

MULDRAUGH HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
SPECIAL MEMORIES
(Submitted for the 130th Anniversary in November, 2004)

Pleas Begley Family memories...

“Pleas Begley was born November 25, 1914 in Leslie County, Kentucky. While growing up in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, Pleas made his profession of faith during his teenage years and was a member of the Baptist faith. Following high school graduation, Pleas attended Western Kentucky University for three years. It was during this time he met Mary Catherine Murphy. After three short weeks of courtship, Pleas and Mary Catherine were married March 1, 1936. They were married 59 years when Mary Catherine died June 8, 1995.”

“Sometime after moving to Finley in 1940, Pleas became a member of the Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church. During the 1960’s or 1970’s, Pleas served as Church Treasurer for several years and served as a Sunday School teacher for young boys or substitute teacher in other classes. Pleas and his wife, Mary Catherine, were active supporters of the building program for the new sanctuary. During his senior years, Pleas attended the United Presbyterian Church in Lebanon and was a member there when he died January 25, 2004. Pleas and Mary Catherine are buried at the Lebanon National Cemetery.”

“Pleas was a World War II Veteran who served in the China/Burma/India Theater. After over three years of service during the war, Pleas returned to Finley to farm for a few years. Around 1955, he returned to college to finish his education. Pleas completed both his Bachelor of Science (1957) and the Master of Education (1959) degrees at Eastern Kentucky University.”

“Both Mary Catherine and Pleas served as public school teachers in Marion County for most of their teaching careers. Mary Catherine taught many grade levels from grade one through high school as well as some college courses. Most of her teaching career was as a high school math teacher. Mary Catherine also served as principal at Jessetown School for a few years, and Pleas served as principal and teacher at Glasscock Elementary in Lebanon for 25 years. They taught one year in eastern Kentucky where Mary Catherine began the first lunchroom program in that area. They taught many members of the Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church congregation and helped pastors and others of the congregation with parenting issues. Since Mary Catherine was a mathematician, she and Pleas assisted many of the farmers in the community with calculating their tobacco bases. They also assisted their church family and community with completing important documents and forms.”

“Mary Catherine Murphy was born July 2, 1912 in Saloma. She was the daughter of Charles Edgar and Annie Blaine Durham Murphy. Mary Catherine began attending Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church in 1914 when her family moved to

Finley. She became a Christian at an early age and was an active member of the Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church until her health failed in the early 1980's."

"Mary Catherine grew up the only child of a country doctor. It was there that she learned compassion and that immeasurable amount of love for which she was known. It was from her father, the doctor, that she learned the power of prayer and its importance in daily life; a doctor's skill can only account for part of any healing. It was during her senior years when her health was failing that she taught her young grandchildren to pray and the importance of prayer. Until about a year before her death, she would lead her family in prayer before meals, and she often recited 23rd Psalm, her favorite. Mary Catherine had a love of the Lord in her heart and shared that love with others."

"Mary Catherine began her many years of service to the Lord when she was quite young. On July 31, 1929 at age 16, she completed perhaps her first Bible training course to become a King's Teacher. Through the years, Mary Catherine completed many other Bible study courses and continued to study her Bible until her vision failed during her senior years. Mary Catherine served the Lord at Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church in many capacities—teacher and leader at Bible School, Sunday School teacher, WMU Leader, as well as other roles. She visited the sick and took meals to her church family and others in her community in need."

"During the early 1950's, Mary Catherine saw a need for a young ladies Sunday School class at Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church. She started the class and became the first teacher of the Golden Circle Sunday School Class. Mary Catherine served as teacher of the class for more than 20 years. After her health began to fail in the late 1970's or early 1980's, she served as assistant teacher of the class for several more years. Mary Catherine provided loving encouragement to the members of the Golden Circle Sunday School Class and had a special bond with the class."

"Mary Catherine completed High School at Russell Creek Academy that once was part of Campbellsville College, and she completed two years of college at Campbellsville College. Mary Catherine then transferred to Western Kentucky University where she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1940."

"Pleas and Mary Catherine had a daughter, Sharon, and son, Merle, as well as seven grandchildren, one of whom is deceased. They taught their children and grandchildren to love the Lord and serve Him by sharing His love with others. Sharon and her husband, Ralph Johnson, were married at Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church on August 5, 1973."

Charlotte Payne Benningfield remembers...

"I remember when I was a teenager we had both a men's and women's softball team. I pitched for the women's team and although we didn't win many games we

had a great time. I couldn't drive yet, but I could always depend on getting a ride to town with Elizabeth Farmer who was a die-hard fan of the Muldraugh Hill teams.”

“I remember when Brother Pike was our pastor and we had the church bus. Often on Sunday nights after church we would ride to Dairy Queen in Campbellsville and get ice cream. Also, that bus hauled many to the skating rink in Bardstown monthly, and many of our children would not know how to skate if it weren't for those skating parties. I remember trips on that bus to Opryland and to an Ice Skating Show in Louisville. We had good Christian fellowship on that old bus.”

“When I was young (probably around 5) I was over at church and looking in one of the opened basement windows that rolled out and when I raised my head up (I must have had a hard head) I broke the window. I remember Mama paid to have it replaced.”

“I remember when Gayla went up to make profession of faith I saw her go up and I trotted up to the front too. Brother Carrier asked me why I had come up and I told him because my sister did. I think they all got a kick out of that, but I didn't understand what was so funny.”

“I remember going to G.A. camp with Gayle England. We were hungry one night so I snuck the peanut butter off the table and took it back to the cabin for a late night snack.”

Tracy Mays Cochran remembers...

“My every church memory is of Muldraugh Hill, my home. I was of only three years of age when Bro. Vic began with Muldraugh Hill. I am so thankful to God for blessing me the way he has with parents who took me to church and for such a wonderful church family. My first memories are of Sunday School. I had such wonderful teachers who instilled the Bible and values in me that I apply to my life still today. I was touched by every one of them: Bonnie Benningfield, Steve and Carolyn Morris, Joyce Payne, Evelylen Taylor, Betty Whitehouse, Jim and Linda Sabo, Helen Mays, and Geneva Yates.”

“GA's and Mission Friends were always exciting. But the best was when Goldie Graham would bring her chocolate no bake cookies for our snack!”

“Next came youth, wow, was youth exciting. I truly believe the youth program is what pulled me through those tough high school years. We were such a tight group and had each other to lean on. I have so many memories of youth. John Stansbury, Michelle Short, and I were the first three ever to attend youth camp from Muldraugh Hill. Darin Jenkins was the youth leader at the time and had our opportunity to go with a fellow church. Steve Skaggs was wonderful. He touched everyone's lives in so many ways, especially our youth group. Then there was Steve Yates, wonderful Steve Yates. He taught me so many values in

life. He stuck with our youth group even though he was busy with his work, he never abandoned us. He did so many activities with us. I will never forget the lock-in when we knocked a hole in the wall in the old fellowship hall!”

“And what can I say, Bro.Vic, is in every memory! He has led me through life. He talked to me about becoming a Christian when I was in the fifth grade. He baptized me bringing me into my new life. Then married me also bringing me into my new married life. He was there at the birth of my daughter. He has played a huge role in my life. My pastor, my leader, our leader!”

Evelyn Cooper (in a letter to Mrs. M. Begley) remembers...

