

THE JEHOIADA CHEST



II Kings 12:9 Then Jehoiada took a chest, made a hole in the lid, and placed the chest by the altar, on the right side as one enters the Temple. (Today's English version)

The Jehoiada Chest was established at the Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church on September 12, 1943, the purpose being for a church building. The Copper Mines School, District No. 5, was being used for church services at that time. The St. Joseph Lead Company had donated one acre of land for a church building.

Each church family was to carry the Jehoiada Chest a month at time, collecting as many funds as possible. It soon became a competitive thing, with each one trying to outdo the one who last carried it, all in good spirit, of course. Many people in many places contributed to this endeavor.

A financial progress report was given in the church minutes of their quarterly business meetings.

When the total amount collected by June 28, 1948, had reached \$2,348.58, it was decided to borrow the remainder of the money to finish, from the bank. The original building was started soon thereafter, and the first service was held in it on December 26, 1948, officiated by the Pastor, Rev. Woodrow Matthews. The church was not finished at that time so the Dedication Service was held on July 18, 1954, also by Rev. Woodrow Matthews.

In later years, a church enlargement program was begun. This was in 1996. There were several private donations of \$1,000.00 each made for this project. Additional land was donated, which was owned jointly by Carl Howell and the Elza Rehkop Family.

Thus you have the church as it is today with adequate classrooms, two offices, two kitchens, four bathrooms, and a large fellowship hall. All church members and the community can use the outdoor pavilion as well. The parsonage home has five bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room, family room, kitchen, dining room plus a large deck, and is connected to the church building.

The church auditorium will seat approximately 150 people.

The men of the church, eliminating the cost of labor, furnished most of this work. The ladies of the church were there at mealtime with an abundance of food.

And it all started with a small Jehoiada Chest and many faithful and devoted members, most of whom have gone on to be with the Lord. We are truly grateful for their legacy of love.

This same little chest is still in existence today and it occupies a place of honor in our hearts.

Great things happen when God's people work together, "who are called according to his purpose."

To God Be the Glory!

Written by: Clarice Rehkop

LIST OF CHARTER MEMBERS

Church records indicate that there were twelve original charter members of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. Some members were listed by their first and last names. Some were listed by the initial of their first name. And some by “brother” or “sister”. Who were these early church pioneers? What happened to them or where did they go? Further research efforts have provided very little information on the charter members. These are all unknown questions that will probably never be answered this side of Heaven. Yet, it is known that had these members not joined together as a church body, there would be no Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church today. The following list recognizes the Charter Members:

Charter Members

1. Brother John Lee
2. Sister Lee
3. John Baker
4. Henry Dalton
5. Sister Dalton
6. Mary Baker
7. Sister Mills
8. Brother J. Stacey
9. William Boyer
10. Mary Boyer
11. Andrew Lumpkins
12. Sister Lumpkins

Organizational Body

Brother William Collier
Brother Fred Brotherton
Brother Marion Sikes

Psalms 133:1

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together
in unity!

LIST OF PASTORS

During the first one hundred years of existence, Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church has had fourteen pastors. As of this writing, ten of the pastors are still living. These men have led the church through many good times, but also through depressions, hard times, and wars. There has been great joy within the church, but conflicts have also occurred. Still, the church has weathered all storms. There have been many saved through the efforts of the pastors. The church has grown and sent missionaries to various parts of the world. Lives have been changed for eternity. The pastors brought their families to the community and raised their children here. They have come from all walks-of-life and from all parts of the country. Their mission here has been to heed God's calling and to spread the Gospel through this church. The church is grateful they came and thankful for their efforts. The pastors are recognized here:

Pastors

1 st	Pastor Fred Brotherton	1907 – April 19, 1924
2 nd	Pastor J. L. Yancey	July 1929 – August 1942
3 rd	Pastor S. A. Hand	August 5, 1942 – August 22, 1943
4 th	Pastor H. Woodrow Matthews	September 12, 1943 – July 25, 1954
5 th	Pastor Glenn Rehkop	August 1954 – April 17, 1960
6 th	Pastor Willard Darnell	March 26, 1960 – January 29, 1967
7 th	Pastor O. D. Matthews	February 28, 1967 – June 28, 1979
8 th	Pastor Wesley Rider	November 18, 1979 – February 22, 1981
9 th	Pastor Raymond Michael	March 26, 1981 – March 29, 1987
10 th	Pastor Chuck Lotz	July 22, 1987 – September 16, 1990
11 th	Pastor Herb McMillian	November 21, 1990 – May 30, 1993
12 th	Pastor Les Bequette (Interim)	November 28, 1993 – May 21, 1995
13 th	Pastor Mark Turrell	May 28, 1995 – October 9, 2001
14 th	Pastor Darin Alvis	February 2, 2003 – Present

I Timothy 3:1-4, 6-7 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre, but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; Not a novice, thus being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

PASTOR'S PROFILES

Research has been completed on all the pastors of the church. Pastors were contacted and consulted in the writing of their profiles. For deceased pastors, living family members were contacted where possible. The profiles include all aspects of the pastor's life history such as their parents, their birthplace, their families, their work, their service to God, and anything else they wanted to include. The following pages are dedicated to the pastors of the church.

FRED JAMES BROTHERTON, 1ST PASTOR, 1907-1924



Brother Fred James Brotherton was the first pastor of the church. He pastored the church for over 17 years, from 1907 until April 19, 1924. This was the longest amount of time for any of the 14 pastors serving during the first one hundred years. He was the son of Joseph and Pauline (Bess) Brotherton. He was born October 31, 1851, in New Madrid County, Missouri. He was almost 55 years old at the time he was called to pastor Copper Mines Golden Gate Church.

