by then the church had grown to a membership of forty-eight, eleven men and thirty-seven women. Phillips passed the spiritual baton to Rev. G.W. (George Washington) Oakley (1879-1957). Born on January 1, 1879, Oakley was a Surry County native. Having been raised on a farm in the Franklin Community of Surry County, he knew the value of hard work and a dedicated work ethic. He married Etta Mae Sparks (1880-1958) on February 4, 1900, at Mitchell's River Church, Surry County, and settled in the Mt. Airy Township. After marrying he split time working as a farm laborer and in a furniture factory to support his growing family. He was a charter member of Calvary Baptist in Toast, NC, which was organized in 1913. Shortly before 1920 he felt a call on his life to proclaim the unsearchable riches of the Gospel of Christ. Later census records list his occupation as being a Baptist Minister. Assuming the pastorate of Ivy Green Baptist in 1921, he led the church for almost a decade.



**Rev. G.W. Oakley**

Even though money was scarce in the 1920s in Surry County farming communities, one of the favorite offerings to which Ivy Green consistently gave was to the Baptist Children's Orphanage in Thomasville. Records indicate members gave offerings of $2.91 in 1922, $1.88 in 1923, in 1925 they gave $1.00 and in 1928 they gave $4.90. While the offerings seem modest by today's standards and the members often struggled to scrape two nickels together, they always gave at least something to help those less fortunate.

During his tenure at Ivy Green Rev. Oakley also served as pastor of Ladonia Baptist and New Life Baptist; however, under his leadership membership grew to fifty-four members. Also, fifty-six are listed as being enrolled in Sunday School. The value of the church building and property had increased to $1,000 by 1925.

Minutes reveal that the church sought to obey the command of the Bible not to muzzle the mouth of the oxen, and they sought to look after the pastor who plowed the fields with the sharp blade of the Gospel message. While Ivy Green Baptist preachers had a supplemental income, the church, though it may have been small, did seek to support the pastor financially for his preaching engagements and pastoral duties. For instance, for the church year 1921-1922 (the church year was from July-June) Rev. Oakley received for the year a total of $37.60. For the year 1926-1927 his pay jumped to $60.92. His pay fluctuated from a high of $15.75 in June to a low of $1.00 in February. During the 1927-28 church year he received $40.80, with a high of $13.06 in July and a low of 60 cents in February. February was always a bad month for churches financially because of the weather, and many times the weather in the winter was such that minutes read "no meeting" (e.g., January, February, December of 1930).

One practice that the church engaged in at the end of a business meeting was the singing of a song of praise by the choir. Sometimes a business meeting could become tense in

regard to discussions, but no matter what was discussed the singing of a song of praise at the conclusion of a business meeting served to unite the church in its relationship with the Lord and with one another.

In addition to having a sound Bible preaching pastor, a church needs wise and capable deacons to aid the pastor and whose wisdom and integrity help give direction in times of problems, troubles and adversity. Five of the earliest deacons mentioned in the church minutes were: Dan Callaway (1877-1961), Nathanial Hawks (1881-1960), David Turney (1865-1946), Sampson Collins (1898-1981), and Austin Snow (1866-1944). And as 1929 dawned, these men's wisdom and level-headedness would prove invaluable as the church was soon to face an unexpected misfortune.

In the closing weeks of the winter of 1929, the resolve of the church was put to the test as the result of fierce forces from Mother Nature. During the day on Thursday, March 7, 1929, gale force winds had begun spilling out of the mountains damaging and destroying structures and toppling trees. Newspapers called the winds "violent and destructive" (*Statesville Landmark*, March 11, 1929).

Throughout the day of March 7 the winds gradually yet significantly increased in Surry County. As darkness settled over the county, winds reached a velocity of 65 miles per hour. During the long sleepless night houses shook, windows were blown out, and damage to many houses was incurred as the violent winds howled throughout the nighttime hours. Daylight would reveal the damage the destructive winds left behind. As the sun at last rose above the eastern horizon, neighboring members of Crooked Oak Primitive Baptist Church discovered their church was moved off its rock foundation. Many other homes had glass blown out of their window panes, and others had structural damage to their homes and toppled trees in their yards.

The members of Ivy Green Baptist awoke on Friday morning, March 8, 1929, to a sight that left them stunned and speechless. The morning daylight revealed that the meeting house of Ivy Green Baptist Church was not only blown off the rock foundation upon which it had sat, but it was found to be laying upside down resting on the slope of its roof. The structure was irreparable. The members were devastated. However, realizing the church is not a structure but believers gathered together, the members assembled at Ivy Green Schoolhouse to discuss what to do.



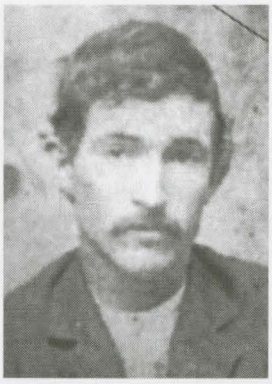
**The members of Ivy Green Baptist met at Ivy Green Schoolhouse until the church was rebuilt.**

Church minutes from April 20, 1929, read:

> Ivy Green Baptist Church was called into church conference on April 20, 1929....The church called for any business that should come before the

church. Business discussed, should we try to rebuild church back that was destroyed by the wind storm on March 7, 1929. All agreed to do our best to rebuild back. Then building committee appointed to look after building. Committee appointed: Bros David Turney [1865-1946], Austin Snow [1866-1944], Sampson Collins [1898-1981], Nathanial Hawks [1889-1960], T.D. (Dan) Callaway [1877-1961]. The work to be got on fast and early as possible....Song by choir...Prayer by pastor (Rev. George Oakley).

The church was unanimously committed to rebuilding a new meeting house. The task would not be an easy one as tending to crops and farm duties kept the men busy, yet they united to see it become a reality. Also, since the church was sitting on the slope of its roof, it had to be carefully disassembled, which proved to be a time consuming task. Mrs. Ethel Callaway Smith (b. 1925) remembers the church continued to meet at Ivy Green Schoolhouse while plans to rebuild were being drawn-up, construction was in process and until the project was completed.



**Dan Callaway. Photo ca. 1907. Chairman of Building Committee**

Three days after the church voted to rebuild, Mrs. Smith's father, Dan Callaway, who was chairman of the Building Committee, sought to circulate a letter to the members informing them of the plan to rebuild. The letter typed by his son, Charlie Callaway (1898-1961), encouraged each member to get behind the project with their prayers and to make whatever financial contribution they could, no matter how small, to help in the purchasing of needed building materials. The typed letter read:

Round Peak, NC April 23, 1929
Ivy Green Church was blown down in a wind storm and was almost a complete wreck. The members have agreed to build again, and we are asking the members and friends of the church and the public for a donation as it is necessary for the church to be built as soon as possible. The Building Committee: Bros David Turney, Austin Snow, Sampson Collins, Nathanial Hawks, Dan Callaway.

Even before the next business meeting pledges begin coming in. Each sacrificed to help as they could. Donations ranged from $50, to $25, to many pledging $1.00 and some even 50 cents. But all pledged something. While the men of the community donated their labor for free, the 1930 Surry Baptist Associational minutes reveal that the church eventually collected $341.75 for building supplies. A very commendable sum of money as the Great Depression was looming upon the horizon.

At the May 18, 1929, church business meeting the "church decided by the help of the Lord to try to be ready to start work on building by July 20, 1929." It was decided that Ivy Green Baptist and the Masonic Order would again work together, with Ivy Green members responsible for the first floor and the Masons responsible for the second floor and the roof. It was also decided to make the church broader in its structure than the first building which had been narrower. It was believed the narrow structure helped contribute to the strong winds blowing the two-story meeting house over and if it was built wider it would be more stable to withstand strong winds.

On July 4, 1929, the men of the church gathered to dig the church footings to prepare for an adequate foundation. Construction had commenced on the same day as the USA was celebrating its political Independence and the new meeting

house would be a place where people would celebrate spiritual independence. The new church building would be 40 ft. x 60 ft. While the exact date construction was completed is not recorded, a note in the 1930 and 1931 Surry Baptist Associational minutes indicate the members were in the new structure by the end of 1929. What a joyous celebration was experienced by the members in the first service in the newly constructed church. It was a testimony to the unity and commitment of the members.

Interestingly, the pump organ that had been in the church since its establishment was broken in pieces in the destructive wind storm. Sampson Collins gathered up the broken pieces of the organ and took them home with him. He patiently put the broken pieces back together and restored the organ to playability. So when the first service was held in the newly built church the church's first organ was still echoing melodious music throughout the congregation.



**A 1938 photo of Ivy Green Baptist Church rebuilt in 1929.**

In 1930 the value of the church building and property was listed at $1,350. Being wise and prudent in thinking ahead if such a natural disaster occurred again, there is mention that the building was insured for its value.

On the third Sunday in May 1930 the members celebrated the first Communion in the newly built church. Communion was always a time of thanksgiving for God's blessings and giving thanks for the sacrificial giving of Christ's life on our behalf. How the bread was prepared and the practice passed on is a most interesting story. In the church's beginning Mrs. Lamirah Scott Snow (1877-1925), wife of deacon Austin Snow (1866-1944), baked the unleavened bread used in Communion. She believed it was the duty of the wife of a deacon to prepare the elements. Feeling she should not be the only one in the church able to prepare the Communion bread, Mrs. Snow decided it was time to pass on the art. She chose Mrs. Laura Callaway (1877-1966) to share with how the unleavened bread was prepared.



**Mrs. Laura (Dan) Callaway for years prepared the unleavened bread for Communion. Photo ca. 1907**

In 1919, between Christmas and the New Year, Dan (1877-1961) and Laura Callaway had moved from Carroll County, VA, and settled in the Stewarts Creek Township. Dan Callaway and Austin Snow were first cousins.

Dan and Laura joined Ivy Green Baptist and it was not long before he was chosen to serve as a deacon. After the Communion Service in 1924, Lamirah Snow decided it was time to share the recipe. She visited the home of Laura Callaway for the purpose of teaching her how to properly fix the unleavened bread. Mrs. Snow remarked, "I need to teach someone else how to do this in case something happens

to me." Spending all day with her, she passed the art on to Mrs. Callaway.

It was good Mrs. Snow passed on the art of making the Communion bread, because before the 1925 Communion service she suffered a stroke and passed away on April 11, 1925.

For years Mrs. Callaway prepared the bread and she also made the grape juice used in Communion. Mrs. Callaway eventually passed on her knowledge to Mrs. Grace Easter Smith (1899-1991). Mrs. Smith prepared the bread until 1973.

In 1973 Mrs. Grace Smith passed the art of making and preparing the Communion bread to Mrs. Ethel Callaway Smith (b. 1925). Mrs. Smith was the daughter of Dan and Laura Callaway and the daughter-in-law of Mrs. Grace Smith. Ethel Smith prepared the bread for years, and she eventually passed it on to Dorothy Smith Hicks (b. 1929). Mrs. Hicks prepared the Communion bread until the bread could be purchased at local Christian book stores. Partaking of Communion has always been an important part of the worship life of the Ivy Green members.

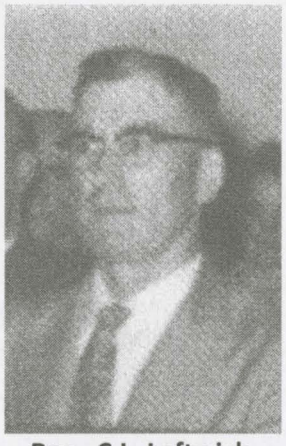
Even though the focus of the church had been on rebuilding, the church did not lose focus of continuing to "do church" and expand ministry opportunities. On June 16, 1929, Rev. Oakley recommended to the church that Curtis Leroy Leftwich (1900-1974) be ordained to the Gospel ministry. A presbytery was appointed to examine him as whether to recommend him to be ordained. Leftwich was born in Fancy Gap, VA, on April 29, 1900. He is later found living in Round Peak, NC. Though the date is not recorded, he joined Ivy Green Baptist by profession of faith and was baptized. In April 1928 he married Lula Holder (1903-1965). (Both are buried in the Ivy Green Baptist Church Cemetery.) Leftwich was often elected as an associational messenger and often served as church moderator at business meetings when the pastor was absent. A man who was said to be a person of inspiration, his spiritual

maturity was evident. Upon his examination by the presbytery, ordination was recommended and "all knelt by him and prayed" (June 16, 1929, church minutes).

During a time of reconstruction Ivy Green not only ordained a person to the Gospel ministry, it held a revival meeting which would have been held at Ivy Green Schoolhouse. The revival resulted in several new members joining the church. Membership during this time is listed as being fifty-five, with the same number enrolled in Sunday School. Also the members, in addition to giving donations to the building project, continued to give money to support the pastor and the Baptist Orphanage in Thomasville. Even though focused on their community, the members of Ivy Green also sought in their giving to reach beyond their community walls.

**Rev. C.L. Leftwich**

As 1930 burst upon the horizon like a summer sunrise, the ministry of Rev. Oakley was coming to a close. He had led the church ably through hard and difficult times and kept the members unified when the winds of adversity sought to blow away their dreams of being a stable church. Ivy Green had held an annual pastoral call since its inception, the church year being from July to June. When it came time for the annual call on June 14, 1930, Rev. Oakley did not seek reelection. He departed Ivy Green to become pastor of Pinnacle View Baptist near Pilot Mountain. The church was grateful for his service.



**Rev. C.L. Leftwich**

The church voted to nominate a "Bro. Henderson for pastor." However, "Bro. Henderson" on July 30, 1930, withdrew his name and the church voted to call as their pastor

Rev. Curtis Leftwich. Interestingly, Leftwich was not present and the "church clerk was instructed to notify him of the election." The thirty year old Leftwich, who had been ordained to the ministry a year earlier, accepted the call to serve as Ivy Green's third pastor.

Rev. Leftwich served less than two years, until January 1932, yet under his leadership he emphasized more missions and led the church to give more to the Cooperative Program. Minutes record that in 1931 the church gave $5.30 to mission endeavors through the Cooperative Program, which was quite good for a farm community where money was as scarce as hen's teeth and with the country in the throes of the Great Depression. He, as well, scheduled two successful revivals where new converts were added to the church. The membership remained steady at fifty-five. Even after stepping down as pastor he continued to serve as Sunday School Superintendent.

**Rev. J.L. Weatherman**

When 1932 was as new as a freshly fallen snow, on January 3, 1932, the church elected as pastor Rev. John Lewis Weatherman (1898-1981). Weatherman was born in Surry County on November 20, 1898. He married Millie Ann Jenkins (1902-1969) on July 3, 1921, and they made their home first in Yadkin County, then later he is found living in the Elkin area of Surry County. Rev. Weatherman was known as a man who was always neatly dressed and his black hair well combed. A man of imposing stature, he stood six feet one inch and weighed over 200 pounds. He cast a commanding presence in the pulpit.

Upon assuming his duties as pastor, one of his priorities was when the spring weather arrived he sought to tackle an age old problem that has plagued churches since Pentecost, "to appoint a committee to visit and talk to some delinquent members of our church" (April 16, 1932, church minutes). The

pastor and deacons were to attend to this matter of business. It was both a challenging and necessary task that needed addressing.

During Rev. Weatherman's tenure as pastor he preached at Ivy Green on the second Saturday night and second Sunday of each month. Living in the Elkin/Jonesville area, when he traveled to Ivy Green to preach he would usually bring with him his mother, Mary Weatherman (1852-1952), who in 1932 was 80 years old. He and his mother would usually spend Saturday nights at the home of Dan Callaway (1877-1961). The careful attention he gave to his mother revealed that he was more than a man of big stature, but was also a man with a big heart of compassion.

Having to travel from the southern end of Surry County to Ivy Green was a lengthy trip in the 1930s, and as well having to tend to his aged mother who was not only living with him but many times traveled with him to his preaching engagements, Rev. Weatherman relinquished his duties as pastor of Ivy Green in the summer of 1933. Church membership during his pastorate remained stable at fifty-three members.

**Rev. J.A. Gilley**

On October 1, 1933, Ivy Green met "to nominate and elect a pastor to fill vacancy of Bro. Weatherman....Church moved and seconded to nominate and call Bro. J.A. Gilley to serve us for pastor." Rev. James Albert Gilley (1896-1984) was born in the Bryan Township, Surry County, on July 10, 1896. At age twenty, in the summer of 1916, he married Sarah Frances Nixon. From their union thirteen children were born. He had his own congregation!

The story of Rev. Gilley's conversion, entrance into the ministry and his eventual association with Ivy Green Baptist is a most fascinating one. The story was told by Rev. Walter Callaway (1893-1989) to his uncle, Dan Callaway, who was a

deacon of Ivy Green Baptist Church. Rev. Callaway preached more than a few revivals at Ivy Green and when he did he stayed with his Uncle Dan. On one occasion Rev. Callaway related to his uncle how Gilley came to know the Lord. It seems Rev. Callaway was preaching a revival meeting at Rocky Ford Baptist Church in the Bryan Township, Surry County. Rev. Callaway was told of a young man in the community who was operating an illegal distillery, which was not an uncommon practice in that area of Surry County. Though producing moonshine was fairly common, it was not a good enterprise in which a young man with a growing family needed to be involved.



**Rev. Gilley and his wife, Sarah, and their thirteen children.**

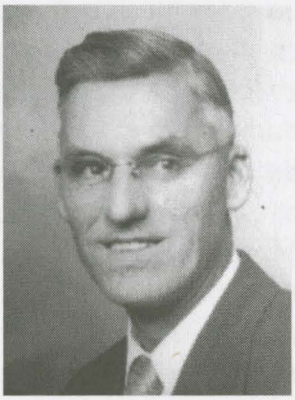
Rev. Callaway went and talked to Gilley and shared with him the Lord and invited him to come to the revival services. Gilley was pricked in his spirit by the words shared with him. He did attend the services and as he heard Rev. Callaway proclaim

the unsearchable riches of Christ's saving grace, his heart was touched by the Holy Spirit. Calling upon Christ to save his wayward soul, he later surrendered to the call upon his life to enter the Gospel ministry. It was through Rev. Callaway that Ivy Green Baptist became acquainted with Rev. J.A. Gilley. Recognizing his love for the Lord and his heart for Christ's people, Ivy Green voted him to be their pastor in October 1933 and as minutes read, "Bro. Gilley was notified of the call...and accepted the call for an indefinite time."

Under Gilley's leadership both Sunday School enrollment (60 in 1934) and church membership (61 in 1937) reached sixty for the first time. Missions was emphasized more as August 11, 1934, minutes indicate the church vowed "to try to aid [more] in missions this year...to try to aid [more] the Cooperative Program and the orphanage...and church agreed to try to do this." Total mission giving increased, as in 1935 the total given to all mission endeavors was $90.54. A most commendable amount given considering the country was in the middle of a financial depression.

Revival time was always a special time the members waited for with anticipation. Church minutes record that the revival of July 1935 was one in which the church "felt a great revival to long be remembered by the church and all who attended." The revival lasted eleven days, from July 14 to July 25 and was conducted by Rev. Holland M. Boyd from Waynesburg, Ky and Rev. B.C. Wise from Jewell Ridge, VA. Nine additions by baptism and one by letter were added to the church as a move of the Holy Spirit swept through the congregation. Two weeks after the revival, on August 10, 1935, the nine converts were baptized by Rev. Boyd in Little Fisher River which was about one-and-a-half miles from the church. One of the nine baptized from the 1935 revival was Ethel Callaway Smith (b. 1925), who at this writing (2016) is 91 years old and is the oldest living member of Ivy Green Baptist Church.

Joining the church by letter in August 1935 as a result of the revival was Alphonso (A.P.) Thompson. He would prove to be a tremendous musical asset to the church. Born on April 18, 1900, he was raised in the Thurmond community. He was very musically gifted in his ability to sing and teach music. He traveled far and wide to hold music schools or to work with church choirs. He met his wife to be, Effie Callaway (1903-1977), while conducting a music school in Lambsburg, Va. They were married December 27, 1922, and had four children.



**Alphonso Thompson**

He could sing any song in the hymnal and sing most any part. He taught shape notes. He led the Ivy Green choir for many years and also served as a deacon (ordained October 1936). When he was not leading the choir he was singing in the choir. He lived to teach and instruct others how to sing and read music. He would invite members in the church and people in the community to his house where he would freely teach all who would come. His music leadership in the early years of the church set the church on a course that has always seen the church embrace the high importance of music in worship. His love and dedication to share and teach music set a standard of excellence for those who in the future would lead the music program at Ivy Green.

Alphonso Thompson joined the heavenly choir to sing among the angels on November 30, 1981. He and his wife, Effie (d. 1977), are buried in the Ivy Green Baptist Church cemetery.

The church took its faith seriously and one of the worst charges that could be leveled against someone who professed faith was that he had turned his back on the Lord and denied the very truths he once professed. There is found in the September 1934 minutes where a man who was once active in

the church was now openly denying the faith. The church appointed a committee to talk with the wayward member and an attempt was made to bring him back to the fold. The man continued to deny what he once professed and as a result the church voted to withdraw fellowship from him and remove his name from the membership roll. The Christian faith was not to be taken lightly and most certainly not denied.

When the church gathered on May 9, 1936, it was Mother's Day. Rev. Gilley used the special day as an opportunity to talk on Christ's love and a mother's love and also on various missionary work throughout the state. At the end of his message a freewill offering for the Mother's Day Baptist Hospital Offering was taken. The members responded by collecting $11.44. Rev. Gilley had heightened the awareness of the Ivy Green members, for on September 12, 1936, when he recommitted to serve another year, upon being affirmed at the church's annual call, the "church agreed as Christians to do our part as to upbuilding the church and doing more missionary work in the coming year than we have in the past."



**Baptism at Little Fisher River in September 1938. Rev. Gilley baptizing Ed Smith, Garner Moore, Beatie Moore, Charlie Fulk, Emogene Fulk, Oran Jarrell, and Treva Stewart.**

The summer revival in July 1938 was conducted by Brother John S. Hinson (1876-1964) of Arlington, Yadkin County. It proved to be a most successful revival as seven presented themselves as candidates for baptism. They were baptized in Little Fisher River in early September 1938.

Rev. Gilley's ministry was most fruitful. Under his leadership the church grew numerically as well as spiritually. As the late summer of 1938 was blending into the changing leaves of autumn so there was coming a changing of leadership for Ivy Green Baptist. Rev. Gilley's service as pastor of Ivy Green was coming to a close. It was time for Gilley to pass the pastoral baton off to another man who was God's chosen servant for Ivy Green Baptist. That man was thirty year old Rev. L.M. Cook.

**Rev. L.M. Cook**

Rev. L.M. (Lunsford Montgomery) Cook (1908-1952) was elected as pastor in late September 1938. He was born on February 6, 1908, in the Bryan Township, Surry County. In 1927, when he was nineteen years old, he married Mary Florence (1908-1992). They made their home in the Bryan Township, but toward the end of his life they are found living in Ronda, Wilkes County. Rev. Cook was not big in stature, only stretching out to five feet seven inches tall, but he proved to be a giant in his faith and his relationship with the Lord. At his first service with the church on October 8, 1938, he shared with the church his goals for greater support of missions and a closer walk with the Lord in one's daily life.

Rev. Cook's first action was to "write all the members who have not been attending church to be at church on Saturday night, December 10, 1938..." The time of Saturday night services was changed to 6:45 p.m. in hopes that it would aid in more people being able to come. Rev. Cook's fiery red hair proved symbolic of his fiery preaching style in the pulpit. In an

effort to help buildup the church he sought to visit in the homes, encouraging people to remain faithful to the church.

In March 1938 the church minutes record there was a determined effort to improve and reach more people through Sunday School. The officers and teachers were appointed and Ed Smith (1899-1972) was voted in as new Sunday School Superintendent. Putting emphasis on Sunday School enrollment certainly proved successful as in 1939 seventy-three people were listed as being enrolled. The Sunday School enrollment was the highest in the twenty-three year history of the church.



**Rev. L.M. Cook baptizing Harry Smith (1925-1991) in June 1947**

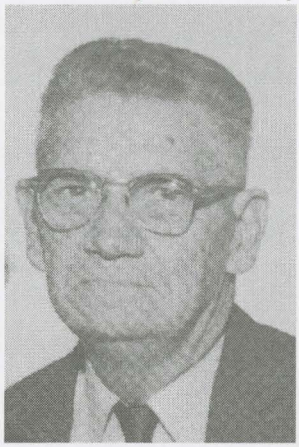
A question that arises is how did the church conduct four Sunday School classes in a one-room church that was 40x60? If the weather was pretty the children went outside and sat on benches while the adults stayed inside. If the weather was bad each of the four classes gathered in the four corners of the church and spoke softly as the lessons were being discussed. In time wires were hung and burlap curtains strung on the wires so the curtains could be drawn while the classes were having their lessons. There were even times if there were only three or four in a class they would pile in someone's parked car and teach the lesson. What in the twenty-first century would appear to be obstacles to teaching was only an opportunity for the dedicated teachers of Ivy Green to search for creative solutions to teach their lessons.



**Sunday School being taught outside, ca. 1955.**



In 1939 the church voted to ordain to the Gospel ministry Sampson Collins (1898-1981). He had served in almost every church office imaginable in the Lord's work. He was a deacon, had been Sunday School Superintendent, led the choir, served as moderator at business meeting in the absence of the pastor, served on associational committees, and the list goes on. On September 24, 1939, Ivy Green ordained forty-one year old Sampson Collins to the ministry. Minutes reveal he filled the pulpit many times in the absence of the pastor.



**Sampson Collins**

In May of 1939 the church ordained three new deacons: Ed Smith (1899-1972), Charlie Fulk (1917-1989), and Oran Jarrell (1923-2001). They proved to be young men of sound wisdom and good report.

On November 11, 1939, the church took up a special offering of "$50 and paid for the piano purchased one month before to replace the old organ that had been used since the church was established." One can only imagine the many hymns of praise that old manual pump organ had pumped out over the years. Though the organ was being retired, its distinct sound continued to be heard in the ears of those who had been a part of the church since its beginning. The organ was sold for $5.00.

Before Sunday School began in April 1940, in an effort to try and encourage more children to attend, Charlie J. Callaway (1898-1961) and his wife Myrtle Callaway (1901-1988) told the children if they would be consistent in attending Sunday School that in December they would have a Christmas party for them, each child would receive a gift and there would be a lighted Christmas tree. Seeing a lighted Christmas would be a treat for kids who lived in a community where very few people had

electricity. Since there was no electricity in the church how that was going to be pulled off is most interesting. Sunday School attendance was carefully kept and when the tally was in, quite a few kids had achieved the chance to attend the year end Christmas party. Presents were given out to each kid and they did see a lighted Christmas tree in a church with no electricity! Some knowledgeable men in the church strung the tree with electric lights then ran wires from the tree to some car batteries to make the tree light up. It was the first time many of the kids had ever seen a lighted Christmas tree, but the tree's lights were not as bright as the glows and smiles on their faces from the party and gifts received.

