

SANDY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH



*“Celebrating 250 Years
of HIS Story!”*

NOVEMBER 6, 2005, 10:00 A.M.

One Small Branch...

One Faithful Vine



BAPT
BX
6480
L53
B76
2005

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior,

Thank you for being a part of this celebration today at Sandy Creek Baptist Church. It is a joy and an honor to host our visitors and to have you share in this experience of celebrating what God has done over the last quarter of a millennium! The planning process for this event has been exciting, challenging, rewarding, and allowed those of us serving on this 250-Year Committee to realize the fruit God has produced from this one small branch and the role she has filled in building His Kingdom. Our God is an awesome God and our heart's desire today is to give Him all praise, glory, and honor!

By far, our greatest disappointment is that a meal following our service was simply not possible for everyone due to the fact that numbers were far too difficult to determine. Please forgive us for not having a meal, but please feel free to tour the grounds and stay as long as you wish. Memorabilia is on display in the fellowship hall and cookbooks and anniversary plates will be available there for purchase. The Primitive Baptists will be hosting visitors in the log building on the hill as well.

Our offering today will be placed in Sandy Creek's building fund. There is a committee in place that is dealing with an architect and more information pertaining to the planning process is on pages 21-22.

Videos of the service today can be ordered (both DVD and VHS) by using the order form you received or by contacting Ward Productions. Contact information is at the bottom right of this page.

A special thank you to Ms. Beverly Wilson and Northeastern Randolph Middle School for use of their facilities to seat the overflow crowd. A more gracious reception could not have been asked for and Sandy Creek is truly grateful!

A special thank you also to Rev. Frank White, Associational Missionary for the Randolph Baptist Association, and Rev. Kenneth Tucker, former interim pastor at Sandy Creek, for their assistance with the overflow crowd at the school.

Again, thanks to each of you for joining us and we pray this service will be a worshipful experience as together we . . . Celebrate 250 Years of HIS Story!

Sandy Creek's 250-Year Committee,

*Connie Heilig Danny Langley Russell Routh
Keith Slusher Bonnie Swift Pastor Travis Brock*

One Small Branch ...



One Faithful Vine



SANDY CREEK
BAPTIST CHURCH

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AFFILIATED WITH AND
SUPPORTS
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ASSOCIATION
BAPTIST STATE
CONVENTION OF NC
SOUTHERN BAPTIST
CONVENTION

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

PUBLISHED BY
SANDY CREEK
BAPTIST CHURCH

WRITTEN BY
TRAVIS BROCK

EDITED BY
250-YEAR COMMITTEE

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ordained at the age of 16, Dr. Paige Patterson is one who has answered the call of God on his life with an urgency and a fervor that is unwavering “for the sake of the hope of Israel.” Dr. Patterson has a passion for serving God in doing his part to help build the Kingdom and he does so with or without man’s blessing. Indeed the Kingdom of God has the mark of Dr. Patterson on it and God must be pleased with the response of this servant to the call He placed on his life.

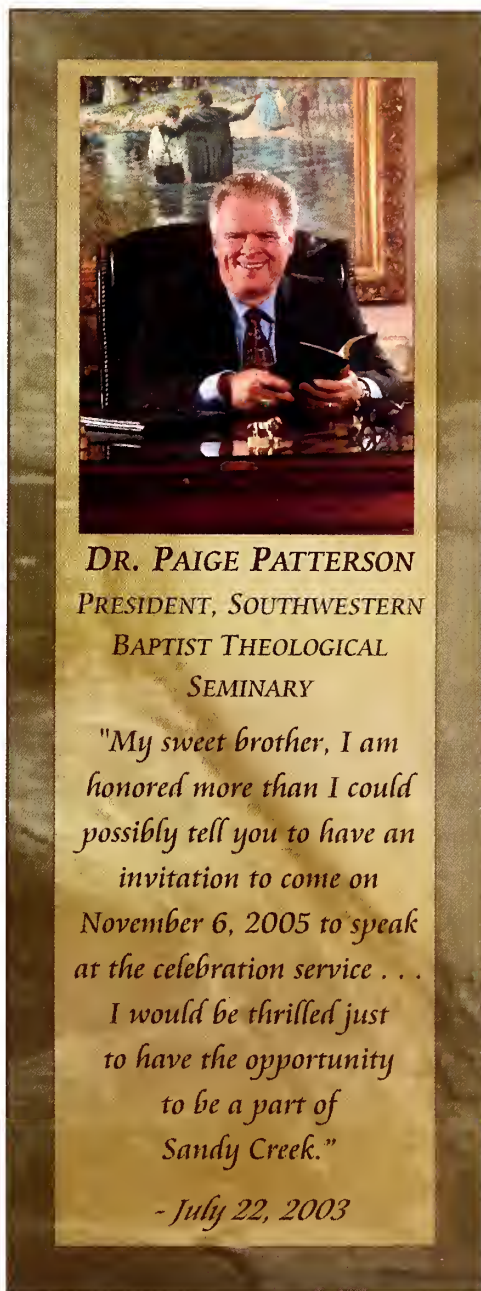
God called this man to serve and Dr. Patterson has faithfully answered. Prior to serving in his current presidency, Dr. Patterson served as President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. During his tenure as president, he established “Sandy Creek Week,” an annual event at the school named in honor of the revival God initiated here at Sandy Creek; a work for which Dr. Patterson gives deep gratitude to God.

Perhaps Dr. Patterson is most widely known for his role in leading a conservative resurgence in the SBC along with Judge Paul Pressler, a move of God that solidified the identity of the SBC. Bringing the SBC back to the foundation of the Word of God was not well received by all, yet Patterson presses on. Controversial may be too mild to describe the name Patterson in some circles, yet the approval of man is not the goal for which he strives; however, God has blessed Dr. Patterson in that regard as well.

In addition to being voted to serve in other positions, Dr. Patterson has twice been elected as President of the Southern Baptist Convention, serving Southern Baptists in that role from 1998-2000. As president, he appointed a committee to revise the confessional statement of the SBC, the *Baptist Faith & Message*, and was then blessed to preside over the annual meeting at which the 2000 version of the *Baptist Faith & Message* was adopted.

Dr. Patterson was blessed to return to his homeland of Texas in 2003 to become President of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Dr. Dorothy Patterson, serves as a professor of theology in women’s studies at the school and together the Pattersons serve Southwestern, our SBC, and each other, out of a sincere love relationship with Jesus Christ.

