

The profit from these sales together with the balance of the bequest netted the church \$1,775,000. which is the beginning principal to be maintained.

The Charge Conference of 1987 voted to make the committee permanent and to maintain the principal and add 10% of yearly earnings to this amount. The income from the fund is kept separate from other church funds and budgeted expenditures are paid directly from this interest bearing account.

In 1988 almost all of the air conditioning units (which were all over 30 years old) began to quit. Thanks to the money received from the McCarty bequest, new air conditioners were purchased for the sanctuary, fellowship hall, Builders classroom, and the children's wing. The kitchen was remodeled, and a new stove and refrigerator were purchased along with an ice-maker. The Susannah Circle of the United Methodist Women donated a microwave oven, and the UMW unit added a new commercial can opener and large new pots and pans.

Also in 1988 the parsonage mortgage was paid off. Wider sidewalks and wheelchair ramps were installed.

In December, 1988, the choir showed off their new navy blue robes during their performance of their Christmas Contata. The choir held a spaghetti supper in February, 1989 to help pay for the new robes. Choir directors were Joan Hulsey in 1988, Herman Merritt from June 1988 to September 1989, when he resigned. Until a new director is secured, John Carroll is serving as interim director.

In 1987 the Council of Ministries began discussing the need for a television ministry so that the shut-ins and nursing home members would be able to participate in the worship services and still feel a part of the church family. In May, 1988 the first attempt at this ministry was aired on a local station and was very well received. Johnny Bear is the cameraman. The worship services continue to be heard on radio each Sunday morning also.

Mary Keller, Chairman of the Council of Ministries, as well as Education Coordinator, was instrumental in organizing a new Sunday school class called the Disciples class. Bill Walton is the teacher.

The parking lot had developed many large "pot holes", and after much discussion, it was decided to just fill in the holes and retop the existing surface.

The church van, which was getting old, was giving much trouble and seemed to be in the shop more than on the road. It was decided to purchase a new van, but to keep the old one also.

In June, 1989, the United Methodist Army came to Crockett. This was a youth work-camp of approximately 100 people that slept in the church and repaired homes in the community.

At the request of the mothers of young children in our church, the Board voted to build a new playground. This is located on the south side of the church where the old parsonage used to stand.

Youth Coordinators are Judy Biddix and Marilyn Musick in charge of the Senior High, and Susan Hemphill and Kathleen Ogden in charge of the Jr. High. For the summer only we had a Youth Director, Julie Everett. The MYF is, at this time, a very active group. They have approximately 25 members attending, and the Senior High group is planning and working toward a ski trip next spring.

In January, 1988, Rev. Beverly Ward was hired as an assistant pastor. In June, 1989, she left Crockett to become pastor of a church in Marshall. During her year and one-half here she taught and organized a number of Bible study groups. These study groups were so well received, that although she has left Crockett, her influence is still being felt, as new study groups are being formed at the present time.

Rev. Ward worked closely with the Methodist Youth Fellowship and their adult coordinators, Mrs. Ramona Koehl, Mrs. Susan Hemphill, and Neil & Denise Durrance. In the spring of 1988 the youth made a trip to New Mexico to ski.

In the fall of 1988 Eleanor Patton, Chairman of the Missions Commission and Rev. Ward sponsored an overnight trip to visit the Methodist Mission facility in San Antonio. Other trips were made to Boy's Ranch in Waco and the Moody

House in Galveston.

In the spring of 1989 the piece of property across Seventh Street from the church, at the corner of Seventh and E. Fannin Avenue became available for purchase. The house on the property is in need of repair, but since this would be the only property likely to become available for purchase for many years to come, the Board voted to purchase the property for \$25,000. It is not known at this time whether the property will be torn down, remodeled for classrooms, used by the youth as a recreation site, or the land made into a parking lot, as more parking space is needed.

Replacing Sunday night worship services, Rev. Fort has taught two Sunday night Bible study classes which were well attended.

Several years ago the United Methodist Church in America began a revision of the Methodist Hymnal. Finally, in 1989, the new hymnal was published. Mr. Frank Foster, Jr. donated 250 copies of this new hymnal in memory of his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Foster, Sr. A special musical Sunday was held September 17, 1989 to dedicate and introduce these books.

