

CHAPTER ONE

The Early Days In Marion County and Bull Shoals

It's hard to believe Marion County had a population of 32,000 people in the 1910 - 1920 time period. This number dropped to 10,000 residents in the early 1920's and by 1960 only 6,000 lived in Marion County. The main reasons for the large decrease in population were: Most of the 1910 - 1920 time period residents were miners and those who supported the mining industry. Lead and zinc were the main metals being mined and large supplies of these were not needed after World War I. Mines were closed and most miners and their families moved. In the 1930's the great depression forced many families in Marion County to relocate to areas where work could be found. As it turned out most Marion County families that moved, relocated in the Yakima Valley in Washington. There they worked in the apple orchards and hops groves to provide food for their families. The dam was completed in 1952, with many of the workers moving on to other jobs. Also, a number of farms were covered with lake water and these families were forced to move.

Although many left the county, the City of Bull Shoals was born on completion of the dam in 1952. The land on which Bull Shoals is built was known as Newton Flat, named after the Newton farm family. The "flat" part came from the fact that it was unusually flat for an Ozarks location. Historical records show the area covered 5 1/2 square miles. In 1942, during World War II, records show the local school had 24 students, mostly from farm families. Gus McCracken and Roy Johnson owned the land in 1945 -1946. C. S. Woods began buying this Newton Flat land during the same time and began to lay out streets to support a fledging town. In 1949 the Bull Shoals Post Office was established and with completion of the dam in 1952, the town started to grow, slowly. By 1957 the population was only 131. The U.S. Census showed 268 in 1960, 430 in 1970, 1312 in 1980, 1534 in 1990 and 2000 in the year 2000.

Lakeview and subdivisions out to Midway also came into being after the dam was completed. Most people in these areas used the Bull Shoals churches as their places of worship. This is still the case today in 2003.

CHAPTER TWO

Formation Of Churches in Bull Shoals

The First 25 Years Of The Presbyterian Church Of Bull Shoals 1953-1978

As with new American towns since 1776, churches were among the first institutions to be established, with church buildings being erected soon afterward. This was the case for Bull Shoals. The Presbyterian and Methodist churches were soon established followed by the Baptist and Lutheran churches. The Methodist's conducted their first meeting in their new church building in December 1952. Presbyterians followed shortly afterward, meeting in their church on July 3, 1953. The Baptist church building was completed in November 1961. Lutherans got started later. The Presbyterian Minister, Stephen Fazekas, became the lector for the small congregation and on March 7, 1976 moved them into the Presbyterian Church until their own building was completed in August 1979. The following comprehensive history of the Presbyterian Church during the 1950's, 1960's and early 1970's was mostly taken from the book, "History of Marion County", by Earl Berry, published in 1977. (Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 77-7320). Data from existing Church Records was used to augment and verify this historical account, which was submitted to Earl Berry by members of the Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals in 1976.

Presbyterian work in the Bull Shoals area began in 1947. Meetings were held in the schoolhouse until 1951 when services were held in the Methodist Church. Services were conducted by Rev. Claud Crigler, a Baptist minister, and students from Arkansas College, a Presbyterian supported school. Soon, however, the Methodists decided to have their own services every Sunday, and arrangements were made to hold services every Sunday morning in the Bradford Building, one block north of Highway 178. One of the men who helped arrange this was Mr. C. Hargis, an ardent Presbyterian from Louisiana. He was the chief electrical contractor during the building of Bull Shoals Dam. This gentleman did much to help mold our fledging church during the formation period.

In 1952 ground was given for a church by Charles Woods, Sr., the promoter of Bull Shoals. The ground was cleared by the congregation with Robert Doom, a student preacher, and Dr. George McKee of the Mountain Home Presbyterian Church supervising. Wilbur Gordon of Bull Shoals was the architect and builder.

The first service was held July 3, 1953, to discuss organizing the church. The official service - to organize was conducted by Dr. John Spragins, Superintendent of Home Missions, and Dr. George McKee on July 12, 1953. (*See Appendix 1 for a copy of the first worship folder July 19, 1953*) Fourteen charter members were received: Earl and Reba Braley and Sharon (now Mrs. Duane

Thompson), Wilbur and Jane Gordon, Charles Hefton, Mrs. Roy Hicks, Ruval Earl Johnson, Mrs. Paul Lingle, Mrs. J. S. Mendenhall, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Quinton, Nell and John Terman, Earl Braley and John Terman were elected as the first Elders.

The first budget was \$57.50 per month. The first ordained minister was Rev. Roy Hicks, who was ordained at Cotter and served both churches; the first meeting of the session took place on July 21, 1953, with Rev. Roy Hicks as Moderator; the first congregational meeting was held Aug 2, 1953, when the first trustees were elected - Wilbur Gordon and Pete Quinton. Our first session covered the following in their 11 August 1953 meeting. It was decided both Elders and Ministers would conduct visitations. It was agreed that a congregational meeting be called on August 16th to select a name for our church. Also, to set a date for closing charter membership.

The Women of the Church were organized on July 21, 1953, with Mrs. J.S. Mendenhall as president. The first "Fellowship Hour" a supper, was July 29 with 28 present. Also in July, Sunday School was organized with John Terman as the first superintendent. Nell Terman taught the Adult class and Reba Braley taught the children's class. The record attendance was established in February 1957 with the arrival of Garld and Ardna Short and children - Tarla (now Mrs. Donald Kilgore), Coyla (Mrs. Karlton Hudson), Roger and Jill. They came from Decatur County in Iowa. (*See Appendix 9*)

In 1958 Garld Short was elected as Sunday School Superintendent and served for 13 years until the Sunday School closed due to lack of attendance.