Sandy Creek is indeed honored to have Dr. Paige Patterson as the keynote speaker for her 250th Anniversary Celebration Service as she acknowledges the hand of God on the life of this servant. Dr. Patterson has faithfully answered the call of that same God and made his mark on the eternal Kingdom, all for the sake of the hope of Israel.



PASTOR AND SPECIAL GUESTS



Travis Brock has served as Pastor of Sandy Creek Baptist Church since February, 2003. God has given him a burden to lead the flock at Sandy Creek to reach out to the community where God has placed her and minister to the needs of the people, utilizing the resources God has blessed her with to bring glory and honor to the name of Jesus. Sandy Creek is the first pastorate for Pastor Brock as he first served in student ministry for 16 years. Most recently, he served the Fairview Baptist Church in Apex, NC as Associate Pastor/Youth from 1997-2003. Pastor Brock began serving at Fairview while pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, which he received in 1999.

Pastor Brock and his wife, Stacy, have been blessed with three children: Tyler, Anna and Andrew.

Dr. J. Chris Schofield serves on the staff of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina as Senior Consultant for Prayer Evangelism Strategies. The office of Prayer Evangelism Strategies assists pastors, churches, associations and state entities in the development of prayer strategies and ministries, methods, materials, networks, mobilization and training events that focus on global evangelization and awakening. Prior to coming to North Carolina in March 2004, Dr. Schofield served with the North American Mission Board, SBC, as Manager of the Prayer Evangelism Unit from 1997-2004. His heart's desire is to equip and encourage believers and churches to walk with Jesus in a life of prayer toward global evangelization and awakening.



Dr. Schofield and his wife, Tamee, have four children: Heidi, Hannah, Haley, and Hilary and they reside in Wake Forest, NC.



Shaun Greeson is a student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. Shaun loves to sing and praise the name of God and teach about the eternal life that is found in the person of Jesus Christ. Following God's call on his life Shaun attended and graduated from Southeastern College in Wake Forest and has experienced tremendous growth in his walk with Christ. God has taught Shaun through experience that He can do great things with those who are obedient to Him.

God has blessed Shaun with a wonderful wife, Greta, who he has been married to for almost 15 years and together they have been blessed with four beautiful children: Kayla, Bradley, Austin, and Tanner.



Order of Worship

November 6, 2005

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

CONGREGATION

*TO GOD BE THE GLORY
I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY*

WELCOME

PASTOR TRAVIS BROCK

PRAYER TIME

DR J CHRIS SCHOFIELD

HYMN

CONGREGATION

AMAZING GRACE! HOW SWEET THE SOUND

SPECIAL MUSIC

CHOIR

HOLY OF HOLIES / LAMB OF GOD

HIS STORY AT SANDY CREEK

CONNIE HEILIG
RUSSELL ROUTH
KEITH SLUSHER

HYMNS

CONGREGATION

*HOLY GROUND
GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS*

OFFERING

INSTRUMENTAL

*MY SHEPHERD WILL SUPPLY MY NEED
GIVE ME JESUS*

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PASTOR TRAVIS BROCK

SPECIAL MUSIC

SHAUN GREESON

MESSAGE

DR PAIGE PATTERSON

INVITATION HYMN

JUST AS I AM

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATION

FIND US FAITHFUL

To God Be the Glory



*Who gave
Himself for our
sins so that He
might rescue us
from this present
evil age,
according to the
will of our God
and Father, to
whom be the glory
forevermore.
Amen.*

Galatians 1:4-5

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done; So loved He the
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, To ev - 'ry be -
 3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our re -

world that He gave us His Son, Who yield - ed His life an a -
 liev - er the prom - ise of God; The vil - est of - fend - er who
 joic - ing thro' Je - sus the Son; But pur - er, and high - er, and

tone - ment for sin, And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be - lies, That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 great - er will be Our won - der, our vic - t'ry, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord,

praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther, thro'

Je - sus the Son, And give Him the glo - ry, great things He hath done.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

CCLI# 2688493

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
11.11.11.11. with Refrain



I Love to Tell the Story



*I will sing of the
loving kindness of
the Lord forever:
to all generations
I will make
known Your
faithfulness with
my mouth.
Psalm 59:1*

1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove, Of
2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'Tis pleas - ant to re - peat What
3. I love to tell the sto - ry; For those who know it best Seem

Je - sus and His glo - ry, Of Je - sus and His love: I love to
seems each time I tell it, More won - der - ful - ly sweet: I love to
hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it, like the rest: And when, in

tell the sto - ry Be - cause I know 'tis true; It sat - is - fies my
tell the sto - ry, For some have nev - er heard The mes - sage of sal -
scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song, 'Twill be the old, old

long - ings As noth - ing else can do.
va - tion From God's own ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'Twill
sto - ry That I have loved so long.

be my theme in glo - ry To tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and His love.

WORDS: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911
MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912

CCLI# 2688493

HANKEY
7.6.7.6.D. with Refrain

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound



*In Him we have
redemption
through His
blood, the
forgiveness of our
trespasses,
according to the
riches of His
grace.*

Ephesians 1:7

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,
 I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.
 How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
 'Tis grace hath bro't me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first be - gun.

WORDS: St. 1-4, John Newton, 1725-1807; st. 5, anonymous c. 1790
 MUSIC: Virginia Harmony, 1831; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921

CCLI# 2688493

NEW BRITAIN
8.6.8.6.(C.M.)



Holy Ground



*Then He said,
“Do not come
near here; remove
your sandals from
your feet, for the
place on which
you are standing
is holy ground.”*

Exodus 3:5

We are stand-ing on ho-ly ground, And I know that there are
an-gels all a-round. Let us praise Je-sus now.
We are stand-ing in His pres-ence on ho-ly ground.

