

HILLSBORO STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST  
EL DORADO, AR



# Welcome

May 17, 2015

We would like to welcome all of you to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is a great day for the Hillsboro congregation. We are grateful to all for joining us as we celebrate the Lord's work done here throughout the years.

To our former and current members, thank you for being a part of making Hillsboro a strong and faithful congregation of the Lord's people.

To our visitors, we hope you will be edified by having worshipped with us, and we invite you to come back and visit us at every opportunity that you have. We would love to have you become members of the Lord's family here at Hillsboro as we continue the Lord's work.

May God bless each one of you and keep you faithful in His service.

**The Hillsboro Story**  
**by Benny B. Bristow**

Shortly after moving to El Dorado and becoming the pulpit minister at Block and Hardy, I was asked to serve on the building committee for the construction of the new building to be built on West Hillsboro. A large thermometer was placed on the front wall of the auditorium which reflected the purchase price of the land, and the amount that had been paid on it. Even the purposed date to pay off this debt was posted. However, this goal was reached and the red in the thermometer reached the top many weeks ahead of schedule.

During the months before construction, there were many jobs to perform. In fact, the next major decision was to choose the style of building to be constructed on the land. When we first visited the building lot, we could see only a broken down concrete wall from an old home place with high grass growing everywhere. My first thought was, "Are we in the right place?" However, after walking through the beggar lice and cockle burrs, it was obvious to see that with many days of dirt work, this land would become a beautiful location for the building.

Gwen and I had seen a new church building in Duboch, Louisiana with a style that appealed to us. This information was passed on to the elders and building committee, and it was decided for us to go down and make color slides for all to see. Brother Risinger went with us, and the preacher there gave us permission to go inside, and to spend as much time as needed. We made all kinds of slides and brought them back to the elders and committee to consider. Generally speaking, all seemed to be pleased with the basic style; therefore, John Abbot, a local architect, was employed to take these suggestions and design for us a new building. In a few weeks, what you basically see in the original building appeared on paper with the needed specifications to build.

Brother Jack Willis had a Christian contractor friend in Texas, Bill Ward, who had built several church buildings, and had recently completed one in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. He agreed to move to El Dorado, and become employed by the church as their contractor. He would hire some workers and use Jack Willis as the leading carpenter, let some of the work out to

sub-contracts, but he also agreed to use in the work as many men and women from the church as possible. This not only saved the church a large sum of money, but it helped all to get involved in the work.

As to the raising of the money, it was decided to sell bonds, backed up by the Tarrant State Bank in Fort Worth, Texas. Several days were allowed to sell these bonds, but only one or two days were needed. It is amazing to note that the majority of these bonds were purchased by Hillsboro members. As interest was earned in the future, many in the church donated interest coupons to the church.

After the dirt work was completed, it was a thrill to see the construction of the building begin. The first few weeks in the new year of 1965, were filled with digging large holes and ditches for the foundation. Huge baskets of steel had to be made up and tied with wire; this was done by some of the men in the congregation. One day as we were tying this steel, a man from the union came by and told Brother Ward that we couldn't do that since we were not in the union. He even threatened to set up a picket line. Brother Ward said, "You go ahead and do that and we will bring in reporters to make up a large picture for the newspaper. We will also let the public know that you are picketing these men who are giving their time without a dime to help the church." That was the last we heard about a picket line, and the steel was tied ready for the concrete.

The men and women of this congregation were involved in construction from the ground to the top of the roof.

As the building was growing from the concrete floor, we would often go around and say, "Here is the auditorium where we will worship. This is the library, the preacher's office, a classroom, or this is the fellowship hall!" Believe me, it was a thrill to see the building come closer and closer to completion. The women were involved too! Some occasionally provided food, some helped paint, while a few tackled about any task to be done. In fact, our teenagers, as well as those in the golden years, had a part in the work.

