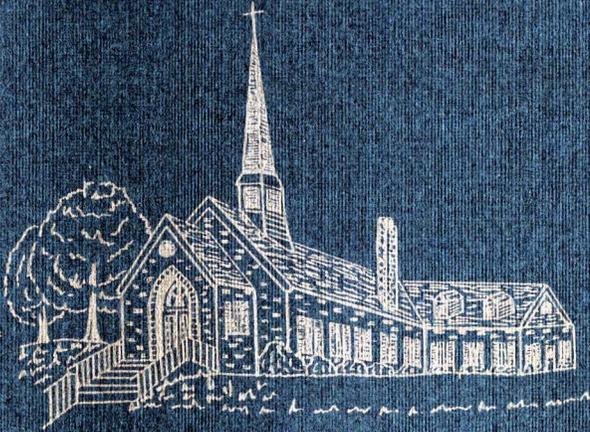




FAITH  
In The  
Foothills



Elkin Presbyterian Church  
1892 - 1992



*You are members of the household of God...  
with Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.*

*—Ephesians 2:19-20*

DEDICATED TO  
THE FUTURE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
OF ELKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**FAITH IN THE FOOTHILLS:  
ELKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(1892-1992)**

PREFACE

In 1908-9, Elkin Presbyterian was the recipient of a young church. A beautiful new facility, a growing membership, a diverse blend of ages and ages of a vibrant, healthy congregation. The mission for this book, however, remains as true as our heritage is strong. For over 100 years, this church has been a faithful witness to the surrounding area. Any attempt to record this story of faith must, by necessity, fall short of the mark. Records are incomplete. Diligent efforts have been made to select representative historical details. Verifiable data, photographs and other historical documents have been woven into the fabric of the story. The story is told in a simple, direct, and especially in the year 1908-9, the year of our centennial. The story should be considered authoritative. Our purpose is to present this story to you as it unfolds. In order to maintain a certain flow, great details are not always included. No attempt is made to follow the exact chronological order of events or to precede in their own right.

**DEDICATED TO  
THE FUTURE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
OF ELKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*May the faith found in these pages  
inspire you to greater service  
in Christ's Church.*

The history belongs to us, the members of the Elkin Presbyterian Church. We are the custodians of the historical records, as well as the spiritual and personal promises, declared ownership of this material. The story begins in 1798, the year of our birth. Before we launch into this journey, we need to express a debt of gratitude to all who made this book possible. Special appreciation is extended to Mrs. Clara Smith for her permission to use general knowledge and pictures from Elkin: A Centennial History and to Thomas Ann Tubert for her artistic assistance. Most importantly, we need to recognize and give thanks to the Author and Finisher of our faith. Together with the Father, we acknowledge the source of our strength, past, present, and future.

*I will lift up my eyes to the hills,  
From whence does my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.*

*Psalms 121:1-2*

## PREFACE

In some ways, Elkin Presbyterian has the appearance of a young church. A beautiful new facility, a growing membership, a diverse blend of ages are signs of a vibrant, healthy congregation. The occasion for this book, however, reminds us that our heritage is strong. For one hundred years, this church has been a faithful witness to the surrounding area. Any attempt to record this story of faith must, by necessity, fall short of the mark. Records are incomplete. Diligent efforts have been made to piece together the historical details. Verifiable data, church memorabilia, and oral histories have been woven into this fabric. No doubt that some mistakes in accuracy, especially in the spelling of names, are included here. Persons who have made significant contributions will be omitted, as well. Neither of these oversights should be considered intentional. Our intention has been to present this exciting journey as it unfolds. In order to maintain a narrative flow, specific details are not always presented in the strictest chronological order. No attempt is made to follow particular programs to the present. A sense of origin takes precedence in these pages

This history belongs to all who enter the doors of Elkin Presbyterian Church. Frequent use of the historical present tense, as well as occasional personal pronouns, declares ownership of this material. The story before us continues to breathe life into our church family. Before we launch into this journey, we need to express a debt of gratitude to all who made this book possible. Special appreciation is offered to Mrs. Claire Smith for her permission to use general knowledge and pictures from *Elkin: A Centennial History* and to Tommie Ann Tulbert for her artistic assistance. Most importantly, we need to recognize, and give thanks, to the Author and Finisher of our faith. Together, with the Psalmist, we acknowledge the source of our strength, past, present, and future:

*I will lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From whence does my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.*

*Psalm 121:1-2*

## History Task Group

Lewis Alexander, <i>Chairperson</i>	Nancy Dillon	Beth Garner
Mary Barbour	Barbara Fulp	Virginia Hart
Henry Dillon	Norma Grana	Kathy Mounce

## Centennial Committee

Peggy Dudley, <i>Chairperson</i>	Miner Flynt	Perry Jernigan
John Brearley	Barbara Fulp	Charlotte Kirk
Julie Faulk	Fran Greene	Jim Poindexter

— ◇ —

## OUR MISSION

- ◇ *To proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ*
- ◇ *To magnify the name of the Lord through stewardship and witness*
- ◇ *To strengthen and serve our members through worship, study, and fellowship*
- ◇ *To reach out in service to our community and world*

Again I say to you,  
if two of you agree on earth  
about anything you ask,  
it will be done for you  
by my Father in Heaven.  
For where two or three are gathered  
in my name, there am I in the midst  
of them.

— Matthew 18:19-20



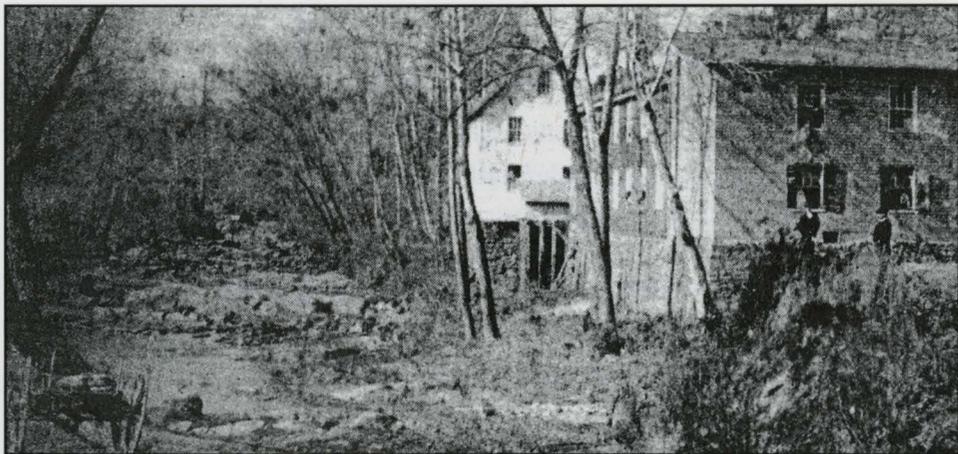
## EARLY DAYS

When on November 27, 1892, Evangelists John Rose and W. C. Alexander began a series of services on the site where the Elkin Public Library currently stands, they scarcely could have imagined the century of Presbyterian witness that would follow. Their vision of a vibrant congregation is now tangibly manifested in the rock church gracing the top of Neaves' Park. Nestled in the foothills, overlooking the banks of the Yadkin River, Elkin Presbyterian Church has faithfully ministered to the community of its humble beginnings.

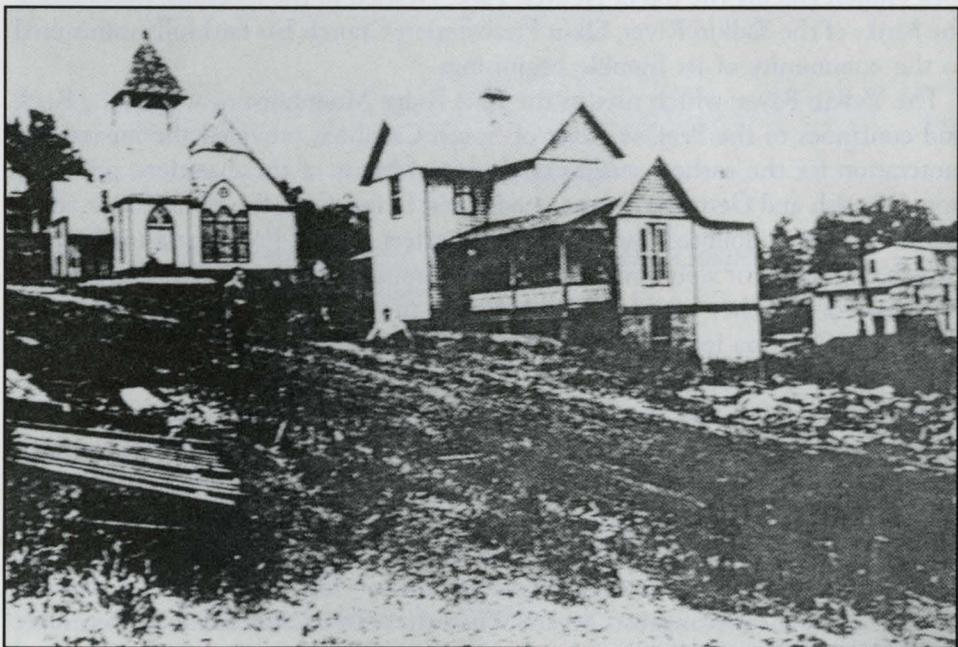
The Yadkin River, which rises in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Blowing Rock and continues to the PeeDee River of South Carolina, provided the means and motivation for the earliest settlers to this area. Many of these settlers, primarily from Scottish and German descent, made their home along Big Elkin Creek about 1752. Though undoubtedly some of these settlers were of Presbyterian influence, church development would wait until the community was further developed. The formation of churches would be closely tied to the town itself. On March 5, 1889, the North Carolina legislature approved a charter of incorporation for the town of Elkin.

Shortly thereafter, on November 27, 1892 Elkin Presbyterian Church had its modest beginning. Under the direction of the Synod of North Carolina, Evangelist Reverend John M. Rose of the Synod and Evangelist Reverend W. C. Alexander of Surry County gathered Presbyterians for the first time. Their intent was to bring together the handful of settlers belonging to this common tradition. Meeting in the Elkin Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill on Big Elkin Creek, a series of services led by these evangelists began. When the services concluded on December 6, 1892, a fledgling Presbyterian congregation was in place. Ten determined and dedicated charter members are listed in the original historical records:

John E. Hester	Miss Janie Woodruff
Mrs. Ruth P. Hester	Mrs. H. F. Boney
Mrs. Sarah Dougherty	Mrs. Sue B. Boney
Miss Racinda Dougherty	Mrs. Elizabeth Griffith
Mrs. Nannie A. Click	Mrs. S. J. Bodenheimer



Elkin Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill on Big Elkin Creek, c. 1870.  
*(photo used with permission)*



Presbyterian Church, with belfry in place, dated 1896. This intersection of Market and Church Streets is now a municipal parking lot.  
*(photo used with permission)*

The group was sixteen strong by the end of the year. Reverend W. C. Alexander was left in charge of this small flock until February of 1893, when the congregation was assigned to the Winston-Salem Mission Work, under the leadership of Reverend C. W. Robinson. The business of electing officers was postponed since there were not enough men to fill the positions. Within four years, the situation had changed and the election became possible. The first congregational meeting of Elkin Presbyterian Church was held on January 17, 1897 for this purpose. John H. Ball (the father of Miss Ned Ball and great-grandfather of Mrs. Carrie Kirkman) and Hanson F. Boney were elected elders. Thomas L. Greene and Joseph M. Chatham (cousin of Alex Chatham, Sr.) were elected deacons. These men were installed the following month.

### BUILDING A CHURCH

One of the earliest challenges to confront the small congregation was the need to build its first home. The Surry County Registry records a deed in Record Book 30 on page 57 which grants title to the Church's first tract of land. This property, located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Market Street and Church Street, was anonymously given and transferred from Elkin Land Company to T. L. Greene and A. F. Boney, Trustees of Elkin Presbyterian Church. This lot is now a municipal parking lot adjacent to the Masonic Lodge.

Between 1895 and 1897, the construction of a small, white clapboard church was completed. With a membership of twenty-two communicants, the church raised funds of \$860.60 for this undertaking. In addition, they were able to pay their pastor an annual salary of \$90. This A-frame building contained only a sanctuary, with a seating capacity for 160 people. There were no separate rooms for Sunday School classes, choir rehearsals, office needs, or rest room facilities. Spartan in appearance, this church building did not cater to the comforts of its parishioners. Hard pews (without cushions!) and uncomfortable temperatures were the order of the day. During the cold winters, the only source of heat was a wood stove. The first person to arrive for Sunday services was responsible for starting the "furnace." This source of heat was insufficient. Lucille Norman, a long-standing member, voices the sentiment of the congregation by recalling those "miserable pews and potbellied stove."

### MEETING BASIC NEEDS

In no way did this discomfort damage the spirit of the church. Reverend C. W. Robinson, who had pastored the congregation since its organization, continued to provide strong leadership. Described as a kind, gentle person, beloved by all, Mr. Robinson supplied the basic needs of the church. While serving as the full-time pastor of the Wilkesboro Church, he preached every fifth Sunday and one Thursday night a month in Elkin. This arrangement with Mr. Robinson continued

The organization of The Elkin Church.

Nov 27, 1892  
Dec 6, 1892

Rev. Jas. M. Rose, General Evangelist of the Synod of North Carolina assisted by Rev. W. E. Alexander, Synod Evangelist for Swain County, began a series of services at Elkin Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 1892. These services continued through Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 92.

A Church was organized consisting of the following persons:

Colen E. Nester, Mrs. Ruth P. Nester,  
Mrs. Elizabeth Griffith, Mrs. Annie A. Click,  
Mr. S. F. Boney, Mrs. Sue B. Boney, Miss Sarah Dougherty, Miss Rebecca Dougherty,  
Mrs. S. J. Bodenhammer, Miss Janie Bodding.

The election of officers was postponed to some future time.

Rev. W. E. Alexander took charge of the work under Synod's direction until Feb 898 at which time, an account of great inconvenience & loss of time to Bro. Alexander in reaching the appointment it was transferred to the care of Rev. C. W. Robinson & grouped with the Princeton mission work.

Rev. C. W. Robinson held regular monthly services with this people and the work well in hand. Continued services for several days had resulted into full membership by letter Mr. T. L. Green & on profession of faith Mrs. T. L. Green.

Another continued series of services were

Earliest records, dated November 27, 1892, reflect the organization of Elkin Presbyterian Church. Charter members are listed.

until 1921. In the years to come, this dedicated minister would offer his services to the church on several occasions when the church was without a pastor.

During Reverend Robinson's tenure, music and Christian education became vital parts of the life of the church. Although worship services did not occur every week, "Sabbath School," as it was often called, did! *The Elkin Times*, reporting news at the end of the century, stated that "a Sunday School was organized at the Presbyterian Church last Sunday morning." This April 16, 1896, article listed the following Sunday School officers: J. H. Ball (assistant superintendent), T. L. Green (Secretary and Treasurer), Mrs. K. F. Noel and Mrs. J. H. Ball (teachers). Two Sunday School classes met faithfully, one for children and one for adults. At times during these early years, Sunday School enrollment and attendance was greater than actual church membership. As many as forty people attended. Members of the Sunday School program made significant financial contributions. The Secretary's Book of 1898 reported that many of those who attended Sunday School were given mite boxes (See Appendix).

## ORIGINAL FIXTURES

An integral part of all Sunday activities was the expression of praise in song. Upon entering the center aisle of the church, people immediately noticed the beautiful Beckwith pump organ standing to the right of the pulpit. Built in 1909 and given by a charter member, Mrs. Nannie Alexander Click (mother of artist Harold Click and grandmother of Nancy Dillon), this organ served the church until the mid-nineteen thirties. Some years later, this antique was restored by Henry and Nancy Dillon, and it still is displayed in the Elkin Presbyterian Church on Hillcrest Drive. This organ will be played as part of the Centennial festivities.

Another fixture that dates back to the turn of the century is the steel alloy church bell, manufactured in 1897 by C. S. Bell Company in Hillsborough, Ohio. The massive forty-inch bell was hoisted into place in the belfry; a feat requiring great effort, most likely including the strength of several horses. In the mid-nineteen twenties, Reverend Joe Carter and members stood together in the narthex under the belfry ringing in the services. The bell, which had no clapper, was rung by pulling on a long rope dangling from the belfry. Later, the church bell was removed from the Market Street Church and transported to the new church site on the corner of Bridge and Spring Streets. There it remained until 1955 when new chimes were presented in memory of the deceased Reverend Ralph Ritchie. Sometime between 1936 and 1955 the bell carriage became cracked, and the bell no longer sounded. For the next thirteen years, the bell found a home at Camp Albert Butler.

Carl Peters, a church member, was head of the Gilvin Roth YMCA which sponsored Camp Albert Butler. He repaired the broken bell and later returned it upon the closing of the camp. The bell was mounted on a cement pad adjacent to the old stairsteps between the church and the church house on Spring and Bridge Streets. There it was chained and locked and rarely rung, except by mischievous children

The organization of the Elkin Church.

Nov 27, 1892

Dec 6, 1892

Rev. Geo. M. Rose, General Evangelist of the Synod of North Carolina assisted by Rev. W. C. Alexander, General Evangelist for Surry County, began a series of services at Elkin Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 1892. These services continued through Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 1892.