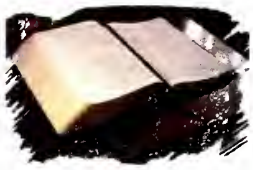
WORDS: Geron Davis, 1960-
MUSIC: Geron Davis, 1960-

CCLI# 2688493

HOLY GROUND
Irregular



Great Is Thy Faithfulness



*The Lord's
lovingkindnesses
indeed never
cease, for His
compassions never
fail. They are
new every
morning. Great
is Your
faithfulness.
Lamentations
3:22-23*

1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God, my Fa - ther, There is no
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest, Sun, moon, and
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, Thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee; Thou chang - est not, Thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove Join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed, Thy
 hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960
 MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

CCLI# 2688493

FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10. with Refrain

Just As I Am



Wash me

thoroughly from

my iniquity and

cleanse me from

my sin.

Psalm 51:2

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, But that Thy
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my
 3. Just as I am, tho' tossed a - bout With man - y a
 4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,
 5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come,
 6. Just as I am, Thy love un - known Hath bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that Thou bidd'st me
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee whose blood can
 con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings with - in and
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need in
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, Be - cause Thy prom - ise
 ev - 'ry bar - rier down; Now to be Thine, yea,

come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 fears with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

WORDS: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

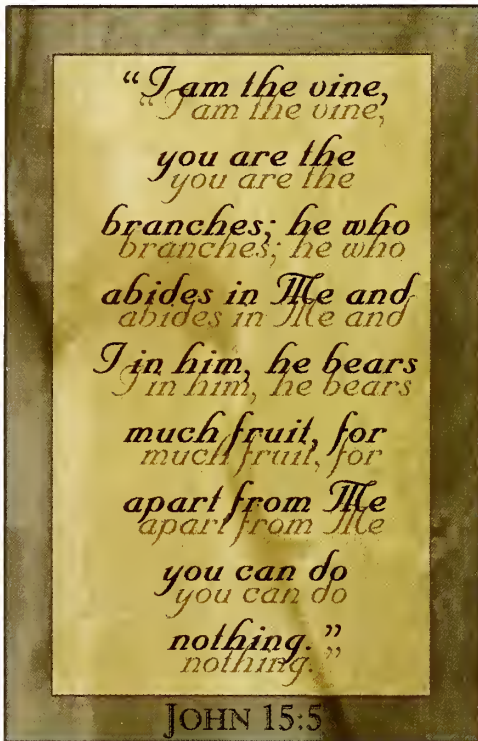
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WOODWORTH
 8.8.8.8.(L.M.)



THE CHURCH AT SANDY CREEK – HIS STORY

God has performed a miraculous work at Sandy Creek and HE ALONE deserves all the praise, glory and honor!! An attempt to recount all that God has produced in and through the ministry of this Church would indeed be futile. The workings of God are beyond man's comprehension and, at times, shamefully unnoticed. In no form or fashion is the following an exhaustive account of HIS Story at Sandy Creek.



This account is written to give the modern-day reader a basic understanding of the origins of Sandy Creek and Baptist life, and to inspire and encourage that same reader to follow Christ in such a way that those who come after us will find us faithful. Consider this material as another "stack of rocks," a memorial to those saints who have gone before us and a tribute to the God who created all that is and is sovereign over all that He created.

The 250-year history of Sandy Creek, one small branch, is a testimony to the One Faithful Vine who orchestrated it all. The branch has been divided and multiplied and God has produced world-wide fruit as a result of both division and unity. Consisting of ten or twelve generations of man, countless inventions and advances in the world in which we live, 250 years is but a vapor on God's timeline. Our time or His time, for all that He has done to bring us to this time, Sandy Creek gives HIM all the praise, glory and honor!!

HIS PRELUDE – THE GREAT AWAKENING

The Great Awakening was a God-sized revival in the hearts of people that God's people long to see the likes of today. The people had fallen asleep spiritually to the Word of God, to the truth of the gospel, and to the opportunity offered every person to receive through faith, by grace, the gift that only Jesus Christ can provide. Although these descriptive phrases may seem to relate to and are well-fitting for people and trends of today, the phrases actually describe the early to mid-18th century.

God realized the ignorance of the people to the truth and sent men of faith to awaken them to an eternal reality; that is, that without knowingly entering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, according to Scripture, one is on his way to an eternal Hell. In response to the ignorance of the people, God sent transformed men of faith such as Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield who used their God-given ability to preach His Word for His glory, resulting in a spiritual revival that made an eternal impact on countless souls. God used the Awakening to set the stage for the birth of a new land, a land that would be known for the Christian principles on which it was founded, a land whose Founding Fathers had a deep

respect and fear for the God of the universe, a land that would be, in fact, “one nation under God,” a land that would become known as America.

Sadly, America has lost her fear for the God she was designed to serve. Regardless of the immorality and waywardness of some of the people who now reside in this land, God is still sovereign and He has not changed, nor will He ever. The people, however like those of the 18th century have fallen asleep to the things of God and now His people, who are called by His name need now more than ever to take up their cross and share the gospel with a lost and dying world. It is a day of opportunity and God’s people must seize the moment and pray for God to send revival to this dry and thirsty land.

The Awakening opened the eyes of the people to Scripture and brought into question some of the practices of the Congregational Church, which was established by law in the New England colonies. The New-Englanders who decided to leave the established church and follow the teachings of George Whitefield became known as “New-Lights” or “Separates.” New-Lights reflected their revelation to the fact that the Holy Spirit can enlighten and inspire individual believers, and Separates spoke to their desire to separate themselves from the Congregational Church.

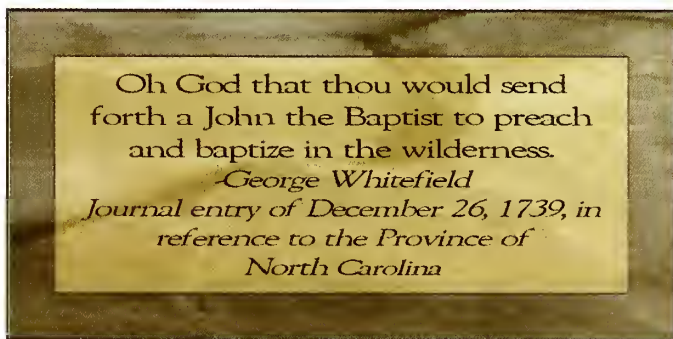
The Separate influence so infiltrated the Baptist churches that soon there was a new group that referred to themselves as “Separate Baptists.” In its very beginning Sandy Creek was just that, a “Separate Baptist” church and the “father of the Separates” in God’s providence was her pastor, Shubal Stearns.

