

HISTORY

OF

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

1918 – 2010

Sister Ozell Davis

Deacon Hubert Givens

Reverend Ed Lige, Jr.

Sister Mary Stallworth

Sister Brenda Stewart

Sister LaTonya Dawson, Chairperson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Completing this task has really been a labor of love. Not only was it broadening educationally, but it was also spiritually enriching. I am deeply indebted to the whole Southern family for all of the cooperation I received in putting this book together. Everybody was extremely cooperative.

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Finally, I am grateful to Reverend Baines for his support, leadership and wisdom by emphasizing that the history of Southern be written. Given the tentacles of the Church and the many people that were involved in making Southern a viable Church in this community, it is vital that its history be documented and preserved. Pastor Baines has insured that will happen.

For those whose names have been omitted from this document, please accept our sincere apology. In that this is a work in progress, please be sure to share any concerns you might have in this area with me or the committee members so that we can incorporate those omissions into the next document.

Again, thank you for your participation and may God
bless all of you.

Sincerely,

LaTonya Dawson, Chairperson

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6/3/2010

THE BEGINNING: A SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION

Southern Baptist Church had a very humble beginning. On May 13, 1917, a number of Christian men and women from various sections of the south moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they organized a Sunday School Mission.

The Sunday School Mission was started in the home of Deacon and Sister S. C. Carter who resided on Carlisle Street in the West End of Cincinnati. Although the name, Southern Baptist Church, had not yet been decided upon, the seed had been planted.

The Mission was organized by the following individuals, Deacon S. C. Carter, Deacon John Brown, Mrs. Manda Brown, Mr. Levie Bates, Mrs. Lellern Bates, Mr. Loreny Carter, Mrs. Aralanda Carter and Mrs. Flanteen Hoskins.

SECTION I: THE LEADERS/PASTORS

Reverend Jarrel (May, 1917 – July, 1917)

As members of the Sunday School Mission grew, a larger place in which to study and worship was needed. Deacon Carter, a pioneer leader of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church, found a larger place for the Mission to meet at the corner of Foster and Eastern Avenues.

Under the leadership of Deacon Carter, the Mission called Reverend Jarrel to be its leader. With the guidance of Reverend Jarrel, the first officers of the Mission were elected. They were Sister Arlanda Carter, Brother Levie Bates, Brother Loreny Carter, Brother Isaac Abernathy, Secretary and Sister Mary Ellen Carter, Treasurer.

Reverend Jarrel, with the help of the Missionary and along with a \$35.00 donation from Deacon Carter, purchased 55 chairs.

After only three months as leader, Reverend Jarrel became ill and was forced to resign. Once again, Deacon Carter was given permission to search for a leader.

Southern Baptist Church is Born

Reverend C. W. Williams (July, 1917 – October, 1923)

Deacon Carter had heard Reverend C. W. Williams of Mississippi preach and was very impressed with him. In July, 1917, Deacon Carter extended an invitation to Reverend Williams to come and preach to the Mission, which he gladly accepted. His text was "Wait on the Lord, He Will Fight for Thee." After the congregation had heard his powerful message, he was unanimously elected leader of the Mission.

The membership of the Mission increased to 175 people. Because the Mission had grown so rapidly, they decided to

move to the inner city; however, before they moved to 418 George Street in the West End, they decided to organize into a Church. On June 6, 1918, with six people from Mississippi who had brought letters, the Church was established.

The persons bringing letters from Mississippi were Reverend C. W. Williams, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Rosie Pitts, Mrs. Willie Terrel, Mr. Merthey Terrel, Mrs. Annie Coley and Mrs. Hassiler. It was Sister Lillie Williams and others in the Church who gave it the name Southern Baptist Church.

The name Southern emerged from the initial members being from southern states, primarily from Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Under Reverend Williams' administration, the Mission became a permanent organization and was named Southern Baptist Church.

Reverend Williams grew the congregation in a very unique evangelistic manner. He met people at the train station who migrated to Cincinnati from the south and invited them to worship at Southern. The rationale he used for encouraging them to attend Southern was that other northern Churches did not welcome the southern style of worship which included shouting, clapping, moaning and saying amen.

They worshiped at 418 George Street for two years. Many souls were saved and the Church membership grew to 875. The building in which they were worshipping became too small. Reverend Williams and the officers searched for a larger place to worship.

The Church moved to 514-516 George Street and in August, 1918, purchased the property at 562-564 George near Mound Street at a cost of \$6,000.00. The first converts in the new location was Brother Will Mathis. Under the leadership of Reverend Williams, the Church membership grew to 2,100.

In 1919, Reverend Williams organized the Southern Baptist Educational Association which included his wife, Mrs. L. L. Williams, who served as secretary to the auxiliary of this association. His daughter, Inez, was elected pianist of Southern Baptist Church when she was only 11 years old.

Reverend Williams was also instrumental in organizing 16 other Churches. In 1921, he organized Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association and served as its moderator.

Fifteen ministers and 27 deacons either joined or were grown by the Church. Some of the ministers were Reverend C. Crum, father of the late Deacon Paul Crum, Reverend J. B. Huff, Reverend Robinson, Reverend Ellis, Reverend Mason, Reverend T. Voner, Reverend Weims, Reverend Grigley, Reverend Wise, Reverend Gregory, Reverend J. R. Saunders, Reverend Orstone, Reverend Charles Williams and Reverend Bolling. Some of these men served as associate ministers. Many of these ministers were licensed and ordained under Reverend Williams. On October 14, 1923, Reverend C. W. Williams offered his resignation and it was accepted.

Reverend J. B. Huff (October, 1923 through January, 1924)

In October, 1923, Reverend J. B. Huff was elected interim pastor. During this time, the Church mounted a search for a new pastor. Reverend Huff served four months and during this four month period, 25 people united with the Church.

Reverend J. S. Tate (February, 1924 - July, 1929)

Early in 1925, Deacon S. C. Carter obtained the address of a minister named J. S. Tate of Opelacker, Alabama from Deacon Holley. He wrote Reverend Tate to ask him if he would accept the pastorate of Southern Baptist Church. Reverend Tate responded that he would like to visit the Church before giving a definite answer.

On Sunday morning, February 23, 1923, Reverend Tate arrived in Cincinnati. He preached that evening. A special Church meeting was called for Monday night and Reverend Tate was elected pastor. Under the leadership of Reverend Tate, about 655 saints were added to the Church and \$2,500 was paid for property on George Street. The membership increased by leaps and bounds and larger accommodations were needed.

On the last Sunday in July, 1927, the beautiful edifice located at 701 Richmond Street was acquired from the Richmond Street Christian Church. The congregation led by Pastor Tate marched into its new location.

In addition to the purchase of the Richmond Street property, a number of other accomplishments took place under the leadership of Reverend Tate. The congregation continued to grow and two ministers, Reverend Cottrell and Reverend McGhee, were licensed and ordained under his pastorate. On July 25, 1929, the Lord called Reverend Tate home from labor to reward.

Reverend H. P. James (December 20, 1929 - March 5, 1930)

With the passing of Reverend Tate, the Church was again without a pastor. On December 20, 1929, the Reverend H. P. James of Bluefield, West Virginia, was called to the pastorate. During his brief tenure as Pastor of Southern, the George Street property was paid off and the mortgage was burned. He offered his resignation on March 5, 1930 and it was accepted.

Reverend J. W. Heywood (July, 1930 - September, 1931)

Once again, the Church was without a leader. An invitation was extended to Reverend J. W. Heywood of Knoxville, Tennessee to become the next pastor. He accepted in July of 1930.

While Reverend Heywood was Pastor, 200 members were added to the Church and \$7,000.00 was raised. He was successful in getting the monthly payments on the Church reduced from \$400.00 to \$100.00 per month. On December 16, 1930, the Southern Baptist Church voted to sell the George Street property and purchase other property; however, the transaction was not completed until April 8, 1935.

The Saint Paul Baptist Church purchased the George Street property for \$7,500.00 with \$500.00 down payment. Every three months, their payment was \$200.00.

In September, 1931, the National Baptist Convention was being held at the Armory Hall on Freeman Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio. During that convention on September 9th, Reverend Heywood died.

Reverend Marshall Moore (October, 1931 – 1943)

The Church was without a pastor for only a few weeks. In October, 1931, an invitation was extended to Reverend Marshall Moore of Maysville, Kentucky, to become pastor. He accepted the call.

Pastor Moore was a bachelor when he came to Cincinnati. Later, he married one of the young ladies of the Church, Sister Jennie Gregory. During his leadership, the membership continued to grow and the Church's indebtedness was greatly reduced.

From October, 1932 to October, 1940, the property at Richmond and Cutter (701 Richmond Street) was leased from the Western Hills Church of Christ with the option to buy. The original purchase price was \$12,377.00. On November 15, 1940, the Church exercised its option to buy the property.

Under Reverend Moore's leadership, it appears as though the focus of the Church expanded and its program became more comprehensive. The first Church bulletin, the Southern Baptist Informer, was started by Mother Ollie Bolton. Many clubs and auxiliaries were organized to help liquidate the debt of the Church. These clubs reported monthly on the monies raised to pay off the indebtedness.

Because of Reverend Moore's interest in young people, the membership activities of the Sunday School and BYPU increased significantly. He started an educational club and instituted stringent guidelines for people working in the Church. For example, in order to become a Sunday School teacher, one had to take a course in teacher training. If a teacher missed the weekly teacher's meetings, then, he or she could not teach on Sunday.

Two usher boards were created, one for men and one for women. They met and worked separately. During Reverend

Moore's pastorate, the Church expanded its participation and influence on both the local and national levels. Southern was a member of the National Baptist Convention of America, Boyd's Convention, the Ohio Baptist Convention and the State Sunday School Congress. Additionally, the Church affiliated with the Western Union District Association.

During Reverend Moore's tenure, the first full-time secretary, musician and janitor were hired. He also organized, modernized and instituted a systematic method for parishioners to financially support the Church through the use of envelopes for tithing and payment of Church dues.

Reverend Moore was voted out in 1943 after serving 11 successful years. The Church was split and the Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church was officially organized on June 23, 1943, by some former members of Southern Baptist Church.

One report noted that the Tryed Baptist Church also organized from this split, but no data were found to verify this report.

Reverend P. L. Harvey (1943 – 1945)

Reverend P. L. Harvey of Lynchburg, Virginia, was visiting Cincinnati. During that visit, he was asked to preach. An invitation was extended to him to become the eighth pastor of the Church. Soon thereafter, he accepted the invitation and early in 1943, became the pastor of Southern Baptist Church. Under his leadership, the interior of the Church was decorated.

On April 23, 1943, the Western Hills Church of Christ petitioned the Court of Common Pleas for permission to deed to Southern Baptist Church the property at 701 Richmond Street. The balance owed on the property was \$5,377.00.

In May, 1944, there was a mortgage burning program for the Church on 701 Richmond Street and on June 19, 1944, the mortgage on the property was liquidated. The mortgage on the property on George Street was liquidated in 1945 and proceeds were invested in the Church parsonage at 608 West 8th Street.

Reverend Harvey offered his resignation in 1945 and it was accepted. With his resignation, a number of members left to join Metropolitan as well as other churches.

Reverend L. W. Veal (July 7, 1946 - July, 1953)

On March 30, 1946, Reverend L. W. Veal from Knoxville, Tennessee, was invited to preach. After the congregation heard his soul stirring message, they knew he was a God called preacher and had been sent by their Heavenly Father. On April 2, 1946, an invitation was extend to Reverend Veal to become the next pastor of Southern Baptist Church. He accepted the pastorate. His tenure began on July 7, 1946.

In 1948, the Deacon and Trustee Boards were disbanded and a new board was named with the following to serve as both deacons and trustees: Edward Lige, Sr., Paul Crum, Fred Mathis, Robert Turner, Burl Bailey and Paul Irvin. That same year, Usher Board #2 was organized.

Under Reverend Veal's guidance and direction, the membership grew larger and larger. Reverend Veal was a knowledgeable and imaginable financier creating excellent fund raising methods including a card system with two payment classes, 25 cents and 50 cents, based on ability to pay. The Church membership was organized by card registration and any member who was over three months in arrears in the financial support of the Church would lose voting power in business matters of the Church. Additionally, at the end of the year, the right-hand-of-fellowship would be withdrawn from those members who had not paid any dues in 12 months.

Under Reverend Veal's leadership, the interior of the Church was redecorated. Perma-stone was placed on the exterior. New stain glass windows were installed and a new organ was purchased. The Red Circle and Matrons were organized, completing the Missionary Department. The property at 541 Carplin Place was purchased for the Church parsonage. The last wedding performed under Rev Veal's pastorate at the Richmond St location was that of Rev Edward & Doris Lige Jr. The membership continued to grow until Reverend Veal offered his resignation in July, 1953.

Reverend Jesse Watson (August 25, 1953 – 1969)

On Tuesday, August 25, 1953, the Church voted to ask one of its own sons, Reverend Jesse Watson, to become the next pastor of Southern Baptist Church and he accepted. Under Reverend Watson's leadership, the Church made great strides. In January, 1960, the parsonage was paid off and a Building Fund was started with the \$75.00 per month that was used to pay on the parsonage.

By July, 1962, the Building Fund had grown to \$13,712.95. It was during this time that the West End was undergoing some urban renewal and many of the churches had to relocate. Southern members were not sure that their church would be included in this urban development; so, they were unprepared when the City told them they had to move.

The Church wanted to build a new edifice, but time was running out. A committee of the officers and the pastor was formed to look for another place of worship. The committee looked at two buildings, one at 3212 Reading Road and the other 3556 Reading Road. The asking price for the building at 3556 Reading was \$238,000.00. This price included the church building and a house next door.

The officers were given authorization to purchase the building at 3556 Reading Road. Each man and woman was asked to give a special offering of \$5.00 per week to be used to acquire the facility.

In the meantime, the City of Cincinnati filed suit to secure the property at 701 Richmond Street. The Church's independent appraiser determined the fair market value of the Richmond Street property to be \$149,000.00. The City of Cincinnati appraised the property at \$82,000.00. The Church went to Court and a jury awarded Southern \$117,990.16 for the property.

