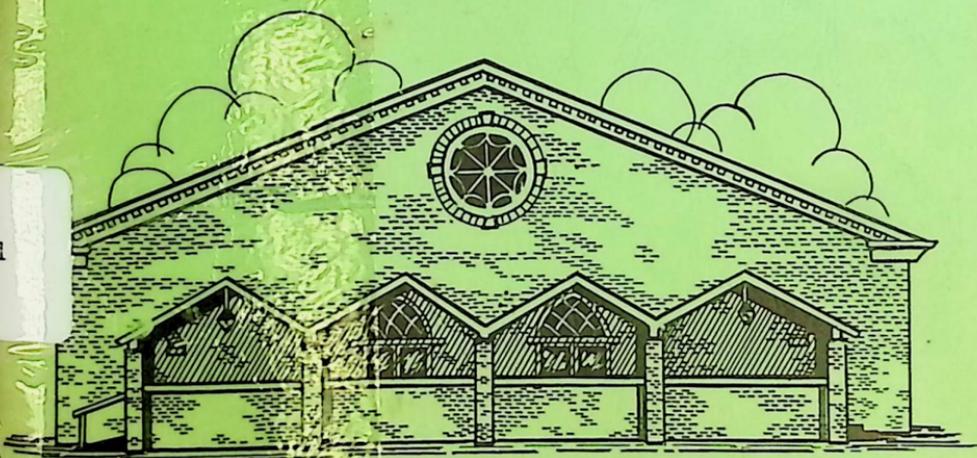


A
P
I
C
T
O
R
I
A
L
H
I
S
T
O
R
Y

of the
**TENNESSEE AVENUE
BAPTIST CHURCH**

and
the Pastor,
WILLARD TALLMAN



*A Pictorial History
of the
Tennessee Avenue
Baptist Church
and the Pastor,
Willard Tallman*

1943 - 1973

BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY
701 Goode Street
Bristol, Virginia 24201

NOV 17

DEDICATION

In attempting to retrace the history of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church in pictures, I found it very difficult to separate the life of our Pastor, Willard Beverly Tallman, from the history of the church itself, because in reality there has not been the one without the other.

This great church that has seen countless thousands walk down the aisles to accept Christ as their own personal Savior. This great church that has been a lighthouse for the gospel in this city. This great church that has stood for the fundamentals of the faith when, seemingly, no one else would stand, and this great church that has provided a foundation to grow on for its adults, its young people and its children for all these years.

This man, Willard Tallman, God's man, who has unselfishly served Jesus Christ first of all, and secondly this congregation of people. This man, who has been true to the Word and has faithfully preached Christ — His virgin birth, His perfect life, His sacrificial death for sinners, His resurrection from the dead and His coming again — for the past thirty years here at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. This man, who has been truly "sent from God."

Because of the inseparability of these two, I have included many pictures of Willard Tallman along with the pictorial history of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. It is my fondest hope that as you read the history and look at the many pictures included in this booklet that you will be able to realize the working of the Holy Spirit throughout the history of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

Without a doubt what follows can be said of both the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church and its pastor, Willard Tallman:

He held the lamp of truth that day
So low that none could miss the way,
And yet so high to bring in sight
That picture fair — the world's great light.

He held the pitcher, stooping low,
To lips of little ones below,
Then raised it to the weary saint
And bade him drink when sick and faint.

He blew the trumpet soft and clear,
That trembling sinners all might hear;
And then, with louder note and bold,
He razed the walls of Satan's hold.

Then when the Captain says, "Well done,
Thou good and faithful servant – come!
Lay down the pitcher and the lamp,
Lay down the trumpet – leave the camp!"
His weary hands will then be seen
Clasped in those pierced ones – naught between.
–*Anonymous*

BOB FLEMING
Church Music Director

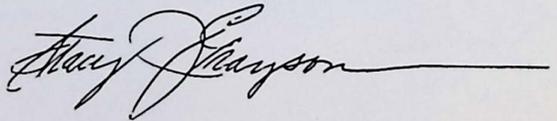


Bob, Joyce, Julie & Beth

LAW OFFICES
STACY J. GRAYSON
BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

A few years ago a church group from central Florida was seeking to employ Rev. Willard Tallman as their pastor and inquired of me as to what I thought he would require in the way of church facilities; my reply was that, if they would furnish him with a vacant field and the name of a brick yard, Willard would do the rest, and in short order.

God bless you on the occasion of your 30th anniversary.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stacy J. Grayson", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Stacy J. Grayson

MUNICIPAL OFFICES OF
CITY OF BRISTOL TENNESSEE
BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

JERE C. KING
Mayor

EDWARD F. MUSICK
Commissioner of Finance and Accounts

MAURICE CONN
Commissioner of Streets and Public Property

The Reverend Willard Tallman,
His Congregation, and Friends of
The Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church
Bristol, Tennessee 37620

Dear Fellow Citizens:

Congratulations on your Thirtieth Anniversary!

What a tremendous sense of pride your church must enjoy as you review the accomplishments of those thirty years.

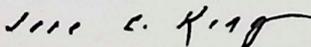
The good people of Bristol are well aware of the position of importance held by the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church in religious and civic affairs of our city.

On many occasions your strong influence for the best interest of our community was very definitely felt.

Because of the leadership of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, through its pastor and congregation, Bristol will always be "A Good Place to Live".

May the good Lord sustain us all.

Sincerely,



Jere C. King, Mayor
City of Bristol, Tennessee

Congratulations to Reverend Willard B. Tallman on thirty years of dedicated service as Pastor of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. This is a record of which we are all very proud.

One of my happiest reflections as an individual and as First District Congressman is Willard Tallman's friendship. His words, his acts, and his deeds give me great inspiration and determination to go forward to greater heights. He is one of the most outstanding persons I have ever known and is truly God's disciple.

My visits to his church are most rewarding. I always leave with an uplift in my heart after listening to one of his sermons and enjoying the fellowship of so many wonderful members and their families.

Everywhere I go in and out of the First District of Tennessee, I hear great things about my friend Willard Tallman. The people praise and love him, as we all do. His service as Pastor of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church and the many revivals he has held in so many churches are legendary, and those who have come to God through one of his services will always remember his plea for the better things in life.

Again, congratulations to my good friend who walks with God and is loved by so many people.

James H. Quillen
Congressman, First District
State of Tennessee

Congratulations on your 30th anniversary as Pastor of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. Your Christian testimony, as well as your ministry, has been over the years a blessing to this area.

I would like to thank you for the encouragement that you have been to my own ministry and I know that Bristol is a better place because you passed this way.

Yours in Christ,
Warren Johnson, Pastor
Bethel View Baptist Church
Bristol, Tennessee

oyfully, and with great appreciation for the effective ministry of my dear friend, Willard, whom I consider a dedicated minister to our Lord's cause. I join the thousands of others to wish for him many fruitful years at the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. May the Lord continue to bless him in the future as he has been blessed in the past.

Dr. B. R. Lakin, Evangelist
Fort Gay, West Virginia

It was my privilege to serve the Virginia Avenue Baptist Church of Bristol, Tennessee, as pastor for nine years. Early in my ministry in Bristol I met a most unusual man who became one of the best friends that I have had through the years. Brother Willard Tallman has been and is a source of inspiration to me both as a minister of the gospel and a Christian brother. He has preached the gospel fearlessly through the years as pastor of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. Those who love the Truth as recorded in the Bible, love Willard Tallman.

On one occasion when the brethren of Tennessee Avenue had recommended an increase in brother Willard's salary some of the folk were complaining and saying the increase made his salary higher than Freeman Wright's salary. He met that criticism head-on with a public statement on Sunday morning from the pulpit. "I am worth more than Freeman Wright is as a pastor and preacher." This is only one example among many that I could give showing how my dear friend met his opposition and won his point.

I must share another example of brother Willard's friendship. Our son, Earl, was called into the service of our country during our stay in Bristol. The morning that he was to leave for service a gentle knock was heard at our door. I opened the door to find my neighbor pastor standing there with his Bible in his hand. Willard said, "Freeman, I understand Earl is leaving for service this morning and I know you don't have a pastor, so I want to be your pastor for a few minutes." He came in, read the Bible and prayed with us as a family in that most needy hour in our lives. I shall be eternally grateful to our Heavenly Father for the day He brought Willard our way.

Freeman Wright, Pastor
Glenwood Baptist Church
Kingsport, Tennessee

Willard Tallman is one of the best friends in Christ that I have ever had. He and I began preaching about the same time in any place and at any time we could get an opening. His personal counsel meant much to Mrs. Ely and me through the years.

His ministry at Tennessee Avenue and throughout all the Bristol area has had a great impact on the people and the morals of the community. I praise the Lord for this dedicated Christian and his dear wife who has been an ideal preacher's wife and companion.

I pray that God will continue to give Willard many more years of active, dedicated service and the privilege of winning many more souls to Christ.

Sincerely,
E. W. Ely, Pastor
Bradley Street Baptist Church
Bristol, Virginia

My first acquaintance with Brother Willard Tallman was many years ago, when we were young men and did not know the Lord.

Brother Tallman was saved more than 37 years ago. Since that time, I have seen God use him in a wonderful way and for His glory in bringing many souls to Christ in the more than 35 years of his ministry.

Brother Tallman, for many years, has been eyes to the blind, feet to the crippled, food for the hungry and above all, a faithful witness of the Grace of God to multitudes of people in Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee.

When life is over and the race is won for Willard Tallman, his word and work will continue to live on for many, many years for the Glory of God and for the salvation of many souls.

In Christian love,
Rev. W. L. Odum, Pastor
Spring City Baptist Church
Lebanon, Virginia

It gives me real pleasure to write a congratulation to my friend and brother, Willard Tallman. What an honor to celebrate thirty years as pastor of the well-known and greatly-used Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

Through the years Willard has been a strong defender of the faith, a voice thundering out against sin and for righteousness, a friend to both the rich and the poor, an advisor and buddy to young preachers, and a faithful herald of the grace of God.

May God continue to use the pastor and the people in an ever-increasing usefulness to our Lord. Truly, Willard is a marvel and a trophy of God's grace. I am honored to call him friend.

Richard Ratliff, Pastor
Sunnyside Baptist Church
Kingsport, Tennessee

Willard Tallman has lived up to his name. He stands tall, head and shoulders above his contemporaries. Above the pretense of pride, above the lethargy of learning, above the applause of achievement, and above the hooey of human honor stands a man of God who has become a monument to fundamentalism. Tall in faith; short in fatigue, his unending fight against sin has inspired young preachers everywhere to join the fight. To see him is to hear him, to hear him is to know him, and to know him is to love him.

Rev. Gary Montgomery, Pastor
Gateway Baptist Church
Bristol, Tennessee

One of the dedications of my book, WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW, reads, "To Willard Tallman. Every young preacher needs a friend like Willard." That is one of the many things he is, a friend of preachers. Few men will ever have a friend like Willard Tallman because few men are capable of being a friend like Willard Tallman. I have seen him help and favor those who at times had been unkind to him, love those who did not love him, and encourage those who sought to discourage him. Truthfully I can say that I know of no person who practices the art of love and friendship as our Lord teaches it more faithfully than Willard.

But he is unusual in many other ways. He has never compromised God's Word. Such as man must make many enemies, as the Scripture plainly says, and Willard Tallman has many enemies because of his stand for right and righteousness. But, although I know of many who do not like him, I know not a single person who does not respect him. Politicians, booze peddlers, infidels, modernists, etc., without fail admire him, even in their resentment and hatred, as Ahab and Jezebel must have admired (and feared) Elijah.

Willard is not and may never be nationally known. In my opinion, however, his unique ministry has been as great an influence for the cause of Christ as that of most nationally acclaimed men. For example, many churches exist and thrive today because of his influence, yet few people know of it, including even the members of those churches in many instances. How many preachers have been rescued from modernism and infidelity by his kindly, patient, longsuffering persuasion and instruction? How many continue on in the faith who otherwise would have given up? Only the Judgement seat of Christ will reveal his true greatness.

No man has had more influence for the cause of Christ in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. A good example of the truth of this is the recent battles in Bristol, Tennessee, and then in Bristol, Virginia, over liquor by the drink. It is my opinion the evil forces of liquor would have won both cases had it not been for the enormous influence of Willard Tallman, and the expertly organized campaign of informing the people he and a few others conducted.

He is the builder of the largest church and Sunday School in the history of the city of Bristol, to my knowledge. He has won and baptized thousands of converts. His radio program is the most listened to and influential religious broadcast in the area. His accomplishments that are visible have been great. His unseen deeds and influence have been perhaps even greater.

May God bless Willard Tallman on the occasion this booklet celebrates. He has blessed others, and he has been a blessing and great help to me. I proudly count him as one of my dearest friends and one of the greatest influences in my life and ministry.

Roy Branson, Pastor
South Park Baptist Church
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

WILLARD TALLMAN: A PREACHER'S PASTOR

On this occasion of Brother Tallman's 30th anniversary as the minister of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, many are citing their appreciations for this dear man of God. I shall add my appreciations to this growing list.

Willard Tallman is a preacher's pastor. He has counselled with more preachers than anyone I know. Preachers have driven for hundreds of miles to get his advice on problems they were facing in their ministry. His advice is always sympathetic and helpful.

I am grateful for the years of our friendship. I have learned more from Willard Tallman about being a pastor than I did in all the years I spent in the Seminary.