Finally, the day came when all was complete and ready to be used. There is no way to put in words the good feelings that came from moving in, and experiencing the first worship service. During the first service, there were

many problems to work out, but this didn't stop the thrill. For example, the new P. A. system bounced all over the new walls and ceiling. When I spoke that first morning, all heard two sermons for the price of one! For the first Sunday evening service, most of the front pews were beaming in full sunshine through the west windows. However, week by week these challenges were met, and a giant step had been taken by Block and Hardy to become the West Hillsboro Church of Christ.

On May 16-21, 1965, John Davis conducted the first Gospel Meeting in our new building. The first day of this meeting was also the official opening service in the building, and this truly was a day to be remembered. A comment from the bulletin sums it up: "We were happy with the Gospel Meeting conducted by Brother Davis. Each night found a large crowd and growing interest."

The above is an excerpt taken from the booklet, "The Hillsboro Story" by Benny Bristow.

## **Church Celebrates 50 Years**

**A 50<sup>th</sup> year homecoming celebration for all former members and friends of Hillsboro Street church of Christ, 1322 West Hillsboro, will be held May 16 – 17 at the church.**

**Saturday evening at 5:30 pm, the congregation will host a hamburger supper to afford members and guests a time to get together for fellowship, renew acquaintances, reflect on past events and plan for future efforts.**

**Ken Stegall, of The Woodlands, Texas and former minister at Hillsboro will teach the adult Bible class at 9:00 am and speak at morning worship service at 10:00 am on “Thank You for the Ride.” After the morning services, lunch will be provided in the Outreach Center. After the meal, anyone desiring may share stories and reflections concerning Hillsboro's rich history.**

**After selling the Block and Hardy Streets site, where the congregation had met for 35 years, the members moved to the Hillsboro location. Benny Bristow, who was preaching at the Block and Hardy location, transitioned with the other members to the new location in May 1965. Twenty five years later, he delivered the message for the Silver Anniversary celebration. Today, he and his wife, Gwen, reside in Fort Worth, Texas.**

**Eighteen of the original members still attend the church: Melba Bagley, Randy Bagley, Nancy Ware Bailey, Eddie Durian, Virginia Ford, Angela Ware Heid, Helen Liles, Carolyn Winborn Merritt, Othela Millican, Gordene Moore, Jimmy Moore, Nancy Jenkins Moore, Donna Winborn Nipper, Barbara Cook Nixon, Patricia Smith, J. T. Voss, Sarah Voss and Anita Ware.**

**John Fields, who was hired in 2008, is the present minister. Past ministers are Benny Bristow (1963-1969), C. F. Shirey (1969-1972), John Wheeler (1972-1981), J.R. Sullins (1981-1987), David Smith (1987-1993), and Ken Stegall (1993-2007).**

**Concerning the upcoming celebration, Fields states, “I am excited at the prospect of being able to meet so many of the people who have been a part of making the Hillsboro Street Church into what it is. I look forward to putting faces together with the names I've heard in so many of the stories that have been told. I'm glad to be part of this history.”**

**Along with these very capable local evangelists, Hillsboro has consistently been involved with missions and benevolence programs. “The Hillsboro family is a**

loving group with a tender spot for various mission programs” comments Charles White, chair of Hillsboro’s missions. “We have had a committee for missions for a long time, many faces are in our 'Mission Photos' in the foyer, people that have given time out of their lives to go help and go and preach the Word. This is partly what has made Hillsboro stand the test of time.” He adds that endeavors now include missions in Ghana, Scotland, Brazil, World Bible School and two Arkansas homes for children, Southern Christian Home in Morrilton and Children’s Homes in Paragould. Also on the committee are Becca White, Gordene Moore, Brenda Allen and John Fields.

Joe Leal and John Ed Moore serve as elders of the congregation. Eight men, Randy Bagley, David Bailey, Keith Harter, Kenny Merritt, Victor Nipper, Robert Nixon, Eddie Sexton and Dallas Smith are deacons.

