

APPENDIX B

**SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH . . .
A 50-YEAR SUMMARY OF EVENTS**



6649 Precinct Line Road, North Richland Hills, Texas

Compiled by

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PREFACE

May 2004

Shady Grove Baptist Church has a rich heritage from it's sponsoring church, former pastors and staff members, former members, our present pastor and lay-leaders, and the faithful remnant that stayed with the church in difficult and challenging times. Those of us who are present members owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Lord for His working through His Shady Grove servants over the past 50 years.

My grateful thanks go to all of the Shady Grove members who gathered church records, provided pictures, made long distance calls to former members, and shared memories in meetings and on the phone. As always, there are some who have been able to go the extra mile in helping get this historical summary printed. Special thanks go to Jo Mae Allen, Katheryn Anderson, Wannetta Morris and Marita Campbell for insuring the facts were as accurate as possible and presented in a way that would honor the Lord.

Lastly, I greatly appreciate the assistance of Dr. Bill Weaver, pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church. He received my every interruption during his work day and evening hours with patience and hands-on help. Thank you, pastor.

May all those who follow us look back and see that we, too, were found to be ".... steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord." (I Cor. 15:58 NASB)\

A Fellow Servant,

Bruce Medley

CHAPTER 1

THE BEGINNINGS

History notes that Shady Grove Baptist Church was “an ‘open country’ church started as a mission of the Smithfield Baptist Church on May 16, 1954...[and] constituted on January 2, 1955.”¹ The Smithfield church purchased a one acre lot on the corner of Shady Grove Road and Precinct Line Road with the assistance of the Tarrant Baptist Association. The desire to plant a church in the Shady Grove community was based on the vision of Rev. S. R. Garrison, Smithfield pastor, who had a “great love for the people and the Lord.”²

The mother church built a white frame building on the Shady Grove property and it was completed in 1954 before the mission started meetings. Most of the construction was completed by men of the mother church. The building contained a large auditorium. Sunday School rooms were partitioned off in the auditorium using sheets on strung wires.³



The early years were devoted to “establishing and building the church and its programs, visiting, and winning souls.”⁴ As a neighborhood family church, Shady Grove offered Sunday School Bible study classes and worship services along with programs for children and youth which included an active RA and GA program, summer camp and softball teams.⁵

¹ “History of Shady Grove Baptist Church,” Joan C. Eakin, April 1987, page 1, Addendum to Leading A Church in a Transitional Area to Establish and Adopt Plans Necessary for Revitalization and Growth, Doctoral Dissertation by Rodger Dwight Eakin. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary: April 1987. Hereafter stated as “History of Shady Grove.”

² Ibid.

³ “History of Shady Grove,” page 2.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

CHAPTER 2

JAMES E. LAFFERTY, 1954-60

James E. Lafferty, a member of Smithfield Baptist Church, became the mission pastor on May 16, 1954 and continued bivocationally as its first pastor when the church was organized in 1955.⁶

While in his first pastorate at Shady Grove, Lafferty also attended Southwestern Seminary and worked at secular employment. On January 2, 1959 he left employment at Convair Aircraft (later known as General Dynamics) to become the church's full-time pastor. He served as pastor until he resigned on March 14, 1960.⁷

Rev. Lafferty sensed that change was in store for this area of Northeast Tarrant County. In 1958, he stated that "We expect much growth in the community in the years to come as the suburban movement comes more and more to this area."⁸

On January 2, 1955 the church was constituted and organized. The moderator for the meeting was Rev. John Streater, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Smithfield.⁹ The names of the 31 Charter Members are listed in Appendix A.

Rev. S. R. Garrison, pastor of Broadview Baptist Church, Fort Worth (and former pastor at Smithfield when Shady Grove was a mission) served on the Advisory Council which recommended that the church proceed to constitute themselves as a Baptist church.¹⁰

Following the unanimous vote to constitute the church, a motion was made and carried to elect the pastor, Rev. Lafferty, and other officers then serving the mission to their respective positions in the new church.¹¹

The first offering of the new church was a collection of \$30.55 which was received for world missions through the Cooperative Program.¹²

Rev. Garrison presented the keynote message entitled, "The Church That Jesus Built." The message "...pointed out that Jesus, the Head of the church, built a doctrinal, a spiritual, and a cooperative church."¹³

⁶ "History of Shady Grove," page 3.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "History of Shady Grove," page 4.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² "History of Shady Grove," page 5.

¹³ Ibid

The first business meeting of Shady Grove Baptist Church was conducted in January 1955. The first motion “to adopt parliamentary procedure as used by Kerrfoot” was made and seconded by women.”¹⁴ In fact, a review of the church minutes shows that more women than men were involved in church business in the early days because there were more women charter members than men. “Throughout the history of the church as recorded in its minutes [through September 1990], women have always taken as active a role as the men in the business affairs of the church participating in the business sessions, freely making motions and seconds, and offering comments.”¹⁵ And this positive trend has continued from 1990 through April 2004.

The author of the “History of Shady Grove,” Joan C. Eakin, wrote that “[the] free expressions of the women are particularly interesting to note in the light of the fact that this was in the 1950s when many Southern Baptist churches did not allow women to be heard in business meetings.”¹⁶

The first budget of the church was approved in a January 1955 business meeting. It totaled \$1715¹⁷ and was allocated as follows:

Pastor’s Salary	1300.00
Literature	80.00
Supplies	40.00
Lights and Gas	60.00
Insurance	40.00
Cooperative Program/ Associational Missions (10%)	175.00
Miscellaneous	<u>20.00</u>
 TOTAL	 1715.00

¹⁴ “History of Shady Grove,” page 6.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ “History of Shady Grove,” page 7.

Here are some additional “firsts”¹⁸ of the new church during this period.

- a. First Trustees: Hershel Allison, Roy Trotter, and Jodie Hoffman. (January 1955 minutes)
- b. First Revival: Church voted on February 2, 1955 to schedule a revival sometime in 1955. No specific date was entered in the minutes. Paul Cauthon was to be called as the Evangelist.
- c. First Letters Granted: February 19, 1955 for Mrs. E. O. Hartwell and Nancy Hartwell to the mission of the First Church in Arlington, Texas.
- d. First Deacons: A. F. Adkins, Earl J. Andrews, and Earl Neely. (September 9, 1955 minutes.

With the church growth in 1956, Pastor Lafferty “recommended the church authorize the deacons to investigate getting a loan of \$3500 or \$4000 to be used in building an educational building.”¹⁹ The motion passed in the November 14, 1956 business meeting.

Events recorded during 1957 reflect how the church was continuing to grow. The 1957 Budget of \$5671.50 was discussed on December 5, 1956 and was approved at the business meeting on January 9, 1957.²⁰

By 1 September 1957, the church was ministering to 99 persons. However, there were some feelings of “discouragement and low spirits” as reflected in this entry in their Achievement Program for 1958:

Our worship program was hampered by lack of facilities and room. We had a dire need for an Educational building and furniture for our auditorium. Classes were conducted in curtained off spaces in the auditorium. In this atmosphere there could hardly be any effective teaching. Our auditorium was furnished with home made benches, several odd pews, and folding chairs. None of the furnishings were conducive to worship. We went to Smithfield Baptist Church for baptismal services.²¹

We have no nursery facilities, rest rooms, kitchen or storage space.²²

The review of the current programs and facilities for the Achievement Program for 1958 project was a real eye-opener. The church took steps on September 4, 1957 and September 11, 1957 to build an educational building which had been discussed in the November 1956 meeting. The church voted “to use the money we now have in the building fund to start our new educational building” and to “contract with Reece Williams, at a rate of \$2100 for the framing of our new

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ “History of Shady Grove,” page 9.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ “History of Shady Grove,” page 12.

²² “History of Shady Grove,” page 13.

building.”²³ Also, the church voted to “apply for a \$1000 loan from the Tarrant Baptist Association to supplement its building fund.”²⁴ Construction started on November 1, 1957.

Church growth continued in 1958²⁵. Membership had reached 129 during the 1958 church year. Sunday School averaged 67 in attendance. Church Training average attendance was 41. In March of 1958 Rev. & Mrs. S. R. Garrison, instrumental in starting Shady Grove, joined the fellowship. He had retired from the active pastorate.

The Education Building, which was started on November 1, 1957, was completed in June 1958. It was a “30’ by 50’ building containing ten class rooms, one assembly room, a baptistery, two rest rooms and a complete nursery.”²⁶ The Education Building was attached to the back of the Auditorium as illustrated in the picture below.



SGBC Auditorium with Education Building, June 1958

On August 6, 1958, the church elected its first Youth Director. Bob Fitzgerald, a church member, accepted the position as a volunteer.²⁷

The church was ever mindful of the surrounding community as evidenced in the following church minute notes. “...the Royal Ambassador Chapter, along with Richard Dyer, the RA Counselor, built a softball diamond on adjacent property to the

²³ “History of Shady Grove,” page 10.

²⁴ “History of Shady Grove,” page 11.

²⁵ “History of Shady Grove,” page 79.

²⁶ “History of Shady Grove,” page 15.

²⁷ “History of Shady Grove,” page 16.

church after securing the owner's permission. They cut weeds and made the land usable. In addition, Dyer built an entrance way in the fence to keep the stock in the pasture from escaping. Bob Fitzgerald provided a marked volleyball court on the church grounds, complete with net, ball, and flood lights. Both of these areas were available to the community for use."²⁸

In addition, the men's Brotherhood started a canned goods "storehouse" for the needy in the community.²⁹

The year 1958 was an exciting time as the church reached or came close to many of its goals outlined in their Achievement Program for 1958.

