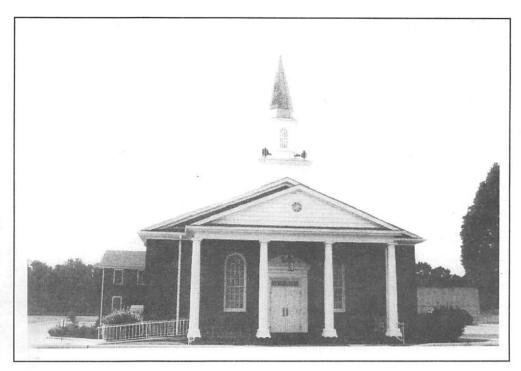
#### Dedication



Ledar Grove Baptist Church had its beginning one hundred and twenty-five years ago. Times were very different then. The War Between the States had ended only eight years earlier and life in the South was hard.

Residents of the community worked hard for their livelihood, which was mostly from farming. Incomes were either very low or non existent. People traveled over unpaved roads in horse drawn buggies or wagons.

Our forefathers overcame all these hardships armed with their faith in God and paved the way for us by starting a church. This church still exists and is still busy spreading the word that Jesus Saves.

Today we reflect upon the changes that have occurred. The church building, incomes of members, roads, transportation, homes and life in general have changed for the better. God has blessed the members of Cedar Grove Baptist Church.

Also, we are thankful that some things have not changed and have remained steadfast during this 125 years: Faith in God and the Holy Bible.

We trust that our future members will continue to carry out the mission of Cedar Grove Baptist Church. For this reason, the Historical Committee dedicates this history edition to all past, present and future members.

. . . . May Cedar Grove Baptist Church forever be faithful in keeping the urgent command of Jesus Christ:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

St. Matthew 28:19-20

Respectfully submitted,
The Historical Committee:
Richard M. Ellison
Ray J. Clardy
Mildred Bryant
Patsy Callaham
Velma Rice
Joe Pack

#### The Beginning

It is always interesting to know the beginning of any thing that is its important to us as our church.

The Cedar Grove Baptist Church began as a sometimes-Sunday School in a little school house with Elder Robert "Bobby" King preaching occasionally from 1870-1873. The place of worship was called "Crosstie" because it was near the Columbia-Greenville Railroad.

This was one of the many churches planted by Elder Robert King, familiarly known as "Uncle Bobby". Several persons professed faith in Christ, and were baptised into the fellowship of Dorchester Church, of which Elder King was long the pastor. In 1871 an "arm" of the Dorchester Baptist Church was extended to the "schoolhouse on the railroad". Elder King continued his monthly visits to "Crosstie" until 1873.

On June 21, 1873, a meeting was held for the purpose of constituting a church; the following were the minutes from that meeting:

According to previous appointment, a meeting convened at Cedar Grove for

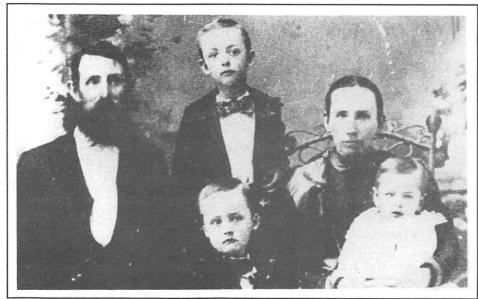
the purpose of organizing a Baptist church of Christ when a Presbytery of Council was formed by appointing Elder W. L. Ballard, Moderator and J. M. Landers, Clerk assisted by Elder J. J. Campbell. The Council aft the preliminary services called for letters and names with which to organize, when the following names with their letters, 17 in number were presented.:

Hugh Mahaffey Mary A. Mahaffey Druzila Mahaffey M. C. Mahaffey W. N. Copeland Missouria Copeland Mary W. Ellison W. H. Ellison M. E. Ellison James Lawless Isariah Lawless Jane Lawless Martha Lawless L. T. Lawless J. D. Garrett W. W. Garrett E. B. Garrett



#### FEW ANDERSON COUNTY

men who have lived and died a half century ago are still remembered, but there are probably few adult people in the county who have not heard of "Uncle Bobby" King, pioneer Baptist minister and religious leader. Robert King was born on January 1, 1791 and after having lived 88 years, died on the anniversary of his birth, January 1, 1879. The picture above shows "Uncle Bobby" and his wife, Fanny Holland King, a daughter of Rev. Moses Holland. It was his wife who taught young Robert King to read, and who probably was instrumental in leading him into the ministry. He was ordained in 1828, the year Anderson was founded, and preached for seven years, with great results, and in 1852 he organized Whitefield Church and became its pastor. In 1875, as his last official work, perhaps, he assisted in the establishment of Cedar Grove Church.



Charter members—Miles E. and Drucilla M. Ellison with children Foster, Jew Payne, and Haskell.





Mrs. Missouria Copeland was born October 4, 1852. Prior to her death on November 30, 1941, she was the last living charter member.

The council after examination of the Rules of Faith and Order and finding them true did unanimously adopt them by organizing and constituting them into a Church of Christ to be called and denominated Cedar Grove. The services closed by prayer and charge by the Moderator.

The church in conference chose and elected Brother Wm. N. Copeland as deacon, who after the regular examination was duly ordained to the office of deacon.

Hugh Mahaffey, Sr. was chosen later as a deacon and M A. Mahaffey, as clerk.

The following were Constitution or Rules of Faith presented at the organization meeting:

- 1. We believe in the existence of one living and true God.
- 2. We believe in the trinity of the God Head, in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- 3. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God and the only rule of faith and practice.
- 4. We believe that baptism is the immersion of the whole body in water and that believers are the only proper subjects.
- 5. We believe that baptism is prerequisite to communion and that none should be invited, except such as have been baptised in a regular way.
- 6. We believe in the doctrine of election through sanctification and belief of the truth.
- 7. We believe in the perseverance of the saints and all that have been born of the spirit and justified through grace shall be saved.
- 8. We believe that the righteous will enjoy eternal happiness and that the punishment of the wicked will also be eternal.

#### Rules Were Written



The Rev. M. M McCuen Pastor 1911-1951

The following were the Rules of the new Church:

- 1. The church shall be opened and closed by prayer.
- A moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
- The moderator shall be deemed judge of order and have a right to call to order at any time.
- Any member not satisfied with his decision on any part of order may appeal to the church on the same day, but no other time.
- But one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise to his feet and obtaining leave, proceed.
- The moderator, when addressed for leave of speech, shall signify by naming of them or otherwise.

- 7. No member shall be interrupted when speaking, unless he departs from the subject in hand or uses words of personal reflection and every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the church except withdrawn by him that made it and by the consent of the church.
- Every case taken up by the church shall be first decided or withdrawn before another is offered.
- When anything is taken up by the church, after allowing time for debate, the moderator shall vote the question by rising to their feet or otherwise.
- No person shall depart the service of the church without leave.
- 11. The appellation of brothers shall be used in our deliberation to another.
- 12. The name of the members shall be

- called as often as the church may direct
- No member shall be allowed in any practice that has a tendency to interrupt in time of public speech.
- 14. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other member provided he appoint some other member to his seat while he is speaking, but shall not vote unless the church is equally divided.
- Any person breaking this decorum shall be reproved at the decision of the church, but only the day the breach is made.
- 16. All letters of dismission hereafter shall be limited to three months time, after which they shall be null and void if not united with another church.

### The New Church Was Named Cedar Grove

The new church was named Cedar Grove, apparently getting its name from the cedar trees nearby. It was a good location for a church; since it was a thriving village, which already had a public school, community store, and post office with passenger and freight service from the nearby railroad.