Under the leadership of Reverend Watson, the current Church building at 3556 Reading Road and the house next door were purchased for \$238,000.00 from the Adath Israel Synagogue on July 7, 1964. The Church paid \$138,000.00

down and financed \$100,000.00. The two congregations shared the same facilities until the Adath Israel congregation's new synagogue was finished.

In 1963, the Church marched into her new Church home. On Saturday, there was dual occupancy of the facility with the Adath Israel congregation. On Sundays, they used the main auditorium while Southern used the Fellowship Hall. The two congregations shared the kitchen and other facilities.

The original architect of this classical stone-faced edifice was Oscar Schwartz. The building was completed in 1926 and rededicated 1963. When the Adath Israel congregation left Avondale, they took with them many of the physical markers of the building's Jewish identity. One of their final acts was to cover the Hebrew inscription, engraved in stone, which surmounted the building's central doorway with cement. Significant features inside the interior include a 100 ft dome with the Star of David in its center still remain. Because the Jewish women could not worship with the men on the main level; stairs leading to the balcony were built so that they could enter from the vestibule to enter the balcony for worship. Since then the cement of 1964 has fallen away, again revealing the words from Psalm 118 which fellow member Sis Ertell Brownlow has translated "This is the Gateway to the Lord".

In that the building being purchased was a Jewish synagogue, many changes had to be made. Sister Della Turner purchased the pulpit furniture at a cost \$1,500.00 and donated it to the Church. In 1964, a baptismal pool was installed, the choir stand was erected in the main sanctuary and two pianos were purchased.

It was under the direction of the Reverend Watson that the Bus Ministry was started with the purchase of the first bus, the Blue Bird, whose route was in the West End.

Under Reverend Watson's pastorate, the Male Chorus and the Nursing Guild were also organized. After 16 years,

Reverend Watson retired from his position as Pastor of Southern Baptist Church. A building at the rear of the parking lot was purchased as a retirement home and a retirement fund was established to support Reverend Watson during his retirement.

Reverend Samuel Crutchfield (1969-March 1970)

Reverend Samuel Crutchfield served as Interim Pastor from 1969-March, 1970.

Reverend James E. Milton (March, 1970 - November, 1986)

Reverend George Bunyan had heard Reverend James E. Milton preach while both were attending the National Baptist Convention. He recommended that Reverend Milton be invited to preach at Southern.

On the third Sunday in October, 1969, the Reverend James E. Milton preached to the membership of Southern Baptist Church. On Tuesday, March 24, 1970, the Church voted to ask Reverend James E. Milton of Tucson, Arizona, to become its next pastor. In April, he accepted the Church's invitation and in June, 1970, he moved to Cincinnati with his family.

Reverend Milton was a preacher, teacher, leader, financier and friend. During his 26 years of faithful service, much was accomplished. The membership increased in large numbers. To meet the needs of both youth and adults, many clubs and auxiliaries were organized. Included among these ministries were the Board of Christian Education, Brotherhood, the Children's Church, the Youth Church, the SBC Christian Academy, the SBC Nursery and the James E. Milton Scholarship Fund. Additionally, the Missionary Department was reorganized into many circles. These circles met monthly at the Church and weekly in the homes of members of these circles throughout the community.

On Sunday, May 6, 1984, a second morning worship service was begun at 7:45 AM in the Jesse Watson Chapel. This service had a separate choir, ushers and musicians. The

membership of the Church increased so much that evening worship services were reestablished.

Because of the compassionate spirit of Reverend Milton and the programs he implemented, the Church experienced enormous numerical, financial and spiritual strides. The Church mortgage was liquidated and burned in three years. Reverend Milton introduced a new financial system and all financial information was printed weekly in the Church bulletin.

Many parcels of rental property were acquired and buses were purchased. In 1988, the Church purchased seven pieces of rental property, 12 lots to be used for parking, demolished six buildings and purchased 4-1/2 acres of land which included a bus garage. Two pieces of property were willed to the Church. Property at 2016 Colerain Avenue was left by Sister Anna Mae Davis and property at 2204 Symmes by Sister Mattie Randolph. Property on Gaff Avenue was also donated to the Church.

The Jesse Watson Chapel was remodeled and the Hollan-McLauren and Battle Davis Buildings were completely renovated. The Hollan and McLauren Building was named after Isabella Hollan and Mattie McLauren. Mrs. Hollan worked extremely hard and successfully with the Sunshine Band which was an organization for children existing prior to the creation of the Children's Church. Sister Mattie McLauren worked extensively with the Sunday School.

Sister Jessie Battle worked very diligently in the Sunday School and Sister Amy Mae Davis was the President of Usher Board #2. She founded the Usher Board and was responsible for its growth and development. The Battle-Davis building was named in their honor.

Extensive interior and exterior renovations, repairs and decorations were done to the Church building and surrounding homes. The main sanctuary of the Church was decorated, new carpeting was installed, chairs upholstered and some of the windows in other parts of the building were closed with storm windows installed.

In 1992 Sis Carrie Smith approached Rev Milton asking to be permitted to purchase Christmas decoration for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Rev Milton agreed. The members of the Trustee Board, office staff and Sis Ann Thompson assisted with the decorating efforts. Sis Ann Thompson currently leads these annual efforts.

In 1994 the first Candlelight/Christmas Eve service was chaired by Sis Carrie Smith and Sis Cassandra Whittaker assisted.

As the Church began to expand its program to include a variety of community based initiatives, it was necessary for the By-Laws to be established. The goal clearly was to set up or develop By-Laws which would enable the Church to operate its many enterprises as independent corporations functioning under boards and by-laws consistent with the State of Ohio. Additionally, it was necessary to separate the Church activities and the Church as an entity from the auxiliary enterprises created under the umbrella of the Church to provide services for the broader community; therefore, in 1970, a new set of By-Laws were incorporated for the Church to facilitate and accommodate these developments.

In 1985, Reverend Milton presented a vision to the Church to erect an educational building to house classrooms, administrative offices and a gymnasium. This facility would be the home of the Southern Baptist Church Daycare/Nursery accommodating 45 children and the Christian School, the SBC Academy, accommodating grades Kindergarten through six. The Church approved the construction of the building at a cost of \$756,000.00 and furniture at an additional cost of \$25,000.00.

The cornerstone of this building was installed in July, 1987 and the new educational building was dedicated on August 23, 1987. Sister Diane Smith served as Chairman of the Dedication Program Committee. Reverend Melvin L. Jones, Pastor of Union Baptist Church of Lansing, Michigan, preached the dedication sermon. On November 26, 1996, after a lengthy

illness, Reverend James E. Milton was called home to be with the Lord.

Reverend Richard Smith (November, 1996 – April, 1997)

Reverend Richard Smith served as Interim Pastor from November, 1996 – April, 1997.

Reverend C. Dennis Edwards, I (March, 19, 1997 – 2007)

On Tuesday, March 4, 1997, Reverend C. Dennis Edwards, I, of Little Rock, Arkansas, was elected pastor of Southern Missionary Baptist Church. On the first Sunday of May, 1997, Reverend Edwards preached his first sermon as pastor. Installation services were held on June 22, 1997 and in July, 1997, he moved to the City with his family.

During his administration, strides were made to improve the Church's physical plant and other properties owned by the Church. Pastor Edwards gave leadership to the Building Committee and the naming of the James E. Milton Educational complex which was dedicated on June 28, 1998. A fleet of new buses were purchased and a new sound system was installed which included portal hearing devices for the hard of hearing.

The first publication of *Agape Life*, a magazine intended to share and spread the good news about Christian life and agape love at Southern Baptist Church, was published. The editor-in-chief was Diane Smith

The first SBC Christmas gala was held in 1998 during Reverend Edwards' administration. It was a celebration of kinship, fellowship and partnership in the work of Jesus Christ whose birth we celebrate during that season. The first committee was Roy & Lessie Sherill who served as Chair and Co-Chairperson, Clarence & Mildred Howell, Regina Lamar, William & Shirley Rogers, Diane Smith and Ann Thompson

Under the leadership of Pastor Edwards, the following ministries were initiated: The Women's Ministry, Fishes and Loaves Ministry, the Helping Hand, the Macedonia Call and the Brotherhood. Other events added under the administration of Reverend Edwards were an annual Bible conference, an annual leader's conference, an annual health fair hosted by the Women's Ministry and a super-bowl party. The first Advent Service was held and coordinated by Sis Carrie Smith.

In May, 2007, Reverend Edwards resigned as Pastor of Southern Baptist Church to return to Arkansas to pastor his home church.

Reverend Walter Bledsoe (May, 2007 – January, 2008)

Reverend Walter Bledsoe, a son of Southern, served as Interim Pastor of Southern from May, 2007 until January, 2008.

In 2008, along with two other sister churches (Zion Baptist and Greater New Hope Baptist Church), Southern received a two-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to end childhood obesity. Each church assumed responsibility for teaching the community how to prepare healthy meals utilizing food grown in a community garden. A total of \$10,000 was given for one year. Sister Deanna Banks served as the Coordinator of this activity.

In 2008 Rev Bledsoe dedicated the SBC Daycare Playground in memory to the late Sis Charlene Brockman

Reverend Dr. Robert E. Baines, Jr. (March, 2009 to the present)

At the writing of this history, the current pastor, Reverend Dr. Robert E. Baines, Jr., was called to serve in January, 2009. His academic preparation, an earned doctorate, and pastoral experiences, 19 as senior pastor in urban settings, seemed to equip him with the tools needed to lead Southern into the 21st century. His initial goals included debt liquidation, physical improvement to the Church buildings and discipleship and

ministry development for both membership and the broader community.

Consistent with his philosophy, he has implemented a variety of educational and spiritual development programs to ensure that every member is capable of contributing toward the fulfillment of the mission of the Church. The foundation of his philosophy is captured in four educational initiatives in which all members of the Church are encouraged to participate. They are membership orientation, discipleship orientation, an each-one-reach one program and a group of educational courses combined to constitute a training union initiative.

The membership orientation course provides participants with an understanding of the Bible, salvation, discipleship and the functioning of the Church.

The disciple orientation initiative is designed to help participants understand some concepts and practices related to being a disciple as well as encourage their commitment to the mission of the Church.

The Each-One-Reach One program is structured in such a fashion as to encourage every participant to reach out and touch the lives of other people.

The purpose of the Training Union is to train disciples to be influencers or leaders in the Church. Under the Training Union umbrella, there are three core courses and three workshops. The courses cover leadership, Bible and Doctrine and the Mission of the Church.

The workshops are essentially follow-up leadership, management and teaching field experience activities. Persons must complete all core courses and at least one of the workshops to fulfill the Training Union expectations.

To manage the affairs of the Church, Pastor Baines implemented an organizational structure wherein the ministries are divided into departments. Ministries with related functions are grouped together and each ministry is coordinated by a Superintendent whose primary job is to facilitate the implementation of ministry activities. The first superintendents

were Sister Angela Booth-Jones, Reverend Michael Johnson, Minister Dan Larkin, Jr. and Deacon Brandon Crowley.

In December, 2009, Pastor Baines launched a five-year million dollar financial campaign to address critical structural needs of the Church and liquidate all indebtedness. Additionally, the By-Laws of the Church were amended and adopted.

During the first nine months of Pastor Baines tenure as pastor, the Church added 123 candidates for membership and liquidated some long-standing debts of the Church.

SECTION II: CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

The key to the fulfillment of the mission of the Church and, thus to its vitality, is the way in which the membership is organized to fulfill that mission. Matthew 28: 19 and 20 say that the primary mission of the Church is to evangelize, that is to introduce Christ to those who do not know Him, and to edify, that is, to teach those who have accepted Christ the ways of Christianity. These goals are to be accomplished through the work of the membership of the body of the Church.

Throughout its long and illustrious history, Southern Baptist Church has had an active membership seeking to fulfill the mission of the Church. Under the leadership of its various pastors, the membership has been organized in various ways to fulfill that mission. As the Church has evolved, the names of various organizations used to accomplish its purposes have changed. They ranged anywhere from Church clubs to auxiliaries, boards and ministries. Whatever their names, their primary functions have been to implement the mission of the Church.

The organizations that follow were initiated at some point under the administration of one of the many pastors of the Church. In some instances, these organizations were temporary and in others, they were permanent. The mission and work of the organizations tended to reflect the perceived needs of the body at the time of their inception.

In the ideal world, it would be possible to specify the specific times in which these organizations functioned; however, the data collected for this history were essentially oral in nature and, therefore, specific dates and times of existence are not always presented. Where possible, however, that information is included. At the time of this writing, the term which was being used to reflect the activities of the organization was that of ministry.

Service and Fellowship Ministries

Deacon Ministry

The Deacon Ministry of Southern Baptist Church has been blessed with a rich heritage of consecrated and dedicated men.

The Board had its beginning when the Church was originally founded. A select group of men was ordained to fulfill the functions in the Church as mandated by the Bible when the body was instituted.

At the time the Church was organized, some of the members of the Deacon Board were Brothers S. C. Carter, Kelly, Brodan, Bonner, Bailey, William Mathis, Fred Mathis, Thomas Adams, Zack Clifton, H. F. Brown, Paul Irving, James Hilliard, John Clowers, Henry Anderson, Thomas Copeland, Wilder, John Barnett, Johnson, John Kirkland, James Barnes, Dudley Horne and Wardell Hudson, Sr.

Throughout the history of Southern, major events at critical points in its life necessitated bold and aggressive action. On those occasions, the Deacon Ministry always provided leadership to address the problem. When pastors were called to lead the Church, the Deacon Board was critical in the process. When decisions were made to build larger facilities, add to existing facilities, or purchase new facilities, the Deacon Board was critical to the success of those initiatives. When new furniture and instruments were purchased, again the Deacon Board made it happen.

At no time was the Deacon Board more significant to the Church than when the decision was made to purchase the building on the corner of Reading Road and Lexington Avenue. At the time, individual members of the Board mortgaged their homes to provide collateral enabling the facility to be purchased.

Some of the men taking this important step of faith were Deacons Henry Larkin, Hampton Anderson, S. T. Chambers, Ruben Mitchell, S. C. Hardy and Fred Mathes. It should be emphasized that the same men, as well as others in the Church, used their skills to refurbish and reconfigure the facility to make it suitable for American-American worship.