When the record is read on that great day, it shall reveal that Brother Willard has helped more preachers to find a church, to lead a church, to keep a church, than any man in the area.

God bless you dear brother. May our heavenly Father crown your faithful labours with many more years of service.

Ernest E. Carrier, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Mountain City, Tennessee

It is with joy that I have the privilege of sharing with the church family of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church and the many friends in setting aside a day to honor their beloved pastor, Willard Tallman, for his long and faithful ministry.

In this they are thoughtful, commendable, and scriptural. The Apostle Paul in writing to Timothy about "the kind of church every pastor ought to have" exhorts "that the elders who rule will be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who worship in word and doctrine" (I Tim. 5:17). It seems entirely appropriate thus to honor my good friend and brother for his faithful and long ministry.

It has been my privilege to observe Bro. Willard Tallman in his pastorate, evangelistic work, and service as a trustee of Piedmont Bible College of Winston-Salem, N. C. In each he has shown rare faithfulness, sagacity and devotion. I am happy to be numbered among his friends.

Charles H. Stevens
Pastor Emeritus, Salem Baptist Church
President Emeritus, Piedmont Bible College

Brother Willard Tallman is one of the dearest friends I have on the face of the earth. He has proven his sincere friendship to me on many occasions, for which I am eternally grateful.

I not only have deep respect for him as a friend, but I consider him one of the greatest men of God ever produced in Upper East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. Down through the years, he has stood for salvation by grace, the premillennial coming of the Lord, and holy living. His life and ministry have left an indelible influence for good and for God on this area.

I am happy to join with the multitudes of friends of Brother Willard today and "give honor to whom honor is due."

Rev. Gene Lasley, Pastor
Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church
Gray Station, Tennessee

It has been my privilege to have known Rev. Willard Tallman for more than thirty-five years. What an honor it is to be able to write a few words about this greatly loved and esteemed fellow laborer in Christ on this thirtieth anniversary of his work in the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

Willard and I were first associated in revival and radio work when we were both beginning in our Christian work. Even in those days, Willard exhibited the same high Christian principles which characterize him today.

His life is an example of what every Christian ought to be. His convictions about separation and his stand against sin are based upon the Word of God. Through the years, he has had a help-meet who has stood with him and been willing to sacrifice with him. Her encouragement has enabled God's undershepherd to do his best.

For those who have heard Willard, no proof is required to substantiate the statement that he is one of God's great preachers of our time. His preaching is filled with the Word of God. I can hear him say that "salvation is by grace - plus, minus nothing." He will not compromise with the devil or the world. Yet he is tender-hearted and has a great compassion for souls and God's people. His concern and efforts are evidenced by the growth of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church during his thirty years as pastor. The church has grown from a few people to one of God's great churches in America.

To me, Willard Tallman is preacher, brother, and friend. I have neither known nor heard of any other in our generation so devoted and dedicated, so entirely surrendered to God. He has been an inspiration and has given encouragement to me during our friendship. I have truly found him to be God's man in every situation.

Howard Clayman, Pastor
Washington Avenue Baptist Church
Evansville, Indiana

". . . . ABOUT WILLARD!"

From the back streets of illiteracy to the knowledge of many minds, from the dirt fields of poverty to the respect of all, from the debachary of a life of sin and shame to the pulpit of one of the most formiabile and respected churches in America, walks a man who has been saved by God's marvelous grace, tempered by the struggles of life, beaten into shape on the anvil of time and has never guessed nor suspected his greatness. "Willard!" Loved deeply by many, controversial to some, but respected by all, he is the giant trophy of God, and the greatest Preacher on "Judgement" and "the Grace of God" these ears have ever heard.

The wisdom of his tenure of life, the stalwart convictions on "God's Plan of Redemption", and his king size heart of love, all make up one of my best friends, who has served as the Pastor of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol, for 30 spirit-filled years. "Willard."

A product of God's Grace and Willard,
William (Bill) W. Pennell
Temple Baptist Church
Kingsport, Tennessee

Dear Brother Willard:

Time and space would fail me to say all you and Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church have meant to me. As a boy of 14, I heard you first at Glenwood Baptist Church, Kingsport. From that time on, I would slip away from my own church to go to Tennessee Avenue to hear you every chance I got. I learned to love the people at Tennessee Avenue and especially the great music program. I never could understand how you always came up with the best music man to be found.

Brother Willard, I shall never forget the advice you gave me when I entered the ministry. You said I "couldn't feed hay to a mule much less preach." Then when I went full-time you said I "would starve and my wife and little children would starve to death and I had better stay at Eastman Kodak." Later I heard you tell someone that if God had called me anything you said would not stop me. I admit you made me take a long hard look at the situation and it caused me to claim that old promise "My grace is sufficient for any" - even Willard Tallman and Don Foster. I appreciate everything you mean to me and may God bless you always.

Yours in Christ,
Don Foster, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Bunnell, Florida

I want to congratulate you on your 30 years as Pastor of one of the best churches, Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. I remember you started this church with less than 25 members; now you have 2,100 and have had one of the largest Sunday Schools in Bristol. In my 53 years as a member of a Southern Baptist Church I have never known a more faithful pastor, one who preaches the Gospel to win souls, and believes the Bible to be the inspired word of God, and has won more people to Christ than you. You and your church have started a number of missions, and some are now growing Baptist churches. You have always fought against sin and liquor in every form. The Christian business men of Bristol, Virginia-Tennessee are your friends. May God continue to bless you with good health and your fine church in the work of our Lord.

Your friend,
E. B. Cox, Christian Layman
Bristol, Virginia

Willard Tallman is one of the dearest friends I have. I have known Willard for about 22 years. I have found him to be a great Christian, a great gospel preacher, and possessor of a great love for sinners.

Willard has been a great blessing to me. I have watched his life for 22 years and his love for Christ has helped make me the preacher and the soul winner I am today.

Bristol is fortunate to have Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church in its midst. I feel that this church has helped make Bristol the great town it is today. The city is fortunate to have a man like Willard as one of its citizens. I am proud to be associated with a preacher like Willard Tallman.

Yours in Christ,
Charles Sherfey, Pastor
Johnson City Baptist Temple
Johnson City, Tennessee

Congratulations Brother Willard on this your day. Certainly after thirty years of faithful service you have earned this day and the honors that are yours.

Brother Willard Tallman has been to me what every pastor would want. He has been my co-laborer, my friend, my adviser and my inspiration. We have labored side by side for almost eighteen years, the privilege has been mine. God bless you Willard.

Pastor Howard Robinson
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Bristol, Tennessee

It gives me a great deal of pleasure and a high honor to be asked to write about my feelings toward Willard Tallman.

I have known him for the past 34 years. He has been at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church for 30 years. When he started his ministry at Tennessee Avenue, there was only a small tabernacle building. He has developed into one of the strongest preachers in this area. He is the most God-fearing man I have ever known. He has preached in revivals and tent meetings for the past 34 years. He has been a big influence in the lives of the people in this area. The main objective of his ministry has always been to win the lost and to bring revival to God's people.

May each one of you readers be blessed by reading this history as I have been blessed through the ministry of this great man.

C. E. "Gene" Shipley
Christian Layman
Johnson City, Tennessee

It has been my privilege of knowing Bro. Willard Tallman for the past thirty-five years.

I appreciate him for the great work he has done down through the years, for the way that God has used him, also for the many, many souls he has won for the Lord Jesus Christ, and for the love that he has for his church.

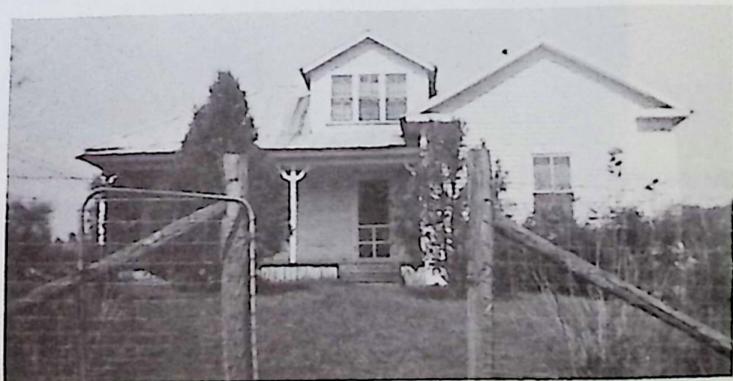
Then too, I appreciate Bro. Willard for what he has meant to me in the years of my ministry. He has always been willing to lend a helping hand when I needed him. I have always counted him as one of my dearest friends. I hold the greatest respect for him and his church in this city.

May God continue to bless him and his dear wife for many, many more years.

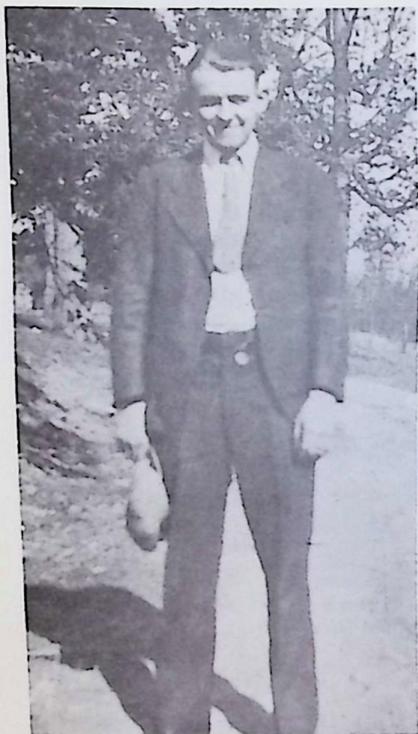
Rev. A. D. Hopson, Pastor
Belle Meadows Baptist Church
Bristol, Virginia



Willard Tallman at 10 months of age —
"You must have been a beautiful baby."



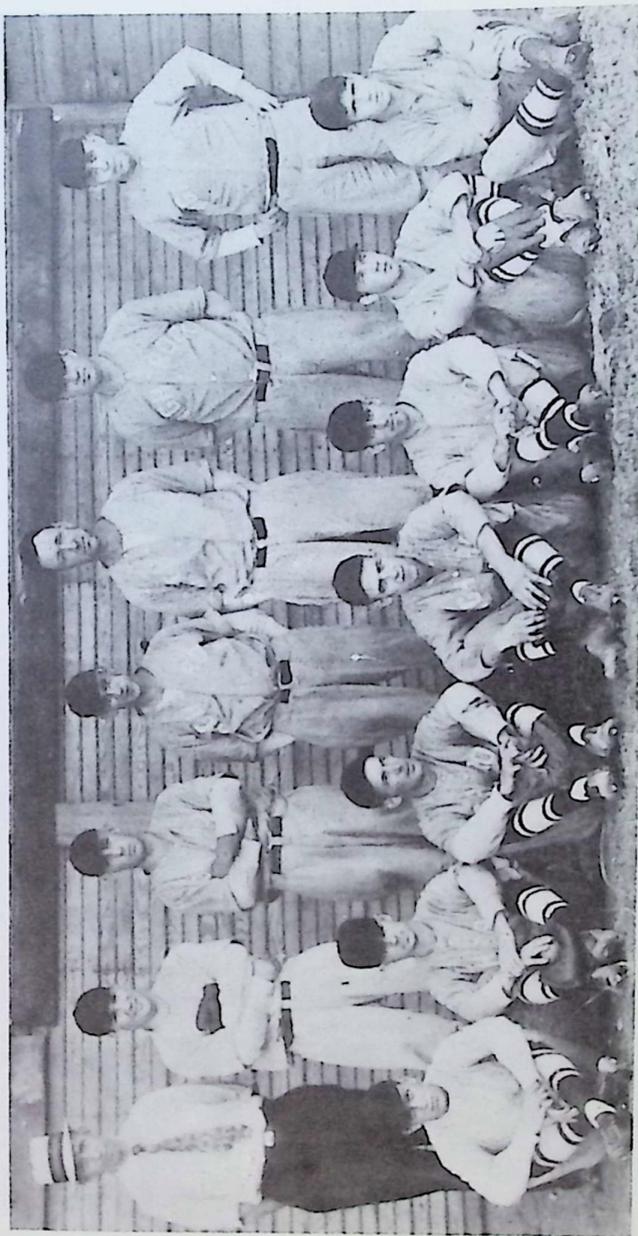
The home where Willard spent his childhood days



Willard at 22 years of age —
notice the length of his tie!

Willard and Ted — "Love is grand, isn't it?"