A church was organized consisting of the following persons:

- Colen E. Hester, Mrs. Ruth A. Hester,
- Mrs. Elizabeth Griffith, Mrs. Annie A. Click,
- Mr. A. F. Boney, Mrs. Luc B. Boney, Miss Sarah Dougherty, Miss Rosinda Dougherty,
- Mrs. A. J. Bodenhammer, Miss Jane Gooding.

The election of officers was postponed to some future time.

Rev. W. C. Alexander took charge of the work under Synod's direction, until Feb 1898 at which time, an account of great inconvenience & loss of time to Bro. Alexander in reaching the appointment it was transferred to the care of Rev. C. H. Robinson & grouped with the Hinton mission work.

Rev. C. H. Robinson held regular monthly services with two people and the last work in Mass continued services for several days and swung into full membership by letter Mr. T. L. Green & on profession of faith Mrs. T. L. Green.

Earliest records, dated November 27, 1892, reflect the organization of Elkin Presbyterian Church. Charter members are listed.

until 1921. In the years to come, this dedicated minister would offer his services to the church on several occasions when the church was without a pastor.

During Reverend Robinson's tenure, music and Christian education became vital parts of the life of the church. Although worship services did not occur every week, "Sabbath School," as it was often called, did! *The Elkin Times*, reporting news at the end of the century, stated that "a Sunday School was organized at the Presbyterian Church last Sunday morning." This April 16, 1896, article listed the following Sunday School officers: J. H. Ball (assistant superintendent), T. L. Green (Secretary and Treasurer), Mrs. K. F. Noel and Mrs. J. H. Ball (teachers). Two Sunday School classes met faithfully, one for children and one for adults. At times during these early years, Sunday School enrollment and attendance was greater than actual church membership. As many as forty people attended. Members of the Sunday School program made significant financial contributions. The Secretary's Book of 1898 reported that many of those who attended Sunday School were given mite boxes (See Appendix).

ORIGINAL FIXTURES

An integral part of all Sunday activities was the expression of praise in song. Upon entering the center aisle of the church, people immediately noticed the beautiful Beckwith pump organ standing to the right of the pulpit. Built in 1909 and given by a charter member, Mrs. Nannie Alexander Click (mother of artist Harold Click and grandmother of Nancy Dillon), this organ served the church until the mid-nineteen thirties. Some years later, this antique was restored by Henry and Nancy Dillon, and it still is displayed in the Elkin Presbyterian Church on Hillcrest Drive. This organ will be played as part of the Centennial festivities.

Another fixture that dates back to the turn of the century is the steel alloy church bell, manufactured in 1897 by C. S. Bell Company in Hillsborough, Ohio. The massive forty-inch bell was hoisted into place in the belfry; a feat requiring great effort, most likely including the strength of several horses. In the mid-nineteen twenties, Reverend Joe Carter and members stood together in the narthex under the belfry ringing in the services. The bell, which had no clapper, was rung by pulling on a long rope dangling from the belfry. Later, the church bell was removed from the Market Street Church and transported to the new church site on the corner of Bridge and Spring Streets. There it remained until 1955 when new chimes were presented in memory of the deceased Reverend Ralph Ritchie. Sometime between 1936 and 1955 the bell carriage became cracked, and the bell no longer sounded. For the next thirteen years, the bell found a home at Camp Albert Butler.

Carl Peters, a church member, was head of the Gilvin Roth YMCA which sponsored Camp Albert Butler. He repaired the broken bell and later returned it upon the closing of the camp. The bell was mounted on a cement pad adjacent to the old stairs between the church and the church house on Spring and Bridge Streets. There it was chained and locked and rarely rung, except by mischievous children



### CHERISHED TREASURES

*Above:* Well-traveled Church Bell, 1897, will ring in the Centennial Celebration.

*Below:* Fran Greene makes music on the Church's first organ, a Beckwith pump, built in 1909.



who delighted in banging it with rocks and bricks. Like the Beckwith organ, the bell is still with us today. On November 22, 1992, Seth Blackley, a teenage member of the congregation, will ring this historical bell to begin the Centennial worship service. Plans are underway for an appropriate tower to house this well-traveled and cherished piece of our history.

### OVERCOMING ALL ODDS

The early years of the church were filled with joyful sounds despite difficult odds. During these years, the small congregation, ranging in number from twenty to thirty, hoped for a bright future. They were able to erect a manse on a site already owned by the church. Rarely was this manse occupied, for the church was not able to afford a full-time minister. Church records show that "in 1919, the church membership had declined to 13, but they had a good financial report: \$45 to foreign missions and \$150 for the minister's salary out of a total of \$572 in the church fund."

Soon afterwards, the congregation decided to unite with the Wilkesboro Church to call a minister who would divide his time equally between the two churches. On April 12, 1921, the Reverend W. T. Pearson was approved and received by Winston-Salem Presbytery. The agreement between church and pastor stipulated that he would preach every second and fourth "Sabbath" morning and every Sunday evening. Plans were also made to try a weekly prayer and study class on Thursday nights. During Reverend Pearson's short tenure, the need for additional church leadership required the election of a third deacon. At the same time, church members expressed themselves as being earnestly willing to use all their power to strengthen the church and uphold the hands of their pastor.

The transition from this minister to the next left the same working arrangements in tact. The official minutes of the church record the terms of the call extended to Reverend J. H. Carter during the congregational meeting on October 14, 1923:

The Church of Elkin being on sufficient grounds well satisfied of the ministerial qualifications of you, Rev. J. H. Carter, and having good hopes from our past experiences of your labors, that your ministrations in the gospel will be profitable to our spiritual interests, do earnestly call you to undertake the pastoral office in said congregation, promising you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord and that you may be free from worldly cares and avocations. We hereby promise and align ourselves to pay you the sum of \$1200.00 in regular monthly payments during the time of your being and continuing the regular pastor of the church.

As part of his service to the larger community, Reverend Carter served as a trustee of Davidson College.

Despite its small membership, the Market Street Church hosted the Spring Meeting of the Winston-Salem Presbytery in 1925. After a full morning of business and reports, the Ladies of the Church (the predecessor to today's Presbyterian

Membership		15	
		#	
Elders	2	Baptisms (Adult)	2
Deacons	2		
Add. on Profession	2	Bapt. non Conv.	4
Communicants on Roll	21	Children in S. School	30
Collections		\$	
Pres. N. Missions	\$ 2 90	Pres. Ass. Fund	2 00
Synd. . . . .	1 00	Pastor's Sal. paid	72 50
Assembly . . . .	1 32	Congregational	5 00
Int. Missions	7 37	Total	\$79 50
Inval. Fund	1 37	Salary promised	100 00
Educ. for Ministry	2 06		
Ch. & Chris. Ed.	3 78		
Bible Cause	1 25		
Total	\$21 05		
Last Yr	23 77		
Decrease	2 72		
John H. Ball CLK			

Original Minute Book marks membership and collections, April 8, 1900.

Women) served dinner to the members of Presbytery. After dinner, the Kiwanis Club entertained all who attended the meeting with a trip to Roaring Gap.

Being a fledgling church in an established community was indeed a challenge. Small accomplishments during these years were the result of great effort. This time was later described as a period in which "bravely, the little band carried on. . ." Death and removal continually depleted the number of the membership, and to replace these losses with new members was very difficult. Close on either side were strong churches of other denominations, with handsome buildings, numerous memberships, services every Sunday and flourishing Sunday Schools. The little Presbyterian group with its single service per month could hardly be expected to stand firm in the midst of such strong attractions. Naturally the children and young folks joined other Sunday Schools and churches, or were married into other denominations, until a large percentage of Presbyterians were included on the rolls of other churches.

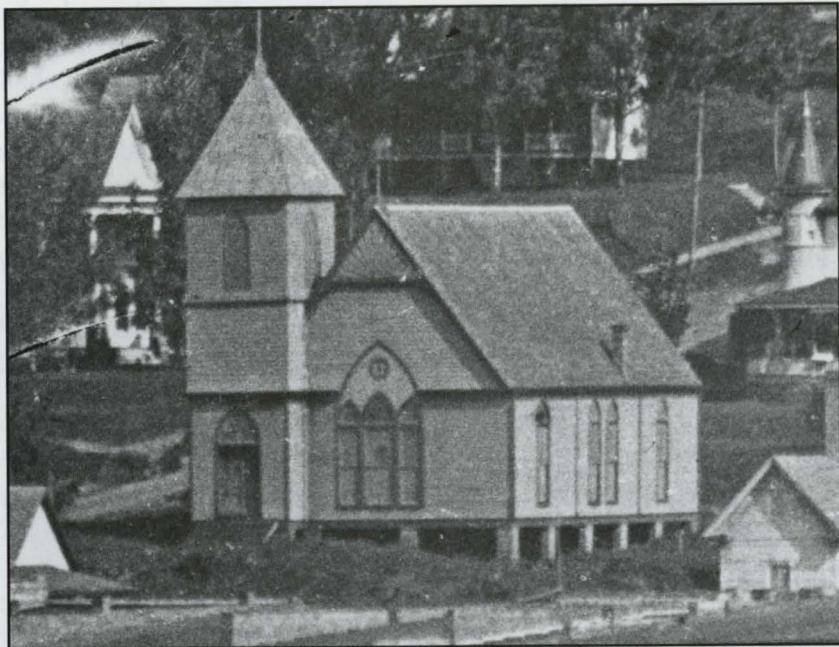
A sign of the times is noted in the brief period in which the church owned its first manse. Records indicate that the manse was located on the east side of Gwyn Avenue approximately one-half way between Market and Spring Streets. Church officers used the manse as a meeting place, but the house was rarely occupied by a minister. Most of the ministers of this period lived in other communities, notably Wilkesboro, while serving Elkin Presbyterian on a part-time basis. Harsh realities hit close to home when the congregation was forced to sell the manse property in 1926. The church itself came close to closing its doors. Long-standing members remember these inactive days when the church building stood empty and idle. The Presbyterian witness in this community lay dormant.

Life changed not only for the members of the congregation but for the whole community. The effects of the Great Depression of 1929 were taking their toll on Elkin. The local economy reached a crisis level during the ensuing months. The bank closed, families applied for relief assistance, and scrip became the currency. In the midst of this turmoil, Chatham Manufacturing Company made critical adjustments. The Town of Elkin would survive. *The Tribune*, writing in 1932, captures this spirit in this bold headline:

**FULL STEAM AHEAD,  
DAMN THE TORPEDOES!**

Whining and Folded Hands Will Get Us Nowhere. We Must have  
Faith in Ourselves, Faith in Our Fellow Man, Faith in Our  
Community and in Our Government. And Hope! Other  
and Worse Depressions have Ended! This One Will!

Businesses in Elkin supported the wages and work hours specified by President Roosevelt's National Recovery Act. The Town was on its way to recovery.



Exterior view of Market Street Church, near the turn of the century.



Interior view of Market Street Church, shortly after being sold to Pilgrim Holiness Church, c. 1936.

## AT THE CROSSROADS

Elkin Presbyterian now faced its most critical time of decision. The church stood at a crossroads. As the town's economy revived, the congregation had to look within to answer the question of its future. Would its members commit themselves to reorganization, or would they choose to disband? The early inclination was to terminate its mission to serve Christ in this community. A petition was circulated in May of 1934, requesting that the Elkin Presbyterian Church be dissolved. Shortly thereafter, a congregational meeting was called by Reverend W. I. Howell, Superintendent of Home Missions for Winston-Salem Presbytery. All members, with the exception of Mrs. William R. Wellborn, Bessie Lee Wellborn, and Bill Wellborn, Jr., signed their intent to disband. These three members of the Wellborn family were never contacted about the petition. Three other members who had originally signed later had their names stricken. Mrs. W. J. Snow, her daughter Miss Lucille Snow, and Mrs. Emma Ball, did not want the church to close its doors, after all. Having contacted Reverend C. W. Robinson for his advice, Mrs. William R. Wellborn protested the congregational meeting on the grounds that its purpose was not clearly stated. Reverend Howell rose to call the meeting to order and announced that a "legal" meeting would be rescheduled two weeks hence. All the Presbyterians in the Elkin community were invited to attend this pivotal meeting.

The meeting began with Reverend Howell stating that the purpose was to dissolve the Elkin Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Wellborn then asked to be recognized and requested that Roy J. Barker read the petition and the signers. Much discussion followed, for and against the petition. Mr. Van Dillon, who was not a member at the time, was granted permission of the floor. Rising to speak, he questioned the need for the dissolution. The impassioned plea, however, came from Mrs. Wellborn. Her determined belief inspired others to rethink their positions. When the vote was taken, the motion carried to continue as a church and to strive to increase its Christian witness. This handful of dedicated persons was instrumental in saving the church.

With the reestablishment of the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Reverend Robert E. McAlpine offered his experienced leadership. Having served as one of the first two Presbyterian missionaries to Japan, Rev. McAlpine retired in Winston-Salem after 45 years on the mission field. He came faithfully every Sunday, by train, to conduct the morning and evening services. This practice continued for several months. A call was then extended to a young seminary student who would also work in the area of missions. W. P. Boyle, receiving his call through Home Missions of Winston-Salem Presbytery, would serve the Elkin Church for two years.

## A CHANGE IN EVENTS

Near the end of Reverend Boyle's brief tenure, in March of 1936, a most fortuitous proposition occurred. The Pilgrim Holiness Church (currently the Calvary Wesleyan Church) offered the following proposal:



Market Street Church (1930's) as it stood on the corner.



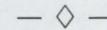
Bridge Street Church (1940's) with educational wing attached;  
other additions to follow.

The Pilgrim Holiness Church of Elkin, North Carolina proposes to trade their vacant lot (115' x 160') located on Bridge and Spring Streets plus One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) as "boot" for the Presbyterian Church and lot located on the corner of Market and Church Streets being 100' x 70'. The Presbyterian Congregation is to have all furnishings of the church (present) including Church Bell, except Pulpit Stand and Pews.

This proposition was discussed at length during a congregational meeting. Unable to reach a clear decision, the meeting was adjourned until the following Wednesday. This "adjournment session" was noted for its "heated" discussion (as quoted and marked in the original minutes). The congregation voted 13 to 6 in favor of trading the present church and church lot for a lot on Bridge and Springs Streets plus \$1000.00. Mr. Biddix and Mr. Hock were elected as trustees.

This decision was made possible, in part, because the Market Street Church was in disrepair. The condition of the building was such that within a year's time, the Pilgrim Church would make significant renovations. Hard times had prohibited the necessary maintenance required for the structure. Members recall weddings being dampened by rain coming through the ceiling. Apparently, the building was barely habitable. In fact, the congregation had begun to meet in the Lyric Theatre downtown. Tom and Bill Roth built the theatre and leased it to Lewie Mitchell, who was Presbyterian. Services were held every Sunday morning with Reverend McAlpine again leading worship. One interesting story from these days is recounted by Mrs. Mabel Leeper. On a particular Sunday morning, the minister was preaching on the Ten Commandments. An unusually small congregation of three persons gathered. Mrs. Poplin, who played the piano, Mrs. Ball, and Mrs. Leeper were surprised to hear the message of the morning, a full-length sermon on the commandment not to commit adultery. The ladies left the service a little bemused.

Elkin Presbyterian Church continued to meet in the Lyric Theatre following the sale of the Market Street Church. In this transition time from one building to the next, the church was without a home. Strangely enough, history would later repeat itself.





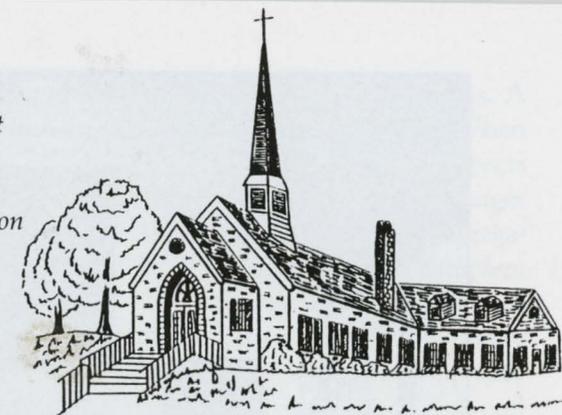
1939 Sunday School group photograph taken outside the education building on Spring Street.  
(Picture donated by Mrs. Dan Barbour)



Sunday School class in the 1960's.  
This class met in the upstairs Fellowship Room.

