

INTRODUCTION

A compilation of the history of the church in Winchester would be incomplete without considering the beginnings of the church of Franklin County. The church in this area did not have the phenomenal beginning of the church in general as recorded in Acts, but instead found growth slow and difficult. Due to the faith, determination, and plain grit of a few early stalwarts, the work both at Winchester and in the County did last and prosper. As we enter a new millennium, we should be reminded that we all have a task to perform for the Master and carry on our spiritual heritage for future generations.

Records as such were not kept and the history of the church here and elsewhere was incomplete. In 1982, Mrs. Myra Yates Spencer and Miss Frieda Hannah started gathering information and writing this history of the Winchester church. A tremendous amount of research was necessary since much of this work was done from memory and "word-of-mouth." These ladies are due a debt of gratitude from all of us for the work that has been performed as many hours were spent in writing this history.

WINCHESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Long before the first church of Christ building was located on the corner of Jefferson Street and Third Avenue North, many traveling ministers of the church of Christ would stop in Winchester and conduct services at the Courthouse or in a private home. For twenty-five years, Mrs. Martha Phillips Sanders was the only known member of the church in Winchester. During those long years she mounted her pony and rode to Salem, ten miles away where there had been a church since 1847. (REFERENCE: Letters from John G. Hannah, Jr., Truth and Herald, Excerpt, 1935, Article by Mrs. Carrie Hale, Gospel Advocate, 1917)

Mrs. Sanders and her daughter, Mrs. Mattie Abbott, were joined in worship by Mr. James H. Davis and his wife. Mr. Davis was a farmer across the creek north of town. This farm was known for many years as the "Ring Place" and is presently owned and occupied by Mrs. C. O. Prince, Jr. This small group would take the bread and wine in a basket and meet in different homes for worship. This group was soon strengthened by Dr. C. F. Gattis, a dentist, who had begun practicing in Winchester. In a short time a young doctor, J. W. Grisard, moved here. He was a strong and dedicated Christian. He had three sons, Ben, Parker, and John, and four daughters, Bess, Lizzie, Lacy and Ella B. All of these were dedicated workers in the church. As the number increased they began meeting for worship in the Robert Donnell Schoolhouse. This was located on the lot where the Alexander homestead now stands at 111 North Cedar Street in Winchester.

Mr. & Mrs. G. W. Walker and son, Will E., identified with this group when they moved to Winchester so Will could attend the Winchester Normal School. Later, Mr. Walker became an elder and teacher and Will became song leader. The John G. Hannah family moved to Winchester in 1885. Mrs. Rachel Hannah, who had been baptized by Brother Markum in the icy waters near Bumble Bee School (located at the back of what is now Bomar Phillips' farm) during a meeting in the 1870's, brought her husband and children to join the Winchester group in worship. Her entire household became members of the Lord's body.

The need for a church building was very evident. On May 27, 1881, land was purchased from George Simmons, Executor, for \$100. Deed was made to the Church of Christ and recorded in Deed Book 11, page 402. On November 19, 1885, the adjoining lot was given to the church by Julia G. Curle. It was deeded to James H. Davis, H. H. Wilson and A. H. Henderson as Trustees of the Christian Church and recorded in Deed Book 11, page 404. In 1886, twenty-five Winchester Normal students aided this group in erecting a building on the corner of North Jefferson Street and Third Avenue North.

On Sunday morning, November 11, 1894, as they were starting a meeting, the building caught fire from the

flue, and being all pine, it burned to the ground in a matter of minutes. Plans were again forthcoming for erecting another building and a new location was chosen by the purchase of a lot 70 feet by 80 feet on the corner of North High and Jackson (now Second Avenue North). The land was purchased for \$400.00 from Mrs. S. M. Coleman by J. W. Grisard and C. F. Gattis as elders of the church of Christ on April 16, 1895. This transaction is recorded in Deed Book 18, page 433. The congregation steadily increased in number, faith, and dedication and plans to expand were made by additional purchase of the adjoining lot belonging to R. J. and Addie Shasteen. This plot was purchased on June 9, 1920, by elders Will E. Walker, John F. Vaughan, Sr., J. O. Ledbetter, Sr., and Parker Grisard for \$800.00.