## ***Congratulations to the Hillsboro Congregation on Your 50th Anniversary!***

*It is a joy each time I reflect on these fifty years. Our relationship began with you at the old Block and Hardy building. After delivering the Sunday morning sermon, the elders asked me to meet with them for an interview. We met in the small office in the corner of the building. To start the meeting, Brother Scott Ware, said, "I want you to know that you are meeting with some of the toughest men in El Dorado." After a laugh together, we began the meeting. I would soon learn that they were some of the finest Christian men I would ever know.*

*After discussing the work in general, they told me that they had purchased land on Hillsboro Street to build a new building in the near future. Then they told me that if they hired me that they wanted me to serve on a building committee. These elders were very positive about the future growth of the church.*

*When the meeting concluded, they wanted me to go with them to visit the land they had purchased. When we arrived, I saw a big hill that was covered in tall weeds. They told me, "We know this looks bad now, but with a lot of dirt work, it will be great. Again, I saw men with great faith. They were right, because after several days with the bulldozer, the hill had been turned into a level place for a building and a parking lot.*

*We wanted to build a beautiful building while keeping the cost down. At this point, I saw a congregation, both men and women, who rolled up their sleeves and went to work. It is a fact, that the members drove many of the nails of this building.*

*I recall that one hot day I was on the highest peak of the roof nailing on decking, when someone called up and said, "Someone wants to see you." I made my way down all dirty and sweaty. I walked up to the man and said, "Did you want to see me?" He answered, "No, I wanted to talk with the preacher."*

*After months of hard labor, the time finally came to meet for the first Sunday morning service. As I began the sermon, my voice echoed off the walls and ceiling. I told them that they had gotten several sermons for the price of one. This problem became a challenge and was solved.*

*When the building was completed, it was time for us to get our minds off of the physical building and to think about the spiritual. With the elders leading, the members turned to the spiritual. Therefore, all these years until now have brought great glory to God. This is the reason why this occasion is such a great celebration.*

*It is my hope and prayer that in the future, with God's guidance, you will continue to accomplish great things as you have done in the past.*

*Gwen and I will always be thankful for the years that we had with the Hillsboro Church of Christ. We made friends while there that we will never forget.*

*With love and approbation,*

*Benny and Gwen Bristow*



### ***Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary!***

*I do appreciate the opportunity to give our congratulations to the Hillsboro church of Christ on the occasion of her 50th Anniversary. How time has gone by since we were with you in the 1980's! I remember those years well.*

*Nineteen hundred and eighty-one was a time of transition in our lives having just returned from the mission field in Kenya where we had lived for a period of almost three years without returning home. Little did we know that we would be given an opportunity to work with the Hillsboro church in El Dorado, Arkansas. That relationship began in 1981 and lasted for a period of six years. Our family has many fond memories of working for the Lord while at Hillsboro. During those six years, our children began their collegiate studies and at one time we actually had four in Christian colleges.*

*When we returned from Africa we literally had nothing of this worlds goods, not even a vehicle. The Hillsboro elders not only offered us the work, but gave us the money we needed to set up house again in the states. In the following days, which turned into years, we found Hillsboro to be a loving group of Christians who were open to the truth of the Word of God. The congregation experienced growth in the Spirit of Christ as well as in number. We remember well the going away potluck in 1987 which happened to turn into a 25th anniversary for Edith and me. Almost the entire congregation was there. A special word of thanksgiving to God and to you all for the time we had together.*

*Since our leaving we have been blessed with continuing the work in Africa since 1988. In 1988 we established the Botswana School of Biblical Studies in Botswana, Africa which later moved to Zambia in 1995. Thirteen classes of 174 self-supporting gospel preachers have graduated from the school. Additional schools in Uganda, East Africa and Ghana, West Africa have also been producing gospel preachers for years. In 2003, the Bible Institute of Missouri was established in Springfield, Missouri providing preacher training for churches of Christ focusing on the mid-west. This has been our lives since leaving you in 1987. We solicit your prayers for our work in Africa.*

*It is our hope and prayer that we will see you again this side of eternity. May God richly bless you all in the years to come. Stay strong in His Word!*

*Jerry and Edith Sullins*

## **Our Time at Hillsboro – Alan Underwood**

In the spring of 1994 while preparing for graduation at Harding University, I was invited to interview for the youth ministry position at Hillsboro. Ken Stegall was the preacher and Ferrell Ware, A.B. Bailey, D.K. Crawford, and Harry Ware were serving as elders. I'd already interviewed at churches with bigger budgets, bigger buildings, and bigger programs, so the invitation to be interviewed did not seem as significant in my mind as it should have been. I was young and operating under the naïve assumption that bigger was better when it came to ministry.

