



Water Street
Seventh and Poplar
GLENDALE ROAD

Church of Christ

Murray, Kentucky

*Celebrating a
Century of Service
to Murray
and Calloway County*

CENTENNIAL SUNDAY

August 16, 2009

~ Updated August 2015 ~

*“Respect for the Past ...
Vision for the Future”*

DEDICATION

Much of the information in the booklet would not have been known were it not for the efforts of our long-time congregational historian, the late James W. Thurmond, whose long life was devoted to the welfare of this church. A member from the late 1920s until his death, he was intimately acquainted with the history of not only the church but of the larger community as well. He served as a deacon from 1946-1959 and as an elder from 1959-1990. During all these years he regularly taught Bible classes and served for many years as church treasurer. Moreover, he also served for years as recording secretary for elders' meetings. Because of his remarkable memory as well as his diligent attention to record keeping, we have a wealth of information that otherwise would not have been preserved. For these and numerous other reasons, the Centennial Research Committee dedicates this booklet to the late James W. Thurmond.



James W. Thurmond
1918-2008



Members of the Centennial Research Committee are pictured in the church library.
Back row, left to right: Ernie R. Bailey, Carol D'Elia, Vicki Ragsdale, Marge Cloys and Jim Nix.
Front row, left to right: Barbara McCuiston, Ruth Cole, Joanna Wilder, Dortha Winchester and Sue Adams.
~ Update: Ruth Cole (1920-2014)

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this centennial booklet is factually correct. In many cases, firm records did not exist and data had to be pieced together from various church as well as non-church sources. Church records during the Water Street years are scarce indeed and it was here that newspaper and other records held by MSU's Pogue Library became highly useful as information had to be painstakingly reconstructed. As often happens with any historical research, there are sometimes conflicting versions of the same event and judgment calls have to be made relative to the accuracy or inaccuracy of a particular bit of data. The members of the Centennial Research Committee present this commemorative booklet trusting that it will not only be an interesting souvenir of the day's events but will also prove to be a highly useful tool on which future congregational research can be based. Those charged with researching the church's bicentennial in 2109 will, we hope, find our work of great value to them.

Booklet design and layout by Linda M. Pierce. Photography by Ladonna Sparks. Printed by Printing Services and Supplies, Murray, Ky.

CENTENNIAL SUNDAY

August 16, 2009

Order of Services



9 a.m. Worship*

Welcome and Announcements – Garry Evans

Singing led by Todd Walker

(All hymns chosen for the morning service are those with which the congregation would have been familiar in 1909.)

Opening Hymn # 869 – “We’re Marching To Zion”

Opening Prayer – Johnny Bohannon

Hymn # 754 – “Faith Of Our Fathers”

Scripture Reading – Joshua 4:1-7 – Kenneth Cleaver

Introduction of Guest Speaker – John Dale

“Respect for the Past” – Jay P. Lockhart (Minister 1963-1967)

Invitation Hymn # 286 – “Wonderful Story of Love”

Communion Hymn # 315 – “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

Communion and Offering – Tommy Carraway

Closing Hymn # 852 – “When The Roll Is Called”

Benediction – Joe Thornton



10 a.m. Bible Study

“Vision for the Future” – John Dale and Elders

(All classes from 5th grade through adult will meet in the auditorium.)



11:15 a.m. Lunch



5-5:30 p.m. Singing

Led by Todd Walker and former song directors

5:30-5:45 p.m. Presentations and Recognition of Guests



6 p.m. Worship*

“Let’s Roll!” – Ministers and Elders

*Services broadcast on WNBS 1340 AM

Before Water Street

Ernie R. Bailey

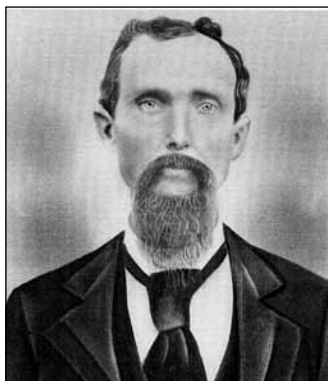
From the very earliest settlement of the Jackson Purchase, itinerant preachers carrying the New Testament message of faith and order were active in evangelizing the area we now know as Calloway County. From the county's formation in 1822 to its division into Calloway and Marshall in 1842, small bands of Christians are known to have met in various locations throughout the area but very few of these groups owned buildings. Most were loosely organized and none left reliable permanent records.

From 1822 until after the Civil War, there were several efforts made to establish a permanent congregation in the vicinity of what is now the town of Murray. The Murray church constructed houses of worship in 1844 and 1868 and experienced phenomenal growth prior to the division that occurred during the closing years of the 19th century.

Although the dates of organization on some are approximate, it is known that nine *a cappella* churches existed within present-day Calloway County prior to the establishment of the Water Street Church in 1909. In order of establishment they were: New Concord (before 1845), Green Plain (1854), Friendship (about 1876), Pleasant Valley (1886), New Providence (1889), Union Grove (1890), Mt. Olive (1896), Hazel (about 1900), and Williams Chapel (1905).

Much of the preaching during the 19th century was done by itinerant evangelists as few churches were large and wealthy enough to afford full-time preachers. Unfortunately, the names of most of the earliest men who preached in Calloway County have been lost. However, the following list contains the names of

some of those who are known to have preached in and around Murray from the 1820s to the church's division in the 1890s over instrumental music, missionary societies as well as a number of other issues: William Lucius Butler, Elijah Curlee L. Denton, William Dugger, J. W. Gant, Christopher H. Gist, James Holmes, John Wright Holsapple, John R. Howard, James Lindsey, John McCartney, John Boliver McGinn, Benjamin Franklin Manire, Thomas M. Matthews, John F. McCoy, W. E. Mobley, George Nash, John Nash, Albert Nichols, William T. Shelton, and Robert Baker Trimble. While details on many of these preachers are sketchy, the lives of two others, Reuben Starks (1789-1861) and his son, William Marshall Starks (1809-1892), are well documented.



James Riley Hill
1847-1904

In 1900 or 1901 evangelist James Riley Hill (1847-1904) led a movement to re-establish an *a cappella* church in Murray. According to information supplied many years later by Maurice Bucy and Cecil Thurmond, this little group met in the courthouse, the opera house, local banks and various other rented spaces in addition to meeting in local homes. In addition to Bro. Hill, the group consisted of Mary Angeline Ray Hill (1851-1919), Nathan T. Hale (1833-1902), Samuel F. Holcomb (1878-1969), Lucius Deshay Curd (1852-1924), Abraham David Thompson (1859-1924), Maurice Crawford Bucy (1877-1947), as well as Mrs. Sallie Cummins Morrison (1872-1960). Several others, whose names were not recorded, are said to have occasionally met with this little church.



James A. Harding
1848-1922

Due to the deaths of several key members, this little group disbanded in 1904 with the remaining members going to various county churches for a few years until a second and more successful effort to re-establish the church in Murray was undertaken in the summer of 1909. In August of that year, various county churches, especially Hazel, Union Grove and Green Plain, funded an effort to invite the celebrated evangelist James A. Harding (1848-1922) of Bowling Green to conduct a tent meeting on

Murray's courthouse lawn. This effort resulted in thirteen members banding together to form the nucleus of a permanent group that would eventually be known as the Water Street Church of Christ.

[A more extensive treatment of these early years, entitled "A Brief Look At Our History," may be found in the recently-published Centennial Pictorial Directory. In addition, the permanent church files contain more information on many topics covered throughout this booklet.]

Water Street ~ 1909-1950

From the summer of 1909 to 1912, the young church had no regular meeting place and services were held in the courthouse, Woodruff Theater, local banks and in the homes of members. In early 1912, Abraham David Thompson (1859-1924), a local Murray attorney, deeded a small lot on the northeast corner of what was then Linn and Water Streets to the church in exchange for their paying off the \$500 he still owed on the property.