Mrs. Wilma Foote and Mrs. Catherine Ellis are the current organists. Mrs. Rosa Davis is Children's Choir Director. Mr. John Carroll is currently Chairman of the Administrative Board and Mrs. Beth Jimmerson is Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Mary Keller is serving as the Chairperson of the Council on Ministries.

### WINDING THINGS UP

Membership rolls are available from 1864 to the present time. Some of the records are water stained and hard to read. We were unable to find a list of the members who joined from 1839 to 1864. The church has a membership of 520 at the present time.

We cannot let a history of this church be written without mentioning the fact that Marie and Smith Clines were voluntary Communion stewards for almost 40 years. Also, Smith served as Building and Grounds Chairman for almost 30 years. He opened and closed the church doors faithfully each Sunday morning and evening for all of this time.

Joe Bennett served this church as Head Usher for over 30 years. He was followed by Phil Jones, A.R. "Rocky" Jimmerson and Rue Maness, who is now serving his ninth year.

Merrett Hodges has served for many years as the electrician. Any time some of the lighting or other electrical conveniences that we have today need work, Merrett gets a telephone call.

Also, we would like to mention these Sunday school teachers who have each put in many years at their jobs: Marnie Sexton, Ruth Warfield, Mr. Young, Margaret Phillips (Miss Maggie to her students), Della Gus (Gussie) Easterly, Marie Clines, Corine Schmidt, Margaret Jones, Nan Marcum, Lucille King, Mrs. John McConnell, Bess Hazlett, John Spinks, and Ruby DeCuir.

Still teaching today are Beth Jimmerson, Pat Kelley, William Schmidt, Mary Schmidt, John Martha Kelley, Ralph Mather, Eleanor Patton, Nat Patton, Rosa Davis, Bertha Sanders, Kay Smith, Dorothy Tipton, Wallace Koehl, Sidney Stovall, Dan Julian, Sandra Wilson, Ted Williams, Carolyn McElyea, Malanie Goolsby, Ric Pennington, John Carroll, Chuck Kennedy, and Sten Olsen. When you really stop to think

## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

about it, there is, and has been a lot of time, devotion, and love of this church that goes into their faithful service.

John Fore is also currently teaching the 5th-6th grade class. John has been on the job about fifteen years, and he and his class developed the very efficient acolyte program that is enjoyed today - still under his coordination.

Last, but certainly not least, the members uniting with this church in the past few years are very much a part of its history. Without new members, this church would not be celebrating its 150th Anniversary today, December 17, 1989.

The stained glass windows in the church are one of its outstanding features. The glass is of an exceptional quality from the area of Bavaria. We do not have the exact location, but the place was absorbed by Czechoslovakia after the First World War. All the windows are memorials.

The northeast window next to the organ bears this: "IN MEMORY OF OUR FATHER AND MOTHER : BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIE IN THE LORD. WILLIAM JOHNSON BORN MAY 25, 1825, DIED APRIL 12, 1879. MARY I. JOHNSON BORN APRIL 26, 1828 DIED DECEMBER 25, 1872." Mr. & Mrs. Johnson are the grandparents of Lanier Edmiston and Florence King. Their influence is still being felt in our church. At the top of the window is a flower which we call the iris, also known as the fleur-de-lis. This flower has a special meaning and appears in all the windows. It means the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. Under the flower is a dove which also represents the Holy Spirit.

The central window on the north side portrays Jesus with his open arms "Come unto me and I will give you rest." This window was given in memory of John McConnell, Sr. He was born in Ireland June 24, 1818 and died in Crockett September 7, 1898. This family has a long and illustrious history in this church and descendants are still leaders in the church today. His daughter-in-law, Mrs. John McConnell was a great leader in the fight for prohibition in Houston County.

The next window in the north is a replacement window. There are several of these windows in the church. The original windows were blown out (quoting Miss Lucille King) during a bad storm. The original glass was unobtainable, but the fleur-de-lis motif is continued.