Amanda Cordelia Nations was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melichi Nations. She was born March 18, 1857, in Perryville, Perry County, Missouri. It is not known when or where she married Fred Brotherton. In the 1880 census for Madison County, Amanda was listed as his wife, being 24 years old. No children were listed for them at that time, but they were caring for a one-year-old girl named Velta Hickman. It appears that they did have at least three children. Fred's obituary indicates that he was survived by two daughters, Mrs. Lizzie Banes and Mrs. Oscar Womack. He was preceded in death by one child of his first marriage.

Church records indicate that Brother Fred missed several services during the last year of his ministry due to his wife being ill. Amanda died of malaria fever on September 18, 1923, at Marquand, Missouri. She was buried in the Whitener Cemetery, southeast of Marquand.

During the 17 years he was the pastor, Fred lived at Marquand, Missouri. Stories are he walked up the Belmont Railroad track once a month for two services, one on Saturday night and one on Sunday Morning. He would stay with a church family and return home on Sunday afternoon. During his pastorate, the church added above the Charter Members: 40 in 1906; 3 in 1907; 44 in 1908; and 19 in 1909. There were no additions to the church from this time for 9 years, but in 1918, 7 were added; 3 were added in 1920; and then 12 were added in 1922. This was a large number of members for the Copper Mines School House where services were held at the time. In nice weather, several stood outside and listened through the open windows.

During the 17 years Brother Fred was Pastor, Brother John Lee, Brother Gus Scemino and Brother William Boyer were ordained as deacons. The church clerks were Brother William Boyer, Brother Sid Woods, Sister Lizzie Boyer, Sister Annie Wheeler, Sister Blanche Hovis, Sister Esther Hovis, Sister Bessie Hovis and Sister Eunice DeBlois.

Brother Fred left Copper Mines after April 1924. He then pastored for several years at the Flat River Free Will Baptist Church. It is known that he married again and had another child. Their names are unknown. He passed away July 7, 1928, in Esther, Missouri, at 76 years old. He was buried at Marquand. Copper Mines Church grew and was blessed by this pioneer pastor.

Written by: Thelma Sikes and Lon Edward Rehkop

JOHN LOREN (J. L.) YANCEY, 2ND PASTOR, 1929-1942



John Loren (J. L.) Yancey was the second pastor of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. His wife was Sarrah Clarinza (Francis) Yancey. J. L. Yancey was elected pastor of Copper Mines on the third Sunday of July, 1929. He led the church for over thirteen years until August 16, 1942.

J. L. Yancey was born June 11, 1875, in Indiana. He was the son of Edward R. and Sarah Ellen Bougher Yancey. His brothers were Harry and Benjamin. In his early years, he worked for a carnival crew, traveling to many states. Later, he worked in the timber industry. While working in the timber industry in Bollinger County, Missouri, he met Sarrah Clarinza Francis. She was the daughter of William and Sarah Catherine Hamilton Francis. She was born July 29, 1882, in Olney, Illinois. Her brothers were Charles, Jeff, Lafayette, and Bert Grover (Journal). Her sisters were Ruth and Matilda

Jane.

On July 16, 1898, J. L. and Sarrah were married at the home of their friend Finley Ellison, in Jasper County, Illinois. Their children were Zeldia Esther, Grace May, Alford Doddy, James Monroe, Rose Ettie, Jessie Woodrow, Floyd Roland, William Edward, and Voila Margaret. They settled for a while in Bollinger County, Missouri, and went to Old Bethel Church, where they dedicated their lives to God. J. L. Yancey's grandchildren indicated to the writer that Brother Yancey had allergies that severely affected his eyes. This affliction led to his calling to serve God. J. L. was saved on June 13, 1913.

Later, they moved to Catherine Place where J. L. went to work for the Catherine Mines. On November 16, 1913, J. L. was ordained as deacon of the Catherine Church. In 1914, he accepted the call to be a minister, and was recommended by the church to be licensed to preach the Gospel. He and Sarrah transferred to the Old Bethel Church in Bollinger County, Missouri, on October 17, 1914. Shortly thereafter on July 18, 1915, he was elected pastor at Catherine Church. He was ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister at Union Light Church on August 6, 1915. The Ordaining Council consisted of Elder F. J. Brotherton, Elder L. N. Beard, and Elder F. R. Simino. At that time, J. L. Yancey was a member of "New" Bethel Church.

From Catherine Church, J. L. Yancey entered into a period of church building. He and a "Brother Hill" organized a church in Cherryville, Missouri, on September 7, 1921. Later, on December 2, 1921, another church was organized at Leadington, St. Francois County, Missouri. This church became known as Leadington Free Will Baptist Church. On

August 26, 1928, a church known as Golden Oak was organized in Mill Creek, Madison County, Missouri.

J. L. Yancey and his family came to Copper Mines Church on the third Sunday of July, 1929. During his ministry at Copper Mines, J. L. Yancey also conducted brush arbor meetings. After a brush arbor, he helped organize the Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church on Village Creek in Madison County, Missouri, on May 21, 1933. Records indicate that he pastored at both churches for a period of time.

J. L. Yancey was a minister, an evangelist, and a church builder. In his early years as a minister, he must have been full of energy. During his ministry at Copper Mines, he lived on what today is called Fredericktown City Lake Road. He walked to church at Copper Mines via the Belmont Branch of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and the old Copper Mines Road. This was about a three mile walk. He would then stay with church folks during the afternoon and try to catch a ride home after the Sunday Evening Service. Regularly, some of his grandchildren would walk to Copper Mines Church with him.