The first service in the Linn and Water Street Church of Christ building was held on Sunday, November 10, 1912, during the ministry of William Fletcher Etheridge (1872-1951), the church's first full-time preacher. The church continued to meet in the unfinished structure throughout the winter of 1912-1913. Writing in the April 15, 1915, issue of the *Ledger and Times*, then minister, T. B. Thompson (1883-1948), described the structure as a "neat, simple yet commodious house..."

In its original state, the building had no basement, no classrooms, no indoor plumbing, no baptistry and no central heating. The structure consisted of one main meeting room measuring 49 feet by 35 feet. According to eyewitness reports recorded many years later, the pulpit was originally in the west end, with the entrance on the east end. The large room was heated by a coal or wood stove.

In 1927, the auditorium was reconfigured and small classrooms were added on each side of the pulpit. Indoor plumbing and a baptistry were added as well as a basement. The main entrance was relocated, the exterior stuccoed, and the wood stove was removed in favor of a basement furnace. With all pews filled, people sitting in all 10 windows, standing around the walls and filling the classrooms on each side of the pulpit, the room's capacity was never more than 300.

Following the renovations of 1927, the building remained essentially unchanged until the church sold the property in 1949 in preparation for the move to Poplar Street the next year. The local American Legion post bought the property in 1950 and used it until the First United Methodist Church bought it for a parking lot in 2006.



While few artifacts from the Water Street years have survived, the Glendale Road Church is in possession of two communion bread plates which were used not only at Water Street but for many years at Poplar Street as well. Both plates, which bear the engraving "Water Street Church of Christ," are now preserved in the church archives.



Seventh and Poplar Street ~ 1950-1989

A headline in the May 17, 1948, issue of the *Ledger and Times* read: “*Proposed New Building For Church of Christ.*” In early 1949, a lot on the southeast corner of the intersection of South Seventh and Poplar Streets was purchased for \$9,000 and it was on this lot that the original auditorium building sat. The *Ledger and Times* issue of Saturday, May 13, 1950, announced “*New Church of Christ Opens Here Tomorrow.*”



Architectural drawings were done by church elder and local businessman, Urban G. Starks (1892-1966) with the assistance of both Ardath Canon (1907-1999) and Gene Graham (1924-1982). Church member, Toy L. Phillips (1890-1966) served as the building supervisor of the project, which eventually totaled around \$100,000. The finance committee consisted of Cecil Thurmond (1891-1979), James Thurmond (1918-2007) and Vernon Anderson (1911-1988). The 11,400 square foot building contained an auditorium reportedly seating some 800 on both main and balcony levels. Seats in the balcony and the smaller auditorium in the basement were “opera seats” that had been purchased from a theater in Peoria, Illinois. The primary characteristic of this building which is still remembered by all who were fortunate enough to worship there was the unparalleled singing made possible by the acoustical properties in the main auditorium. Few congregations before or since have enjoyed the quality of a *cappella* singing that this building provided.

On November 9, 1962, the church expanded into the new 9,600 square foot educational annex that had been constructed on the east side of the original building. The church met for the final Sunday at the Poplar Street location on January 15, 1989, and, in July 1990, the property was sold and eventually renovated into the Weak's Community Center. In December 2000, the original 1950 auditorium portion of the building was destroyed by fire of undetermined origin.



The original pews and pulpit furniture for the Poplar Street building were supplied by the Budde and Weiss Furniture Company of Jackson, Tennessee. While the original 1950 pews were later sold during the redecoration project of 1973, the complete pulpit furniture set was retained and subsequently moved to Glendale Road in 1989.

Glendale Road 1989-present



The purchase of the original 20 acres at the current Glendale Road location was finalized in January of 1985. In 1936, Dr. Hugh Leavell Houston (1908-1986) and wife, Hontas Kelly Houston (1907-2002) had purchased the property on which they built a large Tudor-style mansion which stood in the vicinity of where the auditorium now sits. The house had been empty for a number of years following a devastating fire on January 17, 1982.

Kenneth Cleaver and Earl Nanny (1908-2001) served as co-chairs of the building committee which also consisted of Earl Steele (1920-1998), Johnny Bohannon, Anne Wrather Hoke, Linda Pierce, Jerry Bolls (1941-1994), Rupert Nix (1918-1998) and James Harmon. The project architect was Gingles and Harms of Nashville while Cleaver Construction of Murray served as the general contractor.

Formal groundbreaking ceremonies at the site were held on July 26, 1987. The 66,000 square foot building, costing some \$2,800,000, was formally opened on Sunday, January 22, 1989, followed by dedication services on the afternoon of Sunday, March 12 of that year. The Glendale Road structure has more than three times the total square footage of the old Poplar Street location, and comfortable seating capacity of the auditorium pews is around 1,500 although that figure can be expanded considerably by the use of chairs.

In the summer of 1997, the former Ellis-Bolin property, comprising some 15 additional acres, was added to the original 20-acre site. The purchase of this property was made possible, in part, through a generous gift to the church in memory of Hubert Bazzell (1922-1997). A general services building, housing the church's food, clothing and furniture operations as well as space for general storage and the church's transportation fleet, was opened in 2008.



“And, behold, I propose to build a house unto the name of the Lord my God.”

~ 1 Kings 5:5 (KJV)



Proclaimers of the Word

Since the employment of William Fletcher Etheridge in 1912 as the church's first paid pulpit preacher, 24 different men have held this position, some for very brief periods and some for longer periods of time. Several of the early preachers would today be considered part-time as they did not actually live in Murray but traveled here to preach on weekends. As no reliable church records from the early period have survived, this list of preachers had to be reconstructed, in part, using Murray newspaper records that are preserved on microfilm at MSU's Pogue Library. Unfortunately, there is a period (January 1919 thru November 1927) when no microfilm newspapers exist. Thus, from the coming of L. L. Brigrance in November 1918 to the leaving of Charles Hardin in January 1928, we have no means of determining the exact chronology of pulpit preachers. It should also be noted that E. H. Smith and C. P. Poole were not regularly employed pulpit preachers as both held full-time secular jobs at Murray State. However, both men served whenever needed on occasions so numerous that they deserve to be listed among the 24 preachers. Dr. Poole lived in Murray from 1928-1936 while Professor Smith lived here from 1922 until his death in 1958. The following chronological list includes the preacher's name, years of birth and death (if known) and years of service to the local church (if known). Names of wives are included in another section of this booklet.

James Riley Hill (1847-1904)
Served: 1901-1904

James Alexander Harding (1848-1922)
Served: Organizational meeting in 1909

William Fletcher Etheridge (1872-1951)
Served: 1912-1914

Tannie Brents Thompson (1883-1948)
Served: February 1915 - November 1918

Leonard Lee Brigrance (1879-1950)
Served: November 1918 - 1920s

Andrew Coleman Overby (1889-1950)
Served: 1920s

Boone Lawrence Douthitt (1899-1989)
Served: 1920s

Alonzo Josephus Williams (1899-1994)
Served: 1920s

Charles Franklin Hardin (1892-1958)
Served: 1920s - January 1928

Ernest Herbert Smith (1876-1958)
Served: January 1928 - December 1930

First pulpit minister at Water Street ...



William F. Etheridge
1872-1951

Charles Pinckney Poole (1893-1980)
Served: January 1928 - December 1930

Roy R. Brooks (1893-1972)
Served: December 1930-June 1932

Harvey Wilhite Riggs (1895-1991)
Served: October 1932 - September 1934

Thomas Vernon Pate (1914-1941)
Served: October 1934 - May 1935

Clarence Lester Francis (1904-1943)
Served: November 1936 - November 1942

John Fondren Fulford (1918-1958)
Served: December 1942 - September 1943

Harold Cleon Watson (1907-2004)
Served: October 1943 - March 1946

Charles Columbus Lancaster (1918-1963)
Served: March 1946 - November 1947

John Herbert Brinn, Jr. (1918-)
Served: January 1948 - June 1952

William Davis Medearis (1913-2003)
Served: December 1952 - December 1955

Donald Wesley Kester (1914-1978)
Served: December 1955 - December 1957

Paul Arnold Matthews (1917-1975)
Served: July 1958 - August 1963

Jay Paul Lockhart (1938-)
Served: September 1963 - April 1967

William Eugene Threet (1930-)
Served: June 1967 - June 1970

Roy White Beasley, Jr. (1932-)
Served: July 1970 - June 1973

John William Dale (1946-)
Served: July 1973 - July 2010

Jason Kelley Hart (1975-)
Served: July 2010 -

Pulpit ministers from 1950 to the present ...