The west window depicts Jesus surrounded by little children. "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not." This window was given in memory of Mrs. Patty Smith. She was born in 1869 and died in 1911. Her little son, Ernest Smith, was born November 1898 and died

October 1901. Mrs. Patty Smith's husband was Mr. Ellis Smith, who was the pastor of the church in 1900. Mrs. Lucille King loved this window. When the day came for Miss Lucille Beasley to marry Mr. Gale O. King, Rev. Ellis Smith performed the ceremony. He came at the last moment and left immediately after the ceremony because his son was quite ill. The little boy Ernest, died that night. It was due to the influence of Mrs. King and her family that we have this most beautiful window. In this window, we also have the iris. Up on top we have another dove. Noah sent a dove from the ark and on the second trip brought back an olive branch. This represents that dove.

On the southwest side of the sanctuary is this little window which was saved from the storm. It reads: "IN MEMORY OF OUR FATHER, W.J. FOSTER, THE FAITHFUL SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR TWENTY YEARS. BORN JANUARY 3, 1830, DIED FEBRUARY 13, 1898. This family is still active in this church.

The southeast window was given in memory of Edward E. Downes, First Lieutenant in the U.S. Infantry. He fell in battle June 23, 1901. This window also has the lily. At the top, very prominently displayed, is a star. Miss Lucille said she couldn't decide whether it represented the Lone Star of Texas or the Star of the Epiphany the Magi followed to Jesus, but probably it represents Texas. Underneath the star is the eagle, and although that is a religious symbol for St. John, it is thought to be the U.S. Eagle, part of our seal. The flags displayed have 45 stars which gives you the date. Miss Lucille told a story about "Eddie" when he was a little boy. He loved to sing and would stand on a stool to sing, "From all the dark places of earth's heathen races". There is, in the Philippines, a "Camp Downes" named for him.

The central window on the south is very striking, depicting a woman clinging to a large rock cross in a stormy sea. We find the lily again, also grapes and a sheaf of wheat representing the Lord's Supper. In the center are two crosses and between them is a large circle which signifies the eternal love of God surrounding the cross of death and the cross of eternal life. This window was given in memory of Catherine A. Burnett. Mrs. Burnett was visiting in Crockett, but had set a time to return to her home in Galveston before school started, so she could help get the children ready for school. It was raining when she left Crockett to return to her home in Galveston. She lived with her sons, who lived next door to each other. The morning after her arrival back in Galveston her two sons went to work. During the day it continued to storm. That was the day of the terrible 1900 Galveston flood. The two houses were demolished and many people were killed. Those two boys on that day lost their mother, their wives, and their children. Their faith in God was strong enough that they could put this window in our church and call attention to the love of God.

Beth Jimmerson

## HISTORY OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CROCKETT, TEXAS

The foundation for the women's work of our church was laid in the early 1850's when the Aid Society was organized. It was not until 1894 that the Aid Society joined the connectional work known as The Parsonage and Home Mission Society.

In 1902 the Foreign Missionary Society was organized in our church. These two organizations, The Parsonage and Home Mission Society and the Foreign Missionary Society functioned separately until 1911 when they merged to become the Woman's Missionary Society.

After 1921 the Woman's Missionary Society met in the basement of the church which also contained the first kitchen. This group numbered about 20 and met each Monday afternoon. Mrs. Ruby DeCuir was the pianist for many years.

The Missionary Society then moved to a small building on the back church yard. This building had no air conditioning and was solid windows which were raised for cooling, and then had to compete with the noise of school children. The ladies met each Monday afternoon here and had no circles. Some of the members in the Missionary Society were: Mrs. Ruby DeCuir, Mrs. Bertha Henderson, Mrs. Nora McCarty, Mrs. Mable Hail, Mrs. Willie Jordan, Mrs. Anaed Capriellian, Mrs. Eugenia Capriellian, Mrs. Ethel Burton, Mrs. R. L. Spence, Mrs. Mammie Sexton, and Mrs. Reba Spidle.

Also on the church yard was an old garage where the ladies saved old newspapers and sold them to a Houston company to make extra money. The garage and small building were torn down to make space for the new Fellowship Hall. The parsonage was also moved to the spot where the present children's playground is located.

