



REV. AND MRS. F. A. BURNS
1924-1927



REV. L. N. NEWMAN
1933-1936



REV. MILLARD JOHNSON
1937-1943



REV. L. D. HOLT
1943-1948



REV. W. MURPHEY CASSELL
1949-1952

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CHURCH III 1930-1940

Barrs (1929-1933)

The church called Rev. W. L. Barrs of Shiloh Baptist Church to serve Bethel full time, and he moved his family to Bethel in 1929.

Rev. Barrs appointed a committee to contact the church membership in order to collect sufficient funds to meet the church expenses. This committee was W. R. Bullock, Chm., W. W. Taylor, John Mayo, Dr. Cecil Garrenton, O. E. Longwell, Mrs. G. L. Moore, Mrs. W. O. Grimes, Mrs. N. G. Beverly, Mrs. L. L. Whitehurst, Mrs. M. R. Matthews and Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Simons. Revivals were held each year.

In 1931, by request of the pastor, the church went to half-time service in order that he might do mission work at the prison camps and other places.

Fire: On Sunday afternoon, November, 1929, the fire siren was heard, and everyone rushed out to discover smoke pouring from the Baptist Church. It looked as if the beautiful church, for which so many had sacrificed and struggled to build would soon be just a heap of ashes. We had never realized before how dearly we did love the church building. The firemen quickly found the origin of the fire in the basement and had it under control. The auditorium was damaged by smoke and water with the floor and carpet burned above where the fire from the basement had started. With the insurance money the work of repairing and redecorating was soon underway. Services were held in the Elementary School during that period.

Mr. Barrs worked faithfully in carrying on the repair work of the church. He later suffered a severe illness and was unable to preach for nearly two years before resigning in January, 1933.

Newman (1933-1936)

Rev. Leslie Newman, with his wife, the former Gertrude Mattison, and their young son, Harold, came upon the field as pastor in January, 1933. Mrs. Newman, a graduate of the W.M.U. Training School, served as W.M.U. President and Mission Study leader while here, making the study of missions very interesting.

In 1934, Mr. Newman was granted a leave of absence to go abroad and tour the Holy Land. Each year before Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. Newman entertained the church membership with a lovely Christmas party in the parsonage.

At a Church Fellowship Supper in October of 1934, plans were made for dedicating the church in November. This dedication was the highlight of the Newman ministry. Mr. W. R. Bullock, who was Church Treasurer and who worked enthusiastically with the pastor in soliciting funds in order to dedicate the Church, reported as follows: \$2,671.-35 collected and \$2,559.28 paid out on church indebtedness, leaving a balance of \$112.07. Sunday, November 25, 1934 was a great day in the history of the Church—it was to be "Dedication Day".

Rev. Leslie Newman presided over the service, which was attended by representatives of the Baptist and other denominations from

every section of the county. Rev. J. P. Harris delivered the Dedicatory Sermon: "God's Memorials", Mr. John S. Moore gave a brief history of the Church, and Rev. Ford A. Burns the Future of the Church. A committee composed of E. O. Burroughs, Dr. Cecil Garrenton, W. W. Taylor, John Mayo, L. L. Whitehurst, H. L. Andrews and W. R. Bullock was in charge of the burning of all notes accumulated in the erection of the building. This was most impressive. After the benediction by Rev. J. L. Peacock, of Tarboro, the large congregation was served lunch in the Community Building.

On September 23, 1935, the church and community were grieved by the death of Dr. Cecil Garrenton, our beloved physician. Dr. Garrenton was a native of Currituck County. He received his medical training in the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. After completing his internship, he, with Mrs. Garrenton, Connell and Margaret, located in Bethel. Dr. Garrenton was a devout Christian and endeared himself to all who knew him. He served on the Board of Deacons from 1914 until his death. He taught the Baracca Class of boys and was later elected teacher of the Men's Bible Class, which he taught until his death. Dr. Garrenton was slow to commit himself, always weighing well the matter at hand before expressing his opinion, and his opinion was always respected and valued. Mrs. Garrenton followed her husband in death on January 23, 1939. Dr. Connell Garrenton, their son, carried on his father's work in the medical field, serving this community. He served on the Board of Deacons, Church Clerk and other places of service in the church in the years that followed. Dr. Cecil Garrenton's place on the Board of Deacons was filled after his death by the ordaining of B. C. Gardner, Sr.

