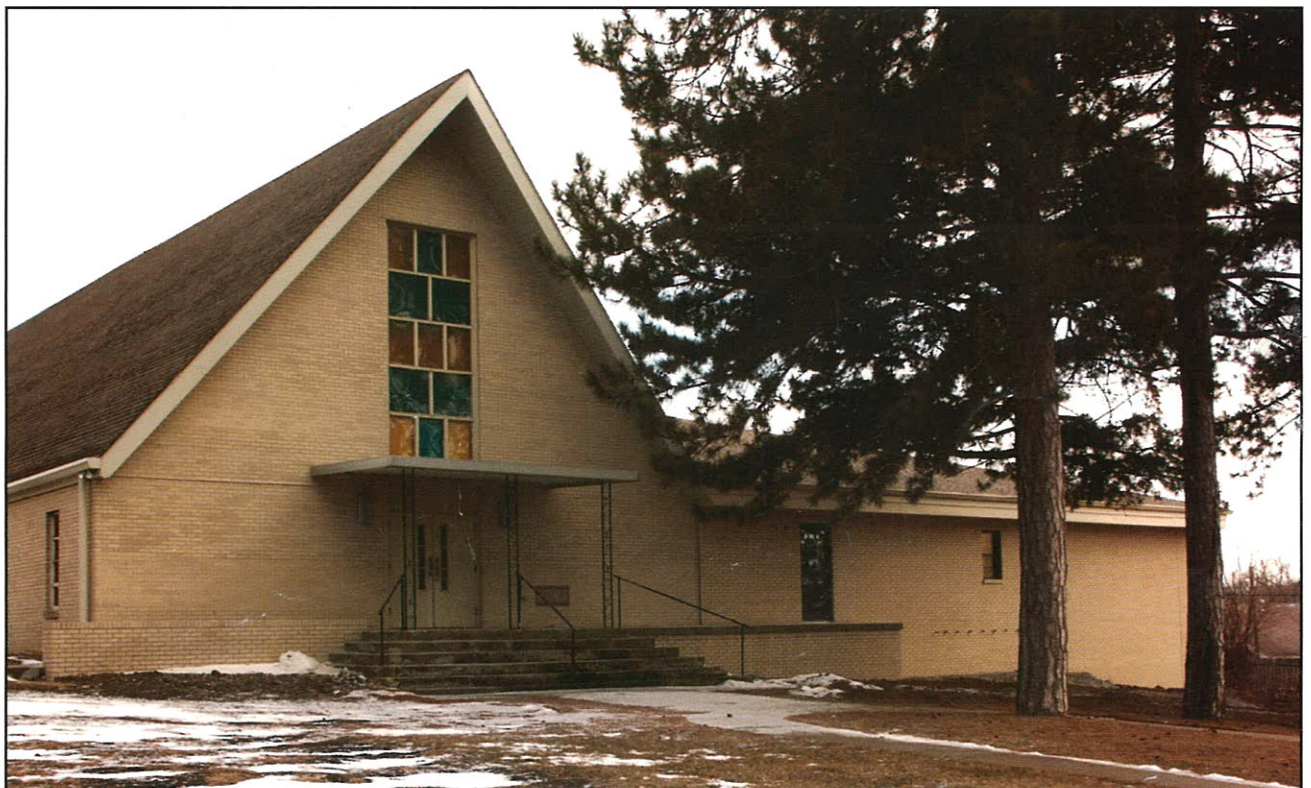




***FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BETHANY, MISSOURI***

***CELEBRATING A CENTURY
OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS***

1903-2003





Randy Comer
Pastor



Ben Bextermueller
Associate Pastor



Karen Parker
Secretary

A Message from the Pastor

In the second chapter of the book of Acts, we see the birth of the church on the day of Pentecost. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said "...the gates of hell..." would not prevail against the church he would build.

First Baptist church of Bethany was born on July 19, 1903. We thank the Lord for the vision, faith and dedication of those who have gone before us. The fruits of their prayers and sacrifice continue until this very day.