After a thoroughly enjoyable weekend just spending time with the church members, Lori and I were struck by the fact the search committee invited us both into the interview. Yet, somehow the interview didn't seem like an interview. It was actually enjoyable and encouraging. As we wrapped up the meeting and began to walk towards the exit of the building, I realized something of great importance had just occurred. Although I was still optimistically waiting to hear back from bigger churches I turned to Lori and asked, "Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" And, she was.

Shortly after that meeting we received an invitation to be a part of the Hillsboro family. And "family" is the word we always think of when we look back on our time at Hillsboro. At first we were struck by how many families were interconnected by marriage. But, then we were struck by how the family at Hillsboro took us in and treated us as part of their family. We weren't alone. Each person who came into our midst at Hillsboro was treated with the same regard: as family.

Our shepherds truly felt like grandfathers to us. We loved them as such. Their wives were like grandmothers, caring for us and loving us as their own. The deacons and their wives seemed to us as brothers and sisters of this large extended family. We were truly part of "The Hillsboro Family of God," just as the sign outside the auditorium read.

On many occasions I recall brother Ferrell Ware leading us in that wonderful song, "We're Part of a Family." If churches could have alma maters, that would be Hillsboro's. I've never sung that song since without thinking of our family at the Hillsboro Church of Christ.

Fifty years as family. Very few churches can say that, but you have lived that and loved all who came into your midst as family. In so doing you have taught us all what it means to live as brothers and sisters in Christ. May God bless the Hillsboro family with many, many more years in His kingdom.

## Attention: God at Work

"I thank my God every time I remember you ..." ( *Philippians 1.3* )

Half a century? Already? How can that be?! Debbie, Jonathan, Amber, and I rejoice with you all! Say – let's go for a quick ride down some of my Memory Lane. Complete sentences? Who needs 'em?! Sparse use of exclamation points? Ha! Climb in and hold on!

**1. God used you to shape my life.** *And you did it by being some of the best friends we've ever had.* \* Walking two miles with Bill Jenkins before dawn most days, I learned of endurance and prayer! \* Helping Amanda Meadows, and other (then) wee ones get drinks at the fountain, you taught me gentleness and patience! \* Standing at the gravesides of Opal Ford, Ilean Hall, Dennis Loggins, Caroline Murphy, and more, you taught me much about life and death! \* Fishin' some lake or bayou with John Meadows, you shaped me with wisdom and love! \* And what's that? Something still a part of my shaving kit to this day – a pair of surgical scissors Omilee Isom gave me, salvaged from Warner-Brown's surgical trash (hey, she had a shoebox full of such!). I trim my mustache every week with them. I told you: "You *shaped* me!"

**2. God used you to shape the lives of my family.** *My family grew in the Lord through you.* \* Your children blessing my wife as she teaches the huge "combined class." You taught us diligence and care! \* The friendship between "Big John" (John T. Smith) and "Little John" (my son). You taught younger men and older men how to relate! \* Listening to my wife and Cindy Barnes laugh together. You taught us deeper joy! \* "Adopting" 'Granny Dot' (aka: Dorothy Mason) and her "adopting" us. You taught us patience, gratefulness, and how to transcend the barriers of generations! \* Sharing meals with Ruby Duval, the Forbes, Harold & Virginia Ford, and so many, many more. \* Baptizing my son in your baptistery the last Sunday we were with you. You helped answer this father's fervent prayers!