HIS SERVANT – THE MOLDING OF A MAN

*T*he potter’s house in the book of Jeremiah eloquently portrays the working of God in our life as He shapes us for His purposes. George Whitefield was perhaps the greatest single instrument used by the Potter used in shaping the life of Shubal Stearns.

Following a discouraging preaching expedition to North Carolina, Whitefield prayed that God would send a John the Baptist to preach and baptize in the wilderness. That was in 1739; six years later in 1745 Whitefield’s preaching would be the tool God would use to convert the man He was preparing to answer

Whitefield’s prayer. That man was Shubal Stearns



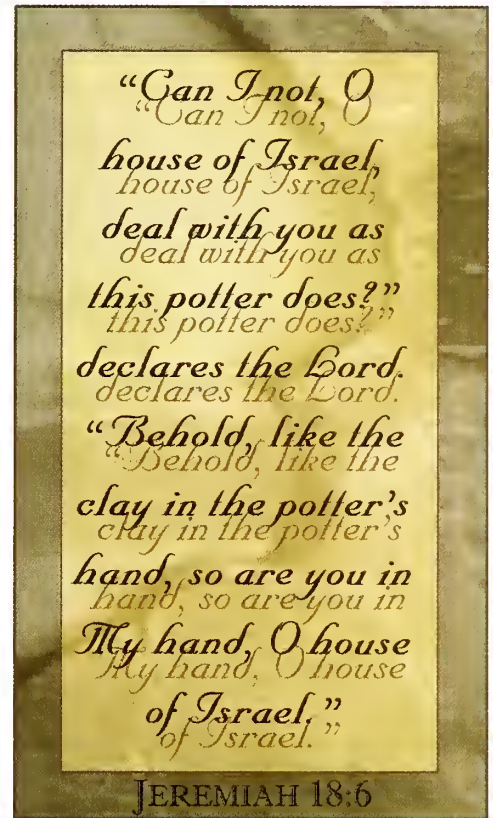
The son of Shubal and Rebecca Larriford Stearns, Shubal Stearns was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 28, 1706. The Stearns family moved to Tolland, Connecticut, while Stearns was a youth and he later married Sarah Johnston on March 6, 1727.

Now, almost three hundred years after his birth, the fruit produced through the faithfulness of our eternal God and the obedience of this man named Stearns is innumerable and increasing daily. According to Church records entitled, “History Sandy Creek: 1858-1958,” much of what we know about Stearns as a person is attributed to Morgan Edwards, who noted that Stearns was small in stature, personable, and

sound in judgment. Edwards also noted:

“Of learning he had but a small share, yet was pretty well acquainted with books. His voice was musical and strong, which he managed in such a manner as . . . to make soft impressions on the heart, and fetch tears from the eyes . . . All the Separate ministers copy after him in tones of voice and actions of body . . . His character was indisputably good, both as a man, a Christian, and a preacher. In his eyes was something very penetrating, which seemed to have a meaning in every glance, of which I will give one example; and the rather because it was given me by a man of good sense, I mean Tidence Lane.

“When the fame of Mr. Stearns’ preaching (said Mr. Lane) had reached the Yadkin, where I lived, I felt a curiosity to go and hear him. Upon my arrival, I saw a venerable old man sitting under a peach tree with a book in his hand, and the people gathering about him. He fixed his eyes upon me immediately, which made me feel in such a manner as I had never felt before. I turned to quit the place, but could not proceed far. I walked about, sometimes catching his eyes as I walked. My uneasiness increased and became intolerable. I went up to him, thinking that a salutation and shaking hands would relieve me; but it happened otherwise . . . When he began to preach, my perturbations increased, so that nature could no longer support them, and I sunk to the ground.”



SHUBAL STEARNS

- ❖ Converted under the ministry of George Whitefield in 1745
- ❖ Baptized by Wait Palmer in 1751
- ❖ Ordained by Wait Palmer and Joshua Morse in 1751
- ❖ Established Sandy Creek on November 22, 1755
- ❖ Organized the Sandy Creek Association in 1758



Shubal Stearns Memorial Window

The penetrating eyes noted by Mr. Lane were a trademark of Stearns. There is a stained glass (above) in the

current sanctuary that is referred to as a representation of the “eye of Shubal.” At the time of original construction, the design of the building allowed for natural light to flow through the stained glass, but additions to the building closed in the space directly behind the glass and now it no longer “lights up” as it did originally.

Shubal Stearns was pastor at Sandy Creek for 16 years until his death on November 20, 1771. The Church records summarize the ministry of Stearns as follows:

These years had been devoted to preaching, sending forth his fellow ministers to preach, organizing churches, ordaining their ministers, and with a proper discipline seeing that all those gathered into churches were taught in all things that the Lord had commanded. He understood both discipline and church government well. His greatest general contribution was the contagious enthusiasm with which he inspired his followers to carry the gospel into the wilderness near and far.

HIS PROVISION – THE LAND OF PROMISE

Moses is noted in Scripture for his pursuit of a land flowing with milk and honey that God promised to the children of Israel. Scripture refers to it as “the promised land,” and the journey was not without difficulties, yet Moses was persistent and obedient to accomplish the task God had assigned him.

There was no “promised land” for Stearns, but the same God that led Moses led Stearns, and like Moses, Stearns was persistent and obedient. By faith he forsook the treasures of men for riches far greater and God led him to a land of promise.

The journey for Stearns was initiated by his conviction of the futility of infant baptism, a practice of the Congregational Church, which led him to receiving Christ under the preaching of George Whitefield as previously mentioned. Stearns was then baptized by Wait Palmer and later ordained. Following a short stay in Connecticut, Stearns led a group of Baptists to journey south. The group ventured to Virginia where they ministered for a brief period of time. Stearns soon received word that there was a great need for preachers in North Carolina and he felt an urgency to continue south.

Stearns, along with his wife Sarah, Peter and Hannah Stearns, Daniel and Martha Marshall, Ebenezer and Anna Stearns, Shubal Stearns, Sr. and his wife Rebecca, Joseph and Priscilla Breed, Enos and Elizabeth Stinson, and Jonathan and Rebecca Polk traveled south until they reached the location of Sandy Creek, in what was then Guilford county. According to the 2000 doctoral dissertation of Larry S. McDonald, *“Frontier Thunder: Principles of Evangelism and Church Growth from the Life of Shubal Stearns,”* historian William W. Barnes, said that when Stearns arrived at Sandy Creek he heard a voice within saying, “Here I Stand,” which made it a land of promise . . . holy ground.