“So many times I have been asked the question, ‘Why is this place called Jessetown?’ as it is Route 1 Lebanon, Kentucky. Here is the story as told to me by my grandparent when I was young.”

“I’m sure not many people living in Jessetown my age or older know the true story. A man whose name was Bill Jessie settled here some time in the 1800’s. He built a log house where I now live, and, with wife and children, lived here until his death at a very old age near 100.”

“Over the years, others wanting a quiet place to live settled in this vicinity. The neighborhood began to grow and was called Jessie Town.”

“This is a recopy of what my good friend and neighbor, Mrs. Esther Sapp Allen wrote down for me on the origin of the name Jessie Town. I wrote it as one word but she has it as two words (Jessie Town). Mrs. Esther was 80 years of age at the time this was given to me.”

Howard Farris remembers...

“I remember the water bucket and dipper that sat in the back of the church. When people took a drink of water, what was left in the dipper went back into the water bucket.”

“I also remember how communion was taken. A green glass that you’d get in a box of oatmeal was passed around. Each person took some and passed it to the next person. When it came to me there was a fly in it. I sort of blew it back, took a sip, passed it on and didn’t know if the next person did the same as I did or didn’t see the fly and drank it down.”

Dorothy Jean Farris remembers...

“I remember when heavy wire was stung to mark off rooms for Sunday School classes. There were yards and yards of sort of heavy tan material bought. The ladies met at church and sewed the material, making curtains that hung from the wire. When Sunday School was going on the curtains were pulled to make Sunday School rooms. After Sunday School, the curtains were pushed back until the next Sunday.”

“Mr. George Sapp lived in Jessietown and when dinnertime came he went home and brought sandwiches back made of cottage cheese and sliced radishes. I

wasn't very old but I remember how good those sandwiches were! It was the first time I'd had cottage cheese. Maybe I didn't know there was such a thing."

"I also remember when Brother Beard was our pastor. We had no screens on windows or doors and to our surprise, one Sunday morning while he was preaching, in came his three big white ducks strolling down the isle. Bro. Beard also had several geese and early one morning they all decided to cross the highway. A car or two stopped until all were safe on the other side."

Goldie Graham remembers...

"My earliest memories are of attending church in the old building."

"There were seven children and my parents, Hubie and Bessie Graham. My brother, Earl, died when he was three years old. There were too many of us to go in the car so some of us had to walk through the woods. We knew a short cut and we did not mind walking."

"My mother was confined to a wheel chair during the last years of her life. I remember pushing her into the church building in the wheel chair."

"My Dad used to grow cane and make sorghum molasses. We used to entertain the pastor and his family on Sunday for dinner and had picnics for various church groups during the evening hours. We always had the preachers for a meal when we were in revival."

"I remember Bro. and Mrs. Puckett being in our home many times."

"One year Betty Whitehouse and I taught a group of 35 children in one Bible School Class. This was when Bro. Beard was our pastor. I remember Mrs. Beard played the piano for church services when Bro. Beard was pastor."

"One Wednesday night in the old building, someone brought up the subject of building a new church building. Pap said I'll give \$100 and Mrs. Irene Maupin said I will give \$500. That is how I remember getting started with the new church building."

"I have always enjoyed singing and have sung in the choir for many years. I remember during the time Bro. Pike was here we had many choir socials and Christmas suppers. I remember going to Joyce and Marion's house for our Christmas supper and Bro. Pike and Lester Farmer washing the dishes."

John Hundley remembers...

"It was in January, 1919, my father, his brother and sister moved from Boyle County to a newly purchased farm on the McElroy Pike. At that time he was pastor of the Rocky Ford Baptist Church on the Casey and Lincoln Line. If he was pastoring anywhere else, I was not told. This was at this time a 'half time'

church, so it was natural for him to begin to attend Muldraugh's Hill. Pretty soon, he was called as pastor where he met, courted, and married a member of the church, Virginia Lorene Malone who was teaching school at Pleasant Hill."

"They were married in 1920 and eleven years later her funeral was held here at the church."

"From my birth until I went away to school, I attended here regularly and bonds of friendship were forged that last until this day. Many have passed away, yet I still cherish their memory."

"During these years this was a half time church. By that I mean preaching was done on the second and fourth Sundays only, but Sunday School was every Sabbath."

"This was not a Southern Baptist church by designation. It was more general Baptist or free will. The church was autonomous for it had the right of self government and exercised that power. The deacons were selected by the members for life. Only death could revoke that ordination. Free will offering was taken each meeting, but it was pretty meager."

"The pastor was called one year at a time. When the year was up, the congregation could extend another year or let the pastor go. Conversely, the pastor could resign and go to another field with no hard feelings."

"Mission giving was negligible for it was hard enough to raise the forty dollars each month for the pastor's salary. If there was any extra, it usually went to the orphans home at Glendale."

"Remember this was the time of one of the greatest depressions ever seen in this country."

"Some of the things I relate will seem cynical, but I was a preacher's kid with a retentative ear and I would hear different preachers express themselves when they thought no one else was listening."

"This is just one person's perspective."

"The church building was located very near the present site -- maybe a little closer to the highway. It was of frame construction with white weather boarding, trimmed in green shutters and a steeple and bell tower."

"The highway was of crushed rock and an automobile going by raised such a cloud of lime dust, it was difficult to keep it off the pews. Across this road was, as it is today, the church cemetery. Not having power mowers, it was over grown with brome grass, blackberry brambles and sassa frass sprouts, not to mention

other assorted nuisances.”

“When a burial was to take place, neighbors would clear a way to the grave site, dig the grave and later fill it with no charges attached.”

“The church yard was better tended for it was possible to get a team and mower over most of the grounds. The downside was the mower would leave stubble from ragweeds and horse weeds and so forth at the height of two to four inches. When dried, these became hard and would snag the best stockings or puncture the unwary legs. Such was the condition of the so called parking lot to the right of the church. The yard to the left was better for it had trees for shade and the wire grass only grew so high. In front of the church, river gravel had been spread to keep feet from the mud. One other feature that should be mentioned and that is a huge white oak tree in front of and slightly uphill with wide spreading limbs touching to within four feet of the ground. Many were the switches pulled from that tree to discipline bored children. I know for I was one of those children.”

“There were two front doors. The one on the left was used by the women and men used the right one. I have never really known why, but found in later years, was customary in many rural churches.”

“Steep wooden steps led up into the auditorium. Being no vestibule you would see three rows of seats as you entered. The benches on the sides were perhaps eight feet in length and the middle row maybe sixteen feet. To the right and right of the pulpit were four rows of eight foot seats facing the pulpit these seats faced the pulpit at an right angle and were reserved for the deacons and people hard of hearing, so they could keep an eye on the young boys.”

“Their counter parts across the pulpit was occupied by the piano and choir. Even now it seems I can still hear some of the voices that sang in that long ago.”

“About half way of the auditorium were two wood stoves, one for each side. In between the seats on the men’s side, gallon tin buckets half full of wood ashes were placed for the use of tobacco chewers. However some preferred to use the open window.”

“The pews had probably been built by the carpenters of that time with very little thought as to comfort. One plank for the bottom and one plank for the back. They were oak and popular and over the years, some people had used their knives on them.”

“In the cool days of fall and winter, wasps would come from their hiding places to make a nuisance of themselves.”