Our Centennial theme is "Celebrating a Century of God's Faithfulness." We give our thanks and praise to God for He alone is worthy. The location of the church has changed over the years. The membership and the way they dress as well as the hymns we sing have changed. However, God's Holy and infallible Word changes not. Our 100th anniversary scripture promises us "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

Brother Randy Comer

Deacons



*Bonnie Cummings, Paul Stewart, Wayne Lee
Bud Tharp, Joe Davidson, John Whitt, Rick Turner, Robert Stratton, Dale Mitchell
Delbert Allen, Todd Willhite, Gene Ishmael, Gerald Parker, Richard Turner, Leo Madison.
Not Pictured: Bruce McCall, Lloyd Robertson*

Worship the Lord
in Song



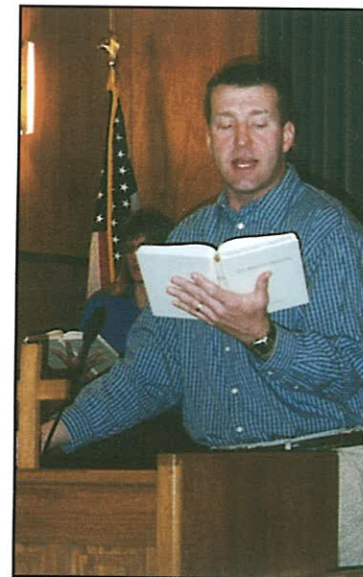
Bette Tharp
~Organist



Choir

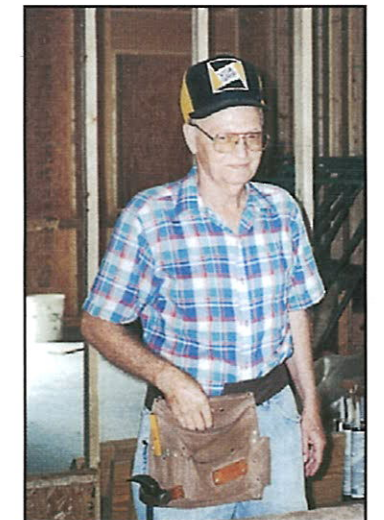
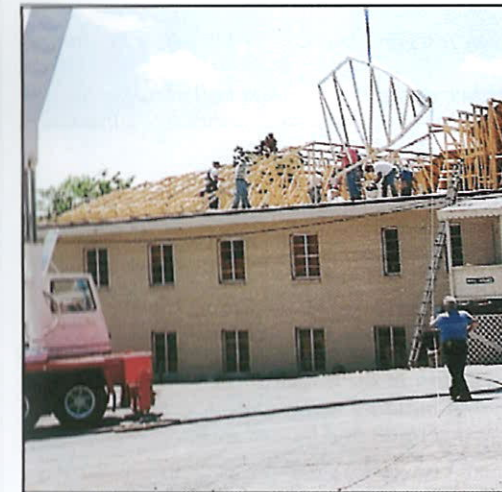
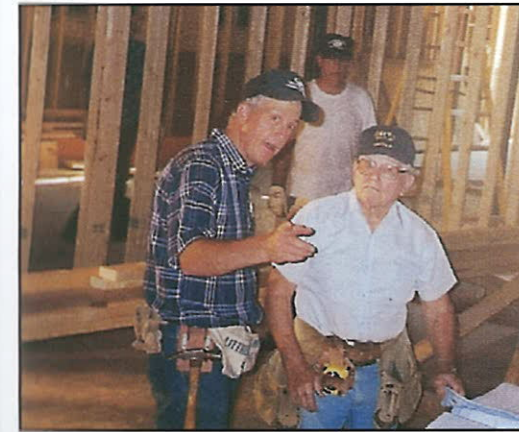


Jeanna Stratton
~Pianist



Larry Linthacum
~Song Leader

Building Together
for a
Heavenly Harvest



First Baptist Church - History

1903—1909

July, 1903 - A tent was erected on the Noll lots, a block northeast of the first church building.
July 19, 1903 - A call was made for all Baptist people to assemble in the tent for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. Twenty-nine desired to be members. The church became known as First Baptist Church of Bethany, Missouri. The I.O.O.F. hall off the southeast corner of the square was the home of the church for five years.
1906 - A campaign was launched to build a new church building.
April 12, 1908 - Dedication of the new brick building a block off the northeast corner of the square was held.
1909 - Bro. H. P. Kelly of Stanberry was called as pastor.