Elder Kendrick Vaughn became the first pastor of the newly organized church in 1873, serving for them until December, 1874.

Elder George E. Rogers who had just entered the ministry was called as the next pastor, beginning his work in January, 1875 and continuing for 21 years until 1895.

The church had only 21 members when the Rev. Mr. Rogers came into its service. Up until this time the church had made no progress and several of the original members had become discouraged and sought fellowship in more prosperous churches. They also met opposition from other churches, who said the church was not needed because there were enough in the community already.

The citizens of the community, as a rule, took no interest in religion; they spent the Sabbath lounging idly about the home; strolling over the farm or visiting their neighbors. Most of the young men and a great many of the older ones for that matter usually put in the day rollicking around, drinking, playing cards and general rowdyism. The "Moonshiner's Booth" was frequently pitched in their midst and always received a goodly patronage.

Young Rogers had already gained a reputation as an impression preacher, He was earnest, tender and tearful; his coming was a turning point in the church's history. During his pastorate 223 were baptized into the fellowship of the church.

Cedar Grove joined the Saluda Baptist Association in 1875 and shortly afterwards in 1876 a small building was erected. This soon proved to be too small and through the aid of the State Mission Board a new church was completed at a cost of \$1,000.00.

The Reverends W. D. Hawkins, C. H.

Holland, J, M. Allen and H. K. Williams, 0. L. Jones, 1. A. Brock and T. F. Nelson served as pastors respectively from 1896-1909.

A young minister, the Rev. M. M. McCuen came to conduct the summer revival in August of 1909. At the close of the revival, be was asked to become the new pastor. He accepted, even though some members advised him not to accept the call because, "it won't be permanent", and "this is not a good place for a young preacher to start." But, after preaching from the same pulpit for almost 42 years, Rev. McCuen was inclined to think that those people spoke a bit hastily.

Mr. McCuen's faith was tested many times, as ministers' salaries were very low and sometimes the church couldn't raise the meager salary they had planned; but God always rewarded him for his faith, for the good people would load his buggy with vegetables and other food products.

God blessed Rev. McCuen with a remarkably strong voice and he used it well



### Cedan Grove Baptist Church Is Proud of Its Heritage

in preaching and singing. Often in the middle of a sermon he would start singing "Amazing Grace" with the congregation joining in to sing the wonderful old hymn.

Under Rev. McCuen's leadership, in 1923 a modern brick church auditorium was built with most of the labor donated by faithful church members.

From 1927-1935, he served continuously as pastor of six churches. On some Sundays, be would preach as many as four sermons in churches located in Anderson and Greenville counties; but whether it was his first or last sermon of the day, his messages from God touched the hearts of the congregation.

For many years, the Rev. Mr. McCuen was pastor of eight churches at once, and even at his death, on July 4, 1951, four churches called him their pastor.

In this life, it will never be known how many souls were led to Christ by his ministry; the great number baptized or united in marriage; nor is it known how many churches were led to carry out building programs and improvements as a result of his leadership. We do know that many thousands of souls have been blessed because he lived and carried the banner of the cross.

In 1951, Cedar Grove built a brick pastorium, valued at \$15,000, with the Rev. H. D. Revis, Jr. coming as the first full-time pastor in the history of the church. In 1956, a modern educational building was erected at a cost of \$36,000. All phases of the church made great progress under his leadership. During his pastorate, the Sunday School was led to move up from a class-type Sunday School to a departmentalized school. Also, Sunday School attendance and Training Union attendance more than doubled. After six and one-half years of active work in the church, Rev. Revis resigned in May of 1958 to become the pastor of the Utica Baptist Church in Seneca, S. C.

The Rev. Robert Y. Marchbanks came to Cedar Grove in July, 1958. The Rev. Mr. Marchbanks had a special interest in the youth of the church and under his leadership youth activities increased. Also, under his leadership, the church paid off its building debt, and plans were begun for a new sanctuary. It was with reluctance that the church accepted Mr. Marchbanks resignation in February, 1963, to become the pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Union, S.C.

The Rev. Everette D. Crook was called

as pastor of the church in May, 1963. Three months after his arrival, the church voted to build a new brick sanctuary, at a cost of \$75,000. The old church was razed and the third to be built on the same spot began to rise in its place. Dedication services for the new sanctuary were held on March 22, 1964, less than six months after construction began. The Rev. Mr. Crook attributed the spiritual and financial growth of the church to his concept of "total stewardship", not just of possessions, but of life, talents and influence.

On July 12, 1965 a new district association was begun with Cedar Grove becoming one of the charter members. The new association was named The Palmetto Baptist Association.

The Rev. Mr. Crook served until August, 1968, resigning to become the pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

The Rev. Clyde Peterson came to Cedar Grove in March 1969. The remaining debt for the new church was paid in May 1969. During Preacher Peterson's service a new van ministry was started, to be used for church outreach and for activities. We also celebrated in 1973 our "100 Year Anniversary". Rev. Peterson left Cedar Grove in 1975.

Our church called Rev. Jim Roberts on June 13, 1976. During Rev. Robert's service, the Fellowship Club was started. This ministry was established to minister to others, as well as Christian Fellowship with one another. Also, Rev. Roberts started a newsletter, The Cross Tie, which helped to inform everyone of all ministries and activities of the church. Also, the Day Care Ministry was started. This ministry has been a special blessing to our church, as many children have had the opportunity to hear about Jesus. To help increase Sunday School attendance the "Auditorium Sunday School Class" was organized. Rev. Roberts, a very dedicated man of God, served until August 19, 1984, resigning to become the pastor of South Highland in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Rev. Mike Moody was called as our pastor on January 13, 1985. Equipping the saints was a special gift of Rev Moody. We all grew spiritually under his leadership and preaching and teaching of God's word. During Rev. Moody's service we redecorated the auditorium, bought new choir robes, bought a new van to continue the van ministry and we had a vision for a new a family life center. Rev. Moody loved youth and we had our first paid, part-time summer youth

worker during his service. Our youth ministry grew and great things were accomplished for our Lord during Rev. Moody's service. Rev. Moody resigned on November 17, 1989 after being called to Tabernacle Baptist Church in Union, S.C.

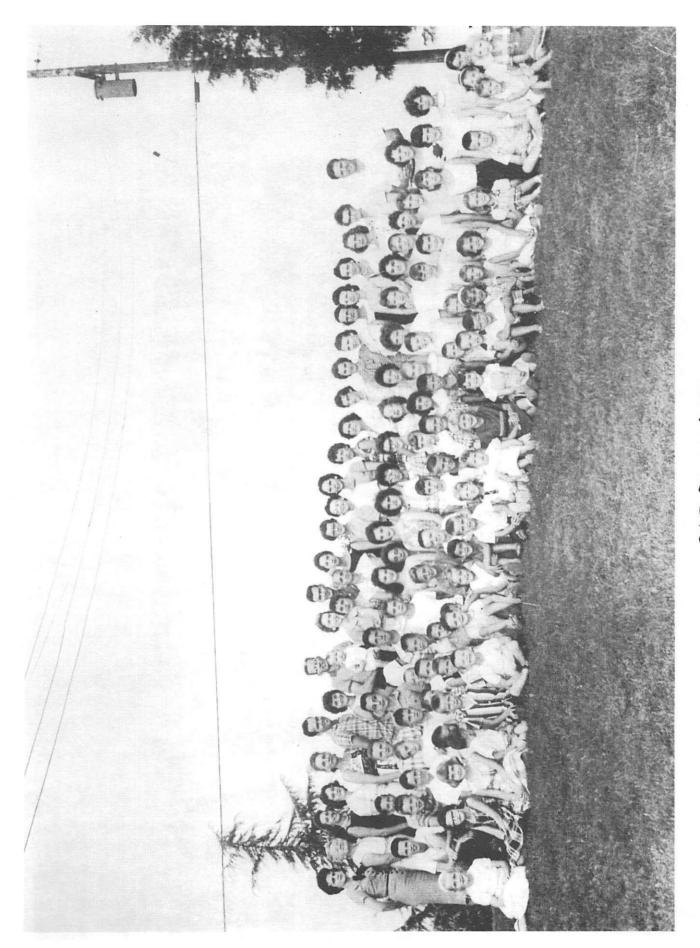
In May, 1990, our church called Rev. Jerry Mize. We grew spiritually, as well as physically under his leadership. We built and paid for our Family Life Center, bought the old school property and building, did drain work on our cemetery, and paved our parking lot. Rev. Mize was loved by all, as he had a special love for everyone and a great sense of humor. He is a special man of God who was used at Cedar Grove until September 1996 when he was called to Antiock Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, Georgia.