Very little recorded information is available for the 1959 church year. One entry in the records mentioned that Mr. & Mrs. Carl Lampkin joined Shady Grove. Prior to his death in 1983, Mr. Lampkin cared for the church grounds with his tractor and mower. Mrs. Gladys Lampkin was still a faithful member in 1987.³⁰

The annual Church report for 1959 showed a Membership of 169. Sunday School averaged 84 in attendance; Church Training averaged 46.

The pastor, Rev. Lafferty, resigned on March 14, 1960.³¹ He left to pastor the Dixie Baptist Church in Tyler, TX. He had pastored Shady Grove since it was started as a mission in 1954. Although Rev. Lafferty felt the growth was slow during his tenure, the church was able to sustain the growth because "people stayed with the church". Only 29 people moved their letters in the first five years in the life of the church.³²

At the time of Rev. Lafferty's resignation, total membership was 172. Total baptisms in his five years were 57. Total receipts had gone from \$3,155 in 1955 to \$11,086 in 1959. The other program statistics reported in the "History of Shady Grove" also show solid growth. Although numbers are useful for review, the heart of the church is revealed in this comment by Rev. Lafferty: "...the church was accepting and tolerant of him as he learned how to become a pastor."³³

CHAPTER 3

W. LEROY GASTON, 1960-63

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ "History of Shady Grove," page 17.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² "History of Shady Grove," page 18.

³³ "History of Shady Grove," page 19.

The church's first pulpit committee was elected sometime in March of 1960. On April 13, 1960, the church voted to call LeRoy Gaston as pastor. He was a former member of Shady Grove and was pastor of First Baptist Church, Zephyr, Texas when Shady Grove extended their call to him. Gaston accepted in April 1960 and served until May 12, 1963.³⁴

On October 5, 1960, the church voted to purchase a lot for a future parsonage. The meeting minutes did not identify the location but it was apparently 6804 Herbert Road in Colleyville, some 2 blocks northeast of the church.³⁵ The lot cost approximately \$500.

The church called a special business meeting on October 16, 1960, to discuss bidding on a house at a State Department auction. The congregation voted to bid on the house, apply for a \$4,500 loan from the bank, and to decrease the pastor's salary by \$10 after he moved into the proposed parsonage.³⁶

A bid of approximately \$1650 was accepted by the State Department and the house was moved to the parsonage lot. The cost to move the house was about \$1,800.³⁷

The church realized that they needed more land so they voted on May 10, 1961, to buy an additional two acres next to the church property. The cost would be \$1,000 per acre. The church collected \$1,200 toward the purchase. A loan of \$1,000 was made by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

In the June 7, 1961 business meeting, the church started discussing the need for a new auditorium. There was an attitude of revival as people were joining on a regular basis. People often had to stand during the morning worship services.³⁸

The church voted on October 4, 1961 to apply for a loan of \$20,000 and authorized the building committee to hire an architect to draw preliminary plans for the new auditorium.³⁹

On October 22, 1961 the church approved the plans for the auditorium and selected N. O. Standfield as the contractor. The plan called for a building with a pew capacity of 274 and a choir of 28.⁴⁰

³⁴ "History of Shady Grove," page 20.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ "History of Shady Grove," page 21.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ "History of Shady Grove," page 22.

³⁹ "History of Shady Grove," page 23.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

The church called Richard Teague as song leader/education director in October 1961. He was a seminary student and received a salary of \$15 a week. Richard resigned on July 25, 1962.

The new auditorium was completed and Dedication Day was on May 20, 1962. Celebration activities included dinner on the grounds. The new building was a beautiful A-Frame structure with buff brick exterior. It was designed to seat up to 450 people for worship services and was completed at a cost of \$18,000.⁴¹



Shady Grove Baptist Church, May 20, 1962

"The lovely auditorium... [had] expansive use of wood inside, high ceilings, and the massive window at the front of the auditorium [which gave] a feeling of warmth to all who come to worship..."⁴² The family of Richard Dyer donated a Story-Clark Studio piano. The choir members purchased choir robe kits to make their robes. A large Holman Pulpit Bible was donated by the Washburn family.⁴³

⁴¹ "History of Shady Grove," page 24.

⁴² "History of Shady Grove," page 25.

⁴³ Ibid.

The church began remodeling the older auditorium for classrooms. The work included a kitchen, an enlarged nursery, and rearranged classrooms for the children.⁴⁴

On September 23, 1962, Jerald Martens was called as music and youth leader. He served until his resignation on February 23, 1964.

The church began to experience financial difficulties after the new auditorium was built. At the December 5, 1962 meeting, "...the Board of Deacons brought a recommendation that our pastor Bro. Gaston will take a job [for six months] and still continue as pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church."⁴⁵ The church also voted at the December meeting to borrow \$300 from the bank to pay delinquent bills.

In addition to the financial difficulties the church was experiencing, the growth began to level off some during the years of 1962-64. Yearly additions continued in the 30's but annual losses were 18-24 versus about 4 per year in the past.⁴⁶

Gaston felt the following things were responsible for the lack of growth.⁴⁷

- a. The church was not ready to take on the debt of the new building.
- b. His youth and limited pastoral experience resulted in some less-than-best choices.
- c. There was an emotional struggle of leaving the old worship center and its memories for the new worship center environment.

Rev. Gaston resigned effective May 12, 1963. He accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Bailey, Texas.⁴⁸ During his ministry, membership grew from 172 to 260. There were 58 baptisms. Sunday School grew from 163 to 195 with average attendance of 84 and 92 respectively. The Music program grew from 18 to 48. Receipts declined from \$11,086 at the start of his ministry to \$10,336.

Upon resigning, pastor Gaston stated, "My prayer is that Shady Grove Baptist Church will always stand and be counted for the great doctrinal truths of the Bible."⁴⁹

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ "Shady Grove History," page 26.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ "Shady Grove History," page 27.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

CHAPTER 4

CHARLES B. BARBER, 1963-65

A pulpit committee was elected on May 15, 1963 to search for a new pastor. "The church voted to pay the new pastor \$75 per week plus parsonage, gas, and water. Pastor would pay electric bill and phone bill."⁵⁰

On June 12, 1963 the church voted to accept the pulpit committee's recommendation to call Charles D. Barber as pastor. He had been pastor of First Baptist Church, Santo, Texas from 1960 to 1963. "Barber was attending seminary when he came to Shady Grove and received his Bachelor of Divinity in 1964..."⁵¹ He served until August 22, 1965.

One of the first problems pastor Barber faced was the church's financial difficulties. He stated, "They couldn't pay my first month's salary..."⁵²

The financial difficulties continued. On September 4, 1963 the deacons received permission from the church "to visit members to ask for prayers and finances for the church."⁵³

Pastor Barber felt the church was placed several years too soon in an extremely rural area. He also thought the church should have been located on Davis Boulevard not Precinct Line Road.⁵⁴

The youth and music director, Gerald Martens resigned on February 23, 1964. He had served about a year and a half.

In April 1964 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fitzgerald returned to Shady Grove. Bob was elected as a deacon and music director and Mrs. Fitzgerald was elected pianist.⁵⁵

During business meetings in September 1964, the church voted to allow Barber to substitute teach and to participate as a Chaplain in the Reserves. The church then voted on December 9, 1964 to elect S.R. Garrison as interim pastor while Barber was at Chaplain school in New York from January 10 to March 1965. Tom Baumgardner seconded the motion.

An interesting note about Barber's Chaplain duties was entered in the "Shady Grove History." In 1963, pastor Barber baptized Tommy Baumgardner, son of Tom

⁵⁰ "Shady Grove History," page 28.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ "Shady Grove History," page 29.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

and Polly Baumgardner. In 1971, Chaplain Barber accompanied Tommy's body back from Vietnam. Barber served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a Chaplain.⁵⁶

Very little activity was recorded for the first seven months of 1965. Minutes did note that the Education wings got a new roof and two air conditioners were installed in February 1965.⁵⁷

On August 22, 1965, Barber resigned to pastor First Baptist Church, Alamo, Texas. He served there for one year and then went on active duty as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army.⁵⁸

The church continued its slow growth during Barber's ministry. Membership grew from 260 to 301 in 1965. There were 28 baptisms with 64 other additions. Sunday School enrollment went from 192 to 204 with average attendance going from 92 to 93. The Music ministry declined from 48 to 26. Total receipts grew from \$7,751 to \$11,997 in 1965.⁵⁹

Pastor Barber stated "that he was consumed with seminary while at Shady Grove... [and] that administrative details at the church suffered."⁶⁰

Although the church experienced tough challenges during these years, they persisted in their commitment to serve the Lord the best they could with what they had available.

⁵⁶ "Shady Grove History," page 30.

⁵⁷ "Shady Grove History," page 30.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ "Shady Grove History," page 31.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

CHAPTER 5

NEIL E. CAMPBELL, 1966-68

The church asked S.R. Garrison to once again fill in as interim pastor after Barber left. The church then voted on August 25, 1965 to pay a new pastor \$85 a week in salary, provide the parsonage, and pay all utility bills except long distance.⁶¹

During the search for a new pastor, the church decided to exclude seminary students as candidates. It seems they were “weary of seminary student pastors staying only a couple of years while they finished their schooling...”⁶² A September candidate was declined for this reason. The church extended a call to a non-student candidate on October 13, 1965 but he declined. Bob Talley, pulpit committee member felt the church’s financial situation was the cause of Talley’s decline.

On November 10, 1965 the “deacons recommended that the restriction on schooling...be lifted.”⁶³ The difficulty of searching for a pastor over a couple of months helped the church realize they might have to accept seminary students as pastors. Their financial difficulties continued to challenge them in their pastor search.