An interesting incident occurred while the Christmas party was being prepared for. The activity that was taking place in the church attracted the curiosity of three rabbit hunters who approached the church workers inquiring what was going on. Upon being informed of the party for the children, the rabbit hunters wanted to give a donation to help pay for the party. Myrtle Callaway told them the party was already taken care of, but the three hunters were told if they wanted to help with a donation the church needed a new communion set. Since the establishment of the church a common cup had been used. The men agreed to give the donation and a new communion set was purchased that allowed each person to drink from their own cup. The one tray with glasses and the bread plate cost $8.55. The church to this day still uses the bread plate from that communion set.

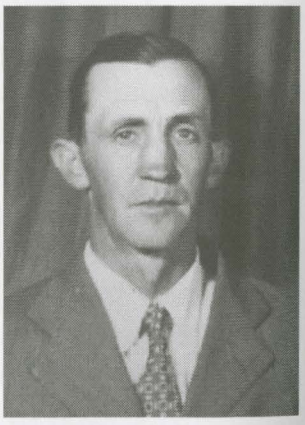
As the church entered its twenty-fifth year since it was constituted, the church was connected to electricity for the first time in January 1941. After a quarter-of-a-century preaching Christ is the Light of the world, the church now had electric lights that was of great benefit when reading and teaching about the spiritual Light.

While the church now had lights, if one wanted a drink of water it could be found in a ten quart aluminum bucket

containing a water dipper. The bucket of water and dipper was brought to the church services by Dan Callaway, who while on the way to church, would fill up the bucket at a nearby spring. Once at church the bucket would sit at the end of a bench. While the bucket contained water to quench one's physical thirst, the message of Christ that flowed from the church was living water for the spiritually thirsty.

The year 1941 saw the expansion of mission giving across the board. The church was giving to home missions, the orphanage, the hospital offering, and the Cooperative Program, in addition to taking up a special offering to help the poor. Seeking to reach the people in the community, the church was also reaching beyond its four walls with mission giving to help those, as the Scriptures teach, who dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth.

The year 1941 also proved to be a banner year in regard to Sunday School. Enrollment reached a high of 116, with the best Sunday attendance on July 13, 1941, of 73. Ed Smith was Sunday School Superintendent and the Sunday School Secretary was sixteen year old Ethel Callaway (b. 1925).



**Ed Smith was baptized in 1938. Ordained a deacon in 1939, over the years he served Ivy Green as church clerk, church treasurer and SS Superintendent.**

Rev. Cook's leadership was such that when the church met on September 13, 1941, for the annual election of the pastor "the church voted to unanimously elect our pastor Rev. L.M. Cook to serve indefinitely or until the church sees fit to dismiss him or until he sees fit to quit." Such a vote of confidence by the church was an affirmation to Rev. Cook that his labors were being fruitful.

As the first twenty-five years of Ivy Green Baptist Church came to a close, the church had come a long way. From being a dream in someone's heart, to being constituted, slowly acquiring a growing membership, overcoming the loss of its meeting house, facing financial shortfalls, yet the members were always blessed of the Lord to overcome whatever adversities came their way with strength that resulted in the church flourishing and making an impact for the Kingdom of God in the Round Peak Community.

# CHAPTER 3

## THE SECOND TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
## 1942 TO 1966
## FROM STABILITY TO EXPANSION

*"So we, being many are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." Romans 12:5*

The year 1941 was a banner year for Ivy Green Baptist Church. The church had made great strides forward spiritually and numerically. As December 1941 arrived there was much for which to be thankful. The financial needs of the church were being met by the people as the needs arose. No regular church treasury existed at this time in the history of the church as a collection was taken when a bill needed to be paid. December 1941 was one of those times as the minutes read, "The church took an offering for the church treasurer to pay light bill and various other expenses." The offering totaled $3.75, which was enough to take care of the pending bills.

As December of 1941 arrived the church looked forward to 1942 with anticipation. However, one week into December anticipation turned to uncertainty and anxiety, as on December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States was plunged into World War II. The decision for the country to enter the war affected every community in the United States, and that included the Round Peak Community where Ivy Green Baptist Church was located.

While every American had to make some sacrifices, some families had grief reach into their homes as their loved ones

paid the ultimate sacrifice in the giving of their lives for the cause of freedom. Found in the Ivy Green Church Cemetery are the final earthly resting places of four young men whose graves serve as a reminder of the grief that visited the homes of some within the Round Peak Community during those dark and difficult days of war. (See page 166.)

Osler P. Jarrell (1918-1944), PFC 314 Infantry 79 Division, was killed in the line of duty in France on June 25, 1944. He rests on the Ivy Green Church knoll, land he played on as a boy.

Howard E. Callaway (1911-1944), Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, was killed in action in Germany on November 24, 1944. He posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross for exhibiting heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, against enemy forces on July 16, 1944. Originally buried in Holland, in April 1949 he was brought home to rest at Ivy Green, where he had been a member and attended church as a boy.

Two brothers who attended Sunday School at Ivy Green Baptist, paid the ultimate sacrifice in WWII. Wayford R. Stewart (1922-1944) was wounded in the line of duty in Italy and later died from his wounds. His brother, Basil G. Stewart (1926-1945), was lost at sea when the airplane he was flying on disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle.

The grave markers of these four young men, who at one time attended Ivy Green Baptist typify the anxiousness, the uncertainty, and often the grief that existed during those war torn years in the hearts and homes of those who lived in the Round Peak Community.

As war raged on against evil forces overseas, Ivy Green Baptist continued to engage in spiritual warfare seeking to snatch the spiritually wounded from the evil clutches of the devil and bind up their wounds with the healing balm of the grace of Jesus Christ. Extra prayer bathed those who were

serving in the U.S. Army and those who were serving in the Lord's Army.

**Rev. L.M. Cook, con't**

During 1942 attendance remained steady, with minutes listing 73 on the membership roll and Sunday School enrollment hovering near 100. Rev. Cook was still the pastor and his seasoned leadership would continue to lead the church through the war years.

Rev. Brady Snow was invited to preach a revival in June 1942. The week long revival was well attended, and a good number of people made professions of faith and offered themselves as candidates for baptism. To see people walk the aisle for Christ was always a joyous occasion. On one occasion an Ivy Green member remembers a chicken strutting into the church during revival. While an offering of $16.55 was taken during the revival for the preacher, there is no mention whether or not the chicken went home with him.

The summer of 1942 also saw both the inside and outside of the church painted. An offering of $14.00 was collected to pay for painting on the inside and an offering of $33.50 was received for painting the outside of the church. Along with members attending to their spiritual condition, they attended, as well, to the condition of the Lord's meeting house.

A report was given at the December 1942 business meeting that the light bill for the whole year totaled $6.00! That averaged out to 50 cents a month for twelve months. By today's standard that was certainly a bargain price to have lights on in the meeting house where He who is the Light of the world is being preached.

The first preaching service at Ivy Green Baptist of 1943 did not start off with attendance bursting at the seams. As the result of cold and wintry conditions for the January 10, 1943, Saturday night service, the minutes record that only six people were in attendance. Faithful to the Word, Preacher Cook still

delivered his message. However, the next morning, January 11, minutes state a good number attended the service. Traveling conditions could be quite muddy and treacherous in the winter months, which often affected attendance. It would be in the early 1960s before the roads leading to Ivy Green Baptist were paved making travel a little less muddy and treacherous during bad weather.

The February services were also affected by the cold wintry weather, as the minutes read there was "a small attendance." Meeting on Valentine's Day 1943, those in attendance reached into their pockets not just to keep their hands warm, but to also receive an offering of $4.80.

On the second Sunday in March 1943, with the weather finally pleasant and sunny, the pastor invited Rev. H.M. Finch to speak to the members on the importance of giving to the Cooperative Program. A good crowd was in attendance and an offering was taken at the end of the service totaling $4.90.

The October 1943 revival lasted one week, beginning on October 10. The preacher for the week was Rev. Ralph Ferguson (1900-1976). A dynamic preacher, several people made professions of faith and the members gathered on October 17 for a baptism and preaching afterwards. Rev. Ferguson received ten dollars for his week of preaching.

November 14, 1943, was a sad day at Ivy Green as minutes read, "Bro. Cook preaching his last service as our pastor before resigning to go to other fields of work." Having served since September 1938, church members were most saddened to see Rev. Cook leave. He had been an effective pastor and leader. The church took up a love offering for him of $9.55. The deacons were given the task of finding a new pastor.

At the December 1943 meeting "Rev. Elmer Renegar did the preaching." A lengthy discussion ensued as to who to call as the next pastor, but no decision was made. At the conclusion of the business meeting a collection was taken for paying the

light bill for the year, which was $6.00, and a collection was taken for the visiting preacher totaling $4.00.

The New Year 1944 dawned without Ivy Green having decided upon a pastor. The first three months of the year services were only held in February, as January and March services were cancelled due to rough winter weather.

When the members gathered for the April 1944 service, Rev. Fred Journey brought the message. Once again discussion as to whom the church would call as the next pastor ended with no decision being made.

**Rev. Cook Returns as Pastor**

Before the May 1944 meeting Rev. Cook was approached to see if he would consider returning as pastor of Ivy Green Baptist. He agreed that if the church gave him a vote of confidence he would return. When the church assembled on May 14, 1944, Rev. Cook brought the message. Following his message church minutes read, "The church was called together and called Bro. L.M. Cook as pastor until the church saw fit to renounce him or he saw fit to go."

The church was elated that Rev. Cook had agreed to return. The church enthusiastically responded to Rev. Cook's invitation to give to the Mother's Day Offering by giving $15.30.

The October 1944 revival was conducted by Rev. Charles E. Otey from Haymore Memorial Baptist located in Mt. Airy. Preaching lasted a week, with the revival seeing several souls saved and a good spirit among those who attended. The gratitude of the members for the spirit-filled revival services was expressed by their giving him an offering of $28.30.

When the November 1944 business meeting was held, the church was most saddened that Sampson Collins and his wife, Evie Jarrell Collins, asked for letters of dismissal from Ivy Green to join Highland Park Baptist Church, which was closer to where they resided. They had been a big part of the church

throughout its history. Evie was one of the charter members. Their wedding in 1917 was the first wedding performed in the church. Rev. Collins had served the church in almost every capacity one can imagine: Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, choir director, delegate to the association, a deacon, moderator, and had been ordained to the Gospel ministry by the church. Though their presence and labors would be missed, the church bid them Godspeed as they ventured into new opportunities of service for the Lord. (See page 164.)

As 1944 was coming to a close, on December 7, sad news reached into the home of Ivy Green deacon Dan Callaway (1877-1961) and his wife, Laura Callaway (1877-1966) that their son, Howard E. Callaway, had been killed in the line of duty and in service to his country on November 24, 1944, in Germany. The community and Ivy Green Baptist surrounded the Callaway family during their time of grief with love, prayers and spiritual strength.

As 1945 dawned Mother Nature took its toll on the preaching services. While church membership stood at 75, winter weather resulted in church attendance being about as scarce as finding a hot day in February! Finally spring weather arrived bringing with it the start of Sunday School. The first Sunday in April everyone met for the beginning of the 1945 Sunday School year. The first Sunday back after the winter hiatus, April 15, 1945, attendance was only 23, but steadily grew higher with each passing week. Throughout May and the rest of the summer average attendance in Sunday School remained over 50.

In June 1945 the church held an eight day revival, with Rev. J.L. Powers of Elkin preaching from June 3 to June 11. Rev. Powers was a dynamic speaker. The revival proved most fruitful as there were five conversions and one joined by letter. An offering of $40 was received to pay the revival speaker.

When the church gathered for the August 1945 meeting it was a service of thanksgiving, as WWII had come to an end.

During the war years, as has been previously mentioned, Ivy Green lost four young men who gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms of the USA. Ivy Green Baptist had held a spring memorial service for the men who lost their lives in service for their country. The war now over, it meant many young men in the community who had been in battle were now coming home. It was a time of humble thanksgiving and grateful celebration.

When Ivy Green Baptist met on November 4, 1945, it was about to take a step of faith in an effort to reach the community for Christ. Minutes read:

> We discussed the purchase of a bus for transportation of people to church and Sunday School. The bus [has been] purchased and paid for by Bro. Carlie Shinault and therefore we are to pay him back by receiving contributions. Then a treasurer was appointed for the upkeep of the bus to be paid by an offering taken in the church. Bro. Charlie Fulk was selected to drive the bus.

The first two initial offerings on the bus totaled $82.10. Exactly how much the bus actually cost the minutes do not record, but a note states that "on December 3, 1945 the bus was paid for." Insurance on the bus was $36.30 a year.

The bus proved to be a great asset in helping with church growth. The bus was used to transport people in the community to Sunday School and preaching. It was also used to transport people to local revival meetings or when the choir was invited to sing at other churches.

The church was ready for the bus to roll, but there was no services held in January 1946 because of icy conditions which made the roads unsafe for travel. At the February 3, 1946, meeting, again, there was only a small number in attendance

because of wintry weather conditions. It was going to be spring before the bus could be used consistently.

For the Sunday School year 1946, which commenced on March 17, the bus was beneficial in helping see enrollment reach 108, with a high Sunday on April 7, 1946, of 80 in attendance.

During the May 1946 revival the bus was used to transport people who had no other way to get to the meetings. The revival was conducted by Rev. Roy Franklin. Minutes read, "We had quite a good attendance and meeting each night, with four additions to the church." A love offering of $58.20 was taken for the revival preacher.

Interestingly, making a profession of faith during the spring revival of '46 and baptized June 2, 1946, was Sidney Franklin Jarrell (1880-1956). Mr. Jarrell was the brother of Richard Walter Jarrell (1869-1937) who donated the land on which the church was built and he was the brother-in-law of Mrs. Hiram (Laura) Jarrell (1860-1924) in whom the vision for Ivy Green began and who was a charter member of the church. Mr. Jarrell was sixty-six years old when he was baptized. In 1951, at age seventy-one, he was ordained a deacon, being to this day the oldest deacon ever ordained by Ivy Green. For over three decades he taught school at Ivy Green School and, as well, taught adults in the community to read and write. His common sense approach to life and love for people made him a valuable asset as a deacon. In an ironic twist of fate, the very land his brother donated and the vision placed in the heart of his sister-in-law, served as links in the chain of events that eventually found him embracing Christ as



**Sidney F. Jarrell. In 1951, at age 71, he is the oldest to ever be ordained a deacon by Ivy Green.**

his Savior. But such is the gracious providence of God in His arrangement of events to bring someone to saving grace.

In the six months following the church purchasing a bus, many miles were put on the tires traveling to various services and participating in many activities. At the June 1946 business meeting it was brought to the attention of the church that new tires were needed for the bus at a cost of $116. Not having the money in the treasury, the church took up a special offering to cover the cost. As always, the church responded to the need.

October 1946 the members experienced another good revival, with Rev. B.F. Peeler of Taylorsville doing the preaching. The revival lasted from October 6 to October 13, with good results and a good spirit among those in attendance. An offering of $55.32 was received for the visiting revival preacher.

As 1946 came to an end, the church had given throughout the year $233.10 to all mission endeavors. As the year came to a close, minutes read that the church "was found to be in peace and fellowship."

As 1947 burst upon the horizon it did so like a cold north wind, as two out of the first three months of 1947 were cancelled because of wintry weather. Only in February did the weather cooperate long enough for the members of Ivy Green to gather for worship, as January and March services had to be cancelled for bad weather.

When spring blew in on March winds, it was greeted with gladness by the members. Sunday School for 1947 began on March 23, 1947, with 23 in attendance. As the weather warmed-up, attendance steadily began to increase.

The Revival held in June proved a most successful one. The Friendly Four Quartet sang and Rev. L.M. Cook and Rev. Roy Franklin shared in the preaching for the week long revival that saw seven people present themselves as candidates for baptism. They were all baptized the third Sunday afternoon in June at 3:30 p.m. at Little Fisher River. It was truly a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing in the Lord.



**Revs. L.M. Cook and Roy Franklin baptizing at Little Fisher River, June 1947. Those baptized: Harry Smith, Robert Smith, Eugene Moore, Jerry Sue Mickey, Betty Lou Wright, Ethel Snow and Ellen Cook.**

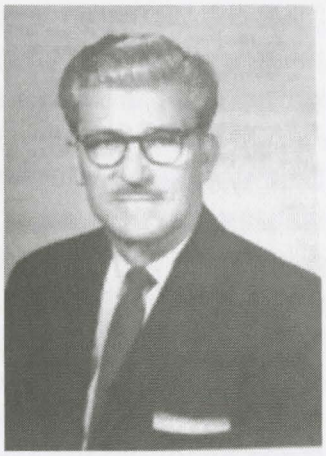
While there was joy over the good spirit and results of the June 1947 revival, there was also a twinge of sadness as June saw Rev. Cook resign as pastor of Ivy Green. His leadership and ministry at Ivy Green were most fruitful. The church was most grateful for his years of service to Ivy Green Baptist Church. The church took up a love offering for him totaling $49.15.

Search for a new pastor began immediately.

### Rev. Roy W. Franklin

The church minutes read, "A motion was made to call Bro. Roy Franklin as pastor...Bro. Roy Franklin was unanimously elected as pastor for one year... [and on August 10, 1947] Rev. Roy Franklin filled the pulpit today for the first time as our pastor."

Rev. Roy Wilson Franklin (1907-1972) was born in Lincoln, West Virginia, on April 1, 1907. In his early years the Franklin family moved to North Carolina, where he met and married in 1926 Beatrice Byrd (1908-1989), who came to be known by those who knew her as Aunt Bea. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry on August 17, 1940. Living in the Wilkes County area, he became a popular evangelist who could command the attention of those who heard him preach. Known for his eloquence, people would come from miles around to hear him.



**Rev. Roy Franklin**

Sharing the 1947 summer revival with Rev. Cook at Ivy Green Baptist when Rev. Cook resigned, Rev. Franklin was approached about becoming pastor of the church. He was unanimously voted in as pastor. Though living a good distance away in the Rock Creek Township, Hays, Wilkes County, he agreed to accept the call. However, he only preached two services as pastor, August 10 and September 14, 1947.

After the September 14 service Rev. Franklin resigned, citing health problems as the reason. While Ivy Green minutes do not state what his health issue was, he was honorably discharged from the Army in May 1944 for heart related problems after serving less than a year. No doubt the distance he had to travel from Hays in Wilkes County to Ivy Green, Surry County, coupled with his heart problems, was too taxing for him. His heart issues eventually claimed his life, as he died of a heart attack on May 10, 1972, at age 65.

The search for a new pastor began immediately.

## Rev. Brady F. Snow

With Rev. Franklin stepping down the church did not let any grass grow under their feet, as on September 14, 1947, "the church voted unanimously to call Bro. Brady Snow as pastor for one year. Bro. Snow accepted the call to serve." He would lead the church into the 1950s.

Rev. Brady Foley Snow (1902-1980) was born in Surry County on January 7, 1902. As a young man he found himself walking on the wrong side of the Prohibition laws, but his decision to follow Christ reversed his wayward path and put him on a path of leading others to drink from Living Waters. Possessing a scar on his left jaw from a youthful mishap, he began proclaiming Christ as the Healer of all spiritual wounds.

On Sept 17, 1927, Rev. Snow married Nannie Irene Cassidy (1909-2000) who was from Fancy Gap, VA. In 1940 the family is found living in Stewarts Creek Township, Surry County. Minutes reveal Rev. Snow had preached at Ivy Green in revivals, so the church was familiar with him. At the time of his call to Ivy Green he was also serving a church in Galax, VA.

Only a month after assuming the pastorship of Ivy Green, Rev. Snow preached the church's fall revival. The revival lasted a week and church minutes state, "Bro. Brady Snow doing the preaching we had a wonderful meeting as there were six confessions of faith all uniting with the church." The church received an offering of $44.00, which was given to the pastor for the revival services.

The year 1947 ended with the church having given throughout the year $330.33 to all mission endeavors. As the church met on December 28, 1947, three days after Christmas, the church looked with anticipation upon a dawning New Year.

The year 1948 started out on a cold and wintry note, as January services had to be cancelled due to bad weather. The church's first service was not able to be held until the fourth Sunday morning in February, with a good attendance gathered.

The 1948 church year began with $10.00 in the church treasury. Taking a step of faith which had always been the churches guiding rudder, the church at its April 1948 meeting agreed for the Lodge to have a picnic shelter built on the church property.

The spring revival, beginning April 25, 1948, lasting a week, was conducted by Rev. Fred Journey. The revival proved most successful as six additions joined the church. The church received an offering of $41.27 for the revival preacher.

With the church treasury only containing $21.95, in September 1948 someone graciously donated $50.00 to bring the total to $71.95 so some bills could be paid. Rev. Snow was voted to preach the October revival, which again proved fruitful as there were two professions of faith. The new members were baptized on October 10, 1948.

Though church services were to be held November 21, 1948, wintry weather came early and church had to be cancelled because the roads were too dangerous to travel. Since services could not be held on the third Sunday in November, they agreed to meet on the fourth Sunday.

One of the reasons it was agreed to meet on the fourth Sunday in November was to help a fellow church member and brother in Christ. The church gave a generous pounding to James "Carlie" Shinault (1903-1973). Mr. Shinault, who was a barber in Mt. Airy, had been sick for some time and he had been unable to work. The church wanted to help him and his wife as they went through a difficult time by giving them a pounding which would supply them with food and other necessities. The church was obeying the command of the Apostle Paul to look after fellow Christians in hard times.

As 1948 came to an end, church members at their December meeting, which was the day after Christmas, took up a generous offering for the Baptist Orphanage that totaled $16.67. The church ended the year with 93 church members on

The New Year of 1950 began like most new years began in the Round Peak Community, with wintry weather causing services to be cancelled or attendance suffering as the result of bad weather. Cancelled services did not help supply the church treasury with needed funds, as a note in the church minutes report that there was only $20.52 in the treasury on January 1, 1950. Though the treasury became low at times, the church never missed paying a bill.

As spring blossomed like a young flower, Sunday School began again the last Sunday in March with enrollment remaining steady near 100. Attendance always began low before increasing when warmer weather began spilling over the foothills.

On April 28, 1950, Rev. Brady Snow resigned, having accepted work in another field. His last service with the church was on the last Sunday in May 1950. The church was most grateful for Rev. Snow's ministry and bid him Godspeed as he undertook his new ministry field.

Search for a new pastor began immediately, but it would be several months before the church would settle on the right man God had in mind for Ivy Green.

On July 16, 1950, the church voted to call Rev. D.D. Hodges (1906-1966) to be pastor, but minutes read that when he was contacted he could not accept the church as he was already serving two churches. It was back to prayer for guidance as the search continued.

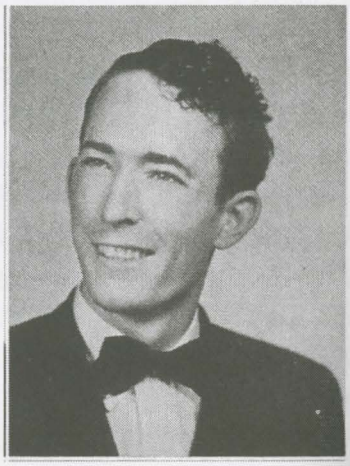
While searching for a new pastor, throughout the summer of 1950 supply preachers filled the pulpit. Former pastor Rev. Curtis Leftwich filled in several times to help out the church.

**Rev. James Holder**

After months of prayer and searching, the church was ready to present a man for a vote. On October 18, 1950, Rev. James Holder, a young man only twenty-two years old,

preached and the church on November 5, 1950, voted on whether to call him or not. The church voted unanimously to call him as pastor of Ivy Green Baptist.

Rev. James Elmer Holder (1928-2011) was born in Surry County on March 7, 1928. His father, Rev. Gurney Holder (1910-1979), was also a Baptist minister. He married Euzelia Hamrick (1911-2003) in November 1949, only a year before coming to Ivy Green as pastor. He attended Gardner-Webb University where he served as president of the Baptist Student Union and was president of his 1949 graduating class. He was twenty-two years old when he became pastor of Ivy Green, the church being his first pastorate. In a ministry that would span sixty-three years, he served churches in North Carolina and South Carolina. Rev. Holder was living in Gaffney, South Carolina, when he took his flight to heaven on February 3, 2011. He was 83 years old.



**Rev. James E. Holder at age twenty-one (1949), the year before becoming pastor of Ivy Green.**

During his ministry at Ivy Green he led the church to do some "that is the first time we have done it that way." He planted a lot of seeds that in time produced a harvest by beginning Sunday School year round. Since the establishment of the church it had been seasonal, starting the last week of March or the first week of April and running through December. So beginning on January 7, 1951, Sunday School was held all the year through. It has been that way ever since.

While the winter months affected the attendance, as the weather became warmer the numbers increased. While Sunday School enrollment was near one hundred, attendance hovered in the forties with sometimes more, sometimes less.

Having Sunday School all year long presented a space problem for a one room church. When the weather was pretty classes could and did go outside while the adults stayed inside. If the weather was such that classes had to stay inside, it presented a space and noise problem in trying to teach effectively. Recognizing this problem, on October 21, 1951, "the motion was made and passed to begin a building fund for constructing Sunday School rooms. Sixteen dollars was collected on this day and Robert E. Smith [1922-1994] was appointed treasurer of this fund."

While it would be several years before the new Sunday School rooms would be built, at least the discussion was ongoing and a fund started to see it become a reality.

The October 1951 revival was conducted by Rev. J.L. Powers. The week long revival was a most fruitful one as there were eight additions to the church, seven by profession of faith and one by letter. The offering for Rev. Powers was $46.05.

In October 1951 the church chose two new deacons: Robert E. Smith (1922-1994) and Sidney F. Jarrell (1880-1956).Their wisdom was invaluable as the church moved forward. They both served the Lord and the church faithfully.

On December 2, 1951, Rev. Holder presented to the church for discussion the idea of putting the church on a budget. If there was a financial need or a bill that needed to be paid the church in the past made the need known and took up an offering. There had never been a line-item budget before. At the January 1952 business meeting a report was given from the Finance Committee as to how the budget was to be constructed. The church has been operating with a budget ever since.