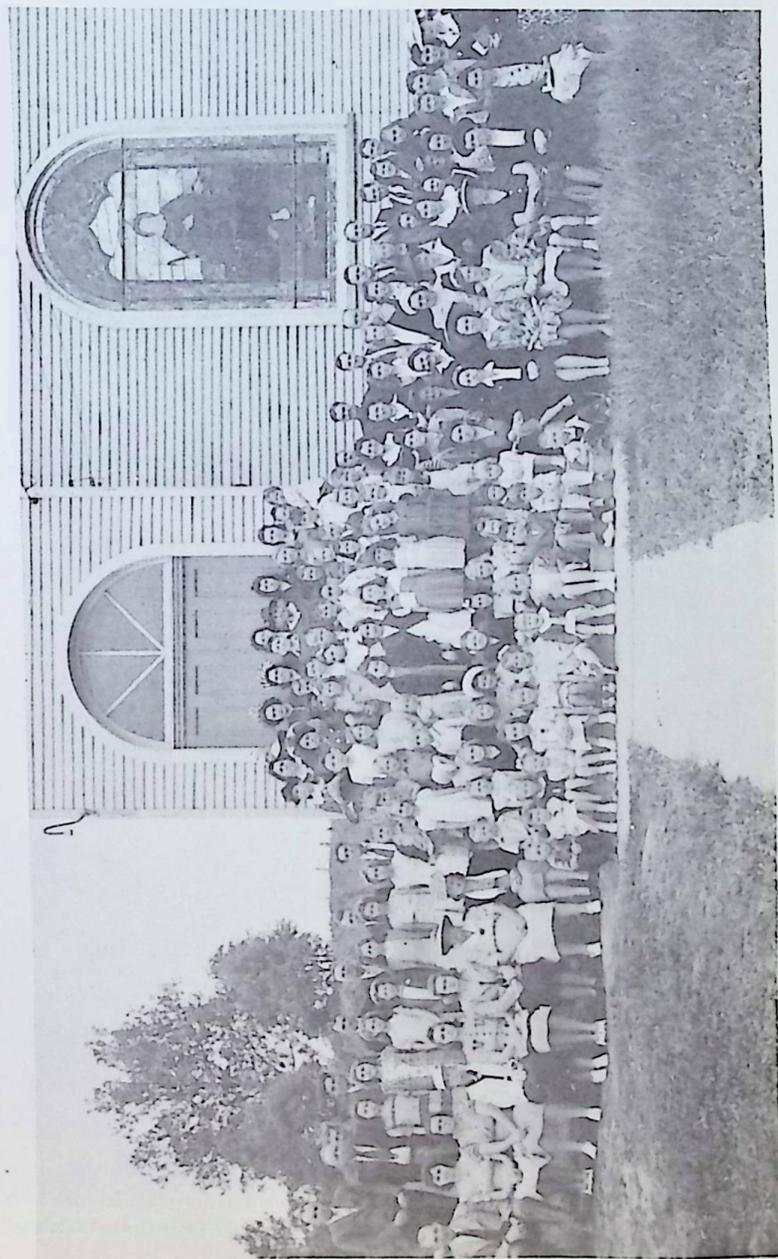




No, that's not Babe Ruth in the middle of the front row, that's our own slugging Pastor, Brother Willard, with the 1931 Tennessee Field Championship Baseball Team. That's "Snake" Maiden in the front row on the right and Mr. Kelly Barker standing in the back beside the manager of the team.



This was Willard's first Sunday School Class in September of 1939.



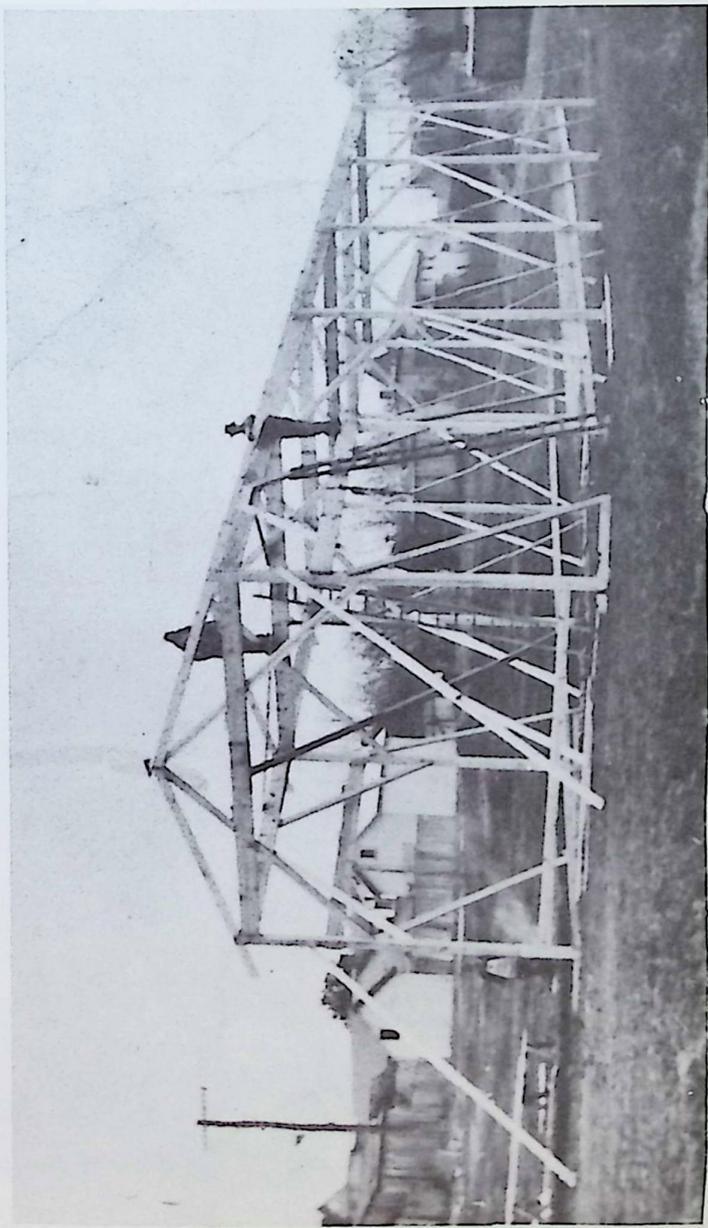
Willard's first church as supply pastor for the King Memorial Church, here in Bristol.



Willard Tallman at age 30



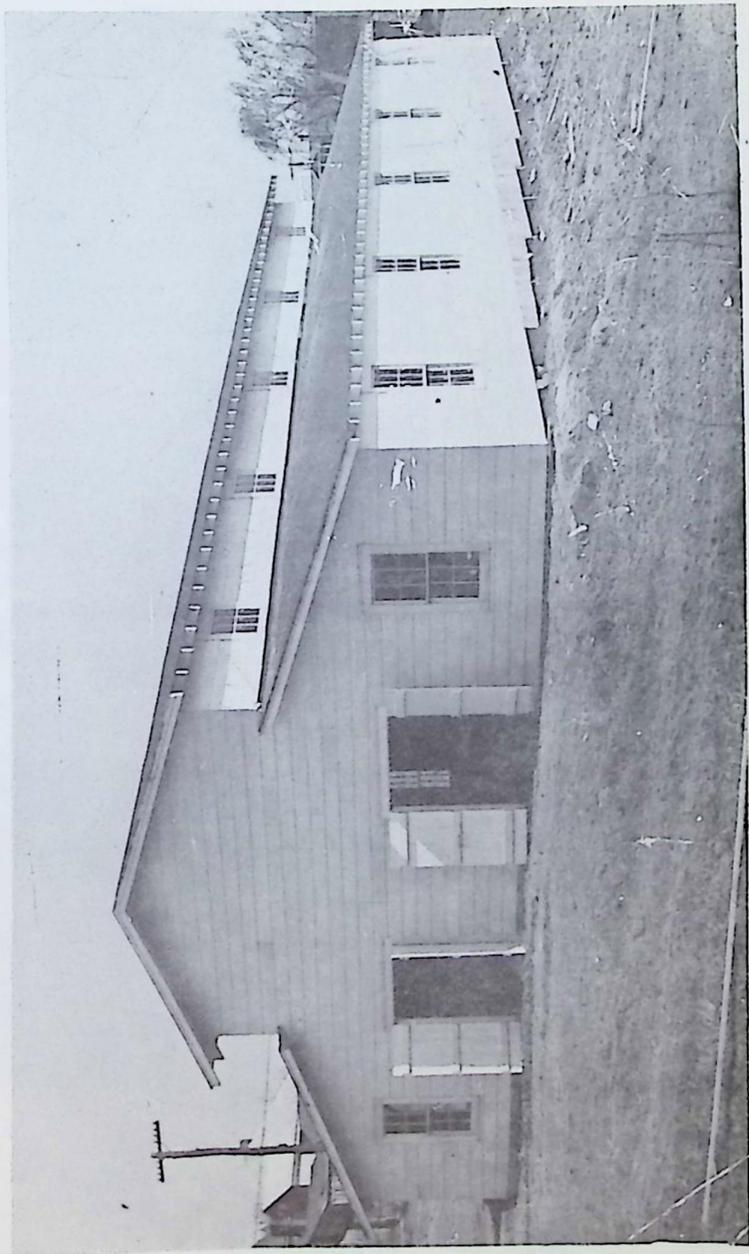
Willard and his tent that was used for those "Old Time Camp Meetings"



The frame of the old Tabernacle Building in 1941. The man working on the right is Mr. C. R. Leonard.

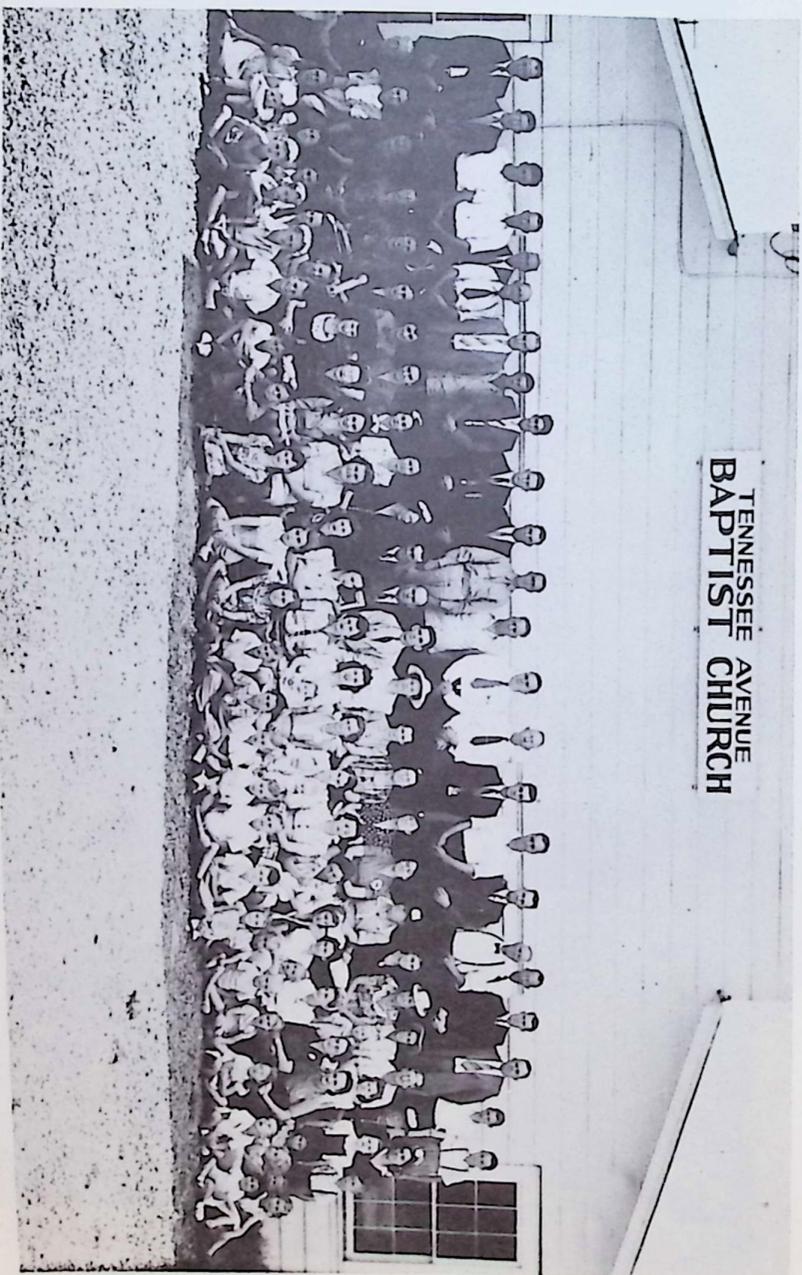


This is some of the people who were present on Willard's first Sunday in July of 1943. From left to right: Herman Mirkval, Ora Ball, Morley Willis, George Greene, Robert Greene, Annie Greene, Shelby M. Butler, Nettie Greene, Nancy Mellons, Anne Cullop, Mary Wampler, Florence Danner, Sue Bowman, Mrs. Willard Tallman, Louise Wingate, Willard, Alvin Tallman, Charles Harris.

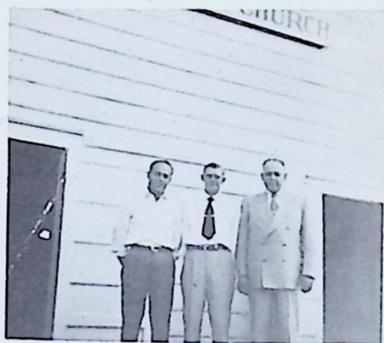


The Tabernacle Building when it was completed

TENNESSEE AVENUE
BAPTIST CHURCH

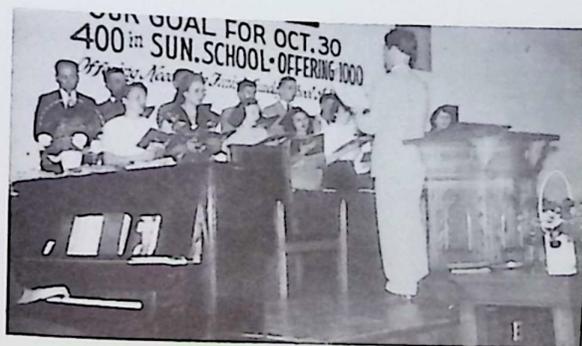


This was the crowd on August 20, 1944. See who you can find.