John H. Brinn, Jr.



William D. Medearis
1913-2003



Donald W. Kester
1914-1978



Paul A. Matthews
1917-1975



Jay P. Lockhart



William E. Threet



Roy W. Beasley, Jr.



John W. Dale



Jason K. Hart



“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction.”



~ 2 Timothy 4:2 (NIV)

Elders

Church records indicate that, by 1915, the church had sufficiently grown, both numerically and spiritually, to the extent that four elders were appointed to lead the Water Street Church of Christ. During our first century, 35 different men have served the congregation in this capacity and, as we celebrate this centennial, nine men currently serve in this role. The alphabetical list which follows includes the year of appointment and, when known, the year of resignation for the 26 former elders. Small dates in () are birth and death years of those 19 who are deceased.

Johnny Bohannon

Served: 1990 - present

Joe Bennie Brown (1872-1963)

Served: 1915 - ?

Maurice Crawford Bucy (1877-1947)

Served: 1920 - ?

Kenneth Cleaver

Served: 1997 - present

Lucius Deshay Curd (1852-1924)

Served: 1915-1924

Josiah Darnall (1917-2003)

Served: 1968-1974

Ray L. Dunn

Served: 1997-2001

Grundy M. Falwell

Served: 1997 - present

Charles Edward Frazier (1861-1927)

Served: 1920-1927

Carmon McWade Graham (1899-1978)

Served: 1936-1949

Bob Hargrove

Served: 2000 - present

Doris M. Harmon (1926-1969)

Served: 1968-1969

Truman Eugene Jones (1921-1998)

Served: 1968-1979

First elder appointed ...



Lucius Deshay Curd

1852-1924

Jim Lawson (1940-2012)

Served: 2000 - 2012

Bill Looney

Served: 1990-2004

Barton Warren McCaslin (1879-1963)

Served: 1930s

Gene McDougal

Served: 1978-1998

John M. Miller

Served: 1990-2004

Phil Morris

Served: 2005 - present

Baron Goston Myers (1882-1967)

Served: 1946-1965

James Nix
Served: 2005 - present

Charles W. Olree
Served: 1978-2006

Jamie D. Potts
Served: 1997-2002

Dwaine E. Rogers
Served: 1997 - present

Lenith Arthur Rogers (1929-2009)
Served: 1978-1983

David Ryan
Served: 2005 - present

Ernest Herbert Smith (1876-1958)
Served: 1926-1958

Richard Alexander Starks (1880-1955)
Served: 1915 - ?

Urban G. Starks (1892-1966)
Served: 1946-1966

John C. Steele (1929-1988)
Served: 1978-1988

Cecil Herron Thurmond (1891-1979)
Served: 1936-1976

Our longest serving elder ...



C.H. Thurmond
1891-1979

James Wilbur Thurmond (1918-2007)
Served: 1959-1990

Hawkins Valentine (1859-1943)
Served: 1915 - ?

James Hardy Walston (1905-1980)
Served: 1959-1979

Jack Dodson Ward (1927-1997)
Served 1978-1993



*“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of
a bishop, he desireth a good work.”*

~ 1 Timothy 3:1 (KJV)



The Deacons

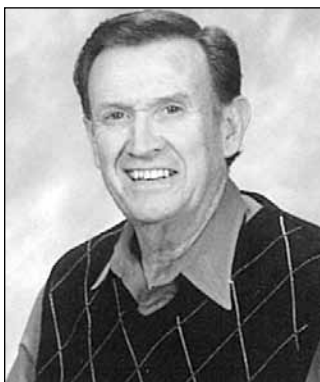
Since the appointment of the church's first two deacons, Maurice Bucy and Charley Graham, in 1915, 126 different men, including the 19 appointed in February of this year, have served the church. Some served for decades and others for very short periods of time, but each has made his own unique contribution to the church's stability and steady progress. On this centennial celebration, 44 men currently serve the Glendale Church in this important function. While not mentioned here by name, we also salute the 126 women who, through their understanding, dedication and longsuffering, have made it possible for the deacons to serve at their best. Dates in () are years of birth and death for those deceased.

Jerry Ainley (1946-2014) – appointed 1981
Vernon Anderson (1911-1988) – appointed 1946
Rusty Back – appointed 2001
Jeremy Bell – appointed 2009
Johnny Bohannon – appointed 1977
Jerry Lee Bolts (1941-1994) – appointed 1977
Wade Hampton Brooks (1912-1996) – appointed 1946
Adolphus A. Bucy (1881-1942) – appointed 1920
Maurice Crawford Bucy (1877-1947) – appointed 1915
Buddy Bybee – appointed 2001
Webb Caldwell – appointed 1978
Rexford Martin Canon (1889-1980) – appointed 1926
Brent Canter – appointed 2001
Tommy Carraway – appointed 1977
Howell Clark – appointed 1986
William E. “Ebb” Clark (1893-1968) – appointed 1930s
Danny Cleaver – appointed 1981
Kenneth Cleaver – appointed 1986
Joe Pat Cohoon – appointed 1986
Gerald Coles – appointed 1986
Tim Coles – appointed 1992
Kelly Crouse – appointed 1997
Artie D’Elia – appointed 1992
Curtis Darnall – appointed 1997
Josiah Darnall (1917-2003) – appointed 1953
Lynn Darnall – appointed 1998
Jody DeWitt – appointed 2009
Fred Douglas – appointed 1997
Steve Dublin – appointed 1986 and 2009
Ray L. Dunn – appointed 1992
Garry Evans – appointed 1986
Andrew Falwell – appointed 2009
Grundy Falwell – appointed 1992
Joel Fisher – appointed 1992
Jimmy Ford – appointed 1998
Harry Lee “Joe” Garland (1939-1983) – appointed 1978
Glen B. Gibbs (1924-2014) – appointed 1981 and 2001
Eric Gibson – appointed 2001
James Gibson – appointed 1986
James R. Gough (1937-2001) – appointed 1968

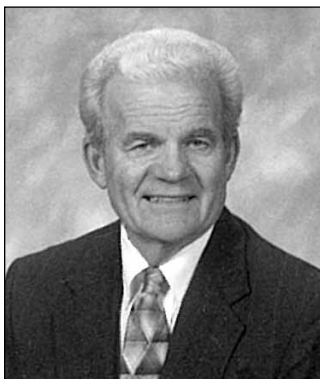
Charles Franklin Graham (1874-1953) – appointed 1915
Charles T. Grogan (1922-2015) – appointed 1986
Bob Hargrove – appointed 1992
Doris Melba Harmon (1926-1969) – appointed 1960
Dewayne Harper – appointed 1992
Irvan Lamar Hendon (1892-1952) – appointed 1946
Mike Henson – appointed 1992
Kenny Hoover – appointed 1986 and 1998
Ted Howard – appointed 1997
Wilson Lafayette Hughes (1913-1991) – appointed 1968
Chris Jones – appointed 2009
Dennis Jones – appointed 1986
Truman Eugene Jones (1921-1998) – appointed 1960
Ray Karraker – appointed 1992
Tony Kelly – appointed 2001
Gene Paul King – appointed 2009
Chad Lawson – appointed 1997
Jim Lawson (1940-2012) – appointed 1997
Charles “Cleve” Lee (1888-1947) – appointed 1930s
Lee Mackey – appointed 1997
John Mahan – appointed 2009
Marvin Maxwell – appointed 1997
Terry McCallon – appointed 2009
Kent McCuiston – appointed 2009
Gene McDougal – appointed 1968
Allen McKeel – appointed 1992
Ron McNutt – appointed 1986
John M. Miller – appointed 1986
Walter Franklin Miller (1903-1959) – appointed 1946
Phil Morris – appointed 1992 and 2001
Earl Clyde Nanny (1908-2001) – appointed 1968
Billy Rue Nix – appointed 1981
James Nix – appointed 1997
James Ottis Patton (1903-1968) – appointed 1946
Tommy Phillips – appointed 2009
Jamie Potts – appointed 1981
John Mark Potts – appointed 2001
Billy Pritchard – appointed 1997
Steve Roberson – appointed 2009
Dwayne E. Rogers – appointed 1992