Stearns was convinced it was God speaking, and he and the others with him stopped and set up camp and God added His blessing to their act of faith. In the first two years, the membership grew from 16 to 606! Over the next 17 years 42 churches were established and 125 ministers were called by God. History proves

Stearns' conviction to be true, as God moved mightily at that time and has produced fruit world-wide from this branch called Sandy Creek.

HIS HOUSE – THE CHURCH AT SANDY CREEK

Stearns and the others with him did not take long to “have church” at Sandy Creek, as David Benedict is quoted in Church records:

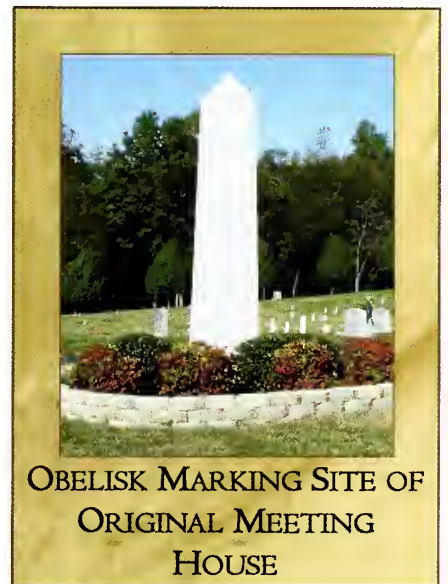
“As soon as they arrived, they built them a little meeting house, and these 16 persons formed themselves into a church, and chose Shubael Stearns for their pastor, who had, for his assistants at that time, Daniel Marshall and Joseph Breed, neither of whom were ordained.”

The original “meeting house” that Benedict refers to was built where the Obelisk now stands in the Church’s graveyard. This Obelisk was placed by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in 1955 and the plaque on the North side reads:

Original Site
Sandy Creek Church

On this site, in November-December 1755, Rev. Shubal Stearns, his wife, and those with him, seven other families, 16 souls in all, built their first meeting house, where they administered the Lord’s Supper.

“It is a mother church, nay a grandmother, and great grandmother. All the Separate Baptists sprang hence, not only eastward towards the sea, but westward towards the great river Mississippi, but northward to Virginia and southward to South Carolina and Georgia. The Word went forth from this sion, and great was the company of them who published it, in so much that her converts were as drops of morning dew.”



OBELISK MARKING SITE OF ORIGINAL MEETING HOUSE



THIRD MEETING HOUSE
Constructed 1802

No pictures are available of the first or second meeting houses, but the third is pictured at left. This building was constructed in 1802 and is now the property of the Sandy Creek Primitive Baptist Church. Hal Younts, a member of the Primitive church, has worked faithfully and tirelessly restoring this building and he is to be commended for preserving a significant part of HIS Story at Sandy Creek.

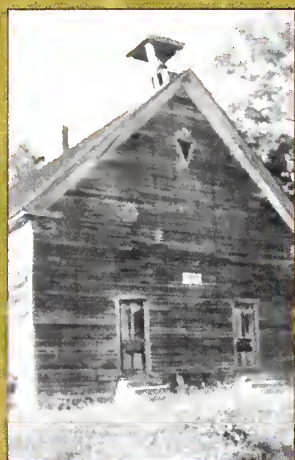
This third meeting house was where Sandy Creek was meeting when God split the branch, as



Church records note:

In 1830, a protest arose by some of the members of Sandy Creek congregation concerning the support of missions and the new institutions being formed by the newly organized Baptist State Convention, causing a split in the church. The members who were opposed to the missionary movement of the Convention continued to hold services at the original site, and adopted the name of Sandy Creek Primitive Church . . .

The members who desired to support the missions program and the Sunday School ministry of the Baptist State Convention sought out a new location. They settled near a school known as Shady Grove and continued to be known as Sandy Creek Baptist Church. Then



FIFTH MEETING HOUSE
Circa, 1905



SIXTH AND CURRENT MEETING HOUSE
Pictured Under Construction, 1942

in 1905, some of the descendants of those who had left, under the leadership of W.H. Eller returned to the original location, and once again established worship services. The name of the group who had left in 1830 then became known as Shady Grove Baptist Church.

The next meeting house was constructed upon the return of those representing the “Missionary” side of Sandy Creek and is pictured above on the left. The fifth meeting house stood close to the location of Sandy Creek’s current sanctuary.

Due to significant decaying of the fifth building, Sandy Creek’s current sanctuary was constructed in 1942, utilizing some of the timber from the fifth building. Two additions were added to the current sanctuary which houses a library, two restrooms, a small office, a nursery, and five classrooms. Pictured above at right in its construction phase, this building is no longer able to meet the current needs of Sandy Creek and a building committee was formed in 2003 for the purpose of providing adequate space for worship and education. The building situation is discussed in greater detail on pages 21-22.

In addition to the meeting houses at Sandy Creek, a parsonage was built directly across the road from the





FELLOWSHIP HALL
Constructed 1995

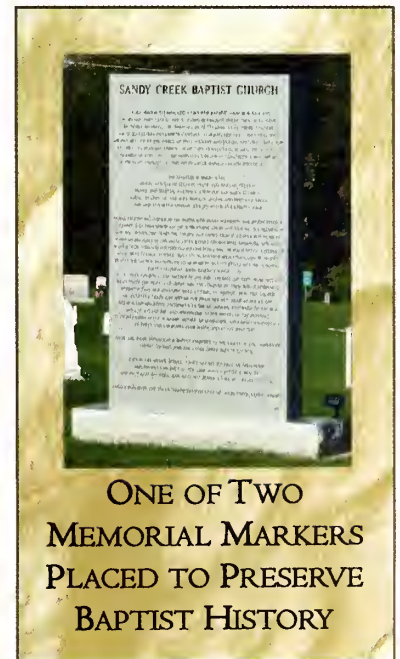
Church in 1971 and a fellowship hall was constructed in 1995.

The parsonage was built, in large part, due to the generosity of Ms. Ida Williams, as the plaque at the front door reads, “This parsonage is dedicated as a memorial to Miss Ida Williams, 1882-1967, who gave herself as well as her substance in loving devotion to Christ’s service to help make its construction possible.” Pastor Carl Garner, his wife, Ann, and their children Andy, Joy, James, and John were the first family to live in the parsonage and it has been well used since that time.