On March 24, 1962, the Elders purchased 3.28 acres on South College Street, from the Shirley heirs to erect a new church building. See Deed Book 101, page 501. Our new building was erected and the first service was held on July 4, 1965. The first activities were begun by a few remarks at the opening of Sunday school by Hugh Plattenburg Sunday School Superintendent. The first song was led by Marion Anderton; Billy McCord read the Scripture and the first prayer was led by Mike Lynch. At the first morning worship service, Bomar Phillips led singing, U. V. Spencer gave the announcements and the first sermon was delivered by Bill Threet. There were 368 in Sunday school on this date. The first restoration was Buford Sisk on July 11, 1965. The first baptism was Emmaly Phillips, July 11, 1965. The first gospel meeting was held by V. P. Black, July 18-25, 1965. The first marriage performed was for Mike Lynch and Lorraine Earle, August 29, 1965. The first funeral was for Grace Sisk on August 5, 1965. The Open House was held on July 11, 1965. B.C. Goodpasture and John T. Smithson were the speakers on this occasion. Former ministers were invited and several attended. The congregation has been blessed by a continual growth in faith and in number. Additional classrooms were necessary and a wing was added in 1973, making possible four additional classrooms on the main floor and a fellowship area in the basement. A new addition completed in 1985 added a new wing to the auditorium, 3 classrooms and the foyer was enlarged. On March 10, 1986, the Elders purchased 1.07 acres from Nellie Ruth Shirley that joins the church property above the parking lot. Deed Book 210, page 19. On April 20, 1989, the Elders purchased the adjoining Shirley home and 2.713 acres of land. Deed Book 228, page 704. The preachers home on South Jefferson Street was used in exchange for this Shirley property that was called the annex building. It was a multi-purpose building. It was used by Agape for counseling for a while, and our youth used it for Bible studies, picnics and recreation. A picnic pavilion was built in 1991.

In April 2003 the elders announced that after many months of preparation construction of an addition to our building would begin under the oversight of one of the elder, Wayne Silvertooth. The construction was completed and dedication was held September 5, 2004. This facility provides us opportunity for spiritual and numerical growth for several decades and a great opportunity for outreach efforts. Many uses of this facility are pre-school, Bible classes, church offices, fellowship, VBS activities, community activities, social events and recreational activities for all ages. An addition of this magnitude was made possible by the generosity of James and Ruby Vanzant who bequeathed a large sum of money to the church. (Although they did not seek recognition for their generosity it was proposed that this addition be named Vanzant Center).

After years of planning and many prayers, a big goal was reached in August 2007 with the opening of the Winchester Christian Academy. During the first year, Georgie Speers served as the director of the school and teacher of the 4 year old class. She was assisted by Lauren Horton. Krislyn Robinson taught the 3 year old class, and Jeana Stidham served as a volunteer. Because of its successful beginning the school added in August 2008 a 2 year old class taught by Jenny Pfister and assistant Connie Hines. Krislyn Robinson continued to teach the 3's and Beth Robertson serves as her assistant. Lauren Horton is currently the director of the school and teacher of the 4 year olds and is assisted by Jeana Stidham.

Many dedicated men served in the early years. Will E. Walker led singing until his death in 1932. He had been ably supported by the strong tenor of John F. Vaughan, Sr. who picked up leading when Brother Walker died. Upon the death of Brother Vaughan, Hugh Plattenburg led singing. He was aided by the local minister Claude Woodroof. Bomar Phillips came to Franklin County in April 1953, and assumed the responsibility of