1910—1919

1913 - After Bro. Kelly's resignation, and with the church being in a weakened condition, it was decided to discontinue Sunday school. But Mrs. George Arney and Bertha Wagoner refused to give up. The next Sunday, four girls responded to the ringing bell, and attendance slowly began to grow.
Nov. 1913 - Bro. A. K. Williams became pastor.
1913-1919 - The church had three other pastors. The church was having half time preaching and the membership dropped.

1920—1929

1920 - Rev. W. O. Dotson was called as pastor.
1923 - Feeling the church needed a full time pastor on the field, Bro. Dotson resigned because of his wife's health and the impossibility of him moving to town.
Dec. 2, 1923 - Rev. Benton Attebery, a native of Bethany and a charter member of the church, was called as pastor.
1927 - Mrs. Mary Selby passed away, bequeathing \$1,000.00 to the church to be invested and the interest to be used each year as her pledge for the pastor's salary.

1930—1939

1931 - The church was beginning to outgrow its accommodations.
1932 - Church membership was 191.
1933 - First Vacation Bible School was held.
1938 - Church membership was 363 and Sunday School enrollment was 228.
Sept. 1938 - Bro. Carl McIntire came on the field. Bro. Mac felt God had called him to Bethany for the purpose of relieving the housing problem. A structure of two floors and a basement were built in the alleyway south of the church.
Jan. 8, 1939 - We moved into our new quarters and everyone was in the church building worshipping together again.
Dec. 31, 1939 - Bro. Mac, having a malignant throat problem preached his last sermon and passed away six weeks later.

1940—1949

Oct. 1940 - Revival meeting saw 35 additions (25 by baptism). The following spring, revival brought 33 more additions.
1943 - Purchased our first parsonage on S. 22nd Street.
1946 - \$1,500.00 was taken from the general fund and put in a building fund.
1948 - Voted to give a percentage of our offerings to missions.

1950—1959

1954 - Adopted the Articles of Agreement of Incorporation.
1955 - Rented an apartment across the street to house the ever growing Junior Sunday School Department. Sunday school attendance averaged 235.
1957 - Purchased a 150 x 300 foot lot for \$12,000.00, with money left to start another building fund account.
1959 - Started the Tenth Street Mission Church.

1960—1969

Feb. 1961 - Entered into a contract with Sutton Construction to erect a new building.
June 4, 1961 - Held our Cornerstone Laying Ceremony.
Oct. 29, 1961 - Held our first service in our new building.
Nov. 26, 1961 - Dedication Service held.
Jan. 1963 - Hired janitors to clean the church.
1963 - Sunday school attendance averaging over 250.
1966 - Hired our first secretary.
1968 - Installed air conditioning.

1970—1979

1971 - Did our first church directory.
Oct. 1971 - Purchased a different parsonage on Vandivert Street.
Oct. 31, 1971 - Held a Note Burning Ceremony of paying off the church debt.
1973 - Purchased two busses and began a Bus Ministry and Children's Church.
Aug. 1974 - Called our first Assistant to the Pastor.
1976 - Average Sunday school attendance was 238, average Worship attendance was 273, and bus attendance was 62.
Oct. 29, 1978 - Began Radio Broadcast on KAAN.

1980—1989

1982 - Average Sunday school attendance was 180, and average Worship attendance was 221.
Mar. 1983 - Purchased new lights for the sanctuary.
Nov. 1983 - Gave \$50.00 per month toward the salary of a pastor ministering in Southeast Iowa Southern Baptist Association.
1985 - Received a new sound system as a memorial for Clarence Clarke.
Jan. 1986 - Remodeled the sanctuary, completed the balcony, installed new windows and new carpet.
Sept. 12-14, 1986 - Held a Lay Renewal Weekend.
Dec. 1986 - Gave Lincoln St. Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, \$2,761.31, which was the tithe we had voted to give on the remodeling.