Neil E. Campbell was submitted as a pastor candidate by the pulpit committee on December 8, 1965. The church voted to issue a call and Campbell accepted. He served from January 1966 until May 1968.⁶⁴

In December 1965 Bob Talley, Church Treasurer, reported that the last payment on the land had been made. The church voted to apply money budgeted for the land debt be used for piano payments.⁶⁵

The following recommendations from the Deacons were approved by the church in 1966:⁶⁶

- a. Organized a Church Council.
- b. Elected Russell Freeman as a Purchasing Agent.
- c. A loan was secured to re-roof the auditorium at a cost of \$1,400.
- d. Church voted in November 1966 to hire a janitor. Hiring was delayed due to lack of funds.

In addition the kitchen was remodeled by church members in May 1967.

⁶¹ “Shady Grove History,” page 32.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ “Shady Grove History,” page 33.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ “Shady Grove History,” page 34.

Financial difficulties apparently continued to challenge Shady Grove. On September 13, 1967 the church voted to reduce their Cooperative Program giving from 13% to 10% with 7% going to the Cooperative Program and 3% to associational missions.⁶⁷

Two additional “firsts” occurred in 1967. The first pictorial church directory was approved on September 24, 1967. Pastor Campbell received his first pay raise in November 1967. It was increased \$10 which increased his weekly salary to \$95.⁶⁸

In January 1968, the church started discussing the plan to hire a paid music director. Bob Fitzgerald, the music leader, felt the church needed someone who could give more time and effort to the music ministry. The church determined they could pay \$25 a week for a music director. Keith Butler, a seminary student, was hired and served from February 1968 to January 1969.⁶⁹

Also in February 1968, the church bought a used Hammond organ for \$1500. The small Thomas organ previously used was presented as a love gift to Rev. and Mrs. S. R. Garrison.⁷⁰

The glare from the sanctuary window on Sunday mornings continued to be a problem. “The windows were draped in 1966 but the curtain material was not heavy enough to reduce the glare. Apparently new drapes were hung in 1968 by Mrs. Vallie Stultz, a member of the church. The records state that Bro. Neil brought a recommendation that the church be liable for the medical bills of Mrs. Stultz who fell and broke some ribs while hanging curtains in the sanctuary. The bill amounted to \$17.50.”⁷¹

Pastor Campbell resigned on May 18, 1968 after serving since December 1965. No mention is made in the church minutes as to Campbell’s plans after resigning. The “Shady Grove History” did indicate that there were some “difficulties” during Campbell’s ministry.⁷²

Again, the church encountered some modest growth under pastor Campbell.⁷³ Membership grew from 301 to 374. There were 33 baptisms and 52 other additions. The loss of members declined significantly with a total of only 12 lost with a net increase of 73. The music program included 26 persons. Total receipts ranged from \$11,997 to \$11,063 when pastor Campbell left.

⁶⁷ “Shady Grove History,” page 35.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ “Shady Grove History,” page 36.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ “Shady Grove History,” page 37.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Ibid.

CHAPTER 6

RALPH STOVALL, 1968-69

Once again, the church was in need of a pastor. And once again, the church turned to Rev. Garrison to serve as Interim Pastor in May of 1968. Rev. Garrison was retired from the pastorate and a member of Smithfield Baptist at the time. The "History of Shady Grove" notes that "the conclusion can be drawn that Garrison probably had the greatest influence of anyone during the early years of the church"⁷⁴ as he served as interim pastor and member from time to time.

The search for a new pastor began again. On June 26, 1968 the church voted to call Ralph Stovall as pastor. At the time of his call, Stovall was pastor of First Baptist Church, Boyd, Texas and a seminary student at Southwestern. He served Shady Grove from July 1968 until November 5, 1969.

Church events recorded during the last half of 1968 are limited to the following:⁷⁵

- a. Church parsonage was repainted and a new stove and refrigerator installed in June.
- b. An ice cream fellowship for the new pastor occurred on July 7.
- c. Virgil Aderholt was elected Chairman of the Deacons on September 11.

With the growth during Rev. Campbell's ministry, the church was again facing a space crunch. However, the church's finances continued to be a problem. The church Treasurer reported at the October 9, 1968 meeting that "the church had outstanding debts of \$275.35 that had not been paid."⁷⁶

On January 5, 1969 Keith Butler, music director, resigned. Keith was to enter the Army in February 1969.

The following events were noted in business meeting minutes during 1969.⁷⁷

- a. James Smith was elected as Church Custodian in January.
- b. The church voted to subscribe to the Baptist Standard at a cost of \$0.03 a week for each member (approximately \$8 per month).
- c. Horace Wise was called as Music Director for a salary of \$25 per week.
- d. The church received a PA system from Justin Boot Company.

⁷⁴ "History of Shady Grove," page 38.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ "History of Shady Grove," page 39.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

Stovall graduated from the Seminary in 1969 and resigned as pastor on November 5, 1969. He left to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Kerens, Texas.⁷⁸

During Stovall's ministry at Shady Grove, membership grew from 374 to 401 in 1968 then declined to 390 in 1969. This was the first annual decline since the church was established some 15 years ago. There were 6 baptisms during the 18 months period with 36 other additions. The Sunday School also dropped from 161 enrolled with 93 average attendance to 146 enrolled and 72 average attendance. However, the Music program increased from 26 to 42 and receipts rose from \$11,063 to \$14,261.

In a telephone interview with Stovall in 1987, he indicated that the major difficulty during his pastorate was the on-going financial condition. He recognized the burden of debt impacted the church's finances but he "hoped that the church would grow."⁷⁹

⁷⁸ "History of Shady Grove," page 40.

⁷⁹ "Shady Grove History," page 39.

CHAPTER 7

ROBERT W. MCLENDON, 1970-75

When Stovall resigned, the church voted to ask S. R. Garrison to be their interim pastor. In addition, the church agreed to set the new pastor's salary at \$100 per week plus utilities with the plan to increase the salary as soon as possible.⁸⁰

On December 17, 1969 the church called Robert W. McLendon as pastor. He accepted the call and served as pastor from January 1970 until May 1975.⁸¹ The church records do not indicate previous pastoral experience prior to this call. McLendon did attend Southwestern seminary and received a Master of Divinity degree in 1973.

Once McLendon started his ministry in January 1970, Rev. and Mrs. Garrison moved their letters back to Smithfield Baptist Church. A review of the church records shows that the Garrisons were willing to move their letters between Shady Grove and Smithfield whenever the need arose to help Shady Grove.

The church budget for 1970 was \$15,728.⁸² Since funds were limited, the church agreed to seek a college student for the summer youth program. On May 5, 1970, the church called Robert Rendon to serve as their summer Youth Director.⁸³ He was expected to get a summer job and live with church members during his stay. The church also voted to collect a monthly love offering for Rendon.

The church records also show that the church decided to hire a Secretary. Colleen Sims, a church member, was hired for \$25 per month.

At the July 15, 1970 business meeting, the church reviewed the six month financial report and discovered "...several budgeted items were already overspent the entire allotment for the year. Also, several bills were outstanding."⁸⁴ The church decided to cancel several magazine publications which were being provided for members. The members agreed that each member would pay for their own subscriptions to the Baptist Standard, Home Life, and People magazine.⁸⁵

It is interesting to note that with the continuing financial difficulties the church voted on July 15, 1970 to "accept the Master Building Plan from the Church Architecture Department."⁸⁶ On August 12, 1970, the church elected a New Building

⁸⁰ "History of Shady Grove," page 41.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ "History of Shady Grove," page 42.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

Survey Committee. There are no records indicating plans to build prior to the July 15 and August 12 meetings.

There is one clue to the July and August references for building plans. On August 16, 1970 the church started two Sunday schools and two worship services “in order to double our educational facilities.” More education space was evidently needed. However, they returned to one Sunday school and one morning worship service on December 16, 1970.⁸⁷

On September 23, 1970 Horace Hise submitted his resignation as Minister of Music. Clay Irissin was called as interim music director on October 28, 1970 and the church paid him \$20 per week.⁸⁸

Keith Butler was called as Minister of Music and Youth in January 1971⁸⁹. He was paid \$40 per week. Keith served Shady Grove until October 31, 1971 when he moved to be Minister of Music and Youth at First Baptist Church, Poteau, Oklahoma.

On June 4, 1971 Tommy Baumgardner, son of Tom and Polly Baumgardner, was wounded in Vietnam. Charles Barber, former pastor at Shady Grove from 1963 to 1965 was an Army Chaplain serving his second tour of duty in Vietnam.

The Baumgardner family knew Barber was in Vietnam and asked the Red Cross to locate him and ask him to visit Tommy. Barber was located and given permission to travel several hundred miles in order to reach Tommy. After hitching rides on several planes, Barber found Tommy in time to talk and visit with him. Barber returned a few hours later to visit Tommy but he had lapsed into a coma. Tommy died shortly thereafter on June 7, 1971.

The Army approved the family’s request for Chaplain Barber to accompany Tommy’s body back to the States. It was an unusual approval but the Lord’s hand was at work. Coming back home with the body of their son, Chaplain Barber had an opportunity to once again minister to this Shady Grove family. “He conducted the funeral at Shady Grove to a packed auditorium with military rites done at the graveside.”⁹⁰

During an interview in 1987 with Tommy’s mother, Polly Baumgardner some 15 years after this event, Polly was “...careful to give the Lord praise for His leadership in leading her family to come to Shady Grove in 1963 when Barber was pastor.”⁹¹ As noted earlier, Barber baptized Tommy in 1963 and it was Tom

⁸⁷ “History of Shady Grove,” page 43.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ “History of Shady Grove,” page 44.

⁹¹ Ibid.

Baumgardner who seconded the motion to allow Pastor Barber to continue his work toward becoming a Chaplain in 1964.

The Burley Golden family had developed a special friendship with the Baumgardner family during Barber's ministry. When Tommy was killed the Golden family ministered to his family in a special way that truly demonstrated Christ's love. Years later it would be the Baumgardner's turn to provide ministry and comfort to the Golden family who faced the tragic death of their son, Tim.⁹²

On May 10, 1972 the church voted to approve plans for a new Education building. The church voted to seek a building loan in September 1993 and then approved a loan offer from Western Savings and Loan for \$56,000.⁹³ The loan was for 20 years at 8%. The new Education building was completed in 1973.