*And the people sang, praising and giving thanks to God for his steadfast love. And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.*

— Ezra 3:11



### A BRIGHTER DAY

On September 5, 1937, Elkin Presbyterian Church had its new beginning. Seeing this clear and sunny morning as a gift from God, the congregation moved into its new brick home on the corner of Bridge and Spring Streets. The entire Town of Elkin was invited to the Service of Dedication. As a large assembly of members and visitors gathered to offer "to God our beautiful new House of Worship," a song of praise filled the new sanctuary. As the service progressed, messages and telegrams from well-wishers were read. The current minister, Reverend R. E. McAlpine, a previous minister, Reverend C. W. Robinson, and a representative from the Winston-Salem Presbytery, Reverend J. W. McFall, led the congregation in a service marked by many emotions. They were grateful for an attractive place in which to worship, and they were confident that the future would be brighter. As reflected in the order of service, Elkin Presbyterian gave thanks to God for his guidance:

#### SERVICE OF DEDICATION

1. Hymn Number 6 from Psalms and Hymns
2. Invocation by Presiding Minister, R. E. McAlpine
3. Hymn Number 570
4. Report of Building Committee by Chair, Dr. W. R. Wellborn
5. Prayer of Dedication by Rev. C. W. Robinson
6. Announcements, Offering, and Prayer
7. Scripture Reading by Rev. J. W. McFall
8. Sermon by Rev. J. W. McFall
9. Messages of Greeting from Friends present and by letter
10. Hymn Number 606
11. Prayer and Benediction by J. W. McFall

The new church building had become a reality only through the labors of many individuals. In fact, a long-standing member of the church recalls that everyone in the church was active on the building committee! Since there was not a separate building campaign fund, capital for the construction of the church came directly from the offering or through designated gifts. The W. H. Belk family of Charlotte, devoted and generous Presbyterians, contributed the bricks for the building.



**INTERIOR OF BRIDGE STREET CHURCH**

*Above:* Earlier view of sanctuary features "The Good Shepherd" by local artist Harold Click.

*Below:* Later decor shows several changes, including the wooden cross behind the pulpit.



The move from Market Street to Bridge Street was not filled with regrets. A few months before moving into the church, Reverend McAlpine had said, "When the nice brick house of worship shall be dedicated, we hope for better prospects and growth." This wish soon became a reality. The new church, while not larger than its predecessor in size, helped to bring back hope and life to the congregation. The congregation, delighted with its new facility, worked hard to complete the church inside and outside. Until enough pews to fill the sanctuary were donated by members of the community, the congregation used theatre seats as chairs. These were the same seats they had used while the Lyric Theatre was their temporary home. Within the span of one year, furnishings had been selected, purchased, and installed for the sanctuary and the classroom located behind the pulpit. The lawn also was graded and landscaped the first year. The men and women of the church had a informal agreement. The ladies would decorate the inside while the men labored outdoors. And never the twain shall meet!!

Persons from the community were soon attracted to the energetic fellowship and mission of Elkin Presbyterian, and membership began to grow once more. During the first two years at the new site, the church sought spiritual renewal through special meetings and a week-long revival. Individuals and families began to join the church on Sunday mornings and during special services. Many adults and children returned to the church on Sunday afternoons for Sunday School.

**STARTING NEW PROGRAMS**

The next two decades would be a time of slow, yet steady, growth. Soon after construction was completed, the church began laying the foundation for many new programs. For the first time, we begin to recognize many of the programs which are with us today. Familiar names of people, as well, begin to leap off the page at every turn. The following list of Sunday School Officers sets the stage for a renewed emphasis in Christian Education:

*Sunday School Officers of 1943-1944*

- General Superintendent ..... V. W. Dillon, Sr.
- Assistant Superintendent..... Hoke Henderson
- Secretary and Treasurer ..... O. D. Causey
- Supt. Young People's Dept. .... Mrs. O. T. Blackburn
- Supt. Cradle Roll ..... Mrs. Hoke Henderson

Brief notes on the same page mention a "new-comer," a Mrs. Harry Hensel, who had just begun teaching the Junior Boys and Girls Class. Little did she know that her position would become permanent, or so it seemed! Today, Mrs. Hensel recalls fondly her many years spent teaching these children about faith in Jesus Christ. A special smile comes to her face as she reminisces. Mrs. Frances Hensel can still hear the voices of these little children. The youngest of them, unable to pronounce her name, would raise their hands and ask, "Mrs. Pencil...?" No disrespect was intended, nor taken!



### TWO IMPORTANT DEDICATIONS

*Above:* Dedication of the electric chimes, the vestibule, and the steeple given in memory of Reverend Ralph Ritchie (1945-until his death in 1952). Present at the February 13, 1955 dedication are: (left to right) Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Ritchie, Mrs. Ralph Ritchie, Jimmy and Peggy Ritchie, Reverend Sam Burgess, and Reverend O. V. Caudill.

*Below:* Dedication Day Worship Service held on April 22, 1990. Leading us in worship were the Reverends Sam Burgess (1952-1955), William Brown (1965-1988), John Brearley (1989-present), and Leighton McKeithen (1961-1964).



Vacation Bible Schools and Rally Days were now firmly in place. Over 50 years later, both of these activities are still an integral part of our summer program. During this time of growth, fellowship groups were becoming more popular, and more important. The church organized a fellowship for teenagers, and many positive activities were enjoyed. With the help of numerous volunteers, these young people learned to relate the Christian life to their personal lives. Today, they look back with appreciation to the efforts of adult friends, such as Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sale, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Neaves, and Mr. and Mrs. Manual Holthouser. This tradition of strong youth advisors continues to the present. As a group, these young people would lead entire worship services, on occasion. As outstanding individuals, they would assume leadership roles in presbytery and community organizations. Polly Price, Youth President, represented Elkin at the Synod's Youth Fellowship conference at Flora MacDonald College; Betty Lou Wall was elected Secretary of the Presbytery Youth Council; and, Edna Dillon served as President of the Inter-Denominational Council of Jonesville and Elkin. These youth found role models in outstanding adult leaders. Hoke Henderson, a lay representative to the General Assembly, and Reverend Ritchie, a moderator of Winston-Salem Presbytery, served as positive examples.

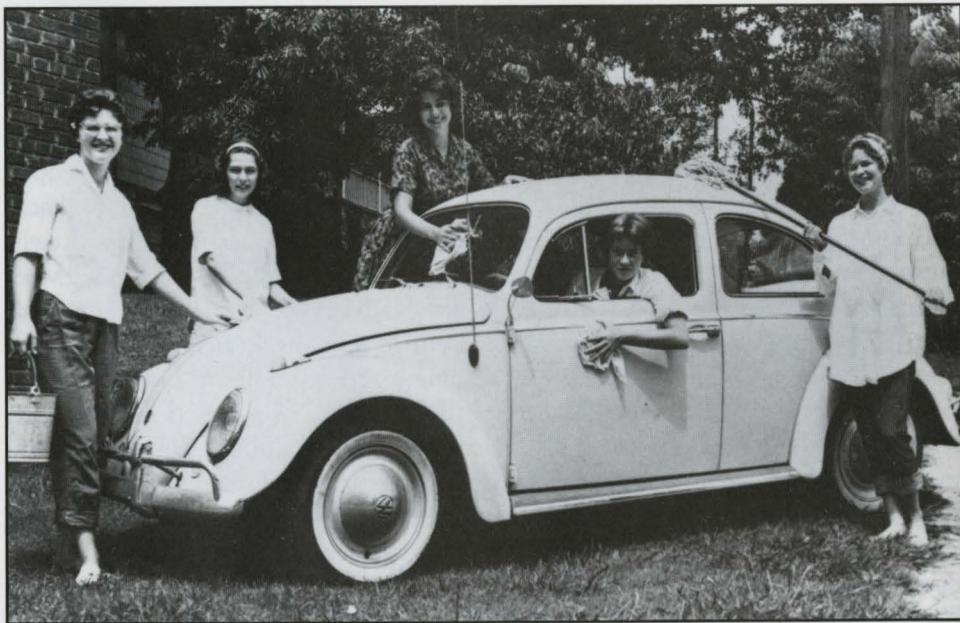
The Women of the Church, formerly known as the Ladies' Auxiliary, were the backbone of the congregation. Their constant, yet unassuming presence, nurtured the missions and programs of the church. The Historians's Report of 1940-1941 offers a vivid description of the work and services provided by these ladies.

The ladies of the Auxiliary made robes for members of the newly organized choir; gave money for chairs; served dinner to 44 people at the superintendent and teachers conference; provided homes and meals for 4 workers from Seminary for 2 weeks to conduct a Bible School; made 8 hospital gowns; clothed Noah Glass, a student at Glade Valley, getting him ready for school; sent three baskets of fruit to the sick; gave pantry shower to one of our worthy members; and, gave money for the purchase of collection plates.

Some 35 women, participating in three circles, met regularly for study and fellowship. On one occasion, the women were impressed with the latest technology, as they viewed a "moving picture." Repeated topics of interest for these studies were "foreign missions," "Christianity in the home," and "inter-racial relations." The women served as an example for the whole church, taking to heart Christ's commandment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

### WORDS OF TRIBUTE

The spirit of the church was captured in two rather remarkable personalities, to which the church offered special tribute. Church Historian Mrs. Charles Poplin records the fact that the Auxiliary met every third Monday evening in the home of an elderly woman beloved by all members. Then, she adds a "word of praise"



*ELKIN YOUTH TRADITIONS*

*Above:* Car Wash to raise money for Montreat Conference. Smiling workers are (left to right) Bobbie Stevenson, Pratt Isenhour, Betty Snow, Helen Alexander, and Rosemary Alexander.

*Below:* Senior Recognition Sunday. Graduates for this year were (back row) Mark Brown, Mike Booker, Joe Curtis, (front row) Fran Dudley, Kim Royall, and Beth Fulp.



The Youth share the experiences of Montreat. Participants were (left to right): Marcela Ashburn, John Brearley, J. Lee Motsinger, Dusty Wilkins, Molly Blackley, Tamela Thomson, Matt Couch, Julie Faulk, Jonathan Snyder, Adam Ripley, and Bettie Motsinger.



Sixth through eighth graders enjoy a weekend retreat.

MINISTERS OF ELKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



O. V. Caudill  
1939-1944



Ralph Ritchie  
1945-1952



Samuel Burgess  
1952-1955



Sinclair Tebo  
Interim, 1955-56; 1960; 1965

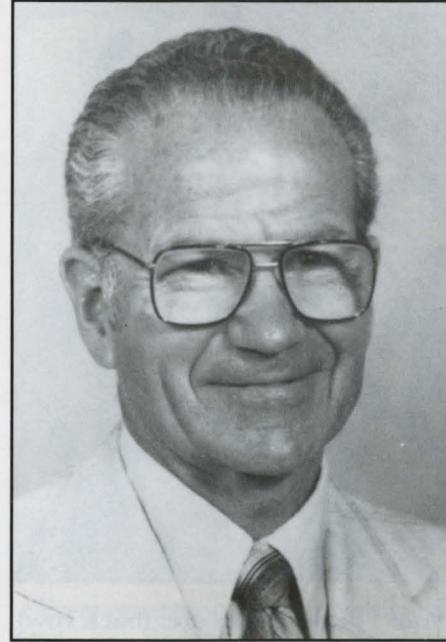
MINISTERS OF ELKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



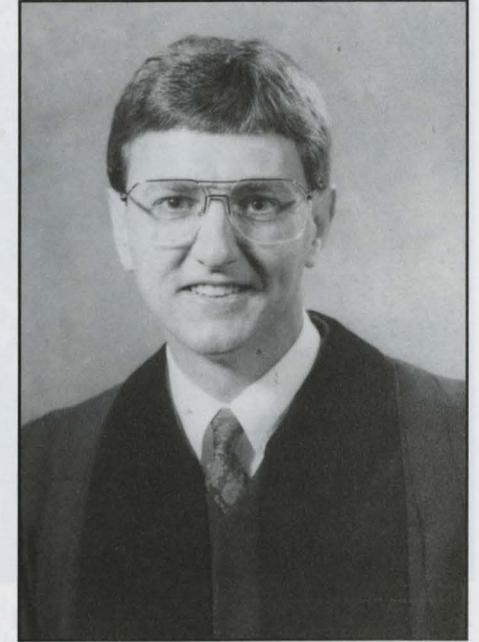
R. E. Hildebrandt  
1956-1960



Leighton McKeithen  
1961-1964



William Brown  
1965-1988



John Brearley  
1989-present



Pam Mickey (far left) teaching the Group Home Sunday School Class. Enthusiastic attendees are: (back row) Tryla Goodson and Polly Webb; (front row) Wilma Smith, Michael Henderson, and Harry Spillman.



A recent Confirmation Class signs "I love you." Participants are: (back row) Canaan Longworth, Seth Blackley, Nicholas Longworth, Mark Garner, Ben Faulk, John Marsh, John Brearley, Amy Brown; (front row) Jeffrey Cape, Christopher O'Toole, Todd Brown, and Christopher Hutchens.

for this lady. "She is a wonderful Christian woman," writes Mrs. Poplin, "and she has a powerful influence on all the members of the Auxiliary." At 88 years of age, she continued to have a very keen interest in the church, though her health prohibited her from attending its meetings. No one enjoyed the Auxiliary meetings, which met in her home, any more than did this woman of great devotion. At the end of this description Mrs. Poplin reveals the name of her esteemed subject. She is Mrs. J. H. Ball. In 1945, the church would add its own words of appreciation for this lady:

On Thursday, May 3rd, Mrs. J. H. Ball celebrated her 90th birthday. Many friends called at Mrs. Ball's home with gifts for this occasion. The Auxiliary sent Mrs. Ball a basket of fruit. Mrs. Ball is the oldest member in our church. She was received by transfer of letter on May 8, 1897. On May the eighth, she will have been a member for 48 years. She has seen this church go through all its struggles to find its place in Elkin. No one loves it more than Mrs. Ball, and no one rejoices more in the new life our church is taking on than this mother of Israel, and we all love her. May God's richest blessings be upon her and keep her.

The other outstanding tribute of this day comes as a memorial, addressing the life and work of Dr. William R. Wellborn. The words of this resolution speak of his faith and his influence upon our church.

#### WILLIAM R. WELLBORN

Whereas our Heavenly Father, in His infinite wisdom, called our brother elder William R. Wellborn to his Heavenly Home on May 24th, 1943, be it resolved by the session of the Elkin Presbyterian Church of Winston-Salem Presbytery:

1. That we bow in humble submission to God's will and pray Him graciously to sanctify this act of His providence to all concerned.
2. That we render our thanks to God for Dr. Wellborn's presence with us for many years; his testimony to Christ as personal Savior and Lord; the support of the Church and her work; his friendly, congenial spirit, and his faithfulness even unto death.
3. That we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family and spread upon the minutes of the session.

Rev. O. V. Caudill  
 Van W. Dillon  
 J. F. Lowrance

Every generation is blessed with dedicated persons who have served Christ's church for many years. Throughout the years, Elkin Presbyterian has been blessed with many fine older adults. The lesson of history is for the church to learn from their wisdom and experience, and to give thanks to God for placing them in our midst.

## THE NATION AT WAR

War efforts did not detract from this new-found momentum, though our church would associate these years with pain and prayer. Soon after the war began, tragedy struck close to home. The death of Lieutenant Benjamin G. McKnight (Pacific), killed in action, brought grief to our church and to the entire community. He was the son of Mr. T. C. McKnight, the Secretary of the YMCA and an elder in our church. Shortly before the war would end, tragedy would strike again. News came that Ben's brother, Captain John C. McKnight (Europe), had met a similar fate. Later, Thomas Cuttino and Julia Green McKnight would remember the sacrificial service of their sons, donating a Hammond Electric organ to the church.

Having American servicemen overseas had a significant impact upon the life of Elkin Presbyterian. Minutes from a meeting in 1942 include a special request from Mr. Dan Barbour. Someone would need to fill the positions of Clerk of Session and Superintendent of Education, for Mr. Barbour would soon be called into the service. Bulletin announcements during 1945 served as weekly communications from the "front," as well as reminders of our role as a church. Elkin Presbyterian was intentional in its efforts to stay in touch. Mrs. Morgan Hanks, the editor of these communications, notes that "this work has been done quietly, but consistently, for over two years. When the boys return to our church they will remember this effort."

Part of the unlikely story of this time is found in the fact that two persons made faith commitments to our church while serving abroad. In both cases, family members "back home" played an important role. A letter from Fred Barnett was presented to the Session for membership in the church. The Reverend O. V. Caudill made a statement that he had received a letter from Fred's chaplain. The chaplain wrote that he had baptized Fred in his tent in the presence of witnesses. A request that Barnette's membership be transferred to Elkin Presbyterian was included in the note. After the Session voted in the affirmative to grant this request, Jerry Barnette was asked to stand before the congregation and receive a welcome for her brother into the church.

In similar fashion, Linville Hendren made the same decision. Lin had been raised a Methodist. He and his wife, Ola, had not found a church home before Lin went overseas on active duty. Letters back-and-forth discussed various denominational beliefs and practices. Lin spent much time continuing this exploration with his military chaplain, who spoke highly of the Presbyterian Church. The decision to become Presbyterian was made from long distance. Upon his return to the States, Lin and Ola Hendren were received into membership! The Hendren's love for nature and zest for life had an immediate impact upon the church.

The summer of 1945 brought the long-awaited news that the War was coming to a close. Elkin anxiously, eagerly awaited the official signing of the Japanese surrender. The community had already begun to rejoice over the coming of peace. A hundred or more people gathered to hear the good news at the YMCA on the Night of August 14. A spontaneous Thanksgiving Prayer Service captured the feeling. That Wednesday was declared a holiday in Elkin. All stores and businesses

were closed for the day! Elkin Presbyterian included this "Pastoral Message" in its "Servicemen's Letter:"

Now that God in His providence has been pleased to bring peace again to the world, let us make a covenant with Him at the beginning of this new era of the world's and our lives. Let us make a solemn pledge that we will henceforth obediently walk in His holy commandments; and, leading a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty, will continually offer our praise and thanksgiving for His mercies in preserving us safely through this time of peril.