Also, at the December 2, 1951, business meeting there was further discussion regarding adding additional Sunday School class rooms. In October 1951 a building fund was started with the intention of some day adding Sunday School rooms. Rev.

Holder at the December 1951 meeting brought up for discussion a plan that would add six Sunday School rooms.

The minutes read that after discussion "the program [proposals] was approved by the members." A committee was elected to look into the matters that were discussed.

As 1951 came to a close Rev. Holder had placed before Ivy Green Baptist some lofty goals that challenged the members. It was a challenge that required continued discussion, prayer, and eventually action. He had planted seeds for further growth and expansion.

January 1952 began with the weather cooperating that made it possible for the church to meet at its scheduled time without having to cancel services as it so often had to do in past years. When the church gathered for service on January 20, 1952, the members were taken aback when at the conclusion of his message, Rev. Holder "resigned effective February 17, 1952."

Rev. Holder was well-liked by the church and those present were stunned at his decision to leave. He stated that he felt his work at Ivy Green was finished and a door of opportunity had opened for him to labor in another church field, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, NC.

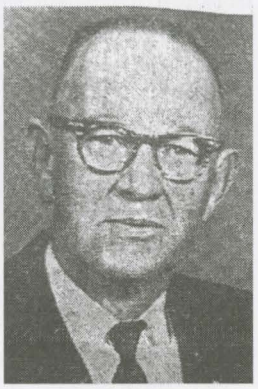
On February 17, 1952, Rev Holder "brought his farewell sermon." In his message he thanked the members for the opportunity to serve as their pastor and challenged the people to strive for a harvest from the seeds that had been planted concerning expansion and growth.

The church began its search for a new pastor. A pulpit committee was elected to begin the task of prayerfully finding God's man. The Pulpit Committee appointed was: Charlie Fulk, Aldine Holder, Henry Portis, and Mrs. S.F. Jarrell.

While the church searched for a new pastor, various ministers filled the pulpit until God's man for the church was secured. The search lasted two months.

## Rev. W.E. Burrus

On the third Sunday in April 1952, Rev. W.E. (William Edgar) Burrus preached and was presented to the church to be voted on for pastor. On the fourth Sunday in April the vote was taken and minutes read, "Rev. W.E. Burrus, Mt. Airy, NC was elected pastor of Ivy Green and will take up his duties May 1st."



**Rev. Edgar Burrus**

Rev. William Edgar Burrus (1902-1977) was born in Surry County on April 4, 1902. His father, George Edgar Burrus (1871-1963), was also a Baptist preacher who traveled far and wide preaching the Gospel. In 1926, when he was twenty-eight years old, W.E. Burrus married Irene Edith Oakley (1911-2003). They made their home in Mt. Airy. Ordained to the ministry July 11, 1945, he had served several churches in the Surry Baptist Association and had supplied for Ivy Green on occasions. When the fifty year old Burrus was contacted by Ivy Green, he agreed to be considered being called as pastor.

A man whose height reached six feet, one inch, he sought to help the church reach new heights spiritually. Upon assuming his duties as pastor he reemphasized some of the "firsts" that Rev. Holder had led the church to put in place: to keep Sunday School year round, having a yearly church budget, and not lose the vision of building Sunday School rooms. To help increase attendance, a community survey of 452 people was taken in 1952 to find new church prospects.

Rev. Burrus scheduled several revivals. He invited Rev. Walter Callaway to preach the 1952 summer revival. Rev. Callaway was a well known preacher who had preached at Ivy Green on many occasions. The revival began on July 6, 1952 and lasted a week. Minutes read that it was "very successful" and "large crowds attended each evening."

The same week that evening revival was being held, the church held Vacation Bible School from two to five o'clock in the afternoon. Mrs. Sam O'Neal (1926-1996), who was the associational Bible School Director, came to help lead the church's first VBS and help instruct the teachers in the organizational aspects of VBS. Thirty-nine were enrolled in the first VBS.

The 1952 Bible School was held in the afternoon as result of revival being held in the evening hours, but afterwards VBS has been held in the evening hours. In the early years of VBS teachers and helpers would drive around the community in pick-up trucks to transport kids to the church. Trucks would be filled with as many kids as could safely be put in the back of the truck. It was a sight to see pick-up trucks loaded with kids as they traveled up and down hilly and curvy roads being hauled to church.

One activity kids enjoy is ringing a huge bell and hearing its loud echo. In the early 1950s the bell that came out of the old Zion Hill School was hung on a huge limb of the large oak tree that stands between the church and the cemetery. The bell was rung to signal it was time for a church activity to commence or it was rung every time a kid got a chance to pull the rope! The bell hung on the tree until the mid-1960s when it was stolen. Someone could silence the bell, but they could not silence the enthusiasm of those who attended Ivy Green Baptist.

During 1952, Sunday School attendance gained steadily, especially during the summer months. There was some Sundays when attendance reached close to sixty.

The fall revival was held the first Sunday in November 1952 and continued for a week. Services were conducted by evangelist Rev. Roy Franklin, who was known for his powerful preaching. He had held revivals and preached at Ivy Green before and attendance was always high when he spoke. Several additions were added to the church as the result of his preaching.

Another "first" for the church under the leadership of Rev. Burrus was the appointment of a chairman of deacons. While the church had a deacon body, it had never had a chairman who served as the initiator if the necessity arose. Rev. Burrus appointed Robert E. Smith (1922-1994) to be chairman of the deacons. He served wisely, admirably and faithfully as chairman for over forty years until his death on January 27, 1994.



**Robert E. Smith, the first chairman of deacons.**

As 1952 came to a close the church was, as the minutes state, "at peace and in fellowship." The year 1953 was looked forward to with expectation.

The New Year 1953 started off with a stiff cold wind spilling over the foothills, affecting church attendance the first service in January. Twenty-four attended Sunday School and an offering of $1.66 was received. Attendance in preaching was hurt by the cold winter wind, but the pastor's message warmed the hearts of those who attended.

As always, as the winter weather relaxed its cold grip attendance increased, as did the giving. By March attendance in Sunday School had increased into the high thirties and the giving tripled. In April Sunday School attendance had popped into the fifties. Nothing like warm weather to pry people away from their Sunday fireplaces!

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Burrus that the church changed its method of heating the one room sanctuary. Since its organization the church had heated by an old schoolhouse cast iron stove, which was located in the corner by the door that goes upstairs. Rev. Burrus led the church to replace the cast iron stove with an oil heater. Robert Smith would arrive early on Sunday mornings before he milked his cows and light the oil heater in hopes that the church would be warm by the

time people began arriving for services. Depending on how cold it was outside, sometimes the church was warm and sometimes it was not! But no matter how cold the weather, the warmth of Christian fellowship and Christ's love always abounded within the four walls of Ivy Green Church.

As Vacation Bible School time rolled around, the second VBS the church held July 20-31, 1953, matched almost exactly the enrollment of the first VBS held in 1952. The number enrolled once again was 39 with an average attendance each night of 21.

When the church met in September 1953 to consider the annual call of the preacher, the church was unanimous in its reelection of Rev. Burrus. However, he asked for time to pray about whether or not he would return as pastor.

On September 27, 1953, the church held its yearly Communion Service. It was a solemn yet celebratory time the members took seriously as they spent time preparing their hearts before coming before the Lord's Table.

On November 8, 1953, the church had the delightful privilege to hear preach Rev. G.E. (George Edgar) Burrus (1871-1963), who was the father of Pastor W.E. Burrus. The elder Burrus, who was 82 years old in 1953, had been preaching since 1914. He was known all over Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin Counties. He was active in the ministry until he was 86 years old, going to his heavenly reward in 1963 at age 91. The church was honored to hear such a man who had much wisdom and knowledge to share with fellow Christians.

As December 1953 popped-up on the calendar it brought with it not only the wonder of Christmas, but the congregation was left wondering about the decision of Rev. Burrus. On December 13, Rev. Burrus informed the church that after much prayer he was going to step down as pastor. The mintues read, "Reverend Burrus gave his resignation and it was accepted with regret by the congregation."

As 1954 was about to dawn, the church would once again begin the hunt to find a new pastor.

The search for a new pastor was not rushed into, but the decision was bathed with much prayer. From January to May various preachers filled the pulpit. The church, to its credit, remained steady during the search and the ministries and functions of the church continued uninterrupted.

## Rev. Arlin Watson

After five months the Pulpit Committee was ready to present to the church a candidate for pastor. On May 31, 1954, Rev. Arlin Jesse Watson (1919-1981) preached in view of a call. Upon the completion of his message the church unanimously voted to extend the call for him to be Ivy Green's pastor. He accepted.

Rev. Watson was born in Surry County on January 25, 1919. Living in the Eldora Township, as a teenager he met Opal May Simpson (b. 1922). They were married on October 29, 1938, in Hillsville, VA. When WWII broke-out he was drafted into the Army in 1943 and served until the end of the war. Upon returning home, in order to cope with the horrors experienced in war he embarked upon a path that took him away from the Lord. It was a path whereby he sought to deal with and drown out the noises and sights of war which haunted his memories. Eventually he saw the road he was on was a dead end and gave his life to the Lord and surrendered to the call to preach the Gospel. Attending Fruitland Baptist Bible College, he was ordained April 10, 1954, by Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. Listed



**Rev. Arlin Watson**

also as pastor of Albion Baptist Church, he began his pastoral duties of Ivy Green on May 31, 1954.

Surry Associational minutes reveal attendance in the various church organizations remained steady and stable. In the summer of 1954 VBS enrolled thirty-five kids. The WMU listed twelve ladies as being enrolled. Sunday School lists seventy-eight enrolled. The church membership stood at eighty-two.

Giving was at an all time high, as in 1954 $469 was given to all mission endeavors. In October 1954 the church voted to put in the church budget to send five dollars monthly to the Cooperative Program and to send the same amount monthly to the Surry Baptist Association. With VBS about to enter its fourth year, the church voted to budget $25 for VBS expenses.

When the church met for worship on Christmas Day, 1954, it was a time of celebration and thanksgiving for the faithfulness and goodness of the Lord in the life of the church and in each one's life who was in attendance. As Ivy Green came to the end of 1954 and faced the unknown of 1955, they did so with faith and trust in the Christ of Christmas.

The first Sunday of the New Year of 1955 fell on January 1. The weather cooperated, and the church met to renew their commitment to the Lord for the coming year. While the members vowed to keep clean for the Lord the temple of their body, the church voted for the first time to hire Charlie Fulk as a janitor to keep clean the church for $1.00 a week.

When the church gathered on April 1, 1955, it may have been April Fool's Day, but the church was more interested in gathering to worship the Lord than being involved with the tricks of the world. The church voted to buy perfect attendance pins for those who did not miss a Sunday during the last year. The church, as well, gathered to pray for revival that was to commence in a few weeks.

In Baptist churches the cogs of planning sometimes move slowly. Discussion on planning to build Sunday School rooms

had been batted around for several years. At the June 25, 1955, meeting a Planning Committee for the building program was appointed. Those appointed were: Robert Smith, Chairman, Opal Watson, Charlie Fulk, Marlin Hicks, and Grace Smith. Three hundred dollars was deposited into the building fund account.

At the August 21, 1955, business meeting the church budget was adopted. The budget was as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Literature | $50.00 |
| Lights | 6.00 |
| Oil | 15.00 |
| Insurance | 12.00 |
| Janitor | 52.00 |
| Cooperative Program | 60.00 |
| Associational Missions | 60.00 |
| Pastor's Salary | 264.00 |
| Total | $531.00 |

The church for several years had started having Sunday School every Sunday, but only had preaching twice a month. On November 13, 1955, the church voted to start having preaching services every Sunday morning. It was to be on a trial basis. The rough winter months ended the trial period. It would be 1965 before morning worship would be held year round.

The church, which had been discussing the prospect of building, received a gracious land gift in November 1955. The November 27, 1955, minutes read that "the church voted to accept a plot of land offered by Cullen O'Dell [1914-1970] across the road from the present church. The congregation voted to erect a new church on said plot of land."

The church on December 30, 1955, met to discuss building needs and in the near future draw up plans for the building. As 1955 was put into the vault of history, 1956 stood at the doorway of waiting opportunity.

As the New Year dawned building plans were drawn up for the new building. At the March 31, 1956, business meeting "the building plans were looked over and discussed." The treasurer reported that the church had a balance of $564 plus $370 in the building fund. Before the meeting concluded the church voted to double the pastor's salary.

At the June 27, 1956, business meeting plans for the new building were shown and discussed. The new building would be 32x54 feet with a basement for Sunday School rooms. It was recommended that the plans be brought before the whole church for a vote in the near future. Several members offered donations of timbers, labor and hauling. It was decided to bring the plans before the church on October 7, 1956.

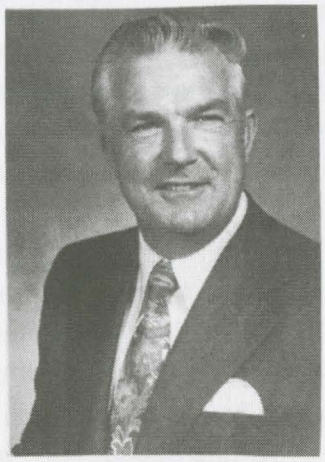
It looked as if plans to build were moving forward as quickly as a locomotive. To keep a train from derailing or slowing a conductor is needed to keep the train on its tracks. However, on September 1, 1956, the church lost its conductor, as pastor Rev. Arlin Watson resigned. The church, seeking stability, instead of having various preachers fill the pulpit each Sunday, voted to have Rev. Grover Holder supply preach for three months. He would eventually be called as pastor.

With attention being turned to focusing on electing a new pastor, the building plans were put on hold until the three month trial period of Rev. Holder had ended. At the end of his three months of preaching the church on November 25, 1956, voted to call twenty-seven year old Grover Holder as pastor of Ivy Green. Rev. Grover Holder and Rev. James Holder, who had served Ivy Green Baptist from November 1950 to February 1952, were first cousins.

### Rev. Grover C. Holder

Rev. Grover Cleo Holder (b. 1929) was born in Surry County on July 18, 1929. He made a decision for Christ in 1940 at age ten at Highland Park Baptist Church, Mt. Airy. In 1950 he

entered the Army where he served his country two years. While still in the military he married Alberta Cockerham (1931-2013) on June 5, 1951. Sensing the call of the Lord upon his life he was licensed to the Gospel ministry in March 1956 at age twenty-six.



**Rev. Grover Holder**

Ivy Green was Rev. Holder's first pastorate in a ministry that has at this writing now spanned sixty years. Being a diligent student of God's Word, he later furthered his education at Oak Hill Academy and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

When the church gathered on December 9, 1956, the church was making plans for the Christmas program and preparing treat bags. In addition, plans were being made for having a church discussion regarding the building plans.

As 1956 was coming to an end the church had much for which to be thankful and much to celebrate. The church looked forward with faith and anticipation as 1957 approached.

Detailed information regarding the business meetings held during the pastorate of Rev. Holder is lacking as the result of either missing pages in the minutes from 1957 and 1958 or as the result from lack of church conferences being held. Information was gleaned from the Surry Baptist Associational minutes and personally talking to Rev. Holder.

During 1957 the church remained stable as it prayerfully sought what path to take in regard to building. The total resident membership was 92. Sunday School enrollment stood at 75 and averaged near 30 for the fifty-two weeks. Enrollment in the WMU stood at 10. Two revivals were held in 1957 which saw two join by letter and two professions of faith.

Financially, the church was on solid ground. The offerings for 1957 were $1,656. All expenditures, including mission giving, totaled $1,220. The pastor's yearly salary was $614.

In 1958, in addition to preaching at Ivy Green, Rev. Holder began preaching two times out of the month at Lambsburg Baptist Church, Lambsburg, VA. Dividing his time between two churches helped him gain ministry experience, but was taxing on his growing young family as they traveled back and forth.

The Ivy Green Church statistics for 1958 had a slight increase from 1957, as four joined by baptism, the WMU increased by two, and expenditures, including mission giving, was $1,450. The church remained stable and continued to cautiously and prayerfully move forward with building plans.

There seemed to be a change in the sentiment regarding the proposal to build on the land that had been donated to the church across the road from the current church. While the church recognized the need for additional class room space, many members did not want to leave the original church site or separate the church from the cemetery which had been beside the church since its establishment. It was suggested for the building committee and deacons to look into the possibility of adding Sunday School class rooms onto the existing church. Again, the wheels in Baptist life sometimes turn slowly, but the key is to keep them turning and wait on the Lord's timing.

While the church continued to ponder the route to take in regard to building, during Rev. Holder's pastorate the church did do some refurbishing, remodeling, and building upkeep to the sanctuary. The building fund continued to increase, totaling $1,500.

In August 1958 Rev. Holder resigned as pastor of Ivy Green to devote full time to Lambsburg Baptist Church. Rev. Holder said of his pastorate at Ivy Green, "The members of Ivy Green were a mighty fine group of people. It was my first pastorate and they were very patient and very supportive of me. I was green in the ministry and they allowed me to cut my teeth in

the ministry while serving as their pastor. I will always be grateful to them."

The church asked Rev. Albert Gilley, former pastor, to supply while the church searched for a new pastor. Rev. Gilley did a marvelous job of keeping the church on course during the transition period. Six months would pass before a new pastor was called.

**Rev. Rayton Puckett**

In February 1959 Rev. Rayton Puckett was called as pastor of Ivy Green. He had preached several services before the official vote was taken. After preaching on the fourth Sunday in February 1959, the church unanimously elected him as pastor. The church voted to pay him a salary of $40 per month

Rev. Rayton Penn Puckett (b. 1930) was born on February 17, 1930, in Carroll County, VA. He married on December 22, 1949, Faith Maureen Montgomery (1933-2013) in Patrick County, VA. He surrendered to the call to preach early in life and preached revivals in churches in Virginia and North Carolina. At this writing Rev. Puckett has been in the ministry over sixty-five years.



*REV. RAYTON PUCKETT*

Again, detailed information regarding the business meetings held during the pastorate of Rev. Puckett is lacking as either the result of missing pages in the minutes from 1959 through June 1961 or as the result from lack of church conferences being held. Information was gleaned from the Surry Baptist Associational minutes.

Rev. Puckett was a sound Bible preacher who had an excellent delivery. He commanded the hearers' attention. Well liked by the members, with his amiable personality and

inspired preaching, attendance began to increase. His evangelist style would eventually lead him to becoming a much in demand revival preacher.

While Rev. Puckett came from an Independent Baptist background, to his credit he never sought to influence the church to depart from its Southern Baptist identity and heritage. The church continued to give to the Cooperative Program on a monthly basis and, as well, gave monthly support to the Surry Baptist Association and other Southern Baptist mission endeavors.

Though attendance increased during his pastorate and fellowship in the church strong, the initiative to build either a new church or add additional class rooms, while still simmering on the stove, was not during this time a front burner issue. While the idea was floating within the congregation, there just needed to be proper push and direction given for the church to make a decision.

After a little over two years as pastor, Rev. Puckett resigned from Ivy Green in June 1961, which was to be effective in three months. He left to assume the pastorate of Little Mountain Baptist Church, Mt. Airy.

The church would be without a pastor for a year. As the church searched for the right man to fill the pulpit church minutes read, "Brother Horace Gene Schuyler [1935-1999] a young minister [he was 26 years old] from Welcome Home Baptist Church in Carroll County, Virginia, served as supply pastor from September 1961 until March 1962." Neither Rev. Schuyler nor the church could ever come to a consensus of agreement in regard to being issued a formal call to be pastor.

After the four months following the supply preaching of Rev. Schuyler, various ministers filled the pulpit on the scheduled days of services. Finally, after a year, in August 1962, the committee had a candidate to present to the church.

## Rev. Howard P. Inman

In August 1962 the church voted to call Rev. Howard Inman as their pastor. He agreed to accept the call on the condition he come for a ninety day period and then give the church an answer. He would remain as pastor for almost six years.

Rev. Howard Preston Inman (1917-1968) was born in Surry County on May 4, 1917. At age 24 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served until the end of WWII. He earned the rank of Sergeant during his time of service. While serving his country he married on November 20, 1942, Zettie Gates (1918-1978). Upon leaving the service the couple made their home in Mt. Airy. He surrendered to the call on his life to enter the Gospel ministry on May 10, 1961. He was ordained on May 20, 1962, by Midway Baptist Church.



**Rev. Howard Inman**

He was pastor of Pine Ridge Baptist when he was contacted by Ivy Green to see if he would be interested in becoming their pastor. Pine Ridge Baptist was part of the Surry Baptist Association at the time. Rev. Inman agreed to talk to some of the deacons about the possibility of coming to serve the church. After preaching and much prayer he agreed to begin serving as pastor of Ivy Green. For a time he continued, as well, to pastor Pine Ridge Baptist.

The church had been drifting on a sea of indecisiveness for several years in their plans to build. Rev. Inman proved to be the captain of the ship who would steer the church back on course in regard to building.

A friendly man, as Rev. Inman began to become acquainted with the people and listening to their goals and dreams as a church; he encouraged discussion to begin again

on building. In October 1962 the church met to discuss ways to raise more money to fund the Building Fund.

The statistics from 1962 reveal the church needed more space as Sunday School was growing. As new Sunday School officers were elected for the new church year there were six Sunday School classes meeting: Adults, Young People, Intermediate, Junior, Primary and Beginners. Among the officers elected in September 1962 was fourteen year old Bobby Smith (b. 1948) who was elected as Sunday School Secretary. He still holds that position as the church celebrates its centennial anniversary. For 54 years he has faithfully counted the SS offering, kept the SS records, and ordered all the literature for the classes. As 1962 came to a close, such faithfulness in attendance among the members was the reason for the discussion regarding the need for additional space.



**Photo 1974 of Bobby Smith elected SS Secretary in 1962, a position which he has held ever since.**

As the New Year 1963 arrived a buzz could be heard once again about building. In February the deacons met at the home of Robert Smith to discuss building plans. They recommended that building begin in the spring. The church would decide whether to add Sunday School rooms or construct a new building.

In May the church decided that on June 16, 1963, a vote would be taken on the building plans. The church decided at the June 16 meeting to add Sunday School rooms to the back of the existing church and not build across the road. The minutes read as follows:

> Robert Smith explained the plans [to build] as follows: that an addition be built at the rear of

> the church to consist of five rooms for the Sunday School, with the center room to be used as a choir room also. Permission of the Masonic Lodge for the building of the addition has been obtained. The proposal to build the above described addition was placed before the church and the vote was taken. No votes were cast in opposition to the proposal. The moderator appointed a committee composed of Charlie Fulk, Marlin Hicks, and A.P. Thompson to supervise the construction of the building. The church approved the appointment of the committee and voted to allow them to cut logs as needed from the church owned lot across the highway.

After almost eight years since serious talk about building had occurred, it was at last becoming a reality. The leadership of Pastor Inman was clearly exhibited not only in giving the church new direction in the quest to build, but he asked that his salary be cut until the project was complete so the money could be put on the building. The church respected and appreciated his unselfish gesture.

Just as the footings for the meeting house built in 1929 were dug on the Fourth of July, on Thursday, July 4, 1963, the men of the church gathered to dig the footings for the new addition. Once again it was symbolic of the truth that people could find in Ivy Green spiritual independence. Tommy Smith (b. 1958) remembers as a five-year-old his Uncle Marlin Hicks (1928-2009) handing him a shovel to help dig. There was excitement as the men dug the footings for the new addition, and there is always excitement in the life of a five year old boy when they are digging in the dirt!

Much of the construction was done by the men in the church who donated their time and labor. As Christmas 1963

was nearing, most of the construction had been completed except the painting. The December 21, 1963, minutes read, "As an economy measure some members of the church offered to take turns doing the painting job and they each were assigned a certain week."

As construction was taking place there was a question about what to do with the land across the road and about the Masonic Lodge, which still had control of the upstairs portion of the meeting house. The Lord has a way in His timing of bringing about a solution. The September 15, 1963, church minutes reveal the solution that unfolded.

> The Masonic Lodge has approached the church on the possibility of exchanging the Lodge's interest in the property from jointly owned by the church and the Lodge for the property across the highway owned by the church. The proposal was placed before the church for discussion and a vote was taken. The vote was taken and all present were in favor of the exchange. The church trustees were instructed to make the necessary legal arrangements.

The terms of the exchange were met and the church now had even more room, as new access to the second floor was available. Now with the new addition nearing completion the church was making plans to renovate the sanctuary.

As the sun of 1963 was setting in the west, the church looked with excitement and anticipation as the rising sun of 1964 began to peek over the horizon.

The New Year of 1964 rode in on the cold winds of winter, but it did not stop the Ivy Green members from enthusiastically continuing to accept the challenges before them. Having added five new class rooms, the church voted in January 1964 to proceed with remodeling the interior of the church.

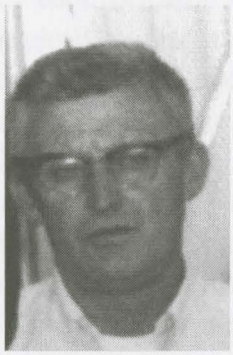
New wooden floors replaced the old floor, the boxed-in wooden weight-bearing braces would be replaced with metal posts, and a new celotex ceiling would replace the old one. The church was certainly receiving a much needed make-over.

On March 15, 1964, the church held a dedication service for the new addition and the remodeling. Rev. Sampson Collins preached the dedication service. It was a time of great celebration and thanksgiving to the Lord for His goodness throughout the building process.

With the building and remodeling process now complete, it was time to focus on ministry and seek to fill the new Sunday School classrooms with new people. The Sunday after the dedication service, five new people united with the church. Three presented themselves as candidates for baptism and two joined by letter.

As a result of his leadership through the building process, 1964 found Rev. Inman receiving a unanimous vote of confidence and was reelected for another year. The church was most grateful for his leadership.

On November 8, 1964, the church ordained a new deacon, Ernest East (1911-2000). He was the first new deacon elected by the church in thirteen years. Rev. Oren Bradley (1918-1992), the Surry Associational Director, preached his ordination message.



**Ernest East**

The dawning of December 1964 found the members voting to replace the pews with oak pews. A committee of three was appointed to oversee the selection and purchase of the new pews.

While 1964 was ending with new pews for the members to sit upon, the members were certainly not sitting idly by being spectator Christians. They were working diligently in collective

unity to make an impact for the Kingdom of God in the Round Peak Community.