New Education Building Under Construction, 1973

An entry in the "History of Shady Grove" observed that..."It is uncertain why the church adopted plans to build when it was in such severe financial straits. This particular monthly building payment...continued to plague the church to the present time in 1987."⁹⁴

Some other highlight events occurred in 1973. McLendon completed his seminary work and received the Master of Divinity in 1973. On February 6, 1974,

⁹² "History of Shady Grove," page 45.

⁹³ "History of Shady Grove," page 45.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

Mark Wright was called as interim Music Director with a salary of \$40 per month. On March 3, 1974 the church called Erwin Babb as Associate Pastor with duties including music director and youth worker.⁹⁵

On May 11, 1975 McLendon resigned from Shady Grove.⁹⁶ He left to serve as pastor of the Ballston Lake Baptist Mission in New York. He was to serve as a Chaplain at an Air Force base close by and do missionary work for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Membership under McLendon grew from 390 to 465 in 1974. A record a high of 480 was reached in 1972. Unfortunately, many of the key leadership resigned and moved on to other churches. Kathryn Anderson, one of our current 2004 members, joined Shady Grove under McLendon. During that time, Kathryn was a children's Sunday School teacher and helped mow the church yards with husband Tom.⁹⁷ Kathryn continues to serve energetically in a variety of responsibilities.

Total baptisms under McLendon were 93 with 105 other additions. From 1970 through 1972, the number of baptisms had averaged 30 per year. However, in 1973 and following, the number dropped to under 10, ranging from 3 to 7.⁹⁸

The Sunday School enrollment declined from 146 to 110. Average attendance went from "...72, peaked at 90, dropped to 60 and ended at 75 in 1974."⁹⁹ The music program went from 42 to 38 and receipts improved from \$14,261 to \$21,781.

There were a couple of problems which occurred during this time that seemed to have a negative effect on the church even up through 1987, some 12 years after McLendon resigned. The first problem involved several families who "were involved in the charismatic movement." It appears they had a desire to "...move Shady Grove away from being a Southern Baptist church."¹⁰⁰

The second issue which arose had to do with the Education building. Some members..." felt the educational wing was built at a time when the church was not ready for it."¹⁰¹ That was evidenced with the departure of many key leaders after the commitment was made to pay loan payments. As result, a small group was left to pay on the debt. The \$465 a month was a "staggering amount for a very small group..." of members.¹⁰²

⁹⁵ "History of Shady Grove," page 46.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ "History of Shady Grove," page 46.

⁹⁸ "History of Shady Grove," page 47.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Ibid.

The “History of Shady Grove” notes that they remained committed to the vision of 1954. The records show that they prayed, worked, and waited faithfully for the Lord to keep the church alive in spite of their days of hopelessness and discouragement.

“In looking at the statistics through the remaining 1970s and 1980s, it is obvious the Lord did not turn his back on the small struggling church. Even though attendance continued to drop, the total receipts continued to climb. The Lord has honored the faithfulness of those who remained, determined to carry out His commission to go and tell.”¹⁰³

On behalf of all us at Shady Grove in 2004, thank you, Lord for Your watchcare over those who have gone before us.

¹⁰³ “History of Shady Grove,” page 48.

CHAPTER 8

DOUGLAS E. WOOD, 1975-77

On June 11, 1975 the church called T. D. Hall as interim pastor. He served until the new pastor arrived. The church called Douglas E. Wood as pastor on October 20, 1975. He had served on the staff of First Baptist Church, Muleshoe, Texas.

Wood had received the Master of Divinity in 1975 before coming to Shady Grove. Evidently, this was his first full-time pastorate. In a 1987 telephone interview with the author of the "Shady Grove History," Wood stated "that he was somewhat immature at the time and did not always know what to do to help the church."¹⁰⁴

When Wood arrived at Shady Grove, he was immediately confronted with the church's financial dilemma. During his first week, he found a note on the church door from the utility company announcing the electricity would be turned off because of unpaid bills.¹⁰⁵

As the financial situation worsened, the church voted to give the lowest financial priority to the Cooperative Program and Associational Missions.¹⁰⁶ All other bills would have to take a higher priority. "Perhaps the gloom and despair of an uncertain future caused the church to waver at this time in its commitment to missions [made in 1955]."¹⁰⁷

In March 1954, the associate pastor, Erwin Babb resigned. There is no record of his resignation, but on September 12, 1976 the church appointed a committee to help the pastor find a youth worker.¹⁰⁸ On October 10, 1976 the church called Mark Smith as associate pastor. He was living in Waco but was planning to enter Southwestern seminary in the Fall of 1977.¹⁰⁹

The church's financial situation continued in a downward spiral. On December 5, 1976, the church had \$1,180 in unpaid debts including \$150 back pay for the pastor.¹¹⁰

Several actions were taken to improve finances. On December 22, 1976 the church voted to pay staff salaries first and then listed the other bills in priority. In January 1977, more moves were taken to prevent overdue penalties on the building

¹⁰⁴ "History of Shady Grove," page 49.

¹⁰⁵ "History of Shady Grove," page 50.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ "History of Shady Grove," page 51.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

payments. In addition, the church asked Mark Smith to “accept a full-time job outside the church and cut his work hours at the church, with a reduced salary.”¹¹¹ Mark Smith resigned as Associate Pastor on January 26, 1977.

To help with expenses, Wood asked the members to pledge a certain percent of any unexpected income they received. He had pledged to give 50% of unexpected income.

In an interview with Wood after he left the church, he said his family received substantial amounts from an oil well holding which dramatically helped the church. He said that after he left Shady Grove the oil income stopped. Wood is convinced that “the Lord honored their commitment to give to the work of the church and provided this income while the church needed it.”¹¹²

While at Shady Grove, Wood saw the beginning of growth in the Northeast Tarrant County area. He wanted to tear down the old buildings in order to improve the attractiveness of the church property and be ready for the growth. However, lingering issues continued to distract the church.

As mentioned earlier, a charismatic element had come into the congregation. Wood stated that “they were unhappy with the direction of the church.”¹¹³ Even though those members left during Wood’s tenure, they did in fact negatively influence the church.

In spite of the situation, though, Wood recalled a humorous incident. During the invitation time one Sunday morning, “...one of the charismatic ladies came forward to tell Wood she had been ‘delivered’ of smoking black cigars. She offered praise to the Lord for ‘setting her free’.”¹¹⁴

On February 9, 1977, Wood resigned as pastor, He had served since October 20, 1975. Wood went to the state of Washington and established the Coastlands Evangelistic Association. He helped start new churches and did evangelistic work for the Northwest Convention.

Membership during Wood’s ministry continued a downward trend, moving from 465 to 459 which included 40 members lost. Baptisms totaled 9 with 25 other additions. Sunday School enrollment went from 110 to 82 with averages dropping from 75 to 55 attendees. Interestingly, receipts increased from \$21,661 to \$34,121.¹¹⁵

¹¹¹ “History of Shady Grove,” page 52.

¹¹² “History of Shady Grove,” page 52.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ “History of Shady Grove,” page 53.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

Looking back, Wood “felt at the time the church needed a pastor who leaned more toward pastoral care than evangelism.” In addition, the church realized they would probably “have to return to seminary students as pastors due to finances.”¹¹⁶

One additional event is worth highlighting. Sandra Stanford was saved during a presentation by Wood in 1976. She had originally joined the church in 1961 but didn’t realize she was lost. As it will be explained more fully in a later chapter, Sandra went on to get a seminary degree from Southwestern, served as a director of children’s work in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and returned to Shady Grove in 1986. Our Lord so good!!

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

CHAPTER 9

GREGORY L. KIRKSEY, 1977-79

Gregory L. Kirksey was called as the pastor to Shady Grove on March 6, 1977. He had been the pastor at Richwoods Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Kirksey had come to Texas to attend Southwestern seminary and while a student there accepted the call to pastor Shady Grove. At the time he started as pastor, Sunday School was averaging 44 in attendance.¹¹⁷

By May 1977, the church was beginning to show some signs of life. It voted to restore their giving to missions on a tithe basis: 3% to the Cooperative Program, 1% to Associational Missions, and 4% to former pastor Doug Wood for his evangelist pioneer mission work in the Northwest Convention in Washington state.¹¹⁸

Other major events during this period of the church included the following:¹¹⁹

- a. Adopted a budget of \$36,201 on September 11, 1977;
- b. Voted on November 9, 1977 to remove the former auditorium (converted for classrooms in 1962);
- c. Art Dodds, Music Director resigned on December 7, 1977. Mark Smith was elected as interim Music Director. He served until March 1978
- d. Had a surplus of \$2,657 on hand at the end of January 1978;
- e. Voted to call Bill Ferguson to serve as Music/Youth Director on March 19, 1978. He was paid \$35 per week for Sunday services only.¹²⁰
- f. Conducted a Vacation Bible School in the summer of 1978, and
- g. Participated in church camp the summer of 1978.

The ministries of 1978 were uplifting and encouraging to some degree, but the financial challenges continued to be a distraction to growth. On June 7, 1978 the church had \$1,136 on hand but on April 4, 1979 they were \$37 in the red. This up and down pattern along with the \$400 monthly building payment "...continued to affect the church's ability to function...[and sometimes] the pastor's pay was delayed for lack of finances."¹²¹

Ferguson resigned as Music/Youth Director on August 19, 1979 and moved to Richwoods Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. On September 5, 1979 the

¹¹⁷ "History of Shady Grove," page 55.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ "History of Shady Grove," page 56.