Left to right — Ellis Nash, Raleigh Addison, Willard in front of Tabernacle Building.

The inside of Tabernacle Building



The choir in the Tabernacle Building being led by Clifton "Tip" Casteel.

Willard preaching in the Tabernacle



Those Were The Days



Those ties!

Mr. George Greene, the first
Sunday School Superintendent



"I can't believe I ate the whole
thing!"

Smile pretty!



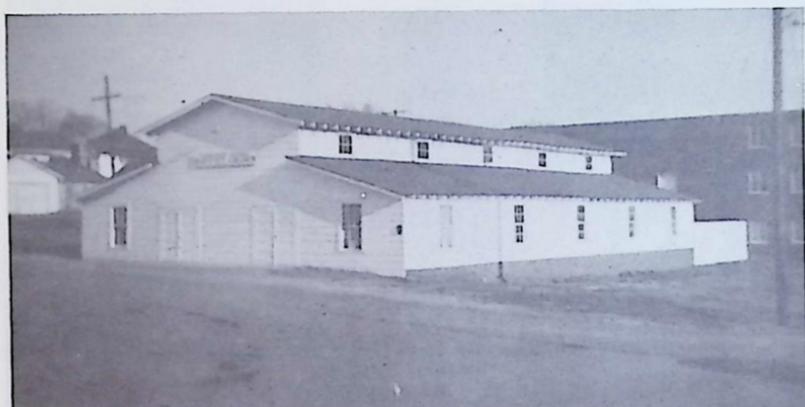


I believe that's Mrs. Tallman behind all of that black!

Willard, "Are you laughing at your wife?"



Bristol Churches



TENNESSEE AVENUE BAPTIST

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, corner Cypress Street and Tennessee Avenue, was organized in 1942 as outcome of evangelistic services held in a tabernacle erected two years earlier by a group of laymen, whose leaders included George L. Greene, Hugh Carrier and C. R. Leonard. Official organization as a Missionary Baptist Church, with about 20 charter members, took place at a meeting in the tabernacle, with the late Judge W. D. Lyon presiding as moderator.

John Bowery was called as the church's first pastor and James Thomas was second. Rev. Willard Tallman became pastor in July, 1943. Since then Sunday School attendance has increased from average of 35 to approximately 500. Present church membership is 525, with attendance averaging about 450.

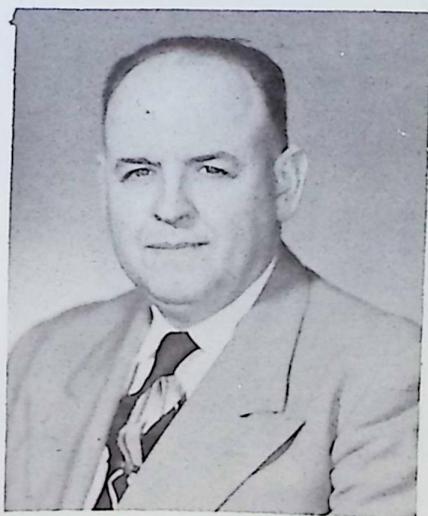
A three-story Sunday School addition, with 75 rooms, was built to the original church structure two years ago. Present plans call for erection in the near future of a new sanctuary, to have seating capacity of about 800.

The church has a complete departmental Sunday School and two young people's departments. A "Youth for Christ" program is broadcast from the auditorium each Saturday night. Two missions are operated, one at Shakesville, the other at Abingdon, and the church supports the missionary program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bobby Whitson is full-time musical director, young people's leader. Church officials include George L. Green, superintendent; Robert Garrett, board of deacons chairman; Ellis Nash, B.T.U. director; Mrs. Henry Wampler, W.M.U. president; R. C. Mumpower, treasurer; and Mrs. John Carty, clerk.



The platform of the Tabernacle Building after remodeling



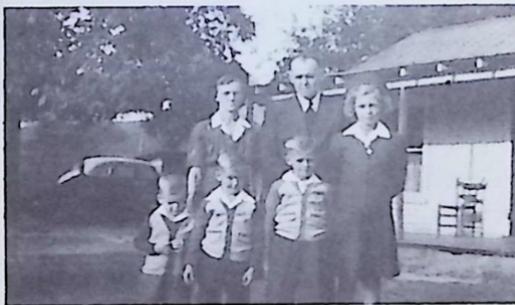
Brother Willard at 38 years of age



Willard and his Family

Moments alone are very few because . . .

A family sure grows in a hurry.



And there's another one. In the back on the right is Willard's mother.

Now . . . are you trying to get away from your family?





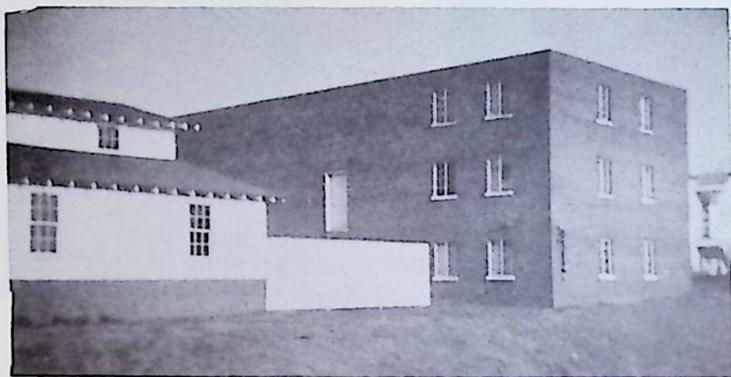
Willard and his Ford



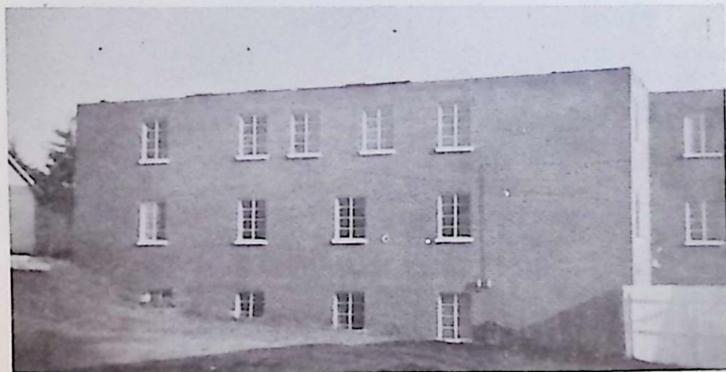
Grover Trivette, Ed Burnette, Bob Lyons and Willard at the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1949.



Willard, that's not a Ford!



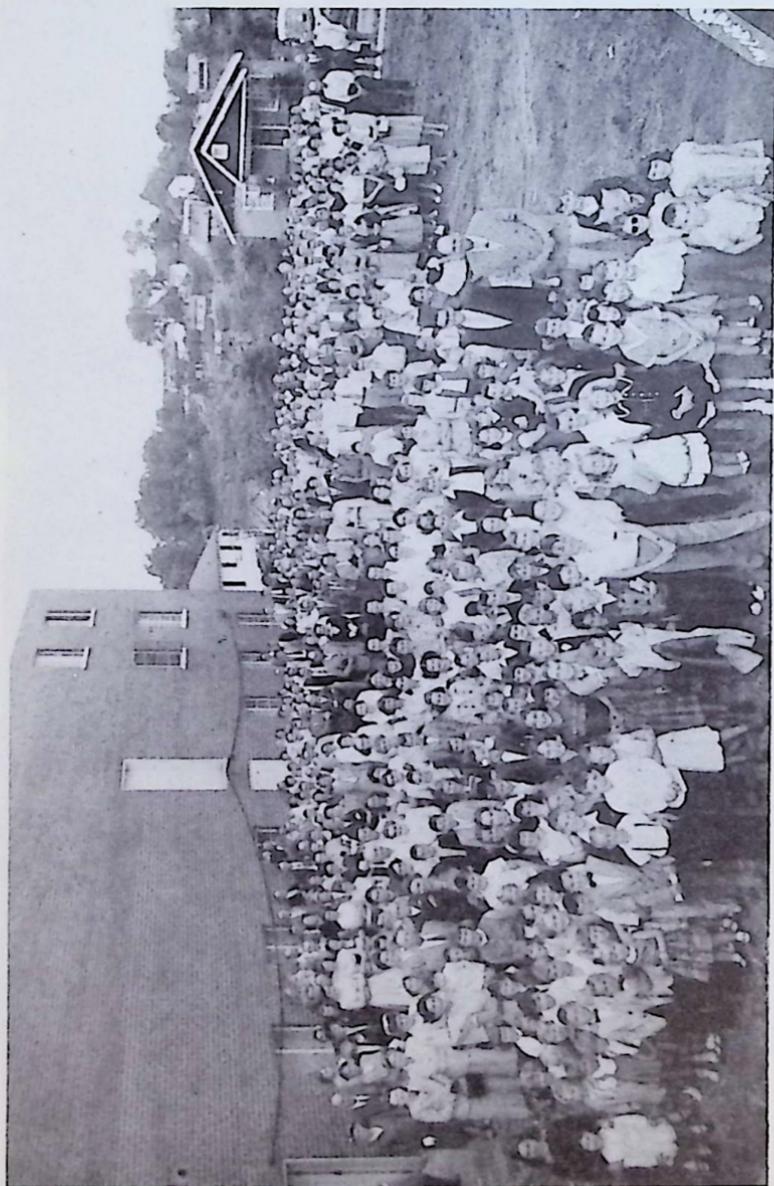
**The Sunday School space next to Tennessee Avenue
was added to the existing building in 1946.**



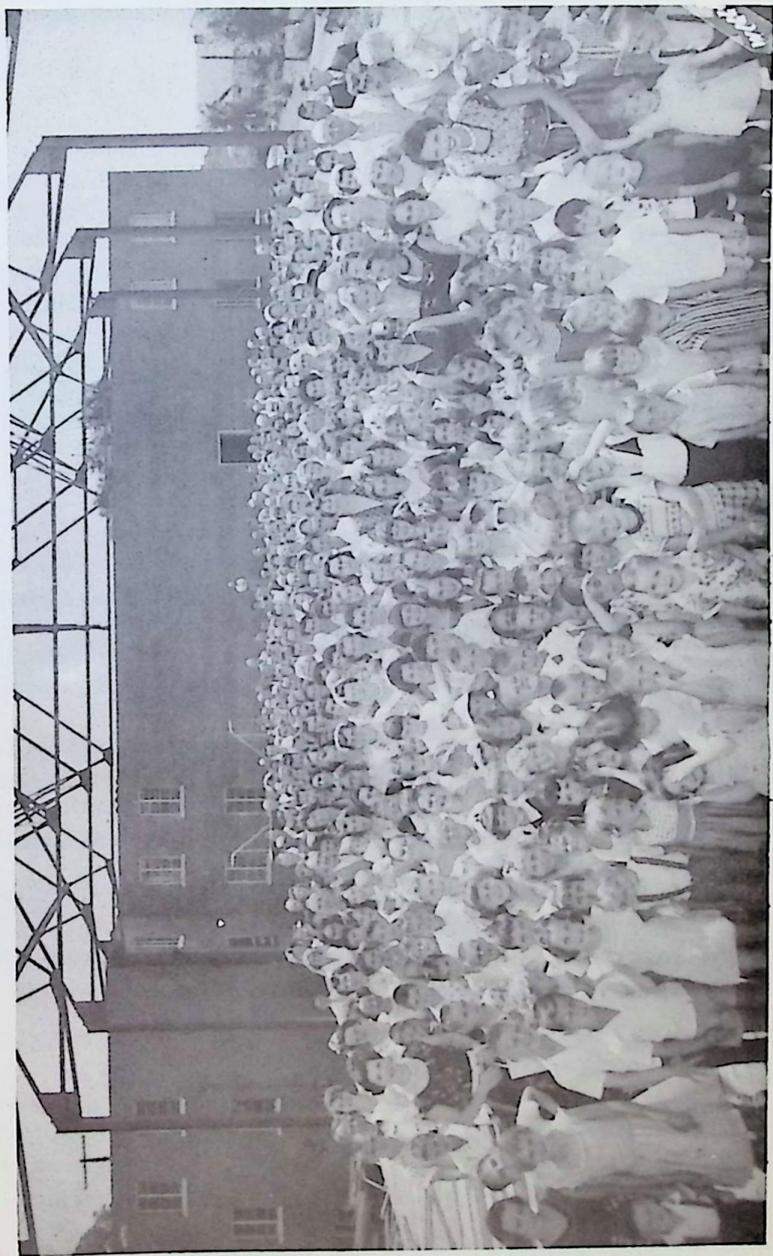
**The Sunday School space next to Pennsylvania Avenue
was added in 1951.**



This is the kind of crowd that attended the Tabernacle every Sunday.



The congregation on May 23, 1954. The Tabernacle is gone, but better things are coming.



Three weeks later, the steel for the new auditorium is standing in the air. It's the talk of the town.

CONGREGATION WORK AND PRAYERS BUILD 94-ROOM CHURCH IN BRISTOL

By Jim Dalton
V-T City Editor

The long-cherished dreams of a scrapping Bristol Baptist minister will be culminated Sunday, February 27, at 1:45 p.m. The Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, erected through the work and prayers of its officers and congregation, and at a cost of \$100,000, will be opened officially at that time.

The cost of the structure is figured, according to contracting estimates, at about \$300,000. However, the determined members did much of the work themselves, keeping the cost down to the \$100,000 figure.