During his ministerial calling, J. L. Yancey married 142 couples. He also conducted or assisted in about 160 funerals. Although he occasionally preached at other denominational churches, he was a life-long Free Will Baptist. On August 16, 1942, J. L. Yancey preached his last service as pastor of Copper Mines Church. After his resignation, he remained a member of the church. Records indicate that he did pastor Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church in 1943. He continued to preach for several years. His last message was November 24, 1946, at Copper Mines Church. He was a member of Copper Mines Church at the time of his death.

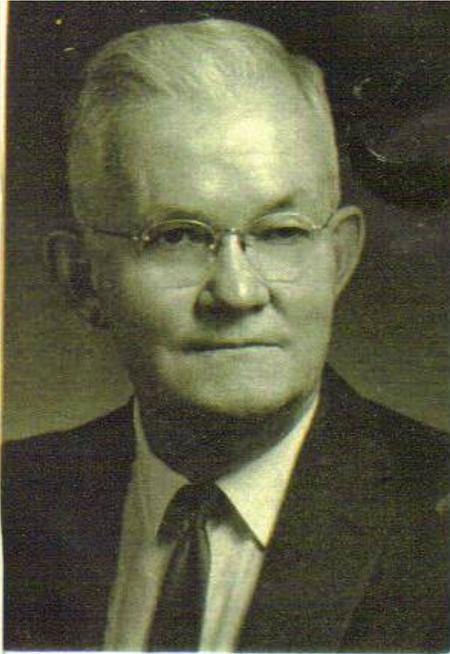
J. L. Yancey died July 27, 1948. At that time, he had been a minister for almost 33 years. He was buried in the Methodist Cemetery, Fredericktown, Madison County, Missouri.

Sarrah Clarinza (Francis) Yancey continued as a member of Copper Mines Church until her death on January 23, 1962. She was buried in the Methodist Cemetery beside her husband.

Copper Mines Church was blessed to have this man as pastor and this family as members for so many years.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop.

SYLVESTER ANDREW HAND, 3RD PASTOR, 1942-1943



Sylvester Andrew Hand was the third pastor of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. He served the church from August 5, 1942, until August 22, 1943. His tenure was the shortest of any of the fourteen pastors that served during the first one hundred years.

Sylvester Andrew Hand was born December 21, 1899 in Perry County, Missouri. He was the only child of Andrew J. and Nancy Ellen Richey Hand. His father did have some other children by a previous marriage. When Sylvester was three years old, his father died. Mrs. Hand and Sylvester then moved to Fredericktown to be near her parents. After living in Fredericktown for several years, sometime after 1910 they moved to Flat River, St. Francois County, Missouri. At the age of twelve, Sylvester started working in a tailor shop.

His mother worked at a laundry, and later married a Mr. Boyd. In 1916, Sylvester went to work for the National Lead Company and this started a life-long relation with the mining industry. He worked for the National Lead Company, until March 1933 when it closed. He also ran a bus line that transported miners to and from work.

On July 21, 1918, Sylvester married Ethel Snodgrass, daughter of Anthony “Tony” and Sarah (Meade) Snodgrass, in Flat River. Ethel was born in Graniteville, Missouri, on October 4, 1900. Ethel’s brothers and sisters were James, Russell, Martha, Ann, and Kay. To the union of Sylvester and Ethel, eight children were born: Helen, Doris, Ruth, Virginia, Shirley, Richard, Dale, and Robert. They also raised a foster son, Ray Grissom.

Sylvester became a Christian in 1927. Later, he received the call to preach while attending the First Free Will Baptist Church of Flat River. He was first called to pastor at the Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church in Madison County, Missouri. At that time, he moved his family to Mine La Motte. During this period, Sylvester was also employed in the farming and construction trades in Wayne and St. Louis Counties. In 1937, Sylvester returned to the mining industry by gaining employment with the Mine La Motte Corporation, a division of the St. Joseph Lead Company. It was here that he became affectionately known as “Big Boy” Hand by his coworkers.

From 1938 to 1942, Sylvester was pastor of the Fredericktown First Free Will Baptist Church. The church experienced steady growth under his leadership. It was in August of 1942, that Sylvester was called to pastor at Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church, where he served for one year.

In the 1950's, the Hand Family lived in the Village Creek community, where they had a small farm. Sylvester continued working for the Mine La Motte Corporation until 1958. When mining started shutting down in the Lead Belt, Sylvester moved to Viburnum, Iron County, Missouri, to continue employment with the St. Joseph Lead Company. While at Viburnum, Sylvester helped organize and build one of the first churches in town, the Viburnum Free Will Baptist Church. He served at the Viburnum Church for about six years.

On November 21, 1964, Ethel died in Fredericktown, Missouri. She and Sylvester had been married for over 46 years. She was buried in Marcus Memorial Park, Fredericktown, Missouri. After Ethel's death, Sylvester continued working for St. Joe, and continued as pastor of the Viburnum Church.

Sylvester's mining career lasted over 45 years. In January 1965, Sylvester retired from the mining industry for good. While working for three companies, he held the positions of hand shoveler, driller, hoist engineer, shift foreman, safety inspector, and mine safety representative. After his retirement, Sylvester moved back to Fredericktown, Missouri. Even though he retired from mining, he did not retire completely. He continued serving the community as a preacher and a volunteer. He was a member of the Ministerial Alliance, the Marcus Lodge, and the Senior Citizens Housing. During his ministerial calling, Sylvester married 300 couples and conducted over 1,500 funerals.

On December 31, 1965, Sylvester married again to Mrs. Mary Margaret Martin Carter of Viburnum, Missouri. She was the daughter of James Sylvester Martin and Margaret Elizabeth Rion Martin. They continued to live in Fredericktown until the time of Sylvester's death.