Lenith A. Rogers (1929-2009) – appointed 1968
 Jack Rose – appointed 1977
 Edgar Leon Rowland (1907-1993) – appointed 1960
 Harry Louis Russell (1927-2007) – appointed 1968
 David Ryan – appointed 1997
 Chris Satterwhite – appointed 1998
 Tommy Schroader – appointed 1986
 David Sheppard – appointed 2009
 B. Steve Simmons – appointed 1986
 Jay Simmons – appointed 1997
 Stan Simmons – appointed 1986
 Karl Smith – appointed 2009
 Steve Spiceland – appointed 1997
 Jay Stark – appointed 2009
 Tim Stark – appointed 2009
 John C. Steele (1929-1988) – appointed 1968
 Steve Steele – appointed 1986 and 1997
 Walter Lee Steely – appointed 2001
 James Whitnell Strader (1879-1960) – appointed 1946
 William Edward Suiter (1870-1960) – appointed 1920
 Thomas Swatzell – appointed 1986
 Randy Taylor – appointed 2001
 Ed Thomas – appointed 1978
 Rob Thompson – appointed 2009
 Arvis Thorn – appointed 1997
 Joe Thornton – appointed 1977
 Cecil Herron Thurmond (1891-1979) – appointed 1920
 James Wilbur Thurmond (1918-2007) – appointed 1946
 James Loyd Tucker (1902-1980) – appointed 1946
 Stacey Underhill – appointed 2009
 Ottis Lynn Valentine (1908-1982) – appointed 1946
 Jim Vaughan – appointed 1992
 Barry Walker – appointed 2009
 Albert Douglas Wallace (1915-1992) – appointed 1953
 James Hardy Walston (1905-1980) – appointed 1953
 Jack D. Ward (1927-1997) – appointed 1977
 Lorin Watson – appointed 1986
 Jerry White (1956-1999) – appointed 1997

Our longest currently serving deacons ...



Tommy Carraway



Joe Thornton

Kelly White – appointed 1997
 George Dewey Williams (1898-1996) – appointed 1945
 Andrew Jackson Wilson (1888-1977) – appointed 1940s
 Daron Wilson – appointed 2009
 James “Jim” Wilson (1916-2005) – appointed 1968
 Donnie Winchester – appointed 1997
 Brad Young – appointed 2001
 Randy Young – appointed 1992



*“For they that have used the office of a deacon
 well purchase to themselves a good degree,
 and great boldness in the faith which is in
 Christ Jesus.”*

~ 1 Timothy 3:13 (KJV)



Make a Joyful Noise



Josiah Darnall



Jerry Lee Bolles



Stephen Curtis Darnall



Jerald D. Sykes



M. Todd Walker

Prior to 1953, the church had no full-time and professionally-trained song directors. In the early decades, singing was led by various men who happened to be available at the time, some of whom were trained and others of whom were not. During these years, visiting song directors were usually employed for special events such as gospel meetings. The relocation to the much larger Poplar Street building and the resulting dramatic growth in attendance necessitated a move toward more professionalism in the directing of congregational singing. In the fall of 1953, Dr. Josiah Darnall, faculty member in the MSU Music Department, became the church's first full-time song director, and it was he who set the standard for the church's rich heritage of congregational singing which endures to this day. The list below includes the five full-time song directors/worship leaders who have served since 1953. Dates in () are birth and death years of those deceased.

Josiah Darnall (1917-2003)

Served: September 1953 - April 1974

Jerry Lee Bolles (1941-1994)

Served: July 1974 - July 1993

Stephen Curtis Darnall

Served: July 1993 - August 2002

Jerald D. Sykes

Served: January 2003 - March 2005

M. Todd Walker (1962-2015)

Served March 2005 - October 2014



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...”

~ Colossians 3:16 (KJV)



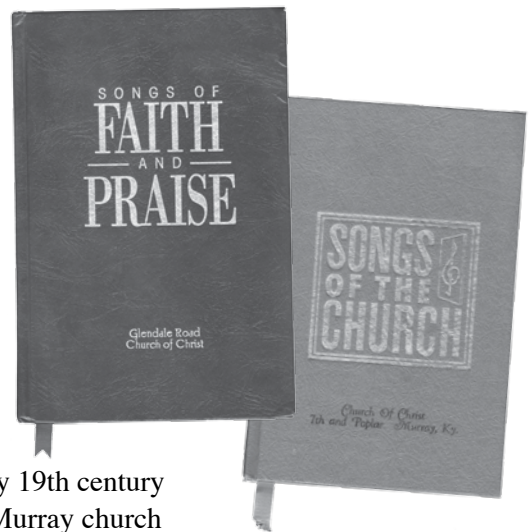
Throughout the years, numerous men from both within and without the congregation have filled this important role during revival meetings and other special events as well as for regular Sunday worship. Records prior to the Seventh and Poplar years are incomplete but, from a survey of available church records, the following is a list of men who are known to have led singing either for special events or for Sunday *morning* worship. Some led only occasionally and others led more often on an as-needed basis.

Ernie R. Bailey	Phillips D. McCaslin (1911-1988)
Bob Beecher	Kent McCuiston
Kenneth Cleaver	Olin Welborn Moore (1886-1969)
Jewel B. Cox (1892-1972)	Owen Moseley
John C. Curtis	Baron G. Myers (1882-1967)
Michael D'Elia	Ralph Oliver
Adron Doran (1909-2001)	Joe Phillips
James Lewis Doran (1914-2000)	Mark Pugh
Leon Knight Harding (1872-1941)	Alvin Blaine Reavis (1885-1947)
Doris M. Harmon (1926-1969)	Hayden Rogers
Willie Lynn Harris (1908-2001)	Urban G. Starks (1892-1966)
Alan Jones	Walter Lee Steely
Don Maley	Tannie Brents Thompson (1883-1948)
Alan Martin	Mike Warren
Josh Martin	W. T. Winn (1914-1993)
Michael McCahey (1941-2012)	Robert H. Witt (1877-1964)

Hymnals

Second only to the Bible, the hymnal is the most important book in the life of any church. Indeed, the *Bay Psalm Book*, printed in Massachusetts in 1640, was the very first book of any kind printed in British North America. So important to Christianity has been the production of hymnals that the *Dictionary of American Hymnology* project estimates that, between 1649 and 1978, over 5,000 different hymnals were published in North America. Moreover, almost without exception, every major figure involved in the movement to re-establish New Testament Christianity in late 18th and early 19th century America compiled and published hymnals. Although the Murray church has used several different hymnals during its first century, Elmer Leon Jorgenson's series of books entitled *Great Songs of the Church* was used for well over half the church's existence.

1. *The New Christian Hymn Book*. Compiled by T. B. Larimore and W. J. Kirkpatrick. Nashville: McQuiddy Printing Company, 1907. [adopted 1913]
2. *Great Songs of the Church*. Compiled by E. L. Jorgenson. Louisville: Word and Work, 1925. [adopted 1927]
3. *Great Songs of the Church # 2*. Compiled by E. L. Jorgenson. 1937. [adopted 1940]
4. *Songs of the Church*. Alton H. Howard, Compiler. West Monroe, Louisiana: Howard Publishers, 1977. [adopted January 30, 1983]
5. *Church Gospel Songs and Hymns*. V. E. Howard, Compiler. West Monroe, Louisiana: Central Printers and Publishers, 1983 [adopted January 22, 1989]
6. *Songs of Faith and Praise*. Alton H. Howard, Compiler. West Monroe, Louisiana: Howard Publishing, 1994. [adopted February 21, 1999]



Support Staff

From 1909 to 1951, there were no paid support staff that can be documented from existing church records. Position titles have often varied and are those printed in the church bulletin at the time of employment. Several on this list were employed on a part-time basis. Summer interns are not included. Pulpit ministers, song directors, secretaries and custodians are treated in other sections of this booklet.