The Rev. Willard Tallman is pastor of the church, which has grown from the hopes and plans of a handful of people to one of the largest churches in the city.

Started in 1942

Located on the corner of Cypress and Tennessee Avenue, the church was organized in 1942 as the outcome of evangelistic services held in a tabernacle. The tabernacle had been erected two years earlier by a group of laymen, whose leaders included George L. Greene, Hugh Carrier and C. R. Leonard.

Official organization as a Missionary Baptist Church, with about 20 charter members, took place at a meeting in the tabernacle, with the late Judge W. D. Lyon presiding as moderator.

John Bowery was called as the church's first pastor and James Thomas was the second. Willard Tallman was called in July, 1943. It is the first and only pastorate ever held by the Bristol minister, who has been preaching for 14 years.

However, the work that has been completed since he took the pastorate is well worth the consideration of any city in the world.

Since 1943, when Tallman was called to the church, the Sunday School attendance has climbed steadily from 40 to 600. The present church membership has climbed from the few charter members to 750. An average church attendance is 600 members each Sunday.

75 Sunday School Rooms

The three-story Sunday School addition, with 75 rooms, (that isn't a typographical error — the entire church has 94 rooms) was built to the original church structure three years ago. This supplied the fast-growing church with sufficient room for a complete departmental Sunday School, and also a large room which is used as a children's church.

Children between the ages of four and eight attend their own church services in the children's church, following Sunday School each Sunday.

The aim, which is hailed as a success, is to provide the parents more rest during the worship hour, while the children worship together with the best of trained leaders.

The present new structure was started in May, 1954. It has been erected on the same spot as the original tabernacle. The huge auditorium, with seating capacity for 1,100, is finished inside in a restful shade of green, with walnut-finished woodwork.

The church pews are white with sections of the pew trimmed in walnut finish, to correspond with the woodwork. The pulpit, and circle-choir platform, are arranged in the most modern manner. The seating capacity of the church choir is 104. Seating is so arranged each person sitting in the choir, as well as each one sitting in the congregation, views the speaker and baptismal services clearly.

With completion of the new sanctuary, the entire church building has a floor space of about 28,000 square feet.

The church supports the missionary program of the Southern Baptist Convention. It has also been praised for its two well-known radio programs, "Youth for Christ," which is conducted from the auditorium each Saturday night, and "The Hour of Grace," conducted from the church each Sunday afternoon 1 p.m.

Mrs. Myrtle Talbert is the full-time church missionary.

Other Officials

Other church officials include George L. Greene, Sunday School superintendent; Robert Garrett, chairman of the board of deacons; Elmer Beavers, BTU director; Mrs. Henry Wampler, WMU president; R. C. Mumpower, treasurer; Mrs. John Carty, clerk; Beulah Mae Garrett, organist; Sue Boyd and Mrs. Helen Anders, pianists; and George Calhoun, custodian.

The Rev. Raymond Smith, pastor of the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, will deliver the dedicatory address next Sunday at 1:45 p.m. "Open House" will be observed at the new church the same day from 3 to 5 p.m.

The Rev. Tallman is married to a Bristol girl, the former Stella Stewart.

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church

Bristol, Tennessee

Willard Callman, Pastor
Bob Whitson, Director of Music

Program for Opening of
The New Sanctuary

February 27, 1955

"Enter to worship, depart to serve"

LORD'S DAY

February 27, 1955

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:00 O'CLOCK

MORNING WORSHIP

10:00 A.M.

<i>Call to Worship</i>		"All Hail the Power"
<i>Prayer</i>	(Congregation Standing)	Mr. Sidney Sproles
<i>Hymn</i>		
<i>Sunday School Report</i>		Mr. George Greene
<i>Hymn</i>		
<i>Special Music</i>		The Ambassadors Quartet
<i>Hymn</i>		
<i>Remarks</i>		Mr. Charlie Dermid
<i>Special Music</i>		The Ambassadors Quartet
<i>Announcements</i>		Reverend Tallman
<i>Hymn</i>		
<i>Worship with Tithes and Offerings</i>		
<i>Special Music</i>		Church Choir
<i>Message</i>		Reverend Tallman
<i>Invitation Hymn</i>		
<i>Benediction</i>		Mr. Kermit Lilley

12:00 O'CLOCK - LUNCH SERVED IN BASEMENT

1:00 P.M.

HOUR OF GRACE Broadcast

Music

The Ambassadors Quartet

Message

Rev. Alvin Leonard

AFTERNOON SERVICE – 1:45 P.M.

Inspirational Singing

Prayer

Special Music

Mr. Jack Mitchell

Remarks

Mr. C. R. Leonard

Special Music

Church Quartet

Announcements

Reverend Tallman

Inspirational Singing

Special Music

The Ambassadors Quartet

Message

Reverend Raymond Smith

Pastor, Euclid Avenue Baptist Church

Invitation Hymn

Benediction

OPEN HOUSE – 3:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Let's get Acquainted, and look over the New Church Building

TRAINING UNION – 6:30 P.M.

EVENING SERVICE

7:30 P.M.

Inspirational Song Service

Special Music

The Ambassadors Quartet

Message

Reverend George Hoeflinger
Marlette, Michigan

OUR CHURCH

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church was organized in 1942. It was the outcome of evangelistic services held in a tabernacle erected two years earlier by a group of laymen whose leaders included George L. Greene, Hugh Carrier and C. R. Leonard. Official organization as a Missionary Baptist Church, with about 20 charter members, took place at a meeting in the tabernacle with the late Judge W. D. Lyon presiding as moderator.

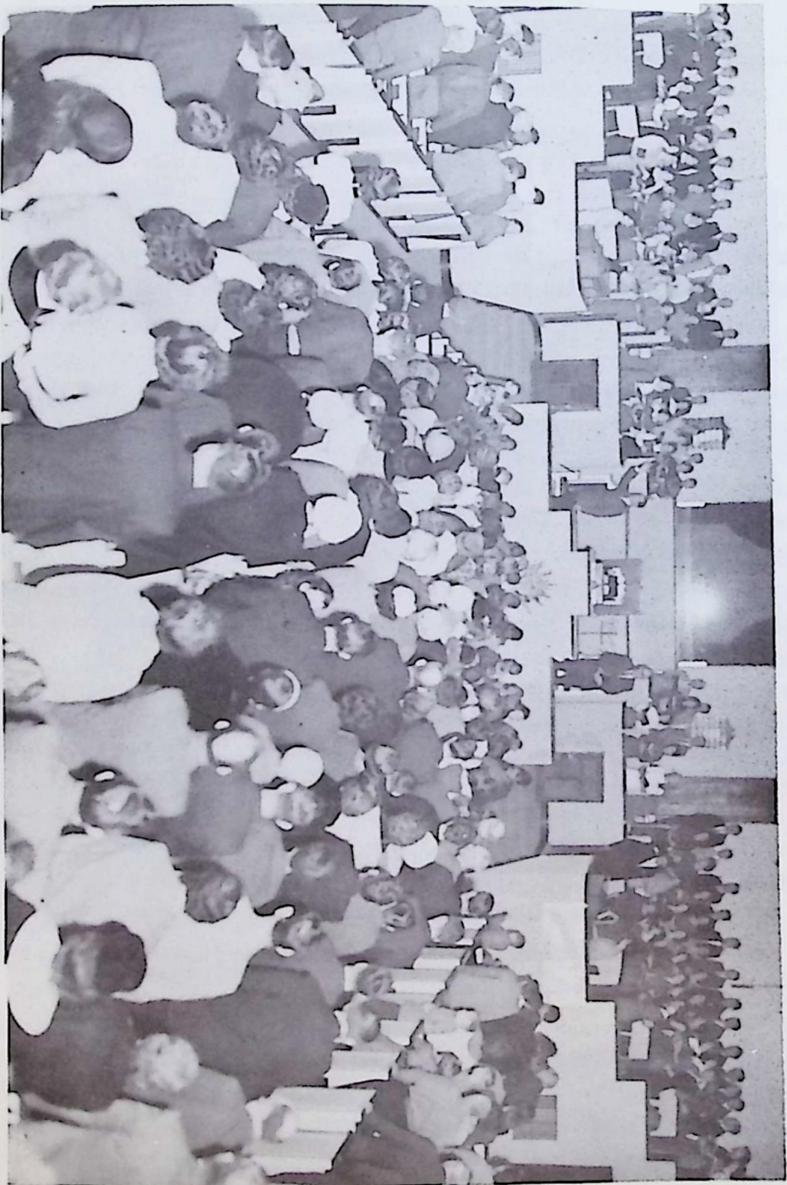
Since its beginning the church has had three pastors, John Bowery, James Thomas, and the present minister, Willard Tallman, who has been in service since July 1943. Sunday School attendance has increased from an average of 40 to approximately 600. The present church membership is 750 with an average attendance of 600.

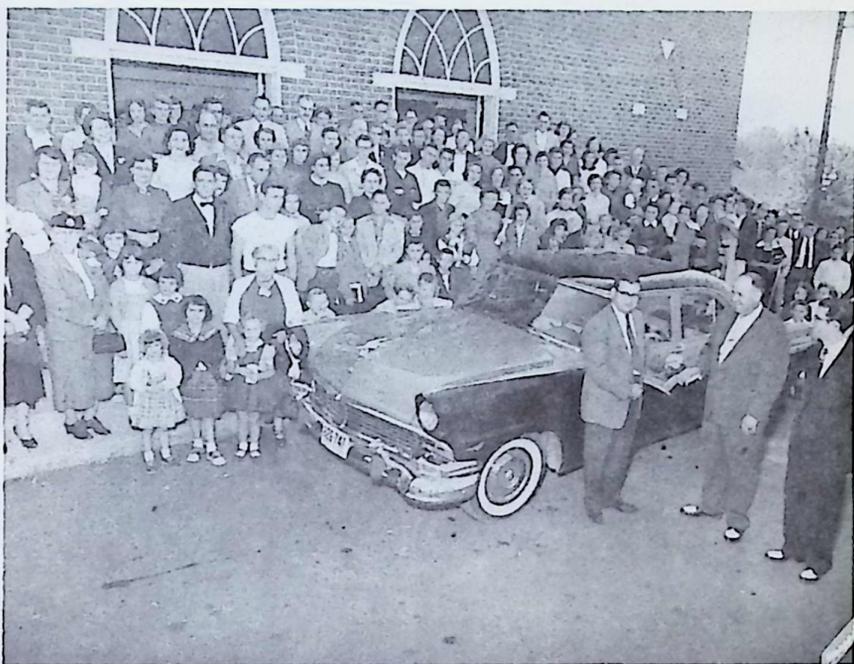
In 1952 a three-story, 75 room, addition was built to provide our fast-growing church with sufficient room for a complete departmental Sunday School. There is also a room for the Children's Church, held during the regular worship hour each Sunday, for children between the ages of 4 and 8, where they worship together with the best of trained leaders. This provides the parents with more rest during the morning worship and enables them to give their undivided attention to the message of the pastor.

On May 3, 1954 the church began the structure of a new sanctuary, which is erected upon the spot where the original tabernacle was built. The auditorium, with a seating capacity of about 1100, is finished in a most beautiful and restful shade of green, with walnut woodwork. The pews are white with walnut trim. The pulpit and circle-choir platform has a most beautiful arrangement, and is one of the most modern designed church platforms in the surrounding states. The seating capacity for the choir is 104, and is so arranged that each person seated there, as well as those in the congregation, may see the speaker and the baptismal services very clearly. Since completion of the new sanctuary the church building has a floor space of approximately 28,000 sq. ft.

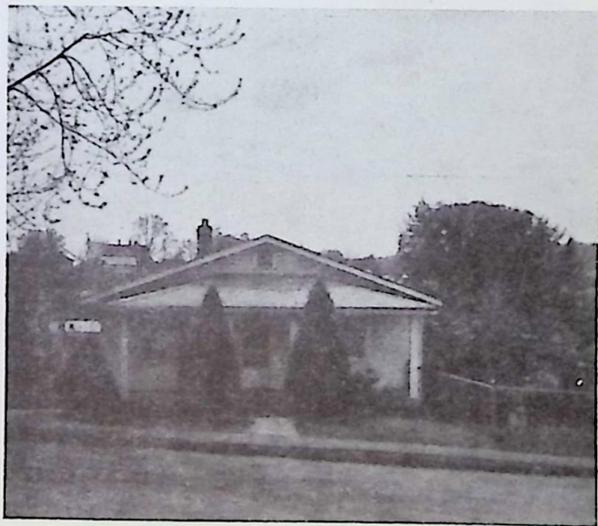
February 27, 1955 will mark the day on which the first services will be held in the new sanctuary.

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, which supports the Missionary Program of the Southern Baptist Convention, has supported and operated two missions and has won many people to Christ by means of the well-known radio program *YOUTH FOR CHRIST*, heard over WFHG, from the church auditorium each Saturday night at 6:30, and the *HOUR OF GRACE*, heard over WFHG, from the church auditorium each Sunday afternoon at 1:00.

