



## Chapter 4

### Set Apart to Learn

*"Study to show thyself approved unto God . . ."* II Timothy 2:15

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today's church-goer takes Sunday School as a matter of course, probably assuming it to be as old an institution as the church in Jerusalem, founded in 33 A.D. But Enon Church recorded no such activity until January, 1867, thirty years after the beginning of the church. It was called a Sabbath School, and was mentioned in the minutes only briefly, with few details. It could well have been in existence for quite some time before that date, but there is no verification.

The entire church organization was disrupted during the Civil War, and we can only assume that in picking up the pieces, the leaders saw fit to begin to study the Word in an organized manner.

In January, 1874, a Bible class was formed "for studying the Scriptures." The class consisted of eight men, named in the minutes, and "a host of children." Contributions were taken to pay for "Sunday School Lesson Papers" for this group. Although a Sunday School Convention had met at Enon in 1869, the former classes must have dwindled or ceased, calling- for reorganization in 1874. Five years later,

when Enon moved to Woodstock, the Sunday School was re-established as a "church work." W.H. Dean was chosen superintendent, the first time this position was designated. He was authorized to appoint teachers, and was supported by an assistant, T.N. Delaney, and a secretary, Willie Dean. In 1883 there was some opposition to church financial support of the Sunday School, and in January, 1884 members desiring to do so were released from assessment for such purpose. During the same year, the literature for the school was changed from "The International Lessons" to the "Story of the Bible." Another change was made in 1886, to materials from Kind Words Publishing Company. Other literature changes were made in later years, but were not recorded in the church minutes. A structural change in 1914 allowed the Sunday School to elect its own officers. This had previously been done by the church.



Ladies Sunday School Class, Willie Collins, teacher. 1970's

In 1930 during the early months of the pastorate of E.T. Booth, his locally-well-known abilities in organizing and maintaining a healthy Sunday School were very evident. The minutes record the following officers and teachers for the church year 1930-1931:

Superintendent,	William Booth
Assistant Superintendent,	A.F. Poor
Treasurer,	L.A. Dean
Teacher, Adult Men,	W.W. Benson
Teacher, Adult Women,	Mrs. E.T. Booth
Teacher, Intermediate Girls,	Mrs. O.D. Perkinson
Teacher, Intermediate Boys,	O.D. Perkinson
Teacher, Juniors,	Mrs. H.C. McAfee
Teacher, Primary,	Mrs. L.A. Dean
Teacher, Beginners,	Mrs. W.D. Bozeman



**Sunday School High Attendance, April 4, 1982**

Average attendance for many years fluctuated around one hundred, with a gradual steady growth beginning in the early 1960's. A high attendance goal of two hundred in Sunday School was set for homecoming day, May 2, 1971. Just five years later, a goal of three hundred was set for the Fabulous Fifth Sunday of February, 1976. And five years later a goal of five hundred, twenty-one was set, and met, on April 4, 1981. In 1986 the total enrollment was 970.

Superintendents of Sunday School from its beginning in 1879 until 1949 were: W.H. Dean, W.H. Perkinson, W.W. Benson, C.J. Hunter, W.P. Sewell, A.L. Hendon, O.D. Perkinson, A.F. Poor, L.M. Reeves, Jr., and W.G. Booth. Since 1949, the following men have served in this capacity: Lewis

Poor, Frank Ward, A.E. Holbert, Miller Barnes, Tom Fowler, W.B. Drinkard, W.R. DeLay, W.R. Vollm, Alan Reeves, Bill Stone, Danny Bellamy, Clark Driscoll, Tom West, Danny Peterman and Larry Kirkland.

For a few years during the 1960's, Woodstock Baptist participated in January Bible Study, a week-long time of concentrated Bible study, with classes offered to children and adults alike. This was an extension of Sunday School and in the first few years, interest was high, with enrollment in 1966 being 90, and perfect attendance 54. In later years, changes were made in an effort to involve more members. Instead of a week-long series, classes or lectures were held on successive Sunday evenings. In recent years the church has not participated at all.