“The young boys loved to go to church for it meant seeing other boys and playing until services began. But, when that bell rang, the game was dropped and

everyone went inside. We all knew it was going to be long for the average sermon was forty-five minutes.”

“The church served as nourishment for the soul and a rare chance to socialize with their neighbors. These were good devout people and still are.”

“The left benches were populated by young ladies, widows and those whose husbands chose to sit elsewhere. The right side was occupied by the men and young boys. The middle seats held families and those with young babies.”

“On the right was seats for the deacons, older men those hard of hearing -- these seats all faced the pulpit and at right angles to the rest of the congregation. Into this area was fitted the piano and a cane-bottomed chair for the music leader.”

“The pulpit was probably ten feet across with the rostrum six feet holding song books, a huge church Bible and a filled water pitcher and a clean glass for the benefit of the speaker. In behind of all this was three chairs to be used by the speakers.”

“Lighting for the night services was provided by kerosene chandeliers hung over head, with supplementary lighting provided by wall lamps. The chandeliers had to be pumped with air in order to retain brilliance.”

“I believe the aisles were covered with straw matting, but in that I could be mistaken.”

“This was the church as I remember it.”

“Muldraugh Hill was like many of it’s counterparts, a free will church. And one of the high lights of the year was the associational meeting. Of that I know but little since it was held in the fall when school was in session.”

“So the real highlight for many of us was the revival held during the summer for two weeks, with both morning and night services.”

“We were what is generally called a ‘family’ church. That designation was because several families in remote areas would get together, build their own building and hire a pastor of their own choosing. Their children and in-laws constituted a majority of the congregation, they practically ‘ran’ the church, although everything was democratically voted upon.”

“Being called a free will church, they chose the evangelist they most wanted to hear.”

“Mission giving was small for there was little money to be sent away from the neighborhood. Any thing to spare was spent to help unfortunates around the

church. The exceptions were the orphan's home at Glendale, Onieda School and a little for Clear Creek Mountain School."

"A late comer to the services would observe as they entered the seat would be pretty well filled except for the front two rows. These were always vacant unless it had visitors seated there."

"A fascinating object hanging from the ceiling at the back of the room was a rope running to the belfry and pulling on it would ring the church bell. Every little boy wanted to ring that bell."

"The deacons were elected for life, to their credit, they did their best in a rather hard job. It was they who would oversee the people when the pastor was absent, see the precepts and covenant was adhered to and do such other work as presented itself."

"To give them credit, they were sincere, dedicated human people. This was a time of omens of changes to come in Baptist churches all over Kentucky. Some of them resisted and came to be known as 'hard to get along with'."

"Some of the items being discussed was changing the pastor's call from one year to giving him an indefinite call. While it gave security it also made it much harder to get rid of an 'undesirable'. This one change caused many rifts and divided churches and that division would last through several generations."

"Tithing caused many debates and probably still does. These are but two things that caused unrest."

"At the spring meeting in the spring or in June, the time was brought up as to the dates of the revival. It needed to be before tobacco cutting and after wheat threshing and haying was mostly done. Also it needed to be done when the gardens were producing abundantly."

"The next item was who was to hold the revival. The one chosen was usually well known to many for he had to be a powerful exorter, firm in the faith and slightly entertaining to listen to."

"When chosen, it was usually the pastor's duty to extend the invitation. Pastors, for the most part, were hard working, sincere men that had been touched by God's hand to carry on his work. He would have a talent for public speaking and was a compassionate nature for the hurt and sorrowing people -- a listener to human problems. He knew the problems of 'his' people, the lost souls and worried that he couldn't reach some of the lost."

"Getting along with the congregation was always a challenge for many were headstrong, proud and stanch in their beliefs. The deacons had to be consulted

frequently for in them was the strength of the church.”

“He needed another vocation for it was hard to get along and raise a family on forty dollars a month, yet fulfill the attendant duties. So, in addition to all this, he had other functions to tend to for the revival.”

“There was the matter of music. The song leader needed to be consulted to get the cooperation of the choir. The piano player was invited for input as well as specials and solos.”

“Too, the sexton had to be talked to for it was he who voluntarily clean the church, dust the benches, ring the church bell, polish lamp globes and attend to many other necessary small jobs.”

“ It was not to be forgotten to consult with the ladies of the church for it was they who would be responsible for the housing and feeding of the visitor. They would plan and provide hospitality for many. To their credit, they knew which families simply couldn’t afford visitors and these people were never embarrassed. For them this was a time of great additional toil. May God bless each!”

“We all know there were and are many great evangelists, but for the sake of history, I will describe a slightly tainted one. This was all culled from hearing things I wasn’t supposed to remember.”

“He had some problems to be solved before accepting the two week engagement. Most importantly, was he going to be paid in cash or produce? Secondly, would he get all the love offering or would he be expected to give a share to the pastor? He preferred cash, for his wife and children had already tended a huge garden. Too, tobacco cutting was to start soon and he wanted to be gone while that was being done. His wife and boys could handle that little chore.”

“Many wives would balk at having so many duties to attend to, but for many years she had been taught to ‘obey her husband’. That part was taken from the Bible so he was ready to advise God of his plans through the medium of prayer. In his prayer he wanted a large number of conversions and a good offering. This would perhaps enhance his chances of going to a larger and more prestigious church.”

“Having done all these things, he could truthfully say, he was called to hold this revival, but there was more to be done. He had to review his old sermons and select some sixteen to be used there. Two more would be held in reserve for an emergency.”

“The first night was a critical sermon for it set the ‘tone’ for all that was to come. It was called a ‘get acquainted’ night. In it he could refer to old friends and was careful to not step ‘on toes’.”

“After this he could use tried and true sermons which included that would apply to this or any other church. Among the sins mentioned were dancing, drinking, profane language, lust, dishonesty, and temptation. After these came lesser evils such as bobbed hair, long skirts, short skirts (heaven forbid). Then using cosmetics, tempting men, mixed bathing, riding in rumble seats, parking in automobiles in dark places and many other so-called evils.”

“Even as a young boy, I couldn’t figure out why women were blamed for every evil. Or where all these things were mentioned in the Bible for I knew cars were invented many years after Christ was on earth. I could think attraction for the opposite sex was not a new past time also, if these creatures were so evil, why did men marry them. I just couldn’t figure it all out and so decided to ignore most of what he had said.”

“There was always one sermon about women obeying their husbands and to be silent in the church. Even today, these things are debated in the southern Baptist conventions.”

“I wondered, in my youthful way-- if women (evil?) were eliminated, who would have the babies, cook, wash, clean, and do all the other chores women do. Even then they were allowed to teach Sunday School classes, but not speak in the pulpit. But, the patient, silent women listened in skeptical silence as he ranted on and on.”

“But, these were ‘safe subjects’. If tithing was to be mentioned, it was safer to preach that in the morning when few men were in attendance. This could cause a ruckus of great magnitude.”

“It was hard to put this idea over, since many families had an income of less than three hundred dollars per year and a tenth of the provided necessary groceries for ten weeks”

“All in all, these were useful sermons, but all these couldn’t keep attendance so various special nights were scheduled --- family night--fill a pew -- and so forth.”

“One of the more interesting sermons was when he would tell his own life story and his many youthful sins. I always wondered how much more interesting it would be if his wife would tell of his present failings. This usually brought out a large crowd.”