The fellowship hall replaced the parsonage basement for events such as fellowship meals, holiday dinners, wedding receptions, and all other church gatherings. It was constructed while Pastor Terry Hinson was serving at Sandy Creek and few, if any, would express any regret over the funds spent to construct this building. Space for large gatherings, a baptistery, a kitchen, two classrooms, and an office for the pastor are all provided in this building and it is indeed a true blessing to the body at Sandy Creek.

HIS FRUIT – THE PRODUCE OF HIS HAND

God obviously ordained the establishment of Sandy Creek Baptist Church and, as previously stated, an attempt to recount all that He has produced in and through this church would indeed be futile. Denominations of a wide variety under the umbrella of “Baptist” have sprung forth and churches have been planted in areas all around the globe that all can trace their roots back to Sandy Creek. As one of the memorial markers placed by the Baptist History Preservation Society on Sandy Creek’s property earlier this year reads, “There are thousands of Baptist churches as the result of the labours of Shubal Stearns and the Sandy Creek Baptist Church.” Pastor Jeff Faggart of the Society summed it up this way, “I believe God has done more through the ministry of this church than any other church since Pentecost.” God has indeed blessed and sustained the ministry of Sandy Creek.



ONE OF TWO
MEMORIAL MARKERS
PLACED TO PRESERVE
BAPTIST HISTORY

Three years after Sandy Creek was established, Stearns organized the Sandy Creek Association, making it the third Baptist Association in America. Sandy Creek is considered to be the seed God planted, nurtured and blessed as a fruit-bearing branch, with fruit such as that Association and the most notable fruit, the Southern Baptist Convention. Established in 1845, the SBC is one of the largest protestant denominations in the world today with more than 16 million members and more than 5,000 home missionaries, and more than 5,000 missionaries serving around the

globe.

One may consider Sandy Creek today and wonder why she is not a large, thriving body of believers after 250 years of ministry. Large, she is not; thriving, she is.

Obviously demographics impact the size of any church and that is certainly a factor when considering Sandy Creek. No doubt, God still stands here today and He is still at work. Sandy Creek may not be a large church, but she is experiencing a healthy level of growth and the people are enjoying a genuine sense of unity. She has not, however, always been a thriving church.

Shortly after the Church began, the Battle of Alamance took place and people left to fight in the war. As a result, the Church dropped back to 6 members. A series of wars and economic struggles had a profound negative impact on the area and the Church struggled even to survive at times. It was not until the 1950s that the Church began to experience any sense of stability and was able to function effectively. Located in a rural area, Sandy Creek does not have the masses to draw from, yet a large portion of the masses in Christian circles, particularly Baptist life, are experiencing fruit that can trace its roots back to this small but thriving branch.

HIS SAINTS – THE LEGACY OF TWO

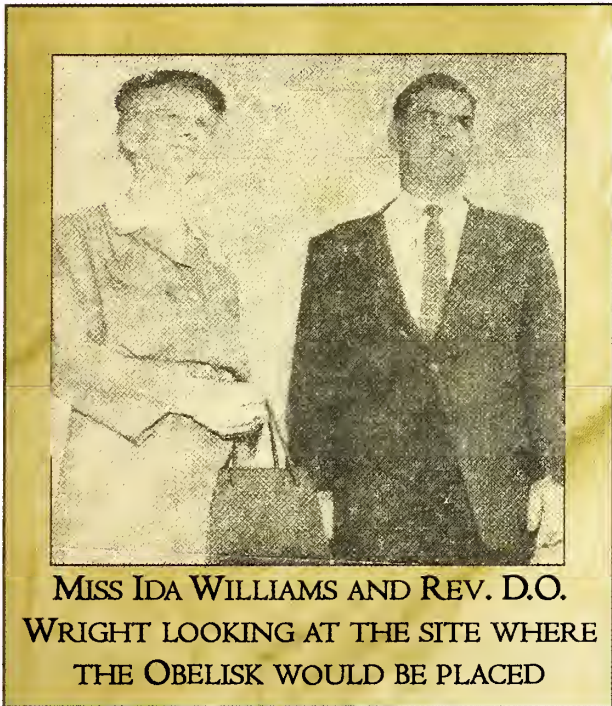
People of many backgrounds and varying levels of commitment in their Christian walk have found their way into the life of Sandy Creek over the course of its 250-year existence. Only God knows the contributions of each person and the heart with which those contributions were made. In that tapestry of faith, Hebrews Chapter 11, God listed the heroes of the faith, folks who had a walk that excelled, a walk that was worthy of note in a most prestigious list of honorable souls who served the Kingdom. The list of honorable souls who served the Kingdom through their involvement at Sandy Creek would indeed be lengthy if all were considered. However, two folks who have served at Sandy Creek and who now are in the presence of their Lord have left a legacy in recent history that stands above the norm. One was a layperson, the other a pastor, both of whom God used to keep His work going at Sandy Creek at times when Satan was about to choke the life out.

Miss Ida Williams was a layperson whom God blessed in a way that she was able to live a life of singleness, fully devoted to serving the Lord she loved so dearly. Born on April 22, 1882, God raised up Miss Williams for a purpose that was unique and the fruits of which are enjoyed even today, and will be for years to come.

The Church has experienced difficult times financially along the way and at one of those critical moments God used the resources of Miss Williams to meet the needs of His people. Miss Williams sold chicken eggs in the community and she would use that money to purchase Sunday School material for the Church so that the work could continue. She did not do this for self-recognition, rather to the glory of God and for the sake of building His Kingdom.

Beyond her selfless giving, Miss Williams served the Church faithfully as church clerk from 1914-1958, 44 years of record-keeping the old-fashioned way; that is, with a pen and a piece of paper. In a day when most

folks scarcely take sermon notes, that says volumes concerning the servant attitude of such a lady as Miss Williams.



God called Miss Williams home on January 7, 1967, and upon her passing she left a portion of her estate to the Church she loved. Those funds were used to assist in the building of the parsonage previously mentioned and many pastors and their families have used this parsonage as their home while serving at Sandy Creek.

