



60th Anniversary
History of
GLOUCESTER POINT BAPTIST
CHURCH

“LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, and SERVE IN THE WORLD.”

October 27, 2019

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INTRODUCTION

As the history of Gloucester Point Baptist Church unfolds, each of us who are involved truly believe that this is Christ's story. It is with hearts full of love and gratitude to our Heavenly Father that we now celebrate our sixtieth year as His church.

Every congregation develops distinctive characteristics. At Gloucester Point Baptist we have always had a heart for missions. This is seen by our witness to individuals as well as our enthusiastic support for mission efforts around the world. Interwoven with this larger purpose is another thread: we have come to be known as a "caring church". We reach out to the community with welcoming arms and visitors feel the accepting love of our fellowship.

This history was compiled by Linda Breaks with contributions of stories, memories and facts by members of the congregation. Sketches by Leslie Belvin and photos compiled by Melissa Ashe

FROM OUR PASTOR

Congratulations on our 60th anniversary as the body of believers of Jesus Christ. What a glorious and humbling time this is to be a member of Gloucester Point Baptist Church; God is blessing us! We are in for a delightful time as we read through these pages of our church history. Many people have put forth labors of love in compiling our blessed memories. When you read through our history booklet, I trust you will be honored and pleased to have been and to continue to be an active member of God's kingdom through our church family.

It is a privilege to read of the organizations, events, ministries, and other opportunities our church family has grown through. When we have finished reading our booklet we will have a greater understanding as to why and how the Lord used our church to extend His kingdom here and around the world. As we look at our church history, let us also take a look at the events that occurred when our church started in 1959. The following are a few reminiscences of historical highlights:

Daily Life: Average cost of a new home \$12,400; average yearly wages \$5,010; cost of a gallon of gas 25 cents; average cost of a new car \$2,200; a movie ticket \$1.00; and a loaf of bread was 20 cents.

U.S. Statistics: President: Dwight D. Eisenhower; Vice President: Richard M. Nixon; population: 177,829,628; life expectancy: 69.9 years; and our homicide rate (per 100,000): 4.6; Alaska became the 49th state and Hawaii became the 50th state; NASA introduced America's first astronauts to the world including John H. Glenn Jr., and Alan Shepard Jr.; and Mattel's Barbie Doll was launched.

Television: Rawhide was a Western about cattle drives featuring ramrod "Rowdy Yates" played by Clint Eastwood. Bonanza was about an American cowboy family featuring the adventures of the Cartwrights with Ben Cartwright and his sons, Adam, Hoss, and Little Joe. The

series was the first weekly program to be broadcast in color.

Popular Singers: Doris Day, Frank Sinatra, Connie Francis and Jim Reeves. The Grammy that year went to Domenico Modugno for Volare.

Technology: Boeing 707 Jet Airliner came into service cutting 8 hours from transatlantic flight; USSR Luna 2 crashed onto the Moon as the first man-made object and Luna 3 sent back the first photos of the far side of the Moon; first pictures of Earth from space were taken by Explorer 6.

Sports: World Series LA Dodgers defeated the Chicago White Sox (4-2); NBA Championship Boston defeated the Minneapolis Lakers (4-0); Stanley Cup Montreal defeated Toronto (4-1); NCAA Basketball Championship California defeated West Virginia (71-70); and the NCAA Football Champion was Syracuse (11-0-0).

As Bob Hope would've said: "Thanks for the Memories"!

GROWING UP IN THE 50'S: HOW'S THIS FOR NOSTALGIA?

It took three minutes for the TV to warm up...

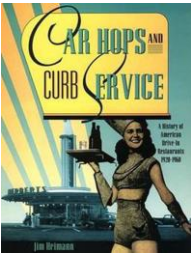
You got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas pumped, without asking, all for free, every time...



And you didn't pay for air... And, you got trading stamps to boot...

Laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box...





It was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents...

They threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed...and they did it!



When a 57 Chevy was everyone's dream car... to cruise, peel out, and people went steady...

No one ever asked where the car keys were because they were always in the car, in the ignition, and the doors were never locked...



Lying on your back in the grass with your friends and saying things like, 'That cloud looks like...'



Playing baseball with no adults to help kids with the rules of the game...



Stuff from the store came without safety caps and hermetic seals because no one had yet tried to poison a perfect stranger...



And with all our progress, don't you just wish, just once, you could slip back in time and savor the slower pace, and share it with the children of today...



Summers filled with bike rides, Hula hoops, and visits to the pool, and eating Kool-Aid powder with sugar...

Dale, Trigger and Buttermilk.





Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside...

Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles...



Coffee shops with Table Side Jukeboxes...

Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers...



Newsreels before the Movie...

Telephone numbers with a word prefix... (Yukon 2601). Or, some of us remember when there were just 4 numbers with no word prefix at all. And, nearly everyone had a party line...



Hi-Fi's & 45 RPM records...

78 RPM records...



S&H Green Stamps...

Mimeograph paper...



Do You Remember a Time When...

Decisions were made by going 'eeny-meeny-miney-moe'...

Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, 'Do Over!'...





Catching Fireflies Could Happily Occupy An Entire Evening...

It wasn't odd to have two or three 'Best Friends'...



Having a Weapon in School meant being caught with a Slingshot...

'Oly-oly-oxen-free' made perfect sense...



Spinning around, getting dizzy, and falling down was cause for giggles...



The Worst Embarrassment was being picked last for a team...

Even more significant than this bit of trivia is the greatest historical fact that Jesus Christ died upon Calvary and rose the third day to pay our sin debt. Today, He has commissioned our church to be His daily witness for Him! While we are waiting upon the Lord Jesus' return for His church, let us be about our Great Commission of making and growing disciples through our Great Commandment of loving God, loving others and serving in the world! I will be praying with you for God's continued presence to be in Gloucester Point Baptist Church for many more years to come!

Your Pastor,
Ray P. "Bud" Goude, Jr.



CHAPTER I: THE MISSION (1957—1959)

Through the vision of the Rev. George Kissinger and the Peninsula Baptist Association, Dr. Herman T. Stevens was appointed to head up the new mission work at Gloucester Point.

Several meetings were held in homes in the community until sufficient interest was found to warrant securing a suitable meeting place.

On March 3, 1957, the first meeting was held in the building formerly known as Pine Grove Inn. The purpose of this

gathering was to begin the actual organization of Gloucester Point Baptist Mission. About one-hundred forty persons were present. A follow-up meeting was called for the last Sunday in March, at which time the Sunday School was organized, and Mr. Fred Kimsey was elected Sunday School Superintendent. On April 7, 1957, the first worship service was held at Pine Grove Inn, 1528 George Washington Memorial Highway, Gloucester Point, Virginia.



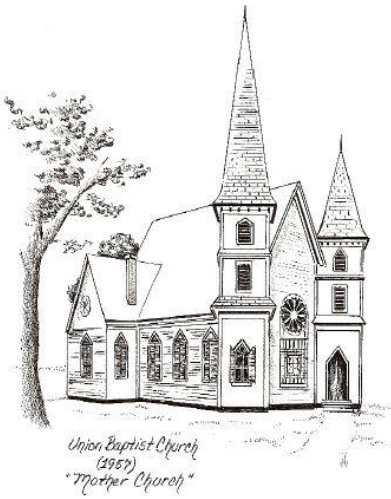
Rev. George Kissinger (left) and Dr. Herman Stevens (right)



Pine Grove Inn Sketch



Fred and Josephine Kimsey



Union Baptist Church Sketch

instrumental in convincing the mission to hold Daily Vacation Bible School that very first June (for children ages three to sixteen years). Dr. Stevens said that the best way to get a church started was to have Vacation Bible School. The Gloucester Point congregation took his words to heart; seventy participated that June, and we

The Peninsula Baptist Association gave financial aid in securing the Pine Grove Inn property and, also, some further support until we were able to assume full financial responsibility. Considerable monetary support came also from the Virginia Baptist General Board. Union Baptist Church served as “mother church”, holding our members on roll and title to the property until we grew to the status of a self-sustaining church.

Dr. Stevens served as the pastor until June, 1957. He was



First VBS in June 1957

have conducted Vacation Bible School every summer since then!

The Peninsula Baptist Association provided able leadership in the person of Thomas Frank. During his pastorate, Wednesday evening prayer services, Sunday evening worship and a Church Training Union were begun. Rev. Frank's ministry here was very brief because he was a student at Southeastern Baptist



Rev. Thomas Frank

Theological Seminary, and he resumed full-time studies there in the fall of 1957.

On November 11, 1957, the Rev. Richard Stennett, Jr., became our pastor. He had earned a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1955 from Southeastern Seminary and served as pastor for a Baptist mission in South Carolina before accepting our call.



Rev. Richard Stennett, Jr.

Mr. Stennett acquired a wonderful "assistant", Bernard Walton, mission treasurer, to introduce him to the community. Mr. Walton and his wife, Lucille, worked tirelessly in the new fellowship. The early church suppers were held in the basement of their home.

During Dick Stennett's pastorate, the mission experienced significant growth. Additional space was added to the facilities: three

classrooms and an assembly room, with much of the work being done by the congregation under the leadership of Walden Carmine and Bernard Walton. The fellowship consisted largely of young couples, and stories abound of the fun they had working together. One incident involved Dora Williams painting herself into a corner! She remembers painting a hallway with a roller in each hand. This addition was completed by January 4, 1959.

The church building, Pine Grove Inn, had formerly been a restaurant. Walter Oliver recollects being an usher one Sunday morning when two women drove up fifteen minutes before the end of the worship hour and asked to be seated. They said they had

“been here before.” They must have been surprised when they were served a sermon instead of lunch!

The year 1958 brought more outreach programs to the mission. In May the membership voted to sponsor Boy Scout Troop 110; under the capable leadership of Bill Altemus and later Bill Breeden and Tom Riley, this troop provided guidance and youth activities until 1979.

The Women’s Missionary Union was organized in October of 1958. Helena Oliver was the first president. They met monthly at the church. A night circle was established while Dick Stennett was pastor; it met in homes. A day circle formed several years later. Both were named after missionaries. The night circle is known as Annie Armstrong Circle. The day group was first called Bessie Conner Circle but later changed its name to Annette Acree Circle to honor a local Baptist missionary.

The W.M.U. has played a most significant role in our church mission work, both from the standpoint of teaching Baptists missions to adults and young people and of



Women's Missionary Union 1958
Left-Right: Flossie Ashe, Dorothy West, Elizabeth Tilson, Minnie Rowe, Catherine Ashe, Katherine Carmine, Mildred Scott, Sarah Hendley, Polly Altemus, Sarah Starkey, Josephine Kimsey & Helena Oliver

supporting Baptist missionaries in Tidewater, within the State of Virginia, in the United States, and around the world. These ladies have worked diligently to meet needs. Their Rainy Day Fund pennies bought the church’s first silverware. More recently, their Piano Fund bought a piano for the new Fellowship Hall. As Sarah Starkey, longtime officer, says: “W.M.U. is all about missions —

learning about, praying for, giving to and doing missions. We are laborers together with and for God.”

Gloucester Point Baptist Mission determined, at its quarterly business meeting on July 1, 1959, that they were ready to organize as a church. The Extension Committee of the Peninsula Baptist Association concurred. In preparation, the membership elected three trustees: William Conner, Jr., Harry Midgett, and Paul Scott.



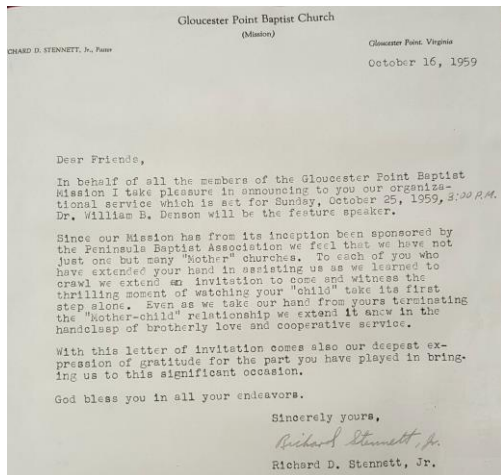
**Signing documents
Left-Right: Liston
Shackelford, Sr., Walden
Carmine & Paul Scott**

The trustees were authorized to assume responsibility for church property titles. A Church Constitution, Church Covenant, and

Twenty Articles of Faith (See Appendix A) were drawn up and adopted at their October 21st

business meeting. The Service for Organization of Gloucester Point Baptist Church took place on October 25, 1959, at 3:00 p.m.

