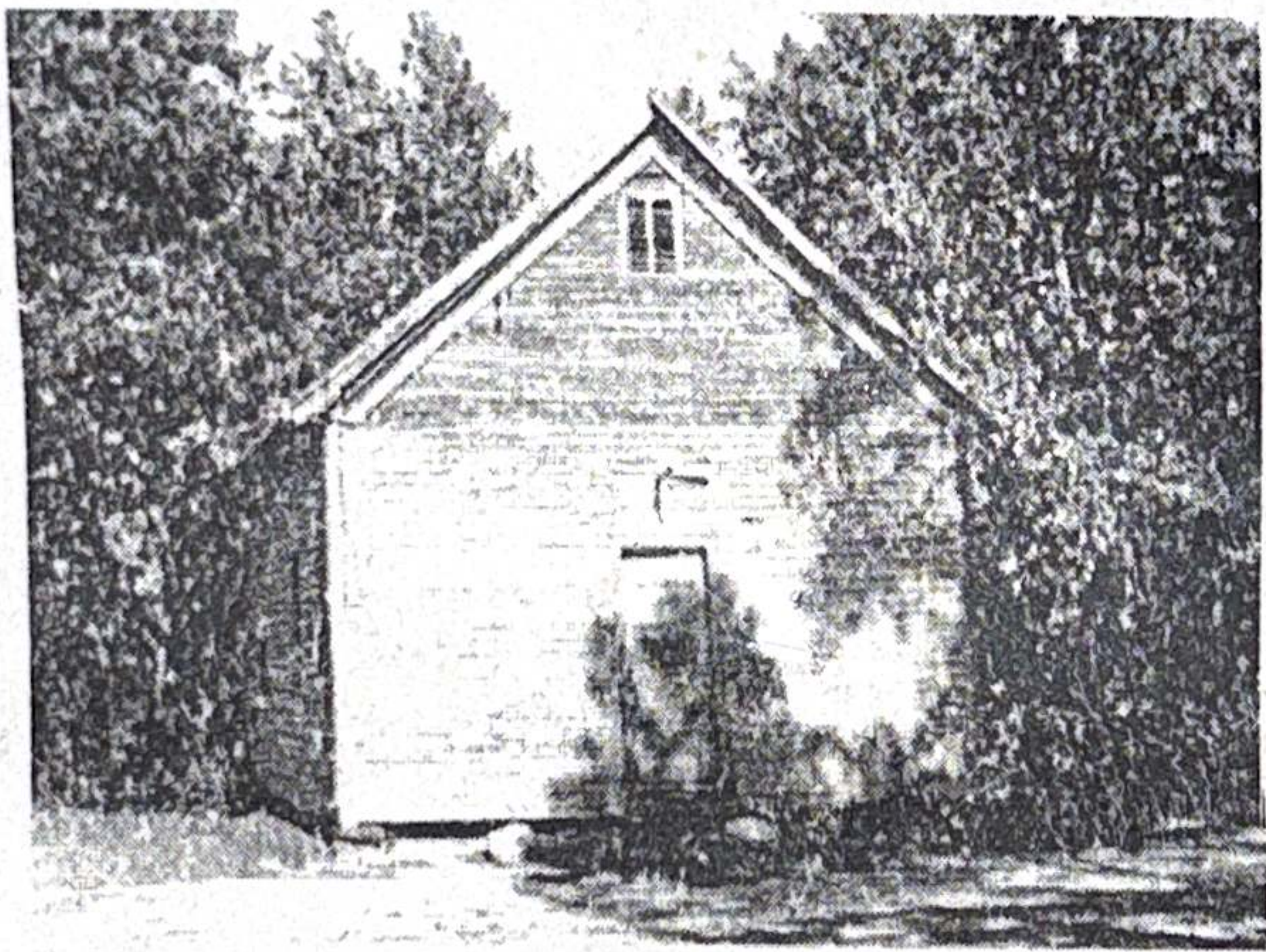


HESTER GROVE



BAPTIST CHURCH

1912

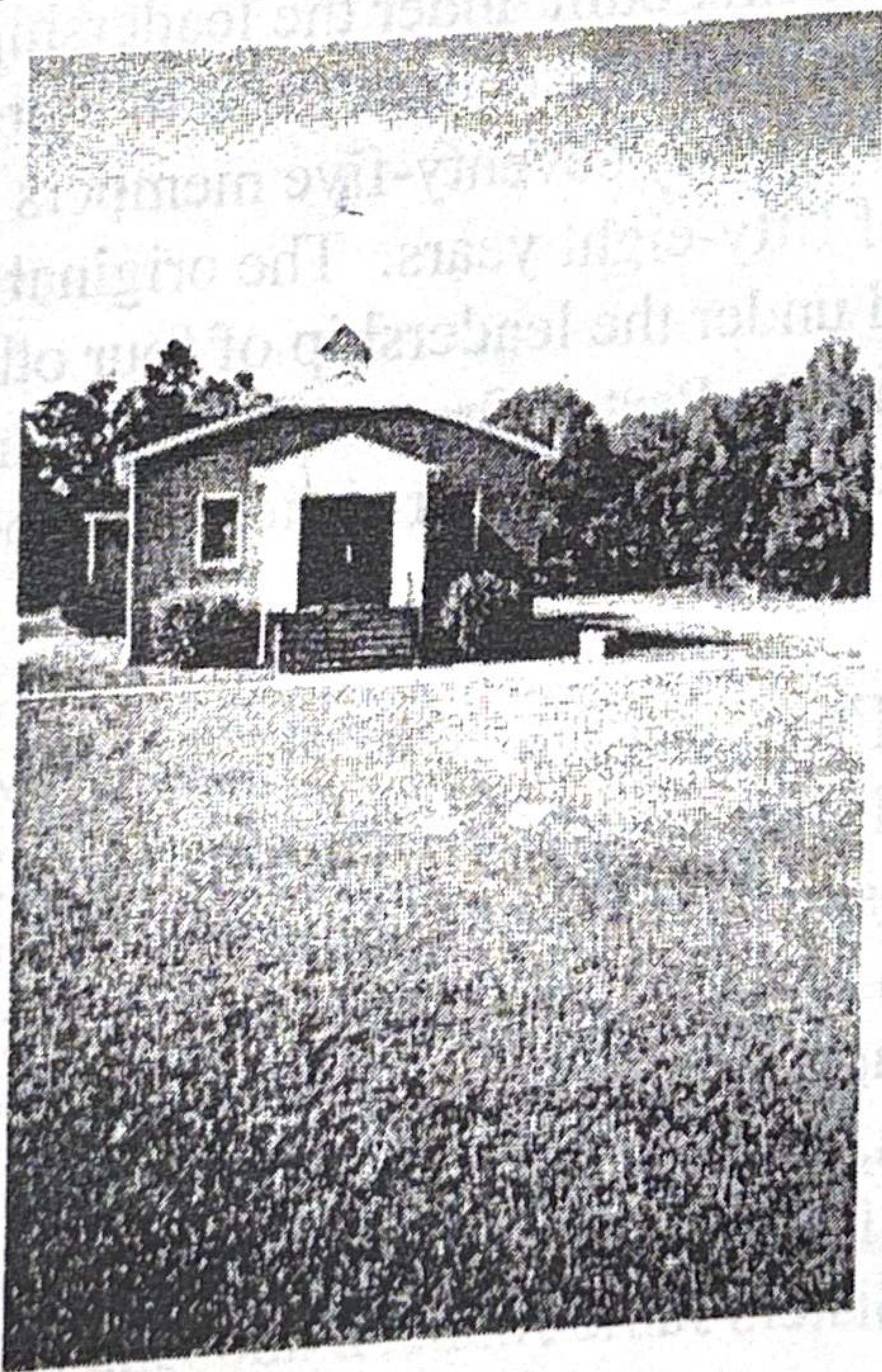
A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF HESTER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Hester Grove Baptist Church

was established in 1912. The original church was located in the Hester's Store community. Hester Grove was first built under the leadership of Pastor Calvin Graves. The church grew in membership to approximately seventy-five members over a period of fifty-eight years. The original church operated under the leadership of four other pastors in addition to Pastor Graves: Pastors Sam Warren, John Studway, Luther Bradsher, and Spencer Woods.