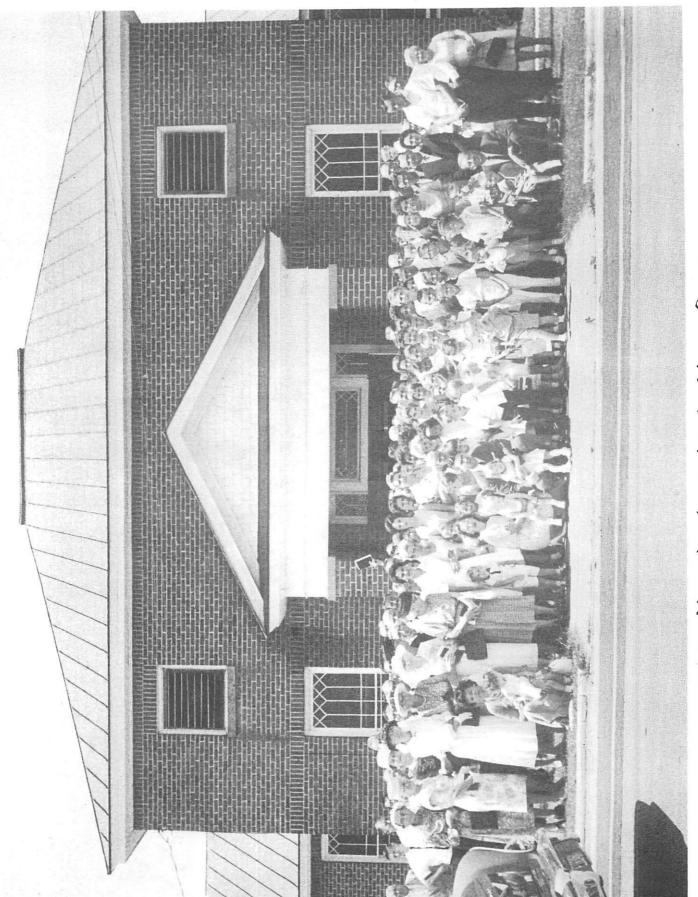
While we were in the process of searching for a new pastor, we began to redecorate our parsonage and also installed a new heating and cooling system in our church.

After a year of searching and praying for a pastor, our church called Rev. Danny Parton in November, 1997. In the short time Preacher Danny has been here, a lot has been accomplished and much excitement can be felt about what the Lord is going to do at Cedar Grove. We have finished redecorating the parsonage and have called a part-time/full-time minister of youth, Rev. Jeremy Wilkerson. Brother Jeremy has already been a blessing to all of us. Also, we now have two part-time secretaries, Judy Busby and Patsy Callaham, to keep the office open 40 hours a week. We have also voted to seek a Minister of Education.

We are excited about what God is going to accomplish in the days ahead at Cedar Grove. Today we are celebrating our past 125 years and also looking forward to the installation of 18 beautiful stained glass windows — our "Windows to the Future".

Cedar Grove Baptist Church is proud of its heritage, and its history will go on and on, but after all, it is only a record of God's work and the names of those He used to do that work. So today, as we celebrate and reflect upon our past, God has used so many to accomplish his purpose during the last 125 years. As we look to the future, lets all continue to work together, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, as we seek to accomplish His work. May our **future** be as our **past**, TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND HONOR AND GLORIFY HIS NAME.

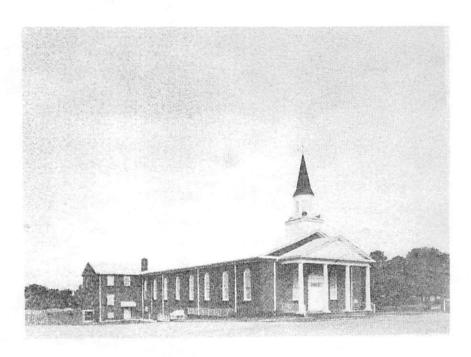




1963 After church voted to build new Sanctuary



-Breaking Ground for New Church - 1963 Left to right; Rev. Evenette Crook, W. R. "Rill" Ellison, Maxin Buffington, Alvin Pack, Lee Breazeale, Ed Caldwell, Gwy Smith and Wesley Ellison



#### **Dedication Set Sunday**

Dedication services for the recently completed sanctuary of Cedar Grove Baptist Church will be held Sunday, March 22.

The Program will begin at 2:30 p.m. Former members and friends are invited to attend the dedication service and open house which will follow.

Cedar Grove pastor, Rev. Everette D. Crook, will preach the dedicatory sermon. His topic will be "What Mean Ye By These Stones." Special guests participating on the program will be former pastors of the church, Rev. Hovie D. Revis, Jr., now pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Williamston; Rev. Robert Marchbanks of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Union, S.C. and Rev. Fred C. Metz, Dean of Men at Anderson College.

Earl C. Williams, minister of music, will be in charge of the music. Mrs. Joyce Clardy is church organist and Mrs. Sara Ellen Pack is church pianist.

Last July the congregation voted to erect a new sanctuary to cost \$75,000. The existing building was removed and ground-breaking ceremonies were held in September.

The new brick structure, which was completed in February, includes a complete basement for educational facilities, a baptistry, and a nursery. The sanctuary has a seating capacity of 400 and is air-conditioned. The sanctuary has new pews and carpet.

The building committee was composed of Lee Breazeale, chairman, Guy Smith, Wesley Ellison, Bill Ellison, Alvin Pack, Ed Caldwell and Marvin Buffington. Jack Boggs is chairman of the Board of Deacons.

(Copied from The Journal March 19, 1964)

### Cedar Grove "Centennial Year 1973"

#### Highlights and Program Centennial Day 1973

#### 1873-1973

Scene One:

Song - "O Come to

the Church in the

Wild Woods"

Narrator:

Larry Thompson -

Worship Service at

"Crosstie"

Scene Two:

Song - "Rock of

Ages"

Narrator:

William R. "Bill"

Ellison - Organizing

of Cedar Grove

Church.

Scene Three:

Song - "O Happy Day"

Narrator:

Mrs. Mildred Bryant - Early Days of the Church.

Scene Four:

Song - "Pass Me Not Oh Gentle Saviour"

Narrator:

Ray Clardy - From the Mountain Top to the Valley.

Scene Five.

Song - "Love Lifted Me" and "Amazing Grace"

Narrator:

Richard M. Ellison - Just a temporary pastorate.

Scene Six:

Song - "To the Work"

Narrator:

Alvin R. Pack - Launching out in a full-time program.