Peace time made possible a new cooperation between churches around the world. The historic first meeting of the World Council of Churches rallied Christians from all denominations. Hopes were high that this Amsterdam gathering would preserve the fragile peace that now existed. Heralded as "the most significant meeting" since the Protestant Reformation, the assembly called for fervent prayer. The Youth Fellowship of Elkin Presbyterian answered this call by ringing the church bell. One by one, and hour by hour, the youth took turns pealing the bell and calling the community to prayer. A few years later, our church was still taking these words to heart. On February 9, 1951, the Women of the Church, in conjunction with women from other churches, held a World Day of Prayer. This service inaugurated a daily "Prayer for Peace" observed throughout the community. Everyone was asked to pause at 10 o'clock each morning for a moment of silent meditation.

## EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The emotions of war did not keep the work of the church from moving forward. In the early forties, enrollment almost doubled within the period of a single year. As the church's membership grew, the existing space of the facility was used in innovative ways. A curtain was affixed to the front of the choir loft so that the space could double as a Sunday School classroom. By 1943, the officers of the church agreed to construct a church annex. Mr. Transou, an architect, drew up the plans for the 30' x 50' two-story Education Building. In order not to exceed the cash on hand, the church used a "pay as you go" philosophy. The addition was "roughed in" using building materials stored on the church lot. Over the next several years, work on the interior of the building was accomplished whenever money was available for the project. Mr. Henry Brown, a deacon at this time, tells a story that well might be true. Construction workers noticed the wooden board that posted the Sunday School offering each week. This offering was generally ten to twelve dollars per week. Mistaking this amount for the entire Sunday offering, one of the construction workers turned to his co-worker and asked, "Do you think we really will get paid for this job?" Though much labor was donated to the project, these workers did get paid in full!

Tours of the first floor of the education wing were conducted in June of 1945

during a grand church reception. This reception was held in honor of Reverend and Mrs. O. V. Caudill and to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ritchie. The new church addition gave Elkin Presbyterian much-needed space for its growing programs and membership. When the addition was completed, it contained Sunday School rooms, a pastor's study, a social services room, a kitchen, and rest rooms.

On February 19, 1950, the Education Building was dedicated. During the Dedication, the Men of the Church presented a painting of the Good Shepherd by local artist Harold Click (uncle of Mrs. Henry Dillon). Mr. Click was a furniture craftsman by vocation and a painter by avocation. Many of his works hang in area churches and homes. The painting was given in honor of Reverend Caudill's years of ministry at Elkin Presbyterian and his work as Superintendent of Home Missions in Winston-Salem Presbytery from 1939-1944. For many years, this piece of art hung behind the pulpit. Today it remains a treasured possession of Elkin Presbyterian Church and hangs in the Fellowship Hall of the Hillcrest Church.

### FIRST FULL-TIME PASTOR

Once the church began expansion of its facilities on Bridge Street, it began to make plans to secure a full-time pastor. Never before in its history had the church enjoyed the undivided attention of a minister. The church had been a Home Missions Church since it was organized on November 27, 1892. As a Home Missions Church, Elkin Presbyterian had to share its ministers with other Home Missions Churches, like the Wilkesboro Church, or with the Home Missions Office of the Winston-Salem Presbytery. Home Missions agreed to help finance a full-time pastor. Elkin Presbyterian welcomed the opportunity to choose its own pastor. A Pulpit Search Committee explored several potential candidates for the position. V. W. Dillon, Clerk of Session and Chairman of the Pulpit Search Committee, placed in nomination the name of Mr. Ralph Ritchie. The congregation unanimously concurred. Mr. Ritchie, a senior at Union Theological Seminary, had served our church the previous summer. His return to Elkin was eagerly received.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie arrived in June of 1945 and set up residence in the church's newly acquired manse. This manse, located at 289 North Bridge Street, had been purchased from Mattie Brendle Baker and Luther G. Baker for \$5,250. The Bakers' donated \$125 of the purchase price to the church. Additional contributions from the Synod of North Carolina and Winston-Salem Presbytery enabled the church to purchase the deed of trust for this property. In 1956, this property was conveyed to Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Brown.

Having the full-time services of a pastor enabled Elkin Presbyterian Church to enrich its programs and to engage in more social outreach. The growing church rallied around this young pastor and his family. His interest in all age groups helped the church to build programs which benefitted young and old. There was a special place in his heart for children. Current members of Elkin Presbyterian still remember the affectionate way he greeted children each Sunday morning. Reverend Ritchie would get down on his knees, speak to the children, and offer them a hug. His

poor health did not prevent this youthful minister from playing games with the youth. In church softball games, he would hit the ball and have a youth run the bases.

The youth also benefitted from Reverend Ritchie's commitment to spiritual growth. As Chairman of the Ministerial Association of Elkin and Jonesville, he was instrumental in developing a Bible Teaching Program at Elkin High School. Our church along with other local churches funded this program. Soon after its inception, some eighty students were participating. The separation of church and state in public education precludes this possibility today.

Programs within the church were beginning to place heavy demands on financial resources. Even before Ralph Ritchie arrived, the call to be good stewards had been sounded. Bulletin announcements, like the following, were pointed in their approach:

This is the season of the year when we think of the program of the church for the coming year. No program in the church would be complete if we as members do not face up to our Stewardship program. Elkin Presbyterian church is now beginning a full time program. It will be necessary for us to look at our church with this enlarged program in mind. The time has come for us as a church and as individuals to face this challenge with courage and faith.

The early fifties were an "age of benevolence" as people gave to their church and to national and international efforts. At one Stewardship Supper, Reverend Julian Lake, Minister at First Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem and a dedicated churchman, delivered a message of motivation. A ledger of gifts donated to the church in 1950 demonstrates the generosity exhibited during this time. Among these gifts were furniture for the parlor, storm windows for the manse, a silver communion service, and the outdoor church sign. But more than gifts were given. With courage and faith, Elkin Presbyterian, for the first time in its history, became self-supporting. The long-awaited day of independence arrived on April 1, 1950.

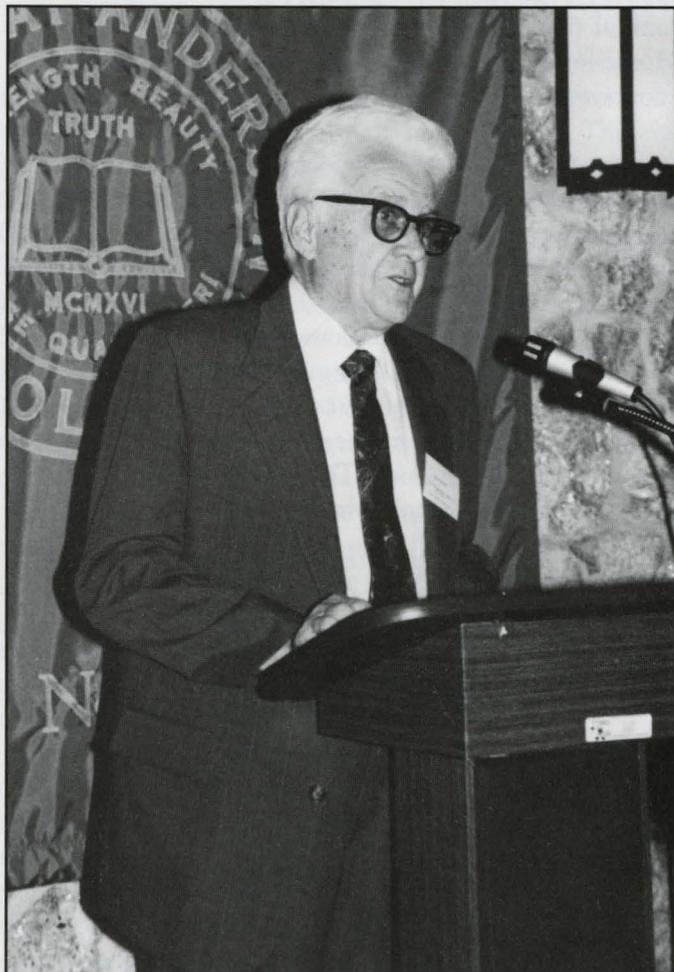
Evangelism was at the heart of the church's mission. The Sunday bulletin of March 31, 1946 reports the following "Visitation Evangelism Results:"

Our church's three visitation teams contacted twenty-seven people during the past week, of whom three have accepted Christ as Savior, and eight have decided to move their letters to this church. The results of these visits are far from ended. The teams were: Hoke Henderson and T. C. McKnight; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Buchanan; Carter Dickson and Ralph Ritchie.

The eight churches of Elkin and Jonesville made a total of 475 contacts, securing 43 decisions to receive Christ, and 76 to move their membership to churches in this community. Thus, 119 people have been brought into a closer fellowship with our churches.

No greater example of evangelism can be found than that of Mrs. Lucy Gray, sister of Mrs. A. L. Brown and member of Elkin Presbyterian Church. Affectionately

These three explorer Scouts (left to right: Robert Dillon, George Carson, and Rick Henderson) were each presented a "God and Country" Award during a ceremony at the church. Standing with the scouts is Reverend R. E. Hildebrandt.



John Anderson receives the Zoulean Anderson Award for Outstanding Bible Teacher during a ceremony at Montreat-Anderson College in 1992.

known to many as "Miss Lucy," she served as a home missionary for the Presbyterian Church for over 30 years. As a young girl, she and another missionary taught school in the mountains of Tennessee. After marrying, she and her husband, J. L. Gray, returned to the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. There the couple carried the Word of God by foot into mountain coves. They started Sunday School programs in school houses, taught modern agricultural techniques to the farmers, and administered as much medical assistance as they could. Upon her retirement, *The Elkin Tribune* paid homage to this dear lady in a front-page story entitled "She 'Brought the Word' to Mountain People." This, indeed, was her mission.

When Reverend Ritchie died suddenly, on March 2, 1952, at the age of 31, both the church and the community grieved his passing. He was remembered as "one of Elkin's most popular citizens" and as a man who was "equally loved and respected by folks of all denominations, and members of other beliefs." It was reported that his death left a great gap in both the religious and civic life of our community. The spirit of Ralph Ritchie lives on in the lives of those who knew him and in the lives of all who benefit from his devoted work. In memory of his service and in tribute to his Christian character, the Elkin School System, along with the students, established the Ralph Ritchie Award. Each year this award is presented to a graduating senior who best emulates Reverend Ritchie's "contagious Christian attitude." Over the years, many outstanding young people have received this award. Recipients associated with our church include: Polly Price [1953], Clara Belle Causey [1960], Miriam Nicks [1962], Helen Alexander [1966], Richard Paulson [1971], Travis Thomas [1988] and Ryan Thomas [1991] (grandsons of Mrs. Nelle Sale), and Molly Blackley [1992].

### A TIME TO MOURN

With much sorrow, the church "acknowledged the passing to the Church Triumphant of a dedicated Servant of God." The Session soon called a congregational meeting for the purpose of considering a suitable memorial to the late Reverend Ritchie. Mrs. Blance Ritchie gave a set of Schulmerich electric chimes in memory of her husband. The church responded to this gift by constructing a vestibule and a steeple to house them. Members of the church and friends throughout the community contributed to this addition. On February 13, 1955, Elkin Presbyterian held an impressive service to dedicate the chimes, vestibule, and steeple "to the Glory of God and in memory of the Reverend Ralph Van Cleve Ritchie." A prayer from this Dedication Service clearly shows the desire of Elkin Presbyterian to be a beacon of Christ's love in the community:

Our Father which art in heaven, we pray that the steeple which we dedicate this day, as it points heavenward, holding high the cross of Christ, will ever point those who see it to Thee and remind them of Thy great love which poured itself out to the death; and may it thereby inspire them to raise their thoughts and deepen their dedication to Thee. In the name of Thy son we pray.

## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

From the mid-nineteen fifties until the mid-nineteen sixties, several young pastors provided leadership for the church. During these years, the membership grew slowly. Several factors contributed to this slow growth. The church had no other Presbyterian churches in the immediate area and no new businesses to attract new families to town. Yet the church continued to reach out into the community. Mr. Samuel A. Burgess, a recent graduate of Union Theological Seminary, was called by the church soon after Reverend Ritchie's death. In an article heralding his arrival to town, *The Elkin Tribune* reported that Reverend Burgess "originally had intended to study abroad for a year before entering into active pastorship; however, if the members of Elkin Presbyterian Church feel that he can be of service to them, then he considers their call an opportunity of precedence." His dedication to this call is reflected in the memories of several members. He is remembered by the congregation as a man "with a great deal of enthusiasm for his work and as a good speaker who brought us some inspiring and awakening messages." During his three years at the church, Reverend Burgess instituted "a service of carols and candle lighting," now known as our Christmas Candlelight Service. He also began a series of Wednesday night services, during which various books of the Bible were studied. The church rejoiced when this eligible, young bachelor married Elkin native Carol Stuart. The marriage ceremony was performed by Dr. Julian Lake, Minister of First Presbyterian in Winston-Salem. Soon after his marriage, he decided to continue his ministerial education at the University of Edinburgh, under the renowned Professor C. S. Lewis.

After Reverend Burgess' resignation, Reverend Sinclair Tebo of Winston-Salem served as our supply minister for almost one year. The Church History of 1956 records the fondness the congregation held for him:

We are very fortunate to have Reverend Tebo to preach for us every Sunday morning. Reverend Tebo has endeared himself to every member of our congregation with his excellent sermons, his lovely personality, his kindness, sympathy, and understanding. We have not worked as hard as we should to obtain a regular pastor with the kind of supply Reverend Tebo has been. He will always be remembered in Elkin as a wonderful person and loved by all.

Twice more within the next decade, he would faithfully serve as our supply minister when the Elkin pulpit became vacant.

In June of 1956, the church warmly welcomed Reverend R. E. Hildebrandt as the new pastor. Reverend Hildebrandt was already known in the area. While a student at Union Theological Seminary, he had served as student supply pastor at Sparta Presbyterian Church. He made the long trip between Richmond, Virginia, and Sparta every weekend. When he arrived in Elkin, he and his family moved into the manse on North Bridge Street. Soon afterwards, he and his wife, and young family, would move into the new manse which was already under construction. The Trustees of Elkin Presbyterian had purchased a deed from Chatham Manufacturing Company for a lot at the intersection of Ivy Circle and Dutchman Creek

Road. On November 25, 1956, the church held an open house at the new manse. The house, fashioned out of brick, had been built for approximately \$22,000. It had four rooms and a half bath downstairs, four bedrooms and two baths upstairs, a basement, a garage, and a side porch. Between 1988 and 1991, extensive renovations were made to the house.

Reverend Hildebrandt was active in church and civic concerns. He served as moderator of the Winston-Salem Presbytery and was a member of the Board of Trustees of Glade Valley School. In the Town of Elkin, he was well known as a radio personality. He was the commentator of "The Church in the World Today" program on the local radio station WIFM and conducted a morning devotional on the same channel.

During his tenure as pastor, the Men of the Church was organized. Their initial project was a vocational guidance program for the church. For a number of years the Men of the Church enjoyed monthly Saturday breakfast meetings at The Hotel Elkin. One of the programs enjoyed by the Men was a series of talks by ministers of different denominations and other faiths. The Men believed that these talks "served to broaden the knowledge and understanding of those outside Presbyterian belief." Reverend Hildebrandt also helped to institute a rotation system of officers. Under this new system, each deacon would serve a term of three years.

Reverend Leighton McKeithen assumed the pastorate in January of 1961. In a recent letter to one of the church members, Reverend McKeithen remembered his four years in Elkin fondly. He recalled the tradition of Sunday afternoon "cruising" over the downtown area, the youth retreats at Montreat, the church's close relationship with Glade Valley School, and the Vacation Bible Schools that were held on the Hillcrest Lot. During this period of time, the church building increased in size. Mr. Edwin Morgan of Laurinburg donated the brick for the addition of five classrooms to the education building. Also, during the early nineteen sixties, Elkin Presbyterian supported its first candidate for ministry. David J. Causey attended Union Theological Seminary and upon graduation was ordained as a minister. Years later, his mother, Mrs. Clara Causey Whiteley wrote a note of appreciation to the Session of the church for its financial support of her son during his education at the Seminary. Enclosed in the letter was a donation to the church for the same amount of money that the church had given in support of her son.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Since its inception, Elkin Presbyterian has always placed an emphasis on Christian Education. The North Bridge Church continually looked for new and innovative ways to teach children and adults about the Bible, about Christian living, and about Presbyterian beliefs and doctrine. It also maintained the long-standing tradition of teaching and uplifting the congregation by hosting an annual week of special services. Beginning in the nineteen forties and continuing to the present, many notable Bible professors, ministers, missionaries, and Presbytery staff persons led

these meetings. Among these were the Reverends W. T. Manson, Jr., David Burr, James A. McAlpine (son of our former minister and also a missionary to Japan), Richard L. Sommers, G. P. Whiteley, Todd Jones, and the Doctors G. F. Bell, J. Hassell, Ben Lacy Rose, and Bernard Boyd. These meetings were often held in the Fall or during the Lenten Season and were well attended by members of the church and community.