### **CHURCH TRAINING**

The organization known today as Church Training has been known by many different names through the years. Church minutes of September 1909 refer to BYPU, Baptist Young People's Union, and give a financial report of work done by this organization. The group paid \$75.00 for carpet and \$15.00 for a settee. They painted the walls and floor, varnished seats, repaired steps, replaced window glass and floored the vestibule, all at a cost of \$60.00. They spent \$32.00 on outside paint, and they had the piano tuned for \$3.50. A total of hours worked was not given, but the total monies spent was \$185.50. This is not the kind of activity associated with church training today, but no doubt those young people received some valuable training in areas that are often left out of church programs today.

More detailed records were kept beginning in 1916. There were 36 members that year and O.D. Perkinson is listed as the director. In 1922, John Whitmire was the director according to Noonday Association minutes. By 1927, the group had grown in number and was divided into two groups. Mildred Bozeman (Barnes) was "president" of the senior group and Mrs. O.D. Perkinson, juniors. Enrollment seems to have been steady, averaging around 50 for many years. In 1958, enrollment given was 62, but in 1960 under the leadership and adept organizational abilities of Pastor Truman Brown, enrollment increased to 114. Rev. Brown praised director Elizabeth Drinkard for her enthusiasm and willingness to pursue new ideas. In 1963, enrollment climbed to 142 with the help of the new pastor, Clay Manley. Many adult classes during this time explored unconventional type programs such as guest speakers from other denominations and professional persons who related their Christian life-style to their professions.

During the years 1972-75, Training Union, as it was called then, was conducted during the Sunday School hour, with extra time added for that purpose. This practice seemed to be of some benefit, but objections were voiced, and in 1976, Sunday evenings once again saw Baptists in Training Union before Sunday evening worship.

Woodstock Baptist participated at different times in area "M" night programs. These meetings brought many churches together on a Monday night in December to emphasize Training Union, to share reports and programs with other churches in Noonday Association and to encourage each other. "M" night was a statewide emphasis on Training Union and for many years was a most worthwhile endeavor.

In 1970 the title of the organization was changed to Church Training. Woodstock's structure for training saw many changes as the church dropped Southern Baptist Convention Church Training materials and instead initiated different types of programs, such as film series, new member indoctrination, teaching workshops, book reviews and other timely presentations. Sometimes the hour preceding evening worship was devoted to activities not related to Church Training, especially for children and youth, such as choir practice, handbell choir, missions groups, or fellowship.

Training directors since 1916 include:

O.D. Perkinson	Sarah Bozeman
John Whitmire	Lola Dean
Mildred Bozeman (Barnes)	Elizabeth Drinkard
Mrs. O.D. Perkinson	Bobby Cleghorn
Alice Dean	Mrs. Lewis Poor
Edith Hendrix	Charles Bell
Mrs. L.A. Dean	Juanita Hughes
Marie Howell Poor	"Red" Meador
Mrs. Pierce Sims	Joel Hollon
Mrs. J.D. Whitmire	Jim Moltz
Charles McMillan	Pastor Mike Ballinger
Shirley Wright (Fowler)	Mike Kendrick
R.B. Holbert	

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is as much a part of Baptist life today as Sunday School, but it has not always been so. The first Bible School at Woodstock Baptist, as far as can be determined, was in 1945. The minutes in June of that year record that \$10.00 was needed to finance a one-week school. Schools were held in succeeding years, with steady increases in enrollment and attendance. Enrollment in 1946 was 30. Twenty years later, it was over 100, and in 1986, 350 children were registered. In anticipation of even more growth, the 1987 budget allowed \$2,316.00 for Vacation Bible School.



Vacation Bible School, 1964 - Bertha Barnes, far left, director.

A complete list of directors, or principals, is not available, but the following women have served:

Martha Dorsey	Nancy Williams
Elizabeth Drinkard	Judy Cline
Bertha Barnes	Wini Smith
Juanita Hughes	Pat Hodge
Jean Parker	Barbara Drummond
Jewell Aaron	Nancy Stone
Millicent Fox	Beverly Early

**NURSERY**

The quiet, uninterrupted time of worship enjoyed by today's congregation has not always been a matter of course. For many years, only loud sermons and singing could cover up the noise of fussing babies and the confusion and distraction caused by parents taking small ones out or trying to calm them.