song director for the Winchester church. He saw the need to improve the singing in the area by helping leaders; Bro. Phillips began a song leader's class in the old building on North High Street, which drew song leaders from surrounding counties. He later moved the class to other locations for the benefit of those attending. Bro. Phillips organized and began the countywide Second Sunday Singing among the Churches of Christ in Franklin County. The first event was held in our old building on North High Street in January 1957, with a packed house of standing room only. He also developed our first youth singing group, carrying them to sing for shut-ins and taking them to singings and places of recreation. Later Bro. Lavon Reed, from 1972 through 1985, expanded this to a larger choral group that presented programs to churches in the area and to Franklin County High School in 1984 on Honors Day and Graduation. Lavon did a good job and a valuable work in helping train these young voices and teach them the joy and blessing of worship in song. Bro. Frank Lynch also worked with the youth singing group. During Bomar's years of service as song director he gave strong leadership in the singing at the worship services, for our gospel meetings, funerals, weddings, singing classes for song leaders, monthly Wednesday night singing emphasis for the entire congregation, which he began in 1973, The Singing Pilgrims, and the Autumn Song Festivals. Under his leadership the Winchester Church of Christ became known far and near for its good singing and the range of songs and hymns that were used including the AHallelujah Chorus. At Bomar's death in April 1998, he had been leading our singing for 45 years which may be a record as song director for one congregation. In April 1998, the elders selected Frank to be the song director for our congregation. Frank continues to make our singing an important part of worship with occasional special classes offered to learn new songs and the first Sunday night of each month devoted to worship in songs. In 2008 our songs were placed on power point for our Sunday morning worship. There are many willing and capable men who assist him in leading singing at other times.

The first known treasurer was Parker Grisard, followed by Lewis Loftis. Upon his resignation, C. W. Clark officiated for a short time. When he left town, U. V. Spencer served until ill health forced his resignation. In July 1968, Joe C. Donaldson served as treasurer until June 2001. At this time, Ralph Underwood became co-treasurer until June 2003. At the time of Joe's death, Ralph was named treasurer.

Ladies who have served as secretaries of the congregation are: Eliza Weddington Robertson, 1972; Jean Ernest, 1972; Myrtle Morris, 1972-1982; Lee Ann Tipps, 1983-84 and 1986-87; Billie Gay Smith, 1985-86; Jean Jones, 1987 to March 1999. Crissie Moss served from April 1999-2001; Phyllis Bishop began in January 2002 and remains the current secretary.

In the early days of the church on the right side in the middle section on the back row sat Emma and Jeff Bogle, who were black. Brother Bogle cleaned the building, built the fires in the two large stoves in the front of the building. He also kept the scuttles filled with coal and the bucket in the back filled with fresh water. Whatever became of the Boggles? Mr. Fronie Smith assumed the job as janitor in the 1920's. He cleaned the building, tended the lawn and provided services for keeping communion dishes and tablecloths clean for approximately thirty years. After the death of his wife, he carried the dishes and cloths to Mrs. Mattie Grant for fourteen years. Other members who baked the bread and washed the communion dishes for many years were Mr. and Mrs. John F. Vaughan, Sr., Mrs. Clara Norton Coleman, Mrs. Nina Ring Tipps, Carl and Mildred Morris. Preparation of this service was later handled quarterly by various members. Now different members prepare it. Others who have served as custodians of our church building are: Earl Priest, Carl and Mildred Morris, James and Polly Church, Kenneth Neal, Stan Rollins, Joe Isbell and Clarence Jones, Mackie Priest, Julie Roggli, Joel Williams, Scott Moss, Michael Roggli, Kathy Crownover, Beth Robertson and Cindy Cunningham. Currently serving are Polly Church, Lisa Crabtree and Linda Curtis.

There have been many interesting Bible scholars, teachers and ardent students contributing to the Lord's work all through the years. They could draw your attention and hold you spellbound in some of their proclamations. The auditorium class was unique in many ways. Henry Estill, a very tall man with a very distinctive voice, would frequently rise to his feet and point with his finger to bring about a point of emphasis in class discussions. George Moseley was also impressive in a very different manner. He calmly sat on the

back seat of this section and divided his time listening and using his cuspidor to accommodate his tobacco chewing.

Among the early staunch supporters of the work was the Alfred Henderson family, W. H. Wilsons, E. O. McClains and a Mrs. Adcock and family. Other families followed: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Baker and their three sons, Ernest, Roy and Bob, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Cameron, Mrs. Mattie Arledge (Superintendent of Schools, 1899-1905), R. A. Clarks, Rings, Thurmans, Talleys, Walkers, Vaughans, Lynches, Ledbetters, Shadows, Ramseys, Gardners (Mrs. Gardner was David Lipscomb's sister), Estills, Hatfields, Stiles, Coulshers, Moseleys, Hannahs, Yates, Caldwelles, Brandons, Laws, Weddingtons, Jernigans, Nortons, Plattenburgs, Cricks, Zimmermans, Mrs. Dan Evans, Landis Coleman.