1990—1999

Nov. 1990 - Purchased new hymnals.
Apr. 1991 - Put a new roof on the sanctuary.
Dec. 1991 - Paid \$50.00 per month to First Baptist Church, Blythedale, MO for their pastor's support.
Feb. 1995 - Participated in the MBC church link-up partnership with a church in Belarus, taking a love offering for them each November until 2002 when the partnership ended.
May, 1995 - Established a Long Range Planning Committee.
Aug. 1995 - Updated our membership roll.
Aug. 1996 - Became a part of the Harrison Baptist Association.
Oct. 1996 - Gave away the house on the property north of the church, which we had purchased, and made a parking lot there.
1997 - Average Sunday school attendance was 189, average Worship attendance was 213, and VBS enrollment was 192.

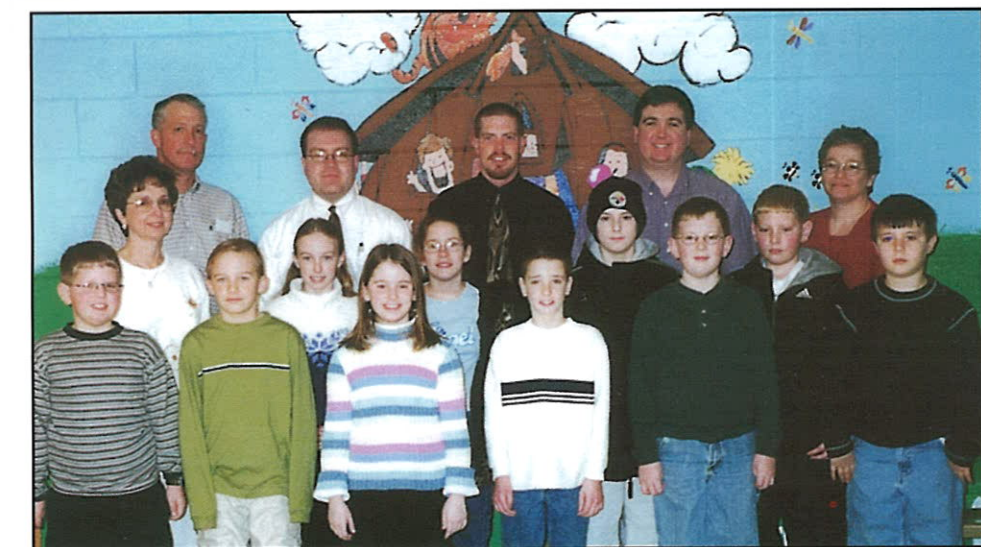
2000 to Present

Jan. 2000 - Voted to hire an architect for a new addition.
July, 2000 - Purchased a house in Oakland Ave. and the youth are using it for Sunday school and their Wednesday night program.
Nov. 2000 - Approved the proposed building plans.
June 3, 2001 - Held a kick-off banquet and contribution commitment for our new addition. \$338,585.00 was pledged for the building fund.
2001 - Average Sunday school attendance was 182, average Worship attendance was 211 and VBS enrollment was 208.
Mar. 17, 2002 - Held our Ground Breaking Service.
June, 2002 - Volunteer groups, "Builders for Christ" and "Workers for Christ" each spent a week working on framing in and putting the roof on the new building. Church people have since worked one night each week on finishing the building.
Dec. 2002 - We are still debt free on our building addition.
Jan. 2003 - We are doing our seventh church directory, which will be our Centennial Directory.
July 19, 20, 2003 - We are planning our 100th anniversary and the dedication of our new addition, "Celebrating a Century of God's Faithfulness" to us. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