As 1965 burst upon the horizon like a new morning sunrise, the church continued to make all things new with the church. In April new church furniture was purchased and it was voted to purchase a new piano. In August 1965 the church voted to remodel the upstairs where the Mason's once met. The upstairs would be used for additional Sunday School room space. Through all the building and remodeling, the church had been able to stay out of debt by members in the church doing much of the work and paying as they went along from collections taken within the church.

The church was on sound financial footing, and if a need arose a collection was taken to meet that need. When the 1965 budget was issued, most of the items on the list had to do with mission giving. The church was to be commended, for in their remodeling they never forgot reaching out to others through mission offerings.

Rev. Inman, who had faithfully been at the helm throughout the building process, was given a raise. The pastor voluntarily had his salary reduced from $40 a month to $28 month so the extra money could be put toward the building projects. The church not only restored his pay, but gave him a ten dollar a month raise.

At the May 1965 business meeting the minutes read, "The church discussed having preaching services every Sunday and voted to have a trial period for the months of June and July and then make a final decision." Pastor Inman when he first came to Ivy Green in August 1962 was also serving Pine Ridge Baptist, which he continued to do for two years. His relinquishing his duties at Pine Ridge in 1964 allowed Rev. Inman to be available every Sunday at Ivy Green.

The trial period of meeting for preaching every Sunday proved to be successful. The August 1965 minutes read, "The

church voted to continue having worship services every Sunday as the trial period of June and July seemed successful."

In October 1965 the church obtained running water for the first time. The October 5, 1965, minutes read, "Lester Bryant announced that Round Peak Masonic Lodge voted to give water rights from the well on Lodge property to the church, and the church voted to accept this." It was not until the summer of 1999 that the church drilled a well on its own property to obtain their water supply.

Overall church membership in 1965 had grown, as church membership was listed at 98 members. The Sunday School enrollment had reached the highest in the history of the church, standing at 123. The WMU had 15 on roll. And total giving for the year had increased to nearly $4,000.

As the church entered 1966, the fiftieth year since its establishment, there was discussion about adding restrooms to the existing facilities. Since the church's beginning the bathrooms were not at the end of the hallway but at the end of the pathway! An outhouse was used which was located near the cemetery. At the August 1966 meeting much discussion took place as to what was the best solution as to where to place the restrooms within the church.

After three months of studying the issue, on October 30, 1966, the members voted to build an addition to the front of the church that would contain two restrooms, an entry hall, and a nursery with a glass opening so the workers could see into the sanctuary. The members also voted instead of weatherboarding the church to brick the whole exterior. As usual the church paid as it went along and volunteered their time to do much of the labor.

Interestingly, while the exterior was being bricked, the church decided that while the scaffolding was already up to have the roof replaced. Not having the money on hand to do the roofing, the church borrowed the money from the bank for the estimated cost to have it roofed. By the time the project

was completed the church had raised the necessary money and paid the loan off without having to pay one cent in interest. It was a testimony to the faithful giving of the members.

As the church looked back on three years of building and remodeling, a great lesson was learned: that much can be achieved when God's people bind together and work together for a common goal. Much can be accomplished when Christian people labor together in unity.

As 1966 came to a close so also came to a close a half a century of Ivy Green's service in the community. During those fifty years many people had been reached for Christ and the influence the church had in the community and in the lives of countless individuals only eternity will be able to fully measure.

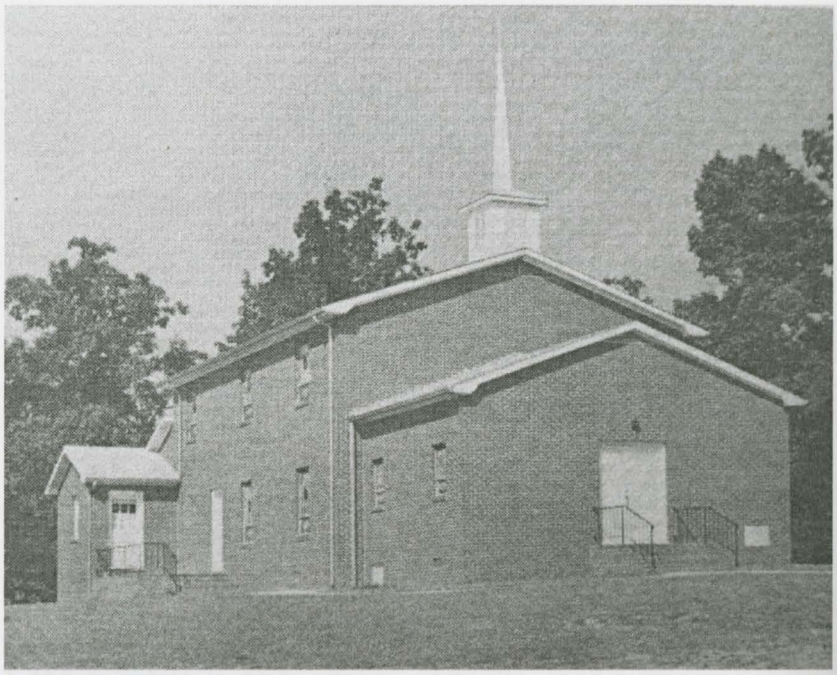
The years 1942 to 1966 had been years of growth, stability and expansion. As the church looked into the future it did so with excited expectation and faith in the Lord's abiding presence and faithfulness.



**Photo taken in October 1964 showing front of Ivy Green Baptist**



**Easter Sunday, April 10, 1966, showing one of the two newly added Sunday School wings.**



**In October 1966, as Ivy Green Baptist Church ended fifty years of service for Christ, the church voted to brick the exterior and add restrooms and a vestibule to the front of the church. Resting upon the same knoll since its organization, the church serves as a Lighthouse for souls seeking a haven of rest from the storm tossed waves of the world.**

# CHAPTER 4

## THE THIRD TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
## 1967 TO 1991
## FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

*"Now thanks be to God which always causes us to triumph in Christ." Second Corinthians 2:14*

As 1966 came to a close so came to a close fifty years of service to the Lord for Ivy Green Baptist Church. The first fifty years were now placed in the vault of history. The members could look back over the past knowing they had made great strides forward since the church's birth in October 1916. As the church gazed into the future, what would the next fifty years hold? What would the next quarter of a century bring? For that matter, what would unfold in the life of the church in the next year?

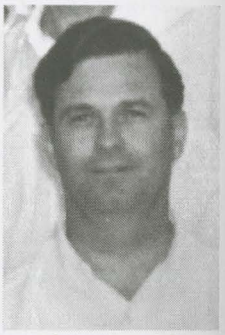
Like mountains, which have peaks and valleys, life has its ups and downs and its highs and lows. Over the next quarter of a century Ivy Green would experience both tragedy and triumph. Unbeknownst to the members, tragedy was soon to unexpectedly make an unwelcome visit.

The New Year of 1967 came rushing in like a brisk north winter wind rushing over the Blue Ridge foothills. After being involved in building and remodeling since 1963, the members were looking forward to what opportunities the Lord had waiting for them in 1967.

Rev. Inman was still at the helm of the ship. Since August 1962 he had ably led the church to bring into reality plans that

had been in the hearts of the members for years. Giving needed guidance and direction, he helped the church to stay the course to accomplish goals of growth and expansion.

As the last of the finishing touches from all the remodeling was completed and 1966 blended into 1967, church membership was 101 with 127 enrolled in Sunday School. Total giving received during the year was $6,793.


**Aldine Holder**

There were new church officers coming on the scene throughout 1967 who would help shape and guide the church into the future. On April 2, 1967, Aldine Holder and Lester Bryant were appointed as new deacons. They were ordained on April 30 in a special service where the Antioch Baptist Church choir sang and Revs. John D. Bowman, Oren Bradley and Howard Inman spoke. It was a time of worship and challenge.

In September a slate of new church and Sunday School officers were elected for the new church year. Kit Burcham was elected as the new church treasurer, an office Marlin Hicks had overseen for years. Two new members were put on the Finance Committee, Homer Bryant and Ernest East.

While change was occurring, there was no change in the pastoral leadership. When it came time for the annual pastoral call, on November 20, 1967, the church once again voted to extend another year to Rev. Howard Inman to serve as pastor. His leadership had proven to be invaluable and as Thanksgiving approached the church was thankful for his service. There was no way that the members could know that in a little over a month the church would be stunned by tragedy visiting the congregation.

As the cold December winter air settled over Surry County like a blanket, a depressive fog settled over Rev. Howard Inman. In life not only can one's body become sick, but one can

also be subject to the possibility of their mental health at times unexplainably becoming subject to the grip of illness. A friendly and very sociable man, he recognized his condition and sought medical attention. In time he began to get a grip over a condition that can often leave one emotionally fragile. The church was most supportive of him as he sought to climb out of the dark valley back into the sunlight.

The first Sunday of 1968 there was no services at Ivy Green as the result of snowy and icy roads. The cold weather kept the roads covered, making travel difficult. The bone chilling temperature on Wednesday, January 10, 1968, did not compare to the chilling news that began to drift through the Round Peak Community that afternoon.

In the early afternoon hours of January 10 word began to spread that Rev. Inman had passed away as the result of a gunshot wound. He was fifty years old. Speculation ensued whether his death was accidental or by his own hand. Either way it was a tragedy. When such a tragedy occurs, though paralyzed by confusion, it is time for sharing compassion and embodying Christ's love and all-encompassing grace.

As word spread of the tragic death of Rev. Inman, members were stunned and shocked. Many stated, "It all seemed like a bad dream." But it is during such times that the church must be the church and extend the comfort of God and rely upon His strength. The members rallied around Mrs. Zettie Inman with love, compassionate caring and comfort. When life yields no answers to our questions and bewilderment overtakes us, it is then one must rest in the arms of a Savior who knows what it is like to weep through human eyes (John 11:35).

Because of the hazardous roads in the Round Peak Community, Rev. Inman's funeral was not held at Ivy Green but at Moody's Funeral Home. Though he was gone much too soon, the influence and impact of his life left an indelible mark on the church and those who were touched by his ministry. The

1968 Surry Baptist Associational minutes were dedicated to his memory.

Though the members were grieved, though eyes clouded with tears, the church began the search for a new pastor. Six months would pass before a candidate was presented to the church.

**Rev. Reuben Hiatt**

In the summer of 1968 the name Reuben Hiatt came before the church as a possible pastor. Not serving a church at the time, he was approached about possibly coming to Ivy Green. On June 30, 1968, the minutes read, "Reuben Hiatt was nominated for pastor. It was voted that he serve for a period of 90 days at a salary of $80 a month." At the end of the 90 day trial period a vote would be taken to consider extending a yearly call to him.

Rev. Reuben Hiatt was born in Surry County in 1935. He married Barbara Jean Duncan (1939-1998) in August 1960. Entering the ministry, he came to Ivy Green at age thirty-three.

Two disadvantages faced Rev. Hiatt as he began his 90 day trial period. First, he did not have a car and someone in the church had to lend him one so he could drive to church. Second, he had the unenviable task of following the productive ministry of Rev. Inman, who was well liked. Oftentimes following someone who has been so effective makes it difficult for the pastor succeeding him.

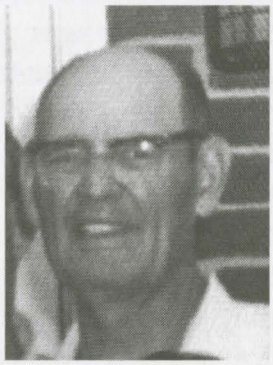
At the end of the 90 day trial period, on September 29, 1968, minutes read, "Reverend Reuben Hiatt who had served as pastor for the past three months resigned effective today." No reason is given as to why he resigned. There are times when there is a mutual understanding that the church and pastor is not compatible. Upon leaving Ivy Green Rev. Hiatt is found pastoring Simmons Grove Baptist Church. The church once again began the search for another pastor.

While the church began its search for a new pastor, its dilemma on obtaining more parking space was resolved. In July 1968 Colon B. Holder (1938-1971) graciously donated land that practically doubled the parking availability.

**Rev. Walter C. Norman**

Searching for a new pastor as Thanksgiving and Christmas approaches usually adds an extra degree of difficulty in the search because of the hustle and bustle of the season. However, a name that came before the deacons was Walter C. Norman.

Walter Columbus Norman (1908-1991) was born in Carroll County, VA, on November 5, 1908. He was married to Ethel Mae Caudle (1908-1995). Rev. Norman was known far and wide as a tremendous singer who knew music. He had been to Ivy Green in past years to sing and preach in revival and in special services. His name was given to the deacons as a possible pastor.



**Rev. Walter Norman**

Living in Mt. Airy, a committee of three was sent to talk with him to see if he would be interested in serving Ivy Green as pastor. He agreed to have his name considered.

On January 5, 1969, it was agreed that he would serve for a three month period at a salary of $80 a month. At the end of the three month trial period a vote would be considered for a yearly call.

At the same January 5, 1969, meeting church minutes read, "After hearing Lester Bryant's statement that he felt called to preach, the church voted to license him." This was a decision that would impact the church in the near future.

After the three month trial period, the church voted on March 30, 1969, to call Rev. Norman the rest of the year. The church even raised his salary from $80 a month to $125 a month.

Rev. Norman's knowledge of music and his singing ability helped enhance the music ministry of the church and set the stage for inspired preaching that followed the singing. In the June 1969 revival thirteen joined the church: nine candidates came forward for baptism and four joined by letter.

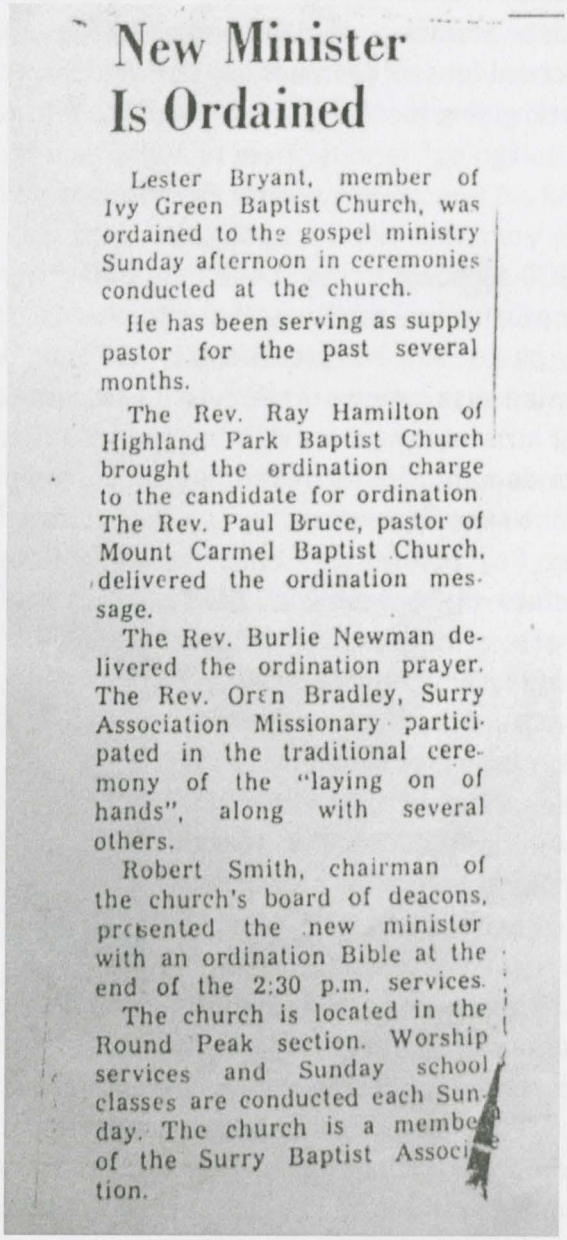
However, after only six months as pastor, on July 6, 1969, the minutes read, "Reverend Norman announced his resignation because of his health which will not permit him to do the work he feels that he needed to do." The 61 year old Rev. Norman was asked to stay. An offer was even made to give him more money, but he stated that his health would not allow him to continue even with increased financial support. The minutes read, "No other action was taken on his resignation."

The church began again searching for another pastor. The church elected a pulpit committee and on September 28, 1969, they recommended Lester Bryant, who had recently been licensed to the ministry by the church, to serve as supply pastor until a pastor was elected.

Continuing to serve as supply pastor, the November 30, 1969 business meeting minutes read:

> A letter from the Ordination Committee of the Surry Baptist Association was read recommending that the church ordain Lester Ray Bryant to the ministry. It was moved and seconded that the church follow this recommendation and the vote was favorable. Plans for the ordination service were announced for Sunday, December 14, 1969.

In a meaningful and spirit-filled service on December 14, 1969, the ordination for Lester Bryant was carried out. *The Mt. Airy News* reported the most significant service.



# New Minister Is Ordained

Lester Bryant, member of Ivy Green Baptist Church, was ordained to the gospel ministry Sunday afternoon in ceremonies conducted at the church.

He has been serving as supply pastor for the past several months.

The Rev. Ray Hamilton of Highland Park Baptist Church brought the ordination charge to the candidate for ordination The Rev. Paul Bruce, pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church, delivered the ordination message.

The Rev. Burlie Newman delivered the ordination prayer. The Rev. Oren Bradley, Surry Association Missionary participated in the traditional ceremony of the "laying on of hands", along with several others.

Robert Smith, chairman of the church's board of deacons, presented the new minister with an ordination Bible at the end of the 2:30 p.m. services.

The church is located in the Round Peak section. Worship services and Sunday school classes are conducted each Sunday. The church is a member of the Surry Baptist Association.

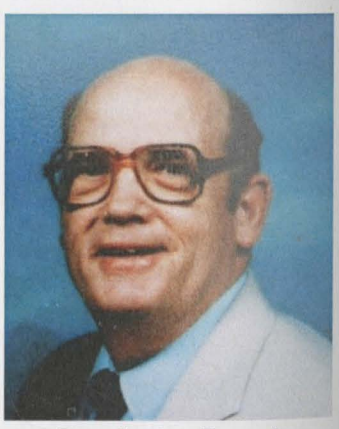
**December 14, 1969** **(See page 171.)**

In the church's history he was the third minister Ivy Green had ordained to the Gospel ministry. Rev. Bryant was still serving as supply pastor as 1969 came to a close.

The church continued to thrive though 1969 with church membership standing at 109 and average attendance for Sunday School for the year was 44. The WMU membership was 13 and total giving for the year was $4,724.

**Rev. Lester Bryant**

As 1970 burst upon the scene Rev. Bryant was still serving as supply pastor, but that was about to change. Having served as supply pastor since September 28, 1969, at the March 22, 1970, business meeting, "The Pulpit Committee report was given by the Chairman, Aldine Holder. The committee recommended that Lester Bryant be called for pastor for one year and the church so voted."



**Rev. Lester Bryant**

Lester Ray Bryant was born in Surry County on August 14, 1933. Two days before Christmas, December 23, 1952, at age nineteen, in York County, SC, he married Magdalene (Maggie) Hiatt (b. 1935). A member of the U.S. Army, he served admirably during the Korean Conflict. Parents of five children, they were acquainted with heartache as their first two children died in infancy. At this writing the Bryant's have been married 64 years. They began attending Ivy Green Baptist in the 1960s and at a revival in 1965 they both presented themselves for baptism on profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

Becoming active in the church, Rev. Bryant was ordained as a deacon of Ivy Green in April 1967. Sensing a call upon his life

to enter the Gospel ministry, the church after hearing his testimony and showing evidence he had been called of the Lord to the ministry, licensed him to preach in January 1969. Being asked by the church to supply pastor when Rev. Norman suddenly resigned, Rev. Bryant six months later was voted in as pastor of Ivy Green Baptist. For the next fifteen years he would serve as pastor. He would eventually serve the church twice.

Rev. Bryant was active in associational "goings-on" and led the church to be more active. Seeking to expand his knowledge of the Bible, he took advantage of the Seminary Extension courses taught through the Surry Baptist Association, graduating in 1976. His preaching reflected that he spent a lot of time in study and sermon preparation.

Seeking to increase the youth group, he spent a lot of time with the young people in an effort to win them for Christ and the church. The church accepted the challenge to seek to reach the needs of the teenagers, as the members saw the youth were the future of the church.

As the hot days of August 1970 dawned, it resulted in the church's hand-fans swishing back and forth a lot faster on Sunday mornings. On hot days the church in past summers would open the windows. When someone anonymously donated $1,000 to the church, it did not take long for those present at the August 16, 1970, business meeting to offer a suggestion as to what to do with the money. The church voted to look into the possibility of air-conditioning the church. A committee was appointed to check on prices and what all would be involved in installing a cooling system. When the committee came back with a bid of approximately $2,500, the church voted in favor of installation. As the hot months of 1971 rode in on the hot rays of summer, the church members were able at last to throw away the hand-fans.

Since the church's organization in October 1916 it had never had a constitution. At the September 1970 business meeting there was a discussion regarding whether Ivy Green

should develop a church constitution or if they needed one. Aldine Holder, Tony Holder and Homer Bryant were appointed to study the issue and report back to the church.

In 1971 when Pastor Bryant expressed interest to visit the Holy Land to walk in the earthly steps of Christ while on earth, the church voted to help their pastor with some of his expenses. Church minutes read, "On Sunday, July 4, 1971, the church voted to pay $800 toward the expense of the pastor taking a trip to the Holy Land on November 1 to 10, 1971." It was truly a most kind and generous gesture on the part of the church, who a month before had voted him to serve another year.

Up until 1972 Communion was held once a year. It was a Sunday that the members saw as a celebratory occasion, a time of offering thanks to the Lord for His giving His life for us, and a time of inspection and rededication. At the July 1972 business meeting it was decided that Communion would be observed once a quarter. Partaking of Communion once a quarter is still observed by the church to this day.

In an effort to reach more young people, Pastor Bryant at the July 1972 business meeting spoke of the urgent necessity to organize a more active youth program. He was requested to provide material and plans on how to make this a reality.

At the August 1972 business meeting it was decided to investigate what is involved in setting up a cemetery trust fund and how best to fund it. The purpose of the trust fund and the revenue from it was to be used only for the maintenance of the cemetery and the lawn of Ivy Green Baptist Church. In a cemetery where the first burial had taken place in September 1913, fifty-nine years later, on September 24, 1972, the proper legal steps were being taken to begin receiving donations for the upkeep of the cemetery. The church transferred $500 to begin the cemetery fund and then sought to devise plans how to keep it funded. Like all good Baptists seeking to raise money, an "eating meeting" was planned where all money donated

from a pancake supper would go into the cemetery trust fund! By January 1, 1978, the fund had reached $10,000.

On the last day of 1972, December 31, the church came together to thank the Lord for His faithfulness in seeing them through another year and to vow greater dedication to Him and His Church in the coming year. Church membership stood at 101, Sunday School had averaged 42 for the year, and mission giving to Baptist offerings was $878.



**Ivy Green Baptist Youth Group – January 1973**

During this period Ivy Green had a thriving youth group that was involved in varied activities and took trips to numerous events. As an example, on Friday, January 19, 1973, sixty-one young people and adults made a trip to the Greensboro Coliseum to watch the Carolina Cougars and the Denver Rockets in a basketball game. Loyce Morris and Gail Holder were co-directors of the youth group which met on Sunday nights at the church. There was an article about the trip in *The Mount Airy News, January 23, 1973.*

Ivy Green held its first Easter Sunrise service in 1974. On April 14, 1974, the church gathered at 6:30 in the morning surrounded by the most picturesque scenery the eyes could behold to witness the sunrise and celebrate the resurrection of

Jesus Christ. After the service a hearty breakfast was waiting at the Lodge for all who attended the service. The first breakfast was prepared by Kit and Linda Burcham, Ethel and Edgar Snow and Tony and Shelby Holder. The church has been holding an Easter Sunrise service and a breakfast afterwards ever since.

In June 1974 the church accepted an offer from Charlie Hull of some land to be used as a playground. The church appointed Marlin Hicks, Bobby Smith, and Wayne East to oversee getting the land in shape and obtaining a written lease. It did not take long before the work began on developing the land.

A five year lease was obtained on the approximately five acres of land, which was located behind the Masonic Lodge near Little Fisher River. The land had been used in the past for growing crops, but had not been used in recent years and had become over grown with assorted weeds. Volunteers from the church labored to clear the land and donated grass seed and fertilizer.

In less than a year the land was ready for church and public use. A ball field was marked off and a play ground developed. Old power poles proved to be more than sturdy enough from which swings hung. It became an ideal place to camp, to have picnics, and hold cookouts. The whole intent in its development was not just a place to be used by the church members, but to also attract people in the community and provide a place for younger people to go. (See page 178.)



**Mrs. Robert Smith grilling burgers at June 1981 picnic held on land leased from Charlie Hull.**

Many good times were held there and many wonderful memories etched in people's minds. One humorous incident that created much laughter and painted a memorable picture in the minds of those who witnessed it, involved Kit Burcham. One night a crowd was gathered around a fire pit roasting marshmallows. As so often can happen when roasting marshmallows, Kit's caught on fire. Lifting the marshmallow from the fiery embers, which was attached to the end of a straightened-out coat hanger, he sought to blow the fire out of his tasty treat. As he blew on the blazing marshmallow the flimsy coat hanger swiftly began to bend. The flaming marshmallow landed squarely on his lips. With lips ablaze, a panicky and dancing Kit sought with his hands to put out the fire. Those who witnessed the incident roared with laughter and gained a new appreciation for the term "hot lips!"

Of course, numerous were the times at campouts when a mischievous chaperon would trick unsuspecting kids into going snipe hunting! Many a kid found themselves toting a gunny sack in the dead of night and making strange noises in an elusive attempt to catch snipe!! But such were the multitude of good times experienced and enjoyed.

For nearly fifteen years the area was used regularly by the church and the community. About 1990 the lease was not renewed as interest had waned in its use and the upkeep became more and more laborious. As well, as the 1990s approached more questions about liability issues arose. But during its years of use it proved to be a tremendous asset in the influence and outreach of the church.

In August 1975 another Ivy Green member sensed the call to preach upon his life as Aldine Holder (b. 1932) was licensed to preach. He was the fourth man licensed by the church who felt the call of God upon his life.

Two new deacons were elected to serve the church in October 1975: Marlin Hicks (1928-2009) and Roscoe Jefferson

(1911-2001). Their commitment to the Lord's work was an asset to Ivy Green.

With Sunday School attendance gradually increasing, in July 1976 there was a meeting with the Sunday School Superintendent, the teachers and the pastor to discuss plans for providing more space for classes. Lack of space problems are always good problems to have as it indicates growth is taking place. As attendance increased so did the giving, as by the end of 1976 $8,591 had been given.

Also, in July 1976 two more young men were licensed to preach, Tony Holder and Larry Callaway. The Lord's hand was reaching into the church and calling out young men to proclaim His Word.