It goes without saying the growth would have never been possible without patient and capable teachers. Among the well-remembered old teachers were G. W. Walker, Will E. Walker, John F. Vaughan, Sr., J. O. Ledbetter, Sr., and Frank L. Lynch, Sr. Another generation of dedicated teachers to follow include Frank Joyce, Robert Tipps, O. T. Halliburton, Pat B. Lynch, O. D. Siler, Woodrow Rogers and Joe Donaldson. Joe taught classes from 1955 until June 2001 when illness forced him to stop. He had not missed a Sunday for 33 years at that time. Men of the congregation who have served as Sunday School Superintendents are: John F. Vaughan, Sr., Hugh Plattenburg, Wade Dodson, Harry K. Boswell and Wayne Silvertooth. Beginning January 1993, the elders put the Education Department under the supervision of the deacons. Those who have served in this position are Mike Roggli, Eddie Martin, Jerry Crownover, Frank Lynch and Greg Heatherly. Currently serving the Bible School Department are Tony Harrison and Terry Rogers.

The church has been blessed with women of outstanding ability to teach. Some of the earlier teachers were: Miss Ada Thurman, Mrs. Alda Cameron, Mrs. Bessie Grisard Mitchell, Miss Lizzie Clark, Mrs. Anna Clark Moore, Mrs. Clara Norton Coleman, Mrs. John F. Vaughan, Sr., Miss Arie Moseley, Mrs. Flora Hannah Caldwell, Mrs. Lou Yates and Mrs. Sadie Gattis Taylor. Another generation to follow were: Mrs. Kathleen Vaughan Halliburton, Mrs. T. C. Simmons, Mrs. Alta Mae Crick Dodson, Mrs. Evabel Vaughan Clark, Mrs. Myra Spencer, Mrs. Mary Tipps McAlister, Mrs. Jean B. Daniell and Mrs. Anna Louise Joyce. Mrs. Dodson taught for over thirty years and almost up to the time of her death. Mrs. Simmons taught for sixty years. Mrs. Frank (Anna Louise) Joyce taught various age groups for over 52 years, including weekly Bible classes which she initiated at Lakeside Manor and Winchester Health Care Center.

The church in Winchester was very fortunate in having dedicated ministers. The first known preacher was J. D. Floyd who took up temporary residence here in 1885 to assist a Brother Brents in a two-week meeting. There were fourteen additions at this time (Gospel Advocate, 1917). E. L. Cameron preached here on fifth Sundays and other times as necessary. The church sent him on mission work in the country. The first regular minister was a single man, L. B. Jones. He was here in 1913 and 1914. G. C. Brewer came during World War I and left in 1919. He was a very fluent speaker and he became very noted throughout the brotherhood. He was a writer for the Gospel Advocate. In 1922, J. M. Gainer came and stayed until 1928. He was a great scholar and had great influence in the church causing it to grow in faith and number. He worked closely with the black people while here. He also did missionary work in North Carolina. He was especially loved and respected by the young people. He taught special classes for young ladies, young men and children, in addition to Ladies Bible class and Wednesday evening class. The building was utilized four days each week for services. Hugo Almond was here 1930-37. He stressed using more young men in the services. Many young men became more aware of their responsibilities. He was killed in an automobile crash in 1957. He had one son to become a preacher, one became a deacon and his only daughter married a preacher. Claude Woodroof was here in 1937-42. He aided in the singing in addition to his preaching. Two of his sons, Dan and Jim, became preachers. His daughter, Bettye, married a preacher. E. W. Stovall came in 1942 and left in 1945. He began our first weekly article in the local newspaper. It was called "The Old Paths". His two sons, Woody and Charles, became preachers. The first church bulletin was issued in 1942. According to Gospel Advocate dated October 5, 1981, Brother Stovall died August 30, 1981, and his wife died four days later. Yarbrough Leigh came in 1945 and remained into 1950. It was during his tenure that the congregation built the first