Although these meetings were a time of spiritual renewal, they were also a time of good-natured fellowship. One member recalls a humorous incident that happened during the special services led by Reverend Sommers. C. T. Wheeler (father of Tommy Wheeler) was the last person in line as the choir entered the sanctuary. He was carrying one of the newly-acquired brown, padded choir chairs and could not get it open. He tried and tried and tried to open the chair while his face grew redder by the minute. Many people in the pews began to rock with laughter. Knowing C. T. and his great sense of humor only made it a more hilarious predicament. He finally exited the sanctuary and, with the help of Jim Poindexter, returned in a few minutes with a bright red face and an open chair. The choir performed admirably despite the incident. Such a story serves to remind all of us of the many times of laughter and joy we experienced in the North Bridge Church.

Joy and pride were also expressed by the church as young people took their Christian Education seriously. Over the years several young members of the church, including Floyd Van Antwerp, Jr., Robert Van Antwerp, and Clara Belle Causey, have recited the Catechism from memory. Other youth learned Christian principles and morals by participating in Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts. Our church held the charter for Boy Scouts Troop 647 and provided guidance for the scouts. Over the years, many men provided adult leadership on the district level or in local troops. Among those who have provided support are: Paul Price, Lin Hendren, Floyd Van Antwerp, Joe Harris, Bill Blackley, Gill Ripley, and George Brown. With the help of their guidance, several young men attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Known Eagle Scouts from our congregation are Lewie Alexander, Robert Dudley, Jim Hughes, Arvil Price, and Adam Ripley. Youth and adults shared common experiences at Camp Raven Knob, located nearby in Low Gap, North Carolina. For a short time, the church also housed a Girl Scout Troop.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

From its earliest days, Elkin Presbyterian has benefitted greatly from the work of fine musicians and music directors. At the Market Street Church, Mildred Hock, Margaret Buchannon, Nancy Dillon, and Mabel Leeper served as organists. The first recorded pianist is Mrs. Lillian Poplin. She began playing the piano for the church during its transitional year at the Lyric Theatre. As *The Elkin Tribune* noted in an article commemorating her fifteenth year of service to the church: "Mrs. Charles Poplin has the distinction of being the only church musician in Elkin, and one of the few in the world, who began her career as church pianist in a motion picture theatre!" Playing the theatre piano was the first of two challenges Mrs. Poplin

faced during her years as church musician. Although she had never played an organ in her life, she learned to play one in half a week's time. When the Hammond electric, spinnet-type organ, given by the McKnights in memory of their sons, arrived on a Wednesday, Mrs. Poplin was ready to play for the communion service on Sunday. Like the musicians before her, Mrs. Poplin was very involved in the activities of the church. She was the church historian for over a decade. Her detailed notes have greatly aided the compilation of this centennial history.

During the nineteen fifties and early nineteen sixties, Mrs. Poplin and Mrs. Norma Price (Grana) were faithful volunteer organists. When Mrs. Poplin retired in 1961, Mrs. Price continued to lead the congregation with her music for almost twenty years. A special service was held in her honor in February, 1981. Lucy Eaton became the first paid organist in the church's history. She played three Sunday's a month, and Donna Thompson contributed her services on the other Sunday's. After Mrs. Eaton, Amy Tayloe served as church organist. Mrs. Tayloe added a special touch to each service, especially when performing duets with Mrs. Fran Greene. Mrs. Joanna Fillingame, our current organist, provides the worship service with uplifting music every Sunday.

For the first seventy-six years of the church's existence, the director of the music program had provided her services as a gift to the congregation. During these years, some of the women who served as choir directors were: Kate Blackburn, Mabel Leeper, Dorothy Cloniger, Emma Lee Isenhour, and Zana Mayberry. In 1968, Ellen Cooke Poindexter became the first paid choir director. One year later, our current and beloved Minister of Music, Mrs. Frances Greene, took over the leadership of the music department. A former Minister of Music at the Elkin First Baptist Church, Mrs. Greene has the gift to elicit the utmost musical ability from each individual. In praise of Mrs. Greene's extraordinary talents, Reverend Brown once wrote:

Fran's genius is seen in her ability to enable all those around her to sing better than they really can. It all became fun and joyous. Through the years with so many of our congregation singing in one of the choirs, we have become known as the singing church. This really says something about the faith—for some of the most essential truths of the faith really have to be sung.

All of the choirs have really grown under her devoted leadership, especially the children's choirs. Mrs. Greene's philosophy toward teaching children is that a child learns to experience worship by the act of doing worship. The children's choirs have become a strong teaching arm of the church. The children learn reverence for God and respect for one another. During weekly choir practice, they memorize songs, learn to play tone chimes and handbells, and engage in Bible-based activities. This diverse program prepares the children to lead the music portion of an entire worship service, including the call to worship, the responses, and the anthem. To this day, our most well-attended services are those in which the children sing!

When Mrs. Greene arrived there were two small choirs, one for adults and one for youth. Today, there are eleven musical groups: a church choir, an enlarged church

choir, two childrens' choirs, a youth choir, a high school choir, two handbell groups, two instrumental ensembles, and a play school group. The vocal and instrumental needs of all age groups are met in this very unique and comprehensive musical program. The acquisition of instruments, made possible by the music memorial fund, has lead to greater participation in these groups. Through this fund which originated as a memorial to Mrs. Margaret Cooke (the mother of Ellen Poindexter), an organ, handbells, and tone chimes have been purchased.

The enlarged church choir performs on special occasions, including Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Each year, Mrs. Greene awakens the Christmas spirit as she directs both the Community Chorus and Candlelight Services. Throughout the year, these varied musical groups spread a message of joy throughout the community. The music ministry of Elkin Presbyterian is a ministry of outreach. Non-Presbyterian members of the community often find a home for their gifts in this open environment. All participants find fellowship and support within the choir program.

Reverend Brown, a man often inspired by the music of his church, was deeply moved on one special occasion. Commemorating his twenty-fifth year in ordained ministry, the church choir presented the musical, "Bright New Wings." The musical ended with these words:

Thank you, Jesus, is all I can say.

Thank you for giving me new life today.

Thank you for loving me in spite of my sin.

I've opened my heart, Jesus, won't you come in?

This refrain was sung by the entire congregation and was reported in later bulletins as being meaningful to all.

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY

No one knew when Reverend William Brown became the minister in June of 1965, that he would serve this church longer than any other minister in its history. For twenty-three years, Reverend Brown faithfully cared for the church and its people. His quiet manner was comforting to the sick and reassuring to bereaved. Several members have commented on his status as "the town minister," for Reverend Brown was available often in times of joy and sorrow. He performed the weddings and funerals of many members of the church and the community.

Shortly before he arrived, the Session of the church adopted a policy that all rooms of the church, including the sanctuary, would be made available for use by community organizations. Over the years, under Reverend Brown's leadership, the church reached out to the area by housing three vital ministries: Alcoholics Anonymous, Hospice, and Play School. Alcoholics Anonymous, which began meeting on a weekly basis in the church house, expanded to a four night-a-week program which ministered to the whole family. A local hospice group was formed to provide care for the terminally ill. With Reverend Brown as the chaplain, the

group met weekly for a time of planning and sharing. Play School originated in response to the needs of local young families. Beginning in 1980 as a once-a-week program, Play School has expanded to four days per week. These twelve years have witnessed three directors: Gay Henderson, Becky Charles, and Teresa Howell.

In addition to sharing space with organizations, the church reached out to the community in many other ways. In 1976, Elkin Presbyterian sponsored a Haunted House at the church to benefit Cystic Fibrosis. When the Group Home for developmentally disabled adults was built on Elk Spur Street in 1984, our church became its sponsoring agent. We offered a special Sunday School class for the residents. Today, several occupants of the Group Home are church members. In fact, they are among the most enthusiastic Presbyterians in town! They bring joy and love into our midst on Sundays and at fellowship gatherings. What began as Christian service has returned as a special blessing to our congregation.

The witness of Elkin Presbyterian reached beyond the bounds of our local community. During the conflict in Vietnam, several of our members were in the armed services: Joe Brown, Frank P. Curtis, David C. Dickson, Bobby Griffin, David L. Griffin, Stephen Johnston, William James Price, Edward N. Snow, and Floyd Van Antwerp. The Women of the Church sent Christmas gifts to all of these men. Unlisted individuals also offered their services during Vietnam. One of these was Dr. Council Dudley. In 1967, he was one of twelve physicians who took part in the Volunteer Physicians for Vietnam Program. For two months, he worked with the those who suffered from war injuries or critical illnesses. In an article about his experiences, he wrote: "In addition to making me grateful for America, my stay in Vietnam has given me a deeper sense of our obligation to those less fortunate than we. I have learned that the Oriental does not think as we think; but he cries the same tears when his children die."

While the conflict abroad was raging, the fight for civil rights was seething at home. In 1966, before the Elkin school system had a public kindergarten program, one lady in our church offered a kindergarten class for underprivileged, black children in her home. The Session minutes record her commitment to the education of these children.

## RENEWING THE SPIRIT

The Church Creed of the North Bridge Church, which was often printed in the Sunday Bulletin, reflected the spiritual life, purpose, and direction of the church:

"To all who are weary and need rest, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are lonely and need friendship, to all who are complacent, and need disturbing, to all who sin and need a savior, to all who are glad and would serve their fellow men, this Church opens wide its doors and bids you welcome."

This "open-armed" philosophy of the church was mirrored in the warmth of its leadership. Reverend Brown's warm and caring personality is clearly depicted



*SPECIAL DAYS FOR THE CHURCH*

*Above: Groundbreaking Services for the new stone church held on March 12, 1989. Reverend Bill Brown takes his turn.*

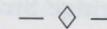
*Below: Pausing for a picture on moving day, March of 1990.*



in the following story related by a church member:

One Sunday Morning in the early 1980's, Bill Brown was preaching when a small bird began to fly around over the pulpit and choir loft. Apparently, the bird had come in an opened door and had not been visible with the stained beams of the ceiling. The congregation and choir began to smile and watch the bird circling. Bill Brown looked up, saw the bird, and immediately began, "Yea, the sparrow hath found a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, at thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." As Reverend Brown finished the scripture, the bird flew back onto the dark rafters, and Bill continued his message.

Words alone do not always express the faith. Knowing the importance of symbolism, Reverend Brown borrowed an Easter tradition from the Wilkesboro Church. Elkin Presbyterian now equates the meaning of Easter with a rustic, outdoor wooden cross. The cross stands draped in black from Maundy Thursday until Easter morning. As people arrive to celebrate the Resurrection, they place freshly-cut flowers onto the barren wood of the cross. The dramatic transformation of this cross is an annual memorial to our Lord.



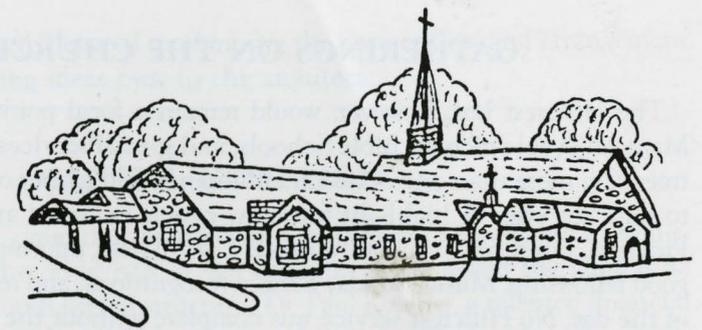


Attorney Lewis Alexander witnesses the signing of a deed on March 29, 1990. Trustees Joe Mickey and Miner Flynt make the sale of the Bridge Street Church official.



Jim Poindexter and Fran Greene grab another memory as Jim Carson packs another box.

*"I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord!'"*  
 — Psalm 122:1



## THE BUILDING JOURNEY

Covering a brief period of time, this final chapter has a long history. In 1957, Elkin Presbyterian once again looked to the future with a new vision, that one day a church would stand on a beautiful wooded hillside known as Neaves' Park. Details included here are worthy of our attention, for they tell the story of faithful people persevering to the end. The dream began with the \$20,000 purchase of four and a half acres of land located within the city limits at the intersection of Highway 268 and Hillcrest Drive. In order for the church to be allowed to purchase this prime property, considered by many to be the ideal lot in Elkin, several individual members agreed to buy lots surrounding this particular tract of land. Final payment for the Hillcrest Lot was made in 1960.

A few years later, a Long Range Planning Committee composed of Harry Hensel, Joe G. Bivins, O.T. Blackburn, Louis Neaves, Mrs. Van Dillon, Sr., Mrs. Ed Snyder and Mrs. Council Dudley gave a report to the church suggesting a Building Fund Committee. Mr. Lewis Alexander was appointed chairman, with Joe Gwyn Bivins and H.G. Brown serving as co-chairmen. Within a matter of months, a capital campaign had secured a three-year pledge commitment of \$50,000. A membership of 227 members would make the first attempt to build a new church on Hillcrest Drive.

Stepping out in faith, the congregation elected a Building Committee, which consisted of Jim Carson, Chairman, Julia Ann Alexander, Ted Brown, O.T. Blackburn, and Mary Henderson. In 1968, after an extensive design and bid process, plans were presented to the congregation. The original vote, by a 51-50 majority, was to build. Prevailing wisdom, however, dictated that the church not move forward without greater support for the project. The Building Committee was dissolved with appreciation for their labor of love. One of the stipulations of the Building Campaign stated that if the church did not build within a specified length of time, persons could request that their donations be returned. Some donors exercised this option, while others designated their funds for necessary renovations to the existing church building. A balance of approximately \$10,000 remained in the Building Fund. Little did anyone realize, at the time, just how valuable this seed would become! Nor did Elkin Presbyterian understand the depth of character that would come from this disappointment. The present pain would prove to be preparation for the days ahead. To the credit of the church, and its fine leadership, all members remained united in their resolve.

replaced John Anderson, and Ab Brown became the official chairman of the committee. This delay in the process also prompted Reverend Bill Brown to announce his retirement effective April 30, 1988. At age sixty-seven, Bill Brown had served this congregation faithfully and well for twenty-three years. His years of work on this dream for a new church would soon come to fruition. The Building Committee continued its hard work. Gradually, over several months, a new floor plan was developed and presented to the congregation.

### 1989: A YEAR TO REMEMBER

The following year would be characterized by important decisions. On several occasions, Elkin Presbyterian would voice its faith through the voting process. The first of these decisions came when the church called a 29-year old minister from Camden, South Carolina, to be its new pastor. At the recommendation of the Pulpit Nominating Committee (Ed Snyder, Charlotte Kirk, Byron Wolfe, Shelby O'Toole, and Helen Faulk), Reverend John C. Brearley, who served as Associate Pastor of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Camden, assumed his pastoral responsibilities on January 1, 1989. That same month, the church opened bids for construction of the new facility. The next few weeks were intense, to say the least. Bids came in slightly higher than anticipated, with the low bid belonging to I. L. Long Construction Company of Winston-Salem. History had set the stage. Elkin Presbyterian Church was ready to move forward. After a long and soul-searching debate, the Session voted to recommend to the congregation that we proceed with the new building. A called congregational meeting was held on February 26, to hear a report from the Building Committee. Ab Brown gave a detailed report on the proposed new church. After a discussion period, Miner Flynt, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, accompanied by Elder Claude Hart, presented a complete financial report. After more discussion, Lewis Alexander moved that "we as a congregation move ahead with the building of a new church as recommended by the Building Committee, and to further authorize the Trustees to borrow, on the credit of the church, up to \$300,000 without personal endorsement." The motion was seconded simultaneously by Joe Harris and Jim Carson. Voting was by secret ballot and the overwhelming results were 113 to 3. The time had come to build! Excitement filled the air as the congregation gathered on the Hillcrest Lot to break ground. Construction, which began the following month, would continue for slightly more than a year.

Now the nitty gritty of choosing interior decor was begun in earnest. Peggy Dudley got into the spirit of decorating so much that she invited the committee to her home for a meeting. Little did they know that she had just finished redecorating her home with emerald green carpeting, and her walls with white trimmed in bisque. Just as Peggy had hoped, the Committee liked what they saw and chose the same color scheme for the sanctuary and parlor. Lurking somewhere under the men's bathroom tile floor is a quarter of a bucket of the emerald green paint used in the parlor. A loose top and an over zealous committee member (guess who), seeking

to check for the correct shade of green, caused this minor catastrophe. Is there any doubt as to why this particular shade has been dubbed "Dudley Green"?!

One early, important decision concerned the exterior of the building. Investigation into available resources and labor determined that stone from the nearby Vulcan Quarry was indeed an affordable option. Certainly this native material would be in keeping with the foothills of North Carolina. A group of young artisans, headed by Mr. Darrell Mickel, carefully crafted the structure stone-by-stone. As the Committee saw the beautiful building taking shape, they began to be more intentional about our common Scottish Presbyterian heritage — the stone, the dark wooden doors, the simplicity of the wrought iron chandeliers, with the wooden Celtic Cross and beams as the final touch. Renowned landscape architect, Dan Franklin, has designed a plan which gives the Lot the feel of a Scottish countryside.