In 1953 boundary lines of Presbytery were changed and we were transferred from Washburn to East Arkansas Presbytery, now Arkansas Presbytery Union. (*See Appendix 3 and 4*)

(Some brief, interesting items about manse.) A meeting on May 28, 1954, authorized a committee to make plans relative to possible amount of \$5000 promised as a loan from General Assembly's Committee. The Building Committee was asked to "keep the cost under \$5000 if at all possible" and application for the loan as authorized August 8, 1954, at a congregational meeting was approved. The manse was completed by 1955 with most of the work by members.

Ministerial changes then took place as Rev. and Mrs. Hicks left; Dan Zeluff served as a supply during summer, 1955; then Dr. John Crockett accepted the charge and on July 19, 1955, the first Presbytery meeting was held here.

The first baby was baptized on November 20, 1955 - Jeannie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hager of Rueter, Missouri. Dr. Cockett had married the baby's parents and had also baptized her mother.

Dr. Crockett left in 1956 due to ill health and Rev. Walter Brown came on the field in June of 1958 as the permanent pastor. During the interim, Rev. H. H.

Patrick of Flippin supplied the pulpit most of the time. 1958 proved to be an exciting year ... THE DAY THE CHURCH CAUGHT FIRE ... Nothing was lost since the furnishings were carried out by willing helpers. Damage was estimated at \$3500. Services were held in the Community Building while the church was being repaired.

The first formal wedding was of Coyla Short (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garld Short) and Karlton Hudson (son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hudson) all of Flippin, on September 1, 1963. The service was performed by Rev. Walter L. Brown. Rev. Brown served the church faithfully until his retirement in 1965. During that time his wife died.

Many improvements were made to the property, items of furniture added, hymn books, altar, organ, altar Bible, and carpeting were all added through memorial gifts. Now, kitchen appliances have been installed recently. (*See Appendix 12A thru 12F for History compiled by the Women of the Church. 1953 - 1966*)

The year of 1966 began with a membership of 60. By the time Rev and Mrs. Fazekas arrived on the field from Kentucky on August 1, 1966, there were 52 active members, and a membership of 185.

The area around Bull Shoals during the early 1960's went through some slow progress, questionable as to what direction it would take; then, suddenly, by 1966 tourism began to flourish, retirees began building homes and the boom started. This also meant growth and progress to the church.

The session consists of nine members and there are two trustees. The first Elder to be elected after the organizational meeting in which Elders Braley and Terman were elected was John Carter in 1954.

The choir is ably directed by Mrs. Margaret North, also the organist. Mrs. North has served as organist since the fall of 1965. For several years Laurence O'Connor directed the choir until health reasons forced him to resign. Mrs. Mable McKee is the assistant organist and choir director.

The Lord has blessed us so far, to this point in history, (Ebenezer) 1976. May we look forward with His help and guidance as we plan ahead. We are a happy, active, loving congregation, and we feel with God's help we will carry on in His name, from this time July 1976.

Today, July 3, 2003, fifty years after our church was founded, this description of the Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals remains the same.

The Church Register lists these pastors serving from 1953 to 1976:

Roy Wiley Hicks: 07-12-53 to 05-16-55

Reverend Hicks, was ordained by a commission of East Arkansas

Presbytery, in the Cotter, Arkansas, Presbyterian Church, July 19, 1953. At the same time he was installed as Minister of both Cotter and Bull Shoals Presbyterian Churches.

On the next Sunday, July 26th, he served on a commission with Dr. McKee and Dr. Spragins, to conduct the service for the organization of a Presbyterian Church on Highway 101 across the Ferry Landing on Norfolk Lake. Today this is the One-O-One Presbyterian Church in Gamaliel and the Ferry has been replaced with a bridge. Rev. Hicks, served One year and 10 months. He left the church in May 1955 for another pastorate. Temporary pastors Reverends Dan Zeluff and H. H. Patrick of Flippin served for five months until our second pastor Dr. John Crockett, arrived in October 1955. (*See Appendix 16 for memories of the church written by Rev. Hicks*)

John Crockett: 10-01-55 to 05-15-56

Dr. Crockett, left in May 1956, after serving only eight months. Historical accounts stated he had throat problems thought to be caused by being near the lake and river. He transferred to a church in Augusta, Arkansas. (*See Appendix 2-G*)

Walter L. Brown, Jr.: 07-20-58 to 08-06-65

Our third pastor Rev. Walter Brown, did not arrive until July 1958, over two years after Dr. Crockett left. During this period, Once again Rev. H. H. Patrick served in a temporary capacity. This time he moved into the manse. Unfortunately, he had to resign four months later in January 1958 due to poor health. Divinity students from Arkansas College, now Lyon, conducted services until Rev. Brown arrived. Fortunately, for our fledging church, Rev. Brown provided stability serving seven years and one month. The church was saddened in early 1963 when his wife, Vesta, went to be with the Lord. Rev. Brown, stayed with the church for another two and half years before resigning in August 1965. He tried to resign a year earlier on reaching the age of 70. The congregation raised such a fuss that he volunteered to serve another year. (*See Appendix 2-G*)

Stephen Fazekas: 08-06-66 to 08-01-76

Rev. Stephen Fazekas, our church's fourth minister, an Ohio native born Feb 22, 1909, died Sept. 4, 1987 at the age of 78.

He moved to Mountain Home in August 1966 from Wilmore, KY and served both the Mountain Home and Bull Shoals Presbyterian churches. He was installed as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals on Oct. 2, 1966 to Aug 1, 1976. (*See Appendix 2-G*)

Rev. Fazekas was known as a "go-getter for God." It is said he was on the site to invite newcomers to church whenever a moving van arrived at a home in

Bull Shoals.