Leading the service were local clergy: Rev. George Kissinger, Dr. Furman Kenney, Rev. Loyd Prior, Rev. Walter Martin and Rev. Chester Brown. Dr. William Denson, head of the Department of Evangelism and State Missions for Virginia Baptists, delivered the sermon. It was a time of great rejoicing for the ninety-three charter members. (See Appendix B).



Service of Organization of GPBC Invitation

CHAPTER II: THE EARLY YEARS (1959—1970)

The new church called its first deacons in November, 1959, as specified in the Church Constitution. They were W.H. Altemus, Allen Callis, and W.A. Conner, Jr. Fred Kimsey and Francis Rowe joined the Board of Deacons the following autumn as the membership rose.

Church choirs officially entered the picture at this time. A youth choir provided special music at the Organization Service. Adult choir scheduled rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. Stuart Conner was our first choir director, followed by William Dillon.

Charter members Liston and Rachel Shackelford lived directly across the highway from Pine Grove Inn. They kept a watchful eye on the church building and opened their home and hearts to all. In later years, Rachel boarded VIMS international students and introduced them into the fellowship. Many of us came to call her “Gramma.”

Recognizing the need for a pastor’s home, the congregation purchased a five-room dwelling in January, 1962. This parsonage at 1714 Azalea Point Road was maintained by the church and occupied by several pastors, beginning with Dick Stennett.

Rev. Stennett resigned in May, 1962, to pastor the Gordonsville Baptist Church, and the Rev. John Coburn served as interim pastor until October, 1962, when the church called the Rev. Robert A. Martin.

Early in Rev. Martin’s four-and-one-half years with us, on February 3, 1963, the church began to broadcast the Sunday Morning Worship Service over local radio station WDDY. Their Call to Worship every Sunday was, “Brethren, We Have Met to Worship.” Initially our radio time was three-quarters of an hour; under Pastor Bullock we increased that to one hour. This ministry was



**Rev. Robert A.
Martin**

sponsored for many years by the businessmen of the community. In 1999, our congregation assumed financial support for this mission work.

We have also participated in interdenominational Easter Sunrise Services at VIMS since 1963 with our Methodist brethren.

Pastor Martin also led the church in upgrading its physical plant. A library was started, an organ was purchased for the auditorium and the educational facilities were enlarged again. Carmine Builders, Inc., built a 30 X 79 foot children's wing, which included a fellowship hall and kitchen facilities. This



Radio Ministry - Walter Oliver shown



New addition completion

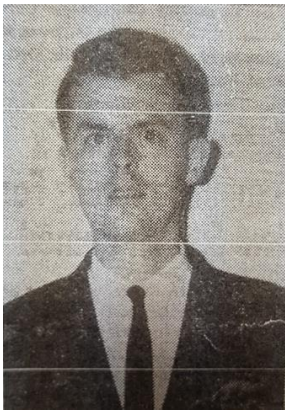
Sunday School building was needed to accommodate a fifty percent increase in membership. It was completed in July, 1964, at a cost of \$15,000.

Walden and Katherine Carmine recall a good story from this time. Walden was called to the church one evening to confer with Bob Martin about the construction. Katherine was getting ready to go to a WMU circle meeting at Doris Riley's house and needed their car. The only vehicle at home was a World War II Army weapons carrier truck. Katherine made sure that she could operate it before dressing for her meeting, then phoned Walden to say she needed the station wagon NOW. When he did not appear shortly, she determined to drive the military truck. Her first challenge was climbing into the cab dressed in a straight skirt. Backing out wasn't too bad, but finding those forward gears was more difficult. She

lurched down Laurens Road, the engine grinding in a low gear. Mercifully, Walden met her at Terrapin Cove Road.

Gloucester Point Baptist Church had a strong children's program during the '60's. This was evidenced by a Girls-in-Action Coronation Service held in October, 1962, honoring four girls who had earned the rank of Queen. Also, our church organized a Junior and Cadet Girl Scout troop in 1966 to join Boy Scout Troop 110. Forty girls participated in this outreach effort.

Rev. Martin resigned in January, 1967, to accept a call to pastor Confederate Heights Baptist Church in Richmond. Rev. C.L.



Fisher served as Interim Minister at Gloucester Point Baptist until June, when the Rev. Archer G. Turner became our new pastor.

Mr. Turner came to Gloucester Point Baptist directly from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he had received his Bachelor of Divinity Degree. He ministered with us for two brief years, then moved to James Madison College in Harrisonburg to become the Baptist Student Director, a specialized ministry to

Rev. Archer G. Turner young people. Archie's talent for music and keen interest in young adults led him to organize a youth choir at Gloucester Point Baptist. Also, the church library was significantly expanded during his tenure.

Our church was "between pastors" for twenty months: June, 1969 to February 1, 1971. However, we were not without leadership. The Rev. David McAfee served for a brief time as interim pastor; then, the Rev. Byron McCreary stepped in as supply pastor until we called the Rev. Andrew W. Bullock to be our minister.



Rev. Byron McCreary

CHAPTER III: 7741 TERRAPIN COVE ROAD PLANNING AND REALITY (1971—1986)

The Rev. Andrew Bullock came to us in February, 1971, from Bethany Baptist Church near Fredericksburg, where he was pastor. He had received his Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond in 1969.



**Rev. Andrew W.
Bullock**

Pastor Bullock led us in a building program. In 1961, Gloucester Point Baptist Church had purchased several lots on Route 17, just west of the Coleman Bridge. Now in August, 1971, the church voted to sell this acreage and, instead, to purchase a four-acre tract on Route 1202, now Terrapin Cove Road, from James and Frances Phillips and Donald and Camille

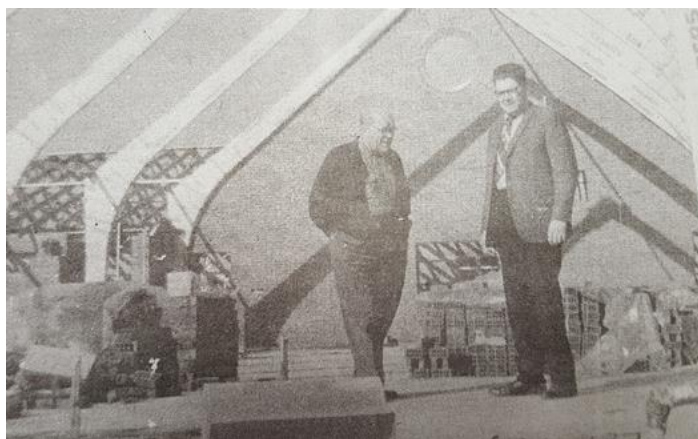
Sterling for \$20,000. Mr. Roy Cava was employed as the architect and plans were developed. Mr. W.A. Colbert was hired as contractor, and Walden Carmine assumed chairmanship of the Building Committee. A Living Memorial Fund was established



GPBC Sketch

and these contributions benefited the Building Fund greatly.

On June 3, 1973, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the new building: a sanctuary seating three-hundred fifty and an educational building with twelve classrooms, church office, pastor's study, kitchen and large narthex. The cost was \$237,000.



**GPBC sanctuary during construction
Liston Shackelford, Sr. (left) and Rev. Bullock (right)**

The first worship service was held in the new sanctuary a little over a year later, on July 28, 1974. A special Service of Dedication was held

on September 29, 1974, at which time the cornerstone was laid. Placed in the cornerstone were the following: a copy of the Holy Bible, a list of charter members and current membership, the church Articles of Faith, the 1974-75 church budget, the most recent minutes of the Peninsula Baptist Association, and the latest edition of the Religious Herald.



**Service of Dedication September 29, 1974
(Left to right: Alice Deal, Jimmy Diggs,
Jere Parham, Paul Scott & Tom Riley)**

Rev. Bullock was our pastor for six years: busy, productive years. We have documentation of church events from 1973 to the present because Andy himself created a weekly newsletter, titled “The Vision” (Proverbs 29:18), for the membership. At first it appeared in booklet form, but by 1974, “The Vision” had assumed the folded sheet format it has today. This newsletter was Pastor Bullock’s personal outreach to his congregation, with articles about faith, religious current events, a weekly Bible Quiz and news “About Our People.”

Andy and his wife, Mary Lee, organized a Youth Bible Fellowship and gave direction to it until January, 1973, when this work was turned over to Ron and Beth Benoit. This couple came to us (as Bible college graduates with missionary experience) to guide our church youth. They left in May, 1974, for the mission field. Currently the Benois are ministering in Canada.



Ron and Beth Benoit

Ron and Beth created a special ministry for children at Gloucester Point Baptist in May, 1973. Children's Church was held during the morning worship hour for youngsters ages three to seven. This class expanded to two graded groups in 1977. A Children's Sermon was introduced into the worship service in 1977 and remains a highlight for our continuing Children's Church program.

Fellowship activities during Pastor Bullock's years included Saturday morning breakfasts for men and boys, held quarterly and Family Night suppers on the first Wednesday of each month. In the summer a favorite event was the Sunday School picnic, an afternoon of family fun and food at Camp Piankatank. Andy encouraged participation with his familiar, "You all come!"

In 1975, a Senior Citizen's Banquet was held for the first time. WMU initiated this function and Adult I Sunday School class, and later the Youth, sponsored this annual event. Now the deacons continue the tradition by treating church widows and widowers to a dinner in early spring.

Rev. Bullock served as revival preacher in many Virginia churches during his time with us. He and his wife also shared in the Northeast England Crusade in September, 1975, with Evangelist Howard Baldwin. This mission outreach was financially supported by our congregation and friends.

Our church's heart for missions is shown by the fact that we have participated enthusiastically in Peninsula Baptist Association

World Missions Conferences, generally hosting one missionary each time. Records show these were held in 1975, 1976, 1979, 1987, 1991, 1995, and 1999. We also held a prayer rally at Gloucester Point Baptist to support the Billy Graham Crusade on the Peninsula in October, 1974.

Our church began Home Bible Fellowships in 1974, as outreach ministries. These Bible studies were held in various homes (an informal setting) to encourage friends and neighbors to learn about God and to mature in their faith. They were an ongoing ministry for fourteen years.

Daily Vacation Bible School continued to thrive every summer. Perhaps the highest enrollment came in 1976, when the rooms overflowed with two-hundred twenty-seven workers and children. That year one class had to meet in the sanctuary!

In 1975 the church, acting on a recommendation from Pastor Bullock, created a Long-Range Planning Committee, consisting of twenty members, to provide insight as to future direction for Gloucester Point Baptist Church. The five sub-committees — Christian Education, Finance, Properties, Missions and Staff and Personnel — researched, evaluated and formulated recommendations. Tom Riley, as Chairman, was well assisted by advisor Rev. Marion Dubose.

After a year of hard work, the committee presented its twenty-eight page report to the church. The recommendations acted upon were: 1) establishment of a Personnel Committee; 2) establishment of a Stewardship Committee (rather than a Budget or Finance Committee) to expand monetary matters to include stewardship commitment and budget emphasis; 3) setting up a new line-item budget format; 4) increasing our mission budget from 5 1/2% in 1976, gradually, to 12% by 1980; 5) hiring a part-time church secretary (Charlene Diggs, church member, was hired October, 1976. She resigned in April, 1982, to work elsewhere full-time and Sandra Brewer joined the church staff the following month); 6) selling the parsonage (accomplished in 1980); 7) creating a Benevolence Fund to respond to the many requests from

individuals for aid. A special offering is received quarterly for that purpose; 8) reactivating the church council.