From 1912 to 1970, Hester Grove was under the leadership of Deacons Alberty Thompson, Henry Bradsher, Dave Pride, Willie Clayton, James Jones, Bud Crisp, Henry Hester, and Hugh Hester. Rev. Joe C. Rone served as a deacon, and later became Pastor of the Hester Grove Baptist Church in 1963. The secretaries were Sisters Janie Johnson and Ella Bradsher. Treasurers were Brothers Joe C. Rone and Bud Crisp. The ushers were Sisters Dorothy Latta (volunteer), Irene Wilkerson and Vinnie Thompson Carter.

God blessed Rev. Joseph C. Rone to serve as pastor of the Hester's Grove Church from 1963 until September 1995 (when the Lord called him home). Under Pastor Rone's leadership, Hester Grove was rebuilt at the current site on Wheeler Church Road in 1970. Worship services were held on second and fourth Sundays. Missionary services were held on third Sunday evenings. Hester Grove celebrated homecoming on fourth Sunday in May and October; and revival services were held the week after the third Sunday in September.



1970

After several months of visiting ministerial support, Rev. Joe C. Clayton, Jr., was installed as Pastor of Hester Grove Baptist Church in July 1996. Under Pastor Clayton's ministry, the church worship service schedule changed from second and fourth Sundays to four Sundays a month in February 1999. Homecoming celebrations have been consistent and revivals have been changed to three-day services in June and September. Other ministry changes include quarterly missionary services, ministerial staff discipleship training, intercessory prayer and regular weekly Bible study sessions. Pastor Clayton's leadership has inspired the young and mature alike to strive toward the call of discipleship. Hester Grove is steadfast in Baptist doctrine, but we're striving toward becoming a healing station for the nation. For we know that wherever you hurt, **"God can heal you!"**

CHURCH MINISTRIES

PASTORAL

1963-1995

Rev. Joseph Calvin Rone

1996-2007

Rev. Joe Clark Clayton, Jr.



The late **REV. JOE CALVIN RONE** accepted Christ and joined Hester Grove Baptist Church at an early age. He was married to the late Mrs. Jessie Smith Rone for more than 65 years and this union was blessed with nine children—seven children still survive. He served on the Deacon Board for many years. He served as pastor at First Baptist Church in Virgilina, Virginia for 13 years and Hester Grove for 28 years.

MINISTERS

1963-1995

Rev. Joe Clayton, Jr.
Rev. Anthony Clayton
Rev. Charlie Woods

1996-2007

Rev. Anthony Clayton
Rev. Charlie Woods
Rev. Nancy Clayton
Rev. Emma Webb
Rev. Thane Morrow
Rev. Wallace Allen
Rev. Priscilla Morrow
Rev. Mark Webb
Rev. George Webb, Jr.
Rev. Jennifer Cates

DEACONS

1963-1995

Calvin "Simon" Johnson (*Chairman*)
Thomas "Tommie" Swann
James "Sonny" Poteat
Joe Clayton, Sr. (*Chairman*)
George Webb, Sr.
John Snipes (*rendered service*)

1996-2007

Joe Clayton, Sr. (*Chairman*)

Thomas Swann

Alphonzo Poteat (*Chairman*)

David Torain

Standley Goodman

George Webb, Sr.

Mark Webb (*licensed Minister—March 2006*)

Larry Lunsford

Albert Hester

TRUSTEES

1996-2007

Garland Harrelson, Chairman

Mark Webb (*until August 2002*)

Keith Wright

David Torain (*until August 2002*)

John J. Webb

Alphonzo Poteat (*until August 2002*)

Kenneth King, Sr.

Albert J. Hester (*until September 2006*)

Larry Lunsford (*until September 2006*)

Perry Miles

Walter Leath

TREASURERS

1963-2007

Brother Bud Crisp

Deacon Calvin Johnson (*Associate*)

Deacon George Webb, Sr.