“There was some really fine discourses and many souls would be saved but some of these evangelists were without a pastorate. Not with standing, he might discover a little discord within the church family and set out to ‘steal’ the church from the present pastor. This was not church work but ‘business’.”

“After two weeks he would return home and the church would go further. That’s how it was.”

“The young boys and girls embraced the idea of an revival for it meant relief from a long boring summer of hard work and very little play. True school had started, but there was always ones there that were schooled in another district.”

“For the young boys, going to church meant getting there before starting time, games could be played and friendships renewed. Perhaps some would have gotten old enough to want to ‘show off’ for the benefit of some young lady. Too, the girls would studiously ignore the boys yet be aware of everything going on and making mental notes to be used later. These had no input into church business. Just enjoyed their friends.”

“The teen age ladies were in abundance and were even then selecting those in whom they were interested.”

“Young men and women of dating age welcomed this time for they could see that special person every night and confirm or dismiss this interest.”

“For the married women, they too enjoyed the social part, but knew it would be a time of toil for them. That was nothing new and their husbands came for much the same reasons.”

“Most all of these people had experienced and accepted Jesus as their Savior and enjoyed hearing the gospel preached.”

“As there was very little extra money, few had any cosmetics--maybe powder for their noses and a little lipstick. Perfume was used sparingly. There were other ways of making themselves noticeable. Their bodies would smell of soap and water, freshly ironed dresses and newly washed hair. This was enough to keep young men awake half the night thinking of them. In my own mind this freshness was so ingrained that many years on the streets of Paris, France, where perfume reeked the air, I would think of this smell and be home sick.”

“The girls came hoping the speaker was young and single with decent looks. Vain hopes, for he was more likely to be older with a wife and numbers of children. The next best hope and chance was for some young man or men to come visiting from a neighborhood nearby. That would make the night worth while and make forced singing bearable.”

“All the youngsters hoped the sermon would be short, interesting and entertaining. Again, the sermons were long and many boring to these minds.”

“The young adult would come to visit the church all bathed, shaved with his cleanest best clothes so no reason for the eye appeared to naked eye, yet everyone

knew. This coming to church couldn't be faulted, it didn't cost money, and in the course of events, might meet 'her'"

"The pastor had many duties to perform if this revival was to be successful. True he had to issue the invitation to evangelist but many details were to be put in order, each of which were equal importance."

"The church custodian had to be consulted for it was he who cleaned the church, polished the lampshades and filled them with fuel. It was he who faithfully took care of the building."

"The deacons were elected for life and they must be given credit for their was a hard job. They had to be faithful to the precepts of the church. They had to have the welfare of the church itself always in mind. Even more they were the advisors of the Pastor, his trusted leaders. It was they who would remain as pastors came and went."

"They were under the constant scrutiny of their neighbors and members for their lapses in everyday life."

"For the most, they were dedicated, loyal sincere men. They, too had to be consulted."

"The choir was composed of people with good singing voices, mostly women with a few men. A song leader was chosen by common consent, and this participation being voluntary, they needed to be asked to be faithful. They were."

"Next on the list were the women who would provide for the comfort of the evangelist as to where to stay and where to go for dinners. I always believed they were the 'angels' of the church."

"They knew the ones that absolutely could not afford to have a dinner for guests and they were tactful saying the schedule was already full."

"Year after year and I imagine the pastor was the only one that truly appreciated their efforts."

"The revival was the high light of the church year and these were some of the preparations necessary. Under the spell of evangelism it was hoped many souls would be saved, some would move their church letters or be received in any manner the church received additions."

"It might be of interest to some to know it was the custom to receive members by 'statement'. This meant the supplicant had previously made a profession of faith and joined a church no longer in existence or was no longer able to issue the desired letter."

“Thus the church continued to grow and perform its mission.”

“Sometimes during the course of the revival a boy and girl would pair off and begin to sit together and this was practically an engagement announcement.”

“The younger boys would watch those a little older begin to take an interest in the girls wondered what was so fascinating about the females. Not getting a sensible answer, they contented themselves playing games until time for services to begin. When they sat down in church, they soon fell asleep -- all worn out.”

“For the women it was a time of additional work, what with cooking for company, cleaning and washing of cloths for this two week period. They found time to instruct the children how to act when company came, particularly the preacher!”

“They would decide the menu for that day and it was bountiful and tasty. There was fried chicken and ham for the meats, cold slaw in vinegar, tomatoes aplenty, both sliced and stewed, green beans with new potatoes, creamed corn and corn on the cob and large bowls of chicken gravy. Casseroles were plentiful according to the skill of the wife. In addition to all these dishes there was pickles, cucumbers and onions in vinegar for salads as well as dishes of honey and preserves and rubarb. The breads were cornbread with biscuits for the sweets.”

“The drinks were coffee, tea and milk and so when the table was set, the guests were invited to sit down and try ‘to make do’. As the seating began the evangelist’s practiced eye could note all this in one glance, even taking in the pies sitting back for dessert. These pies could be any combination of chess, peach, black berry, gooseberry, burned sugar or any other the house wife specialized in.”

“The visitor was invited to pronounce the blessing and it was usually rather lengthy. This ‘first table’ would finish eating and sit too long at the table for there was still the second table (usually) children waiting and they were about starved.”

“Finally the men would finish and go to some shade tree to laze and discuss some obscure passage in the Bible. ‘Predestination’ and ‘once saved, always saved’ always came up for everyone had their own interpretation of the scriptures. This was boring to the children and they soon ran off to other pursuits.”

“But for the women, it was back to work. They cleaned the table, washed the dishes and saved ‘leftovers’ for the evening meal. When rest time came, I’m sure they were exhausted.”

“The boys of the group were another matter. They had eaten at the ‘second’ table where the best pieces of chicken had been gobbled up and only small pieces of ham was left. The chicken for them consisted of legs, livers and gizzards, and necks that no one else wanted. The gravy by that time was beginning to congeal,

but they were warned to not make even one complaint. They didn't starve and could always comfort themselves with the knowledge they had a hidden watermelon for afternoon repast."

"Being knowledgeable about this treatment, they had gone with their father to pick watermelons and cantaloupes to cool off in spring water. These were the best and it had been no great trick to substitute a slightly inferior one in the water and keep the best hidden for themselves."

"Being well planned, they went off to themselves and see what offered in the way of entertainment, away from the prying eyes of adults and young sisters. There was always the milk that needed to be harassed, a young calf to be ridden, sliding down haystacks, to give the mules a good whipping for perceived transgressions and so on to a corn cob fight. This soon escalated into a real fist fight. When things settled down, going swimming was next in order, so they wouldn't be so dirty for church that night. The afternoon soon passed with the thought the preacher wouldn't be back until next year."

"The young girls had a strenuous time for they had to help cook and serve the meal as well as clean, wash and iron everything while their minds were elsewhere. They had to review Bible lessons to answer the preacher's questions. (This was the only way he knew to communicate with them). All the time this was going on, visions of attracting a new beau was running through their heads. Or at least rekindling an old flame. They had plotted to save enough from the egg money to afford a tube of lipstick."

"The good thing about this work was, they could hear the older women talk. This could be a revealing time. A lot was a mystery but they were beginning to understand what 'being in the family way' meant. They learned whose baby was coming too early, who was getting wild, who was riding in rumble seats and who had been seen 'parked' in a car with a boy."