¹²¹ Ibid.

church called Lindsay Crain to be the interim music director. Crain was a student at Southwestern seminary and served until December 16, 1979.

During a telephone interview in March 1987, Kirksey stated that the church began to “have an identity crisis.”¹²² The urban growth was creating major changes in the community near Shady Grove. It seemed the church was overwhelmed with the area’s growth and the opportunity to minister to the new families. Kirksey went on to say that “in some ways it was a frustrating time because of the slowness of growth and the difficulty of finances.”¹²³

One of the factors impacting the church at this time may have been a difference in what Kirksey planned to do after he received his Seminary degree in May 1979 and what the church assumed he would do. For example, Kirksey said that he saw Shady Grove as more than a seminary pastorate and he didn’t want to leave after graduating from the seminary.¹²⁴ However, he felt the members expected him to leave based on the past history of staff turnover.

On the other side of this issue, some church members recalled that when Kirksey first came to Shady Grove he had mentioned a desire to return to Arkansas after graduation. Evidently, some in the church did not know that Kirksey had changed his mind and wanted to stay at Shady Grove.¹²⁵

On October 10, 1979 Kirksey resigned as pastor and left to pastor the Hillside Baptist Church, Camden, Arkansas. He graduated from Southwestern in May 1979 with a Master of Divinity degree. He served from March 1977 to October 1979.

Membership under Kirksey declined slightly from 459 to 451. There were 5 baptisms and 17 other additions. Members lost totaled 34. Sunday School enrollment went from 82 to 71 and average attendance declined from 55 to 38. Again, the receipts went up in spite of the slow growth: \$34,121 to \$39,000 in 1979.¹²⁶

Kirksey’s evaluation of the church as a whole during his ministry seems to be consistent theme for the people of Shady Grove down through these many years...”the people had a wonderful attitude...they were supportive of the office of pastor...they pretty well let me lead.”¹²⁷

¹²² “History of Shady Grove,” page 56.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ “History of Shady Grove,” page 57.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ “History of Shady Grove,” page 56.

CHAPTER 10

KERRY NILES, 1980-81

Once again, the church turned to S. R. Garrison for help as their interim pastor in October 1979. Unfortunately, Garrison was seriously ill and unable to serve Shady Grove. Rev. Garrison died shortly thereafter.

The church called upon one of its members, retired pastor Paul Fletcher, to serve as the interim pastor in November 1979.¹²⁸ His wife was the church pianist.

As the church began their search of a full-time pastor, they “had decided to look for someone other than a seminary student...”¹²⁹ Evidently, the church was concerned about hiring another seminary student who would leave the church after a short time as pastor.

Their search led to the calling of Kerry Miles on January 6, 1980. Kerry lived in South Oak Cliff (Dallas) and had surrendered to preach. Miles had no experience as a pastor, but he had attended Dallas Baptist College.¹³⁰

On January 30, 1980, the church called Roger Griffith as interim music director. Walter Brown, Jr. was called as Music Director on February 24, 1980.¹³¹

The church made a major change in selecting deacons on February 6, 1980. The deacons recommended that the pastor preach a sermon on deacon qualifications after which the members would submit names of men they would like to serve as deacons. The deacons would then interview each candidate, compile a list of qualified men, and ask the church to vote on three.¹³²

This was a major shift away from prior years when the deacons selected names to submit to the church for approval. Perhaps this changing role for deacons had its start under the ministry of Greg Kirksey. Prior church minutes referred to the “deacon committee” or just “deacons” rather than the “board of deacons.”

Burley Golden, who had served as chairman of deacons for many years, stated that a “gradual change of philosophy had evolved in his own mind, and that of others, in regards to the role of deacon as servant rather than an administrator of the church.”¹³³

¹²⁸ “History of Shady Grove,” page 58.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ “History of Shady Grove,” page 59.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ Ibid.

One of the outcomes of determining deacon qualifications in 1980 was that divorced men could serve as deacons at Shady Grove. Although no official vote on this issue is recorded, members of Shady Grove in 1987 who were members in 1980 did recall that the church accepted the decision that “divorced people could indeed have a valid place of [deacon] ministry at Shady Grove.”¹³⁴ However, it is interesting to note that the February 1980 election was delayed until April 1981.

During 1980, several other recorded events occurred which merit recalling.¹³⁵

- a. March 5, 1980: Sandra Stanford felt called to full time Christian service as a children’s worker. The church endorsed her decision so she could attend Southwestern seminary.
- b. May 1980: The church voted to redirect support to Doug Wood in Washington State to Tim Golden for his ministry in Germany. A \$100 per month gift was started in September 1980.
- c. July 1980: A new roof was put on the Auditorium. The small membership contributed \$3,543 to pay for the roof.
- d. October 22, 1980: The church changed title of their car from the church’s name to the pastor’s name in order to reduce insurance costs from commercial to private. No records are available as to when the church acquired a car for the pastor.

The church finances continued to create problems. Harry Boyer, chairman of deacons resigned on October 1, 1980 and moved his membership to First Baptist Church, Grapevine, Texas, not far from Shady Grove. On February 4, 1981 Walt Brown, Jr. resigned as Minister of Music and Youth.¹³⁶

Then on February 15, 1981, Kerry Niles resigned as pastor. He apparently did not pastor any other church but returned to secular work after his short stay at Shady Grove.¹³⁷

The membership during Niles pastorate had a slight increase from 447 to 452, but the church lost 20 members. There were 7 baptisms plus 16 other additions. The Sunday School enrollment dipped from 71 to 66 with average attendance going from 38 to 36. WMU was reactivated with 23 participating and a Royal Ambassador chapter started with 5 boys. The music program started with 19 and ended with 23. There was a slight drop in receipts from \$39,000 to \$38,318.¹³⁸

¹³⁴ “History of Shady Grove,” page 59.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ “History of Shady Grove,” page 60.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

CHAPTER 11

RODGER D. EAKIN, 1981-90

Once again, Shady Grove was looking for a pastor. In February 1981, the church elected a pulpit committee with Bob Gast as chairman.¹³⁹

At the business meeting on February 22, 1981 the church elected Fran Golden to serve as church secretary and church administrator until a new pastor was called.¹⁴⁰ She received \$50 a week.

In addition, Burley and Fran Golden were asked to serve as church custodians because James Smith, the current custodian was ill and could no longer serve in that position. The Golden's were to receive \$50 per week for custodial services but served many weeks at a time without pay due to continuing problems with the church's financial situation. For example, the church was \$798 in the red in March 1981.¹⁴¹

On April 1, 1981 the church called Rodger Eakin to be interim pastor.¹⁴² Eakin was a second year seminary student at Southwestern. He had previously pastored two churches for a total of some 12 years. Eakin started at a salary of \$90 per week and "commuted back and forth from the seminary for services on Sundays and Wednesdays."¹⁴³

The delayed deacon election which was started in February 1980 finally took place in April 1981. Parker Blair, Robert Gast and Robert Kidd were elected as deacons and ordained by Eakin on April 22, 1981.

On June 10, 1981 the church elected church member Sandra Stanford as the interim music director until a full time pastor was in place. In September 1981, the church voted to discontinue supporting Tim Golden's ministry in Germany. Tim and wife, Fran, were planning to return to the states.

Rodger Eakin and wife, Joan were asked to give their testimonies and philosophy of ministry at the morning worship service on October 25, 1981. The church conducted a called business meeting during the evening service and voted to call Eakin as full time pastor.¹⁴⁴

Eakin let the church know of his acceptance in an unusual way. Since the Eakin's did not attend the Sunday evening meeting, Mrs. Eakin baked a cake for the

¹³⁹ "History of Shady Grove," page 61.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ "History of Shady Grove," page 62.

following Wednesday church supper and decorated it in the form of a letter which read, "Dear Shady Grove, I accept. Love, Your Pastor."¹⁴⁵

Eakin's initial goal for Shady Grove was to establish stability. The church had been served by 10 pastors over the past 30 years. Some 800 members had gone through the doors with 443 on the present church roles. With his experience of staying about 6 years at his two previous pastorates, Eakin intended to stay even longer than 6 years.¹⁴⁶

Since Eakin knew the church's mindset of survival when he came, he determined that "the people needed to be loved and encouraged...without a lot of programs and meetings thrust upon the church, adding undue pressures it was not ready to handle."¹⁴⁷

The church records show that Eakin's ministry did in fact get the church turned around by the end of 1982 through "faithful, slow-moving work."¹⁴⁸ In 1981, there were 4 baptisms plus 10 other additions with 23 losses for a net decrease of 9. The net decrease in 1982 was 8 and then in 1983 an increase of members occurred with only 4 members lost.

A memorable event occurred in June 1982. The church voted to sell the remaining old building no longer used for educational classrooms. Conditions of the sale included moving the building, burying the debris, and leveling the ground. It was sold for \$750 and was to be moved in 90 days. After the building was moved, members smelled gas as they exited the church on several occasions. They soon discovered that the gas lines had not been disconnected before the old building was moved. The lines were severed. As a result, the church received a gas bill for \$643 which took most of the \$750 sale money.¹⁴⁹ Although a bit humorous today, it could have been a tragic disaster if a spark had ignited the gas fumes.

With the swing to positive growth, Eakin noticed the church's attitude change also. "Confidence, although somewhat awkward and at times wavering, began to appear in the life of the church. Pride began to appear in the attitudes of the members toward their church. It seemed the Lord was beginning to work again in the life of the church."¹⁵⁰

On 11 May, 1983 the church elected Sandra Stanford to the non-paid position of Education Director to assist in her seminary degree program.¹⁵¹ She received her

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ "History of Shady Grove," page 63.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ "History of Shady Grove," page 64.