Sylvester Andrew Hand died August 20, 1979. At that time, he had been a minister for over 50 years. He was buried in Marcus Memorial Park.

Mary Margaret Hand died February 10, 1988, in Farmington, Missouri. She was also buried in Marcus Memorial Park.

Although his tenure was short at Copper Mines Church, Sylvester Andrew Hand's legacy remained in the memory of those in the church and the community for many years.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop.

H. WOODROW MATTHEWS, 4TH PASTOR, 1943-1954



H. Woodrow Matthews was the fourth pastor of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. Woodrow, born March 4, 1919, and Blanche Huffman, born February 4, 1920, in Mine La Motte, Missouri lived as neighbors around St. Joe lead mining land. At a young age both accepted Christ as their savior at Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church and were baptized. On October 28, 1939 they were united in marriage at Desloge, Missouri by Rev. Damon Dodd.

The year 1940 proved to be a pivotal year in the lives of Bro. and Sis. Matthews, as they became affectionately called by church members and acquaintances for over 50 years. During a revival at the Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church in March conducted by the McAdams, Woodrow and Blanche rededicated their lives to the Lord. The McAdams stayed

in the Matthews' home throughout the revival meeting. Since that early date, scores of missionaries, ministers, denominational workers, Bible college students, and countless friends and acquaintances enjoyed the open door hospitality at the Matthews' home. Later that year, Woodrow acknowledged God's call to the ministry and was licensed that year.

On May 1, 1941, at the Madison County Quarterly Meeting held at Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church, Bro. Matthews was ordained. At that time Bro. and Sis. Matthews did not realize that this ministry would span nearly 60 years in pastorates in three different states, and touch thousands of lives. These pastorates began in 1941 at the Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church, Fredericktown, Missouri and ended August 1998 at Barnsville Free Will Baptist Church, Hamilton, Alabama, due to Bro. and Sis. Matthews' failing health.

Part of their early ministry involved pastoring churches that were only part-time. For a period of time it involved three separate churches simultaneously, Twin Oaks, Old Bethel, and Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Churches. The following churches were pastored by Bro. Matthews in the Fredericktown area: Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church, 1941-August 1942; Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church, September 6, 1942-August 29, 1943; Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church (two Sundays per month) September 5, 1943-September 1948; Old Bethel Free Will Baptist Church (one Sunday per month) August 26, 1945-August 25, 1946; Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church, September 12, 1943-July 1954. Originally services were one Sunday per month, then in September 1946 it was changed to two Sundays per month. The church services were

held in the Copper Mines Schoolhouse. On September 5, 1948, Bro. Matthews began full-time pastorate of the Copper Mines Church after it was decided to build a church.

On December 4, 1948, a daughter, Judith, was stillborn. In 1951, while still at Copper Mines a son, Garry was born.

In August of 1954, Bro. and Sis. Matthews left Missouri and accepted the pastorate of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Cushing, Oklahoma. Two years later, on August 16, 1956, the Matthews returned to Missouri to the rolling hills of northeast Missouri. This time the First Free Will Baptist Church of Kirksville, Missouri, would be home for almost four years. While at Kirksville, a second son, David, was born in 1957.

March 1, 1960, (with over two feet of snow on the ground, and more snow falling) the Matthews, now a family of four, began pastoring Beacon Free Will Baptist Church of Raytown, Missouri. Beacon became home for approximately 13 years. In the beginning services were held in the basement of the unfinished building. A short time later the upstairs sanctuary was completed. Within a few years it became apparent that more classrooms, and a larger sanctuary were needed. A second building project was undertaken and successfully completed.

In February of 1973, Bro. and Sis. Matthews and David moved to Guin, Alabama, where they accepted the pastorate of Mount Olive Free Will Baptist Church. During the approximately 12½ years of ministry, Bro. Matthews led the church into becoming one of the state's leading mission giving churches. Mount Olive was the home church of Dave Franks, pioneer missionary to Brazil. The church took a leading role in raising his support and funding special mission projects for both foreign and home missions. The church received recognition from the mission board for its exemplary support for missions. Bro. Matthews was instrumental in developing the vision, building and leading to the success of the NW Alabama Youth Camp (now known as Trinity Youth Camp) in Guin.

In August of 1985, Bro. Matthews accepted the pastorate of Barnesville Free Will Baptist Church in Hamilton, Alabama. Once again he led the church into becoming actively involved in support of missions. After pastoring Barnesville for 13 years, Bro. and Sis. Matthews retired from active pastorate due to their failing health. On December 4, 2003, (55 years to the day of daughter, Judith's birth and death) Sis. Matthews went home to be with her Savior.

In almost 60 years of ministry Bro. Matthews spent countless hours counseling. He counseled those who came seeking to be married and those who came with their troubled marriages. Young people acknowledging God's call into full-time service sought out his advice gained from years of ministry. Young preachers looked to him for encouragement and mentoring. With a tender and loving heart there was counseling from God's word and a pastor's years of spiritual and earthly wisdom poured into the lives of those enslaved to alcohol and drugs. Many were the hours spent sitting with families in

hospital waiting rooms, providing hope, encouragement, and many times consoling grieving families as a loved one left this world and entered their eternal abode.