Up to 1969, the Deacon and Trustee Boards were one in the same body. In the fall of that year, however, the Church determined that it was legally necessary to separate these boards making them two separate, independent entities. When this happened, the Church elected Ed Lige, Jr., as the first Chair of the Deacon Ministry. Reverend Lige served five terms in that capacity. He is, in fact, the only individual to have served five consecutive terms as Chair of the Deacon Ministry.

Since that time, numerous men have functioned in the capacity of Chairperson. They include Johnny Ellington, Ed Ellington, Charles Shuford, Nelson Pierce, Sr., Sanford Kirksey, Alfred McCoy, Bob Merriweather, Bruce Malcolm, Brandon Crowley, Lamont Moore, Calvert Smith and Vincent Jones.

As the Trustee Board assumed more responsibilities for the management of facilities and business affairs of the Church, the Deacon Board began to focus its efforts on providing the services specified for them in the book of Acts, that being, ministering to the personal needs and spiritual growth of the membership.

As the ministry has grown, the basic challenge of the Deacon Board has been one of organizing and functioning in a way to ensure that all of those needing such services in the congregation receive them.

In 2009, the persons serving as Deacons included in alphabetical order Wilbur Clay, Art Craig, Ozzie Davis (Emeritus), Verdie Dorsey, Johnny Ellington, Hubert Givens, Charles Headen, Marcus Jackson, Charles Jones (Emeritus), Vincent Jones, Chester Kavanaugh (Emeritus), Thomas Kennedy, William Lynch, Ted McConnel, Alfred McCoy, Bob Merriweather, Lamont Moore, Nate Pugh (Emeritus), William

Rogers (Emeritus), Calvert Smith, Charles Taylor, Willie Thomas and Kevin Wells.

The 2010 officers of the Deacon Board are: Vincent Jones, Chairperson; Charles Headen, Secretary; Verdie Dorsey, Chaplain; and, Thomas Kennedy, Treasurer.

Deaconesses

The earliest history recorded for the Deaconess Board is during the administration of Reverend Heywood. The first Presidents were Sister Elizabeth Copeland and Sister Mattie Crowley. In 1947, Sister Tamer Hilliard was the President and Sister Ozel Mathis was Vice President. Sister Hilliard served well and faithful until ill health, after which, Sister Ozel Mathis became President and Sister Louise Lige was appointed Vice President.

The initial responsibilities of the Deaconess Board were preparing the community tables, assisting females in baptism and consoling the bereaved in time of sorrow. Prior to the existence of the Deaconess Board, baptism and the Lord's Supper responsibilities were handled by the General Mission.

Under the administration of Pastor Milton, from 1970 to 1976, the role of the Deaconess Ministry expanded to include cooking the repast for funerals. Deaconess Ollie Bolton introduced the wearing of hats and Deaconess Mattye Hoskins-Hamilton introduced the use of disposable communion cups.

Prior to Reverend Milton's administration, membership on the Deaconess Board was limited to the wives of deacons. Under Pastor Milton's leadership, women not married to deacons could become deaconesses. Some of the women added to the Board at that time were Sister Opal Deboe, Mother Ollie Bolton, Sisters Thelma Calloway, Regina McCoy, Katherine Hines, Cookie Liege, Virginia Jones and Jean Odom.

From 1992 until 1996, Sister Mattye Hoskins-Hamilton served as President of the Deaconess Board.

When Reverend Edwards became Pastor, the policy on who could serve as deaconess changed. For the duration of his pastorate, only women who were married to deacons could become deaconesses.

From the inception of the Deaconess Board, many women have served in leadership positions. Included in that group and the years they served were Sisters Elizabeth Copeland, President 1940; Mattie Crowley, President 1943; Tanner Hilliard, President 1947; Ozel Mathis, Vice President, 1947; President and Vice President Lois Lige; Lee Ellington, Vice President; Joyce Kennedy, President, 1997-1999; Joyce Kennedy, Vice President, 1998; Shirley Clay, President, 2000-2004; Gloria Malcolm, Vice President; Shirley Rogers, President; Henrietta Moore, Vice President, President, 2006-to the present; Beverly Jackson; Vice President 2010 to present.

From 1997 to the present, some of the women serving on the Deaconess Board were Sisters Rita Davis, Chanel Headen, Angela Jones, Vanessa Pugh, Ida Kavanaugh, Dianna Hawkins, Rita Davis, Frances Taylor, Robyn Crowley and Pearleen Thompson.

Those Deaconesses who are now members of the Mother's Board but who have remained honorary Deaconess include Mothers Bertha Anderson, Ollie Bolton, Odell Jones and Louise Lige.

Trustee Ministry

In 1970, Reverend Milton separated the Deacon and Trustee Boards and the following persons were elected to serve one year terms as trustees Brothers Joseph Johnson, Chairman; Ike Everson, Vice Chairman; Harold Jones, Secretary; Will Dangerfield, William Evans, Elliot Echols and James Campbell.

The first women to serve on the Trustee Board were elected on February 20, 1980. They were Sisters Carrie Smith, Barbara Anderson and Juanita Simmons. Sister Carrie Smith was the first female Chairperson of the Ministry.

The following persons served as Chairperson of the Board Brothers Joe Johnson, Ike Everson, Irving Cunningham, Sisters Carrie Smith, Juanita Simmons, Barbara Anderson, Brothers Kenneth Bibb, Zilbert Plair, III, Clarence Howell, Tim Harris, Sister Denean Spikes and Brother Ernest Jackson.

Through the years, some of the people who have served on the Trustee Board are Brothers Charles Williams, Robert Merriweather, Jack Bracey, Larry Thompson, Larry Fields, Robert Harris, Irving Cunningham, John Dais, Curtis Owens, Zilbert Plair III, Avery West, Joe Matthews, Willie Thomas, James Coston, Keith Caldwell, Kenneth Bibb, D. C. Booker, Paul Carlton, Jesse Roper and Sisters Juanita Simmons, Carrie Givens, Mildred Malcolm, Estella Pringle, Clara Smith, Orlean Gaines, Thelma McGivens, Cassandra Jo Rice and Denita Knox.

As the Trustee Board expanded its function, it was determined that an Audit Committee was necessary to provide a semblance of checks and balances on all financial transactions. The first Audit Committee consisted of five men and women who were authorized to check the Church's financial records and report to the Church their findings. Sister Orlean Gaines served as the first Chairperson of that committee with Sisters Joyce Johnson and Karen Ellington serving as Assistant Chairpersons.

Usher Boards

The first Usher Board (Usher Board #1 of Southern Baptist Church) was organized in 1918 in the old George Street Church under the late Reverend C. W. Williams. Brother A. Jackson was elected the first President. He was succeeded by Brothers Preston Howard, Will Bolton, Washington Newborn, Dorsey Hand, Paul Crum, Ulysses Parker and Herbert Smith.

In 1930, the Usher Board was divided into the Men and Women's Usher Boards. In 1946, under the pastorate of Reverend L. V. Veal, the Boards were united again as Usher Board #1. The Presidents were: Sister Clara Redding and Brother Herbert Smith.

In 1949, Brother S. T. Chambers was elected President and served until he was chosen for the Deacon Ministry. In 1954, Sister Ula Brown was elected President and served six months. Upon her resignation, Brother Herbert Smith was elected to serve the remainder of the year.

In 1954, under the pastorate of Reverend J. Watson, Sister Sally Watkins was elected President and served faithfully for three years.

From 1960-1972, Brother Frank Townsend was President. He improved the Board spiritually and financially.

Since 1972, some of the Presidents have been: Sister Thelma Calloway, Brother Will Dangerfield, Sister Herron Swan, Brother Kenneth Bibb, Sister Estella Pringle, Brother Perkins Hines, Brother John Davis, Sisters Mildred Howell, Helen Robinson, Lorraine Shelton, Leslie Sherrell and Emmette McClendon. The current President for 2010 is Sister Sharon Ward.

The Board has provided many services to the community including adopting nursing homes and making donations to the needy. The members are committed to serving. Through the years, Usher Board #1 has been blessed with very good leadership.

Usher Board #2 was organized on Sunday, January 15, 1950, at the Richmond and Cutter location under the pastorate of Reverend L. W. Veal. During the first year of its existence, 18 members were added. The original members were: Sister Annie Mae Davis, President; Carey Smith, Vice President; Janie Porter, Secretary; Brother Joe Turner, Assistant Secretary; Brother A. R. Eason, Chaplain; Sister Bertha Davis, Treasurer; and Deacon James Hilliard, Teacher.

In 1952, Sister Essie Mae Cook was elected as Assistant Secretary. In 1953, new officers were elected. They included: Sister Annie Mae Davis, President; Deborah Edwards Ellington, Vice president; Sister Orlene Gaines, Secretary; Sister Ina Laury, Assistant Secretary; Sister Vergie Bolton, Chaplain.

Sister Annie Mae Davis served for over 30 years as President of the Board. To recognize her for her outstanding and lengthy service, a building, the Battle Davis Building was named in her honor.

Sister Annie Mae went home to be with the Lord in 1982.

Some of the persons who have served as President include Brother James Brownlow, Sister Betty Dickerson, Brother Willie Thomas, Brother Gary Lewis, Brother Clarence Howell, Sister Cheryl Thomas, Brother Robert Walton and Sister Pam Johnson, the President in 2010.

In 1991, all of the Boards met to decide steps to be taken to unify their mission, vision and ministry. At that time, it was decided to incorporate a unified dress code, utilize universal ushering techniques and celebrate anniversaries together as a mass usher board.

From 2000-2005, the unified usher board celebrated a mass usher day. Some of the guest churches and speakers for these occasions were Morning Star Baptist Church, Reverend C. Harper; First Baptist Church of Walnut Hills, Reverend Eric Cason; Friendship Baptist Church, Reverend H. L. Harvey; and Southern Baptist Church Associate Pastor, Reverend Bruce Malcolm.

The Early Morning Service Ushers

When the Church decided to expand its services to include a second service at 7:30 AM, the question arose as to whether the current ushers could serve the 7:30 worship service. After considerable discussion, it was decided to create an Early Morning Usher Board. This Board, the Early Bird Ushers, was organized in 1984. Cheryl Dubose was appointed organizer and later elected as the groups first President.

There were eight members in the original group which grew to 18 by 1988. In 1988, the group changed its name to Early Morning Ushers. Its original members included: Sarah Hart, Vice President; Bridgitte Currals, Secretary; and, Lorene Eggleston. Originally, the Sunrise Ushers met on the first

Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM and gave \$2.00 a month in dues to support the ministry of the Church. They were soon divided into groups A and B to serve on alternate Sundays.

The Nurses Guild

The Nurses Guild was organized January 14, 1951, under the administration of Reverend Watson with the assistance of Deacon James Hilliard and Sister Maggie Walker. Sister Walker was the President of the Cincinnati District Nurses. The approximately 30 women initially worked in conjunction with the Usher Board. They were consistent in looking after those who may become ill during services, administering first aid and, if necessary, ministering to the special needs of the Pastor. The Guild met monthly.

The organizing members of the Guild were: Clara Redding, as President; Virginia Taylor, Vice President; Carrie Ellick, Secretary; Christina Ghee, Assistant Secretary; Florence Adams, Treasurer; Odessa Mayo, Assistant Treasurer.

Some of the participating organizing members were: Sisters Tessie Henderson, Daisy Woodard, Mattie Randolph, Estella Cook, Sharon Jones and Elizabeth Phillips.

Past Presidents include: Odessa Mayo, Clara Redding (who served for 35 years), Sherlein Gaynor, Angela Hosley, Willa Johnson and Juanita Orr.

Currently in 2010, there are 13 active nurses. Three nurses work the 7:30 service one month at a time. Ten nurses work the 10:45 AM service.

The nurses working the 10:45 AM service are divided into two teams who alternate working every other week. The 2010 officers include Myrtle Cox, President; Willa Johnson, Vice President; Linda Mitchell, Secretary; Melissa Sanders, Assistant Secretary; Angela Hosley, Treasurer; Helen Dailey, Communications; and Kelly Williams, Chaplain.

The Mother's Board

Early in the administration of Pastor Edwards, a decision was made to establish a Mother's Board. Sister Catherine Hines was asked to assist in selecting women to serve in the Mother's Board Ministry. The mission of the Board was to visit the sick, pray for ailing members and provide general encouragement for members of the Church.

The Board had 13 members which included: Sisters Catherine Hines, Beatrice Thomas, Fannie Mitchell, Ollie Bolton, Julia Jackson, Mable Edwards, Fannie Wolf, Louise Lige, Bertha Anderson, Florence Odell Jones, Elizabeth Frazier, Sophronia Landers and Annie Freeman. At the time of the writing of this document, no other members have been appointed to the Board.

Kitchen Ministry

The Southern Baptist Church on Richmond Street did not have a formal kitchen ministry. Volunteers from the congregation donated time and effort to provide food for special occasions, especially funerals.

An organized kitchen group was formed under Reverend James E. Milton. The leaders from various ministries and/or auxiliaries would be responsible for bringing certain food items when meals were provided for various events. At that time, individuals responsible for the kitchen were Sister Lige, Lee Ellington, Mattie Mitchell, Virginia Jones, Mattie Hamilton, Thelma Calloway, Lillian Larkin, Lizzy McCoy and Alice Coppins.

In 1994, Reverend James E. Milton asked sister Mable Rutherford-Walton to cook for the Southern Baptist Church Academy, Southern Baptist Daycare and various Church events.

Currently, under Pastor Dr. Robert E. Baines, Jr., the Kitchen Ministry has 15 willing workers led by Sister Mable Rutherford-Walton.