In the summer of 1976 there was discussion regarding cushioning the pews, but when it was discovered how much it would cost the issue was tabled until further notice. It would be five years before that issue was tackled again. As the church was in its sixtieth year of existence the members would for a few more years sit on hard wooden pews as their church ancestors had done.

In a desire to "spruce-up" the pews, there were those in attendance who remembered an incident that happened thirty-eight years earlier in an effort to make the pews look better. In 1938 in an attempt to give worn pews a new look they were painted. The freshly painted reddish-brown pews looked good as members gathered for worship. The pews had not completely dried and when everyone got up to leave at the end of service they had paint on the back of their clothes. With money scarce to buy new clothes, the members did not need paint-stained Sunday clothes. Someone in the congregation informed all present that if homemade lard was rubbed-in on the paint stained clothes and they were then washed, it would remove the paint. In a farming community, while money was scarce, lard could be readily found in most homes. Those who took the "cleaning advice" found that it worked. So those

gathered in 1976 were wise to wait in attending to issues regarding the pews!

In the summer of 1976 Rev. Bryant was to be commended for his completing his studies in the seminary extension program. It was an accomplishment worthy of recognition. He was presented his diploma by Oren Bradley, the associational director, on October 25, 1976, at the Surry Baptist Associational Annual Meeting held at Mt. Airy First Baptist Church. Also, at the November 1976 convening of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention held in Fayetteville, all North Carolina pastors who had graduated from the seminary extension program were going to be recognized for their achievement. The church voted to pay his expenses for the trip and also increased his monthly salary from $125 to $150.

On November 4, 1976, the WMU attended the Women's World Day of Prayer at Oak Grove Baptist Church. It was the faithful prayers of the Ivy Green members that were the backbone of the spiritual fruit being produced.

As 1976 came to a close the church budget reflected the mission-mindedness of the members. The church was supporting the Cooperative Program, the Surry Baptist Association, the Children's Home, the Hospital Offering, and Home for the Aging Offering. That did not include special offerings that were often received for various community mission endeavors.

The New Year 1977 got off to a good start with Steve Ameen licensed to preach. He would not be the only one in 1977, as in September 1977 Gary Niston was also licensed to preach. The Lord was continuing to touch the hearts of young men to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.

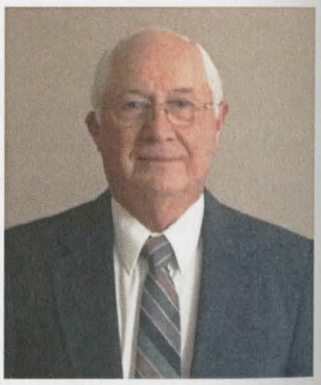
In April 1977 the church purchased a 1972 GMC activity bus at a cost of $5,712. Pledges were taken to help with its purchase. Used for traveling to youth activities, it was also used by all members for traveling to a variety of church related activities such as revival meetings, singings, and associational

meetings. The bus was used for fifteen years until mechanical difficulties became more frequent. It was sold in the summer of 1992 for $350. When sold the money from its sale was used for childrens activities.

The Lord was blessing Ivy Green both spiritually and financially. During 1977 the high in Sunday School was 71 and for the first time the church surpassed receiving $10,000, with $10,975 being given. Kit Burcham was the church treasurer.

As 1978 dawned the church voted to increase Rev. Bryant's salary to $250 a month. As well, in January 1978 the Cemetery Committee announced that the Cemetery Trust Fund had reached $10,000.

It was in 1978 that Kit Burcham (b. 1940) became choir director and remains in that position as the church celebrates its centennial anniversary. Music has been an integral part of Ivy Green. Leaders of the choir over the years like Sampson Collins (1898-1981), Alphonso Thompson (1900-1981), Ethel Callaway Smith (b. 1925) and Kit Burcham have sought to lead in worshipful music and singing. The church has a long tradition of great tenor singers. The melodious voices of Mr. Thompson singing "His Robe" can still be heard echoing in the air and Mr. Burcham singing with assurance "The Solid Rock." Recalling the kids singing "Jesus Loves Me" or "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho" always brings a fresh smile to the face. And the members holding hands and singing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" after Communion, has always been a meaningful time of blessing and celebration.



**Kit Burcham has been Ivy Green choir director since 1978.**

Not only has the church been blessed with good singers and choir leaders in its history, but the church has also been blessed with good musicians. Josie Seal (1912-2013) was the

church's early organist who filled the one room church with hymns of praise. In the history of Ivy Green the church has been fortunate to have dedicated members sound out the sacred hymns on the ivory keys. Over the years the church has had serve as musicians Bernelle Jarrell, Gae Smith, Dale Marsh, Joye Holder, Leslie Hicks, Sue Bryant Haynes, Marguerite Burcham and Donna Williams, who was elected as pianist in 1978. Mrs. Williams is still the pianist as Ivy Green celebrates its centennial anniversary. Sue Bryant Haynes is the organist. (See page 167.)



**Donna Williams, the church pianist since 1978.**

Many blessings from the Lord had been bestowed upon the church in 1978. Church membership was 129 and the total collection was $12,365. The members ended the year on December 31, 1978, sharing Communion together. It was a time of thanksgiving for the past year and a time of reflection as a new year was dawning.

Sunday School was steadily increasing. In 1979 with 135 enrolled, a new Young Adult Sunday School class was formed. The pastor taught the class until a teacher could be secured.

The New Year brought in a new decade and brought with it new opportunities. The 1980s was labeled by many in Christian circles as the Decade of Destiny. Churches were encouraged to seek to make an impact for Christ in their community. The members of Ivy Green Baptist sought to do their part.

The New Year began with a Sunday night singing held in February 1980. While the weather was cold outside, the praises being sung on the inside of Ivy Green Baptist Church warmed the hearts of the good crowd gathered to rejoice in Christ.

In the summer of 1980 the church asked the Ordination Committee of the Surry Baptist Association to examine Aldine

Holder (b. 1932) as a candidate for ordination. In July 1980 Ivy Green had called him as assistant pastor. Upon examination by the Surry Baptist Association it was recommended in a letter dated August 30, 1980, that the church proceed with his ordination. The ordination was carried out in September 1980.



**Homer Bryant**

September 1980 found the church electing a new deacon to the deacon board, Homer Bryant (1935-2000). A most active worker in the church, he proved to be a dedicated deacon in the church's kingdom work. Working for *The Mt. Airy News*, he was able to report and publicize many events that were occurring and did occur at Ivy Green.

As 1980 was coming to a close, in December Mrs. Mary Webb Rowe donated an organ to the church valued at $1,500. Church organs had progressed a great deal in mechanical structure since the church's first pump organ in 1916. One thing, though, had not changed, the ability of the organist of Ivy Green to fill the sanctuary with the beautiful playing of hymns on Sunday mornings.

The 1980 Christmas play was enjoyed by all in attendance. And as always, the children brought a smile to every face. The year ended with everyone filled with the Christmas spirit which spilled over into the New Year.

At the June 14, 1981, business meeting it was recommended that Tony Holder (b. 1943) be ordained to the Gospel ministry. He had been called as supply pastor of Blues Grove Baptist Church. In a Spirit-filled service on August 3, 1981, Ivy Green Baptist ordained and sent out its fifth minister of the Gospel.

It was in 1981 that Danny Smith (b. 1949) was elected as church treasurer. Serving with faithfulness and integrity, he is

still the church treasurer as Ivy Green celebrates its centennial anniversary. (See pages 156-157.)

In the summer of 1981 it was brought up again about cushioning the pews. It had been brought up five years previously, but the cost at the time halted discussion. It was discovered to cushion the pews would cost nearly $1,000. The church voted that the work would proceed when contributions were sufficient to pay for the project. It did not take but a few months before more than enough money was received to pay for the cushioning of the pews. As a matter of fact, at the January 1982 business meeting there was discussion as what to do with the excess money that was left over from the pew fund. Once again it was proved that when the church unites to complete a project it will be accomplished.

In March 1982 the church voted to build a wheelchair ramp. The church was not only seeking to bring the church up to code, but also it was seen there was a need for it among the membership. It was built at a cost of $479, with the men of the church doing much of the labor.

On April 16, 1982, the church sponsored a benefit auction for Danny Smith (b. 1949), who had been in a tractor accident on December 12, 1981. The accident resulted in him having to undergoing multiple surgeries and being wheelchair bound. The church was reaching out to help one of their members in a time of need. The church was not only involved in the benefit, but the whole community and beyond.

It was the first benefit auction held for anyone in the area and proved to be a great success. The auction went on until after midnight.

A family member stated, "There was a mob of people who came out in support. The response was unbelievable. The whole community came out and everything that was done was greatly appreciated."

A letter of thanks was written by Rev. Bryant and published in the *Mt Airy News.* It read:

Dear Editor,

The members of Ivy Green Baptist Church wish to express their appreciation to the many persons who helped make the benefit auction held for Danny Smith a success. To these individuals and businesses who contributed items for sale, to those who made cash contributions, to those who came to the auction to buy, and to the Beulah Ruritan Club for use of their building, we say a heartfelt "Thank You." The response to the need makes us more aware than ever of the fine spirit of "going the extra mile" that is a hallmark of Surry County people.

We also appreciate your publication of the date and time of the auction.

Sincerely,
Ivy Green Baptist Church
Lester R. Bryant, Pastor

When people bind together in a spirit of Christian love and compassion, much can be accomplished. The church in sponsoring the benefit and the community's involvement, answered the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" with a resounding "Yes."

In March 1982 the trustees, on behalf of the church, were asked to look into the matter of purchasing some additional land adjoining the church property from the Charlie W. Fulton (1881-1981) Estate. Negotiations for additional land would continue for about a year. The church eventually purchased some land surrounding the cemetery for a price of $3,050. All the transactions were completed by the end of March 1983.

As the 1982 calendar ran out of months, the church for the first time gave over $1,000 dollars to all the Southern Baptist Mission offerings, $1,230. Church membership was 113 with 99 enrolled in Sunday School.

In March 1983 the church voted to purchase new Baptist hymnals, but because of having just purchased additional land it was decided that donations be accepted for them. They would be purchased when the necessary funds were collected.

Attendance and giving remained strong and steady throughout the 1980s. In 1984 the total giving of Ivy Green was the highest in the history of the church, $13,492. Resident membership was 117, with total membership of 152. Sunday School enrollment stood at 105, with a high Sunday of 63.

From 1985 to 1986 mission giving jumped significantly as the church voted instead of designating a certain amount to each mission cause, to give on the basis of percentage of total undesignated offerings given. Total giving to various Baptist mission endeavors in 1985 was $1,555. In 1986 it jumped to $3,448, with $1,327 going to the Co-operative Program alone. The church was strong and stable.

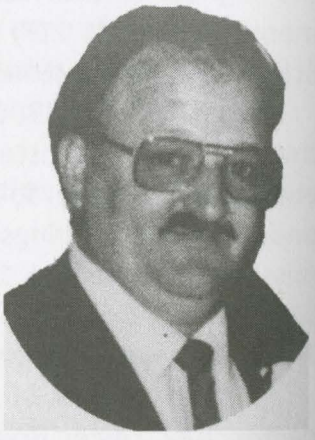
In the summer of 1985, after fifteen years of serving as pastor, Rev. Lester Bryant resigned to be effective October 1, 1985. It caught most everyone by surprise. Two factors seemed to influence his decision to step down. He was having some health issues at the time and, as well, with his youngest son entering his teenage years he wanted to be more involved with his school and sports activities. Considering those two issues, he did not feel he could give adequate time to the church that was needed and which the church deserved.

On September 29, 1985, a Pulpit Committee was elected to begin the search for a new pastor. The committee was Roscoe Jefferson, Sue Johnson, J.W. Williams, Shera Fulk, Linda Burcham, and Robert Smith. Their job was to not only look for a pastor, but to make sure the pulpit was supplied each Sunday until one was secured.

## Rev. Clarence A. Hill

In July 1986 Rev. Clarence A. Hill was called as interim pastor and was asked to serve until September, unless a pastor was elected before that time. When the church convened on September 28, 1986, a discussion ensued whether to ask Rev. Hill to continue as interim pastor or call him as pastor. After much discussion a vote was taken in which he was elected as pastor.

Rev. Clarence Allen Hill (1935-1991) was born in Surry County on April 6, 1935. He grew up in the Stewarts Creek Township and attended Antioch Baptist Church as a boy. At age twenty-one he married Catherine Easter (b. 1938) on April 14, 1956. Surrendering to the call to preach in 1971, he was ordained by Mt. Airy First Baptist Church. He had served in various churches in the county and was serving Central View Baptist Church when he was contacted by Ivy Green. He was fifty-one years old when he was voted in as pastor of Ivy Green on September 28, 1986. His salary was to be $300 a month.



**Rev. Clarence Hill**

The church, now in its seventieth year, invited former pastor Rev. Grover Holder to speak on October 19, 1986, for the anniversary service. For the special service Rev. Holder wrote a poem to commemorate the occasion.

The poem reads:

Seventy years ago today
Three women started out to pray
For a church in which they could teach,
And for the man of God to preach.

They found the prettiest place
They had ever seen,
They built a church there
And named it Ivy Green.

For above seventy years
This church has stood
To serve God
And do Him Good.
May God bless this Holy Place
As we sing the song Amazing Grace
And seek for souls that are lost in sin,
Till Jesus comes back again.

Let us today still tell the story
Give unto God the Praise and Glory.
For by His grace, now we can say:
Ivy Green Baptist Church
Happy seventieth Birthday

The seventieth anniversary service was a day enjoyed by all in attendance. In an article in the *Times-Foothills*, Thursday, October 28, 1986, written by Priscilla Horton, a summary of the service read:

> The seventieth anniversary celebration of the founding of Ivy Green Baptist Church was an event that will be long remembered. A crowd that required chairs being placed in the aisles gathered to hear the Rev. Grover Holder, former pastor of the church speak of the heritage to be remembered and a future which requires the same commitment and courage shown by the church leaders of the past.

Members who are on the early church roll and were present for observance were Grace Smith, Ethel Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Fulk and Lelia Morris. They were all members prior to 1940.

Angie Burcham read a brief history of the church and Susan Carlisle sang two selections. She is the granddaughter of Lelia Morris.

Following the morning worship a beautiful picnic lunch was enjoyed in the cafeteria of the Masonic Lodge.

A display of pictures, record books and a petition to raise money to rebuild the church when it was blown down in 1929 was interesting to those who recall the events of past years.

A lovely flower arrangement by Angelina C. Lowe added to the atmosphere of worship and remembering. The choir under the direction of Kit Burcham presented selections and the congregations joined in a great rendition of *Amazing Grace* as the closing hymn.

The Rev. Clarence Hill is the present pastor.

It was a Spirit-filled service where the members treasured the memories of the past, but were challenged to look with anticipation to the future. And the church was on solid ground as 1986 marched toward a close. Sunday School enrollment stood at 96 and total church resident membership was 117. Giving was at an all-time high.

As the New Year burst upon the horizon like the morning sunrise, the church voted in January 1987 to begin Sunday night services. Also Rev. Hill's wife began working with the youth on Sunday evenings. The church was seeking to adjust to new leadership.

Oftentimes, though, the minister who follows a man who has had a productive and lengthy pastorate faces an uphill climb in winning the confidence of the people. A new pastor often serves in different ways, his preaching style is different, and he may have a different personality. Patience is often needed as the transition is made. However, there are times when it is sensed that the transition is slow to develop.

In March 1987 Rev. Hill related to the congregation that after much prayer he felt he was not the right man to be the bridge for this transition to occur in a timely manner and to lead the church in the direction it needed to go. He believed it best if he stepped down as pastor. In addition, Rev. Hill was experiencing some health issues, as he battled cancer the last eight years of his life before succumbing to it in 1991. The church accepted his resignation and in a gesture of Christian charity, voted on March 29 to give Rev. Hill an additional month's salary.

The search for a new pastor began immediately. Lester Bryant, Gary Niston, and Aldine Holder were voted to serve as a Pulpit Committee.

As the youth group was growing the church voted on May 21, 1987, to ask the Surry Baptist Association to examine Gary Niston for the purpose of recommending him for ordination to serve in the capacity of youth pastor. After examining him, the SBA on June 4 recommended that the church proceed with the ordination service. The ordination for Niston occurred on June 7, 1987.

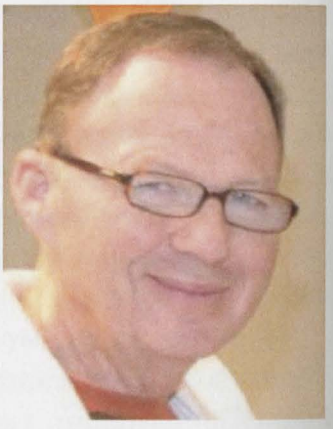
After holding a summer revival the church was ready to be presented with a name for a possible pastor. The church would reach into the edge of Virginia as it sought to secure another pastor.

**Rev. Dale Jennings**

On September 27, 1987 the Pulpit Committee reported meeting with Rev. Dale Jennings of Galax, VA, as a candidate to

be considered for pastor. The church minutes reveal that "the church called him for one year at the current expense allowance of $300 per month with the promise that he or the church could end the agreement at the end of three months. On a secret ballot 100% of the members present voted to extend the call."

Rev. Wade Dale Jennings (1949-2014) was born in Carroll County, VA, on July 14, 1949. Sensing the Lord's call on his life, he attended Piedmont Bible College, Winston-Salem, NC. He was ordained in 1970. Making his home in Galax, VA, he and his wife, Mary, had three girls. Rev. Jennings was thirty-eight years old when he assumed the pastorate of Ivy Green. He was well liked by the people. He had an excellent sermon delivery that reflected he was well prepared when he stepped into the pulpit. He was an excellent organizer and administrator. During the week he worked at Twin County Regional Hospital in Galax.



**Rev. Dale Jennings**

The year 1987 ended with the church membership holding at 115 and Sunday School enrollment 98. Total giving for the year was $12,392 and total giving to all Baptist mission endeavors $3,316.

He had not been at Ivy Green long before the church expressed their appreciation to him by increasing his salary from $300 a month to $400 a month. The vote on January 17, 1988, to increase his pay was unanimous.

In June 1988 the church voted to try on a trial basis using weekly bulletins for three months. For the first time in the church's seventy-two year history the church was using its first bulletin. The trial period proved successful and on September

25, 1988, the church voted to begin the use of church bulletins on a permanent basis.

As the 1980s were winding down attendance remained steady, with church membership in 1989 standing at 128 and Sunday School enrollment 90. Total receipts were $13,446, with giving to all mission endeavors $2,905.

As the last decade of the twentieth century was about to peek over the horizon like a beautiful sunrise rising over the mountains, the church was only two years away from celebrating its seventy-fifth birthday. Entering the 1990s the church voted for Rev. Jennings to serve another year. The church faced the future optimistically and under the capable leadership of Rev. Jennings.

Working at Twin County Regional Hospital in Galax, Rev. Jennings received a promotion that was going to require him to be on call on some weekends. While accepting a pastorate in Galax, traveling to Ivy Green from Galax would make it most difficult to pastor on the days and weekends he was on call. Unfortunately, he had to relinquish his pastoral duties at Ivy Green in the summer of 1990. The church, though understanding his predicament, was saddened to see him leave.

The search for a new pastor would begin immediately. On September 30, 1990, Rev. Lester Bryant was elected as interim pastor. The church elected on October 14, 1990, Aldine Holder, Gary Niston, and Lester Bryant to serve as the Pulpit Committee.

As Ivy Green Baptist entered 1991 it was the seventy-fifth year of the church being organized. Though coming into the New Year without a pastor, it was coming off a year that saw the highest total receipts given in the church's history, $15,763.

The first business meeting of the New Year was on January 6, 1991. The Pulpit Committee gave a report of its activity, requested prayer, and that more time was needed in its search

for a pastor. Lester Bryant was asked to continue as interim pastor.

When the members assembled for the June 30, 1991, business meeting, it was reported that plans were underway to have a special 75th anniversary celebration to be held on Sunday, October 13, 1991. It was truly a milestone in the life of the church that needed to be celebrated in thankful worship.

**Rev. Lester Bryant Returns as Pastor**

Also at the June 30, 1991, business meeting the Pulpit Committee reported that their search for a pastor led them back to former pastor, Lester Bryant. After discussion, there was a recommendation that Rev. Bryant be elected to serve for one year. The vote was in favor to once again call him as pastor.

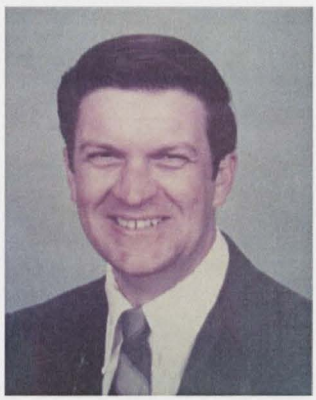
In the fall of 1991 the church participated in the Baptist Children's Home challenge of calling upon churches to collect a "mile of pennies." A mile of pennies is 84,440 laid edge to edge equals $840.40. One penny may not seem like much, but when everyone does their part in giving it adds up quickly. The church was successful in reaching the goal and once again showed what working together in unity can accomplish. (See page 180.)

On October 13, 1991, members and visitors gathered for the seventy-fifth anniversary service celebrating the organization of Ivy Green Baptist. It proved to be a day of grateful worship and heartfelt thanksgiving. The service opened with a large crowd lifting their voices together in praise to the Lord. The morning prayer by Pastor Bryant was heartfelt and evoked thanksgiving within each heart gathered.

A brief history was read which had been prepared by Dorothy Hicks, the church clerk, which highlighted many of the important and milestone events that had transpired in the church through the years. After reading the church history, the choir, under the direction of Kit Burcham, lifted their voices in

unison and praise with selections that lifted the spirits of all in attendance.

The morning message by Rev. Tony Holder focused on the blessings God had bestowed on the church since its beginning and what can be accomplished when people of faith bind together. As well, the message challenged the members to face the future with the same faith as did the church's spiritual ancestors.



**Rev. Tony Holder**

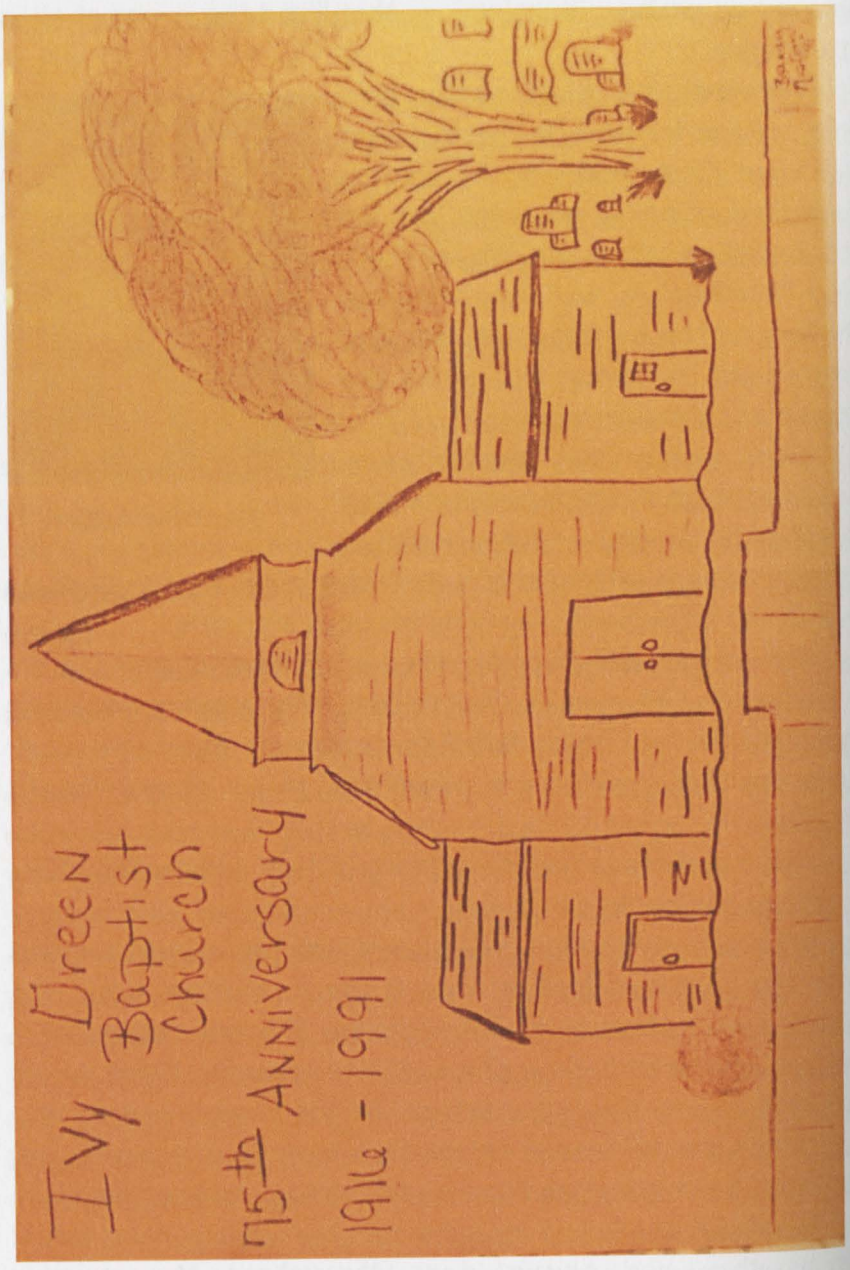
The memorable service was closed with the congregation singing worshipfully and enthusiastically *Amazing Grace*. Afterwards a delicious meal was enjoyed as well as the enjoyment of reliving precious memories.

The memorable day was filled with experiencing Christ's presence, the sharing of Christ's love, the remembering and giving thanks for Christ's faithfulness through the many years. Such qualities typified the members of Ivy Green Baptist Church.

The members looked toward the future with anticipation, optimism and hope.

With seventy-five years of history now behind them, it was time the members looked toward the future and begin the march toward the twenty-first century. The last quarter-of-a-century had been a time of tragedy to triumph. What would the next twenty-five years bring? As the church peered into the future the centennial celebration seemed a long way off, but time vanishes before our eyes like sand in an hour glass.

Whatever the future held the members of Ivy Green would do as they had always done throughout the church's history....face it with a faith that would sustain them amidst whatever lay ahead.