The following is quoted from a newspaper article in our files:

“For several years, Rev. Fazekas hosted Concert Classics and Comments on KTLO-FM. The show featured a wide range of classical music as well as big band performances and show tunes from Broadway productions. Rev. Fazekas, discussing various aspects of the music and music history, provided his listeners with background about composers from Beethoven to Gershwin. For many area residents, tuning in his program each evening Mondays through Fridays became a regular habit.

“In addition to hosting Concert Classics and Comments, Rev. Fazekas also wrote a column for The Baxter Bulletin, “It’s a Classical Record.”

Another article in May 1973 had this to say:

“Reverend Stephen Fazekas, Pastor of the Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church, was recently elected moderator of the East Arkansas Presbytery. Information received from Church officials indicates he would not be required to move to a new location. Reverend Fazekas, will continue to serve as minister of the Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church and at the same time perform the duties required as moderator of the denominations judicial body.

Always on the look-out for new members the minister stated he will meet with prospective new members at 7 p.m., tomorrow at the church. All interested persons are invited to attend.

The executive board of the Women of the Church will meet at 9:30 a.m. next Monday at the church. Mrs. Ruth Black, WOC president has urged all officers to attend.

It was emphasized the Women of the Church have contributed significantly since the church was founded in 1953, and the WOC looks forward to yet more efforts to improve their church.”

Annual reports to the Presbytery show the following number of church members for the 1953-1978 time period:

1953 --- 14	1966 --- 63
1954 --- 20	1967 --- 97
1955 --- 25	1968 --- 126
1956 --- 22	1969 --- 139
1957 --- 25	1970 --- 171
1958 --- 28	1971 --- 152
1959 --- 41	1972 --- 175
1960 --- 48	1973 --- 189
1961 --- 42	1974 --- 204

1962 --- 42	1975 --- 208
1963 --- 57	1976 --- 194
1964 --- 45	1977 --- 185
1965 --- 59	1978 --- 190

FRIENDS: Our church throughout its history has been blessed with having Friends of the Church. The membership Directory in the year 1976 lists forty-eight in this category. Many moving to this area in their retirement years desired to keep their life long denomination. A number had spouses of a different faith and others did not desire to become involved due to poor health or other reasons. We have been fortunate as many support the church in a variety of ways and become involved in all functions except officers of the church.

As towns and subdivisions on the east side of Bull Shoals lake began to grow, more and more retirees joined our church or became friends. The 1976 Membership Directory shows Lakeview having a few more members and friends than Bull Shoals. Also, twelve are listed from Midway, ten from Mountain Home, thirteen from Flippin and five from Cotter.

It's interesting to know in 1966 there were sixty-three members and One hundred and twenty-two friends of the church.

Let us now transition to our church's history nationwide. In 1861 at the start of the Civil War the Presbyterian Church split into two factions:

The United Presbyterian Church --- in the North and Presbyterian Church in the United States --- in the South or Confederate States.

Our early church was under the Washburn and later East Arkansas Presbyteries, both in the South. It wasn't until June 10, 1983, some 122 years later the North and South factions united.

The 151 Presbyteries in the North voted to reunite but 8 of the 61 in the South voted no. Three-fourths of the Presbyteries were required to pass the provisions set forth, so at last we all became The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Old 1970-1980 newspaper clippings found in church papers indicated there was a strong interest throughout the United States. However, in reading session minutes for the time period we found no reference to this national event. In talking with several long time members, who were here at the time, they stated that they don't recall any mention of the event during church services or meetings.

This is understandable as it probably meant little or no change in the manner we conducted church business.

On the other hand historical accounts indicate there were many growing

pains in other areas of the country, especially where there were overlapping presbyteries or Black-White integration concerns.

Also, due to changes in the Church's outreach policies, and society's outlook on gender and ethnic groups, a brief statement of faith was agreed upon. The statement, drawing heavily from previous confessions, was included in the Book of Confessions. The statement recognized all ethnic groups and women were given equal status in all ministries of the church. Both feminine and masculine terms were used in references to God. *(See Appendix 7 and 8 for more detail)*

CHAPTER THREE
The Second 25 Years Of The Presbyterian Church
Of Bull Shoals
1978 - 2003

Three Pastors served during the second 25 years:

Kenneth Alfred Reeves: 02-01-77 to 04-03-84

Rev. Kenneth Reeves, our fifth pastor, arrived in February 1977, six months after Rev. Fazekas left. During this six month period Dr. Fitzhugh Spragins, son of Dr. John Spragins, who founded our church, served as moderator and presented a number of sermons along with Rev. C. Hughes, also from Arkansas College. Rev. Kenneth Reeves, served seven years and two months. He departed in April 1984 being charged with misconduct. It is significant that the sanctuary was built during the tenure of Rev. Reeves. *(See next page)*

Robin Donald Moffatt: 12-09-84 to 09-30-93

Rev. Robin Moffatt, our sixth pastor took over in December 1984, eight months after Rev. Reeves left. A number of guest ministers filled the pulpit during this eight month period. Dr. Ralph Graham of Arkansas College headed the list. Also, presenting sermons were Rev. Harold Mallett, Berryville and Chaplain Maurice Roberts of the VA Hospital in Little Rock.

Rev. Moffatt, was active in community affairs, serving as President of the Bull Shoals-Lakeview Rotary Club and a member of the local investment and fisherman's clubs. He departed in September 1993 after serving eight years and 10 months to retire in Kerrville, Texas. Rev. Moffatt was the last pastor to live in the Manse, originally constructed in February 1955. Shortly after his departure in 1993 the Manse, now in disrepair, was sold for one dollar to Philip Fournier. The new owner had it moved to the White Eagle Storage facility on highway 178 in Bull Shoals. It was renovated and is now used as a home and office.