Hospitality Committee

In July of 1976, Reverend Milton organized a group of six to form the Hospitality Committee. Some of the members on the committee were Sister Juanita Simmons, President; Deacon Charles Shuford, Vice President; Sister Brenda Stewart, Sister Lillie Shuford, Corresponding Secretary; Sister Sandra Veil, Treasurer; and, Sister Ethelyn Batchelor, Co-Treasurer. The primary activities of the committee were to welcome visitors on Sunday mornings, correspond with visitors and visiting churches, send greeting cards to the sick and shut ins, assist with second Sunday baby blessings and extend hospitality wherever warranted throughout the Church. Excluding those previously mentioned, some former officers were: Presidents Debbie William, Rosa Holts, Theresa Starcks, Cynthia Dangerfield; Secretaries Belinda Odum and Lorene Walton. Sister Gloria Daniels serves as the current president

Bus Ministry

The Bus Ministry was expanded substantially under Reverend Milton. The routes were increased from one to seven and in 1988, a Transportation Committee was formed. The Transportation Committee had broad policy implications and attempted to develop policies for transportation throughout the Church.

The Bus Ministry consisted of drivers, chaplains and workers who worked on the buses to pick up passengers for Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Scouting, Weekday School release programs, field trips and whenever special programs that required transportation where necessary.

Some of the coordinators of the Bus Ministry were: Reverend Ed Lige, Jr., Deacon Leonard Bailey, Reverend Avant Odum, Reverend Richard Smith and Reverend Donald Jones. Deacon Ruben Mitchell was the first bus driver and was in charge of maintenance. Some of the bus drivers included: Deacon Charles Shuford, Deacon Ted McConnell, Deacon Willie Thompson, brother of Tom Bell, Deacon Ed Ellington and Deacon James Ellington. The committee met monthly to

discuss and plan programs as to how to make the ministry vital. Deacon Andre Kittles serves as the current ministry manager.

The Handicap Ministry was born out of the Bus Ministry by Sister Lorene Watson

The Nursery

In the early 70's, Deborah Jones, the daughter of Harold Jones, approached Reverend Milton to inquire about starting a Nursery. Reverend Milton gave her permission in 1970 and in 1971, the Church purchased equipment and furniture to launch the Nursery Program.

At the time the Nursery was opened, it was located in three rooms over the kitchen in the building at 3556 Reading Road.

A year after its opening, Deborah Jones moved her membership to another Church. For a short period of time, the Nursery program went dormant.

In 1971, Carrie Smith united with Southern Baptist Church. Having being accustomed to a nursery program in the Church in Chicago from which she relocated, she approached Reverend Milton to inquire about a nursery program for children. Reverend Milton gave her permission to do so, where upon, a committee was convened and the Nursery Program was resurrected.

The Program was so organized that the nursery was open from 9:30 AM until 1:00 PM. The age range for the children was from six months to six years.

Given the broad scope of ages, it was necessary for the nursery to have a full array of diversified activities which included a Sunday School focus as well as a variety of special physical activities to ensure that the spiritual, educational and social needs of the children were met.

Some of the members of the committee at that time were: Sisters Carrie Smith, Pearl Ellington, Carrie Givens, Ann Thompson, Betty Dickerson and Pearl Bailey.

Through the years, other people have worked in the Nursery Program. They include: Sisters Carla McKint, Ellen Montgomery, Beverley Jackson, Dorothy Forte, Lavonne Simms and Latasha Kittles.

Children and Youth Ministries

Children's Church

The concept of a Church for children was introduced to Reverend James Milton by Deacon Calvert Smith who brought the idea with him from Chicago in 1971. Reverend Milton was intrigued with the idea and asked Deacon Smith to develop the idea into a concept paper. Deacon Smith did so. In time, Reverend Milton approved the concept and presented it to the Church for approval. Once approved, Reverend Milton asked Deacon Smith to work with a committee to implement the idea.

The initial committee members working on developing the concept with Deacon Smith were: Sisters Doris Lige, Shirleen Gaynor, Jean Smith, Watkins, Ertel Brownlow, Deacon James Ellington, Deacon Leonard Bailey and Reverend James Williams. The persons appointed to the committee represented various auxiliaries of the Church. The theory supporting the specific committee appointments was that members representing various ministries in the adult's Church could prepare children to serve these functions when they became adults. Thus, the Children's Church could serve as a training ground for future workers in the Church.

The committee developed the idea and in March, 1972, the Children's Church was established and launched at Southern Baptist Church. Reverend James Williams served as the first Pastor of the Children's Church. Earl Williams, the son of Mary and Charles Williams, served as the first pianist for the Children's Church Choir. The first Children's Church worship service was held in March, 1972.

The Children's Church was organized to allow children to take an active part in Sunday morning worship service, to teach children the importance of worshipping Christ and to make the worship enjoyable to children.

The Church was designed for children five through 12. Services were held in the Jesse Watson Chapel.

Reverend James Williams, Jr., remained the first Pastor of the Children's Church until he was called to pastor a church in Chattanooga, Tennessee in the fall of 1976. The second Pastor of the Children's Church was Reverend Avant Odum. He served from 1977 to 1985, when he was called to Pastor Friendship Baptist Church in Warren, Ohio.

On February 2, 1987, Reverend Donald Jones was installed as the third Pastor of the Children's Church. He served until 1994 when he was called to pastor Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The fourth Children's Church pastor was Reverend Jason Palmer who served from 1994 to 1995. After the departure of Reverend Palmer in 1995, Minister Carol Spencer, Reverend Richard Smith and Reverend Wendell Jones served as Interims until Reverend Michael Johnson was appointed. At this writing, Reverend Michael Johnson is the pastor of the Children's Church.

Deacon Calvert Smith served as the first coordinator of the Children's Church. The second coordinator of the Children's Church was Sister Lillie Shuford. She served for three years and in January, 1990. Sister Debbye Williams was appointed as the third coordinator of the Church. At the time of the writing of this book, the Coordinator was Sister Susan Russell.

Some other members to work with the Children's Churches committee in its earlier years were: Sisters Sonya Brady, Barbara Stewart, Laura Williams, Rachel Tate and Betty Jones.

In 1982, the Lord's Supper was added to the Church services so that the children could take part in their own communion. The Lord's Supper was initially served on the second Sunday of each month.

Not long after the Lord's Supper was added, Mrs. Frances E. Taylor joined the committee to work with the choir. It was through her work that the Children's Choir became an outstanding singing group.

Later that year, Mrs. Mable Harris joined the committee and began to work with the choir. Mr. Kenny Smith replaced Mrs. Taylor as choir director. In 1984, Mr. Kenny Smith left the Children's Church to begin playing for the Inspirational Choir. Under the direction of Kenny Smith, the Children's Church Choir gave four musical concerts.

A number of organizations were established to work with the children in the Children's Church. The Balcony Ministry was started in late 1984 by Mrs. Mable Harris and Deacon Alvin Brooks. They organized the youth into a very effective group that monitored the balcony each Sunday morning.

The Candy Stripers were organized by Sisters Anna Joiner, Carolyn Terrell and Ernestine Terrell. Mrs. Anna Joiner faithfully served as its advisor.

Sister Mable Harris donated robes. Sisters Sharleen Taylor, Jackie Bell and Cassandra Rice served as advisors for the Children's Church Choir. Eric Campbell served as musician. Others to serve as musicians included Mr. David Johnson, who donated an organ to the Church; Mr. Tim Harris, Mr. Lamont Odum and Mr. Jonathan Palmore.

The counselors were organized by Sister Carolyn Terrell. They assisted the adult counselors when a person who came to Christ in Children's Church. Sister Michelle Jones, Johnnetta Joiner, Arnetta Washington, Vernell Moore, Henrietta Moore and Carolyn Crawford all served as counselors for the Children's Church.

Deacons Calvert H. Smith, Ed Ellington, Leonard Bailey, Alvin Brooks, Ernest Tate, Marcus Jackson and Art Craig all served at various times as advisors to the Deacons in the Children's Church.

Sisters Carolyn Crawford and Bonetta Moss served as advisors for the Drama Club. On April 15, 1984, Palm Sunday, the Drama Club presented its first skit in the Children's Church. It was called, "Jesus, the Prince of Peace," written by Ms. Crawford.

Ms. Sharleen Taylor and Ms. Ertell Brownlow served as advisors to the Hospitality Club. Ms. Lille Shuford, Ms. Carolyn Jackson, Ms. Maureen Reed, Ms. Jean Smith and Sister Shirleen Gaynor served at various times as advisors for the Usher Board. Mr. Fred Johnson also worked with the Usher Board.

Ms. Tessie Dawson coordinated the Cheer Fund which was started so that money could be available to buy cards and flowers for the sick and bereaved members of the Committee. Some other committee members included: Ms. Sonya Brady, Barbara Stewart, Laura Williams, Rachel Tate and Betty Jones.

Ms. Debbye Williams and Ms. Diane Smith coordinated the Activity Committee planning by-weekly activities for the children. Activities included trips in and out of the city and a seminar entitled, "As a Child, I, Too, Can Serve the Lord."

The Children's Church ministry has been committed to the spiritual, educational, social and psychological development of children for many years. Reverend Michael Johnson and his committee members developed a learning theme each year. Monthly activities include tribal meetings, Bible memory verses, quizzes, bulletin board displays, calendar activities and sermons that focus on reinforcing the learning objectives of the learning theme.

The Children's Church has an annual fall festival held in October of each year. It aims to celebrate life and not the death and darkness found in Halloween. Over 200 children, teenagers and adults attend each year dressed in costumes

depicting their favorite Bible characters or other private role models. The children have a wonderful time playing games, getting their faces painted, and fellowshiping with family, friends, ministry leaders and eating lots of tasty treats. (Note Appendix C for other Children's Church workers.)

Youth Department

In September, 1970, while attending the National Baptist Convention (NBC) in New Orleans, Louisiana, members of Southern Baptist Church were inspired by the youth who came from all over the country to attend the conference and participate in the youth night services. The members spoke to Pastor Milton about organizing the Youth Department at Southern. Pastor Milton agreed with establishing such a department.

In December, 1970, Pastor Milton appointed Mrs. Doris Lige as the first Youth Director at Southern Baptist Church. By the end of 1970, the youth were organized and were known as the Youth Department of Southern Baptist Church (YOSB). Youth ages 13 through 18 came under the leadership of the Youth Department. They elected their own officers and held their own meetings. The first Youth Presidents were: Pat Montgomery, Lee Dorsey and Janet Milton.

In 1971, the first fund raising event was held to raise funds to send 35 youth to the National Baptist Convention in Wichita, Kansas. Some of the members contributing to the fund raising success were: Sisters Ollie Bolton, Doris Lige, Alice Coppins, Ertel Brownlow, Valarie Cunningham, Travis Jones and Sister Everson.

As the Youth Department grew, Mrs. Lige saw the need to have a group of adults to work with the youth. As a result, the Youth Advisory Board was organized. Mrs. Lige was the coordinator. Mrs. Leah Davis became the Secretary and Deacon Calvert Smith was an advisor.

The Advisory Board consisted of 15 men and women. The purpose of the Advisory Board was to help youth grow spiritually and to organize youth programs and activities for the

Church. The Youth Department and Youth Advisory Board aimed to help youth in their Christian growth to become strong disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Youth Department successfully developed many ongoing programs from 1970 to 1987 which included the first youth rally, trips to the BTU Congress and conventions in Kansas, Alabama, Texas, Indiana, Washington and more. Annual youth retreats were held at a local camp for Christian teaching and spiritual growth.

Youth Revivals which consisted of a week of praise, worship and preaching, were held annually. The Youth Department presented annual Black History Programs to celebrate the heritage of African-Americans and to teach other youth about their history.

In 1973, the Cotillion was established to introduce our young ladies to Christian society. Sister Carrie Smith introduced the idea of a Cotillion to Southern and served as the first Cotillion direction. Other persons serving in this role were Sisters Bonnie Fairbanks and Mary West. Under the directorship of Sister West, a Scholarship Fund for the debutant was established.

In 1995, Sister Kimberly Harris, Sister Beverly Jackson & Sister Joyce Johnson brought back the Cotillion. Recognizing that they were working with a new generation of young ladies from various environment, different prospective in life, and peer pressure. They planned how to reach the young ladies spiritually and still let them feel that they were part of this new society. They set guidelines for the young ladies ranging in age from 16-19. They must be a Christian, member of SBC, have no kids and love the Lord.

In 1997 Miss Dierra Byrd was named the SBC Debutante. The 2000 Miss SBC Debutante was Maria Ellington, 1st runner-up Rachel Davis and 2nd runner-up Jeanine Stallworth

Other programs to help youth of Southern grow as disciples of Christ and Christian leaders included Youth Sunday, which involved the Children and Youth Departments leading services in the main sanctuary, annual Church calendar production, annual Easter breakfast, served after morning service and an annual fellowship breakfast.

Graduate Recognition Sunday was established along with a banquet honoring graduating high school and college students. Youth Bible Study classes were taught by Sister Lillie Bibb, Lead Teacher, Sister Dorothy Hanks and Sister Doris Lige. In 1977, a Youth Newsletter was produced by Leah Davis and Janet Parker. Sister Parker organized the Career Day in 1978.

The youth participated in competition for the Baptist Convention district. On September 7, 1984, Ms. Barbara Harris represented the Church in the annual Baptist oratorical contest. She won the district, state and national awards. Her accomplishments demonstrated how success can be achieved through faith in God, hard work, support from family and friends and support from an active Youth Department. (Note Appendix for the names of the Youth Pastors and Youth Directors.)

Junior Ushers

Junior Ushers were organized in 1974. Sister Alice Coppins served as the first Supervisor of this group. Youth Ushers were between the ages of 13 and 19 and consisted of approximately 20 young people.

Youth & Young Adult Nurses

Youth and Young Adult Nurses were organized in 1977 under the direction of Sister Barbara Anderson. The Supervisors were Sisters Betty Scott and Rosa Holt. It consisted of a group of approximately 15 young women who were trained in first aid to minister to the youth.

Girl Scouts

The Girl Scout program at Southern has a long history. Sister Pearl Bailey was the first Girl Scout leader at Southern. In 1978, she asked two young ladies, Belinda Johnson (Sewell) and Kim Jones, to take over Brownie Troup #1002 that she had led for many years. Although they didn't know each other, the two formed a team and became leaders that grew a troop that had as many as 30 girls between the ages of six and eight.

Because Brownies wanted to continue their scouting experience, Felicia Johnson and Pamela Lattimore began Troup #86 in 1981. Juniors were between the ages of 9 and 11 years old.