Charlene Diggs

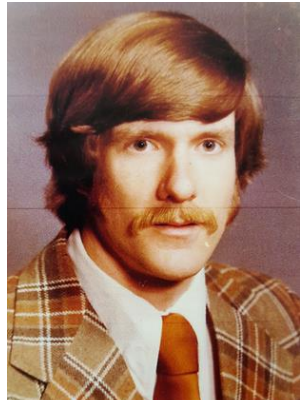


Sandra Brewer

The Long-Range Planning Committee recommended that certain resident membership numbers be used as guidelines in employing church staff:

Part-time Secretary	245
Part-time Minister of Music/Youth	245
Full-time Secretary	300
Full-time Minister of Music/Youth	350
Full-time Minister of Music	500
Full-time Minister of Youth/Education	500
Full-time Minister of Education	700

In 1976, our resident membership was 245 and accordingly, the church hired a part-time Minister of Youth, Thomas Braziel. Mr. Braziel had received a Masters of Religious Education Degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and, while at Gloucester Point, also taught at Immanuel Church Christian School in Newport News.



Thomas Braziel

Tom and his wife, Cathey, worked with the church youth and children

for eighteen months. Tom's love for music led him to direct a youth choir as well as to participate in our adult choir himself. The Braziels have remained in Christian service. Tom was Minister of Education and Senior Adults at First Baptist Church in Fitzgerald, Georgia for many years and is now retired.

Pastor Andrew Bullock resigned at the end of 1977, to accept a call from the Stockton Memorial Baptist Church in Richmond. Rev. Harry Hubbard served as interim pastor until August of 1978, when Dr. Paul R. Garber accepted our call to become minister of Gloucester Point Baptist Church. Dr. Garber came to us from Tallahassee, Florida, where he was an Assistant Professor of Religion and Humanities at Florida A & M University. He received his Bachelor of Divinity and Master of



Dr. Paul R. Garber

Theology Degrees from Southeastern Seminary and his Ph.D. in Humanities and Religion from Florida State University.

In December, 1978, the church hired Elizabeth Garber, Dr. Garber's wife, as our first part-time Minister of Music. We felt very fortunate to obtain the services of a professional choirmaster, pianist and organist. Mrs. Garber is a graduate of the School of Church Music of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Elizabeth initiated and maintained graded children's choirs, which met alternately with missions on Wednesday evenings. The Music Makers were four and five-year-olds; the Carol Choir was grades one to three; the Concord Choir was grades four to six; the Youth Choir was grades seven through twelve. Our youth were inspired by their choir experience to attend Eagle Eyrie Baptist



Mrs. Elizabeth Garber

Music Camp every summer, two sessions, a tradition that persisted until the early 1990's.

Meanwhile, Alice Deal, who had been Gloucester Point Baptist's (volunteer) Chancel Choir director for the twelve years prior to Mrs. Garber, turned her love for music into a new ministry:



Alice Deal and Chancel Choir

Missions and Musicians. Initiated by Elizabeth Garber in January, 1979, the M and M senior musicians met two times a month to sing for shut-ins and at nursing homes.

Dr. Garber's first big event at Gloucester Point Baptist was the Twentieth Anniversary Church Celebration held on October 21, 1979. In preparation, the membership conducted a neighborhood survey/census one weekend in September to encourage church involvement. Seventy families were extended an invitation to our homecoming.

The following summer, 1980, our church reached

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 Thursday, October 18, 1979
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Gloucester Point Baptists Week Long Anniversary Events Begin Saturday

The Gloucester Point Baptist Church will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its founding in a weeklong observance beginning Saturday, the Rev. Dr. Paul R. Garber, pastor, has announced.

The church was established in 1959 on Route 17, 20 years ago. It now meets in a sanctuary erected in 1979 on Route 192. A number of activities have been scheduled for the week of celebration.

On Saturday, the Rev. Dr. Tom Frank, a biblical archaeologist who was pastor when the church was organized, will present a slide lecture, "Holy Site Associates with the Life of Jesus," at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Frank is now on the faculty of Oberlin College in Ohio.

Dr. Frank will also speak at the 11 a.m. service Sunday. The four and five year old Ministry Makers and the Chancel Choir will provide special music. The offertory and the anthem will feature Tommy Emery and Stuart Connor on trumpets.

Also, on Sunday a homecoming dinner on the grounds will be followed by a 2 p.m. preaching service led by the Rev. George Kissinger, III, Director of Missions for the Peninsula Association. Two solos will be sung by Mrs. Ruth Connor, soprano, and trumpets will accompany the choir.

On Monday, a 7 p.m. service will be presided by a supper for children. At the supper and at the service former pastor, Rev. Bob Martin and family will provide music and show how they minister using puppets. Mr. Martin is presently pastor of Bennettsville Baptist Church. The Carol Choir will sing under the direction of Mrs. Christine Dugg.

Former interim pastor Byron McCreary will speak at the 7 p.m. Tuesday service. Dr. Garber will be the soloist.

Wednesday at 7 p.m. the speaker will be the Rev. Archer Turner, a former pastor here. Baptist Campus Minister at James Madison University. Special music will be by the Youth and Chancel Choirs under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Garber and Mrs. Linda Brooks. The youth will have a pizza supper prior to the service.

The Rev. Andrew Bullock who served the Gloucester Point congregation as pastor while the present church building was under construction will be returning to preach on Thursday at 7 p.m. Guest soloists will be Beth Miller, a freshman at William and Mary and granddaughter of Mrs. L.R. Shackelford, Sr. An ice cream social will follow the service.

Thursday and Friday there will be an exhibit by local artists and craftsmen in the church narthex. This will be under the direction of Mrs. Mary Peters and Mrs. Joyce Williams.

Friday evening's activities will begin with a dinner for senior citizens, Mrs. Katherine Carmin, director. The evening message at 7 will be by the pastor with the Chancel Choir providing special music and will be the concluding service of the anniversary celebration.

Nursery will be provided at each service. The public is invited to attend.

ANDREW BULLOCK
PAUL R. GARBER
GEORGE M. KISSINGER
BYRON MCCREARY
ARCHER G. TURNER

GPBC 20th Anniversary

out in a new way: we sponsored a Laotian refugee family.

Our membership provided a trailer for a young couple, Lon and Chandaly Banthongsack, their baby, Poupi, and Jerry Khamvongsa, Chandaly's brother. The men worked for Benny Belvin in Guinea, and we gave them a car and taught Lon how to drive. At first they were dependent on us for food, clothing and English lessons, but by January, when a new baby, Anuson, was born, they had become more independent. In April, 1981, the Banthongsacks relocated to Hampton, where their parents were newly settled. It was hard to see them go.



Sponsored Laotian refugee family

The years 1982—1986 could be termed “the quiet years” in the life of our church. Paul Garber’s style of ministry emerged; his gifts clearly were pastoring and teaching. A special concern of Dr. Garber’s was World Hunger. Tom Riley coordinated a CROP Fast annually to raise money for this need. Dr. Garber also initiated a special Thanksgiving Day Service at Patrick Henry Hospital (now Riverside Regional Convalescent Center). Congregation members escorted patients to the chapel and conducted a

Thanksgiving Service. This ministry has become an annual event.

Three staff persons were involved with our church during these five years. Jack Neathery was Minister of Music briefly in 1983. That same year the church hired Karen Beale, a graduate of William and Mary, as a summer youth worker. Sandra Fox joined the staff as part-time Minister of Music in 1984, and ably led the music program for three years.



Sandra Fox

Gloucester Point Baptist sponsored a Cadette-Senior Girl Scout troop from September, 1982, to June, 1987.

Linda Breaks led Troop #1065 those five years and continued our church involvement with scouting.

Perhaps the largest, most far-reaching project begun during this time was the Gloucester Point Baptist Church Preschool, started in the fall of 1984, through the inspiration of Nancy Wilburn. This Christian outreach to the community used the church facilities, was financially self-supporting and was administered by



Linda Breaks, Preschool Director

a board of directors chosen from the church congregation. Separate classes for three and four-year-olds met three mornings each week. The Preschool Director served as liaison between church and school. This communication was vital when issues arose, such as construction of a playground, storage building and planning for new classroom space. Linda Breaks, Preschool Director from 1985-1991, relates that Paul Garber was an invaluable ally during those early years. As the “man behind the scenes,” he welcomed parents, befriended the children and worked tirelessly to make this venture a success. Our Preschool continued until fall, 2012, when a plethora of preschools in Gloucester County brought an end to this ministry.

During Vacation Bible School in the mid-1980s, both Dr. and Mrs. Garber encouraged children to come and bring a friend daily. As word spread about the advertised



VBS "World's Longest Banana Split" prepared by Dr. Garber & Lucille Walton

“World’s Longest Banana Split” the excitement and attendance increased steadily during the week. Dr. Garber along with several other helpers prepared the giant dessert in a ten foot long gutter. Everyone marveled at the size and enjoyed the refreshing treat!

This chapter would not be complete without mentioning our church Building and Grounds Committee, who have worked tirelessly through the years maintaining the new building and four acres of land. Their tasks have included: 1) landscaping; 2) developing a ball field; 3) dealing with a finicky heating and cooling system; 4) snow removal; 5) coping with two direct lightning strikes; 6) repairs from two break-ins; 7) Weekday Preschool needs such as storage and playground; 8) installing an intercom and phone system; 9) building a storage building and fencing the area; 10) responsibility for displaying a life-size outdoor nativity scene each December. Don Kappes, longtime chairman, has worked faithfully with his committee.



Nativity Scene

The Woman’s Missionary Union at Gloucester Point has always done a superb job of emphasizing Lottie Moon Foreign Missions Offering during Advent. In 1980, church member JoElla Adams contributed by introducing the WMU Christmas Banquet. This has become an annual festive occasion focusing on mission giving. JoElla also established a Christmas Card Tree in 1981 with Mary Peters. The congregation was encouraged to give one card to the entire church family and to donate money normally spent on cards and postage to the Lottie Moon Offering. Another tradition was lighting one candle during worship for each \$100 received towards the Christmas offering.

CHAPTER IV: TEAM MINISTRY (1987—1993)

As our ministries grew, the church realized that our staff needed to expand also. In 1987, Gloucester Point Baptist Church voted to increase the budget by \$28,000 during those two years, enough to finance a second full-time minister.

Sandra Fox resigned as part-time Minister of Music in February, 1987, and the very next month the church voted to hire a full-time Minister of Music, Youth, and Children. A search committee was formed. Tom Emory, Gloucester High School Band Director, served as interim Chancel Choir Director and kept us singing.

Our congregation continued to work in quiet ways. Nancy Wilburn created banners each season for the sanctuary to enhance the worship experience. Leslie Belvin initiated the “Hanging of the Greens” during Advent to beautify the church. Leslie also introduced a large



Nancy Wilburn & seasonal banners



Easter Cross – Good Friday & Sunrise

rustic cross outside on the lawn at Easter, draped in black for Good Friday, filled with flowers on Easter morning. The W.M.U. ladies crafted Chrismon ornaments, expressive Christian symbolism for the

Christmas season. Alice Deal and Josephine Kimsey hand-made a beaded crown to top the Chrismon Tree to remind us that Jesus Christ is King. This organization also remained faithful in providing mission activities for the children on Wednesday evenings.



Chrismons



Chrismon Tree Crown

In the Sunday School Department, Joyce Williams, Superintendent, started three new classes in October of 1988: Preschool II (2-3 year olds), Young Adults and Adult I. For many years Sunday School Teacher Helena Oliver awarded an Eisenhower silver dollar to every one of her students who learned the books of the Old or New Testaments. The Men's and Ladies' Sunday School classes honored Curtis Thomas and Minnie Rowe by naming their groups after them. Both of these individuals, through leadership and example, have contributed in a major way to Gloucester Point Baptist Church. Minnie remained active in the fellowship until she was ninety-six years old.



Curtis Thomas



Minnie Rowe

Two important mission projects occurred during this time. Nancy Wilburn conceived and established Advent Bible School in 1987 — a wonderful outreach for children age four and older. They met four evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. during November and December to learn about the real Christmas in stories and crafts. This ministry continues today.