Frederick A. Taylor: 04-01-94 to present

Our seventh and current pastor Dr. Fred Taylor, took the reins of the church on April 1, 1994. This was seven months after Rev. Moffatt departed. During this seven month period Rev. Norman Fedderly, a Minister from Cherokee Village, Arkansas acted as moderator. He was on early retirement recovering from donating a kidney to his son. Several guest ministers delivered the sermons. Rev. Charles White of Mountain Home and two retired Methodists ministers Rev. Jack

Cox and Rev. James Barton. Dr. Taylor, besides holding a Doctor of Ministry degree is a retired Army chaplain who served in combat in Vietnam. In his early years he was also a school teacher. Prior to becoming our pastor he served on the Bull Shoals city council and then was appointed mayor. Under Dr. Taylor's leadership improvements in almost all church categories have been made; Physical facilities, equipment, administration, finance, Sunday school, library and vacation bible school. It is significant that Memorial Hall was erected during the tenure of Dr. Taylor. (*See next page*) These along with other improvements are also outlined in the Appendix Section.

ABSENCE OF PASTORS: During the past 50 years our church was without a pastor for a total of over five years. As we know a church without a pastor is like a ship without a rudder. In the early years the Presbytery and Lyon College helped carry us through. However, most of the credit should go to those church members who shouldered the burden as they endeavored to keep the church running and to locate new pastors. Church functions had to be carried on: Religious services, funerals, baptisms, marriages, finances and most importantly the congregation had to be kept together. A number of historical documents show that extensive prayers were directed toward obtaining a pastor. One typical Session report ended with these words, "We feel God will answer our prayers for a minister to lead us."

SANCTUARY: Plans to construct a Sanctuary were begun under Reverend Reeves, in 1978. This new addition to the church was completed on December 16, 1979. In 1985 the mortgage was paid in full.

The architect for the new addition was Mr. Sam Clippard, the builder was Mr. Jim Householder and the Church Building Committee Chairman was Mr. Jack Reeves.

Long time members recall the builder purchasing lumber in Springfield, Missouri. The lumber was planed and finished on the job site. The beautiful Elm boards backing up the altar were rough cut in various widths and smoothed at the site.

Dedication services were held on February 17, 1980 with special guests: Reverend William McLean, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Arkansas Union; The Arkansas College (now Lyon College) Choir with director Mrs. Paul G and organist Herman Hess. (*See Appendix 5 thru 5D*)

Unfortunately, Reverend Reeves, departed the church in April 1984 being charged with misconduct.

MEMORIAL HALL: This project called for a 3200 square foot hall

adjoining the church on the south side. Construction materials were chosen to blend in with the original church building. Construction began in May 1998 and was completed in October 1998. The new addition was equipped with a kitchen, rest rooms, store room, hallway cloak room and a covered drive through by the main door. Plans called for all facilities to be fully handicap accessible.

The Mark Bennett Construction Company was the builder. As a matter of interest after the building was completed -- Mark Bennett, his wife Paula, his son Trever and wife Angela and his Mother Pauline Ray joined the church. Shortly afterward his granddaughter Genavieve was born and was baptized in the church by Dr. Fred Taylor.

The Total cost of Memorial Hall was \$185, 000. Jim Kahm, Church Treasurer, arranged for the cost to be covered by borrowing from existing church funds, thus avoiding costly interest charges. Memorial Hall was fully paid for on 1 December 2002. (*See Appendix 6 thru 6-D for more details and dedication ceremony*)

The Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals had no deacons from its' inception in 1953 until 1997.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS by Irene Bere:

The Board of Deacons became an official board of the church in 1997. In June of 1995 through our new Pastor Dr. Fred Taylor's efforts, a Love in Action Committee was authorized by the Board of Session. This committee would perform the same duties as a Board of Deacons, as outlined in Section G.60402 in the Book of Order, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

“It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress, both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the session, such as leading the people in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the Scriptures, presenting the gifts of the people, and assisting with the Lord's Supper.”

Prior to this time, the Board of Session tried to handle visitations, etc., along with their specific Elder responsibilities. Because of the high average age of the congregation, there were many visits, phone calls to be made, and needed transportation requests could not always be filled. (There has always been a wonderful response by church family members in assisting others when they have heard about illnesses, etc.)

After 14 months, because of the committee's commitment to this ministry and the results, the first official Board of Deacons, consisting of three members from the Love in Action Committee was established by vote of the congregation. The remaining seven member Love in Action Committee would continue to function, along with the Board of Deacons, to whom it would be responsible.

At the end of its first year of operation, the Board of Deacons was expanded to include all of the Love in Action Committee, making a total of ten members

Today the Board of Deacons' responsibilities include: Personal Visits, Angels on Wheels, Phone Calls, Cards/Notes to Church Family, Notes to Visitors, "We Care" Cards, Telephone Prayer Chain, Sunday "Love in Action" Greeters, A Celebration of Life, Church Food Bank, Communion to Shut-ins, Golden Opportunity Days, Audio Tapes to Shut-ins, Teachers, etc., and Home Maintenance Angels. Since "the beginning" --- June of 1995 --- through 2002, more than 33,000 recorded contacts were made with church family members. (*See Appendix 11 for year 2002 totals.*)

Our Pastor, Dr. Fred Taylor, served as an adviser to the Love in Action Committee, the position in which he has, also, served on the Board of Deacons since its establishment. His leadership, wise guidance, enthusiasm and encouragement have helped the Deacons in their growth as caring and compassionate individuals serving others.