Several years later when Belinda and Pam teamed up to lead the Brownies, and Felicia teamed with Angie Brooks to lead the Junior and Cadet troops that had as many as 25 girls (Cadets were girls between the ages of 12 and 14). Joyce Johnson began the Daisy troops, a new addition to the overall Girl Scout program which included girls that were five years of age. Marvel Gentry served as Junior Troop leader from 2001 to 2009.

The troops at Southern were well known as they were active in community service participating in parades, holding their own car good drive, visiting nursing/senior homes to sing and donate crafts to residents just to name a few activities. The troops also went on camping trips along with traveling to Atlanta, Georgia, Washington, D.C. and Columbus, Ohio. They even traveled out of the country to Canada. Of course, they sold the infamous Girl Scout cookies. All functions were done with the end result being to teach girls how to become caring, competent and compassionate adults.

Many of the girls who participated in Southern's scouting experience are now young adults who have made their mark in the church, their community and on their jobs primarily due to the experience they had through Girl Scouting.

Boy Scout Troop #344

Troop 344 of Southern Baptist Church was initially chartered on May 29, 1933, under Reverend Moore. Mr. Willie Wilder was the Scout Master. There were nine Scouts in the first year and 13 in the second year in 1934. The Troop expired in 1936 according to official Council records due to lack of support. The Troop remained inactive until 1956 when the Laymen's League, under the direction of Mr. James Hilliard, re-registered the Troop. The Scout Master was Deacon James E. Ellington. Mr. Clifford McCree was Assistant Scout Master.

In 1956, there were 12 Scouts in the Troop and an Explorer Troop was organized consisting of seven Explorers under the direction of Mr. Dennis Wilson. In 1957, the Troop grew under the leadership of Deacon Ellington to a total of 23 Scouts. The Troop continued to grow reaching a high of 44 Scouts in 1964. Deacon Ellington continued to provide leadership and strong supervision until 1970.

In 1970, Mr. Warner Johnson assumed the Scout Master role. In 1984, Mr. Thomas Bell took over as Scout Master. In 1986, Deacon Greg Cunningham became Assistant and the Troop grew and prospered.

Throughout the Troop's history, it participated in various community events, parades and activities sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America through the Dan Beard Council. In 1984-85, three Scouts attended the national Jamboree. In 1988, a selection of Scouts from Troop #344 served on the Scout Honor Guard for the Cincinnati Bicentennial celebration.

The most important aspect of Troop #344's history is the friendship and positive role models to which the Scouts were exposed and the many skills they acquired through various activities. The Boy Scouts discontinued around the year 2005.

Brother Keith Caldwell was instrumental in organizing the Cub Scouts.

Virtuous Women's Ministry

In 1998, Mrs. Corley Edwards, Sister Ellen Bracey and Sister Dorothy Shanks began the Christian Nurturing Women's Fellowship Ministry. Its initial purpose was to minister to single teen mothers within Southern Baptist Church. The name soon changed to the Virtuous Women's Ministry with Scriptural emphasis taken from Proverbs 31:10.

The Virtuous Women's Ministry served to nurture and provide spiritual encouragement and support to young women between the ages of 12 and 18. Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, the young ladies met and engaged in Bible study and open discussion, as well as shared their concerns, issues and triumphs in a loving, Christian atmosphere.

Advisors to serve within the ministry included Sister Dorothy Shanks, Corley Edwards, Karen Pitts, Robyn Crowley, Davon Miller, Gloria Malcolm, Michelle Norflee and Latonya Dawson.

Some community service activities of the Virtuous Women's ministry included visits to Children's Hospital, breast cancer awareness and nursing home gift giving, a fashion and talent show and other related fund raising efforts.

Little Women

The Little Women's Care Group was organized in 1995. The first meeting was March 25, 1995. It was originally for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, but it attracted younger and older girls. Initial leaders included Mrs. Rutherford, Sisters McCall, Milton, Freeman and Reeves. Their concerns were working on 1) teaching the little girls how to build each other up with God given abilities, talents and resources; 2) teaching them to love God first and to love and treat others as they would like to be treated; 3) teaching them that the circle of family should grow. It is to be a family of love and concern for all children regardless of race or creed; 4) bringing unsaved people into a part of our family allowing them to become a part of us as they learn and grow in Jesus; and, 5) teaching them that we are the ladies of

this group and followers of Christ, that He has entrusted them in our care to guide them as He leads us in the right direction to glorify His name and benefits others.

In 2010, the name of the group was changed to Little Christian Women's Care Group. Leadership during that time being Sisters Joyce Johnson and Angela Booth Jones.

ROPE

The Rights of Passage Experience (ROPE) Ministry was born out of the heart of Deacon Brandon Crowley in 2004. Deacons Brandon Crowley and Andre Kittles served as initial advisors to the ministry.

The ROPE Ministry served young men ages 12 to 18 by assisting them in their spiritual grow and transitioning them from boys to young men. ROPE provided a loving and supportive environment where young men could feel free to share and discuss their accomplishments, concerns and challenges. ROPE applied Godly principles to everyday experiences and equipped young men with the necessary skills to strengthen their faith and service of the Lord.

The ROPE Ministry re-launched in 2006 with leader Rev Don Wagoner. More men were soon recruited to help which included Brother Keith Caldwell, Brother Brandon Stewart and Brother Joe Simmons

In 2007, Junior ROPE was added to serve boys from the ages of 5 to 12. Ministry leaders included Deacons Marcus Jackson and Vincent Jones. Junior ROPE became inactive due to lack of participation and guidance.

Youth Church

A grape vine may be found in a wilderness, but not a vineyard. In the wilderness, all vegetation competes for nourishment, sustenance and nutrition. In a vineyard, a grape vine has the fertile ground all to itself. In the wilderness, leaves and underbrush encroach.

Within the vineyard of Southern Baptist Church, the grape vine of the Youth Church was cultivated under the ministry to Reverend James E. Milton. Reverend Milton, along with several other Church members, saw a need to actively involve the large number of youth in the Church. It was felt that the youth would grow spiritually, if there was a Church service organized specifically for them. It was rather clear that the main sanctuary sermons were not directed to their religious needs, but to those of the adults.

Reverend Milton acknowledged this reality and conceived a service where all youth of different neighborhoods and economical backgrounds could come together and fellowship as one. Under his leadership and with the assistance of Paul Jeter, Sister Beverly Ellington, Sister Lillie Bibb, Ministry Coordinator and a Youth Committee, the foundation for the Youth Church was laid.

Two Pastors were chosen to guide the youth in the spiritual growth, Pastors Richard Smith and Kenneth Bibb. Reverend Milton felt that they could relate to the youth. A full service of worship was formatted to coincide with the time of the main sanctuary service of worship. The Youth service would soon outgrow the Fellowship Hall and move to the gymnasium.

Reverend Milton also envisioned that the youth needed, not only Biblical understanding, but also a program to help them to deal with everyday life situations. This program would aid the youth in making wise Christian decisions. Thus, an educational discussion group was initiated specifically for the youth of the Church following the morning service.

On February 2, 1991, the youth of Southern Baptist Church came to praise God in its own Church service. They felt good about their service and participated in such groups as the choir, ushers, the Junior Laymen, the nurses, the video crew, the Discussion Group Counsel and as deacons.

The Youth Church was discontinued by Pastor Edwards in 1999.

The Youth Council

The Youth Church provided a forum to nurture our youth through preaching, teaching and worship. It also provided a forum for teaching our young Christian fellowship in an avenue to promote activities and programs.

After Youth Church was discontinued, the youth ministry was charged with developing a structure to integrate the youth of Southern into the adult worship service and the ministries of the Church. To aid in this process, the Youth Council was created.

The goals of the Youth Council were to provide a forum for youth to 1) provide input into the integration process; 2) lead; 3) advise youth workers on their needs and interest of the Church; and, 4) plan and implement youth fellowship, outreach and evangelism activities. The ministry was created in 2006 by targeting a group of 12 youth who were very active at the Church and giving them a task of ministry building.

The Youth Council was active from 2006 to 2007. In 2008, the Youth Council became inactive.

In 2009, the youth ministry held a youth forum to give the youth a voice in ministry plans and activities. Twenty-eight (28) youth attended and participated in the discussion for improving the youth ministry. At the time of the writing of this book, the youth were still reviewing methods of organizing to move forward in a meaningful fashion.

Christian Education

Southern Baptist Childcare Program

The Southern Baptist Childcare Program began in the spring of 1987. The initial Board members were Reverend James E. Milton, Sisters Dorothy Pierce, Dorothy Forte, Ether Carlton, Janet Parker, Lillie Bibb, LaVerne Bridges and Gwen Watkins.

The first director of the Childcare Center Program was Sister Lillie Bibb. Other persons serving as directors were Sisters Dorothy Pierce, Marcellene Winfrey and Charlene Brockman. Some of the other original staff members included Sisters Mary Peters, Ollie Foy, Jennifer Reynolds, Carolyn Harrison, Cynthia Dangerfield and Clara McGee.

The Childcare Center Program was essentially initiated to provide early childhood education in Christian training for children in the broader Cincinnati community. Although a part of the Southern Baptist Church ministry, it functioned as an independent entity under a non-profit corporation managed by the Church. The program served youngsters between the ages of six months and five years of age. Although some of the participants in the Center were members of the Church, a large majority of those being served came from the broader Cincinnati community. Sister Vanessa Spivey serves as the current acting director.

Southern Baptist Church Christian Academy

In the fall of 1989, Reverend James E. Milton and Sister Valerie Cunningham attended a conference in Dallas, Texas, focused on an accelerated Christian training program. Based on that experience, Reverend Milton introduced the idea of starting a kindergarten through 8th grade Christian Academy. At his urging, the Southern Baptist Church Christian Academy was begun.

The first class was held in the fall of 1990. From the fall of 1990 to the spring of 1993, Sister Valerie Cunningham served as the Academy's first principal. Other principals included Sister Clara Smith, Mrs. Rosa Brinkman and Mrs. Edith Williams.

The members of the Board of the Academy were: Deacon Calvert H. Smith, Chair, Brothers Clyde Henderson, Kevin Wells, Phillip Cathey and Sister Arlene Mitchell and Reverend C. Dennis Edwards

At its initiation, the Academy served youngsters in K through 8 and its enrollment grew to approximately 60 children. The Academy depended upon tuition and fees from students for its funding. It was heavily subsidized by Southern Baptist Church. The difficulties involved in financing an independent Church related school eventually became overbearing. In the spring of 2001, it was decided to discontinue the program. The Academy held its last class under the administration of Reverend C. Dennis Edwards.

Christian Education Board

Given the interest of Reverend Milton in broadening the educational thrust of the Church, on September 20, 1972, he created a Board of Christian Education. The Board Members were essentially selected by Pastor Milton.

In its earlier years, the educational programs of the Church were essentially run by this Board. In time, however, it was decided to appoint directors of Christian Education, all of whom reporting to the Pastor with the Board being the body providing overall structure and developing policies for all of the educational thrusts of the Church. Some of the individuals who served as Director of Christian Education were Sisters Lillie Bibb, Ertel Brownlow, Marilyn Crowley, Reverend Larry Harris, Sister Angela Jones and Sister Daphne Baines.

The Christian Education Ministry is responsible for planning and providing general supervision of the education ministries of the Church. Its goal is to provide unified direction to those educational ministries so that each person in the body

is being taught with all wisdom in order to present everyone complete in Christ. Through the years, all of the educational activities of the Church were governed and directed by the Board of Christian Education.

In 1978, Sister Carolyn Terrell was appointed Chair of the Board of Christian Education. During her administration, the Young Adult Department was added to the Sunday School.

In the mid 80's a new ministry, the Mid-Week Bible Study, was added to the Church. Reverend Weldon Dixon was the teacher and coordinator of the study.

Carolyn Terrell served as Chairperson of the Board of Christian Education until the end of 1983. She was succeeded by Sister Karen Hunter.

In 1986, Sister Rochelle Thomas began Chairperson of the Board of Christian Education. Under her leadership, the Children's Division of the Sunday School was expanded to include a Junior Department. The Adult Department was also divided into two divisions and the Children's Department was also into two divisions—the Junior and the Primary Departments. The Primary Department was created in 1988 after the new Educational Building became fully operational.

The Sunday School

The Sunday School was organized in May, 1917, and actually served as the basis for the Church organization. It is the oldest, continuing auxiliary in the Church. It is now composed of six departments and is staffed by a trained team of teachers.

Some of the longest serving General Superintendents of the Sunday School were Deacons Fred Mathis, James Hilliard and James E. Ellington. Some other persons serving as General Superintendent include Sisters Carrie Smith, Angela Jones, Dorothy Forte and Deacon Sanford Kirksey.

The Sunday School was organized into departments in 1971. At that time, there were three departments—the Adult

Department, the Youth Department and the Children's Department. Some of the persons serving as Superintendents of the Adult Department included Brother Charles Williams, Sister Virginia Ramsby, Reverend Joe Scripling and Sister Mildred Brown. Some who served as Assistant Superintendent were Sisters Virginia Ramsby, Lela King, Charlene Taylor, Mildred Brown and Brother Ernest Thatcher.

In 1971, Deacon Calvert Smith suggested to Reverend Milton that a Training for Service Program be implemented to prepare people to teach Sunday School. Reverend Milton agreed. This program was divided into two curricular items. The first was teacher training. It sought to provide all teachers with techniques enabling them to teach the various Bible studies in a more effective fashion. The second curricular item was focused on the Bible. Both a New Testament Survey course and an Old Testament Survey course were developed and taught. All of these educational curricular items were taught by Deacon Calvert Smith. In time, however, Deacon Smith began teaching an Adult Sunday School Class and Sisters Ertel Brownlow and Delores Tatum assumed responsibilities for teaching the Training for Service classes.

In 1976, the Sunday School was divided into an Adult and Children's Department and each department was given its own Superintendent.

In 1984, the Adult Sunday School Department was further divided and the Young Adult Department was organized.

The first Superintendent of the newly divided Adult Department was Deacon Nelson Pierce. The next Superintendent was Sister Valerie Cunningham. Some of the Assistants were Sisters Ellen Bracey, Vickie Gentry and Carolyn Lewis.