In 1961 under the leadership of Pastor Truman Brown, a nursery was begun. Sara Poor was the first director, a position she held for quite some time. The nursery department was organized not only to provide a separate place for babies, but to provide for the babies themselves a loving environment in which trained nursery workers could teach and care for them.

The nursery has grown in proportion to the church. Babies are plentiful, but nursery workers are often scarce. This makes the position of nursery director a very difficult and thankless job. The nursery workers deserve extra stars in their crowns also, and the hundreds who have served so faithfully are hereby acknowledged and thanked. They cannot be listed here, but acknowledgement can be given to the following who have served as directors:

Sara Poor	Ken Parris
Elizabeth Drinkard	Pat Roberts
Janet Stephenson	Bill Williams
Karen Moltz	Rick Ledbetter
Jane Shockley	Alice Kendrick
Petie Hamby	Debbie Rivera

Records are incomplete, and some names may, have been omitted.



Kindergarten Staff, 1971: Dot Gentry, Sandra Hawkins, Ruth Pyle, Petie Hamby, Jane Crocker.

## KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarten program has proved to be a strong arm of the church. Begun at a strategic time, when there was just a glimpse of the population explosion of the years ahead, it grew as the church and surrounding area grew. The possibility of a kindergarten was first mentioned in February, 1964. It seemed there weren't enough students to warrant further planning, and there was some difficulty in securing a teacher. But the idea persisted and in May, 1966, Gail Bell, a member of the congregation was chosen as teacher and 15 students were enrolled for the fall session. Opening day was September 6, 1966 after open house on August 30. In July, 1967, Ruth Pyle was hired as kindergarten director and 18 students were enrolled for the fall.

Enrollment increased yearly, as did the staff. In 1972, the program expanded to include four-year-olds. Mrs. Pyle resigned as director at the end of 1977-78 term. She was succeeded by Elaine Bellamy who served until 1983 when Cindy Pope became director. Corma McCranie assumed the position in February, 1984, and continues to serve. Total enrollment for fall term 1986-87 equaled 264, including three-year-old, four-year-old and mothers' morning out programs. The five-year-old program was phased out as public schools further emphasized the kindergarten program.

It is noteworthy that the kindergarten has been self-supporting throughout its twenty years. Its influence cannot be overestimated as the strongest outreach arm of the church.

## LIBRARY

The first mention of a church library in the minutes was in November of 1946. The congregation voted at that time to sponsor and finance the library. Mary Howell is remembered as having done much of the initial processing of books. The Sunday School room on the south side of the old baptistry was lined on one wall with book shelves, and this served as the library for many years. In 1952 mention was made in conference "that anyone who could to donate books for the church library." In 1971, Juanita Hughes was selected as librarian, and a small Sunday School room in the education annex was converted into a library. Soon after that time, some audio-visual aids and equipment became a part of the collection. Church members soon became aware of the books available and circulation increased. New books were contributed, often "in memoriam," and eventually it became necessary to elect a library committee to assist and make suggestions and help with purchasing. Dorothy Reeves assumed the position of librarian in 1977 and through her capable direction, the library was moved to bigger quarters as it grew in size and in circulation. The first move was across the hall to the old church office; then to a basement room and finally to the new "old office" when the



First Kindergarten Class, 1966-67, Teacher Gail Bell. Front row, left to right: Melinda Sims, Carolyn Fox, Pam Oliver, Pam Lineback, Nancy Manley, Sharon Peardon. Second row, left to right: Margaret Rowell, Teresa Davis, Ginger Brock, Donna Brock, Vanessa Buchanan. Third row, left to right: Barry Miller, Van Boddy, Kimo Mullinax, David Campbell, Ken Poor. Ruth Pyle and Kindergarten Class, 1967.

offices moved to the Johnston Annex in 1982. Virginia Stone served as librarian for a time, and Jackie Brooks served in 1985-86. The present librarian is Donna Nottke.