Bob Hobbs, Elder in charge of Membership, served as the first liaison from the Board of Session both to Love in Action and to the Deacons in which capacity he served until he completed the maximum consecutive term allowable on the Session. Then, in 2001 Bill Jeffrey was elected to the Board of Session, in charge of Membership, and has served as the liaison to the Deacon Board since that time.

Irene Bere was the first and only Moderator and Secretary of the Love in Action Committee, and then was elected to serve as the first Moderator of the Board of Deacons and continued to serve in that capacity until she completed the maximum consecutive term allowable for Deacons. Dorothy Curfman served as the first Secretary of the Deacons. She filled this position through the year 1998, at which time Norma Taylor was elected Secretary serving in that capacity for two years. Then, in 2001 Sandy Erickson was elected to serve as Secretary, a position which she currently holds.

Members of the first Board of Deacons were Irene Bere, Dorothy Curfman and Ward Taylor. The other seven Love in Action members, who were then voted by the Congregation to serve as Deacons 14 months later, were George and Doris

Canada, Earl and Sigrid Kahle, Bette Sommers, Norma Taylor and Kim Wiles Taylor.

Members of Board of Deacons in 2003 are Bob Hobbs, Moderator (after completing his maximum consecutive term on the Board of Elders serving as liaison from the Elders to the Board of Deacons he without hesitation agreed to serve as a Deacon), Sandy Erickson, Secretary, Jack Kunath, Ramona Marshall, Jean Lyon, Betty Hobbs, Margie Wire, Pam Hobart, Jo Underhill and Allen Althof.

The Board of Deacons, a ministry of "Love in Action", strives to serve others with the same compassion and unconditional love our Lord has for each one of us.

THE CHURCH FINANCE PLAN: One of the many projects undertaken during the 1990's was the drafting of a comprehensive finance plan. The plan, which took the Finance Committee headed by William Lyon two years to complete, was approved by the Session March 19, 1997.

The plan incorporated these major objectives:

- To help insure the future of our Church and it's Christian Ministry.

- To set up a system of management to prudently invest monetary resources to provide added income for Church requirements, both near and long term.

- To establish an endowment fund to provide income for mission endeavors.

- To provide the congregation with an added option of contributing to the Church and mission functions.

For the first time in our Church's history guidelines for the distribution of bequests, gifts, specified memorials and non-specified memorials was established. These monetary resources are distributed among four categories and invested as indicated: Pastoral Housing (Balanced Mutual Fund), Capital Building (Balanced Mutual Fund), Contingency (Money Market Fund) and Mission Endowment (Equity Growth Mutual Fund).

To-date, July 2003, the plan has worked in a highly satisfactory manner. Considering it's importance now, and hopefully for years to come, the entire plan is included as Appendix 10. (*See Appendix 15 for the Church Treasurer's Report for the year 2002.*)

CHURCH LIBRARY: Another significant project during this time period was the establishment of a Church Library. Jeanette Haars, volunteered for the task, and with a few helpers built a small, make-shift collection of books into a first class library. Her finished product contained hundreds of books, both adult and children's, plus a large number of videos. Many of the books were donated by church members and some special types were purchased. All were cataloged and had check-out slips included. Thanks to her untiring efforts, members and Sunday School children now have a church oriented, religious library to help round out their Christian education. Unfortunately, soon after Jeanette Haars completed the library her husband died. Several months later she moved to Iowa to live near her father.

Major facility and property improvements were made in 1998. These were outlined in the yearly history report submitted by the Presbyterian Women of the Church:

“1998 was a big year for property development and improvement. The big project was the beginning (May 1998) and completion (October 1998) of a 3200 square foot Memorial Hall which the church built “For the Glory of God.” Memorial Hall is an all-purpose fellowship hall and Christian training center. (*See Appendix 6 thru 6-D for Dedication Services May 16, 1999*). The old fellowship hall, which was originally the sanctuary of the church, began conversion into being the Christian Education Center. The old kitchen, the cabinets of which were incorporated in the new and larger kitchen of Memorial Hall was developed into a church nursery. Charlie Lowe, the husband of our member Shirley Lowe, donated paint, time and talent to redo the walls.

Added insulation was installed in the ceiling of the Christian Education Center to make the building more energy efficient. Bill Lyon constructed nice shelves for the choir area and classrooms as well as using a corner section of the old kitchen countertop to construct a computer education center for the Sunday School. The office computer, which was replaced by a new, speedier and advanced computer, was placed in the computer center along with a computer donated by Johnny and Eunice Wilson. A like-new Story and Clark console piano was donated to the church. It was placed in the sanctuary which allowed placement of the spinet piano in Memorial Hall.

Other property improvements and additions included a lectern with self-contained sound system which was donated for use in Memorial Hall and a dehumidifier, given to the church and installed in the basement, so canned goods for the community food pantry can be stored there until needed for distribution.

Replacing and improving rain drainage from the current buildings and grounds was accomplished during the construction of Memorial Hall. As stated earlier, a new computer system was purchased for the church office.

Our church facilities are also made available to other organizations during the year. Among these are: AA and Al Anon who meet every Monday evening, the Girl Scout troop we sponsor, the Friends of Bull Shoals Library, and Hospice which met once a week in the fall for a to week semi-annual training course.”

The year 2000 was another stellar year in upgrading our facilities, adding equipment, and repairing storm damage.