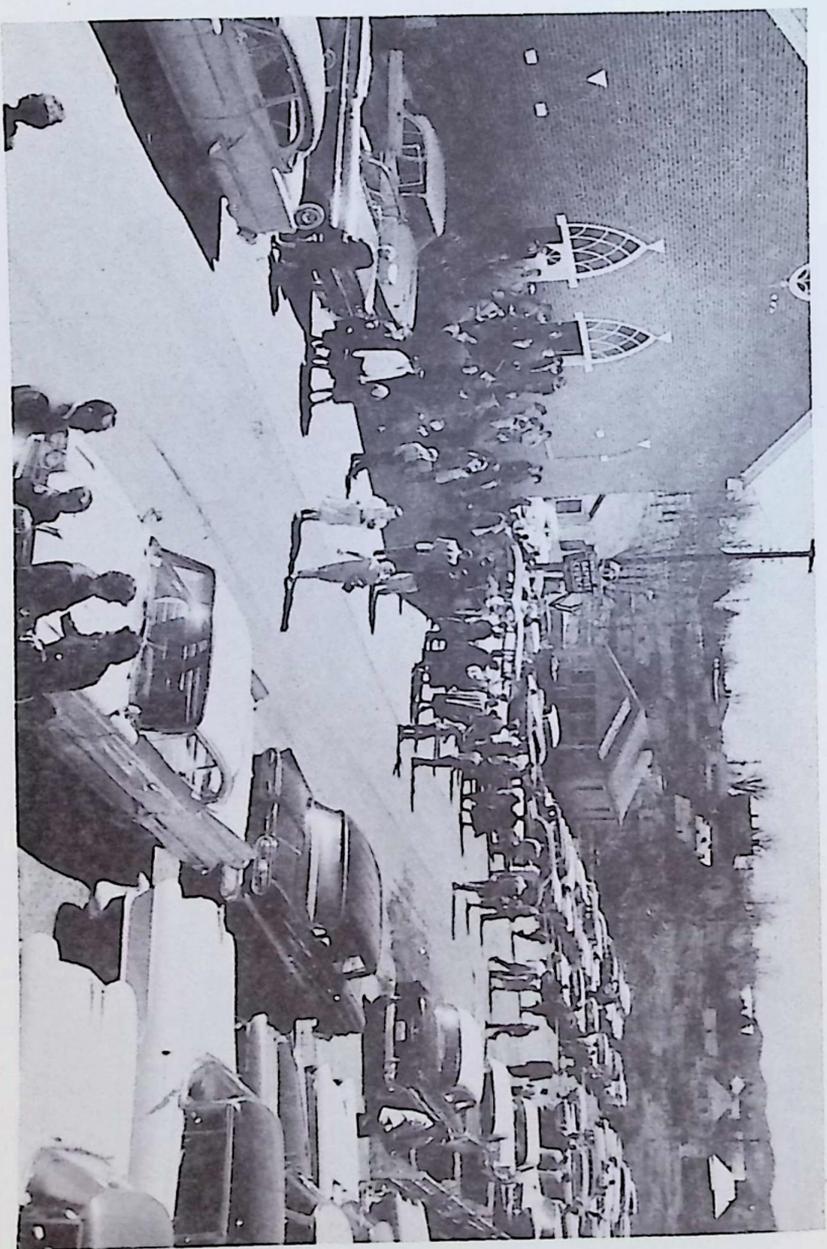




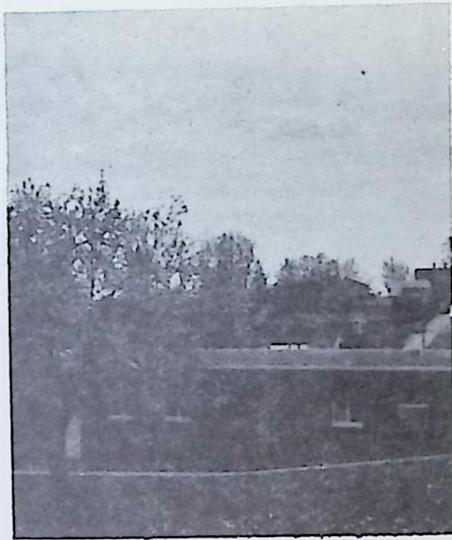
In 1956 the congregation presented Willard with the keys to a new Ford automobile.



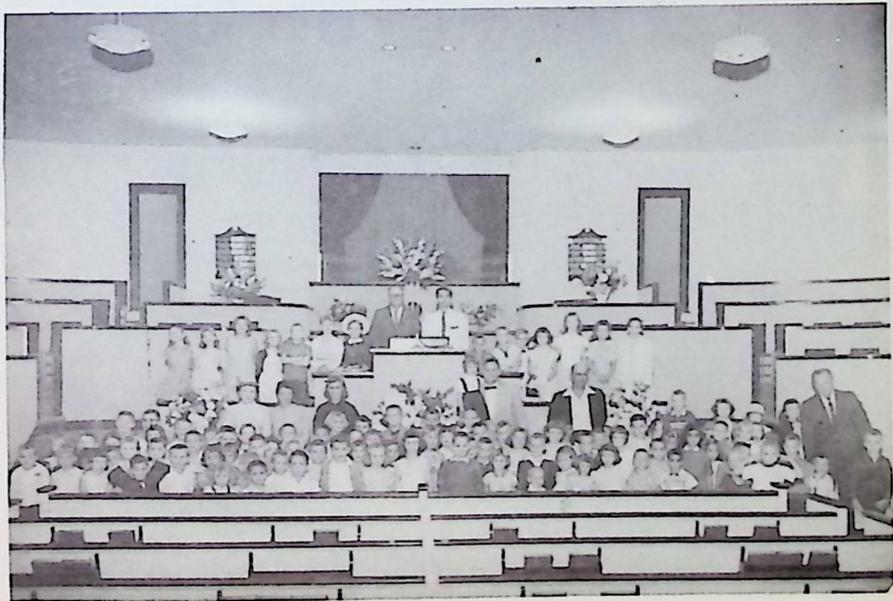
Also this same year, a house on Tennessee Avenue was purchased which is used for showers, parties and the like. It is called the Church Cottage.



Scenes such as this one have been the rule rather than the exception since the very beginning of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church



The Children's Church Building was erected in 1959. All of our children, ages 4-8, have their services in this building every Sunday morning.



The boys and girls with the leaders who attended the Children's Church when it was dedicated on May 17, 1959



The entire congregation on Dedication Day for the Children's Church on May 17, 1959.
657 people attended Sunday School that morning.



The sign on Tennessee Avenue was erected during this time.

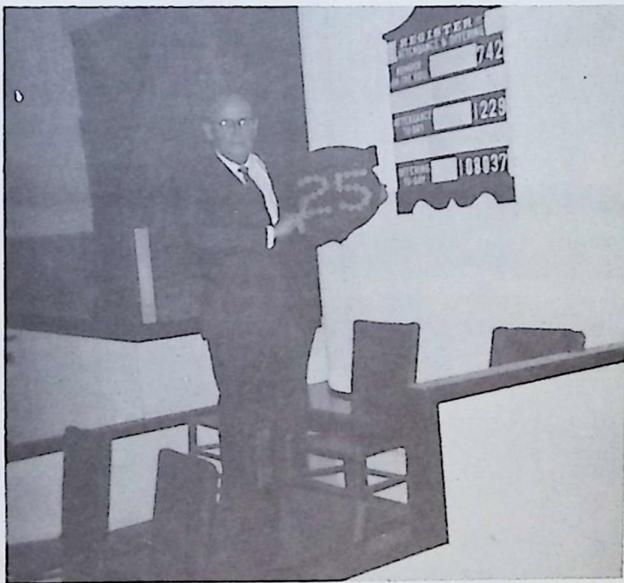


No reflection on Fords, but that's a Chevrolet being given to Willard in 1960.

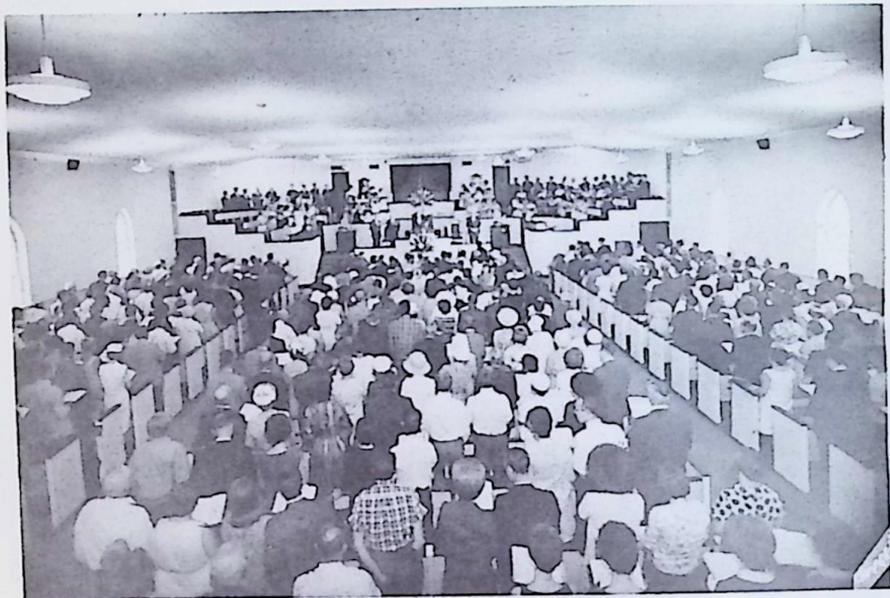
This photograph of Willard has been printed on countless thousands of posters, handbills and in newspaper advertisements, as Willard Tallman has preached the Gospel across this country of ours.



In 1968 the sign on Pennsylvania was erected.



On July 28, 1968, Willard celebrated his silver anniversary as pastor of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. The following pictures were taken on that occasion. The men of the church presented Willard a plaque with the number 25 on it in silver dollars.



1229 people in Sunday School on this day





Governor Lester Maddox from the State of Georgia brought a stirring message for this special day . . .



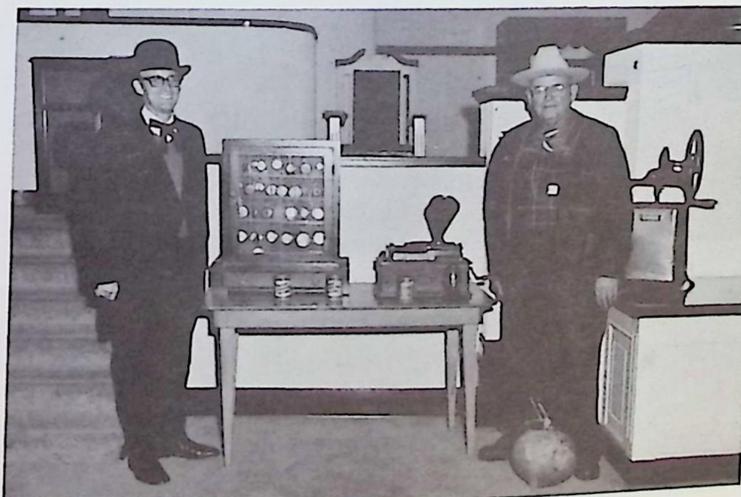
...d the crowd found it difficult to leave the parking lots.



July 5, 1970, was proclaimed as "Patriotic Day" at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church by Mayors Jere King of Bristol, Tennessee, and Howard "Red" Littleton of Bristol, Virginia. Congressman James H. "Jimmy" Quillen came to be our special speaker.



On October 4, 1970, we had the first of what has become an annual event, "Old Fashioned Day." These were the teachers on this day.



Willard and Bob on the first "Old Fashioned Day"



Our second Patriotic Day was planned for July of 1971; however, Willard's preaching got so hot that it burned up part of the building, as you can see.

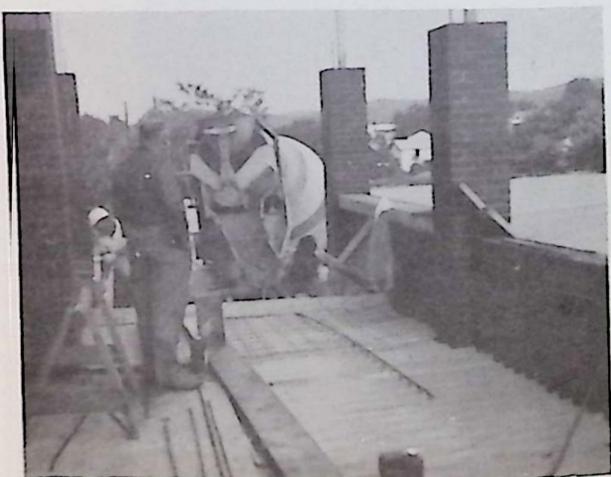


It was a sad day for all of us, especially Willard.