house for a preacher. Earl Woods was here from 1950-51. Trice Dickson served 1951-1952. During his tenure the church building was being remodeled and worship was conducted in the high school auditorium. Howard Reece was here from 1952 to 1955 and he stressed our need for close fellowship and a visitation program. Jack, one of his two sons, became a minister. In 1956, K. M. Kelley came and brought about an awareness of a need for more mission work and the need for expanding our facilities. In 1959, a congregation was started in Elberton, Georgia, self-supporting by 1972. Because of the radio ministry there, the work expanded into the black community and a black congregation was soon established. When Bro. Kelley left in October 1963; our new building was being planned. The second preachers' home on South Jefferson Street was built in his tenure. Bill Threet served from June 1, 1964, to June 1967. He worked well with the young people. They were soon taking a more active part in church duties. Flavil Nichols served from August 1967, to May 1971. Bro. Nichols was a Bible scholar. He was a most compassionate man and worked hard while here. In June 1971, J. Milton Irvin began working with the Winchester congregation. He initiated tent meetings, additional meeting work and the Home for the Aged, Lakeside Manor. He left May 30, 1978. George Marshall came July 1, 1978. He worked faithfully with the bus program. He left June 1980 to return to Alabama his home state. Ed Boggess came August 31, 1980. His sermons were interesting and thought-provoking. He had an interesting way of always connecting facts of the New Testament to the prophecies of the Old Testament. In 1982, Ed started a daily radio program, Just-a-Minute. This one minute spot heard three times daily on two radio stations generated a lot of interest. Compliments were heard continually from listeners in our community about his ability to say so much in "Just-a-Minute", giving Bible truths and examples that were very helpful. In June 1992 when the mission field opened up in Russia, the Elders gave approval for Bro. Boggess to make a trip to Russia. He and his wife, Elaine, went again in October 1992. During 1992 and 1993, Ed was both our pulpit minister and missionary. In January 1994 Ed resigned as pulpit minister to work full-time in the Russian mission field. He made eight trips to Russia establishing four new congregations, baptizing 500 into Christ, and worked to strengthen the newly established churches. In August 1994, Ed resigned his position as missionary to Russia to seek pulpit work again in another location. Roger Massey began his work with the Winchester church in February 1994. He and his wife, Bonnie, came to us from Williamstown, West Virginia. In 1996, the ASummer Bible Series@ was begun under his direction and his wife, Bonnie devoted many hours to the Vacation Bible School program. Roger's last sermon was December 31, 2000. Jeff Walton began his ministry at Winchester on April 8, 2001 with his wife Janie and their 3 children. Their energy and enthusiasm resulted in growth for our congregation. In June of 2004 Jeff resigned and they returned to their home in Florence, Alabama. In August 2004 Ed & Elaine Boggess returned "home" to work again with this congregation after having worked in Vicksburg, Mississippi and Shelbyville, Tennessee. One of his goals has always been to help the church think in terms of being a family of God's people.

The first associate minister was a young man from Cowan, Houston Bynum, who worked summers of 1972-74, full-time 1975-76. He assisted Milton Irvin until he became a full-time minister. Cecil Cole served as associate minister from August 1980-1991. Tommy Stone began working with the Winchester church as youth director in the summers of 1990-91 while attending Freed-Hardeman University. He began full-time work as associate minister in January 1992. He left in September 1993, to assume work in Chattanooga as Youth Minister. Jarrod Kelly and wife, Cindy, moved to Winchester in June 1995, to begin work as our Associate Minister and Youth Director. They left us in January 1999 to begin work in Lansing, Michigan as a full time minister. In September 1999, Michael Strickland was selected to begin work as our Associate Minister. He and his wife, Mary, came to us from the Auburn Church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama. Michael resigned in 2002 to begin work with his home congregation in Moulton, Alabama as the Outreach Minister. Mark Hastings and his wife Rachel began work at our congregation in July 2002. They came to us from Huntsville, Alabama. Mark served as the Associate and Youth Minister until he resigned in February 2006 but continued to have an active part in the youth ministry until May 2007. Joseph Horton was selected as the Associate and Youth Minister in May of 2007. After his graduation from Freed-Hardeman University and marriage to Lauren Lusk, both from Chattanooga, Tennessee, they began their work here in June 2007.