Scene Seven:

Song - "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Narrator:

Rev. Clyde W. Peterson - Where do we go from here.

Song -

"When We All Get To Heaven"



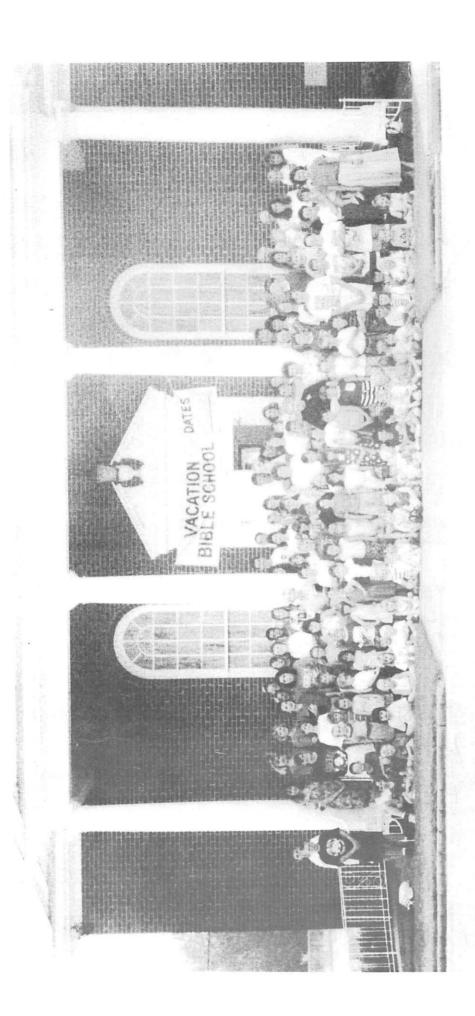
Director of Music - Miss Mary Boroughs

Organist - Mrs. Judy Busby

Pianist - Mrs. Sara Ellen Pack

Organ Furnished courtesy of Mr. Joe Pack

Pageant prepared by Historical and Program Committees



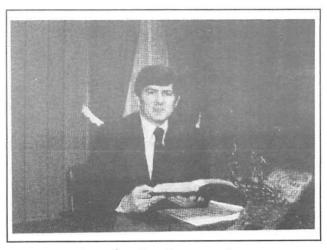
### Cedan Grove "Our Dedicated Pastons"



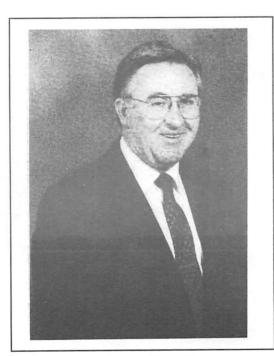
Rev. Clyde W. Peterson 1969 - 1975



Rev. Mike Moody, Paston 1976 - 1984



Rev. Jim U. Roberts, Pastor 1976 - 1984



Rev. Jerny Mize, Pastor 1990 - 1996

### Cedan Grove "Our Present Pastor"

edar Grove Baptist has been blessed over the past 125 years to have so many dedicated pastors. All of them have preached God's Word with boldness and clarity.

We look forward to the opportunities God has in store for us in the future, as we continue to proclaim the gospel to a lost world.



December 1997 to Present Dr. Danny Parton Jean Parton



Parsonage

### Cedar Grove "Dedicated Leadership"

Over the years, God has blessed our church with leadership that depended upon the Holy Spirit for wisdom to direct our paths and vision for the future. These men and women serving as deacons and in staff positions serve us as they lead us.



Deacons 1998

Rev. Danny Parton, Jack Boggs, Roger Ellison, Richard M. Ellison, Jay Howard, Bill Rice, Ray Callaham, Larry Williams, W. Richard Ellison and Bill Smith



Staff

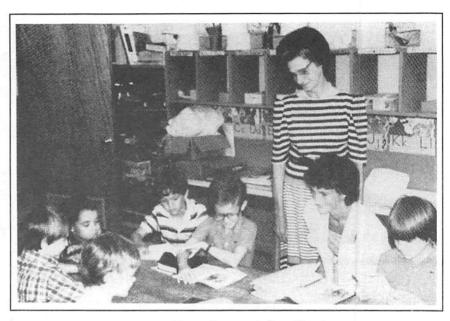
Rev. Danny Parton, Linda Ellison, Sylvia Williams, Richard Smith, Jackie Garrett, Kay Smith, Patsy Callaham, Judy Busby, Rev. Jeremy Wilkerson, Gloria Thompson (Not pictured: Phyllis Sisk)

## Cedar Grove "An Evangelical Church"

We have had a very strong Sunday School and Discipleship Training Program at Cedar Grove for the past 125 Years. Many dedicated and loving teachers have spent many hours preparing to teach their classes. May we all seek to spend more time in God's Word and prayer, as we teach others in the future.



Richard M. Ellison Teacher



Betty Guest and Jane Smith Teachers



Richard Smith, Kay Smith, Jonathan Lollis, and Lucille Robinson

### Cedar Grove "A Praying Church"

Several years ago, we started the "Prayer Chain". It is wonderful to know that you can pick up your phone, tell someone of a need and within minutes brothers and sisters in Christ are praying for that need. As we look to the future, let's continue to be on our knees before God, interceding for others and thanking Him for all the blessings He gives us.

Listed below are some of the "PRAYER WARRIORS" in days gone by, as well as today.

#### NAMES ON FIRST PRAYER CHAIN:

Jimmy & Ellenna Williams
Sam & Eugenia Lollis
Edith Cummings
Cleveland & Dorothy Thompson
J.T. Mitchell
Mrs. Jack Boggs
Mrs. Ansel Motes
Ruth Ellison
Mildred Morgan
Argle Ellison
Margaret Pack
Thelma Crawford
Mildred Bryant
Jane Smith
Margaret Davenport
Rev. & Mrs. Mike Moody

Margaret Davenport
Rev. & Mrs. Mike Moody
Gloria Thompson
Linda Ellison
Charlene Williamson
Joyce Clardy

Margaret Copeland Lois Ellison Lola Ledbetter Bill & Aileen Ellison

Betty Guest
Fannie Holliday
Lillie Mae Crawford
Louise Ellison
Mattie Jo Robinson
Ken & Gail Smith
Wilma Lollis

Martha & Ed Caldwell Richard & Ruby Nell Ellison

Clara Jones

Larry & Sylvia Williams

Kay Smith Wilma Crawford

## "On The Wings Of Prayer"

Just close your eyes and open your heart

And feel your worries and cares depart

Just yield yourself to the Father above

And let Him hold you secure in His love.

For life on earth grows more involved

With endless problems that can't be solved—

But God only asks us to do our best.

Then He will "take over" and finish the rest-

So when you are tired, discouraged and blue,

There's always one door that is open to you—

And that is the door to "The House of Prayer"

And you'll find God waiting to meet you there.

And "The House of Prayer" is no farther away

Than the quiet spot where you kneel and pray

For the heart is a temple when God is there

And we place ourselves in His loving care.

And He hears every prayer and answers each one

When we pray in His name "Thy Will Be Done"

And the burdens that seemed too heavy to bear

Are lifted away on "The Wings of Prayer."