Literally hundreds of funeral services were conducted, and are still conducted by Bro. Matthews. Many times these funerals involved traveling back to a former pastorate to preach a dear saint and close friend's service. Early in his ministry in the Fredericktown area two funerals were conducted that especially touched Bro. Matthews' heart. Two young, local men gave their lives in service of their country during World War II. It took months and even years for the bodies of these young men to be returned home for burial. From the Twin Oaks area, C. Adolf Miller, 23 years of age died in action. Funeral services were held April 29, 1945, at Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church. From the Copper Mines Community, Staff Sergeant Willard E. Hovis, age 24, died in action March 26, 1945 in St. Goar, Germany. Funeral services were held August 1, 1948, at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Fredericktown. The loss of these young men forever forged a special love and appreciation for those that served their country through the years, and especially those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

Marriages, on the other hand, were joyous occasions. Hundreds of couples stood before Bro. Matthews and exchanged their vows. Bro. Matthews did not want to be considered a "marrying Sam", and couples had to undergo counseling even his sons and grandchildren. His very first wedding was that of his brother-in-law, Truman Huffman and Amylee Killion. Other couples included in this number were: Glenn Rehkop and Evelyn Hovis, Lindell Hovis and Lillian Underwood, and Jerry Pinkerton and Carol McElhinney. Bro. Matthews also performed the marriages of his sons and two of his grandchildren. Sons: Garry and Joyce (Thomas) of Kirksville, Missouri; David and Kathy (Lynn) of Guin, Alabama. Grandchildren: Chad and Denise (Burden) of Kirksville, Missouri; Alisha and Derrick Dove of Sulligent, Alabama.

One granddaughter, Ashley, of Guin is attending NW Alabama University in Florence, Alabama. Grandpa is looking forward to being able to perform her marriage in the future. The chances of performing the wedding of his infant great-grandson, Bryar Dove, of Sulligent, Alabama seems a little less likely.

Coming behind conversions, rededications, and calls to full-time service, baptism ranks as one of the real joys of a pastor's heart. In 58 years of active ministry, the statistics of baptism become blurred over time, but the joy of that special ordinance never falters. From young children, with whole lives of service to the Lord ahead of them, to the aged, who in their last days and even last hours, having squandered most of their lives in sin, underwent the ordinance of baptism at the hands of Bro. Matthews. Early on, baptisms were conducted in creeks, rivers, and ponds. At times they became quite literally, breathtaking events in the cold of late fall, winter, and early spring. In the early years of Bro. Matthews' ministry, baptisms were conducted in Village Creek and in the Little St. Francis River on the Hovis farm. At times there might be a dozen or more candidates to be baptized. Often other churches might congregate at the same place and share joint baptismal services. These special joint services were shared less and less over time as churches began to build baptisteries. There was something unique and authentic about

gathering along the bank of a natural body of water. The singing of those blessed old hymns, sharing of the testimonies, and participating in the baptism of new converts were special to a new pastor. Bro. Matthews also enjoyed the privilege of baptizing members of his immediate family.

During 58 years of active ministry, Bro. Matthews served in numerous denominational positions on the state and local levels. He served as moderator of the Southeast Missouri Association for one year, as well as moderator of the Jasper and State Line Associations in Alabama. He served on the Missouri Youth Camp Board from 1957-1973 and on the Missouri State General Board for many years. From 1967-1970, Bro. Matthews served as moderator of the Missouri State Association. In Alabama he served as moderator of the Alabama State Ministers and Deacons Association for numerous years.

During almost six decades of active ministry, Bro. Matthews crossed paths with thousands of individuals. From the pastorate, revivals, and youth camps he served came pastors, pastor's wives, both home and foreign missionaries, and scores of deacons and Sunday School teachers. In the last three churches he pastored, a period of 38 years (approximately 13 years each), a new generation of church leaders grew up with Bro. Matthews as their pastor. From elementary school students, to young married couples, they sat under the unashamed, faithful preaching of God's word week after week, month after month, and year after year. There was a pastor who ministered to them through the critical, formative years of their lives. Such a servant was, and is, Bro. Woodrow Matthews, who was aided throughout those many years by his own personal prayer warrior, his loving wife, Sis. Blanche.

(This biographical sketch researched and penned by two thankful and admiring sons: Garry and David).

GLENN ALLEN REHKOP, 5TH PASTOR, 1954-1960



Glenn Allen Rehkop was the fifth pastor of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. His wife is Evelyn Louise (Hovis) Rehkop. Glenn Allen Rehkop served as pastor from August 1954 until March 6, 1960.

Glenn Allen Rehkop was born December 26, 1928, in Mine La Motte, Madison County, Missouri. His parents were Henry Rehkop and Nancy LuEtta (Underwood) Rehkop. His brothers and sisters were, John Henry, Clifford Sylvester, Leon Denver, Elma Eileen, Elza Molye, Norma Ruth, Leonard Elden, Euvana Marie, Gale Leeman, and Dale Ray Rehkop.

Evelyn Louise Hovis was born May 24, 1927, in Farmington, St. Francois County, Missouri. Her parents were James Chesley Hovis and Madge

Annie (Tawfall) Hovis. Her brothers were Lloyd, Milton, Walter, and James Ivan Hovis.

Glenn grew up in Mine La Motte. He went to grade school there, and attended Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church with the Henry Rehkop Family. In 1940, the Rehkop's moved to a farm in the Copper Mines Community. Glenn attended junior high at Copper Mines and attended Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. He graduated from Mine La Motte High School in 1956. He also attended Flat River Junior College.

It was at Copper Mines that Glenn met Evelyn Hovis in 1940. She lived at Farmington during her early life. Her father, James, was a farmer by trade, and the Hovis family moved to a farm in the Copper Mines Community around 1931. Evelyn went to grade school and junior high school at Copper Mines. In 1944, Evelyn graduated from Mine La Motte High School.

The James Hovis family were active members at Copper Mines Church. He first joined the church in 1909. Evelyn was saved in August 1940. She was baptized on September 1, 1940, in the Little St. Francis River at Copper Mines, and joined the church the same day.