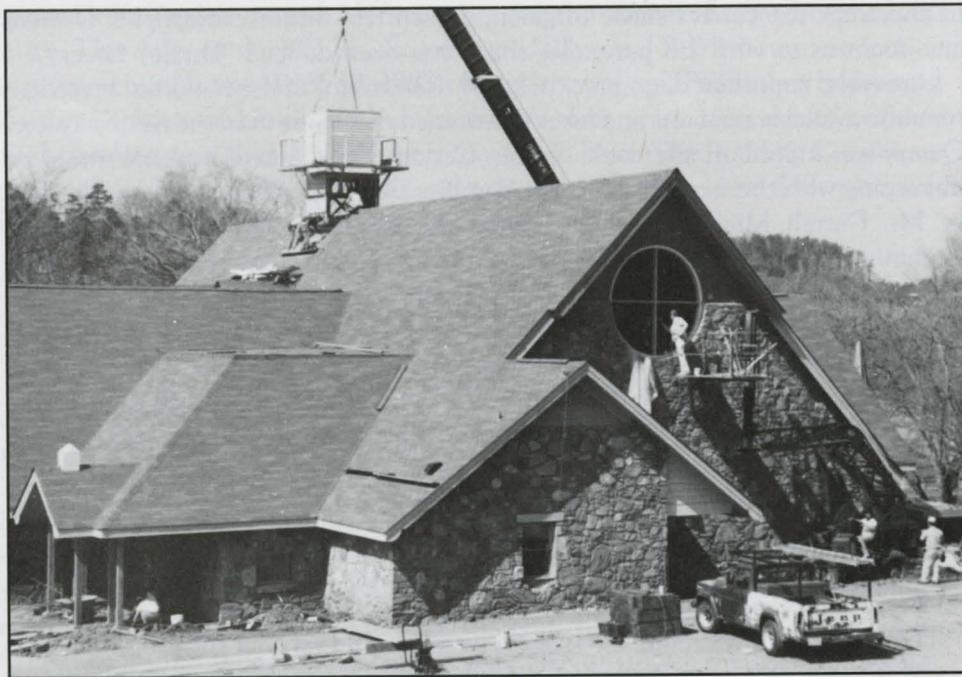
During this time, the Building Committee supervised the construction process, while the Board of Trustees kept a close eye on the status of the Building Fund. Generous and sacrificial giving, as well as prudent management of the Fund by Mr. Fred Shores, placed the church on solid financial footing. A tremendous boost to the financial picture came when a contract for the sale of our church buildings on Bridge Street was signed.

The Lord works in strange ways. Some people would say that the following story could happen only in a Presbyterian Church. We know that it certainly did in ours! With construction of our new church well underway, the time had come to carry out the decision to sell our current church properties on Bridge Street. These two buildings, without much publicity, were quietly listed with Jack Underdown Properties. Though our first choice was to sell the church to some other Christian organization, our commitment was to sell and to apply the revenue to our new building. Because the selling of a church is a rather rare transition in a town the size of Elkin, no one dared to guess how long this sale would take.

Just a couple of months later, in December 1989, Sam Swift of Underdown Properties, was showing some houses to a newcomer in town, a man named John Abernathy. The last house shown that day belonged to Dr. and Mrs. Steve Hux on Gwyn Avenue, almost adjacent to the church. Mr. Abernathy indicated that on his next visit he would like to see a few more houses, and perhaps even some larger buildings. In order to meet this new request, Sam asked, rather curiously, how the building would be used. Mr Abernathy answered, "Well, what I'm really looking for is a church." "You are," Sam said, "you won't believe this, but I have one for sale!" Sam led Reverend Abernathy out the front door, across the street, and into the church. The rest is history. On March 29, 1990, our Trustees received a check from The Assemblies of God for \$145,000.

### THE CHURCH ON THE MOVE

Reminiscent of former days in the Lyric Theatre, the Elkin Masonic Lodge became a second home to the congregation. For several years the Masons had graciously shared their lodge so that the membership, having outgrown the Church House,



Hillcrest Church under construction, Spring of 1990.



Building Committee Members (left to right: Bill Overbey, Haddon Kirk, Donna Thompson, Ab Brown [chairman], and Peggy Dudley) celebrate at the Dedication Day Reception, April 22, 1990.

was able to hold family night suppers. Two community receptions were held there, as well. The first honored Bill Brown upon his retirement. As a testimony to his community popularity, the line of people leading to the Masonic Lodge stretched to the end of the block. The other reception was held to welcome John Brearley and his family to Elkin. Sunday services were also held there for three weeks just before the move into the new church. For the second time in its history, the Presbyterian Church did not own a building in which to worship. This nomadic feeling renewed our understanding of the church as the people of God. In addition, this period of waiting prepared us for the transition into our new home.

Packing was a bittersweet experience as members felt a strong sense of their history as they sorted through and packed old record books and pictures. The congregation worked together at this important crossroad in the life of their church. Memorials would be carefully listed and packed. History would be preserved. As boxes were filled with belongings for the new church, members and friends shared stories of faith and fellowship. Memories included weddings and funerals, special days and holy days. The necessity of change, as well as the dream of a lifetime, provided strength for the move. With the large van packed to its limits, the congregation gathered for one final worship service in the Bridge Street Church. Stark, bare surroundings now contrasted the warmth of this quaint building. A time of informal sharing gave comfort to all who were present. Some things would never change. Our memories, our people, and our faith would be waiting for us on Hillcrest Drive.

With construction almost complete, official permission came for the church to have its first service in the new building. Word quickly spread and numerous volunteers, with work gloves in hand, arrived to help unpack. Furniture and supplies were placed in approximate locations. The moving van, which had remained locked for the previous three weeks, was now empty. Elkin Presbyterian had taken occupancy of the building just in time. The next day, April 15, 1991, was Easter Sunday! As an overflow crowd gathered to express faith in a Risen Lord, the church indeed witnessed a miracle. A very special dream had come true. Indescribable joy also characterized the following Sunday, as a Service of Dedication was held for the new sanctuary, fellowship hall, and educational wing. People gathered at the cornerstone for the Call to Worship and processed into the sanctuary, singing, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." Former ministers and many special guests, including the preacher for the occasion, Dr. John H. Leith of Union Seminary in Virginia, were present for this communion service. More than four hundred people gathered to mark this special day. A beautiful reception that afternoon welcomed the community to our Hillcrest home. Within seven months, Miner Flynt, President of the Trustees, would make a stunning announcement to the congregation: "To date, we have made our final payment to I. L. Long Construction Company, and we have a balance of funds in our account. If there were to be a mortgage burning, today would be the day!" The congregation broke into applause. With God's help, the church's largest leap of faith had come to a successful conclusion.



### OUR MUSIC PROGRAM

*Above:* Choir Festival in the Hillcrest Church.

*Below:* Tuesday Ladies' Handbell Group led by Mrs. Fran Greene.



## ROOM TO BREATHE

Being in this beautiful building has allowed our church room to grow. During recent months, virtually every program of our church has been increased both in size and participation. These areas include music groups, covered dish suppers, Presbyterian Women circles, Youth Fellowship, and Sunday School activities. Two additional fellowship groups, the Hillcresters and the Hilltoppers, have provided enjoyment for young and young-at-heart adults, respectively. A continued source of fellowship has been our association with the Elkin Recreation Department. Many children and adults have learned valuable lessons while playing on PeeWee, Midget, Girls, and Mens' teams. A word of appreciation goes to the coaches who made these games possible: Wynne Dillon, Ab Brown, Hal Robinson, Dallas Nance, Wayne Reece, Doug Longworth, Evan Ballard, Rick Hutchens, and Mike Booker.

Perhaps the most significant increase in these areas has been in Christian education. With multiple class options from which to choose, more and more adults have benefitted from this part of our church program. In September of 1992, Montreat-Anderson College helped our church honor Mr. John Anderson by awarding him the prestigious Zoulean Anderson Award. Mr. Anderson received this award in recognition of his excellent Bible teaching during the last twenty years. The Christian Education Committee, under the leadership of Mrs. Sandie Blackley, has developed a home-based program which promises significant results. Involving parents, adult volunteers, and students, the Discipleship Program has four basic components: (1) Memory Work (2) Study and Reflection (3) Church Service (4) Community Involvement. Plans are now in place to copyright this material and perhaps to publish the program for distribution.

A new and revised form of Presbyterian Men has aided in a recent emphasis in our church's ministry. Through this organization, our church has placed much attention on the stewardship of the environment. An effort to be good stewards of creation produced an innovative project, known as "Partners In Recycling." Within a year's time, our congregation had recycled more than 80,000 pounds of aluminum, glass, and paper. This figure totaled more than four times the amount gathered by Surry County during the same length of time. Materials developed by our Men, including brochures, litanies, and bumper stickers, were circulated among hundreds of churches throughout the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. National acclaim came as Mr. Jim Kelley became National Coordinator for Partners, and as the following resolution reached the General Assembly. Today, our recycling efforts have spread to community-wide participation, and our Adopt-A-Highway Program has helped maintain this important focus.

This Overture was approved by Salem Presbytery, meeting on February 3, 1990, at the First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, North Carolina and was adopted by the 202nd meeting of the General Assembly, meeting May 29-June 6, 1990, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mrs. Barbara Fulp, Clerk of Session and one of eight commissioners from Salem Presbytery, was on hand to witness this historic event.



### RECYCLING EFFORTS

Above: Haddon Kirk encourages the Presbyterian Men to clean the highway they have "adopted."

Below: Partners in Recycling gained national attention. A fair was held to educate the community on the values of recycling. Learning more about recycling efforts are: Jonathan Snyder, Lori Smith, Jim Kelley, Ken Eaton, Molly Blackley, and Pat Eaton.



### AN OPEN SPIRIT

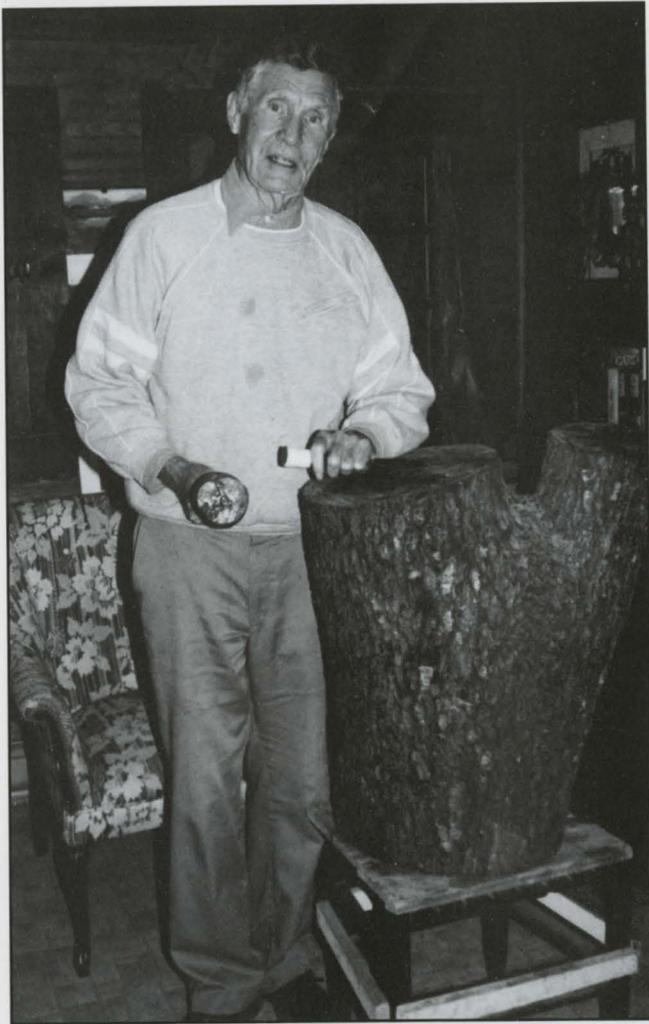
As our first century comes to a close, our congregation is well-balanced between younger and older families. We continue to grow both in number and in spirit. There is an openness, a warmth, that invites persons into the fellowship of this church. Some three hundred and thirty Presbyterians presently belong to this fellowship. One person, who was recently received into membership, expresses this feeling through the words of a poem:

#### *Impressions of Elkin Presbyterian Church*

*Where greetings from strangers  
are customary  
And the outward smiles you see  
come from within.  
Where courtesy is preferable  
to being curt  
And helping hands extend  
from unselfish hearts.  
Where neighbors and friends  
are one and the same  
And families gather in appreciation  
of their blessings.  
Where the doors of the charitable  
open in welcome;  
Such is a place where even drifters  
feel at home.*

Our spirit is one of gratitude as we prepare to celebrate our Centennial on November 21-22, 1992. Special gifts commemorate the occasion. Among these are a beautiful pulpit hanging created by Virginia Hart, pew Bibles given by the Elizabeth Randleman family, a stained-glass window depicting the life and work of Christ, donated by Mrs. Mabel Leeper, and a wood carving by Reverend Johnnie Mack Walker, commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Byron Wolfe. Activities for the long-awaited weekend center around a Founders Day Banquet, filled with music and stories, and the Centennial service of worship on Sunday morning. Mr. Price H. Gwynn, III, Moderator of the 202nd General Assembly, will be present to proclaim the Word. Reverend John M. Handley, Executive Presbyter, will bring greetings from Salem Presbytery. Former ministers and members, as well as invited guests, will join together to give thanks to God for what He has done! Not by coincidence, we believe, this Celebration comes in the Season of Thanksgiving.

As the final year of our first century reaches its conclusion, we celebrate our heritage, and we look to a future that is bright. We begin our second century with courage, with confidence, and with conviction. God has prepared us for this task,



Left: Montreat artist, Reverend Johnnie Mack Walker, takes aim on his next subject. This beautiful cherry stump will soon be a carving displayed at Elkin Presbyterian Church.

Below: Mr. Dan Franklin, well-known architect from Atlanta, Georgia, explains his landscape design with the Property Committee. Members present are: (left to right) Jo Reece, Dick Everhart, Jean York, Jim Kelley, and Rick Kimrey.



## APPENDIX

The "Secretaries Book of Elkin Presbyterian Church" records that the following people were given mite boxes in 1898:

J. H. Ball  
 Mrs. Galloway  
 Mrs. Noel  
 Laura Noel  
 Minnie Ross  
 Ruby Ball  
 Nettie Ball  
 Minnie Ball  
 T. L. Green  
 J. M. Chatham  
 Gratty Cook  
 Millie Bodenhauser  
 Mrs. T. L. Green  
 Willie Boney  
 Georgia Johnson

## MEMBERS AND CURRENT FRIENDS(\*) OF ELKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Abercrombie, Elizabeth Leigh  
 Abercrombie, Robert E.  
 Abercrombie, Mrs. Robert (Susan)  
 Abercrombie, Robert E. Jr.  
 Adams, George  
 Adams, Mrs. George  
 Alexander, Bevin R.  
 Alexander, Mrs. Bevin R.  
 Alexander, R. Lewis  
 Alexander, Mrs. R. Lewis (Julia Anne)  
 Alexander, Ralph Lewis, Jr.  
 Alexander, Mrs. R. Lewis, Jr. (Denise)  
 Alexander, Rosemary Reynolds  
 Alexander, T. Cowan  
 Alexander, W. C.  
 Allison, Elizabeth McDonald  
 Allnut, William B.  
 Allnut, Mrs. William B. (Bobbie)  
 Ammons, Rick  
 Anderson, Carol  
 Anderson, John  
 Anderson, John\*  
 Anderson, Mrs. John (Dorris)  
 Appenzeller, Tom  
 Appenzeller, Mrs. Tom (Kathy)  
 Armfield, Charles  
 Armfield, Mrs. Charles  
 Ashburn, Austin  
 Ashburn, Brock\*  
 Ashburn, Gail  
 Ashburn, Jack\*  
 Ashburn, Marcela  
 Ashman, Ron  
 Ashman, Mrs. Ron (Ann)  
 Bailey, Glenn  
 Bailey, Mrs. Glenn (Sudie)  
 Bailey, Rick  
 Bailey, Mrs. Rick (Susan)  
 Baker, Clyde  
 Baker, Mrs. Clyde  
 Ball, John Hampton  
 Ball, Lena R.  
 Ball, Minnie  
 Ball, Miss Mary Emma  
 Ball, Mrs. Mary Emma  
 Barbour, Dan  
 Barbour, Mrs. Dan (Mary)  
 Barker, Mrs. Harry H.  
 Barker, R. J.  
 Barker, Mrs. R. J.  
 Barker, Walter Bryan  
 Barnett, Bill Wilson  
 Barnett, Mrs. Bill Wilson  
 Barnett, Fred  
 Barnett, Jerre  
 Barnett, Sue  
 Berrier, Ira B.  
 Berrier, Mrs. Ira B. (Inez)  
 Berrier, Richard Ira  
 Beulin, Ina  
 Biddix, F. W.  
 Biddix, Mrs. F. W.  
 Biddix, Fred, Jr.  
 Bivins, Elizabeth Gibbs  
 Bivins, Geneva Kathleen  
 Bivins, Joseph Gwyn  
 Bivins, Mrs. Joseph Gwyn (Edwina)  
 Bivins, Margaret Gwyn  
 Bivins, Mrs. J. F. (Mary Leslie)  
 Bivins, Maxine  
 Bivins, Nan  
 Blackburn, Cynthia  
 Blackburn, Nick\*  
 Blackburn, O. T.  
 Blackburn, Mrs. O. T. (Kate)  
 Blackburn, Mrs. Bessie Pruitt  
 Blackburn, Opal  
 Blackburn, Virginia Lee  
 Blackley, Alice  
 Blackley, Dr. William J.  
 Blackley, Mrs. William J. (Sandie)  
 Blackley, Molly  
 Blackley, Seth  
 Bodenheimer, Frank  
 Bodenheimer, May Myers  
 Bodenheimer, V. W.  
 Bodenheimer, Mrs. V. W.  
 Booher, James A.  
 Booher, Mrs. James A. (Idelia)  
 Booher, Lee Benson  
 Booker, James G.  
 Booker, Mrs. James G. (Clara)  
 Booker, James G., III  
 Booker, Catherine Ann  
 Booker, Mike  
 Boulware, Deborah\*  
 Boulware, Richard\*  
 Boyle, W.P.  
 Boyle, Mrs. W. P.  
 Bracey, Jennifer\*  
 Bracey, Steve\*  
 Bready, John  
 Brearley, Mrs. John (Tammy)  
 Briggs, Charles Raymer  
 Briggs, Gretchen Couch  
 Brock, Leslie  
 Brown, A.L., II  
 Brown, Abner Dixon  
 Brown, Mrs. Abner (Linda)