Rev. Newman resigned on June 1, 1936 to accept a church in Wendell, North Carolina. The Newman's were greatly missed by their friends in the community. Rev. Newman and his present wife, the former Mattie Lee Eagles of Fountain, N. C., and their two small daughters are now living in Bumpass, Virginia.

Without a pastor for six months, business was carried on by the Moderator, E. O. Burroughs, Sr. and Clerk, Kelly Abeyounis. Ed Burroughs served as the Treasurer and Financial Secretary, giving a splendid report after he audited the church books.

In December of 1936, Mrs. Joe Bowers, Sr. presented a special musical program.

Johnson (1937-1943)

Rev. and Mrs. M. M. Johnson came from Princeton, N. C. to serve both Bethel and Fountain churches. A motion for the church to return to full time as presented by J. T. Martin was passed, May 1939.

During Rev. Johnson's pastorate a new heating plant was installed, the Pulpit picture was repainted, Baptist hymnals were purchased, the Nursery was constructed in the basement, and the first Daily Vacation Bible School was held. The Baptist Training Union was organ-

REV. LESLIE NEWMAN

(1899 - 1983)

Born in Opelika, Alabama, Leslie Newman is survived by his wife, Mattie Lee Eagles; three daughters, Carrie Newman of Richmond, Margaret Frost of Leesbrug, Dorothy Nicholson, Anderson, S.C.; and one son, Dr. Harold Newman, Fayetteville, N.C.

He received a B.S. degree at Auburn University, and a Master of Theology degree from Southern Theological Seminary.

Mr. Newman taught in Ahrens Trade School 1927-1929, was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the First Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C., served churches in North Carolina at Stantonsburg, Fountain, Bethel, and Wendell. During years 1939-40, he served as Chaplain in Civilian Conservation Corps in North Carolina and Tennessee. In 1941, he was called to active duty and Commissioned Captain at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Ga. After serving in Liberia and Lagos, Nigeria, he returned to the United States for knee surgery and was assigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where he suffered a heart attack. In 1945 he accepted a field of churches in Virginia: South Anna, Fork, and Little River, and later served two years as pastor of Glebe Church in Arlington. He then returned to Little River Baptist Church for the second time, full-time, leading in the building of a parsonage. He moved to Richmond in 1951, and, in 1953, went to Bumpass where he served Calvary Church in Orange County.

Rev. Newman was a faithful soldier of the cross and country. He traveled much including a tour of the Holy Land in 1934. His body was laid to rest in Hillcrest Cemetery, Louisa. All of his friends counted it a blessed privilege to be a part of his life. He has been described as a man of great quietness from which he was made strong. One small lamp may light a thousand—"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6).

REV. WARREN OLIFF

(- 1983)

Rev. Warren Oliff died at Purcellville, Virginia on April 20.

Mr. Oliff was a native of Washington, D.C. He was a graduate of Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee and of Northern College in Chicago, Illinois.

During his ministry, he served churches in Florida and Georgia. His Virginia pastorates include: Ballston Church in Mt. Vernon Association and North Fork, Little River, and Upperville Churches in the Potomac Association.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Minnie Rose Oliff of Purcellville, Virginia.

Miss Ellen Douglas Oliver died February 27, 1983, La Richmond.

The daughter of a Baptist ington, graduated from W and the Woman's Mission taught Latin and history in

She served successively secretary, and executive sec 1957 when she resigned du

After recovery she worke the position of librarian in t of the University of Richm

Concerning her service, secretary for Virginia WMU Miss Oliver's life was the ir year of 1947-48 under the a

deepened and broadened h WMU Executive Secretary near Charlottesville, as well Leadership and Missions at

She worked with many fo Diamond Jubilee, 1949. Vir worthy students for educatio

She kept in touch with many *Religious Herald* Editor Ju by a genuinely sweet Christ

delighted in giving recognit and this explains, in large m camp program. . . . The h from the midst of Virginia daughters."

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The Reverend Dr. William Cora Daniel Pankey, was