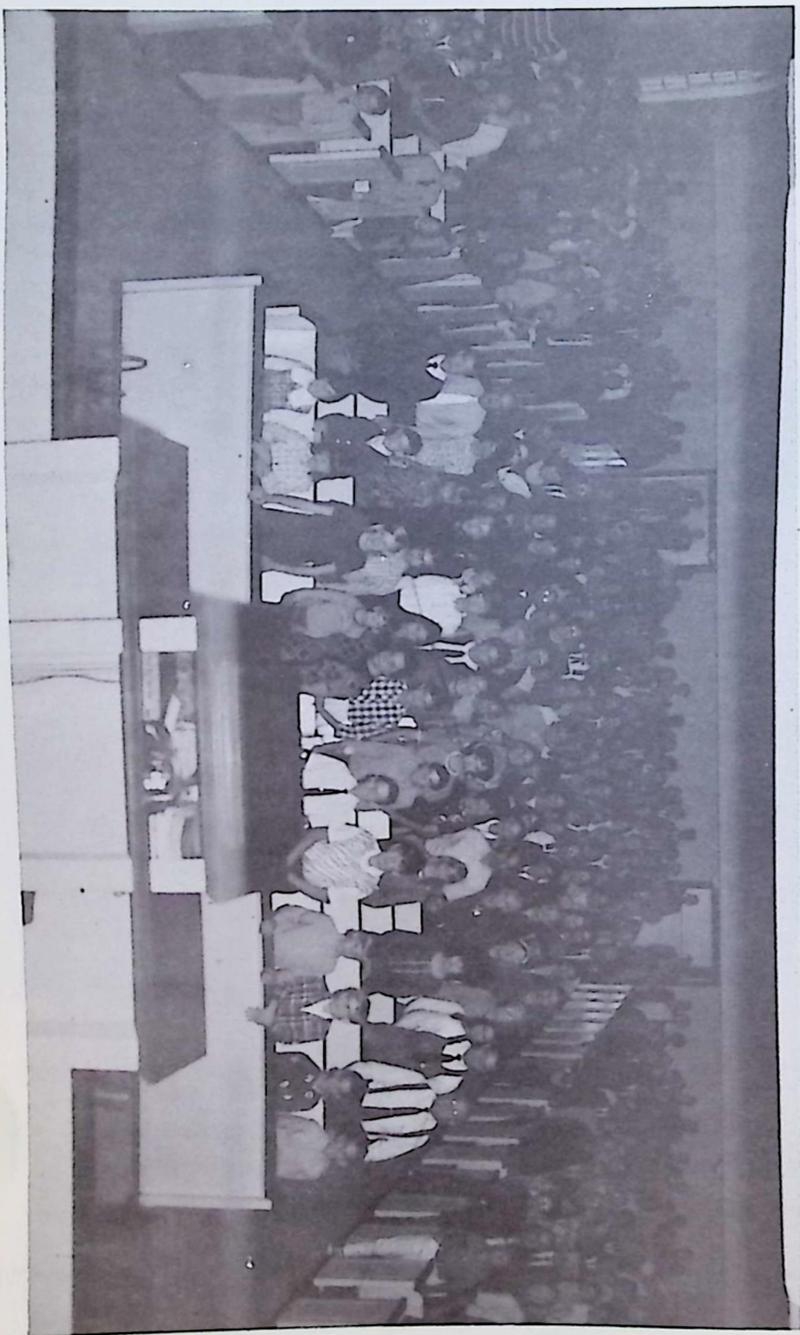


The water damage necessitated a lot of repairs.

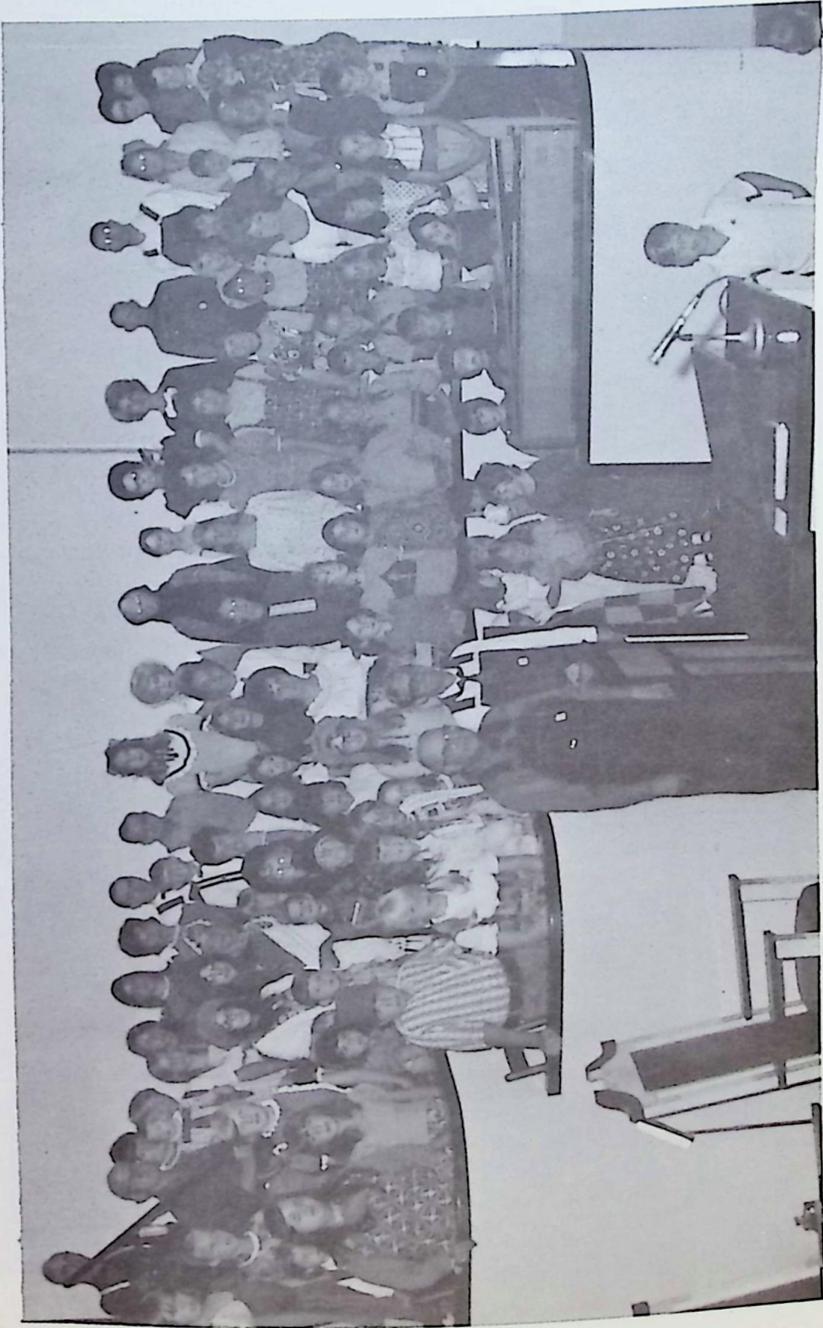
New lights were added during the remodeling.



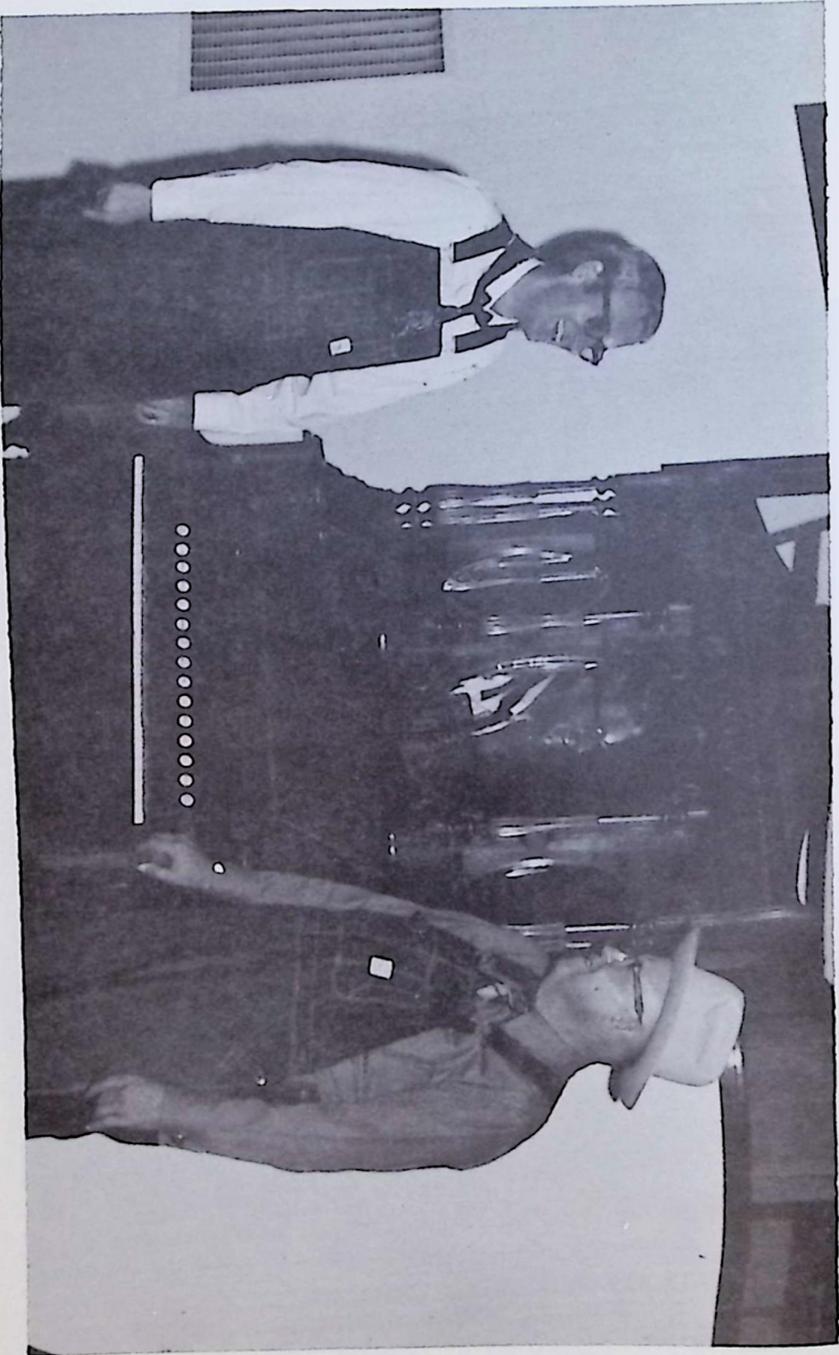
The front porch was added at this time.



Our second "Old Fashioned Day" in 1971. A full house.



Many people dressed in the "Old Fashioned" way.



Now there are two rogues if I ever saw two rogues.



The property behind the church was purchased in 1972 to be used for a children's playground. This house had to be moved.



The other house was redecorated and is now used as a place for preachers, evangelists and missionaries to stay in when they come and preach for us. It is called the "Prophets House."



The Bus Ministry was expanded in 1972.
Randall Brown became our Bus Director.



Mr. Randall Brown, Bus Director



Here are some of the children and adults
that come on the buses.



These are our bus workers.



The Recreation Area was developed in 1972. This is the ball field.



The picnic area, 30' x 80', was built with a big fireplace to roast hot dogs and marshmallows.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Willard was saved at the age of 24 and called to preach at the age of 28.

The Sunday that Willard accepted the call to this church 35 people were present, 28 children and 7 adults. When Willard became pastor on the third Sunday in July of 1943, 83 people attended on that day. The offering was \$26.00. The Sunday before that 48 people came and brought \$16.55 for the offering. Since that time 60 is the smallest number that have attended on any Sunday.

The first chairman of the deacons was Mr. Hugh Carrier. For the past 27 years Mr. Robert Garrett has served as chairman of the deacon board.

The first Sunday School Superintendent was Mr. George Greene. He served for 15 years. For the past 18 years Mr. Elmer Beavers has been the Sunday School Superintendent.

Willard has had a part in 1876 funerals during the past 34 years, only 87 of this number have been members of this church.

Music has always played a very important part in the services of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. Down through the years, Clifton "Tip" Casteel, Kermit Lilly, Jack Mitchell, Bob Pearson and George Hoeflinger have been song leaders here. In 1952, Bob Whitson came as the first full-time Music Director. Since that time Charles Snider in 1965 and Dan Carr in 1967 have served in that capacity. Bob Fleming, the present church music director came the first Sunday of January in 1969. Other staff members have included Mrs. Myrtle Tolbert who was the church visitor from 1952 to 1962.

Mrs. Bill Mumpower, the church secretary, came in February of 1962. James Epperson, the church custodian came in 1961 and Randy Brown, the church bus director came in 1972.



Mrs. Bill Mumpower, Church Secretary



Mr. James Epperson, Church Custodian

The Church Missions



Blackley Road Mission

Sometime ago, the church operated a mission in this area, primarily for those who lived nearby.

Shakesville Mission

This was a Sunday School for the residents of the Shakesville community.



Feather's Chapel

Located on the Blountville Highway



Mountain View Baptist Church on New Hampshire Avenue began as a mission and is now a self-supporting church, pastored by Maynard Clifton.



Faith Baptist Church on Norfolk Avenue
A self-supporting church pastored by Bill Stitt



Central Baptist Church, a present mission ministry, began in 1964, on the corner of Moore and Mary Streets, pastored by Charles Baker.



The church Deacon Board, from left to right: Chairman Robert Garrett, Don Woodring, James Toon, Jim Slagle, Elmer Beavers, the Pastor, D. M. Cooke, Howard Brown, Harlan Beranrd, LeRoy Boyd, R. J. Barker, O'dell Owens, and Bill Cooper.