John L. Hicks (1924-2002) (Paid part-time campus worker)
Served: 1951-1952

J. Garvin Smith (1924-1993) (Paid part-time campus worker)
Served: 1951-1952

Gary Brock (Educational Director)
Served: June 1965 - May 1967

Gerald Ellison (Assistant preacher, Educational Director and Youth Director)
Served: June 1967 - August 1969

Don Maley (Youth Director and General Assistant)
Served: 1971-1972

Jerry Bolls (Song Director and Youth Worker)
Served: July 1974 - July 1993

Mark Pugh (Educational Director)
Served: August 1977 - October 1979

Danny Cleaver (Assistant Minister)
Served: March 1980 - December 1985

Phil Cannon (Office Manager)
Served: January 1981 - March 1982

Lorin Watson (Minister of Social Services and Elderly)
Served: November 1983 - April 1988

Jerry Fulton (Singles Director)
Served: April 1984 - December 1991

Kyle Wadley (Youth Director)
Served: January 1989 - February 1991

Wayne Walden (Youth Director)
Served: August 1991 - December 1993

Garry Evans (Involvement Minister)
Served: April 1993 - present

Raybo Dunn (Youth Director)
Served: May 1994 - March 1996

Steve Holladay (Youth Director)
Served: May 1996 - November 1998

Alan Martin (Outreach Minister)
Served: January 1999 - March 2005

Nick Hutchens (Youth Director)
Served: January 1999 - February 2015

M. Todd Walker (1962-2015) (Associate Minister and Song Director)
Served: March 2005 - October 2014

First support staff ...



John L. Hicks
1924-2002



J. Garvin Smith
1924-1993

Secretaries

A competent office staff is essential to the smooth operation of any sizeable church, and one of the continuing strengths of the Murray church has been the quality of those who, since 1953, have served as secretaries/office managers. For the first 44 years of the church's existence there was no paid secretary. During those decades, any necessary office work was performed by an elder or by the preacher who happened to be serving at the time. The Water Street building provided no space for an office and the church owned no office equipment until February 1953 when William Medearis requested the purchase of a typewriter. The relocation to Poplar Street in the spring of 1950 not only provided much more space but was the stimulus for rapid numerical growth as well. Medearis was a proponent of church organization and professionalism, and it was he who insisted upon the employment of the church's first secretary in the fall of 1953. From existing church records it is not possible to reconstruct a definitive list of all women who may have served on a part-time basis during the early 1950s. Indications are that Fredna Wells Morris (1920-1998), Marie Clodfelter Wallace (1919-2004) and Chettie Phillips Lassiter (1901-1979) are among those who served on a part-time or as-needed basis at various times. Assembled from available church records, the following is a chronological listing of the nine women whose dates of service can be documented and who have served the church so faithfully in this capacity:

Edna Starks Knight – served 1953-1956

Hoyland Taylor Jones – served 1956-1958; 1963-1967; 1981-2006

Linda King Parker (1938-2014) – served 1968-1969

Martha Harding Alls – served 1969-1977

Vera Herndon Kimbro – served 1974-1975

Dortha Hendon Winchester – served 1977-1996

Carol Carneal D'Elia – served 1996 - 2014

Donna Starks Darnell – served 1996-2000

Jeanne Thorn Underhill – served 2001 - present



Edna Starks Knight

Buildings and Grounds Personnel

Church records indicate that, prior to the move to Poplar Street in the spring of 1950, the church had no full-time custodians as such work during the Water Street years was done either on a volunteer or part-time basis. The move to the new 9,400 square foot structure, coupled with the sudden burst in both numerical growth and general church activity, necessitated the employment of full-time building staff. The chronological listing which follows includes both part-time and full-time building and grounds personnel. Dates in () are years of birth and death.

Fredrick Samuel "Fred" Hargis (1900-1963) – served 1950-1955

Willie Dale "Gatlin" Clopton (1880-1970) – served 1955-1961

Jack and Buena Wilson Rose (1906-1989) – served 1961-1965

Gene McDougal and Tommy Carraway – served 1965-1966

Ben Keys Farris (1916-2006) – served 1966-1981; 1982-1994

James O. Lamb (1917-2012) – served 1980-1992

Loyd R. Thompson (1926-2008) – served 1981-1993

Esther Smith Cohoon – served 1991-2003

Jane Chadwick Garland – served 1989-1991

William C. "Bill" Smith (1913-2002) – served 1992-1993

Dewayne Harper – served 1992 - present

Don D. Silkman (1928-2009) – served 1993-2008

Marilyn Usrey Tabers – served 2001-2003

Michael Russo – served 2003-2009

John Dudley Burton (1950-2005) – served 1990-2004

John M. Miller – served 2005 - present

Bob Beecher – served 2009 - present

Women Power

No church leader, be it elder, deacon, preacher, song director, etc., can be effective in his respective role without the support of a dedicated spouse. Regrettably, some churches fail to recognize the incalculable contributions of their women. In this brief section, we focus attention on the wives of the pulpit preachers, elders and song directors who have served this church during its first century. Although limited space precludes it, the list should contain the names of hundreds more women, some married and some single, who have also made their own contributions in innumerable ways to the success of this church. Dates in () are years of birth and death for those deceased.

Wives of our Pulpit Preachers *(in chronological order)*

Mary Angeline Ray Hill (1851-1919)
Carrie Matilda Knight Harding (c1852-1876)
Pattie Cobb Harding (1853-1945)
Ida French Frazier Etheridge (1872-1932)
Myrtle M. Andrews Thompson (1891-1982)
Willie Maude Hardeman Brigance (1881-1958)
Susan Beatrice Hargrove Overby (1893-1965)
Mellie R. Gent Douthitt (1900-1975)
Mary Sue Campbell Williams (1902-1995)
Mabel Marie Hardin (1897-1988)
Susan Flora Parrish Smith (1881-1974)
Virginia Nancy Morgan Poole (1896-1981)
Willie Dean McKinney Brooks (1897-1963)
Alice Bragg Gray Riggs (1896-1981)
Flora Attaway Pate (1915-1967)
Ethel Lois Hardison Francis (1904-1957)
Elizabeth Harriet Fulford Fulford (1910-1978)
Sarah Rebecca Taylor Watson (1910-1992)
Frances Morton Lancaster (1921-1996)
Orvis Marie Payne Brinn (1918-2004)
Carolyn Irene Hall Medearis
Juanita Smith Kester

Erlene Murdoch Matthews (1919-1975)

Arlene Carter Lockhart

Patricia Woody Threet

Jeanette Gibson Beasley

Marsha Hendon Dale

Deceased Wives of Elders *(in alphabetical order)*

Nettie A. Duncan Brown (1873-1953)

Percie Holland Bucy (1881-1960)

Alice Tuck Curd (1860-1915)

Eldora Thompson Curd (1860-1887)

Anna Lucinda Cummins Darnall (1919-2007)

Kate Leona Reavis Frazier (1866-1956)

Opal Mary Swann Graham (1900-1987)

Willie Frances Phillips McCaslin (1878-1954)

Mary Peak Myers (1887-1974)

Flora Susan Parrish Smith (1881-1974)

Julia McNabb Starks (1882-1954)

Ola May Clark Starks (1895-1965)

Altha Mae Holcomb Thurmond (1896-1939)

Frances Amelia Waters Thurmond (1919-2005)

Bettie May Crouse Valentine (1872-1965)

Annie Elizabeth Hume Walston (1907-1990)