**3. God used you to shape the lives of our neighbors.** *You welcomed and helped, enabled and embraced, prayed for and bolstered up, those close to us.* \* Many an hour, day and night, spent ministering to the people who lived within a block or two of 2100 Gaines, people largely unknown to you, and never hearing a single word of complaint from you about that time invested. \* The baptism of our next door neighbor, Janie Jaggars! \* Our house as a near daily refuge for the three children whose father down the street isn't anything close to what he needs to be. \* Nameless neighbors who heard the good news of Christ for the first time in their lives and then, moved on. Who knows what God has done with the planted seeds? \* There's the ball games with all the neighbor kids using our yard for the field. You encouraged us to be about ministry everywhere and in every way!

**4. God used you to shape the lives of the people of El Dorado and the area.** *You yearned for brethren to draw closer to each other and you put real walk with your talk to that end.* \* Several dozen of us showing up one night, unannounced, at an East Faulkner gospel meeting. We saw how very good and pleasant it is for brethren to be united! \* The very first area-wide assembly, every Church of Christ in Union County represented, 656 people there, and the whole city taking notice. We learned of faith! \* True comradery between the area preachers (Dan Williams, Jack McKeown, Johnnie Hobbie, Scott Genry, Scott Gage, Brent Franks, and others). We were more than co-laborers; you helped us become true brothers! \* And Kamp Kurios. Need I say more? How many hundreds have you influenced thru your involvement in this work alone?

**5. God used you to shape the lives of people all over the planet.** *You thought globally, not just locally.* \* When the first Gulf War broke out, I remember our being energized again and again by "Tireless Teresa" Brown and her efforts with Operation Desert Support. Our people, over there, were touched! \* Allen Borden lighting a fire under Mike Gardener, Rusty Meadows, Shane Merritt, Randy Wells, and me to make a mission trip to Russia and Ukraine. You helped plow a field then that is still being harvested today!

I could go *on and on!* And so, I believe God will continue to powerfully use you as demonstrations of his great love and kingdom power. Thank you, Father God, for your people who make up the Hillsboro family!

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion."  
( *Philippians 1.6* )

David Smith

## WHEN WE RODE TOGETHER

I'm certain that God brings into our lives people who provide what He knows we need to help us grow spiritually. You can see that more clearly when you get to the point that you have more years behind than you do ahead. And you may or may not have properly treasured those folks at the time.

A friend sent this to me recently and it made me think of folks who have been so meaningful in my life. Many of them are/were members at Hillsboro. Some are still alive and remain there, others have moved on to another location and still others have moved on to their permanent location. Each one has played a unique role in my/my family's life.

Here is a condensed, tweaked version): "Life is like a train ride. You get on. You get off. You get on and ride some more. There are accidents along the way. There are delays. Sometimes there are surprises.

When you are born, you first board the train. Along the way, you meet people who you think will be with you for the entire journey. Some will become important to you, and others you will not be able to remember.

We are all on this train together. We should try to make the journey as pleasant and memorable as we can, right up until the end of our final stop and we get off the train for the last time."

I owe my family members at Hillsboro. I owe you for your patience, your encouragement, your teaching, your friendship and your love. I truly thought that that's where I would get off the train for the last time. But only the Lord knows those kinds of things... and He doesn't tell.

I'm looking forward to being with you May 17 to celebrate the role Hillsboro has contributed to the Lord's kingdom for the last 50 years.

- Ken Stegall

## Is That Your Church?

The political correctness and the plethora of religious groups in the culture and time we live in have subtly infiltrated our thoughts and words in regards to the church. We are pressured to make no distinction in beliefs and practices in order to avoid conflict with those we come into contact with daily in trying to simply identify for them where we attend religious services. This is no more evident (and a little agitating to me) than the common used phrases "my church", "your church", or "our church" to distinguish which building or group we meet with regularly. I can recall in my time at Hillsboro, people in the community would make a distinction about what congregation I attended as "the church next to Chick-A-Dilly" or "the 'God is my Homey' church" based upon recognizable *landmarks* that just happened to appear near the building. In fact, "Hillsboro" itself, distinguishes where the congregation meets, and has no connotation with what the congregation of the Lord's church truly is that meets there.