During the pastorate of Reverend Edwards, the demographic nature of the Church changed and young adults were not as plentiful among the Sunday School population as had been in prior years. With the reduction in size, it was decided to reorganize the Young Adult Department to make it a

class in the Adult Department. For the same reason, it was decided to reduce the Adult Division from two to one department.

The Children's Sunday School Department was organized in 1971. The Superintendent was Sister Gwendolyn Martin McCall. Assistant Superintendents were Sisters Emma Oλουςga, Clara Smith and Erlene Pearl.

In 1984, the Children's Division was divided and the Junior Department was organized with grades 7 and 8. The Superintendents were Sister Debbye Smith and Brother Markum Butler. The Assistant was Sister Laura Williams.

In 1987, the Children's Division was further divided and the Primary Department was organized, kindergarten through 3. Sister Ann Thompson served as Superintendent and Brother Raymond Stark served as Assistant Superintendent. Others who served in the Sunday School Department in various capacities include Sisters Carrie Smith, Angela Booth Jones, Gloria Malcolm, Robyn Crowley, Barbara Owens, Latonya Dawson, Latasha Kittles, Vanessa Beck Williams, Brother Roy Jones, Sisters Thelma Ellington, Karen Pitts, Mary Williams and Belinda Larkins.

At this writing, the Sunday School has four departments. They are the Nursery/Primary Department, Children's Department, Youth Department and Adult Department. The General Superintendent is Sister Carrie Smith. Each department is headed by a coordinator. The current coordinators are Sisters Patricia Hilliard, Nursery Department; Janise Brassell, Children's Department; Vanessa Beck Williams, Youth Department; and, Thelma Ellington, Adult Department.

The Baptist Training Union (BTU)

The Baptist Training Union was organized for the purpose of training members to serve more effectively in the Church body. Sister Jessie Battle was one of the early Presidents. The following persons also served as Presidents: Sisters Viola Smith, Frances Jones and Brother Maskins Knox. Some of its

group leaders were Deacons Hampton Anderson, Clarence Spencer and Sanford Kirksey.

Traditionally, in the Baptist Church, the BTU met around 5 or 6 PM prior to the Evening Service. As the Church has transitioned from having Evening Services, the BTU has tended to disappear as a training vehicle in the Church. At this writing, Southern Baptist Church does not have a BTU program.

A parallel program to the BTU was the Baptist Young Peoples Union (BYPU). For the same reasons that the BTU is dormant, the BYPU is also not functioning as a unit at Southern.

The Incoming Members Seminar

The Incoming Members Seminar focused on Christian instruction for those considering membership in Southern and for all new members of the Church. The Seminar was developed in the spring of 1984. The first class was held on August 18, 1984. The Seminar grew out of the need for spiritual instruction aimed at answering questions for those who were new members to Christ.

The instruction was heavily Scripture oriented and was intended to help the students establish a firm foundation in Christ. The topics were Salvation, How to Use the Bible, Prayer, Witnessing and Problem Solving for Christians. The Seminar met each third Saturday from 1 to 4 PM in the Hollan-McLauren Building

Weekday Church School

In September of 1985, a Weekday Church School began at Southern in cooperation with the Council of Christian Communion. The Weekday Church School was a released time program in which public school students were released from school as parental request the last half hour of one school day per week to attend Church School at Southern. Second, third and fourth grade students from South Avondale and Burton Elementary Schools were transported to Southern by bus for

one hour of Christian instruction. Students learned the most basic things about God and his son, Jesus Christ.

For more than one half of these students, Church School was the only contact they had with church and with God.

In three years of operation, over 25 children became members of Southern. Weekly Church School was taught by a staff of ten members of Southern and was coordinated by Sister Lillie Bibb. Church School days were Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 PM to 4 PM in the Battle Davis Building.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was conducted for one week during late summer at the Church. Classes were held for all ages. The classes consisted of Bible study, arts and crafts and the playing of various age appropriate games.

On the Saturday following Vacation Bible School, the annual Church picnic was held. This activity or feature of the Vacation Bible School was added under the leadership of Reverend Milton.

Some of the Directors of Vacation Bible School have been Sisters Ollie Bolton, Ertel Brownlow, Lillie Shuford, Juanita Glover, Belinda Harris, Janet Parker, Mable Alexander, Carol Robinson, Patricia Stone, Carrie Smith and Brothers James Ellington, Sr., Sanford Kirtsey and Reverend Larry Harris.

During the administration of Reverend Edwards, the name of Vacation Bible School was changed to the Family Enrichment Week; however, the activities, goals and organization were the same as they had been under Vacation Bible School. The Family Enrichment title lasted about four years, at which time, the activity was one again renamed Vacation Bible School.

Mid-Week Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Throughout the history of the Church, Mid-week Prayer Meetings have been a staple. They dedicated in many respects the spiritual tone of the Church. Traditionally, the Prayer

Meetings were essentially led by the Deacon Board with participation by members present in the congregation. The order of Prayer Meeting depended on the needs and the spiritual conditions of the Church, as well as the local challenges which the congregation were facing. Generally speaking, these services consisted of prayer, music and Bible reading.

During the administration of Reverend Edwards, the Wednesday night Prayer Night services were broadened to include Bible Study. These Wednesday night sessions began initially with prayer including music and Bible reading and were followed by Biblical teachings.

During the same period of time, it was decided to start an early morning prayer session. These sessions were begun at 6 AM and held on Tuesday mornings. They continued in the tradition of the Wednesday night prayer sessions. That is to say, they consisted essentially of prayer, a cappella singing and Bible study.

These 6 AM Prayer sessions were essentially led by Deacon Ed Ellington. They continued until the administration of Reverend Dr. Robert E. Baines. Though no formal action, but with the passing of many of those who were active in the 6 AM Tuesday morning prayer sessions, the sessions essentially ended.

During the later part of the James E. Milton administration, senior citizens started a Mid-Day Prayer session. These sessions were essentially conducted by the Over 55 Ministry and participants from that age group tended to conduct and coordinate the activities.

When Dr. Baines became Pastor of the Church, emphases of the prayer service was again centered on Wednesday evenings. The services were again coordinated by the Deacon Ministry. Prayer, Bible reading and a cappella singing were the staples of the service. At 7 o'clock PM, Pastor Baines generally conducted Bible study. At least once a month, the Wednesday Night Bible sessions were devoted to sermons delivered by some of the associate pastors of the Church.

Tutorial Ministry

Throughout the life of the Church, Southern has often provided tutorial services for its elementary and high school students. In some instances, these services were highly organized. In others, however, they were made available because of the needs of the congregation and the interest of the membership. On some occasions, they were highly organized, while on others, they were available to students on an on-needs basis.

The emphasis in the Tutorial Program tended to depend upon the interest of the Pastor who happened to be the Shepherd of the Church at a given point in time. On some occasions, these tutorial sessions were linked to the Wednesday Release School Program and on other occasions, they were outgrowths of deficiencies observed by Sunday School teachers of students they were teaching.

Some of the people who participated in these after-school educational tutorial programs were Brother James Thompson, Sisters Carolyn Jackson, Latonya Dawson, Ertel Brownlow, Carrie Smith, Lillie Bibb, Darlene Murphy, Eva Fitzpatrick and Brothers Philip Cathey and Ozzie Davis, Sr.

In addition to providing tutorial services, the program occasionally provided advise and counsel for senior high school students who were either interested in entering the job market or securing financial assistance to attend college.

Evangelism and Discipleship

Evangelism and Discipleship Clubs grew as the Churches ministry diversified and the need to generate support for its various programs grew. Although numerous clubs have come and gone, some have remained constant and very active in the Church. The more prominent ones with their mission and leaders are discussed in this section.

Under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Baines, the Membership Orientation Ministry has taken on more structure and formality. It now seeks to teach membership orientation materials to all new members. Additionally, it manages a Get Acquainted Session with the Pastor periodically. It assists new members with baptism and provides follow up activities to ensure that they stay with the Church. There are Sunday morning classes, periodic additional classes and tutoring throughout the year for the Church community.

In 1953, Deacon Robert Turner, under the leadership of Reverend Jesse Watson, organized the Peace and Good Will Club. Deacon Turner was elected President in 1954. Some other persons to serve as Presidents were Deacons Ed Lige, Sr., (1956-1968); Sister Ora Lee Howard (1969-1977); Deacon Ed Lige, Jr. (1978-1990); and Sister Julia Jackson (1980-1988). This group of approximately 25 men and women met monthly with the goal of spiritual growth, fellowship and fund raising guiding their existence. The annual day was celebrated on the third Sunday in September.

The Rose of Sharon Club

The Rose of Sharon Club was organized under Pastor Moore. Sister Annie Broughter was elected President. She served as President until she passed away in 1954. The Vice President was Sister Tamar Hilliard. At one point in its history, the club membership was down to only one member who was Mother Jessie Fox. She kept the club going. Some others to serve as President were Brother Arthur McCoy, Sisters Clara Reed, Jessie Echols and Sarah Roper.

On July 18, 1970, the Rose of Sharon Club was given a new mission by Pastor Milton. Instead of being a fund raising club, its members were to greet and welcome all new members who joined Southern Baptist Church. They communicated with the new members to encourage them to become involved in Church activities and services. The Rose of Sharon Club conducted a get acquainted hour once a quarter for new members to meet the officers of each auxiliary of the Church and to get an overview of the different areas in which they could serve.

The Laymen's League

The Laymen's League was organized on June 14, 1955. The purpose of this organization was to promote brotherhood, spiritual growth and a strong Christian environment within the male membership of the Church and the community. Deacons Alfred McCoy served as President; Verdie Dorsey as Vice President; and, Lawrence B. Thomas functioned as the Instructor.

The Pastor's Aid Club

The Pastor's Aid Club was organized in November, 1962, with Sister Carrie Simmons serving as its first President. There were originally 12 members in this club. They performed a variety of services for the Pastor's family that reflected the love and concern of the total congregation. Others to serve in leadership capacity in the Pastor's Aid Club were Sister Beatrice Thomas as President and Sister Ann Eggleston, Vice President.

The Lula Davis Club

The Lula Davis Club was formed in 1986 under the leadership of Pastor James E. Milton and Sister Valerie Cunningham. The original purpose for this club was to send cards commemorating the spiritual birthdays of the Church members. The club also used this occasion to invite members who were not active in auxiliaries to join classes and mission groups within the Church. The club's namesake, Sister Lula Davis, died in January, 1986. She was a faithful member of the Church. Her humility and kind nature endeared many to her;

however, she is most remembered for her remembrance of the birthdays of others.

The annual anniversary of the Lula Davis Club was the third Sunday of November. Sister Davis' birthday was November 17th. The first officers of the Lula Davis Club were Sister Lorraine Watson, President and Marlene Eggleston, Vice President.

The Daughters of Zion Club

The Daughters of Zion Club was a group of approximately 25 men and women who met monthly to fellowship, grow spiritually and promote the financial program of the Church. The annual day of this club was the fourth Sunday in October. Sister Hattie Adams was the President for over 40 years until her health failed. At that time, Brother Irvin Cunningham assumed the Presidency of the club.

The Boosters Club

The Boosters Club of Southern Baptist Church was organized in 1965. Its primary purpose was to engage and initiate activities in support of the young people of the Church. The idea was first presented by Deacon Ed Lige, Sr. and Mrs. Lige. Brother Harold Jones was elected the first President of the organization. Under his leadership, many people volunteered to work with the club. Sister Maxine Smith served as President and Brother Harry Pressley served as Vice President.

The Willing Workers Club

The Willing Workers Club was organized in 1931. Mrs. Amanda Kelly was President after which Mrs. Mary Jarrell was President for 40 years. Sister Levonnah Travis also served a term as President. This group of approximately 25 men and women met monthly for spiritual fellowship and to generate funds to support the Church. Their annual day was the first Sunday in July.

The Evangelism Team

In May, 1985, the Evangelism Team was organized by Reverend Milton to do weekly visitations with the unsaved. With the establishment of the Evangelism Team, visitations with the unsaved became systematic and regular training and weekly visitations occurred.

The New Members Counseling Ministry

The New Members Counseling Ministry was founded and organized on November 5, 1978, by Reverend James E. Milton in the Hollan-McLauren Center during the Sunday School hour. The first class of counselors consisted of ten men and women who were recruited for training by Reverend Milton. These persons were Catherine Batchelor, Lillie Bibb, Ozell Davis, Pearl Ellington, Henrietta Foster, Rodney Foster, Claude Grace, Gwendolyn Martin, Lillie Shuford and Carrie Smith.

The Counseling Ministry was organized to welcome new members when they united with the Church, to counsel them about salvation and to prepare them with information on the structure and organization of the Church. Essentially, this first group of counselors was taught by Reverend Milton. They were trained to continue to study the Word, to see God in everybody, to listen with their hearts, to speak with a smile, to confront, comfort, encourage and to be a friend to new members. Other persons to serve in leadership roles in the New Members Counseling Ministry included Reverend Eugene Ellington, Reverend Malcolm, Sisters Henrietta Moore, Margie Anderson and Daphne Baines.

Faithful, Available and Teachable

During the summer of 1987, Reverend Milton began a search to identify faithful, available and teachable (FAT) Christians. Ultimately, ten people were identified. These individuals enrolled in the Billy Hanks Junior Training Program, "Making Disciples of Christians." This discipleship program matched a seasoned Christian, a Paul, with a new

Christian, a Timothy, for a one-on-time Bible study and fellowship experience. They met monthly.

Some of the Paul's involved in the Paul/Timothy Ministry were Molly Dennis, Reverend William Crowley, Reverend Joe Stripling, Thelma Ellington, Darrell Erkins, Willa Fisher, Ben Kleebler, Willa Johnson, Joan Carrol, Charles Jones, Juanita Orr, Delphine Robinson, Rodean Frazier, Rose Martin, Victoria Few-Atkinson, Delores Hocker, Greg McMcConnell, Linda Mitchell, Marion Solomon, Brenda Middlebrook, Ruben Rice, Jerry Sanders and Clarence Spencer.