SECRETARIAL

1963-1995

Sister Janie Pride Johnson (*Retired 1991*)
Sister Vinnie Thompson Carter
Brother Garland Harrelson (*Deacons Secretary*)
Sister Sandra Cates

1996-2007

Sister Vinnie Thompson Carter (*until July 1996*)
Brother Garland Harrelson (*Deacons Secretary*)
Sister Sandra Cates
Sister Karen Cooper
Sister Daphne Oliver
Sister Nikki Alston Purcell
Sister Janie Leath
Sister Cassandra Webb

FINANCIAL ADVISORY

2002-2007

Rev. Jennifer Cates (*Chairperson*)
Sister Jeraline Harrelson (*Co-Chairperson until 2006*)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

TEAM

Rev. Jennifer Cates	Sister Linda Scoggins
Mother Katie Cates	Sister Linda Currie
Sister Sandra Cates	Sister Deborah Woods
Sister Katrina Crisp	

CHORAL

1963-1995

Youth Choir
The Rone Sisters
The Fuller Family

1996-2007

Church Choir
Mark Webb & Family
Youth Choir
Male Chorus

MISSIONARY

1963-1995

Sister Addie Clayton (President)
Sister Ruth Fuller (Vice-President)
Sister Annie Bell Lester (Vice-President)
Sister Irene Wilkerson (Asst Secretary)
Sister Jessie Rone (Treasurer)

1996-2007

Sister Annie Bell Lester (President)
Sister Katrina Crisp (Vice-President)
Jeraline Harrelson (Secretary)
Patsy Miles (Secretary)
Sister Irene Wilkerson (Asst Secretary)
Mother Jessie Rone (Treasurer)
Sister Christine Torain (Treasurer)

PASTOR AID

1996-2007

Sister Cynthia Woods (President)
Sister Minnie Mae Cates (Vice-President)
Sister Josephine Scoggins (Secretary)
Sister Linda Currie (Treasurer/Asst Secretary)
Sister Laurie Bragg (President)
Sister Teresa King (President)
Sister Dorothy Outlaw (Vice-President)
Rev. Priscilla Morrow (President)
Sister Linda Scoggins (President/Vice-President)
Daphne Oliver (Secretary)
Sister Melissa Cates (Secretary)
Sister Helen Woods (Treasurer)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

1963-2007

Sister Irene Wilkerson (Teacher/Treasurer)
Sister Joyce Beasley (Teacher)
Sister Sharon Lester (Secretary)
Deacon George Webb (Superintendent)
Pastor Joe Clayton, Jr. (Adult Teacher)
Sister Amy Clayton (Youth Teacher)
Sister Annie Bell Lester (Teacher)
Rev. Emma Webb (Adult Teacher)
Sister Erica Cates (Secretary)
Rantray Robertson (Asst Secretary)
Sister Betty Lester (Youth Teacher)
Rev. Thane Morrow (Asst Adult Teacher)
Deacon Standley Goodman (Asst Youth Teacher)
Rev. Priscilla Morrow (Youth Teacher)

Deacon Alphonzo Poteat (*Asst Superintendent*)
Sister Linda Scoggins (*Secretary*)
Sister Dorothy Poteat (*Asst Secretary*)

USHERS

1963–1995

Sister Irene Wilkerson (*President*)
Sister Katrina Crisp (*Secretary*)
Sister Shirley Richmond (*Treasurer*)

1996–2007

Sister Irene Wilkerson (*President*)
Sister Bertha Beasley (*President, Vice-President*)
Sister Laura Richmond (*Vice-President*)
Sister Rhonda Brooks (*Secretary*)
Sister Frances Jones (*Secretary*)
Sister Patricia Torain (*Secretary*)
Sister Vanessa Clayton Leigh (*Asst Secretary*)
Sister Shirley Richmond (*Treasurer*)
Sister Mae Lois Totten (*Secretary*)

YOUTH MINISTRY

1996–2007

Rev. Wallace Allen (*Youth Pastor*)
Rev. Mark Webb (*Youth Pastor*)
Sister Josephine Scoggins
Sister Jeraline Harrelson
Sister Melissa Cates
Sister Sharon Harris

KITCHEN COMMITTEE

1963-1995

Sister Annie Bell Lester

1996-2007

Mother Ruth Fuller

Sister Christine Torain

NURSING STAFF

1996-2007

Sister Dorothy Outlaw

Sister Gladys Beatty

Sister Cassandra Webb

Sister Sharon Harris

Sister Janet Crisp (*Volunteer*)

Senior Members of HGBC FAMILY

Thank you, Father for the faithfulness and love of our elders. May Your love and joy continue to shine through each of them as we walk in Your divine wisdom and grace.