Glenn began attending Copper Mines Church in 1940. He was saved in November 1946 during a revival service. He was baptized on November 17, 1946, in Village Creek, north of Fredericktown. He joined the church the same day.

As many Rehkop men, Glenn started his working career as a miner. From 1945 to 1946, he worked for the Fredericktown Lead Company, just west of Copper Mines. In 1947, he switched occupations and went to work for the Brown Shoe Company in Fredericktown,

Missouri. He continued working there until 1954. During this same time period, Evelyn Hovis also worked for Brown Shoe Company. Glenn and Evelyn started dating in 1946. On May 19, 1950, they were married in Mine La Motte by their pastor, Woodrow Matthews.

They continued working at the shoe factory for several years. However, God called them to work on the souls of men and leave the soles of shoes behind. Glenn was called to preach in October 1950. On January 7, 1951, he was recommended to the Madison County Quarterly to be examined for a license to preach. His first preaching services were at Copper Mines in January 1951. In February 1951, he conducted a revival service at Copper Mines, and one salvation decision was made. In March 1951, Glenn started conducting Saturday night services at Copper Mines. On January 4, 1953, Glenn was recommended for ordination, and the service was held at Copper Mines Church on January 24, 1953. Glenn continued conducting the Saturday night services until October 1953, at which time he was called to pastor the Old Bethel Free Will Baptist Church. He pastored Old Bethel Church for about eight months. At this same time, Brother Woodrow Matthews was called to a church in Oklahoma. Glenn was subsequently elected pastor of Copper Mines on July 22, 1954, and assumed the duties of pastor in August 1954. Glenn and Evelyn lived in Fredericktown during the first part of their ministry at Copper Mines, but moved to the parsonage when it was completed in 1958. While at Copper Mines, their two children, Beverly Gay and Randall Allen were born. Glenn pastored at Copper Mines for almost six years. He resigned on March 6, 1960, with his last service on April 22, 1960.

After he left Copper Mines, Glenn was called to pastor the Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Avondale, Missouri, a suburb of Kansas City. He pastored there until December 12, 1967. He was then called to pastor the Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Arnold, Missouri. He has remained in that calling until present, a period of 38 years. Glenn and Evelyn currently reside in Arnold, Missouri, in the Grace Church parsonage.

Glenn and Evelyn have four grandchildren. Beverly married Mike Garner, and they reside in Norman, Oklahoma. Randy and his wife Donna reside in Arnold, Missouri.

During his ministry, Glenn has performed 277 marriages and conducted 489 funerals as of March 2006. On several occasions, Glenn and Evelyn have returned to Copper Mines for Glenn to conduct revivals, preach at Homecoming, and to attend other services. Copper Mines Church is always happy to see them and blessed by their visits.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop.

WILLARD DARNELL, 6TH PASTOR, 1960-1967



Willard Robert Darnell, Sr., was the sixth pastor of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. He served the church from March 26, 1960, to January 29, 1967.

Willard was born September 2, 1917, in Buckhorn, Madison County, Missouri. He was the son of William Pinkney and Carrie E. Darnell. His brothers were Medford Lee, Ralph, Eugene, and William. His sisters were Opal, Betty, Dorothy, and an un-named infant. Willard went to grade school in Buckhorn and Flat River.

Marquerite Anna Pinkley was born December 29, 1920, in Flat River, St. Francois County, Missouri. She was the daughter of Oscar and Lena (Gibbons) Pinkley. Her brothers were Elwood and Andrew.

She had one sister, Junetia. Marquerite grew up in Flat River and went to school there.

On June 16, 1939, Willard Darnell married Marquerite Anna Pinkley in Flat River, Missouri. They were married by Rev. James Miller. They were the parents of one son, Robert Willard Darnell II. He and his wife, Faye, live in Potosi, Missouri. Willard and Marquerite had two grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Willard worked for St. Joseph Lead Company in the Lead Belt, in the 1950's. He was an underground locomotive engineer. He hauled lead ore from many different drifts to a central hoisting location in Flat River. He was known as "Baby Doll" by his mining buddies, and had a doll face painted on the side of the 28 ton locomotive he drove.

Willard was ordained to preach in the Free Will Baptist denomination in 1952. He pastored the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Flat River, Missouri; the Copper Mines and Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Churches in Madison County, Missouri; and the Union Light Free Will Baptist Church in Bollinger County, Missouri. He also assisted in church work in the Farmington and Leadington Free Will Baptist Churches in St. Francois County, Missouri; and in the New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Madison County, Missouri.

Marquerite was a homemaker for most of her life. She had a special love for children. For fourteen years, she worked at the Evangelical Children's Home in St. Louis, Missouri. During this same period, Willard was a real estate salesman in the St. Louis area. He achieved the "Million Dollar Club" in sales.

Willard and Marquerite retired in 1983. At that time, they chose to move to Fredericktown, and became involved in Copper Mines Church again. They joined the

church on June 19, 1983. During the years when most retire, the Darnells' continued to be actively involved in church work. Willard taught Sunday School classes, and occasionally preached messages. They left Copper Mines Church again in November 1992, after being called to assist in the work at the New Hope Free Will Baptist Church. They continued working there, teaching and supporting where needed, until Willard's death. He died October 24, 2004, in Fredericktown, Missouri. He was buried in St. Francois Memorial Cemetery, in St. Francois County, Missouri. Willard's knowledge and wisdom gave encouragement and support that is sadly missed. Marquerite continues to reside in Fredericktown, Missouri.

Written by: Thelma Sikes and Lon Edward Rehkop

OLIVER DEMPSEY (O. D.) MATTHEWS, 7TH PASTOR, 1967-1979



Oliver Dempsey (O.D.) Matthews was the seventh pastor of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. He served the church from February 28, 1967, until June 24, 1979.