— Helen Steiner Rice

#### NAMES ON TODAY'S PRAYER CHAIN:

Ellenna Williams
Edith Cummings
Jack & Evie Boggs
Joyce Clardy
Wilma Lollis

Cleveland & Dot Thompson

Ruth Ellison

Joe & Margaret Pack
Thelma Crawford
Mildred Bryant

Ed & Martha Caldwell

Jane Smith Glendell Cooley Lola Ledbetter Bill & Aileen Ellison

**Betty Guest** 

Marguerite Davenport
Richard & Ruby Nell Ellison
Burt & Maria Carlish

Burt & Marie Carlish Doris Whitlock Vonnie Ellison Frankie Murphy

Alton & Gloria Thompson

Amanda Medlin Kay Smith Faye Chapman Bertie Campbell Clyde Burgess Linda Ellison

Dennis & Rita Gambrell William & Gloria Lowe Larry & Sylvia Williams

Wilma Crawford

Lois Hart

Robert & Kathy Irwin Elizabeth Wilson Lorraine Henderson Michelle Howard Ruby Moore

Richard & Peggy Ellison

Velma Rice Tommy Ellison Bobby Callaham Ray Callaham Susie Crawford Susan King Judy Macomson

### Cedar Grove "A Ministering Church"

Our Cedar Grove Education and Care Ministry has been a vital part of our church since September 1976, ministering to many children and their parents.

Our teachers are dedicated to providing a safe, loving and caring environment for each child. Each day begins with prayer by our staff for the children, as well as other church concerns. They are committed to share Jesus with the children daily.

The current co-directors are Mrs. Gloria Thompson and Mrs. Linda Ellison.

#### Education and Care Staff



1976 Lisa Dean, Glonia Thompson, Gennie Roberts and Linda Ellison



Children At Play



1998 Mantha Smith. Launie Guest, Linda Ellison, Tnacy Lollis, Banbana Cabiness, Cindy Findly, and Glonia Thompson

## Cedar Grove "A Mission Minded Church"

Cedar Grove has been a mission minded church for the past 125 years. Many have served in our WMU, Brotherhood, Acteens, GA's, Mission Friends, and Youth on Missions.

Many times we surpass our goals for State, Home and Foreign Missions.

Over the past several years, we have had mission trips to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Whitesburg, Kentucky. This year, we had a mission team go to Huntington, West Virginia, to minister and help complete a home for wayward teens.

We are looking forward to and planning for a trip to Brazil next year. May our future continue to focus on missions in the years to come.



Mission Team - Myntle Beach, South Canolina



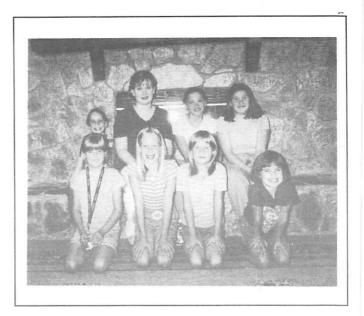
Mission Team - Whitesburg, Kentucky



1998 Mission Team - Huntington, West Vizginia Rev. Danny Pazton, Bill Rice, Joellyn Williams, Sylvia Williams, Ed Campbell, J.W. Waters, Wayne Waters, and Randy Creamer



Mission Friends



G.A.'s



Youth On Missions



www

### Cedar Grove "Worshipping Through Music"

Music is a very important part of our worship service, as we sing praises to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Many have joined their voices over the past 125 years to bring honor and glory to Him through song. Also, we have had many dedicated to playing the organ and piano. Judy Busby, our current organist, has played our organ for the past 30 years.

Gloria Thompson has been our pianist for 22 years. Sylvia Williams has stepped in many times to fill in as our music director. She also directed the children's choir for a number of years. The children's choir is now directed by April Hays. May we continue to lift our voices and sing praise unto his Holy Name, as we serve Him through our music.



Sylvia Williams, Music Director



Phyllis Sisk and Gloina Thompson, Pianists

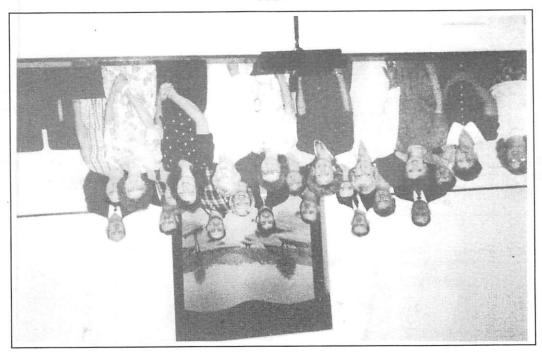


Judy Busby and Jackie Gannett, Organists

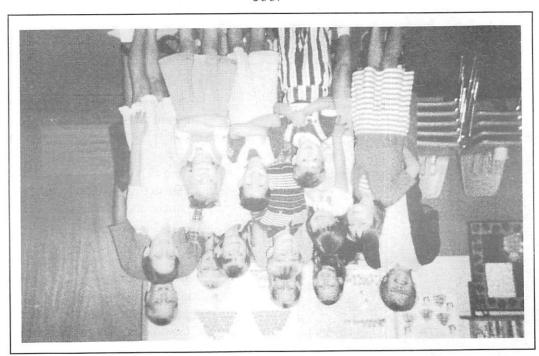


April Hays, Children's Choir Director

Adult Choir 8661



Choir of Bomorrow 8661



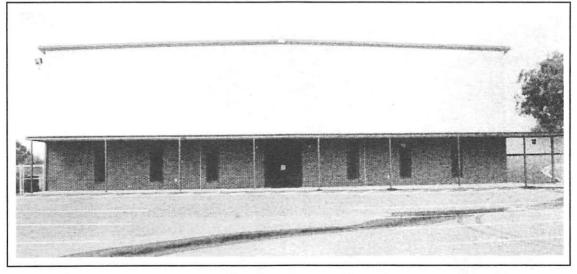
Cedar Grove "Lift Up Your Poice"

### Cedar Grove "A Loving Family"

Our Christian Activities Center has been used in many ways in our church to bring honor and glory to God. It provides a place for many of our church family to have bridal showers, baby showers and celebrate weddings. Youth Bible Studies are held weekly by Jeremy Wilkerson, our part-time youth minister.

Our Fellowship Club, which has been a blessing to so many of our seniors, as well as others, meets monthly for a meal and fellowship. Ruth Ellison, the first president, chose the name for the club. First Place, a Bible oriented diet plan, headed by Sharon Boiter, meets weekly to encourage healthy bodies for God's service. Volleyball, basketball and many other activities for our young people are provided at designated times.

Lots of good food has been enjoyed at Sunday School parties and church-wide celebrations over the past years. May we continue to have the love of Jesus flow through us and out to others in the coming days, as we fellowship in His name.



Christian Activities Center Built 1992

### Cedar Grove "A Giving Church"

Giving to make our facilities safer, more efficient, more accessible and more attractive.

1989

RENOVATION OF AUDITORIUM - \$43,167.00 PURCHASED NEW CHOIR ROBES - \$3,819.90 PURCHASED NEW FORD VAN - \$14,713.70

1991

PURCHASED NEW ORGAN - \$9,248.00 INSTALLED NEW AIR CONDITIONER FOR CHURCH - \$8,723.00

1992

PURCHASED LAND FROM ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 - \$32,500

1992-1993

BUILT CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES CENTER AND ALL OF CONTENTS - \$300,000.00

1995

WORK TO UPGRADE NEW CEMETERY DRAINAGE - \$18,656.44

1996

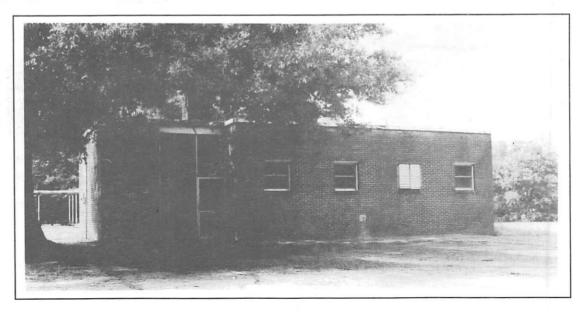
PAVED ALL PARKING AREA, INSTALLED CURBING AND PAVED WALK WAYS - \$40,265.00

1997

INSTALLED NEW HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM FOR CHURCH - \$28,500.00

1998

REDECORATED PARSONAGE - \$16,500 STAINED GLASS WINDOWS - \$105,289



### Cedar Grove "Keeping Informed"

Our church has always tried to keep its members informed of events, activities and worship opportunities.