Mildred Louise Rhodes Ward (1931-2002)

Living Wives of Former Elders



Gail Crabtree Dunn
Bessie Barnes Harmon
Hoyland Taylor Jones
Ann Roberts Looney
Lou Sheppard McDougal
Debbie Russell Miller
Miriam Draper Olree
Jane Stubblefield Potts
Patsy Shackelford Rogers
Lillian Suiter Steele

Wives of Current Elders

Toni Burchett Bohannon
Cindy Garrison Cleaver
Beth Norwood Falwell
Kathy Jackson Hargrove
Delores Dick Lawson
Tonya Carroll Morris
Brenda Cunningham Nix
Nan Harrison Rogers
Tina Housden Ryan

Wives of Song Directors/ Worship Leaders

Anna Lucinda Cummins Darnall (1919-2007)
Karen Smith Bolls
Janet Girtten Darnall
Dorothy Jean Owen Sykes
Sheila Beasley Walker

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

~ Proverbs 31:10-31 (KJV)

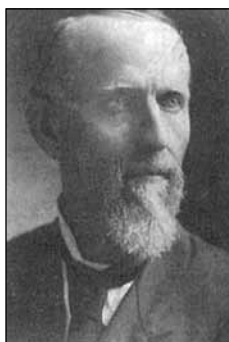


Visiting Evangelists

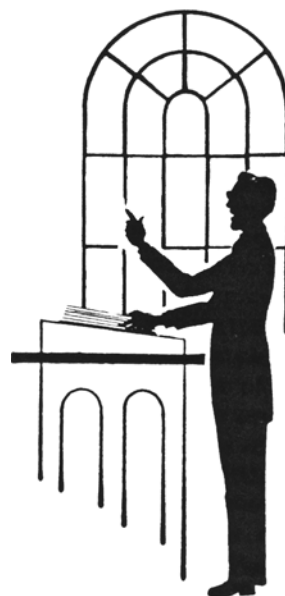
Early Meeting/Revival Speakers • 1909-1931

From the very first service in August 1909 to the present day, nothing has been more central to the mission of the Murray church than preaching the Word of God. Before the opening of the Water Street building, gospel meetings/revivals were held in tents, the courthouse, the Woodruff Theatre and various other temporary locations. During the early decades, such efforts often stretched to two or three weeks in length with services twice each day. In a 1931 history of Calloway County, compiled and printed by the *Ledger and Times*, an unsigned article on the Water Street Church of Christ listed out-of-town preachers who had been engaged in special preaching efforts with the church up to that time. Several of those listed came to Murray on more than one occasion and those familiar with the history of the church realize that this early list contains the names of many of the leading preachers of that era. The alphabetical listing which follows includes the year of birth and death in ().

Allen Booker Barret (1879-1951)
 Grover Cleveland Brewer (1884-1956)
 Horace Wooten Busby (1884-1965)
 Ira Arthur Douthitt (1891-1975)
 Gustus Albert Dunn, Sr. (1876-1967)
 Edwin Alexander Elam (1855-1929)
 James Alexander Harding (1848-1922)
 George Adam Klingman (1865-1939)
 Theophilus Brown Larimore (1843-1929)
 Tracker Quisenberry Martin (1865-1947)
 Charles Ready Nichol (1876-1961)
 Matthew Hockworth Northcross (1849-1941)
 Charles Mitchell Pullias (1872-1962)
 John T. Smith (1884-1962)
 Jefferson Davis Tant (1861-1941)
 Charlie Andrew Taylor (1891-1968)



M. H. Northcross
 (1849-1941), Franklin, Tennessee conducted the first gospel meeting in November 1909 at the Calloway County Courthouse.



“...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

~ Romans 10:15 (KJV)

Gospel Meetings/Revivals/Workshops in Recent Decades

The following is an incomplete alphabetical listing of those who have conducted special efforts with the church since the move to Poplar Street in 1950. Several came on more than one occasion. Special events lasted from two or three days to a week or more in length. During these years, hundreds of different men have spoken at a single morning or evening service and, while their contributions have been noteworthy, their names are too numerous to be included in this list.

Jimmy Adcox
Jimmy R. Allen
James O. Baird
Jerrie W. Barber
Batsell B. Baxter
Gary and Deanna Beauchamp
Buddy Bell
David H. Bobo
C.W. Bradley
Willie Bradshaw
Carl Brecheen
John H. Brinn
Horace Burks
Ralph Casey
Charles E. Chumley
Winford Claiborne
Roy E. Cogdill
Charles Coil
Willard Collins
Danny F. Cottrell
George W. DeHoff
Floyd Dethrow
Steve Diggs
H. A. Dixon
Ira Douthitt
Dean D. Freetly
E. Claude Gardner
B. C. Goodpasture
Pat Hardeman
Albert Hill
Tom H. Holland
John E. Hoover
V. E. Howard
E. Ray Jerkins

Jerry and Lynn Jones
Marshall Keeble
Don W. Kester
Walt E. Leaver
Jay P. Lockhart
C. E. McGaughey
Paul A. Matthews
William D. Medearis
James P. Miller
Ron Newberry
Ira North
Larry Nunley
D. Martel Pace
Neale T. Pryor
Franklin Thomas Puckett
Johnny Ramsey
Lexie B. Ray
Ron Rose
Robert Shank
Gordon Smith
J. Garvin Smith
John T. Smithson
Donald P. Starks
Harvey Starling
Mike Tanaro
Foy E. Wallace, Jr.
Perry D. Wilmeth
Melvin James Wise



Forgotten Benefactors

Ernie R. Bailey

Two men who figured prominently in the early history of the Water Street Church have been all but forgotten by recent generations. Strangely enough, neither was actually a member of the congregation but, as this church celebrates its centennial, the story of their generosity deserves to be told and recorded for posterity, even if belatedly.

Abraham David Thompson (1859-1924) was a bachelor attorney who practiced in Murray during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Affiliated with the Green Plain Church, he was from a large and distinguished family south of Murray who were among the founders of that church in 1854.

In 1911, for the sum of \$1,000, Thompson purchased what was lot # 72 on the original Murray city plat. Thompson was interested in seeing the church re-established in Murray and, in exchange for the church paying off the \$500 he still owed on the note, he deeded the lot to the young church in 1912. In essence, he gave the church the lot on the corner of Linn and Water Streets for half of what it was worth and it was on this lot that the Water Street Church would build its first permanent building in 1912 and 1913 and where the church would continue to meet until the move to Poplar Street in May 1950.



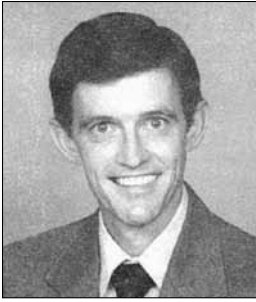
Mr. and Mrs. S. Henry Dees

Samuel Henry Dees (1846-1923) who eventually became one of Calloway County's most successful bankers and businessmen, was married to Abe Thompson's sister, Eliza Ann Thompson (1845-1921). When Samuel Henry and Eliza Ann Dees died in the early 1920s, they left no direct descendants as both unmarried sons had died in 1895.

In his will, Dees left his considerable wealth not only to various friends and relatives but to nine different churches in the Murray and Hazel areas as well. Although Dees himself was from a distinguished Methodist family and an active member of the Hazel Methodist Church, as a gesture to his wife and her family, he generously included three Churches of Christ among the nine that shared in his wealth. Churches receiving \$1,000 upon his death in 1923 were 1st Christian, 1st Methodist, 1st Baptist, Water Street Church of Christ, Green Plain Church of Christ and Hazel Church of Christ. Churches receiving shares of bank stock were Hazel Baptist, Hazel Methodist and South Pleasant Grove Methodist.

Both Thompson and Dees died within a year of one another and both were laid to rest in the Green Plain Cemetery. By twenty-first century standards, neither Thompson's 1912 gift nor Dees' 1923 gift would be considered especially impressive but it is highly likely that these gifts, both of which came within the first 14 years of the church's existence, enabled the struggling young church to survive.