Young men that grew up in our congregation and have become ministers of the gospel are: Roy Arnold, Jim

Hardison, Winston Tipps, Jerry Wilhoite, and Eddie Boggess. Years ago one of our young men, Samuel Saylor Smith (son of Fronie Smith who was janitor for the church from the 1920's to 1950's), served in World War II and after the war lived in Abilene, Texas. He became a full-time preacher and preached in the Western states. He died around 1985. Young men from other congregations who have been influenced and encouraged by the Winchester congregation are Houston Bynum and John Cotham.

All through the years, the Winchester church has had some of the most capable preachers to hold revivals. J. A. Harding began a meeting here on March 29, 1891. Among others were: David Lipscomb, T.Q. Martin, Foy E. Wallace, Sr., Foy E. Wallace, Jr., H. Leo Boles, B.A. Douthitt, Ira Douthitt, N.B. Hardeman, O.H. Tallman, G.C. Brewer, L.B. Jones, T. W. Smith, C.E. McGaughey, B.C. Goodpasture, John T. Smithson, Jr., Carroll B. Ellis, Willard Collins, Charles E. Cobb, D.D. Woody, Paul Southern, V. P. Black, Rex Turner, Wilson Wallace, Maurice M. Howell, Frank Van Dyke, C.H. Woodroof, Melvin J. Wise, J.C. Davidson, Charles Chumley, Paul S. Hunton, Steve Botts, Myron Keith, Robert A. Anderson, Albert Hill, J. Wayne Kilpatrick, W.T. Allison, Garland Elkins, Cleon Lyles, J. Milton Irvin, Roger Dill, I.V. White, Paul Rogers, Steve Flatt, Ben Flatt, Tom Holland, James Watkins, John Vaughn, Marlin Connelly, Flavil Nichols, Dave Miller and Lonnie Jones. Many of these men held meetings more than one time.

During brother Gainer's tenure (1922), Frank L. Lynch, Sr. and Dr. John Grisard became elders. Since then, the following have served as elders: L.B. Crick, Hugh Plattenburg, Lewis Loftis, O. T. Halliburton, Frank Joyce, Pat Lynch, Robert Tipps, Pat Grammer, J. Bomar Phillips, Woodrow Rogers, Paul Trainor, Wayne Silvertooth and Cowan Simmons. Elders currently serving are Ben Lynch, Josh Tenpenny, Mike Lynch, Mike Roggli, Richard Rumph, Grady Floyd, Oren Huffman, Frank Lynch and T. Simmons. These were all deacons before becoming elders. Deacons who have served are: Ben Grisard, Jim Copeland, U.V. Spencer, C. W. Clark, Albert Robertson, Robert "Tiny" Grant, J. R. Grammer, Earl Champion, Floyd Threet, James F. Daniell, Raymond Yates, Harry K. Boswell, Johnny Weddington, Lynn Smith, Victor Suddarth, Thomas Todd, Charles Dye, J.C. Weaver, Jr., Larry Ezell, James Church and James Long. The current Deacons are: Eddie Martin, Bruce Stewart, Jerry Crownover, David Wilkerson, Kevin Caroland, Greg Heatherly, Bill Hardison, Ralph Underwood, Andy Groves, Tony Harrison, Danny Patterson, Mike Robertson, Terry Rogers and Wade Rogers.

Those who attended regularly for so many years have blessed the church at Winchester. Mrs. Frank (Leah) Lynch, who died in 1974 at the age of 95, was a member of the Winchester church for 69 years. Mrs. T. C. (Elise) Simmons, who died in 1990 at the age of 93, was a member of the Winchester church for 71 years. Mrs. Lillie Plattenburg, who died in 2000, had been a member for 75 years. Mr. Wiley Northcutt, 100 years old attended regularly until his death in 2000. Mr. Raymond Yates attended church at Winchester congregation since he was a baby and was baptized in 1923. He had been a member for 85 years until his death on December 8, 2005 at the age of 97. Following his death, Mrs. Cecil Norman became our oldest member at 99 years until her death on October 12, 2008. Currently Frieda Hannah (97) is our oldest member, although she is unable to attend. J.D. and Mabel Holmes are the oldest married couple having been members here since October 1944. Among our oldest living members who attend regularly are: Kenneth Brown, James F. Daniell, Janie Bragg, Anna Louise Joyce, Ozelle Arnold, Elma Lou Cashion, J.W. McCord and Durrell Disbrow. Our congregation is also blessed by the large number of young families whose children will be able to preserve the church for future generations.