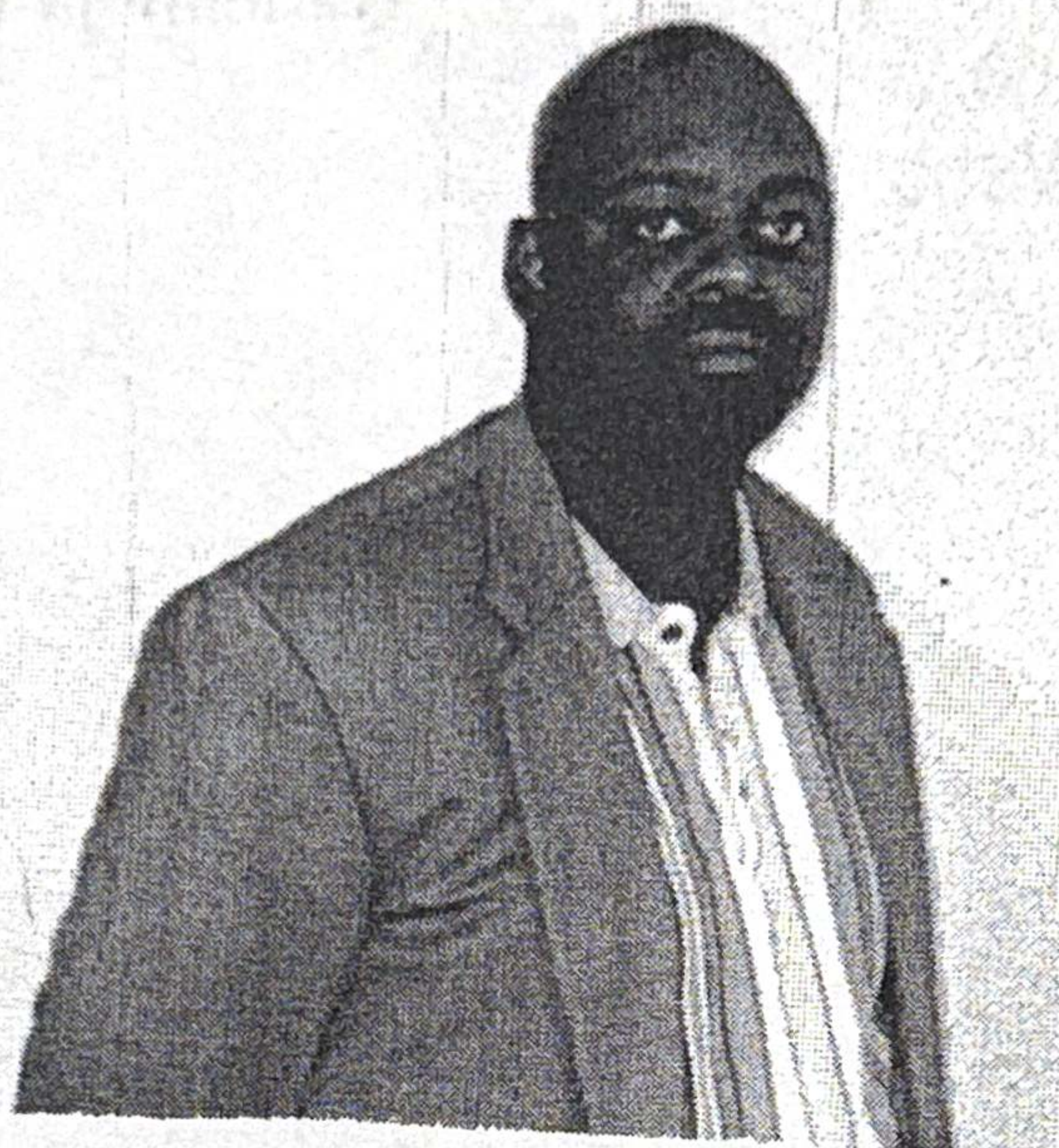
Beatrice Beasley
Bertha Beasley
Gladys Beatty
Barbara Brown
Isabelle Cameron
Delois Cates
Katie Cates
Minnie Mae Cates
Ruth Chambers
Gloria Clayton
Joe Clayton, Sr.
Annie Crisp
Katrina Crisp
Willie Mae Harris
Curtis Fuller
Ida Lou Fuller
Ruth Fuller
Bessie Haith
Garland Harrelson
Jeraline H. Gregory
Margaret Harris
Marie Harris
Albert Hester
Barbara Jones