**Bulletin cover from the 75th anniversary celebration**

# CHAPTER 5

## THE FOURTH TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
## 1992 TO 2016
## FROM FAITH TO FAITH

*"For the Gospel reveals the righteousness of God from faith to faith." Romans 1:17*

As 1991 vanished off the scene like morning dew before the rising summer sun, seventy-five years had all too swiftly flowed down the river of history. Less than a decade away from the twenty-first century, Rev. Lester Bryant was back at the helm. The members sought to hoist high the sails of the ship as they set sail upon the uncharted waters of the future.

What would the next quarter-of-a-century hold for the members as they sped toward the church's centennial year? It would be a time that could be labeled, in the words of the Apostle Paul, from "faith to faith" (Romans 1:17). It is a phrase to express the faith exercised by the believer is to be continuous in the only One in whom one's faith should be directed and rest - - Jesus Christ. From 1992 to 2016 the members of Ivy Green Baptist will find themselves living from faith to faith as they faced obstacles, setbacks and challenges.

As 1992 brought with it a fresh twelve months the church discussed paving the parking lot. All the money spent on periodically hauling gravel to cover the lot would have been more than sufficient to have already paved it. Like all paving needs, when it is not raining it does not need paving and when it is raining it cannot be paved. The church voted to begin a Paving Fund, and Rev. Bryant gave the first contribution, $100

to start the ball rolling....or it might be better to say to get rolling the steamroller. To pave the parking lot would cost approximately $11,400.

In April 1992 the church made a wise decision to begin mapping the cemetery and laying it off in plots. It was a tedious and laborious task, but in the future it would alleviate much confusion. It was a proactive decision that would prove beneficial.

The church budget for 1992 reflected the churches emphasis on mission outreach.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pastor's Salary | $450 |
| Pastor's Vacation pay | $100 |
| Pastor's Christmas gift | $100 |
| Pastor's Revival pay | $ 50 |
| Visiting Revival speaker | $100 |
| Cooperative Program | 3% of Offerings |
| Baptist Hospital | Mother's Day |
| Surry Association | 2% of offerings |
| Round Peak Lodge | $150 |
| Fire Department | $ 30 |
| Janitor | $100 a month |
| Handicapped Camp | $100 |
| Improvement Fund | 1.5% of Offerings |

Special offerings for church members in need
Persons in community with a need $100

As the members approved the budget for the year, the church also voted to re-elect as pastor for another year Rev. Bryant. Upon his acceptance to continue as pastor he asked the church to be more faithful to the Lord, more supportive of the church's mission, and to pray for him as he sought to serve the church. The church agreed to accept their pastor's challenge.

In the summer of 1992 the church bus that had been bought in 1977 had reached the end of its use, as mechanical

difficulties begin to plague it. After fifteen years the bus was filled with many wonderful memories, sounds of laughter and singing as it made its many trips. But the bus had come to the last mile of the way and was sold for $350.

As 1992 ended, the church's resident membership stood at 126, averaged 32 in Sunday school for the year, enrolled 61 in VBS, and collected in total receipts $16,233.

The year 1993 practically mirrored 1992, as the giving, church membership and Sunday School remained at the same level: averaging 33 in Sunday School, enrolled 61 in VBS and church membership stood at 127. The 1993 budget was adopted the same as the year before.

Attendance and giving was not declining, it was remaining steady. Giving to all mission endeavors in 1993 was $1,778. When the church met in August 1993 for the annual pastoral call, Rev. Bryant was re-elected for another year.

As the cold weather of the winter of 1994 disappeared into the presence of spring warmth, it was time to do some church maintenance, as well as plan some outdoor projects. In March 1994 a committee was appointed to check into the church's need for a picnic shelter. The committee consisted of Steve Niston, Bobby Smith, Ray Bryant and Marlin Hicks, Chairman. In June 1994 it was reported the cost to build one would roughly be $10,000. It would be a few years before the picnic shelter would become a reality.

A most pressing need in 1994 was tending to the matter of painting the church. In actuality the need for painting was a good problem to have, as it indicated there were a sufficient number of people attending church to bring about the wear and tear that resulted in the need for painting!

On July 17, 1994, Steve Niston was ordained as a new deacon. Another deacon, Tommy Smith, was added to the deacon body in February 1995.

As 1994 came to a close it did so on a strong note. Membership was 132, Sunday School enrollment was 70 with

an average attendance of 37, the WMU enrollment was 15, and mission giving for the year was $2,137.

The New Year 1995 rushed upon the scene like a river overflowing its banks, bringing with it a year of productivity. Resident membership stood at 125, and non-resident and resident membership was 147. Sunday School enrollment was 75 with an average attendance for the year of 41. VBS enrolled 67 and the WMU stood at 15. Total mission giving for the year was $2,268, up from 1994.

The Cemetery Committee had been working hard to provide guidelines that would remove confusion and uncertainty when a loved one passed away. The committee sought to be fair and yet not overly burden members and non-members with unnecessary rules. Letters were sent out to inform every one of the new guidelines. One of the changes was that beginning in 1996 a donation to the Cemetery Fund of $100 per grave for a church member, and $300 per grave to anyone else, to be paid when the gravesite is reserved. As well, it was voted on July 2, 1995, that the Cemetery Fund be increased to $20,000 to help with upkeep. Donations were sought.

As 1995 ran out of months, the church was strong structurally and was spiritually thriving. Rev. Bryant was re-elected for another year.

The New Year 1996 came riding in on a cold north winter wind, bringing with it bad weather. Most of January services had to be cancelled because of icy and snowy weather. The church, now entering her eightieth year, continued making strides forward numerically.

Church membership stood at 126, with 75 enrolled in Sunday School with a yearly average of 42. VBS enrolled 79. Total mission giving reached $3,494.

In March 1996 the church asked the committee that was looking into building a picnic shelter to proceed with securing bids and suggesting a location. On July 7, 1996, it was reported

that the picnic shelter would cost an estimated $3,600 and $1,200 for a cement floor. After a thorough discussion, a motion was made that a picnic shelter, sandbox, and swing set be built with the labor furnished by the church. The members voted in favor. The deacons were asked to choose the picnic site with input from the church. The picnic shelter would eventually rest upon a site given by Wayne and Frances Holder.

The church received a special offering the first Sunday in August to help with expenses. By the end of August the work on the picnic shelter had begun. It would be a place where great food and Christian fellowship would be shared and enjoyed.

As October 1996 was approaching, Rev. Lester Bryant was re-elected for another year and plans were being made for the 80th anniversary of the church's organization. The service would be held on October 20, 1996, and a special offering would be taken for the paving fund. The 80th anniversary service was a time of worship, celebration and thanksgiving for all the blessings the Lord had bestowed upon Ivy Green over the years. The songs of praise sung by the congregation and choir were sung with such fervor that it would have rivaled the angelic choir of heaven. Rev. Bryant's message was a challenge to continue contending for the faith once delivered to the saints of old and the church's spiritual ancestors. The members departed the church with great appreciation for their spiritual heritage. Having been fed spiritually, the members assembled at the Lodge to feed themselves physically!

As Christmas 1996 approached, Sue Bryant Haynes and Vickie Hull Bryant (1968-2002) were planning the first ever Hanging of the Green Service for Ivy Green. The inspirational service was held on December 1, 1996, and involved many of the members. The service proved so meaningful that the church has had a Hanging of the Green Service every year since to usher in the Christmas season. Vickie Bryant, who shared the idea of beginning the first Christmas-season service, passed

away on December 13, 2002, after a two year battle with leukemia. Having been instrumental in helping start the December tradition, the December 7, 2003, Hanging of the Green Service was dedicated to her memory.



**Vickie Hull Bryant**

A cold icy blast of winter ushered in 1997. The first two services of the New Year had to be cancelled because of icy and snowy roads. As winter began to loosen its grip the members were chomping at the bits to get back to the House of the Lord.

The members worked hard on seeing the picnic shelter completed. They did all the work except the pouring of the concrete pad for the floor of the shelter. All the construction was supervised by Marlin Hicks. The men of the church would meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday mornings in an effort to see it brought to completion. Such work days were not just workdays, they were times of fellowship and the church working together in unity to accomplish a common goal.

Of the Saturday workdays that were held, Dale Badgett recalls the day the trusses were set in place for the picnic shelter. It was a hot day as he and Tim Bryant were up on the framing, while those on ladders and on the ground lifted and placed the trusses. The trusses were secured and braced one at a time, as they started at the far end of the shelter and worked toward the road. The first truss was braced to the ground with a long 2x4 and staked to make sure they did not move as they placed the trusses twenty-four inches apart. Dale and Tim placed and braced about five trusses when they noticed it felt like the whole shelter was moving. They looked at the long 2x4 brace attached to the first truss and the stake was almost

completely out of the ground. Basically, all that was holding the roof trusses up was about two inches of stake still in the ground. Dale and Tim held on for dear life until the stake could be secured again. As Dale stated, "I don't like heights so it was kind of scary. It was only by the grace of God that we felt the roof moving around, and we slowly but quickly made our way down. We could have been seriously hurt if the whole structure had collapsed."

The grace of God that watched over the workers as they built the picnic shelter was only representative of the grace of God that had encircled the laborers of Ivy Green Baptist since its organization. Not only experiencing the Lord's grace, the members shared God's grace.

The church, being a member of the Surry Baptist Association, voted in July 1997 to donate $1,000 to help with the building project on the associational building. The church was reaching beyond its own grounds to help plant seeds that would prove productive to others in the future.

In October 1997 the church appointed a committee to look into building a porch across the front of the church. The committee consisted of Danny Smith, Aldine Holder and Kit Burcham. This would prove to be a wise decision by the church.

As the Christmas play of 1997 was enjoyed by all in attendance, another good year was enjoyed by Ivy Green. Resident membership was 128, Sunday School enrollment was 77 and average attendance was 41, and VBS enrollment was 79. Total mission giving for the year was just over $3,500.

Unlike the two previous New Year's that rode in on a blast of a cold north wind, 1998 came in on a mild note allowing the church to gather on the first Sunday of the next to the last year of the twentieth century.

On January 4, 1998, the committee appointed to check into building a porch across the front of the church gave their report. They had already obtained sketches of possible designs which had been posted for the members to see. This would

make wheelchair accessibility easier and allow the members not to have to immediately step out into the elements of the weather upon leaving church. The uncertain weather of the winter was a good time to present the report!

Planning ahead for revival, the church in January 1998 planned a revival with Rev. Wayne Trexler, the Surry Baptist Associational Director. Such a gesture revealed Ivy Green's supportive and cooperative spirit of the local Baptist Association since becoming a member in 1917.

As the spring of 1998 arrived the church voted to proceed with paving of the parking lot at a cost of $13,805. In 1992 a Paving Fund was started with Rev. Bryant putting in the first $100, now after six years sufficient funds were available to begin the work. The spring of 1998 also saw the finishing touches on the picnic shelter completed. With persistence and patience the members completed two more needed projects.

In April 1998 the church voted to ordain Jimmy Gregory as a deacon. He was ordained in May 1998.

In 1998 the WMU published a cookbook entitled, "Give us this Day our Daily Bread." The copies sold rapidly and have been used over and over again by church members and their friends. Seven years later the cookbook was still in demand and the WMU did a second printing.

At the October 1998 business meeting the Constitution Committee reported it was ready to present to the church a proposed church constitution. Much work and time had gone into its development. As well, the church was to continue to work on articles of incorporation which would serve as protection if legal matters arose. In December 1998 the proposed constitution was presented to the church for review. It was to be voted on for acceptance at the first business meeting of 1999.

As 1998 rushed to a close it had been a busy year for Ivy Green. Resident membership stood at 128, 77 were enrolled in Sunday School with 38 the average attendance for the year,

and VBS had reached an all-time high enrollment of 82. The total mission giving for the year was $3,391. The church was ready to tackle the last year of the twentieth century.

Though 1999 blew in on a stiff cold north wind, it did not prevent the members from gathering on January 10, 1999. The church approved the much needed church constitution. As well, the committee who was elected to oversee providing plans for a porch on the front of the church was instructed to get estimates.

With the church undertaking several projects at once, the pace at which they were accomplished was dependent on the funds available. The church wisely did not want to go into debt, but paid as it went along. While it might take a little longer to complete a project, it was done so without going into debt.

One project that was completed in 1999 was the church drilled in July a well on church property to obtain its own water supply. Since October 1965 the church had obtained running water from the well of the Lodge across the road. The Lodge had been most generous for thirty-four years sharing water rights with Ivy Green Baptist. The church was appreciative.

In October 1999 the articles of incorporation had been completed and approved by the state. This provided the church members necessary protection if legal issues popped up.

Also, in October 1999 the church voted to proceed with building a porch on the front of the church. A bid of $11,400 was obtained and the church approved the bid and work was soon to begin.

The fall revival of 1999 proved to be most fruitful as four joined by baptism and one by letter. The last year of the twentieth century closed on a good strong note. Church membership was 125, with 76 enrolled in Sunday School with an average of 38 for the year, and VBS enrollment tied the all time from the year before with 82. Total mission giving to all mission endeavors was up from the previous year, being $3,487.

As the Ivy Green members said good-bye to the twentieth century, they stood on the mountain top of optimism as they gazed over into the twenty-first century. Only time would reveal what a new century would bring

## The Twenty-First Century

The New Year 2000 arrived on the wings of the sun's bright rays shining upon the Round Peak Community. While there was a chill in the air, there was a warmth in the hearts of the members as they united to tackle the many new opportunities that awaited them. After ringing in the New Year and saying "hello" to the twenty-first century, the Ivy Green members continued on with Kingdom work.

Meeting on January 2, 2000, the Porch Committee was instructed to inform Talbert Construction Company to begin building the porch to the front of the church and seeing to it that the wheelchair ramp met code.



**In 2000 the church added the front porch and wheelchair ramp.**

As the New Year dawned the church voted to put $100 a month into a youth fund for youth activities. A strong youth program is necessary for a continued strong church in the future.

July 2000 saw Ivy Green, which had always been a supporter of the Surry Association, double its percentage of giving from 2% to 4%. The church continued its support of the Association which it had been a part of since 1917.

On August 20, 2000, the church once again chose Rev. Bryant as pastor for another year. He would continue to lead the church into the newly born first year of the twenty-first century.

As the August 2000 business meeting came to a close so did the church clerk duties of Dorothy Smith Hicks (b. 1929). Feeling it time to relinquish her duties, Mrs. Hicks had faithfully and with great detail first served as the church clerk of Ivy Green Baptist in October 1953. For over forty years she set a standard of excellence that serves as an example for all church clerks that follow her. Mrs. Treva (Bobby) Smith was elected as the new church clerk. As Ivy Green enters its centennial year Mrs. Smith is still the church clerk.



**Dorothy Hicks**

October 1-4, 2000, a joint revival with New Life Church was planned. It proved to be a Spirit-filled time of renewal, challenge and many rededications.

A few days after the revival, October 8, 2000, the church voted to revitalize the sanctuary by voting to replace the carpet. It was voted to install the blue-spruce color. Worn carpet is a good problem to have as it indicates many people are at church to administer the wear and tear.

The October business meeting also voted to make available hard cover Bibles to be placed in the pews. It was upon the foundation of God's Word that the Ivy Green members unashamedly stood, and they were seeking to make the Bible available to everyone who occupied a pew. In January 2001 it was announced that pew Bibles had been donated to the church.

With the first year of the new century coming to an end, the church was strong and vibrant. Church membership stood at 122, Sunday School enrollment was 78 with an average attendance for the year of 39. VBS enrollment was the highest in the history of the church with 83. The WMU had 28 enrolled. The total of all receipts given was $35,606, and mission giving to all mission endeavors was $2,850.

As 2001 peeked over the Blue Ridge Mountains shining its light like a new morning sunrise, Ivy Green was entering its eighty-fifth year. What awaited the church in 2001?

While the role of the church is to keep one spiritually fit, on January 7, 2001, Donna Williams wanted to start the New Year off by seeking to initiate physical fitness. The Bible teaches that one's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and needs to be looked after. Minutes read: "Anyone who is interested in taking part in an exercise class is invited to the church to join one led by Donna Williams." The church agreed the ladies could use the large upstairs room for the weekly exercise class.

In the spring of 2001 the church discussed obtaining new pew upholstery that matched the church carpet color as closely as possible. A committee of five was elected to tend to the matter.

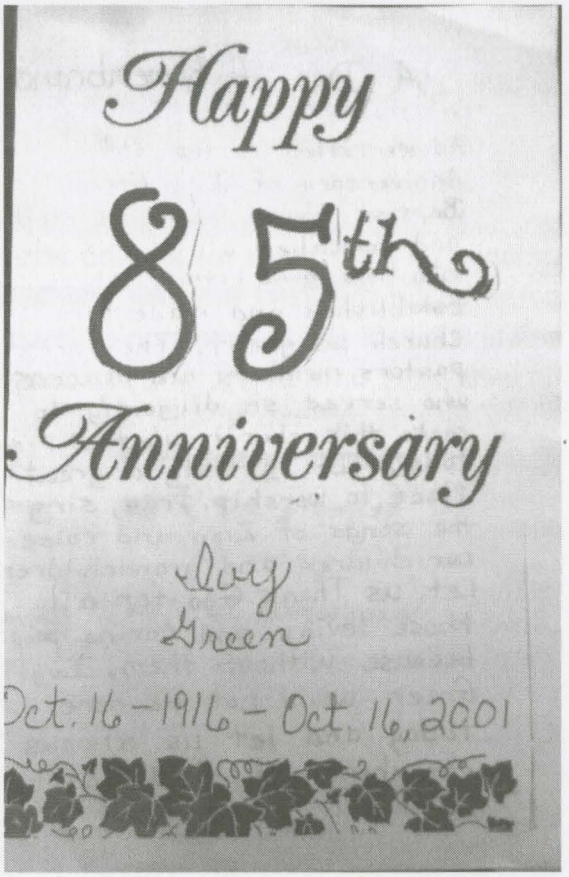
To reward Pastor Bryant for his productive leadership, the church voted in April 2001 to increase his pay to $550 a month. In July 2001 he was voted to continue another year.

At the July 2001 meeting discussion was introduced about looking into preparing plans for building a baptistery in the church. This would be quite an undertaking that would require

adding on to the church. Though the matter was studied, no satisfactory proposal was ever reached. The solution of how best to remedy this issue has yet to be reached.

On October 7, 2001, the church voted to ordain as deacons Dale Badgett and Chris Love. Upon their ordination, they proved to be wise and productive members to the deacon body.

On October 14, 2001, Ivy Green held a special service commemorating the eighty-fifth year since the church's organization. The service focused on the commitment of the many spiritual ancestors of Ivy Green and the blessings the Lord had bestowed upon the church since its beginnings in 1916. The choir sang with conviction and a heart filled with thanksgiving for the Lord's guiding Hand during the eighty-five year history of the church. A challenge was issued to the church to embrace that same commitment of Ivy Green's founding members as the church progressed into the twenty-first century. (See page 183.)




**Bulletin for the 85th Anniversary**

As Ivy Green came to the end of its eighty-fifth year it was another good year for the church. Church membership stood at 122, Sunday School enrollment was 73 with an average attendance of 36. Total receipts for the year were the highest in the history of the church, $35,961. Mission giving to all mission endeavors was $4,234.

With 2002 riding in on a blustery cold wind, the church met January 13, 2002, for its first business meeting of the New Year. There was a challenge issued by the pastor that Ivy Green Baptist keep a firm grip on the plow and continue looking straight ahead as it seeks to obtain a harvest for Christ. The members were urged to not rest on their laurels, but to keep striving to be more.

The Easter Sunrise Service in 2002 proved to be a most meaningful experience for all who attended. As the members gathered on the early morning of March 31, it was a time of celebration for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Not only was it a celebratory time of rejoicing in the risen Savior, even though there was still a nip in the air it was a time to welcome springtime. After the service a warm and delicious breakfast was enjoyed by all.

The church set dates for the fall revival, October 6-9, 2002, with Dr. Jack Long. Dr. Long was the Surry Associational Director. The revival proved to be successful and new members were added to the church.

The revival was a reflection of the exceptional year Ivy Green experienced in 2002. While in 2002 four new picnic tables were built to be put under the picnic shelter where a feast of food could be enjoyed, the year proved to be one where a spiritual feast was enjoyed.

A most Spirit-filled and meaningful Hanging of the Green Service was experienced in 2002. The service ushered everyone into the Christmas spirit and served as a time of giving thanks for the Lord's blessings for another year.



**2002 Hanging of the Green Service**

As 2002 was placed upon the shelf of history, the church had experienced one of its finest years. Church membership stood at 128, Sunday School enrollment was 78 with an average attendance of 40, there had been six baptisms, and WMU had reached an enrollment of 30. The total money given during the year was an all-time high of $42,414. Giving to all mission endeavors reached $5,141.

As 2003 streaked across the Blue Ridge foothills like a new fawn darting toward its mother, it brought with it new opportunities. With the church thriving, at the January 5, 2003, business meeting a committee was appointed to investigate what could be done to create more sanctuary seating for the immediate future. Having space problems as the result of growing attendance is a good problem to have. The committee reported in April 2003 to continue with the building fund. Recognizing what an extensive task it would be to tackle expansion plans at this time, the building plans were tabled

until further notice. A goal was set to have $20,000 in the building fund by January 2004.

With the church doing well, in August 2003 Rev. Bryant was re-elected as pastor for another year. As the fall revival ensued it proved fruitful with good attendance and an excellent spirit each service. The church added seven new members during the year.

As November blended into December the members had much for which to be thankful. At the end of 2003 church membership stood at 135. The Sunday School enrollment was 80 with an average attendance of 40 for the year. In all offerings received it was the highest in the history of the church, $45,023. And mission giving was $5,701.

The New Year of 2004 brought with it new hopes and new possibilities.

During 2004 the church sought to emphasize how they could better meet the needs of the community in an effort to reach them for Christ. While making a monetary donation to someone is good and meets a temporary need, many times they need much more. The church vowed to make a more concerted effort to follow-up after the initial need is met to see what further could be done to help. The church was seeking to add a more personal approach to Christian charity within the community.

In July 2004 Ivy Green chartered a bus from H&R Tours and 57 members climbed aboard headed for Atlanta, Georgia. They visited on Sunday morning the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, where Charles Stanley is pastor. The members enjoyed a time of worship and fellowship. The trip included visits to Stone Mountain, a Braves baseball game and Six Flags. It was a time of creating unity and wonderful memories for those who made the trip.

At year's end another good year had been experienced. Church membership stood at 133, Sunday School enrollment was up to 82 with an average of 44 for the year, VBS

enrollment was 84, and the WMU had 27 on roll. Total offerings received in 2004 were $45,613. As the sun set on 2004, the church was most grateful for the Lord's blessings upon Ivy Green.

When the sun rose on 2005 so arose the opportunity for the church to set new goals and reach new heights for the coming year.

The church began 2005 by investing in a mission endeavor by one of its members, Sarah Smith. She was going on a mission trip to Honduras. The members, seeking to assist her, paid for the plane ticket. They understood that while all cannot go on mission trips, the church needs to support those who are willing to go.

The year 2005 saw Ivy Green continuing to reach out in the community to provide monetary help for people in emergency situations. As well, the church sought to do follow-up contact to help meet their emotional and spiritual needs.

In 2005 the WMU did a second printing of their cookbook, *Give us this Day our Daily Bread*. The books arrived shortly before Christmas and sold quickly. The money raised from the cook books was used for various church projects. An article about the cooks appeared in the "Living and Learning" section of the *Mt. Airy News, Wednesday, November 20, 2005*.

At the end of 2005 the church once again had averaged 44 for the year in Sunday School attendance. The church was steady, strong, and continued to strive to make an impact for the Kingdom of God.

As the New Year 2006 arrived on the back of a cold north wind, Ivy Green was entering its ninetieth year. The founding brothers and sisters, who had a vision to see a Missionary Baptist Church in the Round Peak Community, could never have envisioned where the church would be ninety years later.

In 2006 the church held both a spring and fall revival. Both were well attended with a spirit of worship and recommitment pervading the church. While a ninetieth anniversary was not

held, when the members met on October 15, 2006, it was acknowledged that the church was only ten years away from its one-hundredth anniversary and each member should be grateful for those early brothers and sisters who were obedient to the Lord's vision that had been in their hearts. It was their obedience that resulted in Ivy Green being a light on a hill for ninety years.

The light Ivy Green shone was still shining brightly as 2006 came to an end. Church membership was 128, Sunday School enrollment was 76 with an average attendance of 40, and VBS enrollment was 83.

As 2007 arrived the church was entering its last ten years that would begin the countdown to its one-hundredth anniversary. The church was continuing to meet the spiritual needs of the members and, as well, the minutes reveal that in 2007 the church reached out into the community on more than a few occasions to share God's love with offerings taken for families that were struggling as the result of life's hard knocks.




**A new church sign erected May 2007 declares, "God is Love."**

In May 2007 a new church sign was installed to replace the one that had become weather-worn over the years. Those passing the church are reminded each time they drive-by of Ivy Green's presence and a message of invitation beckoning them to attend services. Its first message declared, "God is Love."

The 2007 spring and fall revivals proved successful and several new members were added as the result. At year's end the 2007 statistics mostly mirrored the ones from 2006. Church enrollment was 124, Sunday School enrollment was 71 with once again a yearly average of 40, and VBS enrollment was 76. Receipts for the year were $38,097 and giving to all mission endeavors was $4,535.

With the arrival of 2008 the New Year brought with it fresh promises and continued opportunities to serve the Lord. The church continued to reach out into the community, receiving several love offerings during the year to help aid families who needed assistance.

Giving in the church throughout the year remained good, as giving to all mission endeavors was $5,832. After ninety-two years as a church the members were continuing to uphold the mission-mindedness of the church's founding brothers and sisters.

On April 6, 2008, Marlin Hicks (1928-2009) requested that he be replaced on the board of deacons and be listed as inactive due to age and health problems. While the church granted his request, it did so with much sadness. The church expressed their most heartfelt appreciation and thanks to him for all the years of service he had given to the Lord and to Ivy Green. Over the years he had served the church in almost every position imaginable. A



**Marlin Hicks**

man who had faithfully served in the U.S. Army, he also faithfully served in the Lord's Army. His faithfulness and dedication to the church over the years served as an example for others in the future to follow.

The spring and fall revivals of 2008 were well attended and a good spirit experienced. Rev. Bryant was once again re-elected to serve as pastor another year.

The year ended with church membership at 121, Sunday School enrollment was 66 with an average attendance of 39, and 72 enrolled in VBS.