As neither Thompson nor Dees left any direct descendants, few who pass the Green Plain Cemetery are even aware that these men ever existed but any history of the Glendale Road Church of Christ would not be complete without including the story of these two generous and fascinating men whose lives deserve not to be forgotten.



Lorin P. Watson



Vida Yohe 1906-2003



Rosie Cook



Venona Rogers 1915-2014



Ilene Wells 1911-2015

Young-N-Heart

Organized by Lorin P. Watson and Vida B. Yohe on May 5, 1983, the Young-N-Heart program was designed to provide spiritual, educational and recreational ministries to the church's senior members.

In addition to Watson, other directors of the program have been ...

James and
Frances Thurmond
Kyle Wadley
Steve Holladay
Alan Martin
M. Todd Walker

Activity directors
have been ...

Vida Yohe
James and
Frances Thurmond
Miriam Olree and
Beth Falwell

Charter members
in the program:

Rosie Cook
Venona Rogers
Ilene Wells



Lucinda C. Darnall
1919-2007



Mealus Barbee
1894-1974



Gladys Swann
1896-1977



Martha Sue Ryan
1921-2009

Church Library

The Library opened in the annex of the Poplar Street building in October 1964 under the direction of Lucinda C. Darnall with the assistance of Mealus Swann Barbee, Martha Sue Ryan and Gladys Swann.

*Additional
head librarians
who have served:*

Vicki McGary
Ragsdale
Served July 1976 to
November 1979

Mamie Leeper
Anderson
Served November
1979 to July 1993

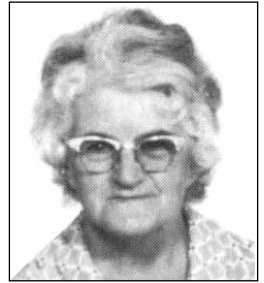
Carol Carneal
D'Elia
Served July 1993
to present

*“Study to shew thyself
approved unto God...”*

~ 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

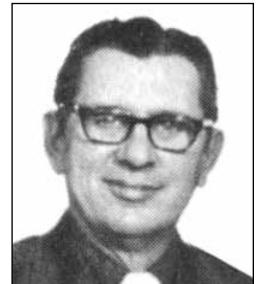
Caring and Sharing

From the very beginning, the Murray church has had an active local community outreach program designed to help meet the immediate physical needs of both church members and non-members alike. With the opening of the new annex at Poplar Street in the fall of 1962, much-needed space became available for the expansion of these programs. The church bulletin of May 12, 1963, announced what could be called the formal opening of both the food and clothing programs, and Mrs. Mary Yates Foy was appointed to organize and oversee both programs, which she continued to do for the next two years. Additional paid staff have included: Bertha Hughes (1917-1994), Fern Smith (1920-2005), Glinda Brame (1925-2002), and Patti Burkeen.



Mary Yates Foy
1904-1993

The church bulletin of February 12, 1970, announced the formal organization of the furniture program, with W.O. Spencer being named chairman of what the bulletin called the “furniture committee.” Other members of that initial committee were Norris Rowland, Charles Lamb (1917-2002), J. R. Watson (1913-1989), Keys Farris (1916-2006), Amos Hill (1924-2007), Ed Thomas and Joe Parker (1921-2009). Additional paid staff have included: Keys Farris (1916-2006), Wilson Hughes (1913-1991), Loyd Thompson (1926-2008), Don Silkman (1928-2009), and Dewayne Harper.



W. O. Spencer
1920-1974

While no complete lists are available, it is known that scores of dedicated volunteers have served in these three major local outreach programs throughout the decades.



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

~ Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV)





Long-Term Missions

Throughout the past century, the Murray church has taken seriously our Lord's command to "go ye into all the world." By 1915, the church was supporting mission efforts in Japan and New Mexico as well as children's homes in both Louisville, Ky., and Columbia, Tenn. Maintaining a balanced mission program, mission efforts have been and continue to be carried on at the local, national and international levels. The two primary local mission points were the Second Street Church of Christ and the College Church of Christ. Beginning in 1913, and continuing for many decades, the Second Street Church was the recipient of considerable long-term assistance in ministering to Murray's local African-American community. Moreover, beginning in 1952, the Poplar Street Church heavily supported the establishment and work of the College (University) Church and continued to do so until the church's first building on North 15th Street was constructed and paid for in the mid-1960s. Indeed, all of the initial officers of the College Church as well as most charter members were former members at Seventh and Poplar. While no complete list exists of all national and international efforts, the following list consists of major long-term mission efforts during the past half century:

Caribbean

Donald P. (1932-1994) and Marian Starks

China

Alan and Terri Martin
Josh and Beth Martin

Nigeria

Don and Joyce Harrison

Romania

Harvey and Pat Starling

Sierra Leone and West Virginia

M. F. (1922-1989) and Inez Bullington
Norwood (1923-2009)
Mike and Sonnie Norwood

West Virginia

Norman E. (1938-2003) and Rachel Ewell
G. Newman (1927-2008) and Louise Leonard

Dates in () are birth and death dates of those deceased



*"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world
and preach the gospel to every creature."*

~ Mark 16:15 (KJV)



Vacation Bible School 1956

Ernie R. Bailey



Historical records indicate that the first VBS was conducted in the small town of Hopedale, Illinois in 1894. The practice quickly spread throughout the country and became a favorite method of Christian outreach which remains with us 115 years later. By the 1920s and 1930s, the practice was beginning to catch on among the larger Churches of Christ, but due to lack of adequate facilities, the Murray church did not attempt a VBS until after World War II.

The annual Vacation Bible School has become an unbroken tradition in the local church since Charles C. Lancaster, minister at the time, organized the first one at the Water Street building in 1947. For many years, the week-long event was climaxed by a picnic held at noon on Friday at the old city park. As was customary in most Churches of Christ at that time, classes were offered for children as well as for all ages, including high school, college and adults. This photo shows a sizeable adult contingent present that day.

Taken by local photographer, Hunter Love, this historic photograph shows the interior of the Poplar Street auditorium as it looked during the decade of the 1950s. Made on Friday, June 1, 1956, the occasion was the last day of a combined Poplar Street/College

Church VBS with ministers Don Kester and Ernest Clevenger as co-directors. This photograph appeared not only in the local newspapers but in the nationally circulated Nashville-based *Gospel Advocate* as well. Enrollment at this particular school was reported to be around 400.

Taken from the vantage point of the baptistry, the photo shows the auditorium with opened windows before the days of air conditioning.



Representing the post-war baby boom generation shown on the front center row from left to right are: Dan Mason Miller, Carol Champion, Gail Buchanan, Carol Buchanan, Jeannie Brewer, Davanna Greenfield, Sherrie Payne, Carolyn Wilson and Shirley Cochran. The photo originally belonged to Cecil H. Thurmond, long-time elder of the church. About 25 years ago, Thurmond's daughter, Elizabeth Thurmond Jones, gave the photo to Ernie R. Bailey, who has since placed it in the permanent church archives.

While certainly valuable as a record of a particular time and place in this church's history, the camera lens captured for all time in the faces of these children the essence of a church at the very zenith of its growth, optimism and boundless confidence in its self, in its future and, most importantly, in its message to the world.



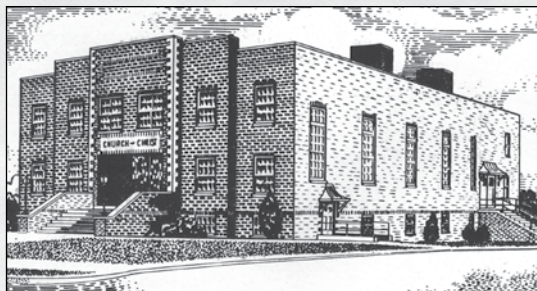
“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

~ Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)



50 Years Ago This Month ...

*Seventh and Poplar Church
bulletins of August 1959
reveal the following:*



Pulpit Preacher: Paul A. Matthews
Song Director: Josiah Darnall
Elders: Baron G. Myers, Urban G. Starks
and Cecil H. Thurmond

Serving at the Table: Raymon Rayburn,
Bernice Wisheart, Cleatus Fair, Jerry Matthews,
Max Walker, Ora King, Clyde Steele
and John Darnall.