Brown, Amy  
 Brown, George William  
 Brown, Henry Stephen  
 Brown, Mrs. Henry (Jo)  
 Brown, James Emory  
 Brown, Joseph Theodore  
 Brown, Mrs. Joseph Theodore (Avis)  
 Brown, Joseph Theodore, Jr.  
 Brown, Mrs. Joseph Theodore Jr. (Johnsie)  
 Brown, Lorre  
 Brown, Mark Edward  
 Brown, Mike  
 Brown, Mrs. Mike (Jane)  
 Brown, Shannon  
 Brown, Steven  
 Brown, Mrs. Steven (Glenda)  
 Brown, Todd  
 Brown, William  
 Brown, Mrs. William (Jewell)  
 Buchanan, Mrs. Ralph L. (Margaret)  
 Buffalo, Kelly  
 Buffalo, Shawn  
 Bullock, E. B.  
 Bullock, Mrs. E. B. (Harriet)  
 Burch, Lula Mae  
 Burgess, Sam  
 Burgess, Mrs. S. A. (Carol)  
 Burnside, Lewis  
 Burnside, Mrs. Lewis  
 Burrell, Cloice  
 Burrell, Mrs. Cloice  
 Campbell, Finley J.  
 Campbell, LeRoy  
 Campbell, Mrs. LeRoy  
 Campbell, Robert  
 Campbell, Mrs. Robert  
 Cape, Candy\*  
 Cape, Daniel\*  
 Cape, Jeffrey\*  
 Carrier, Aubrey  
 Carson, Anna Margaret  
 Carson, Debbie\*  
 Carson, George  
 Carson, James  
 Carson, Mrs. James (Anna)  
 Carson, Janet Milligan  
 Carson, Kathryn\*  
 Carter, Annie Jennette  
 Carter, J. H.  
 Carter, Joseph Hollingsworth  
 Carter, Mary Elizabeth  
 Carter, Dr. Numa R., Jr.  
 Carter, Mrs. Numa R., Jr. (Nancy)

Carter, Randy\*  
 Carter, Robert (Cecil)  
 Casstevens, Mrs. Vertie Stoker  
 Caudill, Hellen  
 Caudill, Mrs. J. L.  
 Caudill, O. V.  
 Caudill, Mrs. O. V.  
 Caudill, Rachael  
 Caudle, Janice\*  
 Causey, Benjamin S.  
 Causey, Clara Belle  
 Causey, David J.  
 Causey, Mrs. David J. (Joyce)  
 Causey, O. D.  
 Causey, Mrs. O. D.  
 Chappell, James Ray, Jr.  
 Chappell, Mary Davis  
 Chatham, Jos. M.  
 Chatham, Miriam M.  
 Chatham, Nellie Agnes  
 Chipman, Ethel  
 Christy, John Michael  
 Church, Robert Edward  
 Cleary, Barry  
 Cleary, Bryan  
 Cleary, Buford  
 Cloninger, Dorothy Queen  
 Cloninger, John Andy  
 Colbert, Emily Hughes  
 Colbert, Holly  
 Combs, Bernice  
 Combs, Jean  
 Cook, Miss Ina Blanche  
 Cooke, Max  
 Cooke, Mrs. Max (Helen)  
 Cooley, Adriane  
 Cooley, Megan  
 Cooley, Richard  
 Cooley, Mrs. Richard (Dian)  
 Cooper, J. Milton  
 Cooper, Mrs. J. Milton  
 Copeland, Mrs. W. C.  
 Coppedge, Grace  
 Cosby, Billy  
 Cosby, Chrysti  
 Cosby, William  
 Cosby, Mrs. William (Pat)  
 Couch, Matt  
 Couch, Phillip  
 Couch, Mrs. Phillip (Sheila)  
 Couch, Sean  
 Cox, Vance E.  
 Cox, Mrs. Vance E. (Mary)  
 Crissman, Kenny\*  
 Crosswhite, Jesse  
 Crosswhite, Mrs. Jesse (Patty)  
 Crutchfield, Mrs. Bruce Curtis (Judy Lanier)  
 Curtis, Frank Parker  
 Curtis, Mrs. Frank (Mozelle)

Curtis, Frank Parker, Jr.  
 Curtis, James Walter  
 Curtis, Joe  
 Davis, Marion Ethel  
 Davis, Mrs. Bertie Stoker  
 Davis, William Hampton  
 Davis, Mrs. William Hampton  
 Day, Kirsty\*  
 Delozier, T. C.  
 Delozier, Mrs. T. C.  
 Dettor, D. C.  
 Dettor, Mrs. D. C.  
 Devlin, Shannon  
 Dick, Bill  
 Dick, Doris  
 Dickson, Carter  
 Dickson, Mrs. Carter  
 Dickson, David  
 Dickson, Gwendolyn  
 Dickson, Lorna Lu  
 Dillon, Alonzo K.  
 Dillon, Henry Edward  
 Dillon, Henry E.  
 Dillon, Mrs. Henry E. (Nancy)  
 Dillon, Jonathan  
 Dillon, Lauren  
 Dillon, Robert Gwyn  
 Dillon, Sarah Kennedy  
 Dillon, Van W., Jr.  
 Dillon, Van W.  
 Dillon, Mrs. Van W. (Eva)  
 Dillon, Wynne Click  
 Dillon, Lynn  
 Dixon, Miss Mary  
 Dornburg, Garry Lee  
 Dornburg, James  
 Dornburg, Mrs. James (Ruth)  
 Douglas, Mrs. Cora Blackwell  
 Douglas, W. C.  
 DuBose, Miss Kate  
 Dudley, Dr. Charles Council  
 Dudley, Mrs. Charles Council (Peggy)  
 Dudley, Frances  
 Dudley, Hunter  
 Dudley, Robert Council  
 Eaton, Kenneth  
 Eaton, Mrs. Kenneth (Pat)  
 Edwards, James Hendrix  
 Edwards, Mrs. Ola H.  
 Edwards, William Smith  
 Eldridge, Alvin  
 Eldridge, Claude  
 Eldridge, Florence  
 Eldridge, James  
 Eldridge, Tim  
 Erwin, Janice Faye  
 Erwin, Regina Ann  
 Erwin, Will Pearson

Erwin, Mrs. Will Pearson (Frances)  
 Evans, Edward  
 Evans, Mrs. Edward (Maggie)  
 Everhart, J. Richard  
 Everhart, Suzanne Cowan  
 Faulk, Alex  
 Faulk, Ben  
 Faulk, Dr. W. W., Jr.  
 Faulk, Mrs. W.W., Jr. (Helen)  
 Faulk, Julie  
 Felts, Mrs. Eddie (Ellie)  
 Felts, Mrs. Mary Alice  
 Fillingame, Riley  
 Fillingame, Mrs. Riley (Joanna)  
 Findlay, J. Campbell  
 Finger, Michael Neil  
 Finger, Mrs. Michael Neil (Mary Ann)  
 Fischer, John Lynn  
 Fischer, Mrs. John Lynn (Sue Carter)  
 Fisher, Abner Larne  
 Fisher, Nell Shook  
 Fisher, Nell Elizabeth  
 Flow, Vic  
 Flow, Mrs. Vic (Rogeryn Ann Rau)  
 Flynt, Miner  
 Flynt, Mrs. Miner (Susan)  
 Folger, Lois Alexander  
 Ford, Heath\*  
 Fulp, Beth  
 Fulp, James W.  
 Fulp, Mrs. James. W. (Barbara)  
 Fulp, Nancy  
 Garner, Donald Ray  
 Garner, Mrs. Donald Ray (Beth)  
 Garner, Joanne  
 Garner, Mark  
 Garrett, Clifford L.  
 Garrett, Mrs. Clifford L. (Ruth)  
 Garrett, Mrs. Ron (Nancy)  
 Gaston, McDiffie Lee  
 Gaston, Mrs. McDiffie Lee (Ann)  
 George, Bradley  
 George, Sharon  
 Gilbert, J. J.  
 Gilbert, Miss Maude Eloise  
 Gilbert, Miss Edith F.  
 Gilbert, Mrs. Julia A.  
 Gilbert, S.M.  
 Gilbert, Mrs. S. M.  
 Gilreath, Dr. Charles  
 Gilreath, Mrs. Charles (Lelia)  
 Goodson, Tryla  
 Grana, Al C.  
 Grana, Norma

Gray, Mrs. Lucy Abrams  
 Gray, Mrs. Willard Grier  
 Gray, Mrs. Worth  
 Green, T. L.  
 Greene, Fran  
 Greene, Graham  
 Greene, Laura  
 Greene, Mark  
 Greene, Mrs. Mark (Jean)  
 Greenwood, Ida Virginia  
 Greenwood, Mrs. W. C.  
 Gregg, Curtis\*  
 Gregg, Judy\*  
 Grier, E.C.  
 Grier, Miss Ruby  
 Grier, Mrs. I. S.  
 Grier, Mrs. A. P.  
 Griffin, David Luke  
 Griffin, Mrs. David (Trudi)  
 Griffin, G. L.  
 Griffin, Miss Jamie  
 Griffin, Mrs. Dell Cochrane  
 Griffin, Robert Dunbar  
 Groner, Dr. Chris\*  
 Gullbranson, Kevin  
 Gullbranson, Rikki  
 Gutch, Suzanne  
 Guthrie, DeeAnn  
 Guthrie, Rod  
 Hadley, Charles E.  
 Hagerty, Charles  
 Hagerty, Mrs. Charles  
 Hamby, John Wesley  
 Hampton, Kim  
 Hampton, Steve  
 Hancock, David  
 Hancock, Mrs. David (Judy)  
 Hanes, Randell\*  
 Hanes, Delana\*  
 Hanks, James Morgan  
 Hanks, Mrs. James Morgan  
 Hanks, James Morgan, Jr.  
 Harris, Cynthia  
 Harris, David  
 Harris, Joe  
 Harris, Carol  
 Harris, Mrs. Joe (Dorothy)  
 Harris, Joe Edwin, Jr.  
 Harris, Sue  
 Harris, Mrs. Joe E., Jr. (Zana)  
 Harris, Margaret  
 Harris, Patrick  
 Harris, Virginia Caroline  
 Hart, Claude B.  
 Hart, Mrs. Claude B. (Virginia)  
 Hedgepeth, Tommy  
 Hedgepeth, Mrs. Tommy  
 (Angela)  
 Helton, Will

Helton, Mrs. Will (Mary T.)  
 Henderson, Harry  
 Henderson, Mrs. Harry (Edith)  
 Henderson, John Everett  
 Henderson, Mrs. Hoke F. (Mary)  
 Henderson, Hoke Frederick, Jr.  
 Henderson, Joseph B., Jr.  
 Henderson, Mrs. Joseph B., Jr. (Gay)  
 Henderson, Mary Anne  
 Henderson, Michael  
 Hendren, Linville L.  
 Hendren, Mrs. Linville L. (Ola)  
 Hendrick, Elizabeth Hampton  
 Hendrix, Luther Leonidas  
 Hendrix, Miss Etta V.  
 Hendrix, Mrs. Corrinna Kirkman  
 Hendrix, Tim  
 Hendrix, Mrs. Tim (Candy)  
 Hensel, Harry H.  
 Hensel, Mrs. Harry H. (Frances)  
 Hensel, Harry, Jr.  
 Hensley, Helena  
 Hester, Miss Sallie  
 Hester, Naomi  
 Hickerson, T. W.  
 Hickerson, Mrs. T. W. (Erdine)  
 Hildebrandt, Mrs. R. E. (Patsy)  
 Hildebrandt, Dick  
 Hildebrandt, Patsy Anne  
 Hildebrandt, Sally Elizabeth  
 Hillyer, Ashley  
 Hillyer, Bob\*  
 Hillyer, Ellen\*  
 Hillyer, John Ryan  
 Hinson, Howard Claude  
 Hinson, Mrs. Howard Claude (Phyllis)  
 Hobbs, Hugh  
 Hobbs, Mrs. Hugh (Ann)  
 Hock, Conrad  
 Hock, Mrs. Conrad  
 Hodges, Tim  
 Hodges, Ame  
 Holcomb, Kent  
 Holcomb, Mrs. Kent (Jo Ann)  
 Holland, Mrs. Beth Combs  
 Holloman, Clara  
 Holloman, Mrs. Clara Ann  
 Holthouser, Carston  
 Holthouser, John  
 Holthouser, Manuel C.  
 Holthouser, Mrs. M. C. (Julia)  
 Holthouser, Robert  
 Holthouser, William  
 Hon, Caroline  
 Hon, Kenneth  
 Hon, Mrs. Kenneth (Man Shun)

Horton, Mrs. Augie Smith  
 Houff, Ron  
 Houff, Mrs. Ron (Harriet)  
 Howard, John Everett  
 Howard, Mrs. John Everett  
 Howell, Charles  
 Howell, Mrs. Charles  
 Hudspeth, Jacob Robert  
 Hudspeth, Mrs. Jacob Robert  
 Hughes, George Samuel  
 Hughes, James Walter  
 Hughes, L. A.  
 Hughes, Mrs. L. A. (Joanna)  
 Hughes, Leonard, III  
 Hughie, Miss Margaret  
 Humiston, Mary Ellyn\*  
 Humiston, Thomas\*  
 Hutchens, Christopher  
 Hutchens, Rick  
 Hutchens, Mrs. Rick (Lynn)  
 Hux, Dr. Stephen  
 Hux, Mrs. Stephen (Lyn)  
 Isenhour, George W.  
 Isenhour, Mrs. George W.  
 Isenhour, Jewel S.  
 Isenhour, Pratt Elizabeth  
 Jackson, April  
 Jackson, Bill  
 Jackson, Jackie  
 Jackson, Jonathan Alan  
 Jennings, Garry Leon  
 Jennings, Janice  
 Jennings, Linda Gay  
 Jennings, Phyllis  
 Jennings, R.E.  
 Jennings, Mrs. R. E.  
 Jennings, Ralph E., Jr.  
 Jennings, Ronald  
 Jernigan, Bill  
 Jernigan, Mrs. Bill (Pat)  
 Jernigan, Doug  
 Jernigan, Dr. G. Perry  
 Jernigan, Mrs. G. Perry (Carol)  
 Jernigan, Julie Martin  
 Jernigan, Steve Gray  
 Johnson, Miss Georgia  
 Johnston, Alfred W.  
 Johnston, Mrs. Alfred W. (Etta)  
 Johnston, Vivian  
 Joines, Bert  
 Joines, Dorothy  
 Jones, Mrs. John  
 Justis, Christopher\*  
 Justis, Martha\*  
 Kelley, James C.  
 Kelley, Mrs. James C. (Gaye)  
 Kelley, Mrs. Newton (Virginia)  
 Kelly, Miss Maggie  
 Kelly, Newton