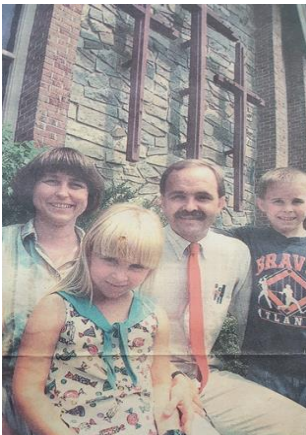


Advent Bible School

Pastor Garber participated in a fifteen-day partnership mission trip to Tanzania, Africa, during the spring of 1988. The Baptist General Association of Virginia sent three ministers; our membership donated \$1,900 for Dr. Garber’s travel expenses. Paul traveled with an African minister as interpreter to two villages. He preached and baptized.



Dr. Garber's Mission Trip



Shaw Family

Martha, Faith, Rick & James

On September 4, 1988, Gloucester Point Baptist Church called the Rev. Richard W. Shaw to become its Minister of Music, Youth and Children. Rev. Shaw came to us from Texas, where he had just received his Master of Music Degree from Southwestern Baptist Seminary. His family included his wife, Martha, with a degree in elementary education, and baby James. They soon had an addition to their family, Faith.

Mr. Shaw’s energy knew no bounds in the seven years he was with us. That first autumn he scheduled children’s activities on Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. — music and missions. Our church adults worked with the youngsters. The youth met on Sunday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Rick reorganized Missions Musicians into the Senior Sounds.

Rick Shaw introduced many events that served to reach out into the community, as well as to keep our young people involved. Our first “Hallelujah Party” for children was held on October 31, 1988, to provide an alternative to Halloween, with



Senior Sounds - Olis Halladay, Bea Schweickert, Minnie Rowe, Rick Shaw, Shirley Pinder, Mildred Scott, Al Pinder, Rachel Shackelford, Rebecca Joyce, Paul Scott, & Leah White

games and food and prizes. The first Youth Valentine’s Banquet was held on February 11, 1989. The teens were “transported” to Hawaii. Subsequent years took them to Greece, France, Italy, England and China with Mary Peters’ awesome decorations and Youth Support Committee catering. A Children’s Valentine’s Party joined the



**Youth Valentine’s Banquet
Kathy Smith, Rick Shaw, Barbara Sykes, Dianne & Ken Johnson**

roster of annual events in 1990.

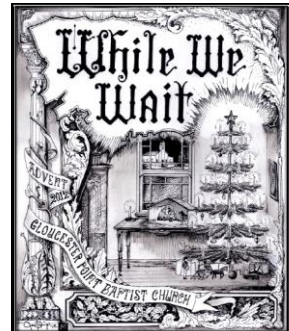
Easter Bible School began in 1989 and patterned itself after Advent Bible School. Another outreach effort took place in early September: a “Back-to-School-and-Church, Music and Missions”

Carnival for the children. This outdoor event featured clowns, games and plenty of food! This proved to be so popular with the community that eighty-one participated the following year.

Rick Shaw loved National Independence Day. So every year our Chancel Choir caught his enthusiasm and prepared a Patriotic Musical to sing early in July.

The Shaws truly had a heart for missions. Rick coordinated a Youth Mission Trip every summer. The teens raised money with car washes, bake sales, yard sales, and later, “rent-a-teen” opportunities and a Youth Dinner Theatre. All participants trained to lead Bible Day Camps first in Surry County, Virginia, 1989; Norwalk, Connecticut, 1990; Hartford, Connecticut, 1991-1992; Mexico City, 1993; Roanoke, Virginia, 1994; and Emporium and Driftwood, Pennsylvania, 1995. Those last two summers our youth also conducted week-long Backyard Bible Schools at Seabreeze Mobile Home Park in Gloucester County.

Gloucester Point Baptist’s Advent Devotional Booklet made its debut in November, 1990. Rick Shaw was editor and various church members contributed stories and poetry for personal and family worship. A prayer calendar encouraged missionary support. This publication has since become a Christmas tradition and outreach project.



**Advent Devotional
Booklet**

It is easy to see that we were bursting at the seams with young people in Sunday School, church Pre-School and on Wednesday evenings. The church hired Ivy and Wall architectural firm to design new educational space; a New Building Finance Committee was chosen, all in 1990.

In February, 1991, the membership voted to build an educational wing and to enlarge the sanctuary building, to install gutters, to pave the parking lot, and to insulate the north wall — all for

\$460,000. However, church offerings decreased that year; regretfully this project was postponed.

Good things were happening nevertheless. The building was filled with young people of all ages. Vacation Bible School continued high enrollments of one-hundred fifty to one-hundred eighty. The church began working with Habitat for Humanity projects. We raised over \$1,000 with our annual CROP fasts. Our love for mission work continued.

In 1991, the Church Council conceived “Autumn Fellowship Festival,” held on the church grounds as an outreach to the neighborhood. Entertainment (chiefly music), crafts displays and antique car shows and food created good memories. This event was held annually for four years, and resumed a from the Church Council.



**Autumn Fellowship Festival
Dot Barkley & Paul Scott**

The early 1990’s were exciting ones for our Woman’s Missionary Union. The Acteens program was reborn with Lyn Whitt as leader. Hard work resulted in a Coronation Service for eight teenage girls on August 1, 1993. During this time the boys of the church were

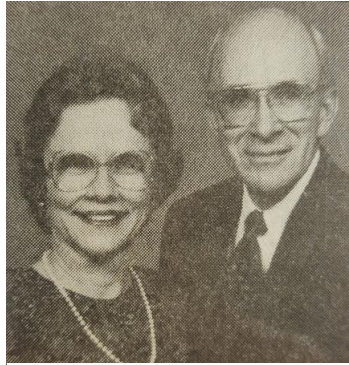


Coronation Service

Left to right: Samantha Conner, Jessica Conner, Laura Kepley, Vikki Vance, Lyn Whitt, Cindy Harding, Kelly Bonnaville, Tara Jackson and Jennifer Ford

involved in Royal Ambassadors, a program first undertaken by Harry and Dianne Danforth in the old church. Circles have always been an important aspect of our W.M.U. In 1992 a new Baptist Young Women's Circle came to be through the efforts of Martha Shaw and others. These young mothers reached out in new ways. One summer they ran a Vacation Bible School at Powhatan Apartments in Wicomico.

Dr. Paul R. Garber retired as Pastor of Gloucester Point Baptist Church in 1993, after a ministry of fifteen years with us. This was nine years longer than any other minister served in our church, and the congregation honored him accordingly with a surprise service and reception on August 29.



Mrs. & Dr. Garber

Special gifts include an anthem composed by Rev. Richard Shaw and sung by the Chancel Choir, a large serving tray and a check for a vacation voyage from church members and friends. The Garbers chose to take a train trip through the western states and remained residents of Snug Harbor, Bena. Elizabeth continued teaching chorus at Page Middle School. Gloucester Point Baptist Church has since conferred on Paul the honor of Pastor Emeritus. Now Dr. Garbers lives in Hampton and is an active member of Hampton Baptist Church. Elizabeth went to be with her Lord in November, 2014.

Rick Shaw summed up Pastor Garber's impact with these words: "Our lives are different because we have known you. You have shown us truly who Jesus Christ is and what he is like. You have demonstrated faith at its utmost, compassion at its deepest and worship at its highest."

CHAPTER V: EXPANSION (1993—1996)

We had been expanding our vision, expanding our programs, expanding our ministerial staff — now it was time to expand our building to accommodate all this growth.

But first we needed a pastor. Dr. Jack B. Wilder served as Interim minister for Gloucester Point Baptist during the fall months of 1993 until the church called the Rev. J. Michael Wilkins to be its new pastor. Rev. Wilkins received his Master of Divinity Degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and came to us from Elizabeth River Church in Chesapeake, where he had pastored since 1984. Mr. Wilkins preached his first sermon at Gloucester Point on December 5, 1993, and his wife, Lucy, and children, Brian (eleven years), Ben (nine years) and Beth (seven years) moved here over the Christmas holidays.



Rev. Mike Wilkins

The years 1994 and 1995 were exciting years for Gloucester Point Baptist Church. Our new pastor and deacons moved us toward expanding the building. In the spring, the New Building Finance Committee circulated a letter to the membership to determine if there was sufficient interest and money to move ahead. A package was proposed: 1) build the educational wing; 2) pave the parking lots; 3) insulate the north wall of the existing building; 4) cover all cornice work to reduce upkeep. The committee suggested that interest-bearing notes be offered to help finance the project. In January, 1995, this committee came to the church recommending that we accept a bid from Carmine Builders of \$336,000 for our construction. The church voted to go ahead; notes were purchased and a bank loan was secured. The ground-breaking ceremony took place on April 2, 1995.



1995 Ground Breaking

Left to right: Jerry Carmine, Walden Carmine, Jimmy Diggs, Rick Shaw, Martha Shaw, Minnie Rowe, Nancy Wilburn, Rev. Mike Wilkins, Wendy Mitchell, Clayton Jackson, and Tommy Ashe

A second significant action occurred in October, 1994. Gloucester Point Baptist Church elected and ordained its first women deacons: Dorothy (Dot) Barkley, Linda Mitchell and Martha Ann Shaw. This had always been a possibility under our Church Constitution but is unusual with conservative Baptist tradition. In the early years our church chose its deacons at the annual election of officers. The Board of Deacons would submit nominations to the Nominating Committee. In 1983, the Constitution was amended to allow greater congregational participation in the selection process. Now every church member has the opportunity to nominate deacons annually by written ballot. Men and women have served together on our Board of Deacons since 1994.

Gloucester Point Baptist Church made another significant change in October of 1994, by changing the format of its radio program. Instead of broadcasting the Morning Worship Service on the AM band, the church agreed to a recommendation by Pastor Mike Wilkins to develop a completely new program. "An Encouraging Word," a show designed to communicate with young adults who were not in church, was the result. This program combined adult contemporary rock music, humor, insights on living life today with a Christian perspective. Broadcast on WXGM, 99.1 FM, it allowed

the church to reach a larger potential listening audience than ever before with the Good News of Jesus Christ. “An Encouraging Word” continued our church’s long tradition of utilizing the radio to communicate to the people in our community how much God loves them. In fact, Gloucester Point Baptist Church has the distinction of having the longest, continually-running program on the radio station. Regretfully, higher costs led us to discontinue radio ministry in 2002.

Meanwhile...Rick Shaw mounted a campaign to replace our sanctuary hymnals. Two-hundred four books were purchased with donations, and a Dedication Service was held on October 23, 1994, at 3:00 p.m. This new Baptist Hymnal, published first in 1991, is an inspiring blend of the contemporary and the traditional. The membership has especially enjoyed learning the praise choruses.

And...all of our children’s programs continued to flourish. Martha Shaw was now director and teacher in the Weekday Preschool. Wednesday night activities were prospering; approximately fifty youngsters were registered in music and mission classes. Twenty teens were involved in youth activities. Also, the Shaws hosted a new “Youth Experiencing God” course in their home as well as the “Masterlife Program” for adults.

In addition...a Ladies’ Prayer Group was begun by Cheryl Harding in 1995. It met every Thursday morning in a Sunday School classroom. The prayer group persevered as a complement to Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting until 2005.

Our church persisted in its longstanding tradition of encouraging the community to use our facilities. VIMS practiced soccer in our back field. Alcoholics Anonymous has been meeting on Friday evenings at the church since 1990. Junior Girl Scout Troop #1072 chose Gloucester Point Baptist for its meeting place from 1995-1998.

While masons laid block and brick and roof trusses went up on our church’s new educational building, Rick and Martha Shaw were making important decisions regarding their future. They decided to step out in faith, to answer God’s call to become foreign

missionaries to the Albanian people. Rick resigned as our Minister of Music, Youth and Children, effective August 31, 1995.

September was spent saying goodbye to relatives; then the family headed to Tirana, capital of Albania, for a year of language and culture training under the auspices of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Macedonia was their final destination, where they worked with the 700,000 Albanian immigrants.

Gloucester Point Baptist fellowship was thrilled to be involved with the Shaws' mission work for the next ten years, sending many care packages and contributions. But we certainly missed them terribly. Pastor Mike put it this way: "Rick is one of the most gifted people I've ever met, and he has used his energy and talents to share the love of Jesus Christ. He has made an impression on these young people that they will never forget, and our church will never be the same."