Ushers: Charles Walston and Dan Nix

Weekly budget for 1959: \$613.54

Preacher's Salary for 1959: \$7,076.75

Average weekly offering for August 1959: \$616

Average Sunday School Attendance: 359

Murray High School Graduates for June 1959:

Burna Dean Parks, Glenda Hughes and Tommy Carraway

Training School Graduates for June 1959:

Gail Humphrey, Gloria Steele, Mike McCasey and Ralph Oliver

Meeting Speaker for 1959:

C. E. McGaughey of Houston, Texas

Births mentioned in the August bulletin:

Boy to Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Winchester

Boy to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Starks

Girl to Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Schroader



Paul Matthews

1917-1975

According to a 1959 church bulletin article, the Seventh and Poplar Church was home to an astounding nine sets of twins who were:

Johnny and Ronny Garland, Garry and Larry Evans, Bonnie and Connie Lyons, Jane and Henrietta Metzger, Marilyn and Patricia McKenzie, Georgia and Francine Elkins, Linda Tucker and Lita Tucker Rushing, Era and Vera Miller and Altie Suiter Hughes and Minnie Suiter Parker.

Facts and Figures

First elders appointed: Lucius D. Curd,
Joe B. Brown, Hawkins Valentine and
Richard A. Starks, 1915

Number of different men who have served
as elders: 35

Longest tenure as elder:
Cecil H. Thurmond, 40 years

First deacons appointed: Maurice C. Bucy
and Charley Graham, 1915

Number of different men who have served
as deacons: 126

Longest serving current deacons: Tommy
Carraway and Joe Thornton, 1977

Number of different pulpit ministers: 24

First full-time pulpit minister:
William Fletcher Etheridge, 1912

Shortest pulpit tenure: Thomas Vernon
Pate (Oct. 1934 – May 1935)

Longest pulpit tenure:
John W. Dale (1973 – present)

First revival:
James A. Harding, August 1909

Original membership in August 1909: 13

First service at Water Street:
November 10, 1912

Membership in 1912: 59

First revival in Water Street building:
Charlie Taylor, 1913

First funeral at Water Street:
Toy Bailey, February 23, 1913

Last service at Water Street: May 7, 1950

First service at Poplar Street:
May 14, 1950

First baptism at Poplar Street:
Alice Myers Miller, May 14, 1950

First revival at Poplar Street:
E. Ray Jerkins, June 1950

First funeral at Poplar Street:
Laura Eldora Hurt, May 29, 1950

Ross house on Poplar Street first used for
middle school, high school and college
classes: May 1, 1959

Poplar Street building first air conditioned:
summer 1959

Poplar Street annex first used:
September 9, 1962

Zone program first used: November 1964

First double morning worship services:
October 1976

Last service at Poplar Street:
January 15, 1989

First Sunday at Glendale Road:
January 22, 1989, with 1,190 at a.m.
service

Dedication Day at Glendale Road:
March 12, 1989, with 1,246
in attendance

First revival at Glendale Road:
Jay Lockhart, April 1989

First baptism at Glendale Road:
Danny Rogers, February 7, 1989

First funeral at Glendale Road:
David Vaughn, May 23, 1990

First wedding at Glendale Road:
Donald Ray Paschall and Glinda
Graves Wyatt, May 6, 1989

First 5 a.m. service at Glendale Road:
January 3, 1996

Young-N-Heart program organized:
May 5, 1983, with Lorin Watson,
Director

First Ladies Retreat: 1995

First Young Ladies in Service to God:
1986

First Ladies Day: 1980

First Sing and Rejoice: April 1988

Food Pantry organized: May 1963 with
Mary Yates Foy, Director

Clothing Ministry organized: May 1963
with Mary Yates Foy, Director

Furniture program organized:
January 1970 with W. O. Spencer,
Director

Church library organized: October 1964
with Lucinda C. Darnall, Director

First preacher's home purchased:
106 North 12th Street, 1952

First printed church directory: 1952

First pictorial church directory: 1967

First VBS: June 1947 with
Charles C. Lancaster, Director

First church bus purchased: August 1968

First church bulletins: 1954

First bulletins mailed to homes:
March 1966

First issue of *Calloway County Christian*:
February 29, 1967, with Jay Lockhart,
Editor

First church-sponsored radio program:
1930s on WPAD, Paducah

First daily noon radio program on WNBS:
1948

First morning service broadcast: 1950 (on
rotational basis with 5 other churches)

First regular Sunday night service
broadcast: October 1966

Oldest annual budget that has survived:
1944 (Total yearly offerings were
\$6,579.61)

First million dollar budget: 2007

First church secretary:
Edna Starks Knight, 1953

First paid song director:
Josiah Darnall, 1953

First full-time Educational Director:
Gary Brock, 1965

First full-time Youth Director:
Kyle Wadley, 1989

Largest single-day Sunday School
attendance: 1,074 on October 26, 2003

Largest single-day morning worship
attendance: 1,533 on April 22, 1990

Record responses for a single revival
meeting: 37 (Jimmy Allen, fall 1967)

Oldest current member:
John Taylor Melvin, Born June 11, 1909

Longest continuous membership:
Clover Harrison Cotham
(baptized by John B. Hardeman
at Water Street in 1927)

CENTENNIAL SUNDAY – August 16, 2009

GLENDALE ROAD Church of Christ

1101 Glendale Road, Murray, KY 42071
Phone [270] 753-3714; FAX [270] 759-4445
email: grcoc@murray-ky.net
www.glendaleroadchurch.org

MINISTERS

John W. Dale
Pulpit Minister

Garry Evans
Involvement Minister

Nick Hutchens
Youth Minister

M. Todd Walker
*Associate Minister
and Song Director*

OFFICE STAFF

Carol D'Elia
Jeanne Underhill

PHYSICAL PLANT STAFF

Bob Beecher
Dewayne Harper
John M. Miller

ELDERS

Johnny Bohannon
Kenneth Cleaver
Grundy Falwell

Bob Hargrove
Jim Lawson
Phil Morris

James Nix
Dwaine E. Rogers
David Ryan

DEACONS

Rusty Back
Jeremy Bell
Buddy Bybee
Brent Canter
Tommy Carraway
Gerald Coles
Tim Coles
Artie D'Elia
Jody DeWitt
Steve Dublin
Garry Evans
Andrew Falwell
Joel Fisher
Jimmy Ford
Glen B. Gibbs

Eric Gibson
James Gibson
Kenny Hoover
Ted Howard
Chris Jones
Tony Kelly
Gene Paul King
Chad Lawson
John Mahan
Terry McCallon
Kent McCuiston
Ron McNutt
Tommy Phillips
John Mark Potts
Steve Roberson

David Sheppard
Karl Smith
Steve Spiceland
Jay Stark
Tim Stark
Walter Lee Steely
Rob Thompson
Arvis Thorn
Joe Thornton
Stacey Underhill
Barry Walker
Daron Wilson
Donnie Winchester
Brad Young

~ Our Mission Statement ~

"We exist to be transformed by God, reflect the life of Jesus, bring hope to the lost, and become a family bound by the cross 24/7!"

*Thanks for
36 years
of dedicated service*

John W. Dale

1973 - present



Since coming to work with the Seventh and Poplar Church in the summer of 1973, John W. Dale has ceaselessly and untiringly devoted himself to the service of God and humanity through this local church. This career represents the single longest pulpit ministry in any church in Murray's history. Only eternity will reveal the good that has been accomplished as the result of John's willingness to devote the best years of his career to working with and through this church. Moreover, the Glendale Church and the wider community are forever indebted to Marsha, Karen and Michael for their patience and long-suffering in sharing their husband and father with us.



“To God be the glory.”

~ Fanny J. Crosby, 1875