We have come a long way in just a few short years from an old blue mimeograph machine to computers and copier.

The bulletin is published weekly to keep us informed about the weekly events and opportunities. "The Cross Tie", our newsletter, is published monthly. Our newsletter, by the way, was named by Ray Clardy. He chose this name due to the fact that the first church worshipped near the railroad and their place of worship was called "Crosstie". Our newsletter informs us of all the events and opportunities of the month.

Our tape ministry informs and lets the shut-ins listen weekly to our worship services. Those who take the tapes to the shut-ins receive a great blessing by going to see them and letting them know that they are very much a part of us here at Cedar Grove. Our services are also broadcast weekly on the radio. Another way we now have of being informed, as well as informing those who pass by, is by our new sign that was erected this year. Many have received a blessing from the words of wisdom, encouragement, as well as events on the sign.



New Sign Exected 1998

# Cedar Grove "They Served God and Fellowman"

MINISTERS		CHURCH SECRETAR	IES
The Rev. Robert King	1870-1873	1973-1974	Faye Buffington
The Rev. Kendrick Vaughn	1873-1874	1975	Kay Smith
The Rev. George Rogers	1875-1895	1976-1989	Velma Rice
The Rev. W. D. Hawkins	1896-1897	1990-Present	Judy Busby
The Rev. C. H. Holland	1897-1900	1998-Present	Patsy Callaham
The Rev. J. M. Allen	1900-1905		•
The Rev. H. K. Williams	1905-1906	SUNDAY SCHOOL SU	PERINTENDENTS
The Rev. 1. A. Brock (Supply)	1906-1906	1882-1884	J. J. Copeland
The Rev. 0. L. Jones	1906-1908	1885-1891	Hugh Mahaffey
The Rev. T. F. Nelson	1908-1909	1892-1893	M. C. Mahaffey
The Rev. M. M. McCuen	1909-1951	1894-1898	J. J. Copeland
The Rev. Clyde Johnson (Supply)	1951	1899	Harve Kelly
The Rev. H. D. Revis, Jr.	1951-1958	1900-1901	Miles E. Ellison
The Rev. States W. Jolly (Supply)	1958	1902	J. J. Copeland
The Rev. Robert Y. Marchbanks	1958-1963	1908	M. C. Mahaffey
The Rev. Fred C. Metts (supply)	1963	1910	W. E. Lollis
The Rev. Everette D. Crook	1963-1969	1912-1913	W. W. Shaw
The Rev. Fred C. Metts (Supply)	1969	1916	C. E. Copeland
The Rev. Clyde Peterson	1969-1975	1917	W. W. Shaw
The Rev Dale Harper (Supply)	1975	1920	Walter W. Ellison
The Rev. Jim Roberts	1976-1984	1922	Brock Mahaffey
The Rev. Hal Hovis (Supply)	1984	1924-1930	Walter W. Ellison
The Rev. Mike Moody	1985-1989	1933	Matthew J. Ellison
The Rev. Jimmy Gaines (Supply)	1989	1935	Ben F. Bolt
The Rev. Jerry Mize	1990-1996	1937-1939	Gordon Kelly
The Rev. Clarence Freeman (Supply)	1996	1940-1947	Matthew J. Ellison
The Rev. Danny Parton	1997-PRESENT	1948-1949	J. Wesley Ellison
		1950-1956	Richard M. Ellison
CHURCH CLERKS		1957-1961	William R. Ellison
1919-1925	C. E. Copeland	1962-1963	Alvin R. Pack
1926	Roy Copeland	1964-1965	Parker Martin
1927	L. H. Ford	1966-1967	J. Wesley Ellison
1929-1937	W. W. Ellison	1968-1975	Ray Ellison
1938-1941	W. G. Kelly	1976-1984	Bill Macomson
1942	W. L. Ellison	1985-1991	Ray Rogers
1943-1952	Miss Lona Ellison	1992-1995	Dwayne Williamson
1953-1958	Miss Nettie McCuen	1996-PRESENT	Johnathan Lollis
1959-1970	Raymond Breazeale		
1971	Leon Pack		
1972-1974	Raymond Breazeale	•	
1975	Ray Clardy		
1976-PRESENT	Ray Ellison		
CHURCH TREASURER			

#### **CHURCH TREASURER**

1919	W. W. Shaw
1933-1934	Brock Mahaffey
1935-1951	Fred G. Ellison
1952-1956	Raymond Breazeale
1957-1971	Richard M. Ellison
1972-1974	Marvin J. Buffington
1975	Kay Smith
1976-1989	Velma Rice
1990-Present	Indy Bushy

# Cedan Grove "God's Servants"

Gail Smith

Velma Rice

Kay Smith

1987-1991

1993-Present

1992

DAI HOI HUMING CHACH PLANT		BROTHERHOOD PRESIDENTS			
1940-1945	Fred G. Ellison	1958	Roy Ellison		
1946-1949	J. Wesley Ellison	1959-1961	Sam B. Lollis		
1950	Richard M. Ellison	1962	Richard M. Ellison		
1952	Sam B. Smith	1963-1964	Ed Loftis		
1953	Rufus T. Holcombe	1965	Alvin Pack		
1954	G. Clifton Hammonds	1966	Jack R. Boggs		
1955	W. R. Bill" Ellison	1967-1968	Joe Pack		
1956	J. T. Mitchell	1969-1970	Mitchell Brooks		
1957	Jack R. Boggs	1971	Jack Richey		
1958-1959	J. T. Mitchell	1972-1974	William R. "Bill" Ellison		
1960	Lester Ellison	1975	Marvin Buffington		
1961	Alvin R. Pack	1976	Bill Smith		
1962	Ralph Nation	1977-1978	Joe Pack		
1963-1966	W. B. "Bill" Ellison	1979	Bill Smith		
1967	Leon Pack	1980-1982	Jerry Willingham		
1968-1971	Joe Pack	1986	Jimmy Williams		
1972-1975	Mrs. Kay Smith	1987	Bill Smith		
1976-1978	Bill Smith	1990-1992	Mike Guest		
1979-1988	Larry Williams	1996	Bill Rice		
1989-PRESENT	Bill Bagwell	1997-PRESENT	William Bagwell		
		MUSIC DIRECTORS			
		1961-1969	Pete Williams		
THE I PRECIDENTE		1969-1970	Mitch Brooks		
W.M.U. PRESIDENTS	Mrs. M. J. Ellison	1971	Steve Aaron		
1937-1940	Mrs. B. F. Bolt	1972	Tommy Combs		
1941-1942	Mrs. Fred Cooley	1973	Mary Boroughs		
1943-1945	Mrs. C. R. Smith	1974	Tim Brooks		
1946-1951	Mrs. Walter Bryant	1975	Tim Pack		
1952-1954	Mrs. Richard M. Ellison	1977	Bryan Caldwell		
1955-1956		1978-1979	Tim Pack		
1957	Mrs. H. D. Revis, Jr. Mrs. Robert Y. Marchbanks	1980-1994	Ken Smith		
1958		1995-1998	Roger Mulliken		
1959-1965	Miss Ellenna Morgan Mrs. Alvin R. Pack	PRESENT	Sylvia Williams (Interim)		
1966	Mrs. William R. Ellison	11000111			
1967-1969	Mrs. Walter Bryant	ORGANIST			
1971		LISTED BELOW ARE	THOSE KNOWN PRIOR TO 1968		
1972-1975	Mrs. Mildred Morgan	EIGTED DELC WITH	Nettie McCuen		
1976-1980	Kay Smith		Joyce Clardy		
1981	Aileen Ellison Ellenna Williams		Jane Caldwell		
1982			Marsha Robinson		
1983-1985	Kay Smith	1968- PRESENT	Judy Busby		
1986	Linda Ellison	1700 11000111	<b>y</b> - <b>y</b>		