The Counseling and Consoling Caregivers

The Counseling and Consoling Caregivers Ministry was organized in 1995 with Pastor Milton's approval. It was organized to represent the Church by visiting families during bereavement periods. The original members of the group were Deacons Johnny Ellington, Chairperson; Verdie Dorsey, Vice Chairperson; Henry Partridge, Secretary; and, Thomas Kennedy Treasurer. Some other members to have served on the group were Deacons Charles Jones, Alfred McCoy, Robert Merriweather and Mr. Zilbert Plair and Reverend Paul Woodson. Reverend Woodson served as Minister and Teacher for the group.

As the Church grew, the need for the services of the group expanded. To accommodate this expanding need, the following members were added to the ministry: Reverend Joe Stripling, Reverend Bruce Malcolm, Deacons Willie Thomas, Ben Keebler and Art Davis. The name of the group was changed from Consoling and Counseling to Counseling and Encouragement Caregivers Group. From 1996 to 2009, the group ministered to more than 800 families.

In 2010, the name of the group was changed to Bereavement Ministry and its membership expanded. Although Deacons were essentially responsible for coordinating and managing the group activities, Deaconesses and other congregational members were added to the membership of the group. The primary focus of the group remained the same;

however, additional duties were added as directed by the Pastor.

Grief/Compassion Ministry

The Grief/Compassion Ministry offered help, inner strength and the gift of love to those in need. Deacon Ed Ellington and Brother Forrest Whittaker served as its advisors.

Cancer Support Ministry (Groups 1 and 2)

Under the administration of Reverend C. Dennis Edwards, the Cancer Support Ministry was organized. Group 1 consisted of persons with cancer and cancer survivors. The mission of Group was to reach out to those recently receiving treatment for cancer and to survivors of cancer. The purpose was to encourage and support members by sharing common feelings, experiences and coping strategies through group discussions.

Group 2 existed to serve the family members of those living with cancer. It sought to provide an atmosphere that allowed family members and friends to exchange ideas, share ways of coping with loved ones that daily faced challenges and uncertainties of cancer and to help them cope with the reality of living with cancer survivors. Sister Betty Scott Partridge and Reverend Bruce Crowley served as Group Leaders for the Cancer Support Ministry.

Marriage Ministry

In April, 2001, the Christian Education Ministry launched a Marriage Faithful Partners Ministry. This ministry provided opportunities to study what thus says the Lord about marriage. Brother Cedric and Sister Brenda Cooper served as its Chairpersons. A Married Couples Ministry was begun under Pastor Milton by Sister Dorothy Pierce.

The Singles Ministry

The Singles Ministry was organized initially in 2000. It provided relevant workshops, attended plays as a group and held fellowships. The goal of the ministry was to learn to live as a single Christian. The initial leaders were Sister Myna

Saunders, Reverend Don Wagner and Deacon Ben Keebler. In 2010, Sister Shauna Murphy assumed leadership for the ministry.

Brotherhood Ministry (re-tooled as the Men's Ministry)

In May 2001 the Brotherhood Ministry held its first meeting. Reverend Bruce Crowley served as its Ministry Coordinator, Brother Ben Keebler president and Brother Nathan Pugh vice president.

The ministry participated in door-to-door witnessing campaigns in the immediate neighborhood of Southern Baptist Church. The ministry also had quarterly fellowships, in addition to their bi-weekly meetings to solidify the bonds of Christian love between brothers in Christ Jesus

Partners in Pursuit Ministry

Partners in Pursuit was the vision of Deacon Brandon Crowley. The objective of the Partners in Pursuit (*PIP*) ministry is to unite members with caring, loving individuals that will assist in their journey to please God and become more like Christ. The goal of a PIP relationship was to maintain our level of commitment to God and satisfy our souls.

The ministries mission was to promote and sustain the spiritual development of new converts, restoration candidates and existing members. The vision of the Partners in Pursuit ministry was to be a vibrant community of disciples with a sincere passion for people.

Women's Ministry

Between 2001-2002 a group of ministers' wives Edwina Wooley Hairston, Kathy Woodson, Kim Harris and Marilyn Crowley began the Women's Ministry. The main purpose of the group was to provide a support base and mentorship for women of all ages especially the young adult women. The group also

served as a venue for Women's Day; Women's study groups and the "Joy" conference.

The initial officers were Belinda Carter, president; Kim Harris, vice-president and Lessie Sherrill, secretary.

Macedonian Call Life Services Ministry

In November, 2004, through the incorporation of Macedonian Call Life Services (a 501c3 organization), Rev. Edwards was poised to develop programs and services that will enhance the quality of life for the residents of the city of Cincinnati and surrounding areas. Darlene Murphy served as Executive Director reporting to nine Board Members - Kevin T. Wells (Chair), Dionne Barnett, Kasandre Brown, Rev. Bruce Crowley, Phyllis Davis, Corley Edwards, Dr. Clyde Henderson, Robert Stewart and John Thomas.

Macedonian Call Life Services forged a relationship with Cincinnati Businessman and Philanthropist, Carl Lindner. His generous financial support has harvest the community efforts and activities of Macedonian Call Life Services and Southern Baptist Church.

The Department of Mission

The General Missionary Society was organized shortly after the Church was organized. Elizabeth Copeland was one of the first Presidents. Under the pastorate of Reverend Marshall Moore, it was recommended that the Missionary Society would be better organized by holding weekly meetings at the Church. Martha Walker was elected President.

The Missionary Society was responsible for preparing the candidates for baptism. The Society was allowed to keep in its treasury a certain percentage of the money raised for mission and benevolence. The auxiliary raised funds to help send the President to the National Baptist Convention. The officers of the Missionary Society changed from time to time. Some of them were Sisters Mary McCoy, Pauline Golightly and Hill Johnson.

Young women who were designated Young Matrons worked under the guidance of the General Mission. The Matrons gave grocery baskets to the sick and shut ins at Thanksgiving. The General Mission distributed fruit at Christmas.

When the Matrons became a certain age, Martha Walker organized the MW Circle which met and, after a time, ceased to function. The Red Circle auxiliary was organized as a part of the General Mission and it also went out of existence.

Martha Walker served as President of the General Missionary Society until her death on February 2, 1964.

The Martha Walker Circle was organized in 1960 by Sister Martha Walker who became its first President. During Martha Walker's lifetime, the Circles work primarily centered around entering the community's vineyard, witnessing and doing mission work. For a number of years, the Missionary Society had fellowship, prayer, song and preaching. They adopted the Clifton Care Nursing Home at 625 Probasco as a special project.

Mary McCoy succeed Martha Walker as President of the General Mission and served until 1970. The officers at that time were: Ollie M. Bolton, Vice President; Alein Pleagler, Recording Secretary.

Under the pastorate of Reverend James E. Milton, the General Missionary Department was reorganized into Circles in keeping with the geographical locations of the city of Cincinnati. Mother Ollie Bolton served as the General Chairperson and the Circles were named after pioneer women of the Church and the Bible.

The Missionary Society consisted of men and women. Each Circle met weekly to worship, fellowship and study. The General Mission would meet the Monday after the fourth Sunday and it would meet monthly to hear the reports of the Circles and plan the program for the following month. The General Mission would sponsor the fifth Sunday evening worship service with special emphasis on the mission of the

Church. Each Circle had adopted a nursing home which they visited once a month to fellowship with the residents.

Some of the past General Missionary officers were Sisters Ollie Bolton, President; Bertha Anderson, Vice President; Pricilla Johnson, Recording Secretary; Ellen Montgomery, Frankie Plair, Mamie Johnson and Margret Johnson, who is the current President. (Note Appendix E for names of Missionary Circles.)

The Community Outreach & Foreign Relief Efforts

Throughout the life of Southern, it has traditionally provided services to individuals who were in need in the broader community. People needing clothing, food and shelter were regularly provided with these necessities enabling them to carry out their daily routine. For the majority of them, that routine consisted of securing food for themselves and their families, providing clothing and providing a shelter in which to live.

Under the pastorate of Reverend Milton, the Church began to organize and plan a systematic response to the needs of the community residents. The one which made the greatest impact on the community was the emergence of the Avondale Shopping Center on the corner of Reading Road and Forest Avenue.

During the riots in the later part of the 60's, the stores and businesses which were housed on the four corner area where Reading Road intersects with Forest Avenue were the source of anger for the African-American community. Major riots took place in this area.

After the riots, the businesses in those locations closed and/or moved to other areas. For about ten years, the corner stood vacant and blighted, while the basic needs of the community and people living there in were going unmet.

The primary need was for a grocery store. Under the leadership of Reverend Milton with the cooperation of pastors from the various Churches in the community, the Avondale Community Development Corporation was launched. The most

tangible outgrowth of this Community Development Corporation was the Avondale Community Center. Through years of work, the Community Development Corporation eventually was able to attract Aldi's Food store and, thus the community had access to fresh fruits and vegetables along with other needed food items.

The Pastor of Southern Baptist Church and the pastors of other cooperating churches in the community reserved seats on the Board of the Community Development Corporation.

The development of the Avondale Community Shopping Center did not in any way reduce the outreach efforts of Southern. Although not as organized as the Avondale Community Center effort, benevolent and outreach services continued to be provided by the Church to those in need. Periodically, the young people in the Church sponsored clothing contributions and give aways for the community. The Church has operated a food pantry and thrift shop for people in the local community. The food pantry was essentially a give away, but the thrift shop sold clothing at a much reduced price to the needy.

Perhaps the highlight of the activities of the food pantry took place when a huge relief caravan was organized for people in the south who had suffered through a series of serious floods. An 18 wheeler was leased by the Church and filled with food to be driven to those states. People affected by this tragedy received food and, thus, the impact of the outreach efforts of Southern Baptist Church touched the lives of people in many different areas.

In the mid 1980's Rev Milton visited India on a missionary meeting. The Foreign mission ministry was soon revitalized and a strong partnership developed. Out of this Southern's India Relief Efforts began. The church receives monthly correspondence from its India sister church on their ministry efforts and successes. For over 20 years we have been dedicated to providing charitable & monetary donations to support their efforts. In the past the offering that was collected on the first Sunday of each month was for African hunger relief.

Southern continues to give monetary donations as part of the African Relief Fund.

Recreational and Summer Activities

Summer recreational activities have been sponsored by Southern for Church members as a direct part of its summer program. This program was generally highlighted by the picnic that followed Vacation Bible School on a yearly basis.

In 1978, the Church fielded its first competitive baseball team. This team happened to be a female softball team. The interest in the team resulted from the desire of some girls in the Church to participate in softball. One of the girls interested in team was the daughter of Deacon Calvert Smith, a teenager at the time, Melanie Smith. In response to that interest, Deacon Smith organized and became the first coach of the Southern Baptist Church female softball team. The team played competitively with other churches throughout the community.

There was no age limit for those desiring to participate, so, it consisted of teenage girls as young as 15 and older women who were the mothers of some of the girls who were playing. Some of the members of this first team were Delores Tatum, catcher; Melanie Smith, first base; Belinda Johnson, second base; Roycelle Parker, short stop; Frankie Plair, third base; Carrie Smith, left field; and Felicia Johnson, catcher.

After the initial team, periodically, other teams have been fielded and supported by the Church. The number and nature of the teams were essentially dictated by the interest of the congregation.

In 1997, the decision was made to field a co-ed softball team. The team was coached by Brother Paul Jeter and Brother Gregory Cunningham. Some of the members of that team were Reverend Bruce Malcolm, Minister Dan Larkin, Deacons Brandon Crowley and Andre Kittles, Sisters Cassandra Jeter, Lisa Smith, Deanna Banks and Brother Gregory Cunningham, Jr.

In addition to organized baseball, other organized team sports were also supported with teams being fielded by the

Church. Usually, these teams participated in Church league activities that were implemented in the broader community.

When the James E. Milton Educational facility was opened, a variety of organized efforts were initiated to make the gymnasium available for use by interested parties in the broader community. In more recent years, recreational activities have been organized and sponsored by the Church to facilitate utilization of the gymnasium by community residents. In some instances, a minimum fee for participation was charged.

Perhaps the most sustained recreational activities sponsored by the Church has been a karate program coordinated by Connie and David Winbush and line dancing led essentially by Connie Winbush.

During the administration of Reverend Edwards, Reverend Dan Larkins assumed responsibility for managing recreational activities in the Church and continued to do so under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Robert E. Baines.

The Silent Ministry

During the administration of Reverend James E. Milton, Sister N. Leah Davis assumed responsibility for coordinating a Silent Ministry. Ms. Davis took it upon herself to train some of the parishioners in silent ministry so that they could deliver the service to those in need using sign language. Sister Davis taught the sign language class and certified people to do signing. Some of the people who completed the sign language course included Brother Tom Bell, Sisters Esther Cash-Mills, Margaret Childs, Marilyn Dixon, Vickie Hill, L. Juanita Jones, Carol Lewis, Yvonne Mace, Carla McCant, Mattie Mitchell, Shauna Murphy, Emma Olusoga, Nordra West, Judy Whitehurst and Brother Darryl Hope.

Communications Ministry

The Media and Cable Television Ministries

The Media and Cable Television Ministries were organized between 1983 and 1984 with an original staff of Phil Waller, Hubert Givens, Eugene Ellington and Darlene Murphy. The sound booth was located in the hall behind the choir stand. Only cassettes were made at that time. Other members added to the staff included Dwight Ellington, Eric Lige, Kenny Spencer, Shaunda Murphy, Barbara Bass, Barbara Harris, Yolanda Dunn, Pamela Plair and Belinda Harris. Copies of Sunday services were made available for purchase each Sunday. Occasionally, young ministers and deacons would take the tapes to the sick and shut-ins and to those low in spirit and those desiring to hear the gospel of Christ. The radio announcer was Sister Brenda Stewart and Phil Waller was the producer.

Some of the members involved in this ministry included Brothers Denny Brockman, Brett Larkin, Vincent Jones, John Littlejohn, Hubert Givens, John Kirk, Sisters Eloise Fisher, Joyce Tubbs, Joanne Ventus and Belinda Berlou.

Under the administration of Reverend Edwards, Southern Baptist Church launched its first web site. Information centers were established for the purpose of keeping the membership updated on news important to the Church. Projectors, monitors and motorized screens were added to the sanctuary.

The Music Department

Southern Baptist Church Mass Choir

In 1917, the first choir of Southern Baptist Church was organized under the leadership of Ms. C. W. Williams. Since that time, the Music Ministry of Southern Baptist Church has been committed to ministering to the community in song.