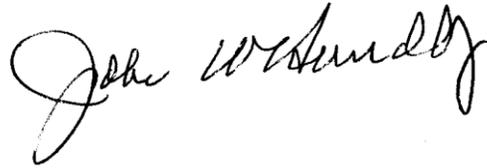
"The thoughts of strange boys coming to church that night and of arriving early so they could look over the prospects. Oh, the entrance they would make walking up the aisle to their seats. The freshly ironed skirts would swish and the boys would watch."

"This was written several years ago, so my children would know what it was like many years ago. I am happy to share this with you."

"I always sat with a group of young boys near my own age, perhaps as many as fifteen composed the group."

"Of that group, three became ministers, while two lost their lives during world war two. Several others came home emotionally scarred so bad they never recovered, and one was severely wounded."

“As you can see, I am not an accomplished typist, but thanks for allowing me to share these memories.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Westlund". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gayla Payne Kelly remembers...

“Softball Team—Fun times were had by all of those who played on the women and girl's softball team. Although we were never the league champs we always had a great time playing and enjoyed the fellowship with other Christian teams in the league.”

“Sunday School—As a child and young adult, all of my Sunday School teachers were always great but some special memories came from the time spent in SS with Emogene Farmer, Sarah Brockman and Marie Caulk. Emogene always presented great lessons even though our class was in the old study upstairs with the wasps and then in the furnace room. As teenagers I am sure we did not always seem attentive but much of my biblical knowledge came from these Sunday School classes. We always enjoyed the fellowship provided by Lester and Emogene at their house for our class. Marie Caulk was a barrel of fun. I can still remember our football games outside and how much fun we had with Marie.”

“During the time Bro. Pike was at our church there were always interesting activities happening for the youth. Since I have always enjoyed water activities I was always excited when he organized trips to the Green River and rented a pontoon or took their boat. We also had some great trips to Opryland, Kings Island, roller skating and many other fun events.”

“One of our first hayrides took place to provide the proper setting for a musical production, "Down by the Creek Bank", performed by the Children's choir. The children and I practiced on the music and lines for the entire summer. The children performed flawlessly and everyone who attended enjoyed the outdoor fellowship.”

“And lastly, how can we ever forget our "Pairs and Spares" Sunday School class activities. What fun we have experienced bowling, playing "Family Feud" and other drawing games! Also, we never knew what to expect when Greg Taylor was one of our co-teachers! He used some interesting ways to be sure we got the point of the lesson!”

Irene Maupin (Copied from the “Letter to the editor” in 1978)...

“I went to church today. The weather was nice. Most members of Sunday School Class were present. My teacher, Mrs. Teresa Feather, had done her homework, and the class was enjoyable.

Our Worship service started on time. The choir was full. A visitor, Mrs. Doris Daugherty played our new organ. Joy McCubbins [sic] played our piano. She is our most recent newlywed.

Our Pastor, Rev. Earl Pike, preached well.

I wanted to say Amen when he suggested more men take their wives out to dinner. Everyone was friendly.

J. E. Settles said the benediction and there was a sweet, sweet spirit in our church.

We had an excellent evening program by the W.M.V. [sic] ladies about the hungry. Mrs. Lester Farmer had the leading part. Mrs. Sarah Brockman led in prayer. Gayla Kelly sang. Angela Mattingly accompanied her at the piano.

Others on program were: Mrs. Earl Pike, Elizabeth and Ruth Farmer, Louise Melton, Mrs. Lee and Goldie Graham and Anita Gribbins.

Our visitors for the evening services were: Mrs. Clar [sic] Thompson and Mrs. Clara Evans. Our collection was generous.

It would be impossible to name everyone who helped but our people are wonderful at the Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church.

I am glad I went to church today.”

Irene Maupin (as noted in the Lebanon Enterprise, 1979)...

“E is for Easter when the lilies bloom. It is when our dear Lord arose from the tomb.

A is for Angel that descended alone in a garment snow white to roll back the stone.

S is for Savior who died on the tree. He gave His life for you and for me.

T is to tell the disciples that He goeth before them into Galilee.

E is for earthquake that happened that day the twenty eighth Chapter of Matthew will say.

R is for risen and He has gone to prepare all of His children a home over there.”

Irene Maupin (Letter to the editor in the Courier-Journal, year unknown)...

“I hope the girls at Johnson Central High School win over the principal and get to wear pantsuits.

I have been a saleslady for 16 years and nearly froze trying to look neat in dresses and skirts. The last two winters I have switched to pantsuits and find it much better to be warm and comfortable.

I think pantsuits are the practical thing for teen-age students.

These young ladies are too old to be paddled and smart enough to want to be comfortable.

How about the principal wearing knee-pants to school?

So girls, I vote with you. Keep warm so you can study, and good luck.”

Melody Mays (as a little girl living on Finley Ridge) remembers...

“Since Daddy and Mama did not attend Sunday School on a regular basis I remember being picked up either by Uncle Charlie and Aunt Min Wise or by Elbert and Marie Caulk (which to this day I am eternally grateful for!!!).”

“I remember that either I went home from church with Bonnie Caulk or she went home with me after services almost EVERY Sunday. I remember those delicious lunches that Marie would prepare. You spent the afternoon and then went back to church on Sunday evening for TRAINING UNION and church.”

“I remember riding the bus (driven by Bro. Shields) that we owned during the 1950’s (purchased in May 1959) to Vacation Bible School. Seems like we were always singing as we rode??? It was painted navy blue on the outside and green on the inside I think.”

“My father never gave me very many spankings but...I remember being at a revival service one evening and the church was FULL!!! Me and one of my friends decided there was not room for us inside, so we played outside in the gravel parking lot amongst the cars. I remember the windows being up in the old church. I don’t know how Daddy found out, but he did, and when I got home I received one of those spankings!!!”

“I was baptized in the Rolling Fork River in August of 1960 (if I am not mistaken I was in the last baptismal service that Bro. Richard Shields performed while he was our pastor). I remember my HOMEMADE seersucker DRESS floating to the top of the water around me.”

“We moved to Louisville, KY when I was ten years old but moved back to New Market for a very short time (a few months!) in the 1960’s (it is then that I met my future husband, David Mays). I remember attending VBS that summer and Mrs. J. C Farmer was my teacher. For our craft we embroidered a couple doilies.”

Dr. Charles Edgar Murphy Family memories...

“Born March 27, 1881 in Underwood, Indiana, Dr. Charles Edgar Murphy was raised a Methodist. In 1904, he graduated from Kentucky University Medical School in Louisville, which is now the University of Louisville. Dr. Murphy moved to Taylor County, Kentucky to practice medicine around 1904. On July 24, 1906, he married Annie Blaine Durham (born June 1, 1880) of Saloma. In 1914, they moved from Saloma to Finley. Dr. Murphy and Miss Annie had one daughter, Mary Catherine. They lived in Finley with Mary Catherine and her husband, Pleas Begley, until they died. Dr. Murphy died April 10, 1953 and Miss Annie died December 25, 1951. They are buried at Brookside Cemetery in Campbellsville.”