Bro. O.D. was born February 18, 1923, in Mine La Motte, Missouri. His parents were Dempsey and Grace (Pitchford) Matthews. His brothers and sisters were Naomi (deceased), Blanche, Paul (deceased), Norman, and Don (deceased).

The Matthews family lived in Mine La Motte where O.D. attended school from the first through the twelfth grades.

On January 20, 1942, O.D. entered the United States Army. He was stationed in Camp Robinson at Little Rock, Arkansas, for basic training. He went to Fort Meade, Maryland, for 18 months before he went overseas. He served during World War II as a PFC in the 80th Division. Some of his duties included working as the company clerk and carrying the communications radio. He went a lot of different places including France and Germany. He was honorably discharged on February 7, 1946.

Stella Arizona (Chapman) Matthews was born October 29, 1927, in Saco, Missouri. Her parents were Lewis and Pearl (Solace) Chapman. Her brothers and sisters were Lela, Oletha, Sam, Avis (deceased), Bill, Marvin, Judy and Cathy. The Chapman family lived in Saco, Missouri, where Stella attended the Twelve Mile School. They later moved to Mill Creek, Missouri. Stella worked at the Shoe Factory in Fredericktown for a short time.

O.D. and Stella met at First Free Will Baptist Church in Fredericktown. They were married May 28, 1947, by Bro. Everett Hellard at his home in Nashville.



O.D. and Stella had five children. Their first child, Gloria, was born August 5, 1949. She married Joe Layton, and they live in Greenfield, Missouri. Their second child, Dixie, was born September 25, 1950. She married Penn Rehkop, and they made their home in Fredericktown until Dixie lost her battle with leukemia on March 8, 1998. Their third child, Karen, was born August 31, 1951. She married Don Smith, and they live in Millersville, Missouri. Karen

and Don have two children, Scott and Gayla. Scott married Amy Bowman, and they have one daughter, Carly Michelle. Gayla married Mike Tripp, and they have two daughters, Taylor Dawn and Micayla Dawn. O.D. and Stella's fourth child, Rodger, was born October 22, 1953. He married Nancy Francis, and they live in Fredericktown. Rodger and Nancy have two sons, Rodney and Tim. Rodney married Lisa Hufford, and Tim is not married. O.D. and Stella's fifth child, Denny, was born April 5, 1955. He married Mary Ann Owens, and they live in Fredericktown. Denny and Mary Ann have two children, Thad and Janelle. O.D. and Stella are proud that all of their children are saved and continue to serve the Lord in their respective churches.

After his discharge from the Army, O.D. attended Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, from 1946 to 1948. He was licensed to preach on July 7, 1946, in a District Quarterly Meeting at Copper Mines Church, and he was ordained in 1947 at Mine La Motte Church. During the same time he pastored churches, O.D. worked at Cooper Friendly Oil for 34 years, from 1949 to 1983. He worked at Wal-Mart for three years. Then he worked at Madison County Oil for ten years and retired in 1996. Stella devoted her life to helping O.D. in his ministry and raising her family.

Bro. O.D. and Stella have been working for the Lord for many years. O.D. served as pastor for several churches in the area: Union Light 1948-1949 (half-time); Twin Oak 1948-1953 (half-time and full-time); Mill Creek 1954-1961; Union Light 1961-1964; Mine La Motte 1964-1968; Copper Mines 1967-1979; and Fredericktown 1993-1995. He filled in for the church at Sikeston and some at Oak Hill, and he also helped organize a church at Bourbon, Missouri. Bro. O.D. served as Clerk for the Southeast District Association for many years.

During his pastorate, Copper Mines was the first church in the area to donate \$1,000 to the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. He fondly remembers baptizing ten people at one time in the Little St. Francis River. In November of 1972, Bro. O.D. was privileged to take a trip to Israel and Greece. The church donated \$300 for his expenses. He used the money to buy film to take pictures and slides to show when he got back from his trip. Bro. O.D. was with Copper Mines for almost 13 years and had a lot of good years while there.

After Bro. O.D. had a stroke and by-pass surgery in September 2002, he and Stella moved to ClaRu DeVille Nursing Home in Fredericktown. They share a room together and look forward to visits from family members and friends. Bro. O.D. is often called upon by the staff of the Nursing Home to pray before meals at special gatherings.

Written by: Sally (Pirtle) Hovis with input from Nancy Matthews, and O. D. and Stella Matthews

WESLEY RIDER, 8TH PASTOR, 1979-1981



Wesley (Wes) John Rider was the eighth pastor of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. He served the church from November 18, 1979, until February 22, 1981. Wes was born February 7, 1948, in Fenton, Missouri. He was the oldest child of John L. and Dorothy (Middendorff) Rider. His brothers and sisters were Stan, Yvonne, Janice, Bruce, Gene, and Cona. He graduated from Cape Central High School in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Peggy Jean Talley was born January 12, 1950, in Blythesville, Arkansas. She was the oldest child of U. V. and Verna (Morton) Talley. Her brothers and sisters were Jimmy, Danny, Glenda, Betty, Nancy, and Mary. She graduated from House Springs High School in House Springs, Missouri.

Wes Rider married Peggy Talley on June 29, 1968, at the Overland Free Will Baptist Church in Overland, Missouri. To this union, two children were born: Wendi and Aaron.