Faye King
Janie Leath
Walter Leath
Annie Bell Lester
Effie McGhee
Perry Miles
Leon Mitchell
Dorothy Outlaw
Alphonzo Poteat
Curtis Poteat
Dorothy Poteat
Irie Poteat
Josephine Poteat
Victor Johnson
Shirley Richmond
Frances Rone
Hubert Rone
Junior Rone
Loverna Rone
Monnie Rone
Corrine Royster
Linda Royster
Mae Frances Royster
Wallace Royster

Mary Scoggins
Eula Swann
Thomas Swann
Christine Torain
David Torain
Rev. Emma Webb
George Webb, Sr.

John (Joe) Webb
Shirley Webb
James Wiley
Raymond Woods
Wilhelmina Woods

(**names in bold**—blessed with 75 or more years)



REV. JOE CLARK CLAYTON, JR., is the eldest son of Deacon Joe Clayton, Sr. and Rev. Nancy Rone Clayton. He has three siblings—one brother, Anthony and two sisters, Candle and Trina. He is a father blessed with two sons: Joseph and Joshua. Rev. Clayton was active in ministry for several years before his appointment as Pastor of the Hester Grove Baptist Church in 1996. His ministry vision is to preach God's Word and have an outreach ministry that meets the needs of God's people and compels the lost to seek refuge in Christ. For he knows that **God will heal everywhere that you hurt.**

SENIOR APPRECIATION SERVICE

**OCTOBER 13, 2007
3:00 P.M.**

Mistresses of ceremony

Rev. Emma Webb

Rev. Jennifer Cates

Opening Selection

Congregation

"DOWN AT THE CROSS"

Scripture

Bro. Garland Harrelson

(PSALM 34: 1-8)

Prayer

Deacon Alphonzo Poteat

Welcome

Sister Sandra Cates

Response

Sister Queen Dark

Tributes

Pastor Joe Clayton, Jr.

It's a great honor to be a part of such a heartfelt collaboration of the many members of the Hester's Grove Missionary Baptist Church as we celebrate your faithfulness to the cause of Christ. On behalf of the many members of this body I want you all to know how much your

prayer, presence and wisdom has meant to the spiritual growth of the Church. Surely as the psalmist has once said, "If we had ten thousand tongues our voices couldn't utter the many expressions of our gratitude." Too often in our world life can spin so fast that you can overlook those who mean most. Well, it's your time to receive the honor that is due to you. The Word of God teaches us that we should give honor where honor is due. To those who serve as elders they are worthy of double honor. It's our intentions not only to observe the teachings of the Apostles Doctrine, but to take to the next level in honoring you to the third power: One for the Father who has blessed us to partake of your wisdom. Two for the Son who has taught you through life lessons how to lead us by example as Christ did for His disciples. Three for the Holy Ghost who like yourselves, show steadfastness in the faith which has kept us grounded when the storms of life seem to get the best of us.

On behalf of the Deacons, and all the other auxiliaries of the Hester's Grove Missionary

Baptist Church enjoy your flowers now. We love you and pray this Manual dedicated in celebration of you, and what you mean to the fellowship of this Church will serve as a constant reminder of the magnitude of how much you mean to our fellowship. Our prayer is God will make your latter more blessed than your former ever was. As we continue toward the day when the wicked will cease from troubling, and the weary shall be at rest. Our prayer is God will grant us more special moments, which will ever be stitched in our hearts of His graciousness in blessing us with your love, and wisdom. Our prayer is that each moment of reading this Manual for Elders Members the Father will reveal how much we care. Be blessed, and know we love you.

From The Pastor's Desk

(Selection by the Youth Choir)

TRIBUTE

**Honor thy Father and Mother
Give me my Flowers
Look where He brought you from**

WE come this evening to give you honor for the LORD said to give honor to thy Father and thy Mother. Giving Honor to our Mother and Father will lengthen our days. Give me my flowers—this is your flowers here on earth—we are blessed—things are not going to get much better than this. We remember when we were all at the old church but look where GOD has brought us from. GOD is good. We have a mission. Our mission is to serve Him. Train up a child as he will grow—child may depart but that child will return. Thank you for your love and prayers.