#### **PIANIST**

LISTED BELOW ARE THOSE KNOWN PRIOR TO 1976

Joyce Clardy
Sara Ellen Pack
Lynn Pack
Ann Callaham
Joyce Ellenburg
Gloria Thompson

1976-PRESENT

# Cedan Grove "Statistics Tell a Story of Steady Growth"

		_		Sunday School			Training Union	
Pastor	Year	Baptisms	hurch Membership	Enrollment	Average Attendance	Enrollment	Average Attendance	Church Offering
George W. Rogers	1881	17	69					•
George W. Rogers	1882	16	92	100	50			\$
George W. Rogers	1883		72	100	30			
George W. Rogers	1884	25	112	72	50			105 50
George W. Rogers	1885	11	117	72 75	60			195.70
George W. Rogers	1886	11	112	107	65			79.56
George W. Rogers	1887	16	127	107	03			92.80
George W. Rogers	1888	19	130					107.27
George W. Rogers	1889	12	156					901.53
George W. Rogers	1890	15	185	109				318.25
George W. Rogers	1891	6	159	121				241.62
George W. Rogers	1892	5	156	96				255.32
George W. Rogers	1893	7	164	101				288.56
George W. Rogers	1894	16	161	70				208.93
George W. Rogers	1895	4	178	70				83.16
C. H. Holland	1898	4	178					127.63
C. H. Holland	1899	1	132	40				
J. M. Allen	1900	4	140	69 70				112.30
J. M. Allen	. 1901	•	140	78 63				117.33
J. M. Allen	1902	7	148	03				
J. M. Allen	1903	18	167					
T. F. Nelson	1908	23	146	06				
T. F. Nelson	1909	8		96				
T. F. Nelson	1910	2	158					175.44
M. M. McCuen	1911	9	151 161					317.21
M. M. McCuen	1912	19		110				
M. M. McCuen	1913	5	139	112				220.22
M. M. McCuen	1914	J	161	112				492.84
M. M. McCuen	1915							
M. M. McCuen	1916	20	220					338.25
M. M. McCuen	1917	20	229					476.39
M. M. McCuen	1918							502.71
M. M. McCuen	1919							545.35
M. M. McCuen	1920	18	220					
M. M. McCuen	1921	37	239					824.68
M. M. McCuen	1922	6	282					
M. M. McCuen	1923	23	243					
M. M. McCuen	1924	23 14	276					
M. M. McCuen	1925	22	301	160				
M. M. McCuen	1926	16	321	150				4,434.12
M. M. McCuen	1927	11	337					
M. M. McCuen	1928	29	412	100				
M. M. McCuen	1929	9	422	100	80			
M. M. McCuen	1930	9	412	1.50				
M. M. McCuen	1931	8	436	153	85			
M. M. McCuen	1932	6	428					
M. M. McCuen	1933	13	382					
M. M. McCuen	1934	13	386 389					
M. M. McCuen	1934	7	389 386					
M. M. McCuen	1937	8		100	100			
M. M. McCuen	1938	18	392 414	190	128			
M. M. McCuen	1939	21	392	200	120			
M. M. McCuen	1940	16	400	205	125			
M. M. McCuen	1941	3	400 411	201	98			
M. M. McCuen	1942	8	412	201	108			
M. M. McCuen	1943	4	423	209	108			1,109.41
<del></del>		•	743	236	135			968.12

# Cedan Grove "Records Show Continued Growth"

				Sunday School		Training Union		
			Church		Average		Average	Church
Pastor	Year	Baptisms	Membership	Enrollment	Attendance	Enrollment	Attendance	Offering
M. M. McCuen	1944	13	431		90			1,406.45
M. M. McCuen	1945	18	400	150	100			1,362.58
M. M. McCuen	1946			150	101	70	38	2,780.29
M. M. McCuen	1947	17	391		96			5,115.03
M. M. McCuen	1948	7	386	150	88	•		3,022.19
M. M. McCuen	1949	14	388		238	52		4,445.28
M. M. McCuen	1950	14	390	228		60		4,258.00
M. M. McCuen	1951	12	389	236	114	90		4,016.00
H. D. Revis, Jr.	1952	12	443	272		95	70	13,153.00
H. D. Revis, Jr.	1953	12	500	332	195	113	80	16,185.00
H. D. Revis, Jr.	1954	18	515	393	222	163	120	14,362.00
H. D. Revis, Jr.	1955	16	523	411	224	150	90	16,528.00
H. D. Revis, Jr.	1956	11	493	376	214	121		19,206.00
H. D. Revis, Jr.	1957	14	499	361	218	119	89	18,654.00
Robert Y. Marchbanks	1958	10	501	350	206	117	90	17,736.00
Robert Y. Marchbanks	1959	21	523	354	206	121	85	19,625.00
Robert Y. Marchbanks	1960	10	516	320	200	119	70	20,844.00
Robert Y. Marchbanks	1961	22	523	369	198	128		18,248.00
Robert Y. Marchbanks	1962	12	534	328	201	118	90	22,362.00
Everette D. Crook	1963	11	454	329	201	117	78	24,003.00
Everette D. Crook	1964	19	547	314	218	126	89	27,004.00
Everette D. Crook	1965	3	541	344	216	126	81	28,081.00
Everette D. Crook	1966	15	553	339	219	124	<b>7</b> 7	28,848.00
Everette D. Crook	1967	6	521	320	201	124	71	29,622.00
Fred C. Metts	1968	8	510	335	205	105	76	30,880.00
Clyde W. Peterson	1969	6	509	295	190	102	80	31,266.00
Clyde W. Peterson	1970	15	524	314	188	140	82	40,184.00
Clyde W. Peterson	1971	6	534	313	180	136	89	44,432.00
Clyde W. Peterson	1972	18	542	330	179	144	81	44,744.00
Clyde W. Peterson	1973	6	539	296	185	130	90	56,953.00
Clyde W. Peterson	1974	17	543	313	200	125	98	54,573.00
Clyde W. Peterson	1975	3	551	307	200	142	100	50,853.00
Jim Roberts	1976	6	536	290	190	111	86	52,223.00
Jim Roberts  Jim Roberts	1977	5	541	295	170 -	116	78	54,827.00
Jim Roberts	1978	2	539	294	164	96	67	63,651.00
Jim Roberts	1979	19	549	265	163	100	75	63,237.00
Jim Roberts	1980	10	555	259	152	100	63	63,682.00
Jim Roberts  Jim Roberts	1981	8	562	257	159	70	65	70,325.00
Jim Roberts	1982	11	567	265	158	92	52	73,817.00
	1983	12	573	273	160	100		78,380.00
Jim Roberts Jim Roberts	1984	7	568	255	156	100		91,299.00
Mike Moody	1985	5	566	245	165	100		. 102,218.00
Mike Moody	1986	12	421	265	173	110	77	130,198.00
Mike Moody	1987	13	417	242	164	100	76	127,661.00
Mike Moody	1988	7	429	275	166	110	69	125,090.00
Mike Moody	1989	6	434	243	166	101	70	174,770.00
Jerry Mize	1990	18	451	258	170	79	73	163,152.00
Jerry Mize	1991	13	469	274	189	82	82	161,139.00
Jerry Mize  Jerry Mize	1992	5	487	284	170	82	62	209,165.00
Jerry Mize  Jerry Mize	1993	8	499	292	190	70	68	209,556.00
Jerry Mize  Jerry Mize	1994	14	507	272	179	77	70	244,879.00
	1995	9	499	245	180	78	70	255,063.00
Jerry Mize Jerry Mize	1996	4	368	225	170	68		322,308.00
Clarence Freeman	1997	5	560	230	171	71	70	260,553.00
Danny Parton	1998	17	566	290	189	92	81	342,662.00

## Cedar Grove "Windows To The Future"

On March 22, 1998, members of Cedar Grove Baptist Church voted to purchase windows for our church at a cost of \$105,289. There will be 18 beautiful windows made from stained glass portraying the Life of Christ.