¹⁵⁰ "History of Shady Grove," page 65.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

Master of Religious Education in 1984 and continued to serve as the non-paid Education Director. Stanford left Shady Grove in 1985 to accept a position as Director of Children's Work at First Baptist Church, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Another milestone event occurred in May 1983. Eakin received the Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary. The church seemed unsure about Eakin staying on at Shady Grove so he immediately enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program, beginning in the fall of 1983.¹⁵²

In December 1983, Tom Anderson, the husband of Katheryn Anderson, joined Shady Grove. He was a faithful servant in keeping the yard mowed and serving on the property and space committee.

On April 21, 1985 the church called Bob Drewry as part-time Music Director. He served the church until November 1985.

The members began to show interest in revitalizing the church for growth. On June 23, 1985 the church voted to participate in PACT: Project Assistance for Churches in Transition. This was a program designed by the Home Mission Board to help the church review resources and develop goals for a plan of ministry. The project was completed in the fall of 1986. "On April 8, 1987 the church adopted four major issues and objectives to deal with the future ministry of the church."¹⁵³

On March 5, 1986 the church called Richard B. Steele as Minister of Music and Worship.¹⁵⁴ Steele was a second year music student at Southwestern. His wife Kim was also a second year music student at the seminary. Both of them had been professional musicians before they became Christians. Still strapped financially, the church paid Steele \$25 a week car allowance.¹⁵⁵

The church experienced some additional signs of improvement. Average attendance at Sunday morning worship services increased from 40 in March 1986 to 60 by the end of the year.¹⁵⁶

Finances also began to improve. "For the first time in the history of the church...the church was able to continually pay all its bills immediately and on time."¹⁵⁷

Two exciting events occurred which greatly encouraged the church. A "unique and inspirational program of music was presented in December 1986 morning service...75 were in attendance."¹⁵⁸ Then at Easter in 1987, Steele involved

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ "History of Shady Grove," page 67.

¹⁵⁴ "History of Shady Grove," page 68.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid.

¹⁵⁸ "History of Shady Grove," page 69.

the whole church in a live re-enactment of the Last Supper during the Sunday morning service. The church was packed. "Cars were parked all over the church grounds...attendance count revealed 140 in attendance."¹⁵⁹

In July 1987, Eakin graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree from Southwestern. He had completed over 6 years of ministry as the pastor of Shady Grove

For reasons unrecorded, Eakin resigned as pastor on September 27, 1990. Church records have been lost covering the period of Eakin's ministry from July 1987 to September 1990. Katheryn Anderson, a current member of Shady Grove, recalls that Eakin "surprised

the church when he announced his plan to resign in 1990 and return to his home state of Tennessee."¹⁶⁰ In addition, Eakin unexpectedly recommended that Shady Grove should become a mission under Harvest Baptist Church in nearby Watauga, Texas. Harvest would provide needed leadership and support.¹⁶¹

The church's negative vote to become a mission under Harvest Baptist was preceded by a lively discussion. According to Anderson, "a majority did not want to be a mission under Harvest while others wanted to make the move. The decision to remain a church rather than be a mission resulted in families leaving Shady Grove. Only about 13 families remained to carry on."¹⁶² The church was once again without leadership.

Sometime later, Anderson learned that pastor Eakin had experienced a stroke two or three years after leaving Shady Grove and it had reduced his ability to minister.¹⁶³ It surely must have been a blessing to be near family and friends in Tennessee when the stroke occurred. This event points out once again how the Lord works in the lives of individuals and His church.

A devastating event occurred at Harvest Baptist Church after Shady Grove declined to be a mission of Harvest. Seriously inappropriate behavior by the pastor publicized throughout Texas almost closed the church down. Anderson felt that this confirmed Shady Grove's decision to decline being a mission under Harvest Baptist.¹⁶⁴ Once again, the Lord was at work in the small struggling church.

Eakin's ministry of 8 years and 10 months was the longest tenure of all the pastors for the first 35 years of Shady Grove history. It is apparent that Eakin's long ministry laid a solid foundation of commitment and faithful service for staying the course during hard times in the future.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

¹⁶⁰ Katheryn Anderson, Watauga, Texas, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Ibid.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

CHAPTER 12

ED. W. BOYTE, 1990-93

The church records of business meetings for the period of 1990-93 are missing. However, some recalled events by present members of Shady Grove helped fill the gap. The source for those entries are included in the footnotes.

The church asked one of its members, Rev. Ed Boyte to fill in as interim pastor after Rev. Eakin left in September 1990.¹⁶⁵ Rev. and Mrs. Boyte moved their membership to Shady Grove in November 1986.¹⁶⁶ Boyte was a retired pastor living in the community. He had portrayed one of the disciples in the Easter program of 1987.

Anderson recalls that Boyte “took over the church program” by appointing one of his sons as Youth Director and another son as church Treasurer.¹⁶⁷

Jo Mae Allen, another present member of Shady Grove, was also a member under Boyte’s pastorate. Allen recalls that Betty Hinton and Debbie Wooten were the longest tenured members of Shady Grove at that time, with Katheryn Anderson next longest in tenure.¹⁶⁸ Allen also recalled that some unrest began to develop when Boyte resisted efforts by newer members to revitalize the church outreach efforts.¹⁶⁹ Anderson confirmed that Boyte apparently “had no interest in growing the church.”¹⁷⁰

Financial problems continued to influence Shady Grove’s ability to minister to the community. One of the reasons was discovered quite by accident. Anderson had gone to the church one Saturday to clean the building and found a note on the front door from the gas company. The gas was scheduled to be turned off that morning at 10:00 am. Upon further investigation, Shady Grove learned that church funds had been used for personal use.¹⁷¹

This information prompted the church to ask Mike Golden, Music Director, to explain the church’s findings to pastor Boyte and terminate him as pastor.¹⁷² Unfortunately, the church discovered all the church records were missing along with all the financial records when Boyte and his family left the church on or about July 4, 1993.

¹⁶⁵ Katheryn Anderson, Watauga, Texas, Meeting, March 2004.

¹⁶⁶ “History of Shady Grove,” page 71.

¹⁶⁷ Katheryn Anderson, Meeting, March 2004.

¹⁶⁸ Jo Mae Allen, Fort Worth, Texas, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ Katheryn Anderson, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² Jo Mae Allen, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

Durwood Thomas, a current member of Shady Grove, graciously stepped in as church Treasurer in July 1993.¹⁷³ Actively working at Shady Grove these past 11 years, Thomas now serves as a Deacon and his wife, Joyce teaches a children's class.

As unfortunate as this incident was, it is a reminder that each church member needs to be diligently aware of the church's business and direction. Every one of us is not only accountable to our Lord, but to each other as well. Shady Grove, is after all, the Lord's church. As His stewards of this church family, we must be about the Father's business.

¹⁷³ Ibid.

CHAPTER 13

DR. BILL WEAVER, 1993-Present

As this chapter begins, a word of explanation is in order regarding sources of information for some of the following text. The earlier chapters relied heavily on church business meeting records when available. However, Shady Grove's records for October 1993 through September 1997 are not available because they were misplaced during the relocation to the present new facility. Once again, though, members have come forward to provide some valuable information for that period of time. The source for those entries are included in the footnotes.

In July 1993, Shady Grove elected another pulpit committee to search for a pastor. Jo Mae Allen recalls the committee included Allen, Katheryn Anderson, Mark Chappell, Kenneth Meeks, Rex Parker, Durwood Thomas, and Debbie Wooten.¹⁷⁴ Allen recalls that the committee asked a contact at Southwestern seminary to recommend prospects who were then asked to preach on Sunday from July 1993 to October 1993.

The story of Rex Parker joining Shady Grove in time to help with the pastor search is interesting. As Jo Mae Allen recalls, Parker lost his job in Wichita Falls, Texas and came to the Dallas-Fort Worth area for work. Elected as a Deacon after joining Shady Grove, Parker provided loving encouragement and direction after pastor Boyte left a void of leadership. In addition, Parker's daughter, Gwen was the church pianist and sang specials in trio with Rex and Katheryn Anderson's son, Wayne. Once the new pastor was in place, Parker's former company called him back to Wichita Falls, Texas. Allen is convinced the Lord worked this out so Parker could "bring the church through this tough time."¹⁷⁵

Dr. Bill Weaver was among those who preached in view of a call during that period of time.¹⁷⁶ Weaver was working in a secular job at the time, but felt the Lord wanted him back in full time pastoral ministry.

Weaver had previous experience as a pastor at Bellevue Baptist Church, Hurst, Texas, Little Flock Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, and Indian Creek Baptist Church, Mineral Wells, Texas. A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Weaver completed a Masters' degree at the University of Texas at Arlington, Texas, and completed requirements for Secondary School Teacher credentials at the University of North Texas, Denton, Texas. He completed requirements for a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1980 while pastoring in Longview, Texas.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁴ Jo Mae Allen, Fort Worth, Texas, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ Katheryn Anderson, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

¹⁷⁷ Dr. Bill Weaver, North Richland Hills, Texas, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

During Weaver's second interview, committee questions and Bill's responses revealed the heart of both the church and Weaver. When the committee related that the church had "no money to properly support a full time pastor," Weaver responded that he was "willing to preach for nothing for as long as it takes...[because] he must get back into pastoring."¹⁷⁸

Two other interview question recalled by Anderson were, "Can you accept us where we are now...[and] can you not listen to gossip about the present members"?¹⁷⁹ Weaver's positive and loving responses during the interviews convinced the committee to recommend calling him to pastor Shady Grove on October 18, 1993.

According to Jo Mae Allen, there were three men on the Deacon Committee when Weaver arrived. They were Kenneth Meeks, Rex Parker and Durwood Thomas.¹⁸⁰ Allen also recalled that Weaver already had a home in the area and chose not to move into the church's parsonage.