With Rick's resignation the church hired Lucy Rex Wilkins, Rev. Wilkins' wife, to be interim part-time music director. She came to us with strong credentials: she received her Master's in Church Music from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. How fortunate Gloucester Point Baptist has been to have not one, not two, but three musical directors trained not only in music but in Christian music and doctrine. Our graded choirs presenting numerous cantatas and musical dramas, plus instrumental performances (small ensembles, solos and praise band), bear witness to this expert leadership over the years.



Lucy Wilkins

We also need to express appreciation for the dedicated instrumentalists who have served Gloucester Point Baptist over the years. Martha Ann Simmons, Joan Fosque and Donna Green were pianists in the early church. Julia Conner was our first organist, followed by Charlene Diggs, and then Elizabeth Garber. Elizabeth Bynum was assistant organist for many years. Pianists in the new church building have included Mary Lee Bullock, Sarah Starkey,

Mary Fary, Sally Fisher, Loretta Jackson and Robin Stortz. Our current musicians in 2019 are organist Barbara Stevens and pianist Alyssa Owens.

Our new church educational building was completed in



Barbara Stevens



Alyssa Owens

October, 1995. The 4,800 square-foot wing included five classrooms, three of which were large preschool rooms, three bathrooms, a modern designer kitchen and a large fellowship hall. The Dedication Service was held on November 5th at 2:00 p.m., following a sumptuous dinner served to the membership in the new Fellowship Hall. This was an occasion of great rejoicing — a celebration of expanded horizons.



New Fellowship Dedication Meal



GPBC with New Education Building Sketch

CHAPTER VI: ONWARD AND UPWARD (1996—2002)

Much that happened in these next years was a result of the church taking a focused look at its purpose. Gloucester Point has come to view its calling as centering around two verses of scripture: the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Great Commandment (Mark 12:29-31). As Rick Warren has said, “A great commitment to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment will produce a great church.” The church has increasingly seen its mission as: “go and make disciples”, while at the same time continuing to love the Lord and our neighbors.

In 1996 Sunday School Director Nancy Wilburn initiated Sunday breakfasts. This monthly event has done much to promote fellowship between Sunday School classes and continues under Leslie Belvin’s leadership.



Sunday School Breakfast

Gloucester Point Baptist’s emphasis on missions

began a new chapter in 1997 when the church began participating in the “Impact Virginia” summer missions program. That year we sent a team of adults and youth to Fredericksburg to help repair and modify homes of the poor and disabled. This “hands on” effort proved so exciting to the participants that the church sent teams year after year, first to Bluefield (two summers), then to South Boston (2001), and Culpepper (2002). These work trips also provided opportunities for youth worship, fellowship and Bible study.

The year 1997 saw the addition of a new ministry in our church: a Drama Team. Under the leadership of Frank Mummert, this program proved to be an effective and creative outreach to our community. The Christmas productions, such as “I’ll Be Home For Christmas” in 1997, and “Scrooge Revisited” in 1998,



Scrooge Revisited

which combined the talents of the music and drama ministries, were particularly inspiring and added greatly to our worship during the advent season. Complementing these productions was the purchase of a new sound system and theater-style lighting. The sound booth was moved to the rear of the sanctuary at this time.

In the summer of 1998, the church joined with other Virginia Baptist churches in a long-term discipling training process. This three-year effort provided church training and coaching in how to encourage people to become growing and witnessing disciples of Jesus Christ. This plan challenged the church to view discipling not simply as another program among many, but rather as the central thrust of a church’s ministry, with everything else flowing from this discipling core. In the spring of 1999 a small group, led by Pastor Mike, was started to begin training leaders for future discipling. These ten individuals studied together for a year. Linda Mitchell went on to become Sunday School Director; Bob Brannen joined state Baptist construction teams; Linda Breaks led neighborhood Bible Studies for several years following this discipling training.

Focusing on evangelism, our Children’s Ministry started a new Wednesday night curriculum in June, 1999, called “Team-Kids”. Baptist adults taught Bible and teamwork to the youngsters through games, drills, and sports. Several baptisms were a direct result of this outreach.

Another unique venture began in 1999. Gloucester Point Baptist started teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to Asian

students attending the College of William and Mary at VIMS. Kay Riley and Harry Wang taught five to ten students weekly. The group fluctuated each semester. Several students attended our worship services. After three years, this program was discontinued because of college-perceived church/state issues.



ESL Class – Sharon Zuber, a student and Harry Wang

for young children. They also had ample play areas for inclement weather. Director Rachel Wells guided Weekday Preschool in its new setting for six and one half years.

Our new building certainly provided welcome space for many church activities. Children’s Wednesday evening “Team-Kids” had plenty of room for their games and refreshments. Preschool classes now had large pleasant rooms built expressly

Baptists are known for celebrating with food, and Gloucester Point is no exception. Our new Fellowship Hall and kitchen made such a difference! Our summer Ice Cream Social following Joint Worship Service, a much anticipated annual event for local Baptists, now had plenty of space for eating and Christian fellowship. We really enjoyed our monthly family night suppers in comfort. But attendance at these Wednesday night meals began to drop off. It was thought that busy families had difficulty



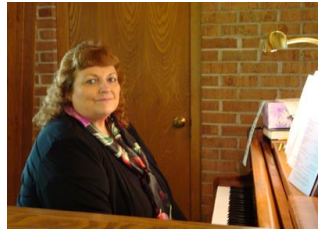
Joint Ice Cream Social

Left to right: Doris Riley, JoAnn Shackelford, Rachel Wells and Don Kappes

preparing a complete meal midweek to bring to church. So in the year 2000, the Hospitality Committee proposed supplying the main dish for these meals themselves, asking the congregation to bring the side dishes and desserts. The church budget accommodated the expense and this plan has worked well. Our church meals have been well attended and the fellowship and food superb!

In 2001, New Member Recognition was combined with a Thanksgiving Dinner, held on Sunday noon before Thanksgiving. A Christmas Dinner was also initiated to follow our Christmas Cantata worship service. Both of these meals have become annual traditions. The Hospitality Committee also hosts numerous receptions throughout the year to honor guest speakers, staff and performing groups. These food-related functions are an effective means for uniting the congregation. Special thanks goes to our hardworking Hospitality Committee and in particular to the committed Ashe family: Catherine, Paulette, Melissa, and Tommy.

Our music staff has seen new faces this 21st century. In spring 2000, Lucy Wilkins resigned as Music Minister to enter fulltime employment at Colonial Williamsburg. The church hired Tara Jackson, a third year Christopher Newport University student majoring in music, to replace her. Tara had grown up in Gloucester Point Baptist so the adjustment was relatively easy for everyone. At the same time, the church hired a new pianist, Robin Stortz, who worked well with Tara and Barbara Stevens, organist. Robin stepped into her job, delighted to find a new grand piano (Yamaha) in the sanctuary; it was purchased by the congregation in March, 1999.



Robin Stortz



Margaret Sarratori

Tara Jackson Harris resigned in October 2001 to have a baby. Our current Minister of Music is

Margaret Sarratori. She came to us in 2001 as Margaret Galloway. A high point for Gloucester Point Baptist was celebrating her marriage to Frank Sarratori October 2006. Margaret has a solid background of choir and soloist work as well as a rich Christian heritage.

The year 2002 challenged us with more staff changes. Sandra Brewer, longtime church secretary, retired in April after twenty years of exemplary service. She was valued highly for her Christian love and sterling character as well as her reliability. Our next secretary, Judi Jenkins, came to an office modernized for her with computer, printer, and new air conditioner.



Judi Jenkins

During this period our church helped to finance several missionaries from within the fold. Summer 2001 God called Brian Wilkins to Bosnia and Linda Mitchell to China, both to teach English. Summer 2002 found Sarah Thompson in Jamaica and Ben Wilkins in Austria on group mission trips.

The Reverend Doctor J. Michael Wilkins resigned in June of 2002 to accept a call to pastor Manley Baptist Church in Lexington, Virginia. Pastor Wilkins had served at Gloucester Point for eight and one half years. He earned his doctorate during that time and his three children, Brian, Ben, and Beth, grew up in our church. Mike and Lucy served together as a staff team for four of those years. Pastor Wilkins will be remembered as a gifted worship leader. He consistently melded the elements of the worship service into a meaningful whole. Special occasions such as the annual Maundy Thursday service were especially memorable experiences for all participants.

CHAPTER VII: A JOURNEY (2002—2007)

Gloucester Point Baptist Church was temporarily without a pastor. Dr. Garber had been our leader for fifteen years. Mike Wilkins left us after eight and one half years of ministry. Now we needed time to grieve and regroup. A church questionnaire focused members on goals and preferences for the future. Deacon Gene Cumbia led Wednesday night Prayer Meeting during this interval. He expressed it this way: “Gloucester Point Baptist Church is on a journey. We are climbing a mountain.”

Interim Pastor, Dr. Irvin Acree, came to us in October 2002 and served us ably for an entire year. The Acrees were not strangers to us. Peninsula natives, they had served many years in Uruguay, South America as career missionaries with the Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Our W.M.U. day circle was known as the Annette Acree Circle, honoring Irvin’s wife.



Dr. Irvin Acree

Gloucester Point was not “sleeping” during this year. Our Sunday School Picnic became a church wide picnic sponsored by the Hospitality Committee and held every spring in nearby New Quarter Park (NQP) in York County. Ample fields for games, a large covered pavilion for the meal and a lovely fire circle for worship encouraged full participation and fine fellowship.



Church Picnic at NQP

Left to right: Ruth Conner, Mildred Scott, Dot Elder, Sarah Hendley



NQP Pie Eating Contest

Nancy Wilburn took the reins at Weekday Preschool. As founder of this mission effort, she was now in the ideal position to evaluate and to refocus this ministry. Our church also started a new outreach in the fall of 2002. “Seniors’ Morning Out” began as another inspiration of Nancy’s. The group meets weekly from 9:30—11:30 a.m. and welcomes senior citizens of the community for games, crafts, refreshments and most important, fellowship. Once a month they even stay to lunch. Barbara Gordon led the group for several years. Now Alice Deal has assumed that responsibility.

Women’s Missionary Union remained dedicated as always. They led the church to give generously to the four Missionary Offerings: International (Lottie Moon), North American (Annie Armstrong), State (Alma Hunt) and Local Peninsula Baptist Association (George Kissinger). W.M.U. introduced a new endeavor in 2002:

Operation Christmas Child. Franklin Graham distributes Christmas shoeboxes filled with gifts to needy children around the world. This project is ideal for fostering a giving spirit in children of all ages. Our church has embraced this advent effort every year since then.



Operation Christmas Child

We had been collecting funds for years to replace the church organ. In 2003 the organ committee was ready to choose a model for us. Our Ahlborn-Galanti Chronieler I Organ was delivered in the fall. This coincided with our welcoming a



Organ Dedication

new pastor, Reverend John Arthur Ippolito, his wife Greta and young daughter Madelyn.

Pastor John came to us on October 1, 2003 from Fork Baptist Church in Bumpass, Virginia. He had earned his Business Administration Degree from Averett College in 1996. He met and married Greta in Richmond, Virginia. They both entered Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. John graduated in 2001 with a Master of Divinity Degree, Greta with an M.A.



Pastor Ippolito & family

in Counseling Ministry. Reverend Ippolito’s ministry objective was “to joyously fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. With the Lord’s guidance I seek to accomplish this by leading the congregation toward the goal of a balanced spiritual life with respect to worship, ministry, evangelism, fellowship and discipleship.”

God led John and Greta to Gloucester Point Baptist Church in His perfect time. They were young and approachable. We needed young families. Couples with children began to become involved in church activities. Pastor John was a gentle encourager who worked behind the scenes. He enlisted church people to create a booth at “Celebrate Families” Day at Peasley Middle School. Are you aware that John saw a need for a new Sunday School Class, “Safe Harbor”, and convinced Sharon Warren to lead it? (November 2005) This class teaches new Christians basic theology, prayer, and discipleship and they minister together in the community.

Reverend Ippolito and choir director Margaret worked well together during the worship hour. Margaret opened every Sunday morning service by reading from the Psalms.