“Dr. Murphy and Miss Annie began attending Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church on a regular basis around 1914. Miss Annie was faithful to keep a diary during her 45 years of marriage to Dr. Murphy. One entry in Miss Annie’s diary was especially exciting for her. One of her prayers had been answered. Dr. Murphy “went up” at a worship service to convert from Methodist to Baptist. She had always hoped he would become a Baptist, but she did not put any pressure on him to do so. They were active at the Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church from 1914 until they died. She often mentioned the many happy years they enjoyed as members of Muldraugh Hill as well as the fellowship they had with their church friends and the pastors. They often invited members of the church family to their home for Sunday dinners. Miss Annie frequently prepared foods for church members that were ill. Dr. Murphy and Miss Annie loved the Lord and served Him through their church. ‘Doctor’ and Miss Annie did a lot of praying for their church family.”

“Dr. Murphy delivered many babies of the Muldraugh Hill church family. According to Miss Annie’s diary, Dr. Murphy would be away from home for several days at a time taking care of his patients. He would even go to Louisville and stay with his patients at the hospital there. During the early years of his practice, Dr. Murphy used a horse and buggy to travel the roads to visit his patients. He then progressed to the Model A and the Model T. Dr. Murphy had an office at his home during his medical practice as well as an office in Campbellsville during the later years of his practice. He retired in 1952.”

Joyce Payne remembers...

“My earliest memories are of attending Sunday School in the old church building where we had curtains (sheets) on wires to partition off the classes. When Sunday School was over we slid the curtains back to the wall to open up the sanctuary. We had coal or wood stoves to heat the building in the winter. My earliest teachers were Mrs. Lillie Newcome, Mrs. Lyda Caulk, and Mrs. Lena Smith. As an intermediate girl, Mrs. Flossie Bennett was my teacher. This is when I began my most diligent Bible study. She challenged us to read the Bible every day. I got myself a calendar and jotted down the scripture that I read each day on the calendar. She was a good seamstress. At the end of the year when I could show my calendar that I had read the scripture every day, she made a beautiful blouse and gave it to me as a reward.”

“I remember learning the songs, *Jesus Loves Me*, *Jesus Loves the Little Children*, *This Little Light of Mine*, *Hallelu Praise Ye the Lord*, *I Have the Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart* as I sang in the Junior Choir.”

“I have heard my relatives tell stories about my aunts, Ada and Virginia Maupin. When they were teenagers, Ada used to go up to the church and climb in the window to play the piano. One day as she was planning to go, Virgie ran ahead and got into the church and when Ada put her leg over the window to climb in, Virgie grabbed her leg. Needless to say this caused quite a stir.”

“I accepted Christ as my Savior when I was ten years old. Rev. Garnett Puckett was pastor at that time. He is the first pastor that I can remember. I attended a daytime revival service and the song used for the invitation was *Only Trust Him*. My mother was not at the service but I went home and told her and we sat on the stair steps and cried over my decision. I was baptized in the Rolling Fork River at a place called Phillips Ford. Brother Puckett was also pastor at Stewarts Creek. He preached at each church two Sundays each month.”

“I attended Jessetown School. Usually we had two-week revivals with both day and night services. The teacher would take us to the day services or she would have one of the girls in the upper grades to walk us to church. I remember Evelyn Colvin walking us to church.”

“I remember attending Bible School when Rev. John Pierce was pastor. Mrs. Margaret Pierce, his wife, was my teacher. She taught us to sing the Books of the New Testament in order. When commencement night came, we sang the song and then we surprised everyone by singing it backwards. Brother Pierce was our first full-time pastor.”

“During my late childhood, Campbellsville College sponsored activities for youth each Saturday night. The college students lead activities at the college for the youth from various churches. Roy Huston was a student at the college then. He would take a group from our church over there on Saturday nights. This was the highlight of the week for most of us.”

“A few years later, when Rev. John Wall was pastor and I was in my early teens, Betty Yates and I were teaching a class of young children during Vacation Bible School. They were darling children but we had one little boy who would not cooperate with us on anything we asked him to do. I remember Mrs. Wall thought she would help us out so she came to our class, which was located in the back of the church, and sat with that little boy while we taught the lesson. When that little boy grew up, he became a State Policeman. The Sunday School rooms were added to the old church building during the time that Bro. Wall was pastor.”

“During the time that Brother Wall was pastor, we had a program on the Campbellsville Radio Station WTCO. A group of us went to Campbellsville each Sunday morning for the program. I remember one of our members said that WTCO was an acrostic for “We Take Campbellsville Over.”

“My mother, Irene Maupin, taught the ladies Sunday School Class in the choir loft. In the old building the choir sat on the right of the pulpit and the left side was known as the Amen Corner. The people who sat in these areas were facing one another.”

“During my lifetime, I have taught Sunday School Classes for children, intermediates, young people, and adults. Among my most recent and pleasant memories are the years 1983-93 when I served as co-teacher with Evelyleen Taylor for 8 and 10 year old children during the Sunday School hour.”

“I have witnessed conflicts within the church ranging from whether to take the shutters down from the old church building to whether to build a new building. The members have managed to resolve the conflicts and to work together as we have progressed through the years being involved in four major building projects. God has certainly blessed this congregation.”

“The Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church has been a great influence on my life and the lives of my family members.”

Marion Payne remembers...

“My memories go back to 1939. I remember attending the Church during revival. We got there early so we could play before the services started and so we could get a seat. I remember the women fanning with fans provided by the funeral homes. Seems that Bro. Hundley was pastor. My Uncle Lee was a minister. I remember he conducted a revival at the Tobacco Warehouse.”

“I remember Bro. Pierce would plan activities for the young people with parties for special occasions or holidays”

“I remember singing in the choir when Bro. Wall was pastor and going to the radio station in Campbellsville for the Muldraugh Hill Church program on Sunday mornings. Bro. Wall performed our Wedding Ceremony on December 24, 1949.”

“The Sunday School Rooms were added to the old building when Bro. Wall was pastor. The ball field was built when Bro. Pike was here. I helped work on both of these projects.”

“There were some differences of opinion as to whether we should undertake the project to build the new church building. We experienced some delays in construction and a change of pastors before the building was completed but when the people at Muldraugh Hill decide to do something, it usually gets done. Bro. Richard Shields and Bro. Harold Meers were the leaders at that time. Mr. Leslie Brockman was very instrumental in getting the new building built and furnished.”

“More recently my thoughts go to the latest building project and how important the fellowship hall has been to the activities of the Church. I also helped with the bulldozing for this project. Lester Farmer was most helpful in getting this project completed.”

“As of today, October 3, 2004, the new porch and steps are being completed for the front entrance to the building. This is also a project in which I have had a special interest.”

“Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church is a very important part of the life of our family.”

“I have watched the progress of the Church since Bro. Vic Stansbury has become pastor. The church is to be commended for the work done on the three cemeteries.”

“At this writing, I am in the hospital suffering from a dreadful illness. The people of Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church have been so loving and supportive during the last few months with prayers, visits, cards and many acts of kindness. Thanks to all of you.”

Paul and Juanita Payne remember (March 10, 2004)...

“Our relationship to the Church goes back to November 11, 1936. After being baptized in the icy waters of the Rolling Fork River, I attended the morning services at Muldraugh Hill. At the close of the service, I (Paul) was welcomed into the fellowship of the Church. Juanita had been a member of another church. Although she attended faithfully, she was a member of another church. About one and a half years after we were married, she too was baptized into the fellowship of Muldraugh Hill.”