The Hillsboro congregation holds lots of special memories for me. It's a time where I learned what it means to be a part of the church. I was challenged to grow and mature in my faith. I was treated as a son by those older than me and like a brother from those my age and younger. I learned to follow in the example of some great faithful men and women. I was mentored to do things and take on responsibilities that were above my head. No matter how poor my performance was; I was hugged and encouraged to do it again. It was a time where I learned that the church is your extended family, you were not going to be best buddies with everyone there, but you were determined to be there for anyone that had a need you could help with. I learned that members do disagree and have conflicts— sometimes very passionate ones, but I also learned that when both parties want to, it is possible for them to reconcile and forgive. I learned that people can operate apart from a world that assigns value to others based upon their education, economic, or social background and can choose to look past character flaws to treat everyone for what they are, a child of our God. I witnessed people working together and giving selflessly of their time and money for the purposes of teaching the good news of Jesus and building each other up.

That's what Hillsboro is to Emily and me – summarized by exactly what we proudly desire to label ourselves with: the *church of Christ*.

Congratulations to the past and present Hillsboro family on 50 years of serving our Lord, Jesus Christ and being HIS church in South Arkansas! I pray that we all are able to make it to the upcoming celebration in May. I look forward to it.

Clay Madar

## **Making History at Hillsboro** by John Fields

In less than two months my family and I will have been here seven years. I love this congregation and what she stands for. The love and kindness of her members is still one of her most enduring and endearing qualities. The house warming we received when we moved in a few years ago to our very first house (owned not rented). Lots of good grilling still goes on with that grill I was given.

My history with Hillsboro is a fraction of what I'd like for it to be. But there are others who have been here from the very beginning. Today we are celebrating 50 years of existence. That is no small feat. In a marriage is it is a "golden" time of celebration. But what is being celebrated?

While we are glad to have a roof over our head and a place to get together and do many things and serve in many ways, this celebration isn't really about bricks and mortar is it? It is about the people. It is about visits made, food taken, tears shared, joyful memories relived and a Savior celebrated.

God called a group of lost people out of the world and this group of people, which has changed much over the years, has had as its goal as the serving of God and others. I'm happy to be a part of that, a part of that history. My hope is that all of us would be busy about doing the Lord's work and changing the "history" of each person we come in contact with for the better. How wonderful to stand at a distance on Judgment Day and hear God tell another we had introduced to Christ, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

That person would have a smile a mile wide and the security of Heaven for all eternity and that would have been, at least in part, on whichever person made history with them. May we all, however long we are here as people and as a family of believers, change the lives and history of ALL we come into contact with for the better.

Growing up at Hillsboro by Jen Segraves

In 1960, before my family became Christians, Selma Simpson was our next-door neighbor. She continually brought desserts to us with an invitation to come to church. We moved to another part of town and she followed with more desserts and invitations. We started going to church occasionally and eventually were baptized. I was 13 years old.

There were 8-10 kids in my Sunday School class. We had a workbook for homework, reading scripture and answering questions. I can't remember her name any more, but a very nice lady who really knew her Bible was a great teacher.

On Sunday evenings, different families hosted the teens at their homes. Those were wonderful times. I'll never forget all the kids and the good times we had together. Wayne Wyatt was my best friend at church. He and his wife have both already gone to their reward and are sadly missed.

Hillsboro sponsored a TV program called "Journey to Eternity" and set up a visitation program to visit people who responded to the program. I partnered with Bro. Olinger in that endeavor.

I love the Bible and when I was in high school, I was given the opportunity to teach the high school class part of the time. That helped develop my desire to preach the gospel. Bro. McNutt arranged for me to sometimes preach at Norphlet and Fordyce, Arkansas as well as Lockhart and Spearsville, Louisiana.

Benny Bristow and Don Fike were the two preachers who had the most influence on me. Don was holding a meeting at Fordyce and asked me to come along and lead singing. He encouraged me to follow my dream of preaching by going to Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock Texas. I was a preacher of the gospel for 30 years.

I will always appreciate the influence the Hillsboro congregation had on my life.