We now had more children to disciple. Children’s Program leaders turned to a new curriculum in the fall of 2004 when TeamKid

coaches became hard to recruit and inclement weather interfered with sports. Jeannie Barrera, Children’s Ministry Chairperson,

described the new FaithWeaver Friends: “Each child experiences a personal friendship with Jesus through opening celebrations and Discovery Centers. From crafts to music to snacks — every activity



Faithweaver Friends

drives the weekly Bible point home. And through it all, children discover they have a real friend in Jesus and they discover how easy it is to grow in their faith, outreach, and service to others.” Children’s Christmas programs and a Children’s Choir have emerged from this Wednesday night ministry. Meaningful mission projects have included Baby Chicks for Tsunami Victims, Operation Christmas Child, and offerings for W.M.U. mission projects.

Now is as good a time as any to record some of those W.M.U. projects. Joyce Williams, as Mission Involvement Chairperson, has been tenacious in her search for worth-while causes. Yearly we collected supplies for the International Seamen’s Friend House in Newport News and for the Laurel Shelter (for battered women) in Gloucester County, soup for the Salvation Army (on Souper Bowl

Sunday), seed packets for Liberia, health supplies for the Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic and Eastern State Hospital (Christmas in August) and school and health supplies for Marisa Sanchez, missionary to the migrant workers on the Eastern Shore. Every Christmas we fill



Souper Bowl

Every Christmas we fill

Chaplains' Stockings (money to support Baptist ministry at Virginia prisons and juvenile institutions). In addition, W.M.U. ladies continued to serve supper for the Baptist Student Union students at nearby colleges yearly and started also to provide staff lunch at the Mattaponi Eagle Clinic.

Support for W.M.U. outreach comes through educating the church. W.M.U. brings the missionaries here. Lynn Latham came from the Peninsula Baptist Association in 2006. Marisa Sanchez spoke for North American Missions in March 2006 and again in 2009. Mark Custalow, Native American missionary, preached in March of 2007. It's easy to become involved when you are face to face with a real live missionary!



Marisa Sanchez



Mark Custalow

New leadership came to Gloucester Point Baptist Church in September 2005 when the church hired Darrell Overbey as fulltime Director of Children and Youth. Darrell earned his undergraduate degree at Wayland Baptist University in Texas. He retired from the U.S. Army after twenty years of service and was ordained in the gospel ministry in 2002. He had several years of experience working with youngsters in various churches. Darrell had a wife Carol and two teenagers Erin and Andrew. Perhaps Darrell's biggest accomplishment at our church was the July 2006 Youth



Overbey Family

Mission Trip, “Work Kamp Katrina”. Our young people had had previous local experience with Union Baptist Church in 2004 repairing homes damaged by Hurricane Isabel. Now Gloucester Point Baptist Church youth and adults traveled to Gulfport, Mississippi and worked side by side to restore a home devastated by Hurricane Katrina. This ministry to Bill, Cathy and Sean Martin was a life-altering experience for many of the seventeen participants. Darrell resigned in November, 2006 to pursue a nursing career.



GPBC Work Kamp Katrina Team

A definite increase in church offerings was one result of John Ippolito’s ministry with us. Generous giving affected our church mortgage in the following way. Most of the interest-bearing notes from the congregation had been paid off, yet money was still flowing



Note Burning Ceremony
Left to right: Tommy Ashe, Walden Carmine, Bill Breedon, Judy Cahoon and Keith Belvin

strongly into the Building Fund. Longtime Church Treasurer Tommy Ashe suggested that Gloucester Point Baptist begin to pay up to five hundred dollars monthly on the principal of our bank loan for the addition over and above our regular loan payment. The church approved this action in January 2004. By 2007 Tommy noted that “because of the Building Fund reserve, we now had the funds to pay off the bank loan”. The trustees and Stewardship Committee concurred. After a church vote, our bank loan was paid off on March 29, 2007. The final interest-bearing notes were paid off in July of the same year. We were debt free! A note burning ceremony was held on November 25th to celebrate this accomplishment.

Christmas decorations have always been special at Gloucester Point Baptist Church. Each year we have “Hanging of the Greens” and decorate the Chrismon Tree in the sanctuary. The Advent Wreath and poinsettias are lovely focal points. In 2004 an Angel



Advent Wreath

Tree first appeared in the Narthex. Parishioners each claimed a tag on the tree and bought presents for the family named. This Deacon Ministry continues; every December we distribute the gifts to local needy families. Also in 2004 a third tree was added: live poinsettia plants were placed on a tall evergreen shaped frame in the sanctuary. These brilliant red “Christmas stars” make a beautiful

display opposite the Chrismon Tree.

Our Flower Committee switched to artificial wreaths and greens when manufactured greenery became as attractive as real boughs. This was a matter of economics and a solution for keeping greens looking fresh throughout the long advent season. Our Christmas poinsettias (and lilies at Easter), donated by the congregation, continue the “live” tradition, as do the large bouquets which grace the sanctuary for Sunday worship.



Sanctuary at Christmas

Our church held three revivals during these years. Jim Ailor, Director of Missions for Peninsula Baptist Association, led us April 3 – 6, 2005. Don Campbell came from the Virginia Baptist Board (and as Pastor of Poroporone Baptist Church in the Shacklefords) for a fall revival in 2006. He returned by popular demand the following September.

In June 2007, the church got quite a jolt when Pastor John resigned rather suddenly to take a teaching job in Richmond. His mother, sister and nephew, all living in Richmond, needed his time and attention now that his father had passed on. We would miss the Ippolitos very much. John's compassion and care were strong examples of Christian love. We had also grown close to Greta, Madelyn and three year old Joseph, born while they were here in Gloucester.

CHAPTER VIII: NEW LEADERSHIP (2007—2009)

So here we were again — between pastors. Secretaries came and went also. Judi Jenkins resigned in 2005 and Heather Schott became secretary that May. Heather organized the church office well during her stay of two and one half years; then she moved on to fulltime employment elsewhere. The busy Personnel Committee (under the able leadership of Pauline Littell) hired Michelle Pike to replace Heather. Michelle’s ready smile and quiet efficiency have been appreciated by all.



Heather Schott

The deacons chose Bruce Warrington to be interim pastor after a summer of guest preachers. We welcomed him at our October Fall Festival. A new attraction



Bruce Warrington

that day was the Peninsula Baptist Association



Michelle Pike

Evangelistic Fun Trailer for the children. This included inflatable moonwalk, slide and obstacle course, as well as snow cone and popcorn machines.

Women’s Missionary Union inspired our young people to step out on mission. They traveled to the Eastern Shore in 2007—2009 on mission day trips to help Marisa Sanchez pack health kits for migrant workers. Debbie Riley and the Youth Council planned a work-related mission trip to Tennessee in 2008 with Christian-based organization “Team Effort”. Their unique money raising

project, “Flocking for Missions”, involved the youth placing pink plastic flamingos on front lawns to encourage donations from the congregation. The youth also sponsored a church movie and dessert to finance their trip. On June 29th, six adults and eight teenagers drove to Gatlinburg, repaired a mobile home, and ministered to the surrounding neighborhood.



Flocking for Missions

Our Pastor Search Committee was ready to present a candidate for our approval in July, 2008. Reverend Ray “Bud” Goude, Jr. became our new minister on August 25th. Bud is the son of a Baptist minister. He graduated from Gardner Webb University with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion. He earned his Master of Divinity at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bud has served three churches, and comes to us from James River Baptist Church in Williamsburg. He is active both in P.B.A. and the Virginia Baptist Board. Reverend Goude met his wife Donna when they were students at Gardner Webb College. She has her Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education and recently retired as the librarian at West Point Elementary School. They have two grown children: Kimberly, a graduate of Longwood College and Ryan, a graduate of Virginia Tech. Ryan went on to earn a Master



**3 Generations of Goude Ministers
Bud, Ryan and Ray Goude**

of Divinity from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and is employed in 2019 at Virginia Commonwealth University as Associate Campus Minister at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Pastor Bud's stated goal is: "to honor his Heavenly Father through glorifying his Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. By loving God, loving others, and serving in the world, (he believes) the church will fulfill its purpose to bring others to become disciples of Christ."

Gloucester Point Baptist had a second search committee working also during 2007 and 2008. We were looking for a Director of Children and Youth to replace Darrell Overbey. This committee came forward in August, 2008, to present Jason Turner to the congregation.

Jason accepted Jesus Christ at the age of sixteen in Greenville, North Carolina. He graduated from Wayne Community College before being called by God into fulltime Christian ministry. While being treated for cancer, he received a Certificate in General Bible Studies from Liberty Home Bible Institute and served as Youth Director at Grace Church in Greenville. In 2005, he and his new wife Sarah moved to Lynchburg where Jason earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Religion at Liberty University. The Turners have two young children, Noah and Seth. Jason became our Minister of Children and Youth September, 2008. How exciting it was to have TWO new church leaders!



Jason Turner

We introduced our staff to the community in a unique way. The Guinea Jubilee Parade on September 27th provided an opportunity for our youth and children to decorate a float, "Fishing for Friends". Bud and Jason walked along, passing out church fliers with a lifesaver candy attached. Gloucester Point Baptist Church won first place (\$50) in the church division. This theme was continued in our Fall Festival. The Gloucester-Mathews Gazette Journal Newspaper featured the festival and recipes from the men's cake and women's pie contests.



Guinea Jubilee Float

With new leadership in place, the deacons launched a program they had been considering for some time. Our Sunday evening worship service had been struggling for years. Bible study, concerts, mission programs — all failed to revive attendance. The church began C.A.R.E. ministry as an outreach of Sunday School. Christians Actively Reaching Everyone replaces the Sunday evening service. The congregation meets at 2:00 p.m. to reach out with correspondence, phone calls, visits and prayer. One Sunday School class takes charge each week. Rotation of responsibility has brought success as every family and visitor receives attention regularly.

Effective outreach and C.A.R.E. has increased our Sunday morning involvement. As our membership increased,



CARE Ministry

Pastor Goude recognized the need for a New Member Sunday School Class. They met in the Fellowship Hall and various individuals took turns teaching Baptist Beliefs, Bible study/testimonies and service opportunities available at Gloucester Point Baptist.

When the 50th anniversary year began, Pastor Bud set church goals to increase our local mission efforts. With his encouragement, the church has initiated several outreach projects. First is Angel Food Ministry. It began in March 2009 with Alice Oldfield as host site director. This outreach began in Good Hope, Georgia in 1994 and has expanded to thirty-eight states. We partner with Newington Baptist Church, distributing food boxes to friends and neighbors. Participants buy a weeks worth of frozen, shelf and fresh food (seventeen items in a standard box) at bargain prices. Each kit sold brings one dollar to the church to invest in other boxes, which are given to needy families. This ministry is described as a “hand up”, not a “hand out”.



Angel Food Ministry Info Booth – Donna Goude (left)

In addition, spring 2009 brought a Bible study to Gloucester Point Baptist. Paige Townsend and Sarah Turner sponsored a six week Beth Moore study in Psalms.



Beth Moore Bible Study

Approximately thirty-five women benefitted from this experience and another Bible study is planned for autumn to continue this women’s ministry.

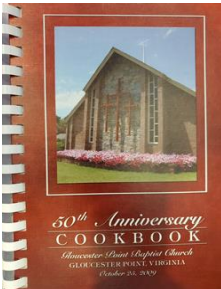
The 50th Anniversary celebration was held Sunday October 25, 2009, starting with a 9:30 AM worship service titled “Yesterday”, 11 AM worship service titled “Today”, a buffet meal followed with a 2 PM “Tomorrow” Praise and Worship service including a presentation by the Children and Youth titled the Church of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Approximately 255 attended,

enjoying worship, fellowship, music and a family meal. A special cake cutting ceremony was held with Pastor Bud and the two oldest members: Katherine Hall and Josephine Kimsey, and the two youngest members: Madison Hudson and Noah Turner.