Over the years the Winchester church has received gifts of real estate. These are:

*Storehouse and lot on the North side of the public square on March 23, 1939, from the will of Mrs. George E. (Eula A.) Banks, Sr., Deed Book 64, page 64, which property the church sold on March 11, 1974.

*House and lot on 5th Ave. SW in Winchester on November 29, 1963, from Ruby Syler Vanzant and James Vanzant, Deed Book 105, page 341, which property the church sold on February 6, 1964.

*3.68 acres for Lakeside Manor Retirement Home on December 31, 1975, from James and Ruby Vanzant, Deed Book 164, page 706.

*House and lot in Winchester at 306 3rd Ave. NW on December 19, 1984 from Wade Dodson, Deed Book 204, page 24, which property the church sold on March 8, 1985.

*25 acres near Estill Springs on December 29, 1989, from T. C. and W. H. Summers, Tabsum, Inc., Deed Book 233, page 453. This property was sold in November 2000.

For the first time in 1984, the Winchester church assumed complete support and supervision of a missionary, Bill Mead of Wellston, Ohio. He served the congregation in Wellston from 1984 to 1989. He moved to Pickerington, Ohio, in 1989, where he started the Pickerington church, originally in a store front, but later in their own building which was completed in 1992. In 1993, he left Pickerington and the oversight of the Winchester elders to go to a new location. The Pickerington church became self-supporting and has experienced enough growth for a new auditorium according to recent reports.

The Winchester church has supported evangelism and mission work in other areas for many years. Among those helped were Ray Fillion, Abbotsford, Canada; Spanish Gospel Outreach, Houston, Texas; Roland Cumbee, Lake City, South Carolina; Chris Westphal; Mark Blackwelder, Parsons, Tennessee (Slovakia); B. J. Barr, Florence, South Carolina; Randolph Gonce, Stevenson, Alabama (India) and I.V. White, South Carolina; Jim Waldron (India); Eddie Boggess (Baton Rouge, LA); Nashville Inner City Ministry; AGAPE; Winford Clayborne (International Gospel Hour); Mac Lyon (Search Program); Josh and Gina Boyd in Bangkok, Thailand. Support was given for short trips to: Ruth Church, Jennifer Payne, Pam Edwards, Steve Myers, Lacey Lynch, Kim Grimes, Lincoln Rogers, Kristy Rogers, Tiffany Pate, Heath Rogers, Amy Wilkerson, Kayla Payne, Alex Ansley and Trevor Robertson.

The Russian mission was begun by Bro. Boggess, in 1992. During his two years in this work several from this congregation traveled with him to help strengthen the work. In 1993 Paul Trainor, Gary and Ruth Morris Church, (Gary also returned in 1996), and Maurice Batchelor traveled there. After Ed's resignation in 1994 the elders selected Kenny Bass to oversee this work. He made one trip before he gave up that position. Bill and Katherine Mead traveled there to encourage the work in 1994. Since Manly Luscombe had made several trips with others, he was chosen to be our missionary in 1997. He and his wife Janet spent 6 months there, but because of new laws in Russia concerning mission work and being able to teach the Bible, they returned to full-time work in Athens, TN in 1998. Maurice and Linnie Batchelor have done great work in this ministry. Maurice has made 16 trips since 1993 and his wife Linnie accompanied him 9 times. In 2003 Richard and Cheryl Waggoner went for 2 months. At that time Sergay Dailov, who had trained at the School of Preaching in Syktyvkar, was selected to be the preacher at Kirov. In November 2004 a wonderful opportunity to purchase a place of worship for the church at Kirov was presented to our elders. After complicated negotiations with the Russian government, the church at Kirov met for the first time, in July 2005, in their own building. Manly Luscombe was there for that first service. It became an outlet of service and help to a hurting and burdened people. They continue to need our prayers and support. Maurice Batchelor returned to Russia along with Grady Floyd in 2006.

The elders at Winchester joined other congregations in providing support for the mission work in India since the late 1970's. J.C. Bailey, a Canadian preacher, was able to get a visa to go there to preach and teach. Later support was given for other native men who were trained to be preachers. We also had a long association with Charles Scott for his work in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. Lyle Starnes made his first preaching trip in 1980 and he has made 12 trips. Much good has been accomplished through these efforts for the training and encouragement to native preachers and the growth of the church. In 2008 the government of India would no longer permit his travel into their country. He still maintains almost daily contact with this work through email.