When Weaver started his ministry on October 18, 1993 he recalled that there were "less than 20" in Worship services. Sunday School included "one adult class and two children classes."¹⁸¹

Andy Faught, our present Music Director, joined Shady Grove in March 1994.¹⁸² On some later date, the church called Faught to the position of Music Director. Over the years, Faught has blessed the church with his loving music presentations which include choir specials, solos by talented members, his own personal solos, and worshipful congregational singing.

In 1995, the church called David Ford as Youth Director. Ford was a graduate of Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas. He served about two years and helped the youth program grow from two or three youths to 15-20. Ford fielded a youth softball team and scheduled volley ball games.¹⁸³

By mid-1997, the church was experiencing crowded space for worship and Sunday School. Weaver recalls that worship service attendance was running over 100 each week and Sunday School attendance was 70-80.¹⁸⁴ The education space was designed for about 50 so one class was held in the foyer, another in the choir loft, one in the pastor's office, and two classes in the Auditorium.¹⁸⁵

¹⁷⁸ Kathryn Anderson, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹⁸⁰ Joe Mae Allen, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

¹⁸¹ Dr. Bill Weaver, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

¹⁸² Membership, SGBC, October 1993 to present.

¹⁸³ Dr. Bill Weaver, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

The business meeting minutes for October, 1997 note that the church was making plans to build a new facility. The church voted to hire architect James Ezell to finalize a new building plan and negotiate with contractors. The estimated cost of the new facility was set at \$213,000. The architect's normal fee was 6% of the project cost. However, Ezell agreed to accept a fee of \$10,000 with the fees due above that amount being donated to the church.¹⁸⁶

At the April 1998 business meeting, the church approved the following recommendations from the Building Construction Committee:¹⁸⁷

- a. Make an effort to raise an additional \$50,000 which would increase the Building Fund to 50% of the needed funds to complete a new building.
- b. Scheduled ground breaking for June 7, 1998.
- c. Authorized Trustees to apply for a \$250,000 loan for 15 years from the Baptist Loan Corporation.
- d. Authorized Trustees to negotiate interim financing with Liberty Bank or any other lending institution.

On July 8, 1998 the church received the report that \$22,769 had been received for the Building Fund during April, May and June.¹⁸⁸ This represented 46% of the goal to raise an additional \$50,000 for the Building Fund. This generosity in only three months shows the commitment of Shady Grove members to improve their facilities for the Lord's ministries. The church also learned that the Baptist Loan Corporation had approved a loan of \$250,000 for the new building.¹⁸⁹ Barbara Brown was elected as the General Contractor for the new facility.¹⁹⁰

The church was still waiting on October 7, 1998 for approval from the city of North Richland Hills to start the new building. A request to the city was also pending with regards to waiving some restrictions such as street lighting and sidewalks. During this meeting, David Waller was elected to the Building Construction Committee.¹⁹¹

At some point between October 7, 1998 and November 15, 1998 the church evidently decided to look for other vacant properties for a new building site. A church record was found which described an eight acre parcel of land on North Tarrant Parkway that was available. Using a \$2.00 per square foot value, the land

¹⁸⁶ Minutes, SGBC, October 8, 1997.

¹⁸⁷ Minutes, SGBC, April 8, 1998.

¹⁸⁸ Minutes, SGBC, July 8, 1998.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ Minutes, SGBC, October 7, 1998.

would be worth \$87,120 per acre.¹⁹² It is not evident if the plan was to purchase all eight acres for \$696,960 or part of the acreage.

The high prices of land for a new building site seem to have played a key role in the church's next decision. On April 7, 1999, the church received the report that "...we were planning to remain at this location and build the type and size of building which we can afford to fully pay for...[and]...plans will be readjusted."¹⁹³

Durwood Thomas resigned as church Treasurer in the July 1999 business meeting and Dewayne Stewart was elected as Treasurer.¹⁹⁴ At that same business meeting, it was reported that 3.5 acres on Davis Boulevard was available for \$275,000. The minutes recorded that the owner would take \$235,000 cash and a credit for \$40,000 as a charitable contribution. No entry was made indicating any further action.¹⁹⁵

Other business conducted during the last six months of 1999 includes the following:

- a. A special business meeting was called on August 1, 1999 to call Sherry Harbaugh as Youth Director.¹⁹⁶
- b. In October 1999, the Facilities Committee reported to the church that the "architect says we have everything we need to start...[but the] city of NRH [North Richland Hills] says we still need several items."¹⁹⁷

Progress toward building a new building was on the move once more.

Barbara Brown, chairperson of the Facilities Committee recommended the church purchase property and build a new facility at the January 2000 business meeting.¹⁹⁸ In the same meeting, the minutes include an entry stating that "closing the deal with Walmart should be March 1."¹⁹⁹ The church voted to accept the Facilities Committee recommendation with the addition that the "deal would be contingent on sale [of present property] at reasonable amount and purchase [of new land] at reasonable amount."²⁰⁰

No records are available at this time which give any information as to when Shady Grove was approached about selling their property to Walmart. Upon

¹⁹² Possible Offers, Dr. Weaver Notes on Disk, November 15, 1998.

¹⁹³ Minutes, SGBC, April 7, 1999.

¹⁹⁴ Minutes, SGBC, July 14, 1999.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁹⁶ Minutes, SGBC, August 1, 1999.

¹⁹⁷ Minutes, SGBC, October 6, 1999.

¹⁹⁸ Minutes, SGBC, January 5, 2000.

¹⁹⁹ Minutes, SGBC, January 5, 2000.

²⁰⁰ Ibid.

reflection, it is interesting to see how the Lord was at work to help Shady Grove relocate to a new location and new facilities.

On March 8, 2000 the church instructed the Trustees along with “joint committees” to finalize the sale of their present property to Walmart. It was reported to the church that Walmart had offered \$850,000 and the church countered with \$1.5 million dollars. The lowest acceptable offer from Walmart was set at \$1.0 million. During the discussion, it was reported that a new 14,000 square foot building on the present site would cost an estimated \$1.1 million (\$79 per square foot).²⁰¹

At the April 2000 business meeting, the church learned that Walmart planned to close on the sale of Shady Grove property on April 27, 2000.²⁰² The church then approved the following actions:

- a. Authorize the Facilities Committee to secure an interim meeting place until a new building was opened.
- b. Appointed David Waller as project manager for the new facility.
- c. Authorized the Men’s Fellowship to inventory all church property and schedule items to be stored or trashed.
- d. Accepted the offer by Vern and Evelyn Jackson to purchase their 4.6 acres for \$350,000 (\$1.74 per ft). That property is the present location of Shady Grove, 6649 Precinct Line Road, North Richland Hills, Texas.

In just four short months, the Lord provided two astonishing events of which the church was totally unaware in December 1997...the Walmart purchase of the old property and the offer of the Jackson property. Isn’t it amazing and wonderful how the Lord’s timing is always just right! Once again, Shady Groves’ faithfulness to the Lord’s work received the Lord’s provision. What a debt of gratitude we have for those members who have gone before us.

At a called business meeting on June 15, 2000 the church gave approval to ask New Church for permission to conduct services at their facilities on the corner of Starnes and Smithfield in North Richland Hills, Texas. In addition, Shady Grove would offer an interest-free loan of \$80,000 for one year to New Church to improve their facilities.²⁰³

On July 5, 2000, Shady Grove received the news that New Church had accepted Shady Grove’s request to conduct services in their facility and gratefully

²⁰¹ Minutes, SGBC, March 8, 2000.

²⁰² Minutes, SGBC, April 5, 2000.

²⁰³ Minutes, SGBC, June 15, 2000.

accepted the church's interest-free loan.²⁰⁴ This was yet another example of the Lord providing for Shady Grove.

Additional items approved by the church at the July 2000 business meeting include the following:²⁰⁵

- a. Approved the architect's plans for the new building.
- b. Set Sunday, August 20, 2000 for the last worship service in the old building.
- c. Set Wednesday, August 23, 2000 for the last fellowship Supper in the old building.
- d. Set Sunday, August 27, 2000 as a free day with no services scheduled.
- e. Set Saturday, September 2, 2000 as the first services at New Church facilities.

A Ground-Breaking ceremony at the Jackson property site was conducted on October 22, 2000. Portions of the Press Release sent out by the church included the following:²⁰⁶

"...Worship service will begin at 11 am, followed by lunch, a tour of the property, and the official ground-breaking ceremony to kick-off the beginning of construction. The new facility will include a 13,000 square foot auditorium with classrooms surrounding, and a fellowship hall, kitchen, and nursery/children's areas included in the main building. Offices, meeting/conference rooms, and a Church parlor, complete with fireplace, will be located in a second building. There will be a softball/baseball field, soccer field, volleyball court, basketball court, and a beautiful, large, tree shaded picnic park adjacent to the buildings. Completion is scheduled for early summer, 2001, with the Church planning to enter the new complex debt free."

The long awaited vision of new facilities to reach more people for the Lord was fast becoming a reality. What a thrilling time for Shady Grove!

Meanwhile, the church's other business had to be cared for. On January 3, 2001 the Women on Missions (WOM) reported that holiday gifts were taken to a nursing home, the pastor reported he was interviewing candidates for a Youth Minister, and Andy Faught, Minister of Music, reported that the Choir would present an Easter musical. David Waller, chairman of the Construction Committee reported that the church had secured the services of Julian P. Barry as contractor for the new building.²⁰⁷

²⁰⁴ Minutes, SGBC, July 5, 2000.

²⁰⁵ Ibid.

²⁰⁶ Press Release, SBGC, October 10, 2000.

²⁰⁷ Minutes, SGBC, January 3, 2001.