The Crockett Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) had its charter meeting September 4, 1940. Circles were formed and three circles, numbering 20 to 25 members met each Monday in homes of the members. The circles met together once a month for a business meeting in the new Fellowship Hall.

The Wesleyan Service Guild was organized in 1947 with three members present. Mrs. Victoria Gentry was the first

president. The other two members were Mrs. Mae Maxwell and Mrs. Della Morgan. The Guild became a very active group. They met once each week, always studied all of the recommended studies, attended all of the District meetings, followed all of the guidelines. The Wesleyan Service Guild grew to 25 very active members.

In 1970 the Evangelical (United Brethren) and the Methodist Churches merged. The women's organizations became the United Methodist Women. Two circles, the Della Gus Circle (named for Della Gus Easterly), and the Wesleyan Circle (named for the Wesleyan Service Guild) emerged. In 1977 The Susannah Circle was organized. Charter members were Sue Cantrelle, Judy Biddix, Betty Nash, Janet Barton, Virginia Jones, Becky Towery, Gayla Roberts, and Ellen Hollis. This circle was for women with young children and they met once each week in the Parlor. Visiting shut-ins was a very important part of their women's work.

Mrs. Wanda Coleman helped to organize a Night Circle in 1985. This circle was especially organized to enable working women to participate in the women's work of the church. Charter members were John Martha Kelley, Helen Ramsey, Wanda Coleman, Dorothy Tipton, and Anna Helms. This group meets once each month in members' homes. The Night Circle now has nine very active and faithful members.

Today we have four circles with a total membership of 93. The entire unit of the United Methodist Women meets at least four times each year, and is very active in national, world, and local mission. Current Co-Chairman of the United Methodist Women are Mrs. Esta Faye Pennington and Mrs. Barbara Harber.

Our UMW unit has always been active in the District work of the organization. Some of the past District Officers from our church are Mrs. Mae Maxwell, Mrs. Emy Latimer, Mrs. Beth Jimmerson, Mrs. Easy Maness, and presently serving as Palestine District Treasurer is Mrs. Virginia Jones.

## MY MEMORIES by Helen Argall

Homer and I moved to Crockett in May, 1976 from Cool, California. It was a big step to move 2,000 miles into strange town.

We were Methodists, and when the new minister (Earl Cantrelle) found out Homer did remodeling, asked him if he could remodel the church. Earl said they had been trying for 10 years (so he was told) to find someone to take out the balcony, etc., and give this lovely old church a face lift. The word "can't" was not in Homer's vocabulary although he had never attempted anything like the church.

A trailer was rented in Crockett and off we went to Houston for scaffolding large enough and high enough to do the job. At that time the towns of Lufkin, Nacogdoches, Palestine and Huntsville had nothing large enough to rent.

It was a slow procedure for that old lovely window was half covered up by the balcony. He covered the window with plywood (to my relief) and started in. He hung large plastic drapes from the ceiling to keep some of the dirt out of the front section, and the back section was not used for months. When they pulled the last boards out, over one-half of the back wall plaster came with it. Now, how was he going to match the plaster? The plaster used today is so different from that used in the past. Needless to say, he experimented with different kinds of plaster, ending up with cement. When it was troweled on it was almost a perfect match. Homer never had any doubts but guess I had enough for both of us. He loved to re-build and loved a challenge.

Next came the ceiling. The lap boards were small and dirt and dust seeped down all the time. He caulked every seam. Sometime stop and look up. Imagine the time and energy it took; for remember, they worked from narrow boards. Jay Jackson was Homer's helper and our grandson Michael, helped for a month or so before going overseas to join his Dad. Many many times Homer would work alone, with "Rocky" Jimmerson for help and company.

I believe they put 3 coats of paint on the ceiling, 2 sealers and 1 flat enamel.

Every Sunday our church was packed, anxious to see

what had been done that week. All the cracks were patched and sealed before painting, the woodwork color chosen to match and blend with our lovely windows.

Then Earl asked him if he would make something to go behind the cross. It had a red velvet curtain and there was an opening. He built a wall, plastered and painted like the rest of the church, and using the ends of the pews as a pattern, though a small one, started with cardboard to make the design. There are 268 pieces of wood that are around our Cross, forming a frame that is three tiered on each side. He had to get special wood so it would match the cross. He also made a small table that sits in front of the pulpit to match the one they already had. This way flowers can be on both sides, on matching tables.