“The following men served as pastors of the Church while we were members. L. E. Whitlow, the man who baptized me; Brother E. M. Gash; Brother G. M. Puckett (during his pastorate, the Church installed a new light plant. This was a great advantage over Coal Oil lamps); John T. Pierce followed him (he served during World War II); John Wall followed him as pastor. I surrendered to the Ministry while he was serving. The Sunday School rooms were built while he served. I knew Bill Beard and Kit Yeaste. They served the Church after we moved our letters. I had met these men in school and had known them well. They were never my pastor.”

“I entered College soon after I surrendered to preach. I had never attended High School. During the first eight years of my ministry, I received my High School diploma, my B. D. Degree from Georgetown College, and my Master Divinity from the Southern Baptist Seminary. During this time Juanita received her Associate Degree from Campbellsville College and was teaching in the Taylor County School System. We moved to Ohio in 1956. For the last 48 years, we have served in this state. We are grateful to God for the people like Muldraugh Hill and the others we have been privileged to know and serve with.”

Kaylene Taylor Poff remembers...

“I have been attending Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church since my birth. I have seen many changes in those “40-some” years.”

“I remember when the carpet and baptistery curtains were green and we changed them to the present color.”

“I remember the old white parsonage that now sits on Lambert Livers’ property down the road. I remember the parsonage had a fence around it and Bro. and Mrs. Carrier had several Pomeranian puppies within the fence, one of which became a part of the Taylor Family and was a favorite pet for about 10 years. I remember having Mrs. Carrier as a Sunday School teacher and when I got my tonsils out at the age of 6 she gave me a beautiful silver bracelet with a chain that dangled from the clasp to protect it from being lost if the clasp came loose. It was one of my most valuable treasures.”

“I remember attending Training Union on Sunday nights with my Mam-ma and Pap-pa (Jack and Sarah Taylor).”

“I remember going to Bible School and the wonderful teachers who taught me. They helped me to learn about the Old and New Testaments, about Jesus, and how to become a Christian. I still have the packet of Bible verses we had to remember when Mam-ma was my teacher. We got a gold star for our successful quotation of them. There were 4 cards (orange, blue, yellow, and pink) with 5 Bible verses per each card. I have all of my certificates of attendance in my scrapbook. I remember the Bible Sword drills of which the girls won most of the competitions, the games we played together such as: *Drop the Handkerchief*, *London Bridge*, *Red Rover*, *Jump Rope*, *Duck Duck Goose*, and *Frozen Tag*.”

“I remember helping teach the 3rd and 4th grade class in Bible School in June, 1975 with my friend, Annette Wise. Faye Porter was the teacher of the class. I learned a lot from her.”

“I remember when the Stalnecker Family came to lead a revival and I thought they were great! The sermons Bro. Stalnecker preached were very moving and each of the members of the family had such beautiful voices. I have one of their albums that I enjoy listening to. The church purchased an organ from them before they left.”

“I remember Bro. Divine leading a revival and little did I know that my brother, Greg, was under conviction at the same time as me. One night during this revival (October 22, 1971), he stepped out of the pew during the invitation on one side at the same time that I stepped out on the other side and we were saved the same night. It’s one of my most favorite memories.”

“My Mom and Dad made sure to keep my brothers and me in Sunday School regularly and because of this and the love and guidance of our teachers, other church members, pastors, and grandparents, we are all Christians. Each of my brothers have Christian spouses and are raising their children using the Christian

morals that they learned growing up in Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church. I appreciate this fact and rejoice as each of my children and my nieces and nephews give their lives to Jesus and become Christians. I know that if anything happens to any of us, we will be reunited after death in heaven.”

“Thomas and I were married in Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church over 25 years ago by Bro. Earl Pike. We have attended Sunday School together ever since and we sit with the rest of ‘The Taylor Family’ in the middle pew of the center section in the auditorium. We have enjoyed several great teachers of our married Sunday School Class over the years (Lester and Emogene Farmer, Larry Bright, David England, Donnie Veatch, Greg Taylor, and Jim Sabo, Sr.).”

“I helped teach the 4 and 5-year-old’s with Bonnie Benningfield, Betty Moore, and Dinah Newcomb for about 6 years. It was fun teaching them Bible Verses and to recite The Ten Commandments. Those children are now 20-some and some of them are married, raising children of their own. I am very proud of these children as I watch them grow into fine young adults and particularly proud when they profess faith and become Christians.”

“My two children, Adam and Andrea, became Christians on the same day on August 14, 1988. That is another of my favorite treasured memories.”

“I remember a play we did several years ago in which my brother Greg played my husband and my Mom and Dad played Grandma and Grandpa. Larry Bright played a preacher and Tyler Bright was an orphaned child who came to stay with the staring family at Christmas. The play was meant to show how God’s love could heal hurting wounds. I enjoyed doing this play very much.”

“I remember the surprise 20th Anniversary party we did for Bro. Vic and Joan. About 20 of us from the church met at Joyce Payne’s house for months before the celebration to do the planning. We had a lot of fun deciding how to pull it off, what to do, how to collect the money for the gift and how to collect the pictures (without them catching us doing it) for the video we showed at the event (of his years of service for our church). It was great seeing the look on his and Joan’s faces when they finally figured out what was going on when their children and 400 people showed up on that Sunday in November. It will be hard to top that one for his 30th Anniversary.”

“Our church has done some pretty amazing things over the years. When we decided we needed to build a fellowship hall, we first set aside a building fund to raise at least a third of the needed money in advance of starting the project. We raised that in record time and when we finally built the addition, we also have paid off the loan in record time. I have seen us raise amazing amounts of money with White Christmas collections, even when there are a lot of people out of jobs like when the community had lost so many jobs with Fruit of the Loom closing. When the going gets tough, we turn to God and get tougher.”

“We have a fantastic group of people who are always there for each other. That’s what has made our church a success and why it will continue to succeed. We need to always remember a quote of Bro. Jeff Eaton that he spoke at one of our revivals, “You might be the best Christian that someone sees.” A lot of people in the community say that our church is a role model for them. We need to make sure this continues as we lead others to Jesus by being ambassadors of His word.”

Faye Porter remembers...

“When I attended school at Jessetown, I remember the teachers letting us leave in the morning to go to the revival they were having at the church. We were allowed to walk to the church. The revivals would last sometimes two weeks, and the crowds would be large and some would even be standing on the outside.”

“The church was heated by an old black stove.”

“I remember when we had Training Union on Sunday nights where we would have Bible drills and sometimes we would attend other churches on M night and compete in Bible drills with other churches where the fastest one to find a Bible verse was the winner.”

“I also remember when we had a birthday box and each week when you had your birthday, you would go up front and put your money in the box.”

“These are some of the memories I have of days gone by.”

Ernest Carol Taylor remembers...

“As we approach the time when we will be commemorating 130 years as a church and in its present location, we can only visualize the many memories that are within the minds of the people that attended Muldraugh Hill Baptist church over the last 130 years.”

“One, somewhat amusing, memory I would like to share took place one night after church during a revival. I do not recall just what year it was, but I do recall that my Dad, Jack Taylor, had a light green, two-door, 1950 Ford sedan and Tab Hardesty had a light green, two-door, 1950 Chevrolet sedan. This particular night Dad and Mr. Hardesty had parked their vehicles side by side in the church parking lot on the side nearest to the parsonage.”