Other activities during April 2001 included moving Sunday evening services to Bellevue Baptist Church for the month of April. Dewayne Stewart reported that Bank United was considering the church's construction loan application for \$800,000. The church voted to donate \$300 from the escrow fund be given to Eastland Street Baptist Church to support their mission trip to Zambia and help publish their "book of memories."²⁰⁸

A Youth Minister was called sometime between the April 2001 business meeting and the July 2001 because mention is made that the youth program had grown from zero to six or seven in a matter of two or three weeks.²⁰⁹ Unfortunately, that unnamed Youth Minister resigned in July 2001.²¹⁰

Other July 2001 business meeting activities included the following:²¹¹

- a. Construction Committee reported four companies were considering the plans for the new building and a selection was pending.
- b. Church voted to change the distribution of missions money from 3% to Texas and Worldwide missions and 2% to Tarrant Baptist Association (on escrow since January 2001) to a new schedule: 50% of the Texas and Worldwide 3% to go to the Baptist General Convention of Texas and 50% to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).
- c. Church voted to use monies in the Tarrant Baptist Association (TBA) escrow account to pay \$1,000 towards the Baby Gillian funeral with the remainder sent to TBA.

Good news concerning the new construction was reported to the church in October 2001. The church had received final approval for a construction loan from Frost National Bank and approval for the pay-off loan from Baptist Loan Corporation to pay-off the Frost note when the building was completed. Construction was to begin ten (10) days after all the legal documents were signed.²¹²

Fred Perkins, Children's Director since July 1997, resigned to accept a position as children's director at another church in the area. To fill the vacancy in the children's ministry, the church elected Stephanie Caskey to work with birth through second grade and Shannon Brown to work with third through sixth grade. They were to work as co-directors for six months and split the funds designated for

²⁰⁸ Minutes, SGBC, April 4, 2001.

²⁰⁹ Minutes, SGBC, July 8, 2001.

²¹⁰ Ibid.

²¹¹ Ibid.

²¹² Minutes, SGBC, October 3, 2001.

the children's ministry. The church was then to evaluate the effectiveness of this co-director approach after the trial period.²¹³

On January 2, 2002, the church voted to support the Unified Church Ministries

program with a gift of \$100 per month.²¹⁴ This organization, under the direction of John Giddens, President, was established to plant new churches by acquiring land and build a building before calling a pastor. Their vision was to move away from the normal mode of church planting by hiring a church starter pastor and rent meeting space in schools or business complexes.

Shady Grove took a major step to be directly involved in missions during the January 2002 meeting. The church voted to "enter a non-binding agreement with a church or churches in the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware for support of said church and provision for leadership of missions activities in that area."²¹⁵ This was a continuation of the missions vision of Shady Grove set in place when the mission was constituted as a Southern Baptist church on January 2, 1955.

On February 20, 2002, the church called Rich Nifong as Associate Pastor and Youth Minister.²¹⁶ Nifong served Shady Grove for two years before resigning in February 2004.

The church celebrated its first Easter Sunrise service at the new site on March 31, 2002. Services were conducted near the concrete slab and framework of the new building.²¹⁷ What a grand way to celebrate our Lord's resurrection while praising Him for the new chapter about to unfold at Shady Grove.

The April 2002 business meeting had more good news concerning the new building. David Waller reported that all "the cabinets for our building are being furnished free of charge."²¹⁸ The church learned that the cabinets were supplied and installed by one of the premier cabinet companies in Tarrant County. Another blessing from the Lord!

The big day finally arrived for the first services in the new building. On September 8, 2002, the church family met for services in their beautiful new building. The large number in attendance was blessed with a glorious service followed by a tour of the building and grounds. The Shady Grove family was finally at home.

²¹³ Minutes, SGBC, October 3, 2001.

²¹⁴ Minutes, SGBC, January 2, 2002.

²¹⁵ Ibid.

²¹⁶ Minutes, SGBC, February 20, 2002.

²¹⁷ Jo Mae Allen, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

²¹⁸ Minutes, SGBC, April 3, 2002.

The new church campus is located at 6649 Precinct Line Road in North Richland Hills, Texas. The church is located on one of the newest main thoroughfares in Northeast Tarrant County. The facilities include the main auditorium building and an annex. The auditorium building includes a beautiful worship center, classrooms, nursery, fellowship hall, and kitchen. The annex includes the church offices, parlor, conference room and classrooms.

A generous picnic area along with a softball field is located behind the buildings to the west. Plans are being made to add a volleyball court and basketball court. The park facilities are all available for use by the community.



Shady Grove Baptist Church, May 2004 – East Side, Front



Shady Grove Baptist Church, May 2004 – Northeast Side



Shady Grove Baptist Church, May 2004 – Annex Behind Auditorium

On September 15, 2002, the church voted to “affirm the ministry of Rachel Bond as Children’s Director.”²¹⁹ Later, the church approved maternity leave for Bond effective March 31, 2003 through July 6, 2003.²²⁰ In order to fill this leadership role, the church called Fred Perkins as full-time Minister of Education and Administration.²²¹ On July 2, 2003 the church accepted Rachel Bond’s resignation as children’s director.²²²

Two new Trustees were elected in the July 2003 meeting. The Nominating Committee recommended David Waller and Clyde Austin as new Trustees. Motion carried.²²³

During July 2003, a number of church members traveled to Annapolis, Maryland, to do mission work and conduct a Vacation Bible School program. They worked with the First Baptist Church of East Port, Maryland. Upon their return, the members who went on the mission trip gave the church exciting reports of seeing changes in the lives of those met in Maryland as well as changes in their own spiritual walk.

Shady Grove’s commitment and love for its family was demonstrated in meeting the needs of a member family in severe financial distress. The Gaston family had experienced very large medical bills since the birth of their youngest son, Tanner. To help meet their medical expenses, the church voted on October 1, 2003

²¹⁹ Minutes, SGBC, September 15, 2002.

²²⁰ Minutes, SGBC, April 2, 2003.

²²¹ Minutes, SGBC, May 18, 2003.

²²² Minutes, SGBC, July 2, 2003.

²²³ Ibid.

to designate the month as Tanner Gaston Offering month in place of the annual Mary Hill Davis offering for Texas missions.²²⁴ How grateful we are for such a caring church family.

The year 2004 started with the resignations of two staff members, Fred Perkins the Minister of Education and Administration, and Rich Nifong the Associate Pastor and Youth Minister.²²⁵ A review of the church's programs show that Perkins laid a solid foundation for growth in the Sunday School program while Nifong rejuvenated the youth program.

Shady Grove's growth in numbers was once again putting a strain on the available education space. As result, the church elected a Long Range Planning Committee on April 14, 2004 composed of Mike Cook, Sunday School Director, along with Teri Gaston and Joe Crane.²²⁶ In addition, a Building Construction Committee was established with members to be appointed by Pastor Weaver.²²⁷

One of the most difficult items the church dealt with in the April 2004 meeting was the resignation of Andy Faught, Minister of Music. Faught had served the church for nearly 10 years. Needless to say, the church was reluctant to accept his resignation. However, the action was accepted when it was made clear that Faught felt the church needed a full-time minister of music in order to properly guide our large choir and a full music ministry. The church then voted to accept Faught as interim music director until a full-time music minister was in place. Needless to say the church has not been in a hurry to find Andy's replacement!

Pastor Weaver's "shepherding of the flock" has continued the thread of loving commitment and devotion to the Lord's church by those who have gone before us. When Weaver arrived at Shady Grove almost 11 years ago, the church had difficulty paying his salary and operational bills. That situation has changed dramatically. For example, annual giving to the church's General Fund grew to \$95,426 in 1998 and on to \$167,096 in 2003.²²⁸

The Sunday School program now has five Adult classes, six children's classes (birth thru 6th grade), and one youth department. Total Sunday School attendance ranges from 120 to 145. Children classes have 60-70 attending, Youth 10-15, and Adults 50-60.

Sunday morning worship services are running about 225 attending plus 18-20 in the choir. About 20-25 children attend the Children's Extended Service during the 10:45 am worship service.

²²⁴ Minutes, SGBC, October 1, 2003.

²²⁵ Minutes, SGBC, February 15, 2004.

²²⁶ Minutes, SGBC, April 14, 2004.

²²⁷ Ibid.

²²⁸ Dewayne Stewart, SGBC Treasurer, Telephone Interview, May 7, 2004.

The children's program, Awanas, meets each Wednesday evening during the school year. There are 40-45 children attending each week. The Women on Missions program meets monthly on Tuesday evening with about 20-25 in attendance.

This is a significant growth of the education program since 1993. At that time, Shady Grove had one adult class and two children classes and about 20 in morning worship services.²²⁹

When asked how all this growth has taken place, Pastor Weaver said, "God has done it all, every bit and I get to watch."²³⁰

²²⁹ Dr. Bill Weaver, Telephone Interview, May 5, 2004.

²³⁰ Ibid.

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

APPENDIX A

(to SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH...A 50-YEAR SUMMARY OF EVENTS)

CHARTER MEMBERS, JANUARY 2, 1955

1. Allison, Della
2. Allison, Herschel E.
3. Bailey, S. L.
4. Bailey, Mrs. S. L.
5. Baker, Albert
6. Forsythe, Patricia Sutton
7. Garrett, Dovie
8. Garrett, Gala
9. Garrett, U. A.
10. Gaston, Peggy
11. Gaston, Rev. Leroy
12. Hoffman, Jodie
13. Hoffman, Mrs. Jodie
14. Lafferty, Doris
15. Lafferty, Rev. James E.
16. Owens, Jack B.
17. Owens, Mrs. Jessie
18. Owens, Rachel Beaver
19. Owens, Royce W.
20. Owens, Travis
21. Phillips, Joyce Owens
22. Potter, Mrs. H. L.
23. Rose, Mrs. A. B.
24. Smith, A. W.
25. Smith, Mrs. R. K.
26. Trotter, Evelyn
27. Trotter, Roy
28. Vick, Mrs. L. H.
29. Young, Delores
30. Young, M. E.
31. Young, Mrs. M. E.