Though attendance statistics for the year were only down a tick, as 2008 came to a close there began to unfold an unnoticed factor starting to occur that is many times not realized until one looks back. An often unperceived factor within a church and a community that can gradually affect its growth is a change in the demographics. A population and age shift begins to ever so gradually change as the youth become older, go off to college, marry or move away and as the parents become older. This is an ever so subtle change, but which naturally occurs as a community ages and there is not a new influx of younger families. Such a factor is not anyone's fault. It just occurs and often goes unnoticed as it is unfolding. Fortunately, the dynamics of the fellowship, love, faith, and caring within the body of Christ remained vibrant, robust and strong, which is the mark of a strong and surviving church that is centered in Christ.

With 2009 bringing in a New Year, it also brought with it a concern over the low amount of money in the church treasury. With the church having been involved in many projects of upkeep, it had put a drain on funds. The matter was made known before the church and the members responded with increased giving. By the end of 2009 the church receipts were such that the percentage that went to missions totaled $5,811, which was only $20 difference from the year before.

Rev. Dwight Sechrist, pastor of Fancy Gap Baptist Church, preached the fall revival, and as always he preached the Word with vigor and fire. Attendance was excellent during the week and those in attendance were receptive to the Spirit's workings. Two new members resulted from the revival.

December 2009 ended with church membership standing at 120, and Sunday School enrollment at 68 with the average for the year being 37, and 68 being enrolled in VBS.

The year 2010 burst on the horizon like a new sunrise. The New Year was only three days old when the church's first business meeting occurred. While the amount in the treasury was ok, the church was made aware that projects that came before the church would be dealt with according to their priority and as funds were available so as not to put a strain on the treasury. But as always the church responded with their giving that resulted in the percentage given to missions from the total receipts was $5,891. Once again the church was to be commended for its giving.

In August 2010 Ray Bryant and Bobby Haynes were chosen to serve as deacons. They were ordained September 26, 2010. As well, at the August 2010 meeting Rev. Bryant was re-elected to serve as pastor for another year.

A successful revival in November 2010 saw one profession of faith. As Thanksgiving approached the church was thankful for a convert added to the Kingdom of God.

At year's end church membership stood at 120, with Sunday School enrollment 69 and the yearly average 36. VBS enrollment was 61 and the WMU had 16 members.

As 2011 dawned it ushered in the ninety-fifth anniversary of the church's organization. During the year the church continued to make repairs and updates to the church building and grounds as necessary. The church always responded with the necessary funds needed when the time came to pay the bills. It was a testimony to the church's response to a need.

In August 2011 Rev. Bryant was unanimously re-elected to serve another year. He had been serving as pastor since 1991.

Being the ninety-fifth year of the church's existence, in October there was focus upon the Lord's gracious hand of blessing that had been on the church since its organization in October 1916. The members, sharing the blessings they had received, donated $200 to the Backpack Program at Cedar Ridge Elementary School, which sent food home with children over the weekend who did not have enough food at home. It was a most worthy program.

With Christmas 2011 falling on a Sunday, the members gathered to give thanks for the Lord's abundant gifts throughout the year and throughout the church's history. But first and foremost the members gathered to give thanks for the Christ Child who came to give the gift of His life for sinful humanity

Though year end statistics were down a tick for the fourth straight year, the church was still strong in Christian fellowship and making an impact for Christ in the lives of others. When the tally was taken at the end of 2011, VBS had enrolled 54, WMU had 18 members, and Sunday School had averaged 34 for the year. The percentage given to missions was once again over $5,000 ($5,693).

The New Year blew in on a cold north winter wind. With January 1, 2012, falling on a Sunday, the church gathered for worship on the first day of the New Year and for the first business meeting of 2012. The church began the year by voting to assist Maple Grove Methodist Church with its community outreach meal program by donating $200 per quarter for the remainder of the church year to a much needed ministry.

In July 2012 Rev. Lester Bryant was unanimously re-elected for another year. As he began his twenty-second year he was only about a month away from his seventy-ninth birthday. No one could have known it would be his last year as pastor.

The fall revival, while producing no new members, was a time of renewal and spiritual replenishment of the soul. The need of members first being revived is of utmost importance for strengthening the church.

With the end of 2012 approaching, after a four year tick downward in attendance, the skid was halted. Resident and non-resident membership stood at 138, VBS was up a tad with 63 enrolled, weekly worship attendance was reported to be near 60, and the average Sunday School attendance for the year was exactly the same as it was in 2011, being 34. Giving to all mission endeavors for the year was $4,391.

Like the often changing direction of the wind, 2013 would bring with it winds of change in the life and direction of Ivy Green Baptist Church. At the first business meeting of the New Year, January 6, 2013, the church dealt with issues regarding repairs and upkeep to the church building and grounds. As well, once again the church made a donation of $200 to the Cedar Ridge Elementary Backpack Program and $250 would be donated per quarter for a year to the Maple Grove Methodist Church food ministry.

The church was steadily sailing on a sea of consistency when the members gathered on April 7, 2013, for its quarterly business meeting. At the meeting the church voted its continued support and importance in giving to the Cooperative Program and the Surry Baptist Association.

Many items of business were discussed and properly dealt with before proceeding to the next one. Rev. Lester Bryant took everyone by surprise when he resigned as pastor. His resignation was effective immediately. He had served the church since 1991. Having previously served the church from 1970 to 1985, he served as pastor of Ivy Green a total of thirty-seven years. In the church's history Rev. Bryant had served as pastor over a third of its existence. Now approaching his eightieth birthday, the spiritual baton he had so faithfully carried throughout the many years was to be passed to

another. Over the years his leadership had taken the church to great heights and great consistency.

The search for another pastor would now begin. The church, not having to search for a pastor in twenty-two years, sought the advice of the Surry Associational Director, Dr. Billy Blakley, for the direction to take. Supply preachers filled the pulpit while the search for an interim pastor continued.

As 2013 came to an end weekly worship attendance was estimated to be about 55, with Sunday School average attendance being 33, VBS enrollment was 57, and resident and non-resident church membership was 138.

**Rev. Roger O'Dell**

As 2014 arrived like a bright morning sunrise, the Pulpit Committee and Roger O'Dell from Hamptonville, NC, had been in discussion about him filling the pulpit with the possibility of serving as interim pastor. On March 9, 2014, it was voted that Rev. Roger O'Dell be called as (interim) pastor for ninety days. The vote was in favor. At the end of the ninety days, on June 22, 2014, the church voted to elect him as pastor for the coming year.

Rev. Roger Dale O'Dell was born December 23, 1943, in Pulaski, VA. He and his wife, Sherry, made their home in Hamptonville. He received his education from the Southern Baptist School for Biblical Studies, Jacksonville, Florida. He had served various churches, such as Cool Springs Baptist, Outreach Baptist in Anderson, SC, and in addition had served as bi-vocational pastor of several other churches.



**Rev. Roger O'Dell**

Sam Bryant was chosen as a deacon in April 2014. The youngest

child of Rev. Lester Ray Bryant, he has been attending Ivy Green Baptist since birth.

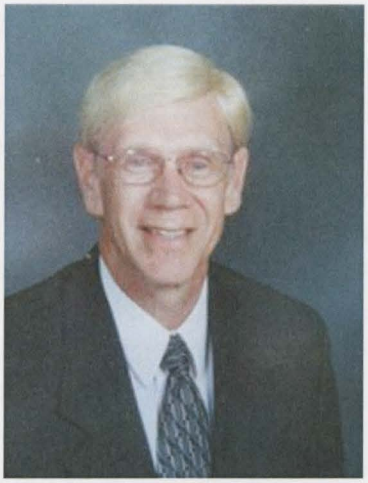
As the last month of 2014 was torn off the calendar the church's resident and non-resident membership stood at 129, the Sunday School average for the year was 30, and 51 had enrolled in VBS. Total receipts for the year were $31,985, with mission giving $4,541.

On July 12, 2015, Rev. O'Dell was voted to serve another year. However, as the church had experienced before, it is oftentimes difficult for the pastor who follows a lengthy pastorate to bring about a unifying transition in a timely manner. By mutual consent between the church and the pastor, on August 9, 2015, Rev. O'Dell resigned. His resignation was effective August 31, 2015.

The search for a new pastor would begin again. Dr. Billy Blakley, the Surry Association Director, was once again consulted for possible names to serve as interim. The church was given the name Rev. Daniel Merritt.

**Rev. Daniel Merritt**

In September 2015 Rev. Merritt was contacted by the chairman of deacons, Dale Badgett. Rev. Merritt had recently completed an interim pastorate at Salem Fork Baptist Church in August 2015. Rev. Merritt agreed to supply preach though October, with a decision forthcoming about being called as interim pastor. At the end of October the church called him as interim pastor.



**Rev. Daniel Merritt**

Rev. Daniel Merritt was born in Sanford, NC, on March 17, 1952. Graduating from Sanford Central

High School in 1970, he attended Campbell University. As a freshman at Campbell he accepted Christ as his Savior. In 1971 he surrendered to the call to preach, preaching his first sermon on July 4, 1971. He graduated from Campbell in 1974 with a B.A. degree in religion. He was licensed to preach in 1971 and ordained in 1974. While pastoring South Erwin Baptist Church, Erwin, NC, in August 1975 he married Shirley Avery (b. 1952). He later furthered his education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (M. Div.) and Northwestern Theological Seminary (Th.D.). In a ministry that at this writing has spanned over forty-five years, he has served five churches as pastor and two as interim pastor. Rev. Merritt is still serving the church as Ivy Green Baptist celebrates its centennial anniversary.

The fall revival was conducted by Rev. Dwight Sechrist, pastor of Fancy Gap Baptist Church in Mt. Airy. The services were well attended and those who came experienced the moving of the Spirit in their heart.

The year 2015 ended on a joyous note with the church holding a Hanging of the Green Service which ushered the members into the Christmas season. Also, at Christmas the church prepared 154 Christmas boxes to be shipped all around the world by Samaritan's Purse to share the Good News of Christ's birth. The church also prepared 30 fruit baskets that were shared with others to help brighten their Christmas.



**Ivy Green Christmas 2015**

As 2015 came rushing to a close, the Ivy Green

members gathered on Christmas Eve for a time of sharing Communion together. It was a time of giving thanks for the greatest Gift of all, Jesus Christ, and vowing to be more for Jesus in the coming New Year.

With 2016 bringing with it not only a fresh calendar of twelve months, it also ushered Ivy Green Baptist into its centennial year. It would be a year to look back and remember and also a year to look ahead with anticipation and hope.

At the January 3, 2016, business meeting the church wisely voted to discontinue a practice that had occurred annually for ninety-nine years: the annual call voting on the pastor. It was a practice that always had the potential to create anxiety in the pastor and tension among the members. And anxiety and tension mix about as well as oil and water.

With the centennial year having dawned, a Centennial Committee was appointed to serve and plan for the October 16, 2016, celebration. The committee appointed: Rev. Daniel Merritt, Janet Badgett, Sheryl Burcham, Donna Williams, Frances Holder, Kit Burcham, and Danny and Annette Smith.

As well, Dr. Daniel Merritt was appointed to write the church history. It became his privileged task to resurrect the past from dusty church minutes and historical personages, weaving them together and breathing life into the marvelous heritage of Ivy Green Baptist Church.

And it was the glorious resurrection of our Lord that brought members together for an Easter Sunrise Service on March 27, 2016. It proved to be a most meaningful service. A full house gathered in the sanctuary for prayer and an opening hymn, and then assembled outside on a beautiful morning to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. After a stirring message by Rev. Daniel Merritt and singing "He Lives," the crowd gathered in the Lodge for a delicious breakfast.

While Marc Tickle was voted in as a deacon in August 2015, he was not ordained until March 2016. In a most meaningful

service he took his place in a long line of Christian men who in the history of Ivy Green have served as a deacon.

In May 2016 the church had a stirring revival with Rev. Tim Burton, pastor of Flippin Memorial Baptist Church. The church experienced the moving of the Holy Spirit each night. Rev. Burton's sermon, "And they Hung Their Harps upon a Tree" will long be remembered. Those in attendance did not just have revival meetings, but experienced revival in their hearts.

Also, in May in an effort to try and reach others in the community, the church held a community hot dog supper. Those who do not attend church will not care to attend until they first know that the church cares for them.

Homecoming on August 7, 2016, proved to be a wonderful day with the church filled with joyous music played and sung by the Country Boys. Their Christian heart for the Lord shone through in their music which in turned shined brightly into the hearts of the large crowd present. After a worshipful service those in attendance shared in a delicious meal. It was a most memorable time of music, fellowship, food and sharing good memories and making new ones.

The centennial anniversary has arrived and while Ivy Green has in recent years experienced some changing demographics, the agape love, the genuine Christian fellowship, and the desire to live for Christ and make an impact for the Savior forever remains strong within the church body. Such a dynamic and resilient faith is the character quality that has brought Ivy Green to its centennial year and will guide the members into the future. In the centennial year three converts await baptism.

The order of service for the October 16, 2016, Centennial Celebration reveals a service filled with worshipful praise and thanksgiving. The order of service for the Centennial Anniversary reflects the members celebrating a rich spiritual heritage of faith and persistent faithfulness. It is a heritage that serves as a challenge to present and future members.

The Centennial Celebration order of service:

## IVY GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel Merritt

Centennial Celebration - October 16, 2016

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation — Pastor

Hymn of Praise — *To God Be the Glory* p. 33 — Congregation

Recognition of Guests

Words from Surry Baptist Director of Missions - Dr. Billy Blakley

Reading Brief History of Church — Dale Badgett

Hymn — *At the Cross* p. 157 — Congregation

Offertory Prayer — Kit Burcham

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Special Music — Mitch Williams

Time of Sharing

Recognition of Oldest Members

Special Music — Mitch Williams

Sermon - *What We Can Learn From Our History* — Rev. Merritt

Rededicating Ourselves as a Church

Hymn of Commitment — *Amazing Grace* p. 165 — Congregation

Benediction

Closing Hymn — *Bless Be the Tie* p. 256 — Congregation

With the light of history shining on the centennial anniversary of the founding of Ivy Green Baptist, the church with anticipation looks forward to a productive future. The Lord has brought Ivy Green a long way since October 16, 1916. Ivy Green has a heritage and history of which it can be proud, but it also has a bright future ahead. It will be a future the Lord will fill with many and varied opportunities to be His shining light and an influence to those who cross her path.

As the first one hundred years of Ivy Green Baptist is placed into the vault of history to remain there until the great Reviewing Day by the Lord, what can be learned from the past that will help the church as it enters the future?

First, the heritage of Ivy Green teaches that the true church cannot be contained within a stack of brick and stones, no matter how beautiful they may be arranged. A true church is a community of believers held together by their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is this common belief that has bound together through the years the believers of Ivy Green Baptist Church. In spite of the imperfections that each may bring, faith in Jesus Christ as Lord makes Ivy Green a community of God's people.

Ivy Green has been and will continue to be a place where believers meet to worship, teach their children, and meet their friends. It is a place where one finds faith when doubt seeks to creep in, strength when one is weak, and forgiveness when one fails. It is a place where one finds comfort in sorrow, courage when fearful, and encouragement when discouraged. For the last one-hundred years those who have been privileged to have been influenced and touched by her can say of Ivy Green Baptist, "Truly this is none other than the House of God."

Second, the history of Ivy Green teaches that the past, as well as the future, issues unto God's people a challenge – a challenge to walk in the path of those who have faithfully walked before – a challenge to be a light for Christ – a challenge to fulfill the Great Commission – a challenge to be

Christian in every area of one's life – a challenge to be busy laboring in the fields, for the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. May each member of Ivy Green Baptist be found as laborers, busily working for the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the history of the first one-hundred years of Ivy Green Baptist comes to a close, may the second one-hundred years begin with the determination to be more for Christ. Every member of Ivy Green has the privilege to help shape the future history of the church. May it be realized that in creating future history, in actuality all of history in reality is His Story. Therefore, let each member of Ivy Green press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus in order that as the present becomes history, it may be said by future generations that it was a continued history of proclaiming His Story.



**Ivy Green Baptist Centennial Committee. From left to right: Annette Smith, Donna Williams, Danny Smith, Frances Holder, Janet Badgett, Sheryl Burcham, Kit Burcham, Rev. Daniel Merritt.**

# CHAPTER 6

## DEACONS OF IVY GREEN BAPTIST

*"Look you out among you...men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint..." Acts 6:3*

In the one-hundred year history of Ivy Green Baptist Church there have been many qualified and wise men who have served as a deacon. The list that follows was gleaned from the church minutes. Every attempt possible has been made to be as accurate as possible. While it is known who the first five deacons of Ivy Green were, since the minutes from the first ten years of the church have been lost it is not known the exact date they were chosen to serve as a deacon but it was between 1916 and 1926. The first chairman of deacons, Robert E. Smith, was appointed during the ministry of Rev. W.E. Burrus, who served as pastor from April 1952 to December 1953. Robert E. Smith served as chairman of deacons for over forty years, until his death in 1994.

The first five deacons of Ivy Green were:
Austin Snow (1866-1944)
David Turney (1865-1946)
Nathanial Hawks (1881-1960)
Sampson Collins (1898-1981)
Dan Callaway (1877-1961)

| | |
|---|---|
| Alphonso Thompson (1900-1981) | October 1936 |
| Oran Jarrell (1923-2001) | May 1939 |
| Charlie Fulk (1917-1989) | May 1939 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Edgar J. Smith (1899-1972) | May 1939 |
| Sidney F. Jarrell (1880-1956) | October 1951 |
| Robert E. Smith (1922-1994) | October 1951 |
| Ernest East (1916-2000) | November 1964 |
| Aldine Holder (b. 1932) | April 1967 |
| Lester Bryant (b. 1933) | April 1967 |
| Roscoe Jefferson (1911-2001) | October 1975 |
| Marlin Hicks (1928-2009) | October 1975 |
| Homer Bryant (1937-2000) | September 1980 |
| Steve Niston (b. 1946) | July 1994 |
| Tommy Smith (b. 1958) | February 1995 |
| Jimmy Gregory (b. 1959) | April 1998 |
| Dale Badgett (b. 1963) | October 2001 |
| Chris Love (b. 1970) | October 2001 |
| Bobby Haynes (b. 1969) | August 2010 |
| Ray Bryant (b. 1958) | August 2010 |
| Sam Bryant (b. 1973) | April 2014 |
| Marc Tickle (b. 1971) | August 2015 |



**Ivy Green Baptist deacons October 2016. Left to right: Marc Tickle, Dale Badgett, Tommy Smith, Sam Bryant, Bobby Haynes.**

# CHAPTER 7

## CHURCH CLERKS OF IVY GREEN BAPTIST

*"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets..." Habakkuk 2:2*

The importance of the church clerk cannot be stressed enough. It is their responsibility to take notes during church business meetings. They must not only write legibly so they can be read by others, but they must write with sufficient detail as to what took place at the business meetings. In the one-hundred year history of Ivy Green Baptist Church the church has been blessed to have excellent church clerks who by their efforts have preserved much of the history of the church that would have been lost if not for their diligence to detail.

Unfortunately, the minutes of the first ten years of the church have been lost, but most reliable oral history and Surry Baptist Associational minutes have provided much information about those first ten years. In the one-hundred year history of Ivy Green Baptist the church has had seven church clerks. They were:

Nonnie Rosa Snow York (1904-1998) October 1916 to October 1926

Miss Lou Jarrell (1891-1984) October 1926 to October 1936

Mrs. Sidney F. (Evie) Jarrell (1895-1973) October 1936 to October 1938

Edgar (Ed) J. Smith October (1899-1972) October 1938 to October 1953

Dorothy Smith Hicks (b. 1929) October 1953 to October 1956

Robert E. Smith (1922-1994) October 1956 to October 1959

Dorothy Smith Hicks (b. 1929) October 1959 to October 2000

Treva Nichols Smith (b. 1961) October 2000 to present



**Lou Jarrell**



**Mrs. S.F. Jarrell**



**Ed Smith**



**Dorothy Hicks**



**Robert Smith**



**Treva Smith**

# CHAPTER 8

## TREASURERS OF IVY GREEN BAPTIST

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse..." Malachi 3*:10

The trustworthiness and honesty of the church treasurer is of the utmost importance. It is the responsibility of the treasurer to take the money that has been given in good faith by the members and distribute it to the places the church has designated. Ivy Green has been blessed and fortunate to have had in its one hundred year history men of the highest quality and character who have handled the money of the church with integrity and honesty.

In the church's beginnings there was not a lot of money to handle. Money was taken-up as needed to pay the pastor and whatever other expenses may have arisen. Though the church minutes reveal Lou Jarrell, the church clerk (1926-1936), wrote down where the money collected went, the deacons saw to it that the money collected was distributed and made its way to the proper destination. This was the way the money was handled until February 1940.

On February 25, 1940 the church voted that the church clerk was to act as the church treasurer. The church clerk in 1940 was Edgar (Ed) Smith (1899-1972). Having joined the church by profession of faith in 1938, he was baptized in September 1938. Mr. Smith became church clerk in October 1938 and was ordained a deacon in May 1939. In 1940 the church made him the church treasurer, a position he held until 1952.

In those early years the church may have struggled financially at times, but they were strong in faith and the Lord always met every need. The treasury balance grew low at times. On another occasion, December 12, 1942, there was only $4.00 in the account and a $6.00 light bill had to be paid. Upon taking a collection to pay the bill the minutes read there was an excess in the treasury! In June 1947 the treasury only had a balance of $10.00, but by the end of the year the balance had increased to a whopping $61.80! When the year 1949 came to an end the treasury had a balance of $20.54. Like the woman in the Bible whose meal barrel never became empty, so it has been true in the history of the Ivy Green Baptist treasury. Little is always much when God is in it.

In the history of Ivy Green five men have held the position of church treasurer. The five men are:



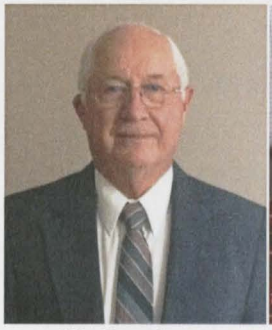
**Ed Smith**



**Charlie Fulk**



**Marlin Hicks**



**Kit Burcham**



**Danny Smith**

Ed Smith (1899-1972) February 1940 to October 1952

Charlie Fulk (1917-1989) October 1952 to October 1960

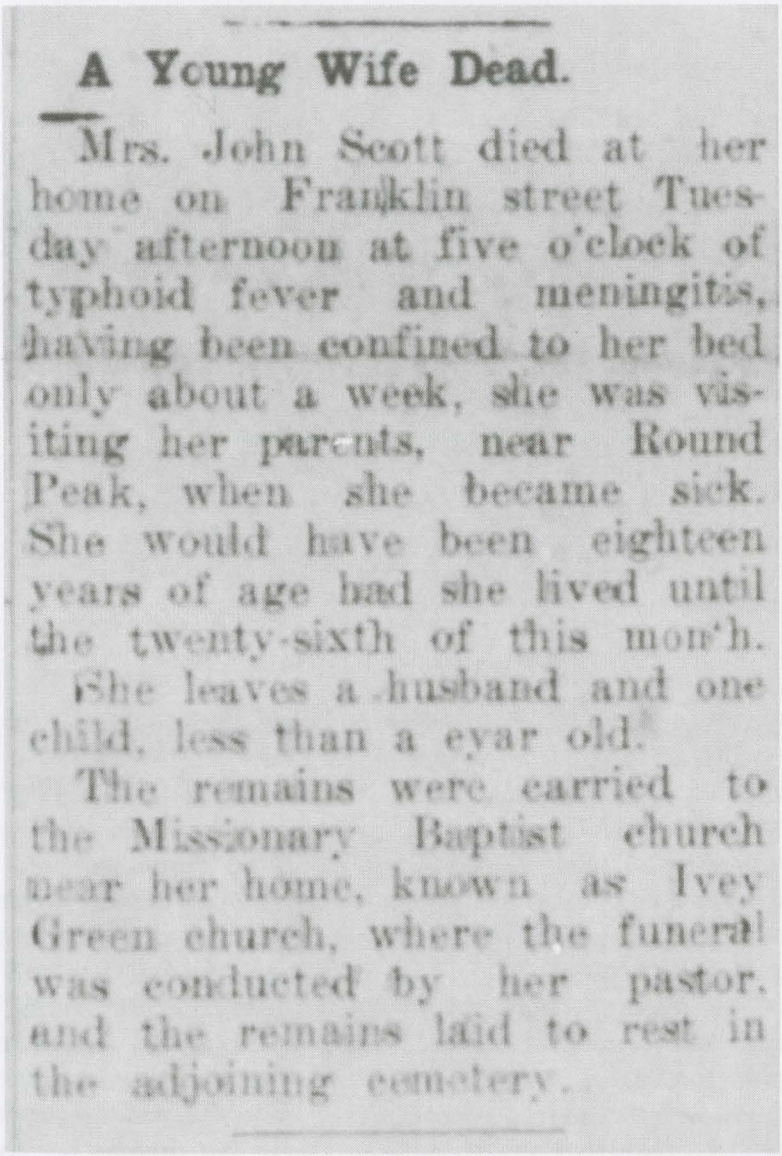
Marlin Hicks (1928-2009) October 1960 to October 1966
Marlin Hicks March 1979 to October 1981

Kit Burcham (b. 1940) October 1966 to March 1979

Danny Smith (b. 1949) October 1981 to the present

A special mention to Gaynelle Nichols who was assistant treasurer in 1981-82 and tended to the treasurer duties when Danny Smith had a tractor accident in December 1981 and upon his lengthy stay in the hospital. Upon returning home Mr. Smith resumed with faithfulness and integrity the duties of church treasurer and remains in that position as the church celebrates its centennial anniversary.

# ADDITIONAL PICTURES



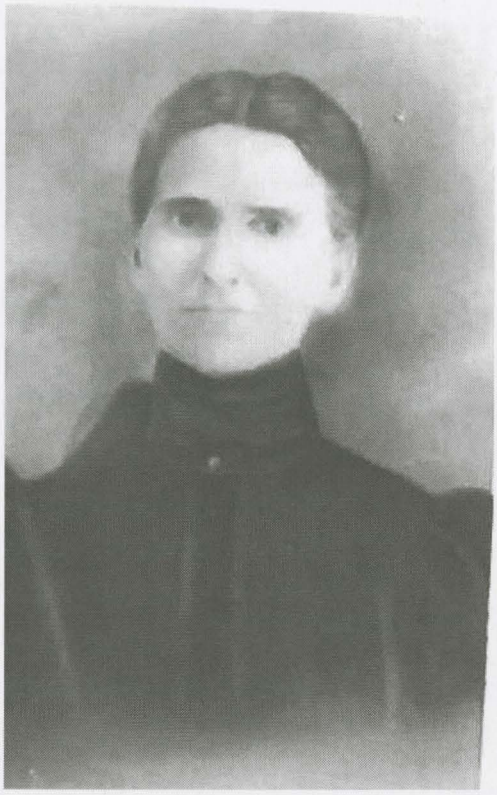
## A Young Wife Dead.