Sacrifices made by Miss Williams could never be fully counted this side of Glory, yet most, if not all, would understand the significance of at least one sacrifice made by this dear saint. That is, the sacrifice of living single and choosing to forego perhaps the deepest desire of practically every female born into this world; that is the opportunity to have children. What a cross to bear, yet she was born to share and that she did!

Thank you God for the life and legacy of Miss Ida Williams, a saint whose love for You inspired others and though she has passed her legacy continues.

Diffie Ollen Wright, affectionately known as Rev. D.O. Wright, is a name that is well known by the folks at Sandy Creek. Rev. Wright served Sandy Creek from 1947-1956, and from 1974-1977 as pastor and he loved the people dearly. God gave Rev. Wright an appreciation for the significance of God's work at Sandy Creek and that allowed God to use him and his talent to bring life back to the Church during his first tenure as pastor.

Sandy Creek had 16 members when Rev. Wright began serving in 1947 and he worked fervently and relentlessly to resurrect the struggling church; not only in his preaching and pastoral duties, but in physical labor of untold hours and effort.

Times were hard in 1947 and it was common for a pastor to serve more than one church and such was the case for Rev. Wright. Serving four churches, according to his family, he was not discouraged but focused on the work God had called him to do. It is said of Rev. Wright that he would tend his garden and do other chores while dressed in his suit pants, a white dress shirt with sleeves rolled up and a tie on, all so that he could be ready to go if someone were to call and need his service. God had His hand on the life of Rev. Wright and no one could deny the impact this man had on countless souls.

The graveyard was in dire need of attention and Rev. Wright was there to give the attention it needed. Folks testify to his labor and how he worked so tirelessly in the graveyard to make it presentable. Lifeless and struggling trees of significant size were removed by the physical efforts of Rev. Wright and today the



fruits of his labor are a ministry to families who lay their loved ones to rest at Sandy Creek.

Dependent upon His God to provide, Rev. Wright's family shared memories of collections the Church would receive and give to him as a "salary." Funds received may have been enough to pay for fuel, yet sometimes not enough was received to do even that. Folks would bring a variety of items to give the Wright family to help meet their basic needs. The family rode home from church, not only in the company of each other, but also in the company of live chickens!

The folks of Sandy Creek have the utmost respect for Rev. Wright and a prayer garden is being created by Sandy Creek's Baptist Men. This garden will be located close to the spring along the bank of Sandy Creek which is behind the Church building. A prayer garden was the vision of Rev. Wright and his love for this land inspired the project that is now near completion.

Rev. Wright loved his Lord beyond measure and God blessed him with a wife he loved dearly and God blessed them with three children, Patricia, Peggy, and Janet.

Affected by dementia late in life, Rev. Wright lost his memories of many things in life. Yet, when one would visit him if the name Sandy Creek was mentioned, Rev. Wright would light up with a smile as if it filled his entire body with a sense of joy. For those that knew Rev. Wright, when his name is mentioned their face lights up in similar fashion.

Rev. Wright was a man among men where pastors are concerned and he served his Lord with a passion that produced lasting fruit; Sandy Creek stands today, in part, due to the service of God's "Wright-hand" man.

Thank you God for the life and legacy of Rev. D.O. Wright, a man among men, a saint among saints, and a servant among servants, his work continues in spirit and the legacy he left shall ever be a part of Sandy Creek.

HIS HAND – THE BLESSING OF GOD TODAY

The same God that called Shubal, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is the One that receives all the praise for Sandy Creek being alive and well today! God is at work at Sandy Creek and He is still producing fruit at the one small branch. Average attendance in Sunday School for the last year is 100, an increase of twenty percent in the last two years. Sandy Creek does not keep records for worship attendance but there is an obvious increase in average worship attendance as well. In addition to the numbers, God is growing Sandy Creek in the sense of fellowship and ministry. A visitation program was initiated this year and though it is struggling, it has been used by God to minister to people. When many churches are closing their doors on Sunday night, Sandy Creek has brought back the Sunday Evening service after being without for more than thirty years! God is good and He is drawing folks to Sandy Creek because He has a purpose for her. Many believe God is setting the stage for a revival and a harvest of souls and the people of Sandy Creek anticipate great and mighty things to be witnessed!

The growth Sandy Creek is experiencing has brought her to a critical crossroad. The current sanctuary and education space is no longer sufficient to meet the needs of the people and new space is desperately needed. A building committee was formed in 2003 with the purpose of providing adequate space for worship and

education. A vote was taken to determine if that space should be provided through remodeling or by removing the existing sanctuary and the attached education space. A small majority voted to pursue the idea of remodeling. Committee members Lou Etta Allred, Brian Heilig, Lee Hill, Paula Lineberry, Lynn Routh, and Mark Smith pursued the idea of remodeling for two years and basically exhausted all avenues. The result of that effort was the conclusion that remodeling is not feasible. The Committee asked the Church for permission to “pursue plans for removing our current sanctuary and connected education facilities in order to build a completely new facility.” Permission was granted by a large majority and the Committee is currently meeting with an architect, pursuing that goal. There is great sentimental value attached to the current sanctuary for some of the membership and this makes the idea of removing and starting new difficult. The majority of the people feel God is leading to build new and are excited about seeing Him provide to make it possible. The prayer of the Committee is that God’s will would be clear and God’s people would be obedient, that those who come behind us would indeed find us faithful.

HIS PEOPLE’S PRAYER - FIND US FAITHFUL

Verse 1

*We’re pilgrims on the journey
of the narrow road,
And those who’ve gone before
us line the way.
Cheering on the faithful,
encouraging the weary,
their lives a stirring testament
to God’s sustaining grace.*

Verse 2

*Surrounded by so great a cloud
of witnesses,
Let us run the race not only for
the prize,
But as those who’ve gone
before us, let us leave to those
behind us, the heritage of
faithfulness passed on thru
Godly lives.*

Verse 3

*After all our hopes and dreams
have come and gone, and our
children sift thru all we’ve left
behind, may the clues that
they uncover and the memories
they uncover, become the light
that leads them to the road we
each must find.*

Chorus

*O may all who come behind us find us faithful, may the fire of our devotion light their way. May
the footprints that we leave lead them to believe, and the lives we live inspire them to obey.
O may all who come behind us find us faithful.*

Words and Music by
Jon Mohr

CCLI# 2688493



Interior of Sandy Creek, One Small Branch

One Small Branch ...