The Copper Mines congregation made the trip to Fenton, Missouri to help the Rider Family move to the Copper Mines parsonage in Fredericktown. On December 9, 1979, the church congregation also traveled to Calvary Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Fenton to attend Bro. Wes' Ordination Service. Rev. Wes was a young man in his first pastorate at Copper Mines Church. Being young and energetic, Bro. Wes and Sis. Peggy were both heavily involved with the youth of the church. Wes played on the Copper Mines Men's Softball Team. Peggy was so enthusiastic. She was a talented singer with a beautiful voice. She was probably the first person to introduce "chorus songs" to the Copper Mines congregation.

One special memory that Bro. Wes has is his first baptizing service on June 29, 1980. The baptizing was at the Flat Rock Hole on the Little St. Francis River at Copper Mines. It was on his and Peggy's 12th wedding anniversary, and he baptized twelve people that day. The first person he baptized was his son Aaron. Some of the others baptized included his daughter Wendi, Darren Henson, Jack Rehkop, and Rosie LaChance.

Peggy has fond memories of one special event. "The funniest thing was when they (local Copper Mines talent) produced the Hee-Haw Singing thing with the Cadillac Cowboys, and people thought it was performed by professionals."

Since leaving Copper Mines, Bro. Wes has continued serving the Lord in the Free Will Baptist denomination. He was first an associate pastor at Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Arnold, Missouri. Then he was pastor at Buffalo, Aulsbury Chapel, Cape Girardeau,

Overland, and Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church at Wentzville, Missouri. He has been at Crossroads for the past ten years.

In addition to pastoring, Bro. Wes was a pipe fitter by trade. While at Copper Mines, he traveled to Festus, Missouri, daily for his work. He has currently been a pipe fitter for 37 years. Wendi and Aaron followed in their father's footsteps and also became pipe fitters.

Peggy has worked outside the home as a medical biller for 28 years. Her current employer is SSM Healthcare, where she has worked for seven years.

Their daughter Wendi has two children, Brock and Luke, and lives in Arnold, Missouri. Their son Aaron married Lesleigh Brown from Charleston, Missouri, who is a chemist. Aaron and Lesleigh live in Beaufort, Missouri.

Wes and Peggy both like to go fishing as a pastime. When not fishing, Peggy enjoys antiquing and drawing.

The Rider's calling to Copper Mines was not quite 1-1/2 years. However, the church was truly blessed during their tenure and souls were added. We lost them too quickly.

Written by: Thelma Sikes and Lon Edward Rehkop.

RAYMOND MICHAEL, 9TH PASTOR, 1981-1987



Raymond Michael was the ninth pastor of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. This was his second pastorate, having previously pastored at Union Light Free Will Baptist Church. He served the church from March 26, 1981 until February 8, 1987.

Bro. Raymond was born October 17, 1955, in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. His parents were Donald Michael and Dorothy (Boyer) Michael. His brothers and sisters were Ruth (Michael) Kelley, Florence June (Michael) Farris, Donald Michael, Jr., Edith (Michael) Williams, Connie (Michael) Sanders, Lonnie Michael, Shirley (Michael) Carter, and Roy Michael. The Michael family originally lived in Ellsinore, Missouri. They moved to Fredericktown in 1972, and Raymond graduated from Fredericktown High School in 1973. Raymond worked at Brown Shoe Factory for almost 20 years. Raymond also has always worked as a farmer and continues to pastor and farm today.

Debbie Lynn (Phillips) Michael was born April 4, 1956, in Fredericktown. Her parents were Charles and Rosa Lee Phillips, and she was their only child. Debbie's family lived in Fredericktown while she was growing up. She graduated from Fredericktown High School in 1974. In addition to raising her family, Debbie worked at Brown Shoe Factory for five years, and she was also employed by Dollar General and then IGA. She has been working at Wal-Mart in Fredericktown for ten years.

Bro. Raymond and Debbie met at church at Twin Oak. They were married June 6, 1975, in Fredericktown by Bro. Truman Huffman. Their first child, Tracey Lynn, was born September 23, 1976. She married Jay Coleman in 1998. They live in Sullivan, Missouri, with their two children, Makayla Lynn and Jacob Christopher. Tracey works as a substitute teacher and is employed by Pizza Hut. Raymond and Debbie's second child, Rodney Gene, was born December 9, 1980. He lives in Fredericktown and works as a driller for Pense Brothers. Raymond and Debbie's third child, Andrew Lee, was born June 13, 1984. He is engaged to marry Laura Lynn Lewis on July 15, 2006. He works as a driller for Pense Brothers and lives in Fredericktown.

Both Bro. Raymond and Debbie were saved at Twin Oaks Church. Raymond was licensed to preach in January 1977, and he was ordained one year later in January 1978. Raymond and Debbie have been working for the Lord for many years. Raymond's first pastorate was at Union Light Church in Marquand, Missouri. Then he was called to Copper Mines in 1981. When he left Copper Mines, he went back to Union Light for 5 1/2 years. Raymond and Debbie were then called to pastor at Twin Oaks, where they have served the Lord for almost 14 years.

In addition to pastoring, Bro. Raymond has served the Lord in many capacities which include Executive Board positions in the Southeast Missouri District Association and working very hard as the Director of Youth Camp at Camp Canaan each year. He was chosen as one of the featured speakers at the Missouri State Association Annual Meeting in 2005.

Bro. Raymond pastored Copper Mines for six years. During his first year at Copper Mines, several long-time church members passed away. A great void and challenge was felt by Bro. Raymond and his congregation. Bro. Raymond fondly remembers having the privilege of baptizing his own daughter, Tracey, at the Slime Pond. Copper Mines Church was very blessed to have Bro. Raymond as a pastor. Many of the families Bro. Raymond pastored continue to serve the Lord and raise their own families in church today.

Written by: Sally (Pirtle) Hovis