Mrs. John Scott died at her home on Franklin street Tuesday afternoon at five o'clock of typhoid fever and meningitis, having been confined to her bed only about a week, she was visiting her parents, near Round Peak, when she became sick. She would have been eighteen years of age had she lived until the twenty-sixth of this month.

She leaves a husband and one child, less than a eyar old.

The remains were carried to the Missionary Baptist church near her home, known as Ivey Green church, where the funeral was conducted by her pastor, and the remains laid to rest in the adjoining cemetery.

**Article on the first funeral held at Ivy Green from the September 11, 1913, edition of *The Mount Airy News*.**



**Laura Bennett Jarrell was born in Surry County, NC, on June 29, 1860. She married Hiram Ellis Jarrell (1859-1919) on March 21, 1881. Born in her heart was the dream to see a Missionary Baptist Church in the Round Peak Community, which became known as Ivy Green Missionary Baptist Church. A charter member of Ivy Green when it was organized on October 16, 1916, she remained a member until her death. She died of tuberculosis at age sixty-four on Tuesday, August 5, 1924, at 8:40 p.m. At the time of her death she was living with her son, Gird Jarrell on Willow Street in Mt. Airy. Her funeral was held on Thursday, August 7, 1924, at Ivy Green Baptist Church at 2 p.m. The funeral was conducted by the pastor of Ivy Green, Rev. George Washington Oakley. She was buried in the church cemetery beside her husband who had passed away in 1919. She left behind a legacy of a committed faith that sought to labor to see her dreams become a reality. Ivy Green will forever be indebted to Laura Bennett Jarrell for her foresight and faith.**



Hiram Ellis Jarrell (1859-1919)



Casper P. Stewart (1885-1945)



Richard Austin Snow (1866-1944)

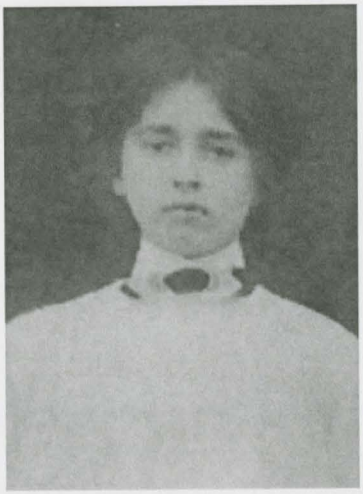


R.F. Golding (1872-1938)



Daniel B. Barker (1875-1955)

The five men on the 1913 deed listed as Trustees of Ivy Green Baptist



**Evie Jarrell Collins (1894-1973)**
**One of the charter members of Ivy Green**



**The baptism of Lou Jarrell (1891-1984). The earliest photo of an Ivy Green Baptist Church baptism held ca. 1916/17. Lou Jarrell served as Ivy Green church clerk for ten years, from 1926-1936.**



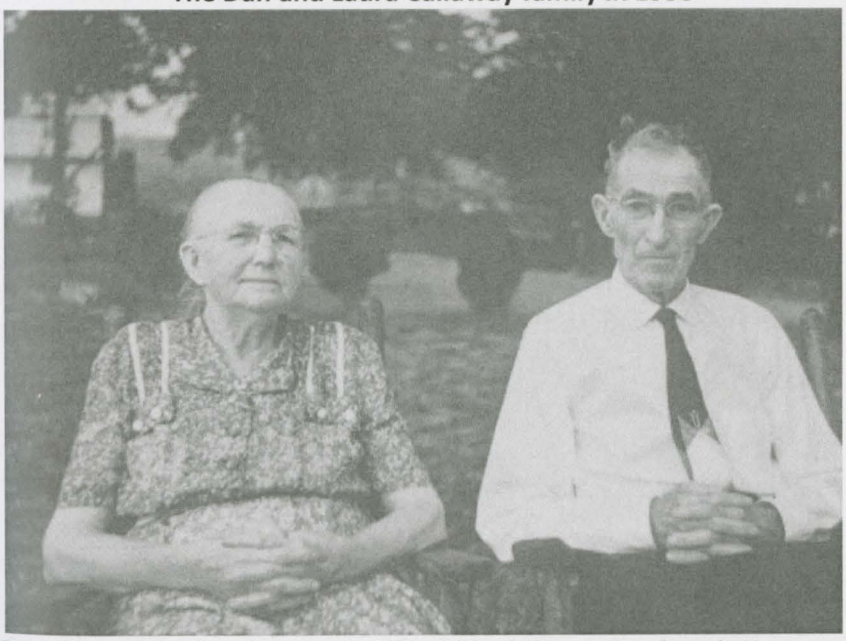
**Jane Easter Phillips (1874-1936), was the wife of the first pastor of Ivy Green, Rev. Merriman B. Phillips (1872-1958). She was born in Grayson County, VA, on November 20, 1874. She married Rev. Phillips on December 29, 1892. Settling in the Toast Community, they had seven children. Supportive of his ministry all her life, she died on October 6, 1936, at age 61. She is buried at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Phillips lived until 1958, passing away at age 86.**



**Rev. Sampson Collins (1898-1981) and Evie Jarrell Collins (1894-1973). They were the first couple married in Ivy Green Baptist Church on October 7, 1917. They met at Ivy Green where Sampson was at the church conducting a singing school and also had been a song leader for a revival being held. He taught singing schools all over the county. He served Ivy Green as a deacon, SS Superintendent, choir director, moderator, and was ordained to the ministry by the church in 1939. Evie was one of the charter members of the church. They remained members of Ivy Green until 1944 when Rev. Collins began pastoring local churches.**



**The Dan and Laura Callaway family in 1938**



**Dan (1877-1961) and Laura (1877-1966) Callaway in their latter years. Moving to the Ivy Green Community in 1919, Dan was one of the early deacons of Ivy Green Baptist and Laura beginning in 1925 made for years the unleavened bread and juice used in Communion.**

## FOUR FROM IVY GREEN WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE DURING WORLD WAR II – See Pages 50, 54-55



Osler P. Jarrell (1918-1944) Howard E. Callaway (1911-1944)



Wayford R. Stewart (1922-1944) Basil G. Stewart (1926-1945)

Thanks to Shera Hull Fulk for the photo of PFC. Jarrell. Thanks to Ethel Callaway Smith for the photo of Staff Sgt. Callaway. Photos of the Stewart brothers were taken from the actual *Mt. Airy News* articles which reported their deaths.



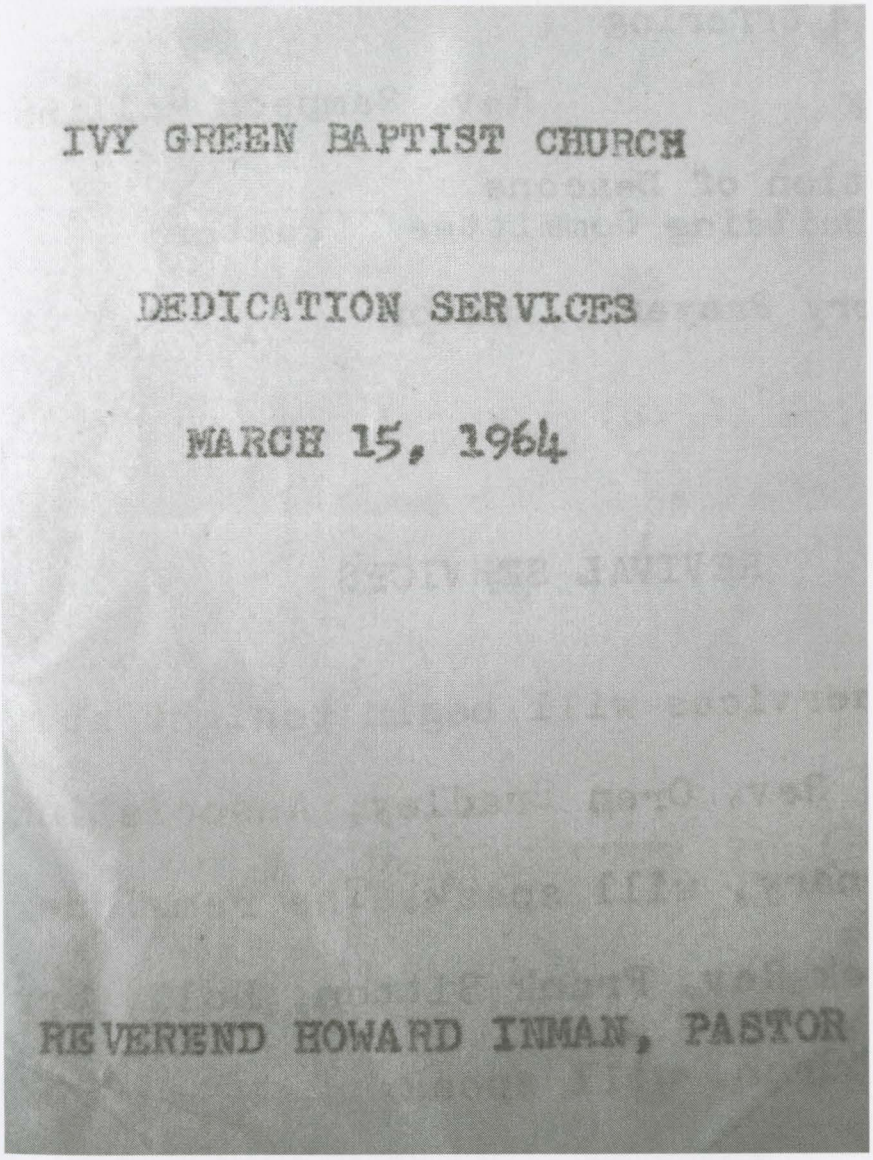
**On the left, Josie Seal (1912-2013) the church's earliest organist. On the right, Sue Bryant Haynes (b. 1960) the church organist in 2016.**



**Oran Jarrell (1923-2001) was baptized in 1938 and was ordained as a deacon of Ivy Green Baptist in 1939.**




**Ivy Green Baptist 1938**


IVY GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

DEDICATION SERVICES

MARCH 15, 1964

REVEREND HOWARD INMAN, PASTOR

**Front of March 15, 1964, bulletin for service to dedicate the new Sunday School Rooms and the remodeling. See page 83.**



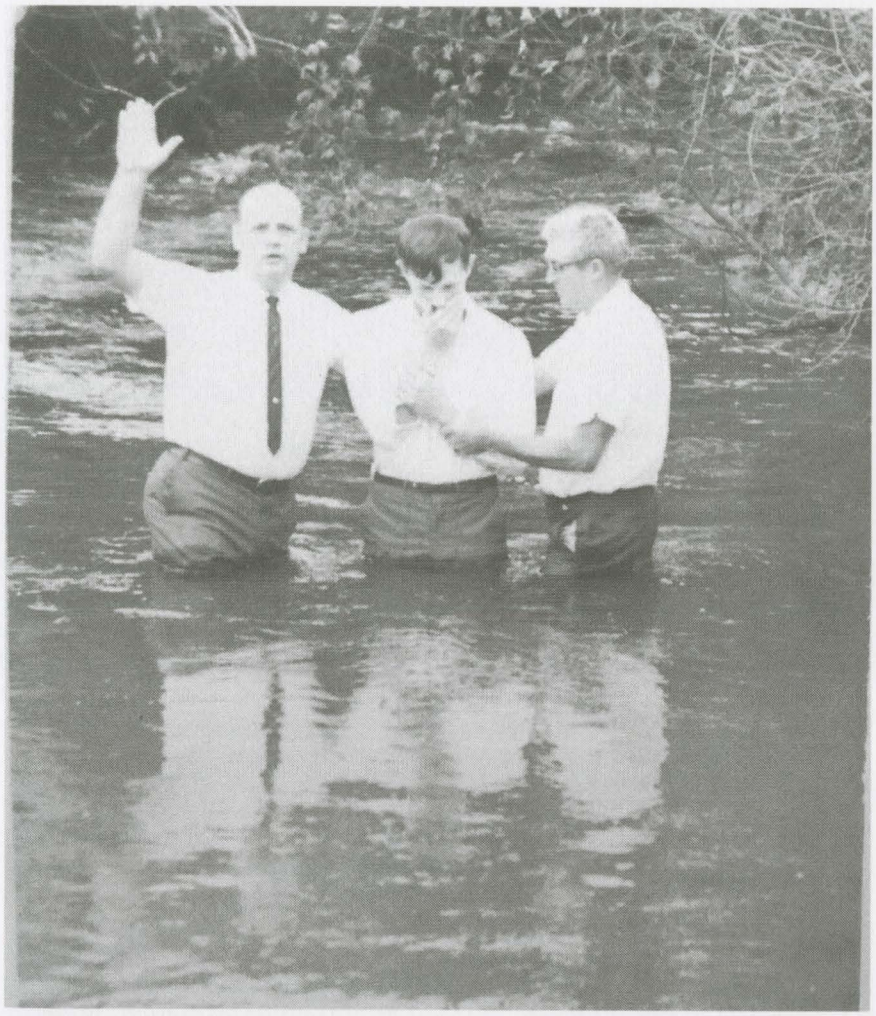
**A church "get together" at Rev. Walter Norman's Home in June 1969.**
**Photo Homer Bryant**



**The ordination of Rev. Lester Bryant to the Gospel ministry held on December 14, 1969. Photo by Homer Bryant**



**Baptism at Little Fisher River, October 1970**



**Rev. Lester Bryant and Ernest East baptizing at Little Fisher River, October 1970**
**Photo Homer Bryant**



**The Beginner and Primary classes practicing for the December 1970 Christmas play, "Why the Chimes Rang." Photo Homer Bryant**



**Christmas Play 1972 – Photo Homer Bryant**

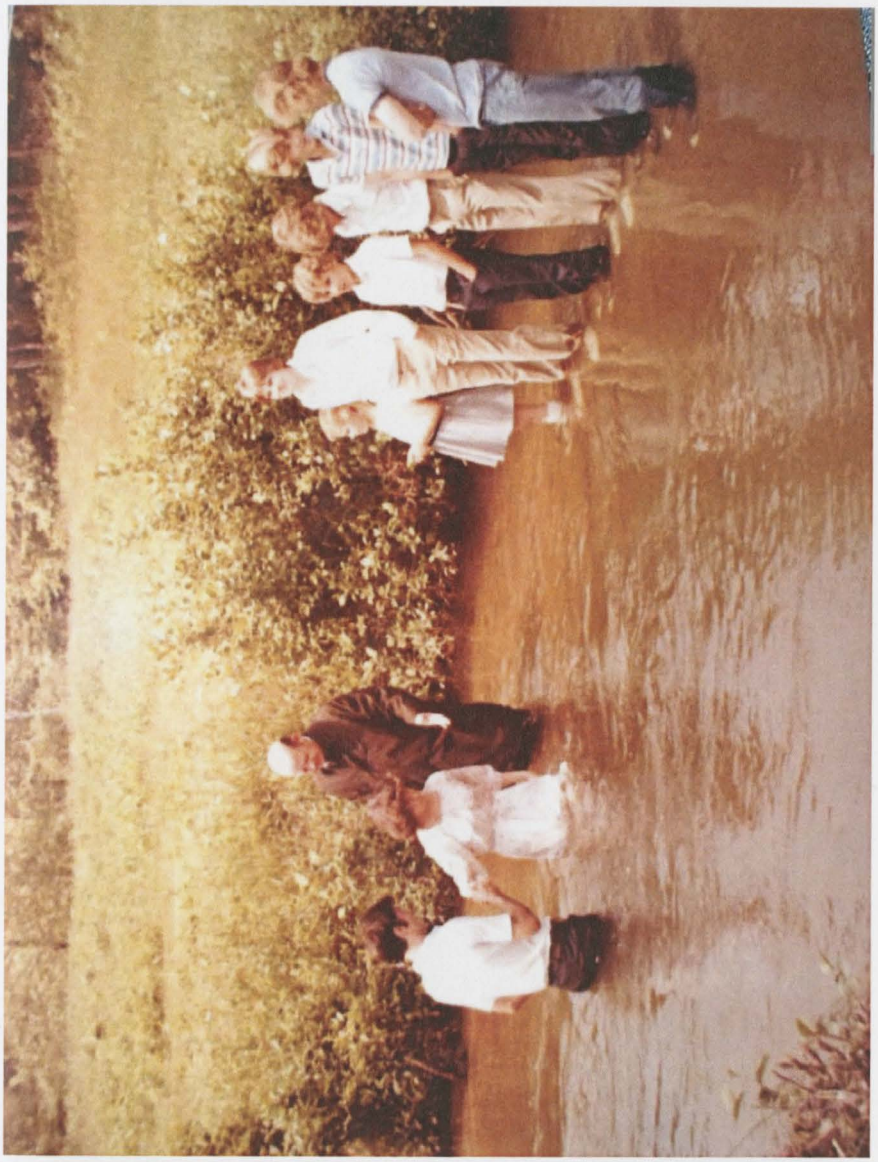


**1973 Mt. Airy Christmas Parade. Ivy Green won first place in church float category. Bobby Smith driving tractor. Photos Homer Bryant**



Members of Ivy Green Baptist Church Training Union joined in with the national Jerry Lewis muscular dystrophy telethon Sunday by presenting a $100 check in person at WXII Channel 12, Winston-Salem. The group included, left to right, Allen Hicks, Tim Bryant, Kenneth Thomas and David Burcham who is presenting the check to Art Speery of Raleigh. Martin Hicks, training union director, looks on.

From *The Mount Airy News, Wednesday, September 13, 1978*



**Rev. Lester Bryant and Steve Ameen baptizing Angie Burcham at Little Fisher River in 1979 Photo Homer Bryant**



**Chase Lowe swinging at June 1981 Ivy Green Church picnic**



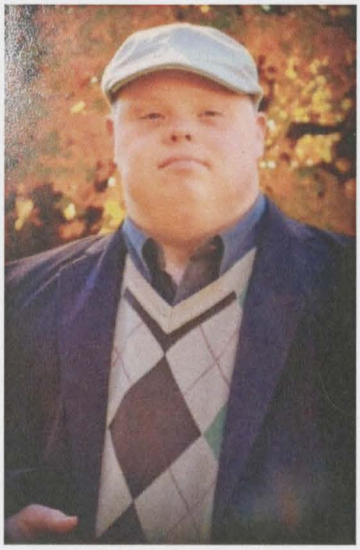
**Youth playing volleyball at June 1981 church picnic**
**Photos Homer Bryant**



**Christmas Play 1986**
**Photo Homer Bryant**



**1991 Mile of Pennies for Baptist Children's Home $844.40**



**David Carlisle baptized in 1996**



Shannon Snow

The first Hanging of the Green
in
December 1996



Kim and Van Tate



VBS 1998, on right teacher, Susan Haynes. Diane Niston, Director



VBS ca. 2001, 10-12 year olds. Teachers, Christy Williams, Sue Haynes and Donna Williams.

From the October 14, 2001, bulletin on the church's 85th anniversary

## A Day of Remembrance

As we reflect on the 85th Anniversary of Ivy Green Baptist Church, Let us stop and remember all the people who have gone before us, who established and made this Church so great. The former pastors, members and deacons who served so diligently to make this church what it is today. It is truly a great place to worship, pray, sing the songs of Zion and raise our children and grandchildren. Let us Thank God for all those loving and caring people, because without them, Ivy Green would not be here today and let us always remember how God has so graciously and richly blessed all his people at Ivy Green Baptist Church. May he continue to do so.

-Teresa Smith
2001

*May today*
*be a happy memory*
*with the promise*
*of many*
*beautiful tomorrows!*



**Lester Bryant and Steve Niston baptizing Ann Bryant, October 2001**



**Lelia Hawks Morris (1919-2001), made a profession of faith at the fruitful summer revival of 1935 where nine people were baptized August 1935 (see page 38). A faithful member, at the time of her death on October 26, 2001, she was the oldest member of Ivy Green Baptist.**



**Janet Badgett, Sheryl Burcham, Linda Burcham helping serve refresments after the 2012 Hanging of the Green.**



**November 1, 2015, sharing a meal to support Christmas Shoeboxes, with 154 shoeboxes being mailed overseas in Christmas 2015.**



**Homecoming, August 7, 2016 – The Country Boys singing**



**Homecoming, August 7, 2016 - Rev. Merritt saying the blessing before everyone enjoys a time of delicious food and delightful fellowship.**

1916—2016



JOIN US FOR THE

**IVY GREEN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

100 YEARS OF CONTINUAL WORSHIP

SPECIAL SERVICE

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016**

11:00AM—12:30PM

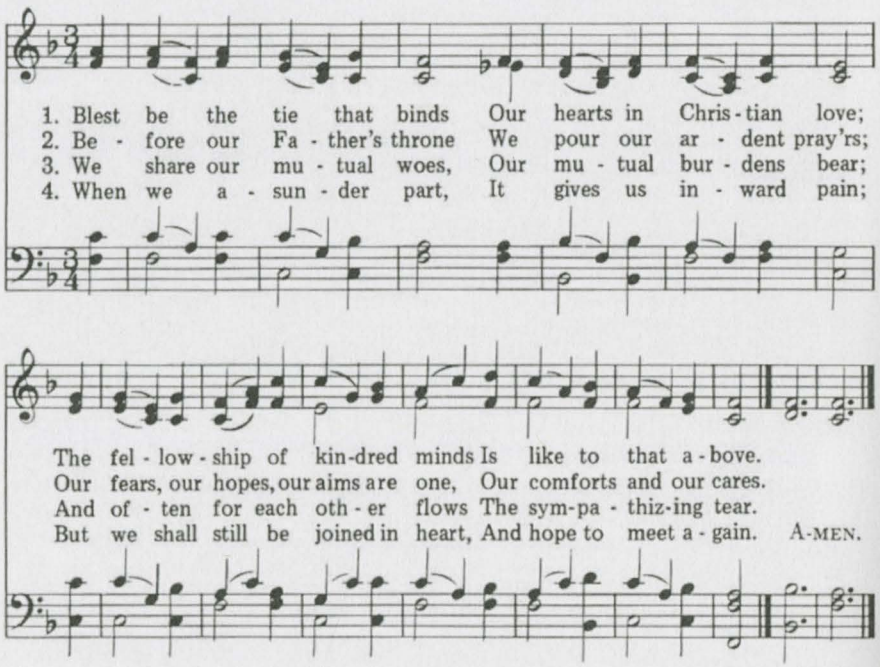
SOCIAL WILL FOLLOW AT ROUND PEAK MASONIC LODGE WITH A LIGHT LUNCH AND DISPLAY

COPIES OF REACHING HEAVENWARD: THE HISTORY OF IVY GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH 1916-2016 BY DR. DAN MERRITT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Postcard sent out inviting people to the Centennial Celebration

## *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

JOHN FAWCETT — JOHANN G. NAGELI




**A favorite song of Ivy Green Baptist sung at the end of Communion and often at the end of special services. Was sung at the end of the Centennial Celebration on October 16, 2016.**

# REFERENCES CONSULTED

Many references were consulted in the writing of *Reaching Heavenward.* The following works cited are some sources where information related to Ivy Green Baptist Church was found.


*Ancestry.com.*

Barrett, Lorna W., *Marriages of Surry County N.C. 1869-1899,* (Mt. Airy: published by the author, 1992).

Easter, Curtis. *Old Homes Places and the People who Lived There: Stewarts Creek Township Prior to 1930*. Self-Published, 2001.

*Family Folklore/Oral Tradition.*

*Findagrave.com – Ivy Green Baptist Church Cemetery*

Fleming, Becky, *The Roots and Branches of Fountain Jarrell,* Round Hill, VA, 2004.

*Fold3.com*. Great source for military records.

*Genealogybank.com*

*Historical Towns in Surry County.*
*http://yadkinvalleync.com/history-museums-surry-county-nc.php*

Interviews with Mrs. Ethel Smith and Mrs. Dorothy Hicks, whose vast wealth of knowledge of past events related to Ivy Green was invaluable.

Interviews with present members of Ivy Green Baptist.

Interview with Rev. Grover C. Holder

Ivy Green Baptist Church Minutes, 1926-2016.

Ivy Green Baptist Church Sunday School Records.

Jackson, Hester Bartlett, Editor, *The Heritage of Surry County North Carolina – Volume I,* (Hunter Publishing Company, W-S, NC, 1983).

*Newspaper.com*

*North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909-1975.*

*North Carolina Digital Collections.*
*http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/about*

Surry Baptist Associational Minutes, 1903-2016.

Surry County Genealogical Association, *A History of Surry County Churches,* (Dobson NC: SCGA, 2003) pp. 71, 199, 209-210, 262.

The Surry County Genealogical Association. *Cemetery Census.com*. http://SurryGenealogy.wordpress.com

The Surry County Historical Society.
http://www.surryhistoricalsociety.org/collection.html

*The Heritage of Surry County North Carolina – Volume II*, published by Surry Genealogical Association, 1994.

United States Census Records, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940.

Z. Smith Reynolds Library, *Biblical Recorder Digital Collection*, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC. http://recorder.zsr.wfu.edu/Default/skins/WakeforestA/client.asp?skin=WakeforestA

Z. Smith Reynolds Library, *Baptist Digital Collection*, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, Nc. https://wakespace.lib.wfu.edu/handle/10339/3

*Reaching Heavenward: The History of Ivy Green Baptist Church, 1916-2016* retraces the church's wonderful heritage. Located in the Round Peak Community in the northwest corner of Surry County, North Carolina, since October 16, 1916, Ivy Green Baptist Church has been nestled in a picturesque setting with the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains as its background. The centennial history of Ivy Green Baptist is a story of the faithfulness of the Lord and the persistent faith of His people. In reading the centennial history of Ivy Green Baptist Church the reader will discover their soul reaching heavenward to worship and give praise to the Lord for a century of His amazing grace bestowed upon a people of faith.

*Dr. Daniel Merritt* is author of Reaching Heavenward. He has been a Southern Baptist pastor since 1971. He is a graduate of Campbell University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.) and Northwestern Theological Seminary (Th.D). In addition to be being the author of six books, during his ministry he has written the history of four churches and one associational history. Several of his books have been recognized for their excellence by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the North Carolina Society of Historians. He and his wife, Shirley, live in the foothills of North Carolina.