50th Anniversary Cake Cutting

Southern Baptists are known for good food and to commemorate the anniversary a cookbook was prepared to capture all those homemade recipes. As noted in the front of the cookbook: "This seems appropriate since our early church met in a former restaurant! As Southern Baptists we enjoy Christian fellowship around the dinner table as often as possible. Happy cooking!"



50th Anniversary Cookbook

Sadly during our anniversary year longtime church librarian, Bob Branen passed away in July. With the support of the deacons, church members approved in November the naming of the library to the Bob Branen Memorial Library for his unyielding devotion to the church and its library.



Bob Branen

All that has been written about these past fifty years can only serve as an introductory glimpse into how God has blessed and used this congregation, known as Gloucester Point Baptist Church. As we move onward, our church will encounter many challenges as it continues to provide a vital Christian witness in the midst of rapidly changing times. May we resolve to keep our eyes focused clearly on our Lord Jesus Christ, who “is the same, yesterday, today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8) As long as we have the faith to follow wherever He leads us, we have nothing to fear.

Chapter IX LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, SERVE IN THE WORLD (2009 – 2019)

Pastor Bud Goude has been moving G.P.B.C. into deeper ministry. His stated goal is: “To honor his Heavenly Father through glorifying his Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. By loving God, loving others, and serving in the world, the church will fulfill its purpose to bring others to become disciples of Christ”. Our monthly VISION and weekly bulletin now display this Bible verse: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and ... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” From 2009 – 2019 we have baptized 90 new converts. A total of 117 people have joined our church during these past seven years. Praise God!

As God’s light was shining on GPBC, the building and grounds committee members led the efforts to replace the circular window in the upper back wall of the sanctuary due to wood damage. The church approved a new multicolored handmade stained glass window by a local artist, Cindy Glidden. The committee members assisted with the framework, staining, painting and installation.



Stained Glass Window

G.P.B.C. involvement with Upward Sports from 2009 – 2015 is largely responsible for this church growth. This Christian based ministry taught youngsters in kindergarten through sixth grade soccer, football and cheerleading skills AND the gospel message. Eight Saturday games, weekly practices

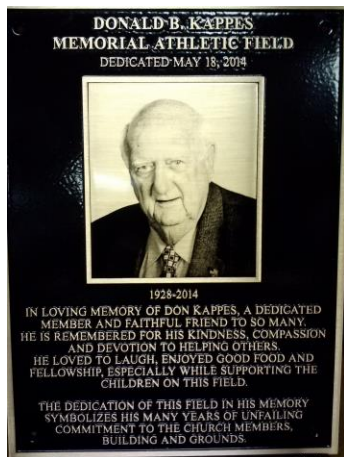


Upward Sports

Left to right: Brendan Greggs, Connor Green, Isabelle Barrera and Taylor Green

and Bible study culminated in a celebration where many declared Jesus Christ to be their Savior. This nationally based ministry required much congregational commitment: coaches, referees, food concessions, game testimonies, field maintenance, in addition to leadership. Now our fellowship holds Peninsula Baptist Association (P.B.A.) Sports Camp for one week each summer to reach out into the neighborhood.

Numerous GPBC members were faithful supporters of the Upward Sports program, but Don Kappes was one of the children's biggest advocates and could be found on the back field cheering them on every Saturday morning. Don passed away January 2014 and to honor him a memorial dedication ceremony was held on May 18, 2014 on the back field to name it the Don B. Kappes Memorial Athletic Field. The honorary plaque reads: "In loving memory of Don Kappes, a dedicated member and faithful friend to so many. He is remembered for his kindness, compassion and devotion to helping others. He loved to laugh, enjoyed good food and fellowship, especially while supporting the children on this field. The dedication of this field in his memory symbolizes his many years of unflinching commitment to the church members, building and grounds."



Kappes Memorial Plaque

A second mission thrust has been our involvement in the Gloucester County United Emergency Shelter Team (G.U.E.S.T.). This program offers meals and shelter to local homeless persons from December through March. Pauline Littell led us to become a host shelter in 2014. This involves opening our church for two weeks from 6pm to 7am. We serve the clients dinner and breakfast. They are assigned sleeping pallets which move weekly from church to church. It is gratifying to see how the Gloucester

Christian community is able to help individuals find jobs, housing and even lead them to Christ during this difficult time. A day shelter offers lunch supplies, computers, laundry and shower facilities.

A third outreach for G.P.B.C. has been increased commitment to our Benevolence Fund. Christmas 2010 we switched from decorating the sanctuary with Poinsettias to donating (\$5 or more) to Benevolence, represented by Doves on the Chrismon tree. Each season brings a new benevolence theme – Crosses for Easter, Stars in summer and Leaves during autumn. Donations have totaled from \$400 to \$2,000. Gloria Breeden meets with qualifying individuals

who have emergency financial needs to distribute the monies. Most of these funds go to needy families within our church.



Crosses, Leaves and Doves

Our newest ministry is American Heritage Girls (AHG). Summer of 2017 GPBC was given the opportunity to sponsor an AHG troop. Our WMU accepted this responsibility. This Christian



2017 AHG

organization builds women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. One troop encompasses kindergarten to twelfth grade girls. Twenty-eight girls participated the first school year and 22 girls registered the second year. Young women have contributed to our church services, mission projects, church festivals and picnics. GPBC supplies the meeting rooms. In these chartering years, we have bonded with this troop by supplying five leaders and three girls from our congregation.



Women's Get Away

Our Women’s Missionary Union has blossomed during the past ten years. The ladies get inspired each November at WMUVa sponsored Women’s Get Away Weekend Workshop, held at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, then come home to lead the church in monthly mission projects. January 2005, we began collecting soup (cans) for the Salvation Army; this is now an annual drive with Laraine Sentz as coordinator. She also directs filling Operation Christmas Child boxes each November. Every fall we serve one Sunday dinner to the Baptist Collegiate Ministry students at the College of William and



**WMU Bread
Pauline Littell & Helen Spence**

Mary. That outreach also started in 2005. In 2014, WMU began baking bread and selling it to the church for \$10/loaf. The first year we supported “More Than Nets” in Africa (mosquito control and Christian witness). Since then we have baked bread in October and have sent our contributions to alleviate World Hunger. Jeannie Fitzgerald has faithfully led both the William and Mary Dinner and bread baking ministries.

Several changes have come about in our missionary work since 2009.

- 1) April 2012, we joined faith based One Harvest Food Ministries. This outreach is similar to Angel Food Ministry (see chapter VIII). Frozen food boxes provide quality meals at affordable prices. Coordinator Alice Oldfield reports that Youth and Sunday School classes provided 35 Thanksgiving meals to community families, each November for five years. Reduced participation forced us to discontinue this ministry January 2017.
- 2) Gloucester Point Baptist Weekday Preschool closed in the fall of 2012 after 28 years of serving the community. Gloucester public schools and many other churches now offer weekday preschool programs and our enrollment became too small to sustain our ministry. We dismantled the playground and donated the preschool supplies to our Sunday School department.
- 3) GPBC began holding Sports Camp summer of 2017. Community children were introduced to golf, flag football, soccer and basketball as well as Bible Study. The closing celebration in



Sports Camp

2019 included a 10 foot long banana split, reminiscent of VBS in 1985.

- 4) Vacation Bible School shifted from morning to evenings in 2011 to accommodate working adults. In 2019, the 20 foot long banana split refreshment was a real success. We rejoice that GPBC has faithfully held VBS every summer since our church began.



VBS Children

G.P.B.C. has continued to take mission trips of all kinds. Youth and adults teamed together to three summer journeys to Standing Rock Indian



20 foot Banana Split Servers

Left to Right: Gloria Breeden, Joyce Marshall, Jamie Moore, Debra Wood, Steven Moret, Nancy Dyson, Becky Mathews, Donna Goude and Sonya Anthony

Reservation in North Dakota: 2010, 2013 and 2016. We held a five day soccer camp for immigrant children on the Eastern Short in 2011. Jason Turner, minister to Youth and Children, left GPBC in June 2012, Joe and Kendall Tayman stepped into lead children's ministry and Lyn Whitt assumed youth leadership fall of 2012. Gary and Barbara Mangrum felt the Lord's leading to assume youth leadership in the fall of 2013. Their group joined other Gloucester church teens in 2014 and 2017 in "Helping Hands"

missions within the county. Summer of 2015 our youth were ready to travel to Copperhill, Tennessee with the Team Effort program, doing needed repairs on homes. Recently severe illness compelled the Mangrums to step aside; their able assistant Seth Gandee became youth leader. This is reminiscent of Timothy and other who carried on for the apostle Paul. God always provides!



Standing Rock Team - Left to right: Gary Mangrum, Linda Mitchell, Paige Belvin, MacKenzie Firman, Justin Whitt, Jason Turner, Ben Greggs, Ted Fisher, Stephanie Whitt, Tammy Greggs, Becky Setterholm, John Setterholm, Travis Mangrum, Melissa Jacobson, Lyn Whitt, Barbara Mangrum, and Justin Whitt



Youth Mission Trip Team

The Southern Baptist Convention offers many resources and opportunities for our children to grow in Christ. We are grateful to those who are called to be leaders in this work. One such example is Paige Belvin, who joined our church staff as Coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries in January 2016. She smooths the

way for our volunteers. Also our “like new” 15 passenger van, purchased in 2015, is a great help in transporting.

In finishing this chapter, we cannot neglect to mention our Capital Improvement Campaign, begun in 2014. Our church building was built in 1974 with the addition completed in 1995. After forty years, the structure needed major attention. We started with a new roof. Then came the Sanctuary renovations: carpet, pews, choir chairs, sound system, retracting projection screen. Restroom renovations and a new church website completed phase one. Next, in phase two, we installed



Paige Belvin

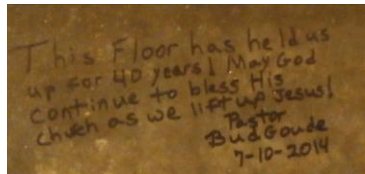


Church Van

new lighting and ceiling in the narthex, laminated flooring, new carpet and furniture for the church offices and education wings. The older kitchen was updated and library and some classrooms reassigned. Phase one and two have been fully funded. For phase three, we look forward to extending and updating the Fellowship Hall with a new kitchen and bathrooms.

Replacing the Sanctuary carpet provided some unique faith moments. Messages were written on the cement:

“This Floor has held us up for 40 years! May God continue to bless His church as we lift up Jesus!”
Pastor Bud Goude 7-10-2014



Pastor Message

Psalm 127 KJV “Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it...” God bless this church, GPBC

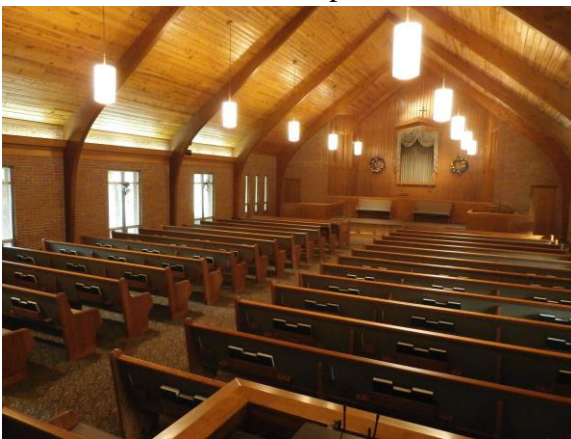
Psalm 98:4 “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!”

We were faced with the problem of disposing of our old pews. We advertised on Craig’s List. Within one week, a Christian church in Richmond, Iglesia La Luz del Mundo, responded.



Sanctuary with Old Pews Removed

Discovering that church’s need, we decided to include matching folding chairs and a set of choir robes. Twenty workers came on a Saturday morning, unbolted the pews, loaded them on trucks and left the Sanctuary ready to carpet. Our deacons had attached encouraging messages to the pews. In the evening, a spontaneous prayer time in Spanish and English blessed the transfer. God’s hand was surely evident that day! And then ALL of the new wooden pews for our Sanctuary were donated by



Sanctuary with New Carpet and Pews

our congregation. One aspect of the Capital Improvement Campaign was updating our website. An online church directory followed. The church welcomes this in-house opportunity which is

easily accessible and can be instantly changed.