In June 2000 a violent windstorm swept through this area of Arkansas. The church sign was knocked down, a large tree limb broke off and punctured the roof near the north side eaves of the sanctuary and damaged shingles. Jim and Sandy Erickson upright the sign temporarily until he could replace the supporting posts that were snapped off at the base. Jim also made new hardwood lettering for the sign. The yard spotlights for the sign and front of the church had to be replaced. The hole was patched and new shingles placed on the sanctuary. The broken tree was taken down and stump removed (along with the removal of other stumps from previous tree removals). Men and women of the church responded with exuberance to do the cleanup of the grounds following the storm and to perform a temporary repair on the hole in roof.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WING (Original Sanctuary):

West and East Wall renovations were initiated during the year. It was intended to be just a West Wall renovation, but the response of the congregation was such that the East Wall was accomplished from two to three years earlier than projected. The West Wall had all the original siding removed dating back to the 1950s. The wall was insulated for the first time, thermal windows were installed, and new Western cedar siding matching Memorial Hall was placed on the outer wall. The windows on the East Wall of what was the original sanctuary built in 1953 were replaced with thermal windows to make the facility more energy efficient. During this renovation steps were taken to improve the attic airflow of the building. The wind turbines had not moved since their installation. The contractor investigated and found that no air passage ways had even been provided to make the necessary airflow for good heating and cooling and roof preservation. He worked a good solution for the problem. Our contractor for the major year 2000 building improvements was one of our own. Tommy Ellis received the contract based upon his bid and did an outstanding job. We were blessed!

A new sink was installed in the men’s restroom. Jim Erickson built a new

shelf case out of oak for the choir members to keep their choir materials from week to week. There is a boxed space for each choir member.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS: New and efficient perimeter lights were installed on Memorial Hall and at the front entrance to the church. Jim Erickson made new letters out of hardwood for the Presbyterian Church sign for mounting under the West Entrance canopy of Memorial Hall. Jim Erickson and Bill Koedam installed a window between the pastor's office and the church office. Bill Lyon made and mounted handrails along the wall going from the church office into the main meeting area of Memorial Hall to assist handicapped persons. Additional handicap handholds were installed in the ladies restroom in Memorial Hall.

The year 2001 was yet another stellar year in upgrading church facilities. The two main parking areas on the east and west sides of the church were hard surfaced and the black top front parking area was re-surfaced. New parking stripes were painted on all three parking areas. Trees were planted along each side of Memorial Hall and cement steps were installed from the drive through canopy to the parking lot.

A new heat pump system was installed to replace the electric furnace for the southside of the sanctuary. This old system was installed in 1979. A new Rich printing machine was added to the office equipment, along with a Conic Copier, greatly improving reproduction needs. Also, a sink was installed next to the coffee preparation area in Memorial Hall.

The church's significant property and facility improvements during the years 1998 throughout 2002 were made possible due to sound planning and generous bequests and memorial gifts. These improvements will benefit members and friends for years to come and hopefully attract more and more area citizens to come and worship with us, The Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals.

Membership for the years 1979 thru 2002 as reported to The Presbytery was as follows:

1979 --- 179	1991 --- 145
1980 --- 187	1992 --- 117
1981 --- 195	1993 --- 114
1982 --- 189	1994 --- 122
1983 --- 175	1995 --- 119
1984 --- 168	1996 --- 137
1985 --- no record	1997 --- 133
1986 --- 177	1998 --- 137
1987 --- 169	1999 --- 149

1988 --- 164	2000 --- 155
1989 --- no record	2001 --- 135*
1990 --- 147	2002 --- 126

The drop from 155 in 2000 to 135 in 2001 was the result of dropping members in the inactive category. (In 2002 we lost 15 members and gained six new members for a loss of 11.) *(See Appendix 13 for the detailed report sent to the Presbytery.) (See Appendix 14 for members serving the church in our 50th year, 2003 church staff, Session and Deacons.)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Soon after the church was organized in July 1953 the first Sunday School was formed and headed by John Terman. In 1958, Garld Short, was elected as Sunday School Superintendent and served for 13 years until it closed due to lack of attendance. (As a matter of interest Garld Short, was a member of the church and sang in the choir until he went to be with the Lord in 2002). No Formal Sunday School existed from 1971 to 1995, a period of 24 years. When Dr. Fred Taylor, arrived he was determined to re-establish this vital part of our church and requested Jini Sass, to head the effort. The Following is her account:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION -- SUNDAY SCHOOL by Jinni Sass

“September of 1995 Christian Education was resumed. The Sunday School consisted of 3 students (Alexis, Mercedes and Ciera Haefer) with 3 teachers. They were May Urban, Lorraine Skinner (who also did the Music) and Elizabeth Faragher.

In June of 1996 our first vacation Bible School was started. It brought in 15 children from the community. The title was “Camp Courageous” with Elaine Matejka as the Camp Director. Our Bible School has continued to grow each year. This 2002 year we had a total of 45 students.

Starting in December of 1996 our first Christmas Pageant was held. The title was “The Fumblng Bumblng Angels” and consisted of members from our congregation as well as all our children. It was so successful that each year we continued with many great pageants, each one trying to top the last one, but we always seem to pull it off.

Our Sunday School has grown each year. Our total number of students had risen to 20 on a full Sunday. We had enough students to divide into four classes. We had seven great teachers who not only taught, but worked on the Christmas

pageant and taught Vacation Bible School as well. Our Teachers were:

Cindy Gardner & Jini Sass
(team taught)

Faye Brackett

Vivian Meyers

Susan Gatewood

Tiffany Haynes

Debbie Heroux

We sent one student to Ferncliff Summer Camp the first year. We now have most of our students attending. In order for our students to go to Ferncliff, we started fund-raisers to help with the expenses. Some of our fund-raisers were “Hobo Night, Italian Night and our Famous Baked Potato Brunch” following the church service. (*See Appendix 18 for student names*)

Children sermons were started along with our “Mothers Day” Sunday honoring our mothers and fathers. It was an exciting five years and one that I miss. It is now in good hands with more exciting events coming up in the near future...