*A Godly
Heritage...*



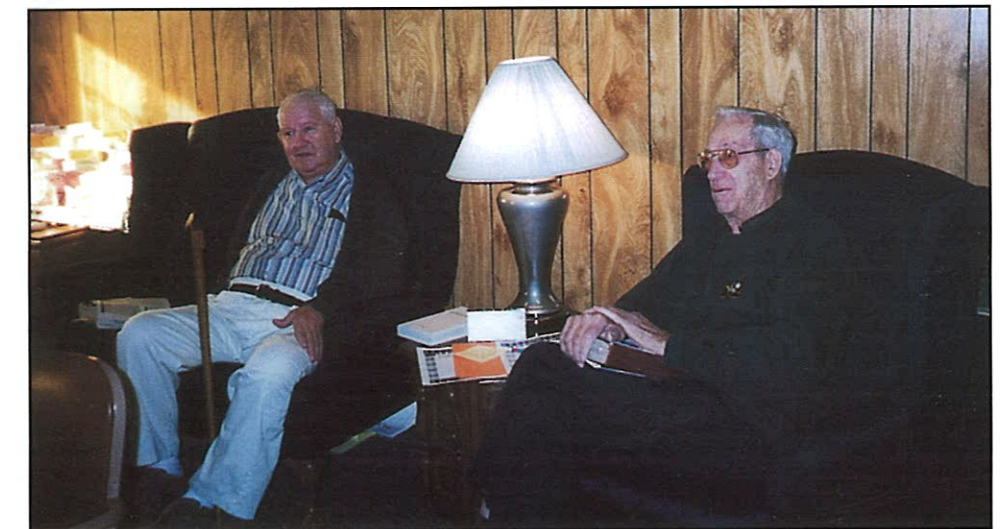
*... A Lasting
Legacy*



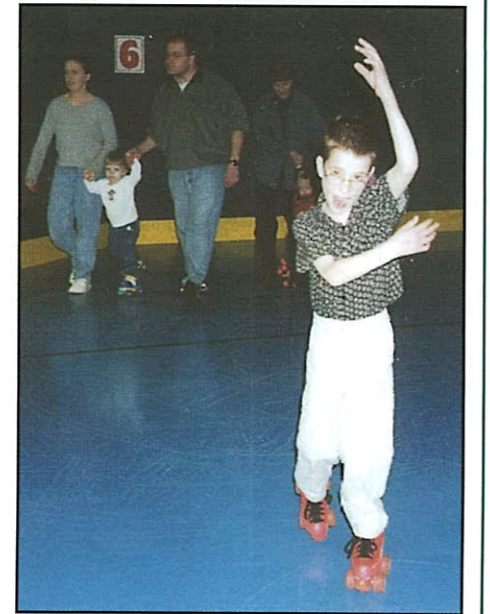
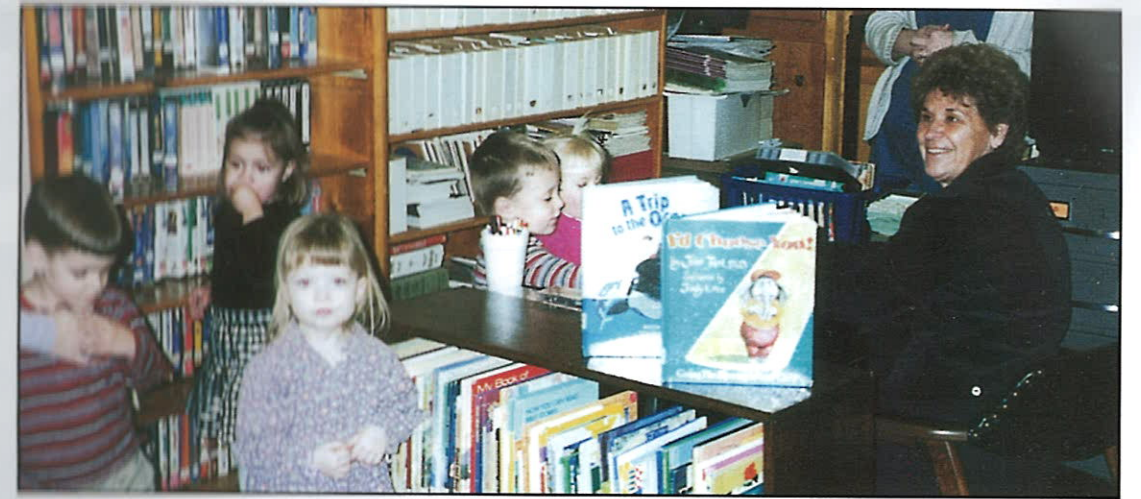
*A Godly
Heritage...*