“As was her custom, mother liked to socialize a little after church while Dad, my brother and I went on to the car. Dad, of course, got under the wheel on the driver’s side. I got in the car on the passenger side. Now, since this was a two-door car, in order to get into the back seat, the back of the front seat had to be lent forward. After going through this procedure, I proceeded to get into the back seat and sat down behind Dad.”

“Since my brother had not yet got into the car, I did not put the back of the front seat back into its normal position, nor did I shut the door. Keep in mind; there were no interior light to light up when the door was left open. Anyway, my brother came and got in the car. Now, when he got in the car, he, too, did not shut the door but he did pull the back of the front seat back into position.”

“Visualize the setting that I just described and then add to that visual the fact Dad had parked his car on the side nearest the church.”

“Unknowing to me, because I simply was not paying any attention, Mrs. Hardesty had approached the car and got in. Now, after the fact, I do recall her saying, ‘what’s this door doing open’, or possibly, ‘ who left this door opened’, but I did not notice that she indeed had got into the car. At any rate, she did get into the car and closed the door. With the closing of the door, Dad turned the key in the ignition, started the engine, put the gearshift in reverse and started to back out of the parking space. At about this time, my brother, in the back seat, said, “Pap, you’ve got the wrong woman”. Well, when he said that, you have never heard such hollering, ‘Let me out of here’, and she nearly tore the door off of the car trying to get out.”

“Hope you liked my story.”

Evelyleen Taylor remembers...

“I have fond memories of teaching Sunday School to children in their early years with fellow teachers, Delores England, Thelma Jean Yates, Judy Murphy, Bonnie Benningfield, Betty Moore, Dinah Newcomb and the third and fourth graders with Joyce Payne and June Elliott.”

“Joyce, June and I enjoyed the overnight Bible Workshops at the White, Downs CPA office building. We would alternate between time spent in Bible research and learning with games and exercise periods conducted by Gayle Payne Kelly. We would bunk down on the floor with our quilts, pillows, and sleeping bags and talk long into the night.”

“After getting up early in the morning, we would walk to Hardee’s for breakfast and then back for more Bible study. It was wonderful watching the enthusiasm and joy on the faces of our students as they accomplished the many tasks scheduled for each meeting.”

“I also remember us taking the group to Mammoth Cave once and when we were getting out of the autos, Michelle Short glanced down and found what looked like a lost diamond. She and we were so excited! We wrapped the stone very carefully in a tissue and she took it home to see if it was real. Michelle stated that if it was real, she was going to have it put into a ring for a keepsake. No, it was not real, but her mother, Becky Short did have it put in a ring. She stated that

she takes it out and looks at it and remembers that day. She is saving it for her daughter. We had a wonderful time at the cave.”

“We also spent the night in a cabin at Lure Lodge. They loved feeding the raccoons, dining on that wonderful food while glazing out on Lake Cumberland, and swimming in the pool. We met a magician who was spending the night there and he entertained the children with many tricks.”

“While visiting Shakertown, it rained on us, but we enjoyed every minute spent there – walking close together under our umbrellas!”

“We also took trips to Bernheim Forest, Lincoln Homestead State Park, and the Circus in Lebanon.”

“I have watched these children grow into the adults they are today – many now with children of their own. I experience tears of joy when I see these former students profess their faith in God and become Christians.”

“I am blessed to see some of those who have themselves become parents, bring their children to Sunday School and church. I am also blessed to see some of these students now teaching Sunday School and Bible School.”

“It is such a joy being a member of Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church. We rejoice with our accomplishments and are saddened when a pew is empty. We laugh with those who are joyful and cry with those who are saddened.”

“Another fond memory of this period is having two of my grandchildren – Adam and Andrea – as a part of this group. They attended many of those outings and participated in the Bible Studies and Workshops. I now see them as adults – role models for those that follow.”

S. Gertrude White remembers...

“The Bell. At a very young age I thought it was calling ‘come on Tom’. My Grandfather, W. T. (Tom) Sapp would reach for his cane and call each of us to come along.”

“A Sunday School teacher (I believe it was Teresa Cooper) taught us the books of the Bible by singing them....I still remember.”

“The Amen Corner and heart felt prayers. Poppy Tom’s was the LONG ONE!”

“The wonderful old hymns that are still in my heart today.”

“The day at age 8 years when I found Jesus as my Savior. I thank him for letting me be a part of His church. I love each of the church members. I still love to

come back and see how the Lord is still blessing His people at Muldraugh Hill. God is good!”

Martha Whitehouse remembers...

“I have attended Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church since I was born. My parents, Paul and Roberta Battcher, thought it was important for their children to always be in church and learn to love God.”

“I remember the old building and the many good memories. The good times we had in Sunday School and Training Union. The good friends I made that have lasted all my life. I had many good teachers. Some stand out in my mind, for example, Mrs. Bertha Yates, Miss Betty Inman, and Mrs. Joyce Payne. I accepted Christ at age 10 during a revival service and was baptized at the First Baptist Church in Lebanon.”

“I remember them sitting chairs in the aisles on Sunday and during revivals. I’m sure this is why they decided to build a new building. I was 12 years old when the new building was completed. I was so disappointed not to be able to attend the first service. I had the mumps.”

“Daddy’s cousin, Maxine Newcomb, was our pianist. I looked up to her and that influenced me to want to play. I began playing for church at age 15 with Vickie Carrier, our pastor’s daughter, as organist. The music has always been an important part of my life.”

“When I married, I moved to Lebanon and thought about moving my membership, but I always felt a strong pull to Muldraugh Hill. With the loss of 2 children I felt the love that has been here with this church family to help me through these times.”

“As I sit in church each Sunday I think about the ones that are no longer with us on earth but are waiting in heaven. I realize that I will soon be that older generation, and hope I can be a positive influence to our younger people.”

A letter to the church from Esther Farmer Veatch...

“I grew up in the Pitman Valley neighborhood about 6 or 7 miles from Muldraugh Hill Church. There were times when we came to church in a horse drawn buggy. Then we graduated to a model A Ford. I remember one Sunday morning as we came to church we got stuck in the mud. Our mother got out to push the car and with the spinning in the mud, it threw mud all over Mom. Dad, Wesley, Ruth, and I went in church while Mom sat in the car. I have often wondered what she did or thought about during that time.”

“But, my most precious memory was making a profession of faith and being baptized in the Rolling Fork River on a Sunday morning and coming back to church for the morning worship service and taking communion. My mother had

made the communion bread and we had only one glass with grape juice in it, from which we all drank. I remember turning the glass around when it came to me.”

“Muldraugh Hill has a lot of memories for me. I met my husband there and after dating several months, we went to Bro. W. C. Hundley’s home and got married at 9:00 on Sunday morning and came back to church where I taught my Intermediate Sunday School class. I started teaching that class when I was 15 years of age.”

“I pray the greatest of blessings on this church as you all seek God’s leadership.”

“Yours in Christ, Esther Veatch.”

Esther Veatch remembers...

“I remember Bro. Whitlow preaching on bright sunny mornings. We had a bay window behind the pulpit and also a rug about 4 X 6 feet on the floor behind the pulpit. When he got to preaching and stomping the floor, you could see the dust rise up in the sunlight around him. He preached more about heaven and hell than most preachers, which I think we ought to have more of that kind of preaching now.”