As the improvements were underway, the Girl Scout Troop #1076, which meets at the church, presented a plan for a Silver Award Project (the second highest award a scout can earn) to the deacons. The plan included benches, plantings and a Peace Pole, to serve as a way to bring people



Girl Scout's Peace Pole Completed Project

together. The project was approved and dedicated at the annual church picnic in May 2016, earning the girls their Silver Award and recognition in the paper!

The year 2018 challenged us with a secretarial change. Michelle Pike took a full-time job with the Gloucester school system in March. She had been a wonderful staff member, competent, helpful and friendly for a decade of service. Sue Tibbetts joined us in September and has fit right in at Gloucester Point Baptist. Her initiative and creativity are greatly appreciated.



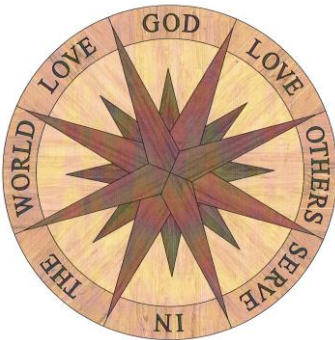
Sue Tibbetts

As we close, we are thankful that our congregation is growing – in numbers as well as maturity. We rejoice in our body of believers, that each of us has been uniquely gifted. A few examples illustrate our diversity.

- 1) Ted Fisher, Chairman of Building and Grounds is always available to unlock, chauffeur, fix problems.
- 2) Keith Belvin has led us through our Building Improvement project; organizing, encouraging, supervising.

- 3) Anson Belvin set up our new Sanctuary audiovisual and screen system, a very complicated technical job.
- 4) Tommy, Paulette and Melissa Ashe plan our church dinners with the wonderful ladies of the Hospitality Committee, month after month, year after year.
- 5) Gus Saunders hosts a Friday night Men’s Bible Study, started in his home, now held at GPBC. A Sunday School class “Pass It On” has grown from this group of men.
- 6) Sharon Warren teaches Sunday School at the Homeless Day Shelter, and has frequently led our women in Spring Bible Studies.
- 7) Denise Gandee faithfully composes the church sign and so proclaims the gospel.

As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary, may we continue to be inspired by the words inscribed on our new hall floor Mariner’s Compass: Enter to “LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS” and leave church to “SERVE IN THE WORLD.”



GPBC Mission Compass

“...I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1: 3-6)

APPENDIX A: ARTICLES OF FAITH OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST

1. The Scriptures

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.

2. God

There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of himself all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.

3. The Trinity

God is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence of being.

4. Providence

God from eternity decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not in any wise to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures.

5. Election

Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life — not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ — in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified.

6. The Fall of Men

God originally created man in His own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.

7. The Mediator

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law, suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, and rose again the third day and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever liveth to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the Universe.

8. Regeneration

Regeneration is a change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, who quickeneth the dead in trespasses and sins, enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the Word of God; and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. It is a work of God's free and special grace alone.

9. Repentance

Repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein a person, being by the Holy Spirit made sensible of the manifold evil of his sin, humbleth himself for it, with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-
abhorrence, with a purpose and endeavor to walk with God so as to please Him in all things.

10. Faith

Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatsoever is revealed in His Word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification, sanctification and eternal life. It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, and is accompanied by all other saving graces and leads to a life of holiness.

11. Justification

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not for anything wrought in them or done by them; but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith.

12. Sanctification

Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified, by God's word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in cordial obedience to all Christ's commands.

13. Perseverance of the Saints

Those whom God hath accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

14. The Church

The Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to His commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into particular societies or churches; and to each of these churches He hath given needful authority for administering that order, discipline and worship which He hath appointed. The regular officers of a Church are Pastors, Deacons, and other officers regularly elected.

15. Baptism

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of his giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church fellowship.

16. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to

confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with Him, and of their church fellowship.

17. The Lord's Day

The Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, resting from worldly employments and amusements, works of necessity and mercy only excepted.

18. Civil Government

Civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society. Magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ.

19. Resurrection

The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God — the righteous to rest with him; the wicked, to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. At the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised.

20. The Judgment

God hath appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when everyone shall receive according to his deeds; the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life.

APPENDIX B: ROSTER OF CHARTER MEMBERS

Altemus, William H.	Dunston, Harry Lee
Altemus, Mrs. William H. (Polly)	Dunston, Mrs. Harry Lee (Agnes)
Altemus, Sarah Jean	Eggleston, Edward
Altemus, Mary J.	Fosque, Joan
Ashe, Mrs. Harry T., Jr. (Catherine)	Fosque, Annette
Ashe, Thomas Howard	Frazier, Larkin W.
Auringer, A. F.	Frazier, G. B.
Auringer, Mrs. A. F.	Green, Donna Joan
Blackwell, Mrs. Albert	Hall, Leamond F.
Blackwell, Patricia	Hall, Mrs. Leamond F. (Katherine)
Blake, Enos	Hall, Nancy J.
Brimmer, J. A.	Hall, Mrs. Judith
Brimmer, Mrs. J. A.	Hendley, Emerson
Brooks, Willie	Hendley, Mrs. Emerson (Sarah)
Brooks, Mrs. Willie (Lorraine)	Hendley, Ronald
Brooks, Joan	Hendley, Carol
Buck, Homer	Hendley, Steve
Buck, Mrs. Homer (Betsy)	Hogg, Charles Francis
Buck, Carol	Hudgins, Winfred
Callis, Allen	Hudgins, Mrs. Winfred (Marie)
Callis, Mrs. Allen (Shirley)	Kimsey, Fred
Carmine, Walden	Kimsey, Mrs. Fred (Josephine)
Carmine, Mrs. Walden (Katherine)	Kimsey, Fred, Jr.
Conner, William A., Jr.	Knowles, Mrs. Harry E. (Adrienne)
Conner, Mrs. William A., Jr. (Julia)	Midgett, Harry
Conner, Margaret	Midgett, Mrs. Harry (Clara)
Davis, Alvin L.	Midgett, Ronald
Dirle, Michael, Jr.	Midgett, Henry
Dirle, Mrs. Michael, Jr. (Mildred)	Oliver, Walter R.
Dirle, Terry	Oliver, Mrs. Walter R. (Helena)
Dirle, Michele	

Rowe, Harvey C.
Rowe, Mrs. Harvey C.
(Minnie)
Rowe, Judith
Rowe, Francis L.
Rowe, Mrs. Francis L. (Hazel)
Rowe, Frances Marie
Scott, Paul
Scott, Mrs. Paul (Mildred)
Scott, Judith E.
Scott, Gary H.
Scott, Paul, Jr.
Scott, L. J.
Scott, Mrs. L. J.
Shackelford, Liston, Sr.
Shackelford, Mrs. Liston, Sr.
(Rachel)
Smith, Mrs. Viola

Stennett, Richard D., Jr.
Stennett, Mrs. Richard D., Jr.
(Jackie)
Tilson, Paul
Tilson, Mrs. Paul (Elizabeth)
Tilson, David
Walton, Mrs. Bernard, Sr.
(Lucille)
Walton, Gloria Rhea
Walton, Bernard, Jr.
West, James T.
West, Mrs. James T. (Dorothy)
Williams, R. D.
Williams, Mrs. R. D. (Ann)
Williams, Mrs. Mae
Williams, Lloyd W.
Winder, Nina
Winder, Brenda

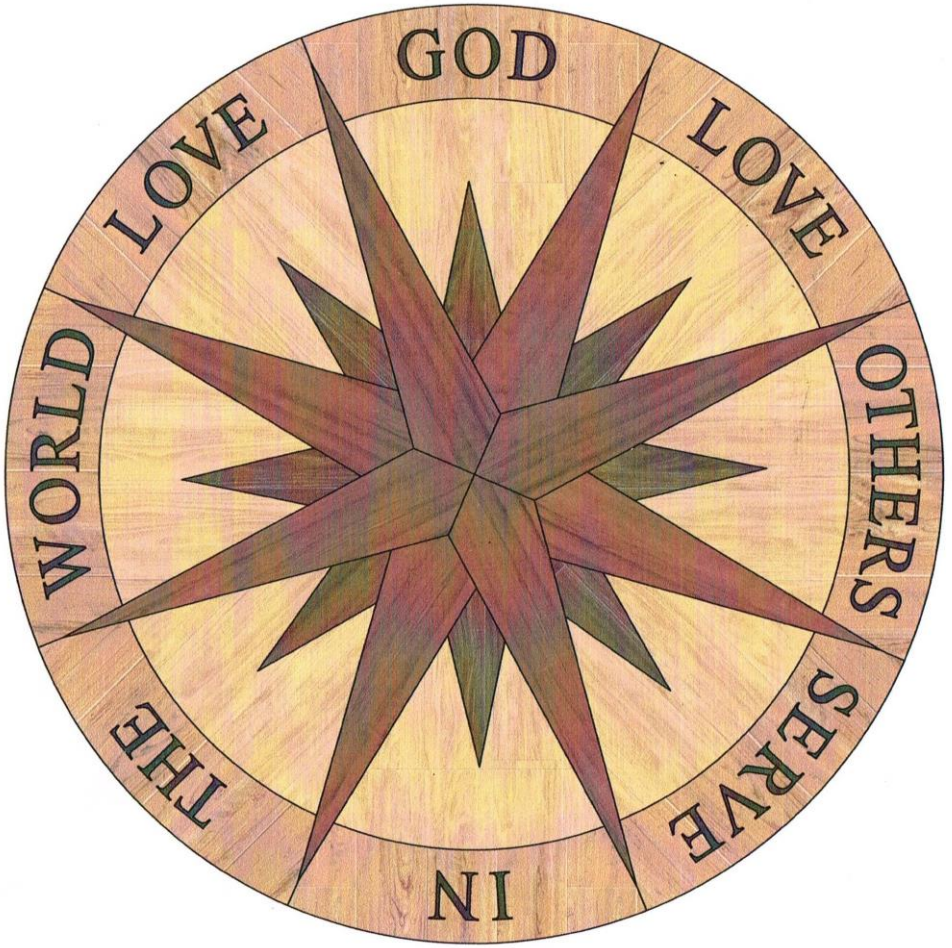
APPENDIX C: GPBC PASTORS & YOUTH MINISTERS

GPBC Pastors

Dr. Herman T. Stevens	March 3, 1957 - June 1957
Rev. Thomas Frank	June 1957 – November 1957
Rev. Richard “Dick” Stennett, Jr.	November 1957 – May 1962
Rev. John Coburn (Interim)	May 1962 – October 1962
Rev. Robert A. Martin	October 1962 – January 1967
Rev. C. L. Fisher (Interim)	January 1967 – June 1967
Rev. Archer G. Turner	June 1967 – June 1969
Rev. David McAfee (Interim)	
Rev. Byron McCreary (Interim)	
Rev. Andrew W. Bullock	February 1971 – December 1977
Harry Hubbard (Interim)	December 1977 – August 1978
Dr. Paul R. Garber	August 1978 – August 1993
Dr. Jack B. Wilder (Interim)	Fall 1993
Rev. J. Michael Wilkins	December 5, 1993 – June 2002
Dr. Irvin Acree (Interim)	October 2002 – October 2003
Rev. John Arthur Ippolito	October 1, 2003 – June 2007
Bruce Warrington (Interim)	October 2007 – August 2008
Rev. Ray “Bud” Goude, Jr.	August 25, 2008 – Present

Youth Ministers

Ron and Beth Benoit	January 1973 – May 1974
Thomas Braziel	1976 (served 18 months)
Karen Beale (Youth Worker)	Summer 1983
Rev. Richard Shaw (Music, Youth & Children)	September 4, 1988 – August 31, 1995
Darrell Overbey	September 2005 – November 2006
Jason Turner	August 2008 – June 2012
Joe & Kendall Tayman (Children’s Ministry)	Fall 2012 – 2015
Lyn Whitt (Youth Leader)	Fall 2012
Barbara & Gary Mangrum (Youth Leader)	Fall 2013 – 2018
Paige Belvin (Coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries)	January 2016 - Present
Seth Gandee (Youth Leader)	2018 – Present



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