Key, Ethel  
 Key, Mary Lorene  
 Kimrey, Allison  
 Kimrey, Ken  
 Kimrey, Mrs. Ken (JoAnn)  
 Kimrey, Kevin  
 Kimrey, R. B.  
 Kimrey, Mrs. R. B. (Linda)  
 Kimrey, Teri  
 Kirk, Catherine Clarke  
 Kirk, Charlotte, Link  
 Kirk, Elizabeth Godwin  
 Kirk, Haddon S., Jr.  
 Kirk, Mrs. Haddon S., Jr. (Charlotte)  
 Kirk, Haddon S., III  
 Lackey, Mrs. Janie  
 Lang, Bettie  
 Lanier, Constance Jewel  
 Lanier, Judy  
 Lanier, R. O.  
 Lanier, Mrs. R. O. (Glenna)  
 Lanier, R. O., Jr.  
 Lankford, Herman Tierce  
 Lankford, Rubye  
 Lanning, Mrs. R. J.  
 Larson, Eric\*  
 Lawrence, Ricky Lee  
 Lawrence, Mrs. Ricky Lee (Gayle)  
 Lear, C. Merritt  
 Lear, Mrs. C. Merritt (Louise)  
 Lear, Winston  
 Ledford, C. A.  
 Ledford, Mrs. C. A. (Marguerite)  
 Leeper, Mrs. Mabel Cathey  
 Lewis, A. A.  
 Lewis, Robert  
 Lewis, Mrs. M. B.  
 Long, Betty  
 Long, Briggs  
 Long, Courtney  
 Longworth, Canaan  
 Longworth, Doug  
 Longworth, Mrs. Doug (Kim)  
 Longworth, Nicholas  
 Love, Randy  
 Love, Mrs. Randy (Darlene)  
 Lowe, Jackie Arlene  
 Lowe, Mary Kathleen  
 Lowe, Nelson  
 Lowe, Mrs. Nelson (Mary)  
 Lowrance, J. F.  
 Lowrance, Mrs. J. F.  
 Ludwig, John F.  
 Ludwig, Mrs. John F. (Inez)  
 Ludwig, Maxine  
 Lytle, Marian McDonald

Maness, C. C.  
 Maness, Mrs. C. C. (Pat)  
 Marsh, John  
 Marsh, William  
 Marsh, Vicki  
 Mayberry, Brooks  
 Mayberry, Keith  
 Mayberry, Mrs. Keith (Zana)  
 Mayberry, Zana Avis  
 Mays, Juanita\*  
 McBride, Miss Cooper  
 McCann, Claude V.  
 McCoy, Kelly\*  
 McDade, Miss Celeste  
 McDonald, Billy  
 McDonald, William M.  
 McDonald, William  
 McDonald, Mrs. William (Hilda)  
 McGuire, Jerry  
 McGuire, Mrs. Jerry  
 McIlwee, W. A.  
 McIlwee, Mrs. W. A. (Linda)  
 McKeithen, Edna Madge  
 McKeithen, Leighton III  
 McKeithen, Leighton Jr.  
 McKeithen, Mrs. Leighton, Jr.  
 McKinney, W. S.  
 McKinney, Mrs. W. S. (Virginia)  
 McKnight, Ben  
 McKnight, John  
 McKnight, Mrs. Minnie  
 McKnight, T. C.  
 McKnight, Mrs. T. C. (Julia)  
 McLaughlin, H. B.  
 McLaughlin, John R.  
 McLaughlin, Mrs. John R. (Shela)  
 McNeely, Miss Betty  
 McNeely, Mrs. J. F.  
 Meade, Beth  
 Meade, Todd  
 Melvin, Neil  
 Melvin, Mrs. Neil (Betty Ann)  
 Mickey, Alice Elizabeth  
 Mickey, Joe  
 Mickey, Mrs. Joe (Pam)  
 Mickey, Joseph, Jr.  
 Mills, Bobby  
 Mills, Edith  
 Mills, R. L.  
 Minish, James Clyde  
 Minton, Rita  
 Mitchell, Louis  
 Money, Hulda Marie  
 Money, Russell  
 Money, Violet  
 Moore, G. A. B.

Moore, Mrs. G. A. B. (Jane)  
 Moore, Kenneth L.  
 Moore, Mrs. Kenneth L.  
 Moore, Marcia  
 Moore, Margie  
 Morris, Katherine  
 Morris, Lester  
 Motsinger, J. Lee  
 Motsinger, Mrs. J. Lee (Bettie)  
 Mounce, Earl  
 Mounce, Mrs. Earl (Kathy)  
 Nance, Dallas  
 Nance, Mantle  
 Nance, Pamela Leigh  
 Nance, Paula\*  
 Nance, Suzanne  
 Neaves, Celeste  
 Neaves, Dillon  
 Neaves, Fred  
 Neaves, Louis  
 Neaves, Mrs. Louis (Edna)  
 Newman, Ricky Edward  
 Newman, William  
 Newton, Wayne  
 Newton, Mrs. Wayne  
 Nicks, Miriam A.  
 Noel, Laura Galloway  
 Noel, Mrs. Katherine  
 Norman, Ray  
 Norman, Mrs. Ray (Lucille)  
 O'Connell, Jimmy  
 O'Connell, John T.  
 O'Connell, Mrs. John T. (Debbie)  
 Osmus, Rich\*  
 O'Toole, Christopher  
 O'Toole, Patrick Blaine  
 O'Toole, Timothy  
 O'Toole, Vernon  
 O'Toole, Mrs. Vernon (Shelby)  
 Orr, Mrs. Clyde (Jane Spencer)  
 Overbey, Marian Ashley  
 Overbey, William John  
 Overbey, Mrs. William John (Laura)  
 Pardue, Imogene\*  
 Pardue, Jayne Royall  
 Pardue, LeHew  
 Pardue, Mrs. LeHew (Debbie)  
 Paul, George  
 Paul, Mrs. George (Sarah Ann)  
 Paulson, Janet Bray  
 Paulson, Richard Henry  
 Paulson, Mrs. Richard Henry (Melissa)  
 Paulson, Richard Henry Jr.  
 Pearman, Mrs. W.T.  
 Pearman, W.J.  
 Pearson, Brenda\*

Pearson, Robert\*  
Pearson, W. T.  
Peele, Glenn  
Peele, Mrs. Glenn  
Peters, Carl L.  
Peters, Mrs. Carl L. (Goldie)  
Poindexter, Christine  
Poindexter, Ellen Cooke  
Poindexter, James  
Poindexter, Turner  
Poindexter, Mrs. Turner  
Poovey, Gena\*  
Poplin, Charles C.  
Poplin, Mrs. Charles C. (Lillian)  
Poplin, Charles C., Jr.  
Poplin, Janet Louise  
Prescott, Marcella\*  
Prescott, Robert\*  
Price, Alex  
Price, Arvil  
Price, Briggs  
Price, Joe Lee  
Price, Leon  
Price, Elaine  
Price, Margaret Perkins  
Price, Mary Gayle  
Price, Paul B.  
Price, Polly  
Price, Virginia Kyle  
Price, W. J.  
Price, Mrs. W. J.  
Price, William James  
Prince, James Franklin  
Prince, Mrs. James Franklin  
(Kathleen)  
Prince, Johnny  
Rader, Christy  
Randleman, Allison  
Randleman, Courtney  
Randleman, Debra  
Randleman, Elizabeth  
Randleman, Hunter  
Randleman, Kirk  
Randleman, Michael  
Rector, Jack  
Reece, Kathy\*  
Reece, LeRoy  
Reece, Nicholas Alexander  
Reece, Wayne  
Reece, Mrs. Wayne (Jo)  
Rice, Derrill\*  
Rice, Lori\*  
Richardson, Betsy  
Richardson, Frank  
Richardson, Mrs. Frank (Jean)  
Richardson, William R.  
Ripley, Adam  
Ripley, Ellen

Ripley, Richard Gill  
Ripley, Mrs. Richard Gill (Dee)  
Ritchie, Mrs. R. C. V. (Blanche)  
Ritchie, Ralph  
Robbin, Mrs. Kenneth (Lorena  
Key)  
Robinson, Abbye Victoria  
Robinson, C. W.  
Robinson, Hal  
Robinson, Mrs. Hal (Saborah)  
Robson, Cathy  
Robson, Charles  
Robson, Cynthia Annette  
Robson, Richard  
Robson, Mrs. Richard (Athlene)  
Robson, William Richard  
Rocha, Donna  
Ross, Galloway  
Ross, Miss Minnie  
Rountree, Bill  
Rountree, Mrs. Bill (Vicki)  
Royall, Jesse Steve  
Royall, Kenneth  
Royall, Mrs. Kenneth  
Royall, Steven  
Russell, W. J.  
Sale, Fred A.  
Sale, Mrs. Fred A. (Nelle)  
Sale, Linda Karen  
Saylor, Bunnie  
Saylor, James  
Saylor, Mrs. James (Hazel)  
Saylor, Joe Henry  
Seiler, Clara  
Sherow, Anne  
Sherrill, Janie  
Sherrill, Jennie  
Shillinglaw, John  
Shillinglaw, John  
Shillinglaw, Mrs. John  
Shillinglaw, Robert  
Shirley, Chuck  
Shirley, Genna  
Shirley, Robert  
Shirley, Mrs. Robert (Ginny)  
Shores, Bennett  
Shores, Edna  
Shores, Fred  
Shores, Mrs. Fred (Wilma)  
Shores, Mrs. Miles  
Shores, William Arthur  
Shumate, Laura  
Simpson, Jody  
Simpson, Joseph B., Jr.  
Simpson, Mrs. Joseph B., Jr.  
(Frances)  
Simpson, Linda  
Smith, Alan  
Smith, Bill

Smith, Mrs. Bill (Carolyn)  
Smith, Clement V.  
Smith, David  
Smith, Emmie  
Smith, Eugene, Jr.  
Smith, John Michael  
Smith, Lori  
Smith, Mrs. Margaret Purcell  
Smith, Ruth  
Smith, Teresa  
Smith, Wilma  
Snow, Betty Jean  
Snow, Eddie  
Snow, Glenn  
Snow, Mrs. Glenn (Kate)  
Snow, Guy Leighton  
Snow, Mrs. Guy (Virginia)  
Snow, James McNeill  
Snow, Lucille  
Snow, Mrs. Will  
Snyder, Edward R.  
Snyder, Mrs. Edward R.  
(Kathleen)  
Snyder, Edward R. III  
Snyder, Mrs. Edward R. III  
(Judy)  
Snyder, Jonathan  
Snyder, Kathleen Josie  
Snyder, Matthew Edward  
Spainhour, Mary Jane  
Spainhour, Mrs. Roy (Hazel)  
Spainhour, R. Al  
Spainhour, Vicky  
Spillman, Harry  
Stanton, Bertha  
Steadman, Bruce Ann  
Steadman, Cammie  
Steadman, Dr. Paul  
Steadman, Mrs. Paul (Cynthia)  
Steadman, Julia  
Stephenson, William  
Stevenson, Bill  
Stevenson, Mrs. Bill (Winnie)  
Stevenson, Bobbie Campbell  
Stewart, Susan  
Stewart, Wells  
Stuart, Bill  
Stuart, Charles  
Stucky, David  
Stucky, Mrs. R. H.  
Stucky, Ruth  
Stull, George  
Stull, Mrs. George (Willie)  
Stump, Dale Harvey  
Stump, Frank E.  
Stump, Mrs. Frank E.  
Summers, Doris  
Surber, Terry  
Surber, Mrs. Terry (Susan)

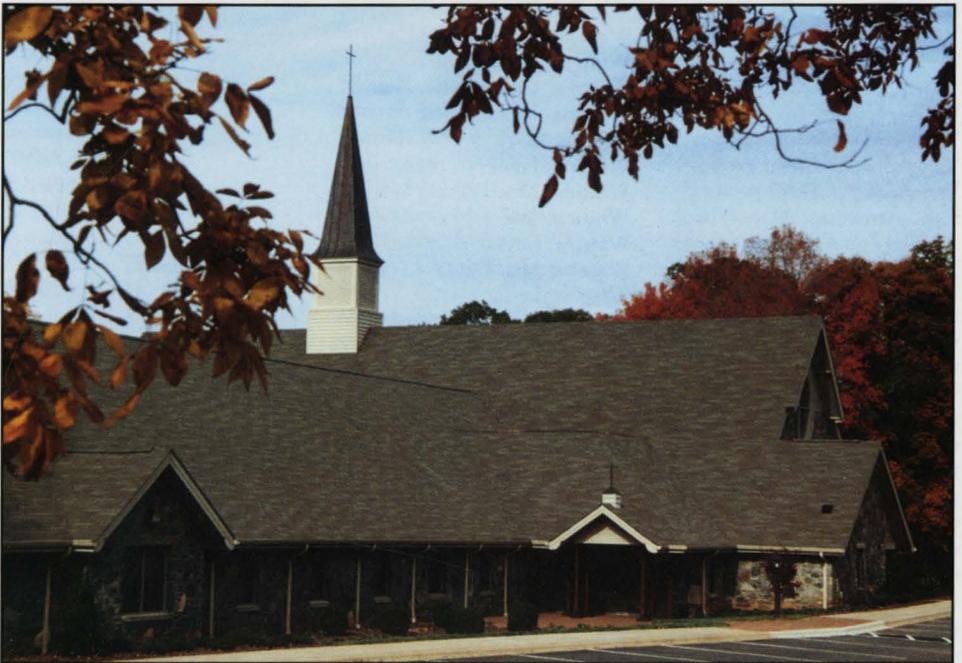
Suttle, Allen Clark  
Suttle, Otis Clifford  
Suttle, Mrs. Otis Clifford  
(Nancy)  
Talley, Steve  
Talley, Susie  
Taylor, Norman  
Taylor, Mrs. Norman  
Teague, Ruth  
Tebo, Sinclair  
Thompson, Paul Douglas  
Thompson, Mrs. Paul Douglas  
(Donna)  
Thompson, Tamela  
Thrift, David  
Thrift, Robert  
Tran, Ky  
Transou, Shep  
Tudor, Mrs. Ruth  
Tulbert, Randy  
Tulbert, Mrs. Randy (Tommie  
Ann)  
Turner, Delbert Jr.  
Turner, Elizabeth  
Turner, Sophie K.  
Turner, W. N.  
Turner, Walter J.  
Turpin, Jackie\*  
Uldrick, James  
Uldrick, Mrs. James (Ethel)  
Underdown, Jack  
Underdown, Mrs. Jack  
(Jeannine)  
Underdown, Jeannine  
Vaders, Dennis  
Vaders, Linda  
Vaders, Mark  
Van Antwerp, David Eugene  
Van Antwerp, Floyd  
Van Antwerp, Mrs. Floyd  
(Sallie)  
Van Antwerp, Floyd, Jr.  
Van Antwerp, Peter Michael  
Van Antwerp, Richard  
Van Antwerp, Robert  
Vaughn, Dallas M.  
Vestal, Mrs. Waymouth  
Vestal, Sarah  
Wackerhagen, George  
Walker, Penny\*  
Wagoner, Ashley  
Wagoner, David  
Wagoner, Mrs. David (Lynn)  
Wagoner, Mrs. Elbert  
Wagoner, Johnny  
Wagoner, Martha  
Wagoner, Mary Sue  
Wagoner, Nancy Jane  
Wall, Betty Lou

Walls, Mattie Greene  
Ward, Robert  
Ward, Mrs. Robert (Mildred)  
Warfield, Freddie  
Warfield, Mrs. Elsie  
Warfield, Mrs. H. L.  
Warwick, Joe  
Warwick, Mrs. Joe  
Webb, Polly  
Webster, Dick  
Webster, Naomi  
Weimar, Paul  
Weimar, Mrs. Paul  
Weimar, Susan  
Wellborn, Bessie Lee  
Wellborn, Catherine C.  
Wellborn, Mrs. Carrie  
Henderson  
Wellborn, Dr. William R., Jr.  
Wellborn, Mrs. William R.  
Jr. (Margaret)  
Wellborn, William Levine  
West, Ralph  
West, Suma  
Wheeler, C. T., Jr.  
Wheeler, Mrs. C. T., Jr. (Mary  
Rumple)  
Wheeler, Mrs. C. T., Jr. (Sarah)  
Wheeler, Charles Thomas, III  
Wheeler, Mrs. Charles Thomas,  
III (Margaret)  
Wheeler, Donna S.  
Wheeler, Sarah  
White, Minnie  
Whiting, Chester  
Whiting, Mrs. Chester  
(Deborah)  
Whiting, Frank  
Whiting, Mrs. Frank (Nancy)  
Whiting, Jim  
Wiggins, David  
Wiggins, Mrs. David  
Wiggins, Leslie  
Wiles, Mrs. Eddie (Margaret)  
Wiles, Dixie  
Wiles, Lucille,  
Wiles, Polly  
Wilkerson, Barbara McDonald  
Wilkerson, Connie\*  
Wilkerson, David\*  
Wilfong, Glenn  
Wilfong, Mrs. Glenn (Marilyn)  
Wilfong, Henry  
Wilkins, Dusty  
Wilkins, Shane  
Williams, Anna\*  
Williams, Douglas  
Williams, Mrs. Douglas (Sarah)  
Williams, Jessie Anne

Williams, Steve  
Williamson, John W.  
Williamson, Mrs. John W.  
Williamson, Smith  
Williamson, Mrs. Smith  
Willis, Michael\*  
Wilmoth, Cora Lee  
Wolfe, Byron  
Wolfe, Mrs. Byron (Margaret)  
Wood, Ann Young  
Worthington, Dana  
Worthington, Ronald  
Worthington, Mrs. Ronald (Lee)  
Yandell, L. C.  
Yandell, Mrs. L. C.  
Yarborough, Steve  
Yarborough, Mrs. Steve (Lisa)  
York, Dewey  
York, Mrs. Dewey James (Jean)  
York, Dewey James, Jr.  
York, Jamye Brown  
York, Earl  
York, Mrs. Earl (Peggy)  
York, Ella Booker  
Young, Robert



Our cherished, quaint church on Bridge Street in the Springtime.



The Hillcrest Church in early fall with the first phase of landscaping in place.