The Church Choir





Bob Fleming, Church Music Director



Mrs. Max Beavers, Church Organist



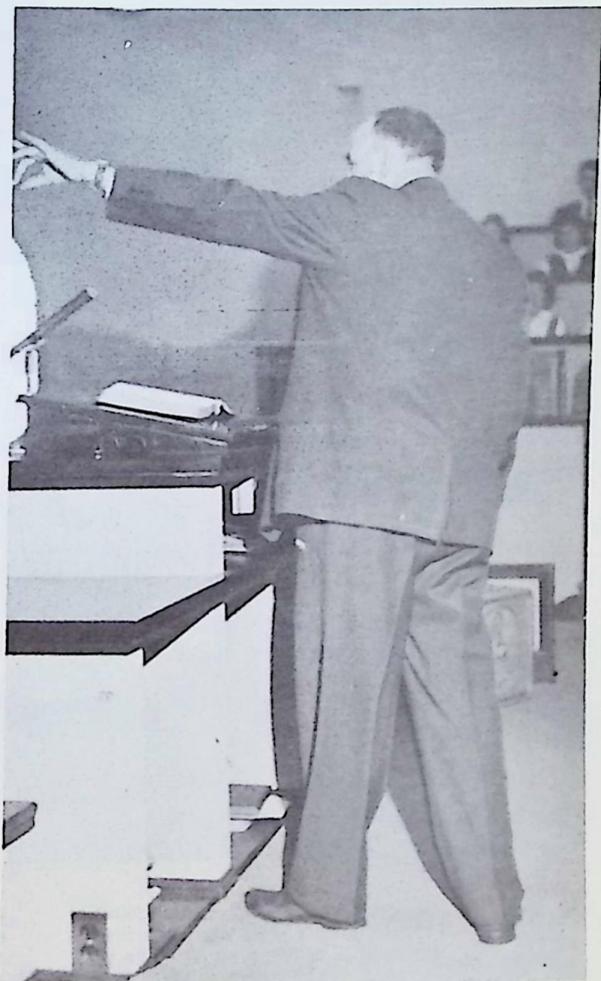
Mrs. Steve Spangler, Church Pianist



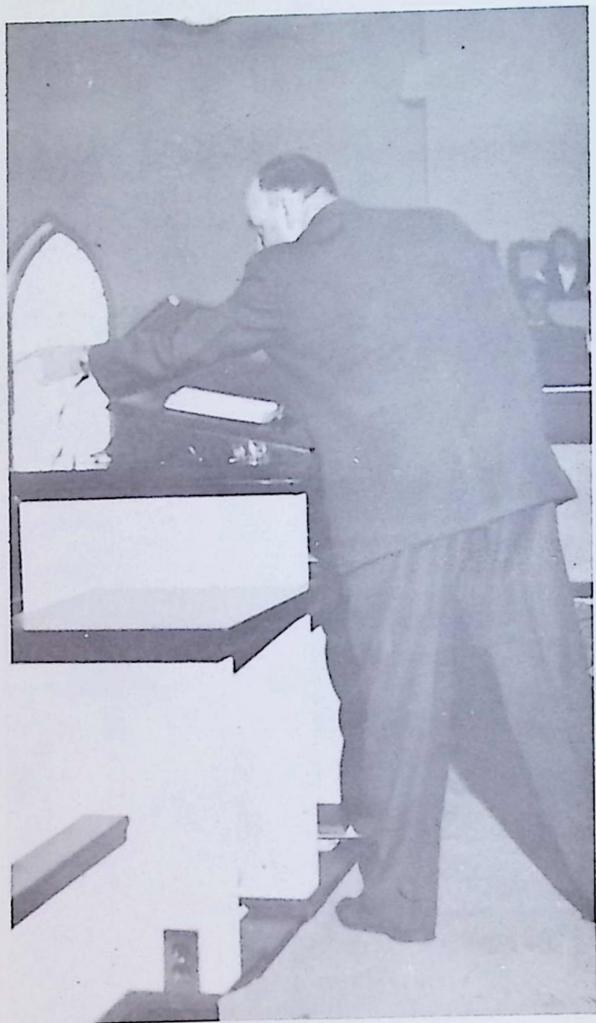
Mrs. Glen Osborne, Assistant Pianist



**"This Bible doesn't contain the Word
of God, it IS the Word of God!"**



"Across the railroad tracks is where I took my first drink of liquor."



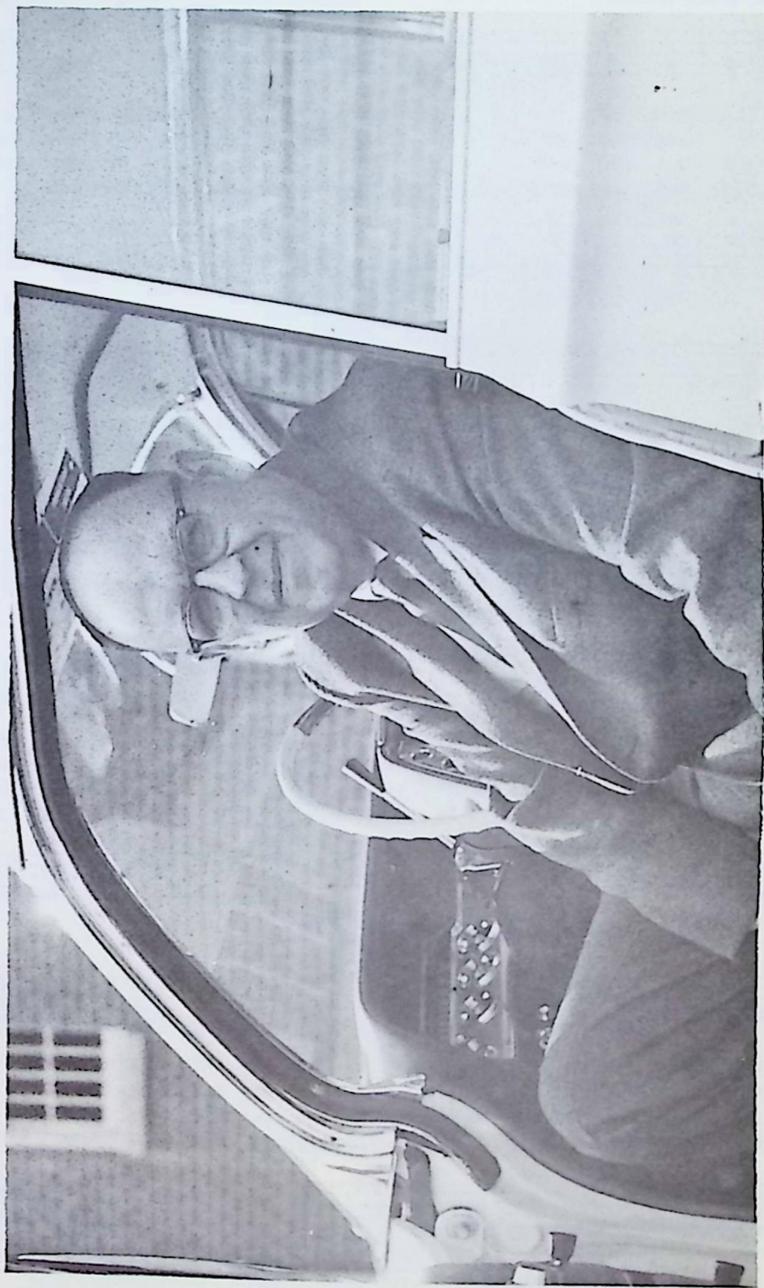
"Get back in there, boy, and be quiet!
You know, some people are so narrow-
minded that a flea can sit straddle of
their nose and kick them in both eyes
at the same time."



"Salvation is by grace thru that little word F-A-I-T-H, plus or minus nothing."



"There's a lot we could say about that,
but time will not permit."

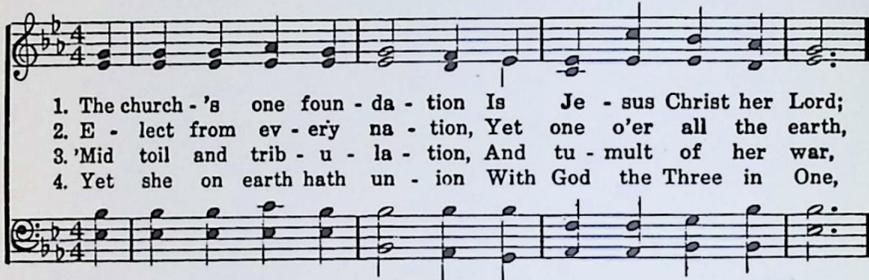


"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation
to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
... Romans 1:16

The Church's One Foundation

SAMUEL J. STONE, 1839-1900

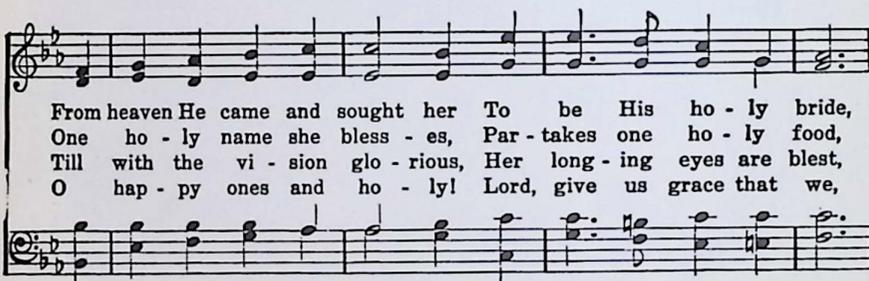
SAMUEL S. WESLEY, 1810-1876



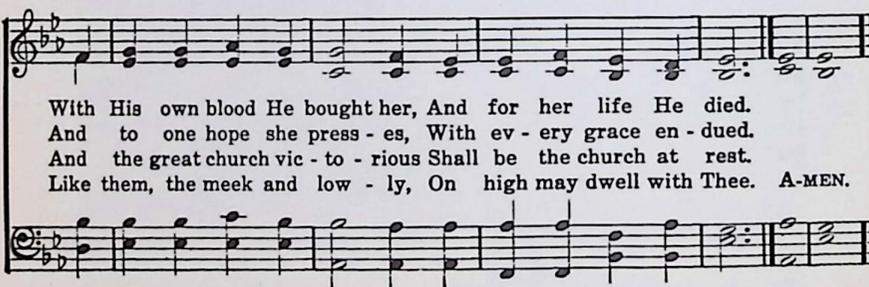
1. The church - 's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,
4. Yet she on earth hath un - ion With God the Three in One,



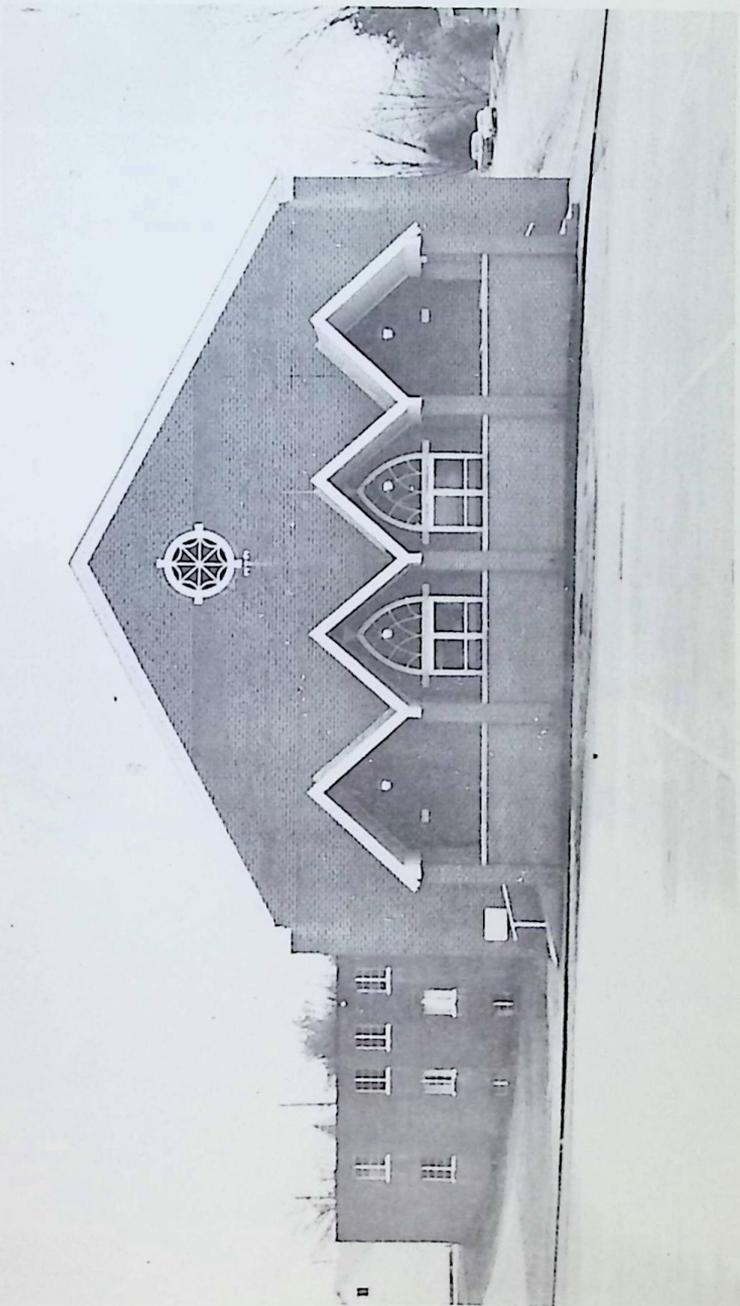
She is His new cre - a - tion, By Spir - it and the Word:
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion, One Lord, one faith, one birth;
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;
And mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won;



From heaven He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride,
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es, With ev - ery grace en - dued.
And the great church vic - to - rious Shall be the church at rest.
Like them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with Thee. A-MEN.



Fidelity Printing, Bristol, Va.
August, 1973

BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 0650 1020 5690 6

G
2
P