## Growing up at Hillsboro (April 2015 bulletin)

By Shane Merritt

Hillsboro St. Church of Christ is the only church home I have ever known. There is not a time in my life where I did not have some kind of a connection with this congregation. My family shared many wonderful times with the brethren there that I will always treasure.

When I think about the congregation at Hillsboro, I do not think about the building, but the brethren who have influenced me over the years. I am thankful for a set of faithful brethren who served as elders when I was growing up there: Harry Ware, Farrell Ware, A.B. Bailey, and Donald Crawford. I also think of each one of you and the influence you had over a young man growing up in the Lord. I could fill a number of bulletin articles thanking each of you for your help, influence and bond we share in the Lord. Let me explain why that was so important:

I have spent my share of time in classrooms preparing to be a minister of the Gospel, but my greatest preparation came from the Hillsboro St. Church of Christ. Every time I stand in front of a crowd to preach the Gospel, I carry with me the spirit of the Lord that your congregation helped me gain. The basic Bible lessons that I learned from your teaching and examples you set for me have become the foundation for the principles I pass on to others in my ministry. Everything that I have achieved as a minister has come with your help.

I celebrate with you the 50 year anniversary of our congregation by thanking you for what you have done for me. Some have passed on to be with the Lord, but I bring them back alive in my heart in thanking the Lord for the blessing that each of you are to me.

My challenge to you is to continue to seek to build a foundation for the next generation. Give them the same tools and example that continues to help me today. Spiritual strength is not measured in numbers on a bulletin board but in the product of the work a congregation produces.

I am very proud of each of you, and I love you all very dearly. Happy anniversary, and may the Lord bless your work in His Kingdom.



To my Hillsboro Family,

On this occasion of your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I just want to say congratulations. This is quite the accomplishment but you already know that. When I think about the fact that there is a congregation that has withstood the test of time, I tend to sit back and wonder just how they made it that far; but this is not the case with this congregation. No, no, I know exactly how this church has been able to make it to the half-century mark.

Stop for a moment and think about all of the people who have been a part of Hillsboro over the years. Think about how many of them are now integral parts of the congregations they faithfully serve today. That is because of YOU. I know, from personal experience, that my family and I would not be where we are or doing the work that God has us doing if it weren't for the fact that we were taught how to be productive citizens of the kingdom through the lessons taught throughout the years at Hillsboro. Being brought up in the pews there and seeing the transformation of so many who stood in that pulpit so nervously at first but became so confident and were called to serve in other congregations has really been something that has stood out and made me proud over the years. When I think back on all of the time spent inside this church building, I can't help but think of the hours spent in the young men's training class learning what it meant to be a servant. Learning how to lead singing, write and deliver a sermon, serve the Lord's Supper. These are the things that showed me how to be a part of the Lord's Kingdom and not just be someone sitting in the pew. Had it not been for those lessons I do not believe that I would be doing the work that I am doing today, youth and campus ministry. That work, preparing people to do the work of the Lord, is something that you can hang your hat on as well as something that should be celebrated.

So, again, congratulations on 50 years of wonderful work for the Lord and here's to 50 more. Keep up the good works.