To serve the Lord working with children has been a wonderful and satisfying experience and one that I will always treasure in my heart.”

It is significant to note that first college scholarship awarded by the church went to Tiffany Haynes. Tiffany attended Sunday School and later became a Sunday School teacher. After receiving her scholarship in 2002, she enrolled in Southwest Missouri State University and is majoring in Chemistry under Pre-Pharmacy Study.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HISTORY 1953 - 2003

The Women of the Church was organized on Tuesday, July 21, 1953 just nine days after the actual organization service of the church which was conducted on the evening of July 12th. Mrs. J.S. Mendehall was elected as President. At the end of the first year, accomplishments of the church and the W.O.C. included the installation of kitchen cabinets with the material being paid for by the W.O.C.

In 1955 the Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals was host to the East Arkansas Presbytery and the Women of the Church served a noon meal to 100 people! Five years later, in July 1960, the church was once again host to the East Arkansas Presbytery with more than 100 attending the meeting. The Women of the Church served luncheon in the Community Building.

In 1961 the W.O.C. bought and installed a lovely brass Celtic cross. In 1962 the W.O.C. held a style show under the direction of Mrs. Jack Finnell which was an outstanding success. Proceeds went to defray cost of building a carport for the manse. Later a large rummage and bake sale under the direction of Mrs. Finnell helped to replenish the depleted treasury of the W.O.C.

Our little church was greatly saddened during the early months of 1963 by the deaths of Mrs. Walter (Vesta) Brown, wife of the pastor, and Mrs. John (Madge) Carter, the church organist. A communion table was given to the church by John Carter in memory of Madge. Rev. Brown purchased a baptismal fount with funds made available from gifts in Mrs. Brown's memory. The Women of the Church bought two pulpit chairs to complement the fount and communion table. Among the new members of the church in 1963 were Mrs. Harry (Dixie) Badley and Roger and Jill Short, children of Garld and Ardna Short. (Garld, Ardna, Tarla and Coyla Short were among the 23 members who joined the church in 1959.) On September 1st of 1963 our first church wedding took place when Coyla Short was married to Karldon Hudson.

In 1964 two more church weddings were held in our church. On May 10th Garnet Juenger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Juenger, was married to Jimmie Anderson in a beautiful afternoon ceremony. On October 3rd the church was the setting for a lovely evening wedding for Tarla Glae Short and Donald Sidney Kilgore. This year the W.O.C. purchased a lecturn and pulpit to match the other furniture purchased the previous year. Being of fruitwood, they do much to enhance the beauty of our sanctuary. In September Mrs. Harry (Dixie) Badley was installed as President of the W.O.C. with Mrs. Lee Ciros as Treasurer. The women spent the winter months working on a rug project, sewing materials during their

regular meetings. This rug was afterwards sold for a nice sum of money to augment the treasury. In 1965 the W.O.C. put in ground plantings at the church and manse. Hollies were put in the church planter as permanent plantings.

Over the years the name Women of the Church (WOC) was changed to Arkansas Presbyterian Women (APW). The last name change occurred on April 7, 1988 when women from every corner of our Presbytery gathered at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church in Little Rock to affirm they were “women forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, committed to nurturing their faith through prayer and Bible study, to supporting the mission of the Church worldwide, to working for justice and peace, to building an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.” Today they are known simply as Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Arkansas. With the name change came other changes: the five districts became nine clusters; the Fall and Annual Meetings are now Fall and Annual Gatherings. A new Coordinating Team was established with nine coordinator’Enablers and Co-moderators. Every local congregation with a PW has a Moderator and Coordinating Team to carry out their purpose of being committed to the study of the Word and the interpretation of world mission into action.

From its inception, the Presbyterian Women organization in the Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals has grown from a small group of faithful women dedicated mainly to local mission projects to one dedicated to doing missions locally, nationally and internationally. This greater emphasis on worldwide missions came through the devoted leadership for seven and a half years of Norma Taylor, our Pastor’s wife and Missions Chairperson. A total of almost \$4,000 was donated in monies and items in 2002. Among the recipients of the PW giving were 2 Cents a Meal, the Birthday Offering, the Thank Offering, and Presbytery Missions, all of which are sponsored by the Presbytery. Local missions included: Hospice of the Ozarks, Our Kids of Marion County, S.P.A.R.K.S./Gamma House, the Ministerial Alliance and the Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals. The latter has been a recipient of a yearly monetary donation from the PW ever since it was organized as WOC.

As church members, women have contributed significantly to all church functions. Serving as Session Elders, as Deacons, as Sunday School teachers, as Librarians and as members on all boards or committees.

Today, in 2003, They are the “Backbone” of the Church.

CHOIR: Historical references show that our church has been blessed over the years with volunteer choir members and with outstanding organists and pianists. Also, generous memorials and gifts of pianos, organs and choir robes have made it possible to carry on this most important part of worship services.

Garld and Ardna Short, provided continuity for the choir by serving from 1958 to 2001, a period of 43 years. More recently, Barbara Nunnery, choir director and organist headed the choir for eight years until Pam Cook, our current director/organist took over the reins.