Luke 22:31 "Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat." But you prayed for us—thank you for GOD changed our hearts. Thomas when Jesus came back saw the

scars and cried, "Master and Lord." Jesus told Thomas blessed was he because he had seen. But blessed are those who believed and have not seen. We are blessed because Jesus loves us.

GOD loves us. We honor the seniors today. Children, let's love one another.

Brother Alphonzo Poteat, Deacon Chairman

Offering

Trustee Garland Harrelson
Trustee Walter Leath

Offertory Prayer

Selection

Hester Grove Youth

Candle Lighting

Rev. Emma Webb

Rev. Jennifer Cates

(Old Hymnal lead by Rev. Emma Webb)

THE MEMORY OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS BLESSED

(Proverbs 10:7a)

While looking at the great heritage we have today, we lift our hands and head up to thank God for all those who came before us at

Hester Grove Baptist Church and are now gone to be with our Lord, Jesus Christ. We thank God, they prayed for us, they encouraged us, instructed and comforted us and showed us how to persevere. They didn't give up. The courage and hope that was within them revealed their faith was real. The bottom line is, they loved God and loved us. So we say today we remember something one or all of them said or did that touched our life and made it a blessed one. One of our oldest members who lived to be 105 would sing "Jesus Woke Me Up this Morning, aint I'm Glad". She was glad because she knew she was blessed of God.

In remembrance of all the deceased, we thank God they built on that solid foundation which is Jesus Christ.

Rev. Emma Webb, Associate Minister

A TASTE OF HONEY

As I sought the Lord for a word of encouragement for the families of the deceased, God gave me "A Taste of Honey." On this special

occasion, I write this tribute to the families of the deceased giving words of encouragement. In my tribute to members of the deceased families in order for us to understand what is relevant to a "Taste of Honey", we must understand the characteristics of honey and how each characteristic relates to their lives.

The characteristics of Honey are:

ENERGIZE: Their acknowledgement of God's fulfillment of promises in their lives helped increase our faith and gave us hope that even in our worse situation He will bring us through.

PSALM 138: 7

****Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou will revive me; thou shall stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.****

SMOOTH: They forged ahead preparing the way as they understood their obedience by following God's direction would help smooth out the way for future generations.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

****Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy**

ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

COLOR GOLDEN: Their way of living and instructions helped illuminate the pathway to Christ:

JOB 22:28

Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

SWEET: They taught us to forge ahead and from each stage (trial or test) taste what God has to offer that we may enjoy life and can share it with others.

PSALM: 34:8

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

ENHANCE: They taught us to edify Christ and through edification of Christ we can endure all life's trials.

ROMANS 14: 11-12

For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So, then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Blessing Food Brother Abraham Beasley

Benediction Pastor Joe Clayton, Jr.

(Rev. Emma Webb on Pastor behalf)

Special thanks to all our family and friends who
have taken time to give of yourselves the greatest
gift "Love."

SUMMARY: They taught us that with Christ and through Christ, following his lead will give us a smoother journey, enhance our understanding, illuminate our spirit man, increase our desire for him, sweeten our walk and savor the opportunity to reap God's promise for a land flowing with milk and honey.

EZEKIEL 20:6

****In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands****

Be blessed in the Lord.

Rev. Jennifer Cates, Associate Minister

Closing Selection

Rev. Emma Webb

"OLD RUGGED CROSS"

Closing Remarks (*Senior Members*)

Mother Annie Bell Lester

Deacon Thomas Swann

Mother Minnie Mae Cates

Mother Irie Poteat

Mother Loverna Rone

Mother Josephine Poteat

Sister Queen Dark

Deacon David Torain

Deacon George Webb, Sr.