Love,  
Jackson and Grace and Anna's Dad...I mean Joel Bailey

**Hillsboro Members who left Block & Hardy church to form the Hillsboro congregation**

Melba Bagley

Randy Bagley

Nancy Ware Bailey

Eddie Durain

Virginia Ford

Angela Ware Heid

Helen Liles

Carolyn Merritt

Othella Millican

Gordene Moore

Jimmy Moore

Nancy Jenkins Moore

Donna Nipper

Barbara Cook Nixon

Patricia Smith

Sarah Voss

J.T. Voss

Anita Ware

## Present Hillsboro Members

BRENDA ALLEN	MACKENZIE LEAL	CHRIS RYNDERS
DAN AKIN	MICHAEL LEAL	ALISSA RYNDERS
RUTH ANDREWS	ROY LEAL	DEBBIE SEXTON
MELBA BAGLEY	ELODIA LEAL	EDDIE SEXTON
RANDY BAGLEY	HELEN LILES	LEE SKELTON
LORI BAGLEY	BONNIE MARISHI	SUMMER SKELTON
MARCELLE BAILEY	VIRGINIA MARCOTT	HANNAH WRIGHT
JUDY BAILEY	KATHY MCKINNEY	BELLE/SOPHIE SKELTON
DAVID BAILEY	JACK MCNUTT	DALLAS SMITH
NANCY BAILEY	JERRY MCNUTT	WANDA SMITH
MONTEZ BOYD	SUSIE MCGOUGH	PATRICIA SMITH
JIMMIE LOU COX	ELIZABETH MCGRAW	MIGNON SORRELLS
ANNIE DAVIS	SHAMILDREANNA MCGRAW	TOM STARNES
PAUL DRYDALE	JERMESHIA MCGRAW	DONNA STARNES
EDDIE DURAIN	MARTY MCVAY	BOBBIE SULEPHEN
DEBRA DURAIN	HEATHER MCVAY	LINDA THOMPSON
CLOVIS DOSTER	BELLA HUBBARD	J.T. VOSS
NIGEL DOWNEY	GREYSEN HUBBARD	SARAH VOSS
ARLENE EDGINGTON	KENNY MERRITT	ELOWESE WALKER
JOHN FIELDS	CAROLYN MERRITT	ANITA WARE
DONNA FIELDS	OTHELA MILLICAN	GENE WELLS
HALEY FIELDS	JIMMY MOORE	ELSIE WELLS
MATTIE FIELDS	NANCY MOORE	CHARLES WHITE
JONATHAN FIELDS	JOHN ED MOORE	REBECCA WHITE
VIRGINIA FORD	GORDENE MOORE	JON WHITE
RAPHAEL FORD	DONNA NIPPER	SHELBY WHITEFIELD
ANTHONY FOREMAN	VICTOR NIPPER	JAXON WHITEFIELD
AMBER FOREMAN	ROBERT NIXON	CHANCE WHITEFIELD
A.J./ADRIANNE FOREMAN	BRANDY NIXON	LISA WHITEFIELD
RANDY GILBERT	KEYLEE NIXON	MADDISON WHITEFIELD
SARA GILBERT	KENNADY/KEATON NIXON	LIAM WHITEFIELD
EMMA GILBERT		BRENT WHITEFIELD
MICHAEL GILBERT	ARLETA STEWART	ROBBIE WILLIAMS
KEITH HARTER	WOODY NIXON	DEBBIE WILLIAMS
SUE HARTER	BARBARA NIXON	FLORENCE WILLIAMSON
DAVE HEID	JOHN NOVICK	DEWAYNE WILLIS
ANGELA HEID	SARAH NOVICK	DIANE WILLIS
JANET HENSLEY	MACKENZIE NOVICK	JAMIE WILLIS
LARRY HOLLIS	ANTHONY O'GUINN	PAIGE MARTINDALE
LANA HOLLIS	HELEN PRIDDY	
IRMA HUNT	DEANE PRITCHARD	
DEBBIE JOHNSON	DOREEN PRITCHARD	
CAROLYN JARRETT	SHAYNE REDDING	
JOE LEAL	NANCY REDDING	
TAMMY LEAL	NICHOLAS RIOS	
SARAH LEAL	NORMA RIOS	

## Former and Current Elders

AB Bailey  
DK Crawford  
Ray Downey  
Larry Walters  
John Meadows  
Ferrell Ware  
Harry Ware  
FD McNutt  
Lindell Simpson  
Lindell Forbes

## Current and Former Deacons

AB Bailey

Arthur Cook

Bernice Garner

Herschel Holt

Bill Jenkins

J.T. Voss

David Bailey

Dicky Nunnally

Eddie Sexton

Dallas Smith

Wayne Gunn

Jim Hatfield, Sr.

Dennis Loggins

Rusty Meadows

Dave Heid

Clarence Johnson

Kenny Merritt

Gary Millican

John Ed Moore

Larry Walters

Randy Bagley

Greg Humphreys

Clay Madar

James Nixon

Robert Nixon

Jeff Stinson

Keith Harter

Victor Nipper