The current Music Department consists of the Male Chorus, Southern Baptist Angels (children's choir), Celestial Choir (youth and young adult choir), Sunrise Choir (early morning choir), and Senior Choir. Together all 150-170 voices combine to form the Mass Choir.

The Southern Baptist Mass Choir is currently under the musical leadership of Minister Dan W. Larkin, Jr. Our Mass Choir President is currently Carol Brown. The Music Department continues to strive for excellence in contributing to the worship service, in addition to giving the congregation a greater appreciation of good spiritual music. The Mass Choir recorded their first CD in March of 2009 and it was released in July of 2009.

On May 28, 2010 The Southern Baptist Choir was one of the runner-ups in the "I Hear Music In The Air" program which was held at the Aronoff Theatre in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Senior Choir

The Senior Choir was organized in 1917 with 25 members under the leadership of Mrs. C. W. Williams. Her daughter, Martha Weaver, served as director.

Over the years, some of the pianists, organists and directors which have served include, Mrs. Ortie Matthews, Carrie Cleveland, Professor Boissau, Mildred Wilson, Lila Newman and Russell Lamont.

For many years, Southern Baptist Church had a number of choirs. The adult choirs were called from time to time, the Senior Choir, the Angelic Choir, the Gospel Chorus and the Gospel Chorus Cooperative. For over 30 years, Sisters Celia Veal and Jane Faxon headed this department with great success as musician and director.

In 1978, the Senior Choir, Angelic Choir and the Gospel Chorus were combined. Sister Hattie Ross, who was President of the Senior Choir, was elected President of the combined choirs and chose the name Senior Choir.

The Gospel Choir was organized by Fannie Waddley. The first pianist was Sister Annette Burbridge. By 1949, the Gospel Choir had united with the Cooperative Chorus of Cincinnati, Ohio founded by Sister Margaret Peaks.

The Gospel Chorus Cooperative helped all of the churches that belonged to it with their financial drives, dinners and programs. It was an interdenominational chorus and the President was Sister Cassandra Reed.

The Celestial Choir

The Celestial Choir was organized in September of 1970 for the purpose of recruiting and activating young adults between the ages of 18 through 40 into Southern's music ministry. The first officers of the Celestial Choir were Sister Lillie Martin, President; Sister Patricia Milton, Musician; and, Sister Vivian Milton, Directress.

There were approximately ten members in the first choir. Some of those who served in various capacities in the Celestial were Brother Donald Jones, Sister Mamie Johnson, Brother Michael Davis and Brother Charles McClendon, who served as President. Some former Directresses were Sisters Debbie Simpson, Dorothy Shanks and Minister P. Anne Everson.

The Inspirational Choir

The Inspirational Choir was organized during the ministry of Reverend James E. Milton. It consisted of people between the ages of 13 through 18. This choir sang weekly in the

morning worship and during the fourth Sunday evening worship services.

Sister Sheri Williams served as President of this choir for a number of years. For ten years, Sister Dorothy Shanks was the Directress of Choir and Brother Tony Fisher and Sister Leanne Kirkland were co-directors.

Sunrise Choir

The Sunrise Choir was born when the 7:30 AM service was initiated. Some of the directors of the choir were Sisters Edwinna Wooley and Diana Ellington. The first musician for the choir was Sister Newman. She served for many years until the Lord called her home in 1988. Other musicians who followed Ms. Newman were Brother David Johnson, Sister Frances Taylor and Brother Kenny Smith.

Included among the people who served as officers in the Sunrise Choir are Nora Kelly, Helen Jones, Reverend Ed Lige., Jr., Michael Coulter, Dot Vinson, Zilbert Plair, Carleen Taylor, Lorraine Spearman, Odell Jones, Helen Wallace and Annie Freeman.

In 1977, all of the choirs were organized into one Music Department. Reverend Donald Fairbanks was appointed Minister of Music. In 1980, Reverend Fairbanks acknowledged his call to the ministry. He served Southern Baptist Church as a musician and Minister of Music for 18 years until he left to Pastor the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Lincoln Heights, Ohio.

On December 31, 1984, Reverend Donald Lawrence was appointed Minister of Music and served for six months until he accepted a job in Miami, Florida. Brother Maurice Crutcher succeeded him and served for one year.

Sister Marcelline Winfrey was Director for six months until she accepted a position as Director of Southern Childcare Center, after which Brother Paul Eric Watford became Minister of Music.

At this writing, the Minister of Music is Minister Dan W. Larkin, Jr., with Mr. Eric Byrd serving as the drummer for the Music Department.

Throughout the history of Southern Baptist Church, the Music Department has made great contributions to the spiritual life of the Church.

The Male Chorus

The Male Chorus was organized in 1953 under the pastorate of the Reverend Jesse Watson. Brother Leon Combs was the first musician; however, the choir began singing without music in 1957.

The first years of the choir were humble. Deacon S. T. Chambers was the first President; Henry Saxton was the first Vice President; and James Hoskins was the first Secretary. The chorus struggled until Deacon Ed Lige, Sr., got permission to bring a co-worker, Brother Willie Dubose, in to teach them how to sing without music. That was the beginning of the success of the chorus.

Brother Dubose introduced the Male Chorus to the United Christian Brotherhood which was a Male Chorus composed of the male choruses of five local churches. The Southern Baptist Male Chorus officially became a member of the group in 1959. From that point forward, the Male Chorus gained experience and received the support needed for it to become established group.

In 1961, the SBC Male Chorus was invited to join a group of male choruses known as the All Star Spirituals. Shortly after joining this group, the name was changed to the Four All-Stars Male Chorus. Over the next ten years, the Four All-Stars were spiritually united in songs and praise.

In the mid 1970's, the SBC Male Chorus resigned from the United Christian Brotherhood, but it continued with the Four All-Stars until it disbanded in 2001.

The Male Chorus has sung on a monthly basis at three different nursing homes and presented numerous programs

throughout the greater Cincinnati area. The chorus has been blessed under the leadership of the following dedicated men: Deacons Chambers, Ed Ellington, Sr., Brother Charles Williams, Deacon Johnny Ellington, Brother Theo Wooley, Deacons Preston Jones, Wilbert Clay, Art Davis, Bob Merriweather, Brothers Irving Cunningham and Raymond Stark.

Choir Day

In early 1965 under the later Rev Jesse Watson, Sister Rosa M Jackson of the Walter Memorial Baptist Church in New York City introduced the idea of having a "Choir Day" to members Sister Jane B Saxton and Sister Cecia B Veal.

On the third Sunday in October, 1965 the first choir day was presented by the Adult Choirs (Senior, Gospel, and Angelic Choirs). Rev George Q Brown pastor of the New Mission Baptist Church in Madisonville along with his choir were the special guest. Sister Althea Brown was the first guest soloist.

EPILOGUE

In completing a history of organizations which are fluid and continually evolving, recording events and developments that are current and up to date becomes a challenging task. Inevitably, significant and critical aspects of the various functions within the organization go omitted. Such is the case with this history.

As the ink dries on the pages of this document, other events and developments have been brought to our attention which cannot and were not included in this history. In stances where that has occurred, we are sincerely sorry and wish to emphasize that such omissions were not intentional.

It is our hope that this history will be updated at least within the next ten years. At that time, it is our sincere wish that those events and people omitted from this document will be thoroughly explored and documented for future reference.

APPENDIX A

Baptism from history recorded: A total of 714 joined Southern Baptist Church between January 1, 1949 – January 20, 1952.
From 1971 - 1987, the following was recorded:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Christian Experience</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Total</u>
1971	74	86	2	144
1972	184	100	1	285
1973	110	150	6	266
1974	120	127	4	251
1975	200	115	4	319
1976	100	170	2	272
1977	175	140	9	324
1978	107	160	5	272
1979	150	98	4	252
1980	207	186	2	395
1981	135	190	4	329
1982	167	184	5	356
1983	140	161	4	305
1984	135	140	5	280
1985	126	158	7	291
1986	101	162	6	269
1987	127	137	2	266

APPENDIX B

Paid Pastoral Staff

- James D. Williams, first full-time Assistant Pastor (1993 - 1977).
- Avan M. Odom, the second full-time Assistant Pastor (1978 - 1985).
- Donald E. Jones, the third full-time Assistant Pastor (1986 - 1994)
- Reverend Richard Smith, fourth full-time Assistant Pastor (1994 – 1998)
- Reverend Walter Bledsoe, fifth full-time Assistant Pastor (1998 – 2007).

Paid Office Staff

- Sister Sharon Jones, Coordinator of Discipleship and Evangelism (1988)
- Sister Marilyn Crowley, Director of Christian Education
- Reverend Larry Harris, Director of Christian Education (part-time)
- Sister Lillie Bibb, first full-time Director of Christian Education
- Sister Ertel Brownlow, Director of Christian Education
- Sister Ollie Bolton, Secretary for over 25 years under the administration of Reverend Moore and Reverend Watson
- Sister Moszell Riley, Secretary under several pastoral administrations for a period of five years
- Sister Vivian Harrison worked with Reverend Milton for 1-1/2 years
- Sister Priscilla W. Jackson, Secretary for 13 ½ years working with Reverend Milton from 1972 – 1985

- Sister Clara H. Gavin McGee, Secretary working with Reverend Milton in 1999
- Sister Cassandra Rice Whittaker, Administrative Assistant under Reverend Milton and Reverend Edwards
- Sister Marilyn Crowley, Administrative Assistant under Reverend Edwards
- Sister Ava Jackson, Office Manager under Reverend Edwards and Reverend Baines
- Sister Eva Riles Miles, Clerical support under Reverend Milton
- Sister Angela Randolph, Clerical support under Reverend Milton
- Sister Clara Smith, Clerical support under Reverend Milton
- Sister Lettie Tarver, Clerical support under Reverend Milton
- Sister Erica Cottingham, Office Administrator under Reverend Baines
- Sister Diana Banks, Clerical support under Reverend Baines
- Brother Clarence Howell, Business Manager

Custodial Staff

- Brother and Sister Edward Williams
- Sister Julia Jackson
- Sister Lorraine Smith
- Brother Willie Hampton
- Brother Vernal Powell
- Brother Tony Isaac
- Brother Michael Vinegar
- Brother Earl Robertson
- Brother Darryl Hope
- Brother Dale Freeman
- Brother Donnie Eakins

APPENDIX C

Children's Church Workers 1994 - 2010

1994 **Directors:** Lillie Shuford, Debbie Williams, Diane Smith, and Yolanda Carroll

Deacons: Stephen Mills

**1995 –
2002** **Directors:** Lillie Shuford, Debbie Williams and Joanne Taylor

2003 **Ministry Director:** Joanne Christian

Body Elders: Marcus Jackson, Jack Alexander, Deborah Smith, Susan Russell, Diana Hawkins, Anna Joiner, Joyce Hyde, Arthur Craig, Vicki Bishop, Skip Davis, Barbara Anderson-Dudley, Candy Johnson, Joanne Christian, Mable Alexander, Marvel Gentry Davis, Vernell Moore and Karen Kirksey

Choir Directors: Bev Jackson and Ava Jackson

2004 **Ministry Director:** Joanne Christian

Body Elders: Marcus Jackson, Deborah Smith, Susan Russell, Daphne Chaney, Diana Hawkins, Anna Joiner, Joyce Hyde, Arthur Craig, Vicki Bishop, Skip Davis, Barbara Anderson-Dudley, Candy Johnson, Joanne Christian, Marvel Gentry Davis, Vernell Moore

Choir Directors: Bev Jackson and Ava Jackson

2009 **Ministry Director:** Susan Russell

Body Elders: Marcus Jackson, Deborah Smith, Susan Russell, Diana Hawkins, Arthur Craig, Candy Johnson, Marvel Gentry Davis, Vernell Moore and Lavonne Simms

Choir Directors: Bev Jackson and Ava Jackson

2010 Ministry Director: Susan Russell

Body Elders: Marcus Jackson, Deborah Smith, Susan Russell, Diana Hawkins, Arthur Craig, Candy Johnson, Marvel Gentry Davis, Vernell Moore and Lavonne Simms

Choir Director: Bev Jackson

APPENDIX D

Youth Pastors and Youth Directors

Youth Pastors

1991 - 1996	Reverend Kenneth Bibbs, Co-Youth Pastor
1991 – 1997	Reverend Richard Smith, Co-Youth Pastor
1997 – 1998	Reverend Mammie Johnson, Interim Youth Pastor
1998 – 2008	Reverend Walter Bledsoe, Youth Pastor
2008 – 2009	Reverend Bruce Malcolm, Youth Pastor

Youth Directors

1970 – 1989	Doris Lige, Youth Director
1989 – 1992	Beverly Jackson, Co-Youth Director
1989 – 1992	Paul Jeter, Co-Youth Director
1992 – 1996	Arthur Craig, Youth Director
1992 – 1996	Monica Dawkins-Smith, Assistant Director
1996- 2002	Carrie Smith, Youth Director
1996 – 2002	Vanessa Becks Williams, Assistant Youth Director
2002 – 2004	Reverend Dr. Jonathan Brown, Youth Director

2004 – 2009 Vanessa Becks Williams, Youth Director

2010 – Present Myrna Sanders, Co-Youth Director

2010 – Present Shauna Murphy, Co-Youth Director

APPENDIX E

NAMES OF MISSIONARY CIRCLES

- Estelle Carter Kennedy (named after wife of first Deacon S. C. Carter) – Mattye H. Hoskins, Chairperson
- Ruth Circle – Carrie Simmons, Chairperson
- Rebecca Circle – Cassandra Reed, Chairperson
- Martha Walker Circle – Lillian Larkin, Chairperson
- Mary McCoy Circle – Mary McCoy, Chairperson
- Naomi Circle – Georgia Trim, Chairperson
- Esther Circle – Ozell Davis, Chairperson

Other circles were soon added:

- Fannie L. Hardy Circle – Ozell Davis, Chairperson
- Georgia Williams Circle – Ruth Pierce, Chairperson
- Young Adults – Lillie Lige, Chairperson
- Jennie Bishop Circle – Wilma Richardson, Chairperson