About Homer's last project was to try and take the dents out of the pipes of the organ. He took them down and numbered them so they would be put back in proper order. His rubber hammer was too large, so he improvised with a small block of wood on a stick, covered in material. By gently inserting this he got most of the dents out. Then he bought gold paint and painted them. They looked like new and he was really proud of them.

Then he decided to fix the bell. He climbed up, found the problem, almost fell, and braced himself with his feet. "Rocky" was below and sent up tools and materials he needed. What a joy it was to hear it peel on Sunday mornings.

All the pews were sanded and revarnished and new cushions ordered. Look at the robe Jesus is wearing and then at our cushions. Almost a perfect match due to Bobbie Waller's good eye. She and her committee picked all the colors used.

Then the ladies made the needlepoint covers for the altar. This green is also picked out of the pictures on the windows.

What a lovely church we have, and all the love that went into its face lift, makes it very special to the people of Crockett.

The first Sunday it was completed Homer said, "This is my memorial", and Earl said, "God brought him to Crockett for this church", and when it was done, He called him home.

Helen Argall

## MEMORIES OF JIM FOSTER

This history of the Crockett United Methodist Church was taken from the words of Mr. Jim Foster, son of W.J. Foster. Mr. Foster was born in 1848 and even at the age of 95 (when these words were penned) could remember many details about the church's early days. These are Jim Foster's memories:

"I am now sitting on the rounding porch of my brother's home (John R. Foster), writing the history of our church. He and I were of a family of twelve. We grew up in Crockett, attending church and Sunday School regularly, as the church was one of the most important parts of our lives - as reflected in the church window on the south side of the church."

"I was born in 1848 and am now 95 years old, the oldest living member of the church. My papa, W.J. Foster, and my mother, Jane Frazier Foster, were always active physically and financially in all affairs of our Methodist Church, and were most faithful and loyal its needs and growth. W.J. Foster was the superintendent of the Sunday School for thirty years. My brother, John R. Foster, was superintendent for twenty years."

"Our first church was a long wooden building. It was a one room structure across the street from the present building on Seventh and Goliad Streets. In yesteryears it was called 'Church Street' because all of the churches were on this one street. Annual Conferences were held here often -- in the years 1862, 1871, 1877, and 1896. I joined the church in 1870. In that year, on September 21st, the church burned and a temporary building was erected across the street on Goliad, on the old site in what was known as the Moore home."

"The temporary church was raised upon wooden blocks because of the sticky red clay. Between this site and the town area there was massive corn patch, so it was protected from straying animals. The floor had large cracks in it. The church was heated by wood stoves and lighted by long, swinging lamps that burned kerosene. It was often too cold or too hot, becoming most uncomfortable. The organ was one that had to be pumped. There were always good singers and musicians in the church, so we always had good music."

"James Downes, John R. Foster, and Charles Stokes were among the most important leaders when I became a mem-

ber of the church. As a barefoot boy they bragged on me and gave me a lot of attention, so I always wished to emulate them."

"My father, W.J. Foster, and Harvey Bayne organized the first Sunday School class in our Methodist Church, as well as in other churches in Crockett. After a few years they initiated a fellowship which lasted down into the following years, down into now."

"My brother John R. Foster and Alice Barbee Foster were good friends with all ministers and their families. They worked and played together in all church socials and sewing organizations. They formed many Home Missions and visited in many homes. Delegates of the Annual Conferences stayed in their homes. They fed them big meals. They were at the top -- heads of all organizations in our First Methodist Church."

"R. B. Bolton was pastor during this period and was quite a close friend of James and Lizzie Downes, and of Alice and John Foster. Camp meetings and revivals were most popular in this era, and they greatly increased the membership of the church."

"In July of 1897 it was decided to build a brick church. Among the planning committee was R.E. McConnell, J.E. Downes, James DeDaines, and John R. Foster. This brick church is now a beautiful edifice on Seventh and Goliad, with a growing enrollment. The windows are beautiful, meaningful, and colorful."