**2007
SENIOR APPRECIATION
INVITATION**

(75 YRS & OLDER)

_____:

**WE REQUEST YOUR PRESENCE
TO AN EVENING IN YOUR HONOR
OF
DINING AND FELLOWSHIP
MEET MEMBERS OF YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY
AT HESTER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2007
AT 2:30 P.M.**

**YOU WILL BE TRANSPORTED BY LIMO
TO THE OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE
IN DURHAM, NC**

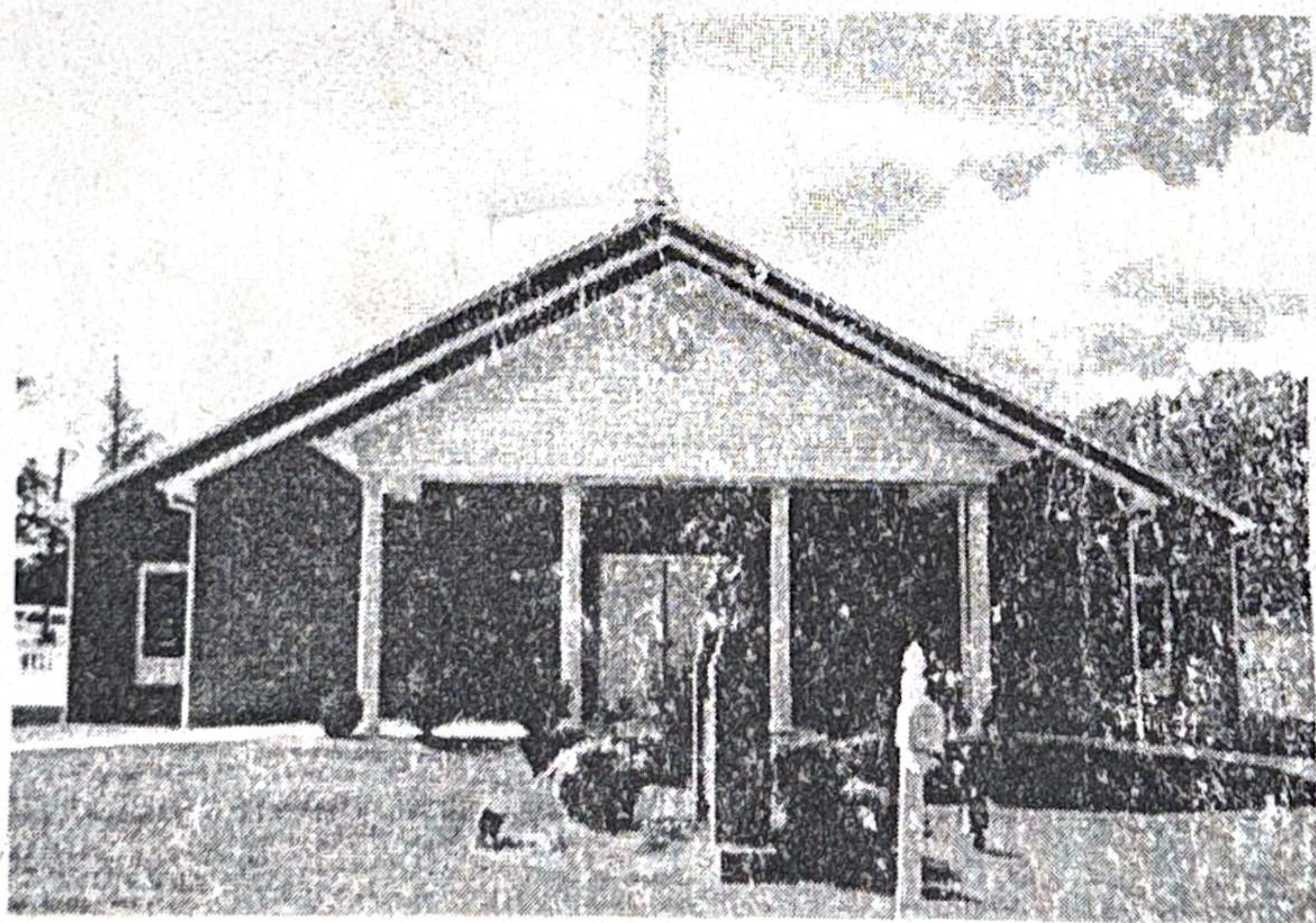
Courtesy of Pastor Clayton, the Finance Committee
and the Hester Grove Baptist Church Family.

HESTER

GROVE

BAPTIST

CHURCH



2005