# Praise Report TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Windows To The Future Offering \$58,007.92

> Attendance 247

... We never saw it on this fashion. (Mark 2:12) was the cry of the assembly in Capernaum (possibly at the home of Apostle Peter) when Jesus forgave the sins and healed the man sick with palsy.

Neither will New Challenge Day on Sunday, August 23rd, at Cedar Grove be soon forgotten.

We experienced a move of God among His people once again. He revealed to us what He can do through a church that will trust and obey Him. Thank you for your obedience to the Lord.

I Love you all, Danny

(Copied from September "Cross Tie")

#### TITLES OF WINDOWS

CHRIST KNOCKING AT THE DOOR

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

THE NATIVITY

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

JESUS QUESTIONS THE TEACHERS IN THE TEMPLE

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

THE FIRST DISCIPLES CALLED

THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA

JESUS DRIVES OUT THE MONEYCHANGERS

CHRIST AND THE CHILDREN

THE ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

THE LAST SUPPER

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

JESUS BEFORE PILATE

THE CRUCIFIXION

CHRIST APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE

THE FEEDING OF THE MULTITUDE

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Cedan Grove "What It Means To Me"

By the 1998 Historical Committee

#### **Mildred Bryant**

It was August 1933 when I walked down the aisle of the old church and publicly acknowledged Christ as my personal savior. This church immediately became "my church".

I remember very well our celebrating the 100th Anniversary and what that meant to me personally. We had come a long way. Now, as we are celebrating the 125th Anniversary, we still have come a long way again.

I have a fond remembrance of the men who have served as our pastors and interim pastors. I am sure we have been led by God's Holy Spirit to reach this goal.

I come always to the house of the Lord to worship God. I want to hear the word taught and then follow up with the preaching of the gospel. General things stand out in my mind though. The missionary organizations have always been a deep interest of mine. When we fail to help carry out the great commission Christ gave us, we are failing Him. The musical program has also been a very deep interest of mine. Singing in the choir for a great number of years, I still have a longing to be up there. I am thankful for both of these phases of the church and feel we have tried to do our best with our mission organizations and our music. Most of all, I long to see souls saved. I am thankful for the number we have been able to add to our church roll during these last twenty-five years. I just pray that we will continue to grow, not necessarily in numbers, but-in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This church was founded on the rock Jesus Christ and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

--- **(1)** 

#### Patsy Callaham

In Ecclesiastes 3, the Bible says "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven." Cedar Grove is the church God chose for me --first through coming to church with friends, the home church of my husband, the church where I first knew the wooing of the Holy Spirit. When I was saved at the age of 34 through the witness of a Christian, God again used Cedar Grove to help me grow as a Christian. After approximately 33 years at Cedar Grove, there are special faces that I will see again in heaven and times the Lord has revealed Himself to me. When I compare my life to the lives of others, I know that Cedar Grove Church has given much meaning to my life. Thank you, Lord, for Cedar Grove.

#### Joe Pack

The past twenty-five years in the life of Cedar Grove Baptist Church has been years of happiness and some sadness for the church as a whole. We have gained new members and lost some of the old, but our attendance has stayed the same.

We have had death and sorrow in many of our church families, but we have had many positive things such as the new Fellowship Center, renovation for the auditorium (new carpet, new ceiling, chandeliers). We have a new sound system given by Mrs. Dawn Hester in loving memory of her husband, Randy.

I have special memories of our past music directors and choirs and the ones who have played our musical instruments - for their faithfulness and efforts to make our services more meaningful and enjoyable. We remember the many wonderful pastors and interim pastors who have served us well.

It is a good feeling to know that God is still on the throne and the word of God is still being preached and souls are still being saved.

As we think of the future, the window of opportunity is open to us for great things to happen at Cedar Grove Baptist Church.

### Cedar Grove "We Love You"

#### Velma Rice

As I think about the question, "What does Cedar Grove Baptist Church mean to me? The first thought I have, of course, is that this is where I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, as a young girl. I was baptized in the outside baptismal pool. I remember the day I was baptized, how cold it was when I came up out of that pool, but the warm feeling I had on the inside. I am thankful God has blessed us here at Cedar Grove with a beautiful church building and grounds, but when I think of Cedar Grove - I think of God's people and the fruit of the spirit shown by them, like joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance and most of all love. So when I think of what Cedar Grove means to me - it means LOVE — love of God and love of God's people.

----- 4242 -----

#### Richard M. Ellison

Some of the earliest memories of life to me have been getting to be a part of Cedar Grove Baptist Church. As a small lad the church was the center of our life. We are thankful for Christian parents who were faithful in bringing us to church and setting a Christian example before us.

So many folks have blessed my life at Cedar Grove that a long book could not contain all of the great blessings I've received from great Christian fellowship at our church. Yes, many stand out in my memory for the service they rendered for our Lord at Cedar Grove. So many served as teachers in the Sunday School, Training Union and other organizations of our church with dedication and a loving Christian spirit. It is true that many great Christian women gave so much of their Christian love to us little sunbeam children that it became a part of our memory for life. Yes, they are Saints in Eternal Glory now, but they gave us such loving care that it will always be a part of our memory. Seeds of service have been sown in our church, that will bear fruit for our Lord eternally.

The testimony of many great saints who gave their talents in teaching, singing and working with children have helped our church to grow and bear fruit for the Lord. Many sermons that have been preached in our church will live on in the hearts of those who have heard the messages, as well as future generations who have been touched by the teachings of their parents and other Christians.

It is wonderful to know that we are serving a Lord who can take little deeds and turn them into great things for His Glory. Truly, Cedar Grove Baptist Church has been a "Lighthouse" along the Shore to many of us during the "Storms of Life".

#### **Ray Clardy**

I found Cedar Grove Baptist Church soon after Joyce and I were married. I was baptized in May or June 1960. 1 remember it was a cold rainy day and the baptismal pool was out under large white oak trees. Preacher Marchbanks and I made our way outside while the church members remained inside and watched through the windows.

Since I became a Christian and was a Methodist prior to joining Cedar Grove, I had already been "sprinkled" by the Methodist Church. As we walked under the rain soaked trees, a breeze shook the limbs and we were splattered with large drops of water. Preacher Marchbanks, who was always filled with humor, said, "The Lord is sprinkling you and I both one more time before you are baptized.

I am glad to be a member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church. It has stood as a lighthouse to others and myself in keeping on a spiritual path through our lives.

I pray that Cedar Grove will remain strong for the next 125 years.