One Faithful Vine

HIS PEOPLE – THE MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The following is a list of current active Sandy Creek members (the names are numbered), and a listing of those enrolled and currently active in Sunday School (the names are *italicized*):

1,2	Boyd and Marie Allred	38,39	Wade and Judy Foust
3,4	James and Lou Etta Allred	40	Eric Foust
5,6	Greg and Darlene Allred	41	Brian Foust
7	Brittany Allred	42	Alice Giles
	<i>Meghan Allred</i>	43	Susie Gentry
8,9	W.T. and Ann Andrews	44	Angie Jones Gyori
10	Betty Bear		<i>Sarah Gyori</i>
11,12	Sam and Jan Bishop	45,46	Gary and Sheila Haithcock
13	Daniel Bishop	47,48	Tommy and Connie Heilig
14	Halie Bishop	49,50	Mark and Amy Heilig
15,16	Travis and Stacy Brock		<i>Lauryn Heilig</i>
17	Tyler Brock		<i>Cadance Heilig</i>
18	Anna Brock	51,52	Brian and Jennifer Heilig
	<i>Andrew Brock</i>		<i>Maggie Jean Heilig</i>
	<i>Kyle Browning</i>	53	Bobby and Brenda Heilig
19	Jane Bullard	54	Mary Lee Hill
20	Audrey Bullard	55,56	Lee and Melissa Hill
21,22	Frank and Pam Carper	57	Olivia Link
23,24	Jay and Kathy Chaulklin	58	Paige Link
25	Victoria Chaulklin		<i>Gracie Jo Link</i>
	<i>Mallory Chaulklin</i>		<i>Chris and Lisa Holder</i>
26,27	Luther and Eileen Coble		<i>Ryan Holder</i>
	<i>Kelly Coble</i>		<i>Justin Holder</i>
	<i>Caroline Coble</i>	59,60	Raymond and Shirley Hoover
28	Judy Deviney	61,62	Ronnie and Dare Horrell
29	Paulette Deviney	63,64	Frank and Vicky Jones
30,31	Geary and Sylvia Dodson	65	Ryan Jones
32	Sam Donnell	66,67	J.C. and Pearl Key
33	Cindy Edwards	68,69	Phil and Linda Key
34,35	Ron and Sue Ekas	70	Phil H. Key, Jr.
36,37	Todd and Kelli Ferguson	71	James and Kathleen Kivett
	<i>Madison Ferguson</i>		<i>Chris and Nicole Kivett</i>
	<i>Malea Ferguson</i>		<i>Hunter Kivett</i>
	<i>Mike and Jamie Fogleman</i>		<i>Kaitlin Kivett</i>
	<i>Blakeley Fogleman</i>	72,73	Danny and Pam Langley
	<i>Brody Fogleman</i>	74	Branson Langley
	<i>Jeff and Amy Folwell</i>	75,76	Timmy and Lisa Langley
	<i>Megan Folwell</i>	77	Kristie Langley
	<i>Caleb Folwell</i>	78	Anna Langley
	<i>Mason Folwell</i>	79	MaryBeth Lineberry



- 80,81 Mark and Paula Lineberry
- 82 Kacey Lineberry
Riley Lineberry
Alesia Macon
- 83 Diane Martin
- 84,85 Danny and Kim Martin
Taylor Martin
Beau Martin
- 86,87 Kurt and Barbara Massagee
- 88 *Clark* and Gladys McMasters
- 89,90 Arthur and YoLonda Moody
- 91 Victoria Moody
Olivia Moody
- 92,93 Howard and Carol Mullenax
- 94 Hadley Mullins
- 95 *Matthew* and Helen Pearson
- 96 Jennifer Pearson
- 97 Jake Pearson
- 98 Matt Pearson
- 99,100 Joe and Leslie Restivo
- 101 Davin Restivo
- 102 Ragan Restivo
- 103,104 David and Debbie Ritch
- 105 Stephanie Ritch
- 106 Daniel Ritch
- 107 Jonathan Ritch
- 108,109 Jay and Bobbie Ritch
- 110,111 Darrell and Stephana Robbins
Andrea Robbins
- 112,113 Russell and Louise Routh
- 114,115 Lynn and Wendy Routh
Shelby Routh
- 116,117 Wayne and Alice Routh
- 118,119 Joel and Shirley Rule
- 120 Mike Rule
- 121,122 Keith and Lisa Slusher
Kara Slusher
Kory Slusher
- 123 Kenneth Slusher
- 124,125 Mark and Jodie Smith
- 126 Whitney Smith
Jordan Smith
Connor Smith
- 127 Helen Staley

- 128 Ruth Swift
- 129 Bonnie Swift
- 130,131 Ray and Melanie Swift
- 132,133 Sidney and Jeannie Toomes
- 134 Fernando Verdin
- 135,136 Barry and Jackie Ward
- 137 Brandon Ward
- 138 Brian Ward
- 139 Charles Williams
- 140 *Don* and Gaynell Yow

In addition to the active members and Sunday School enrollment, there are 92 inactive members on roll.



Sandy Creek, circa 1955





HIS SHEPHERDS – PASTORS OF SANDY CREEK

SHUBAL STEARNS NO RECORDS
1755-1771 1771-1905

W. H. ELLER W. W. WHITE
1905-1907 1907-1909

G. W. HARMON L. A. SOOTS
1909-1910 1911-1912

G. E. SHREWELL F. W. SHAW
1914-1915 1915-1924

BENJAMIN CLARK
1924-1925

F.W. SHAW
1926-1927

J. C. EDWARDS
1927-1936

W. F. CATES
1936-1939

C. L. SMITH
1940-1947

D. O. WRIGHT
1947-1956

C .L. KIRKMAN
1956-1961

BUEL CREASON
1962-1964

TALMADGE WILLIAMS C. W. PIERCE
1964-1967 1968-1968

CARL K. GARNER JAMES WALL
1968-1972 1972-1974

D. O. WRIGHT KENNETH WARNER
1974-1977 1977-1980

CHARLES PENLEY JAMES GAIN
1980-1981 1982-1988

JAMES T. GARNER TERRY HINSON
1988-1992 1992-1997

CARL K. GARNER TRAVIS BROCK
1997-2002 2003-PRESENT

“for

the

sake

of

the

hope

of

Israel.”



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