Being a retirement community, with older members, the composition of the choir changed often as participants went to be with the Lord or left the church for various reasons. Examples of this are shown in three ten year periods:

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST AND CHOIR MEMBERS

1982 Choir director/organist: Margaret Hanna

 Choir members: Harry and Bettie Sommers, Earl and Dorothy Williams, Garld and Ardna Short, Paul and Helen Vaupel, Isabel Schneider, Mildred Hess, Loranine Stewart and Francis Schrieber

1992 Choir director/organist: Barbara Nunnery

 Choir members: Garld and Ardna Short, Fran Otto, Carol Moffat, Isabel Schneider, Ralph Mottashed, Dorothy Williams and Helen Vaupel

2002 Choir director/organist: Pam Cook

 Choir members: Chris and Margie Wire, Bill and Elnora Koedam, Alan Althof, Norma Taylor, Tarla Kilgore, Joanne Kahm, Ellie Heydt, Dorothy Williams, Elaine Matejka, Jini Sass, Margie Stearns and Lynn Kunath

MISSIONS: Home and foreign mission support has been a vital part of our church since its' inception in 1953. The first budget was only \$57.50, but two dollars was earmarked for missions. In 1995, when work first began on the church finance plan, Pastor Dr. Fred Taylor, stated missions should be given a high priority. Accordingly, a separate endowment fund was established and specific

guidelines for expenditures were established. These are included in Addendum II to the finance plan, which are outlined in Appendix 10 - C .

Elder Pat Erlewine, has served six years on the Session as the Missions Representative. The following is her summary of mission participation in 2002:

“A very successful “Souper Bowl Sunday” was held on January 27. It was a wonderful time for the people who were able to remain after the worship service and participate. The soup was delicious and the Sunday School kids did a great job of serving. \$161 of the “Souper Bowl Offering” was donated to the Bull Shoals Food Pantry. Our tip money that we took up during lunch for our youth Camp Scholarship Fund totaled \$117. Once again cans of fruit and vegetables were collected for the Bull Shoals Food Pantry. Ten gallons of soup were made by Pat Erlewine assisted by Jini Sass, Lynn Kunath, Pan & Ken Hobart and Dorie Black. We took in \$103 from the soup lunch we had on April 14th, and this went to local missions.

A “One Great Hour of Sharing” calendar, encouraging everyone to donate pennies to their Fish “banks” each day for specified items, was featured in the February Presbyterian “Connection”. The “One Great Hour of Sharing” banks filled by our children and adults were dedicated on Palm Sunday, Marth 24th. Final toal collected was \$758.91. We sent \$550 to the Lacandon Mission for a portable TV and VCR to go around to the different churches. Our children made fish to decorate the sanctuary windows during the Lenten season.

In May we began a mission project to collect crayons for Dr. Taylor to take for use in the Lacandon Mission School when he and his wife Norma representced our church and the Presbytery of Arkansas on a mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico the end of June. Dr. Fred envisioned taking 50 boxes of Crayola crayons with him, but our congregation contributed 158 boxes! (*See Appendix 19*)

September was devoted to a joint mission project with PW Mission Chairperson Norma Taylor. Articles were collected for the Vera Lloyd Home. Carolyn Beane, Church Relations Coordinator, Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home, was our guest speaker at the October 13th Worship Service, and at that time our youth presented her with boxes of items the congregation had donated for the youth at Vera Lloyd Home. A total of six quilts and two afghans were donated to Vera Lloyd Home by the Presbyterian Women of Bull Shoals. Ada Jeffrey, Moderator of the Presbyterian Women, presented Carolyn with a check for \$100. This was in addition to a previous gift of \$200 to the Home by the PW. Pat Erlewine, Mission Chairperson, presented Mrs. Beane with a \$150 check from funds which had been allocated in our 2002 budget for the Vera Lloyd Home.

Members of our church committed to serving in a ministry at the local Food Pantry housed in the United Methodist Church in Bull Shoals were: Irene Bere, Dorie Black, Eileen Carruthers, Sigrid Kahle, Bill & Jean Lyon, Nancy Novak, and Dick Sass. Helping out with Christmas Baskets were: Irene Bere, Ken Hobart, Norman Hockley, Earl & Sigrid Kahle, Bill & Elnora Koedam, Bill & Jean Lyon, and Vivian Meyers. Youth helping were Alexis & Ciera Haefer, Roger Simons II and Curtis Tremaine, along with their youth leader Angela Bennett. During the year the congregation donated \$360 worth of food items to the Food Pantry.

Christmas Card Tree established in 2000. Instead of giving Christmas cards to congregation members and friends each member estimated what it would cost and donated that amount to our Church Missions through the Ministerial Alliance. A Christmas ball with the members name was placed on the tree signifying participation. \$650 was donated in 2002.

Our Christmas time Joy Offering raised \$503 which is earmarked to help retired mission families and for schooling of minority groups.

The Helping Hand Fund, now totals over \$2,000. These funds are disbursed by the Pastor to help those few in dire need, both in the church and outside. This ends Pat Erlewine's, recap of missions during 2002."

In January and February 2003, Dr. Fred Taylor, led the first Mission Team from the Presbytery of Arkansas to work with its' partnering Presbytery of Lacandon in Chiapas, Mexico. Angela and Trever Bennett from our church accompanied him. Also, Kay Woods from First Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Arkansas and David Creech from Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Pea Ridge, Arkansas made the the trip. (*See Appendix 20 for detailed report*)

Facility Changes and Ongoing Renovations - May to July 2003:

To complete the paving of parking lots done in 2001 a slurry coat was added to the asphalt.

Mailboxes on the North side of the Narthex were moved and the Cross from the original sanctuary was mounted at that location.

The original Fellowship Hall kitchen area renovated in the latter part of 1999 to a nursery has now been renovated into a Choir Warmup room.

A nursery, with a child's size bathroom was constructed in a former Sunday School classroom.

The Narthex cloakroom is being renovated to include cabinets to display church related historical items.

Also, the Sanctuary sound system is being retrofitted with modern equipment and a custom-built sound booth.