Other mission works that we are assisting support are: Randy Short (Brazil); Daniel Palk (Brazil); African Christian School Foundation; Adam Barr (Scotland); David and Lorrie French (Zambia); Christian Student Centers (Knoxville, Cookeville, and Murfreesboro).

Bro. Cole became director of the Personal Evangelism Program in October 1975. This program did many good works for 27 years until Cecil retired December 31, 2002. His wife, Shirley, and Jim Long assisted him in this program. Bro. Cole has held workshops and meetings in various towns in Canada, which were mission places of the Winchester congregation. He has also preached at all of the congregations in Franklin County as well as surrounding areas.

In 1981, the Winchester church, together with the Alabama Christian School of Religion, Montgomery, Alabama (now Southern Christian University) agreed to form a cluster in the Winchester area. The purpose was to assist individuals in studying for their degrees. Ed Boggess received his MA and M.Th. degrees with the aid of this program. Others in the congregation who took advantage of this opportunity were J. Bomar Phillips, Joe Donaldson, Anna Louise Joyce, Jean Daniell, Paul Trainor, Woodrow and Evelin Rogers. The cluster was operational for many years.

In 1978 James and Ruby Vanzant donated 3.68 acres of land to build a retirement home. Lakeside Manor was built with a vision of assisting aged members of Winchester Church of Christ and the Winchester community who need care and assistance in their older years. This service was provided for 24 years under the direction of Carl and Dovie Davenport. After much prayer and deliberation the decision was made by the elders to close Lakeside Manor on March 1, 2003. This property was sold February 2004.

The Winchester church is greatly involved in benevolent work. For many years' monthly contributions have been made to Mount Dora, Potter and Tipton orphan homes. In 2007 Rainbow Omega was added. This is a work for developmentally disabled adults. Donations are given to Disaster Relief as needed. In 2005 members contributed money and a big truck load of supplies for Katrina Hurricane Relief for the church in Gulf Port, Mississippi and the surrounding area as well as volunteers to work. In 2007 money was collected for tornado relief in Jackson, Tennessee. The church continually meets the benevolent needs of its members and community with food, gasoline and other needs. In recent years a program of sweaters, coats and blankets drive are collected to be distributed. This program has been under the direction of Woodrow Rogers, Charles Dye and James Church, Paul Trainor, Grady Floyd and Jimmy Long. Currently serving are Andy Groves and Danny Patterson.

We have many programs for all ages in addition to our regular Bible classes on Sunday and Wednesday. Our younger children participate in the "Rays of Sunshine" making birthday cards, which are sent to members. They also help with their parents and others in serving a meal to the widows and widowers at Valentines and Thanksgiving. The youth group enjoys spending time with monthly devotionals, Tuesday prayer breakfast, visits to the sick and shut-ins, lock-ins, youth retreats, various service projects, Challenge Youth Conference, RUSH weekend at Freed-Hardeman, summer camp, group trips for special fun events and many, many more. We also have Vacation Bible School where our teens put on plays written to fit into the theme of VBS.

Our church family enjoys quarterly fellowship meals, the Annual Friends and Family Day in the spring, Labor Day picnic, class retreats, various evangelist seminars and gospel meetings. Occasionally, during the summer months we have a Wednesday night summer series with visiting area ministers, or different adult Bible classes are provided.

Many of our members are involved with the visitation program. Weekly assignments are given to make phone calls and send cards or letters. Groups have meals in their homes to become better acquainted and meet new people. The Ladies Service Program coordinates food for the sick and bereaved members. A large number of ladies made bears for the local hospital, this program ended after 10 ½ years. For many years the ladies weekly Bible Class was held September through May. Now the elders provide the ladies a Bible Study class on Wednesday Night. Many have participated in fall retreats and special Ladies Day programs.

Many of our members go about doing good works aside from these programs mentioned. Our mission as we go into 2009 remains the same as when the church first met in Winchester; **TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST**. Let us all dedicate ourselves to the work before us that we may leave a great spiritual heritage to coming generations.