*... A Lasting
Legacy*

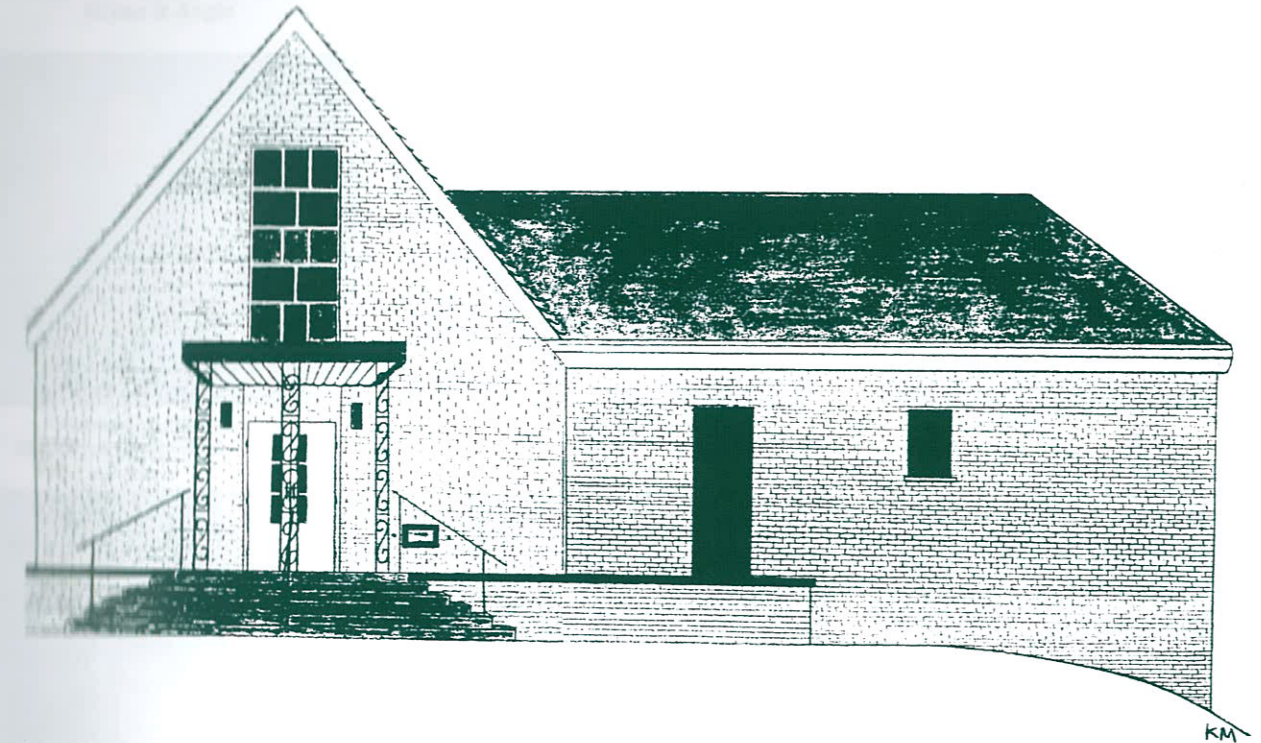


A Godly
Heritage...





Our Church Family





Scott & Becky Adkins,
Heather, Josh & Bailey



Delbert & Alice Allen



Jerry & Etta Antle



Dave & Patricia Barnett,
Bryan & Angie



Kenneth & Jeanne Barnett



Deloris Bartlett



Chris & Angie Bauer,
Madison, Kennedy & Avery



John & Joan Beals



Ben Bextermueller



Scott & Sarah Billups
& Ethan



Brian & Greta Bottcher
& Jacob



Jeff & Tiffany Bottcher



Brad & Jenny Bowman,
Greg, Justin & Dereck



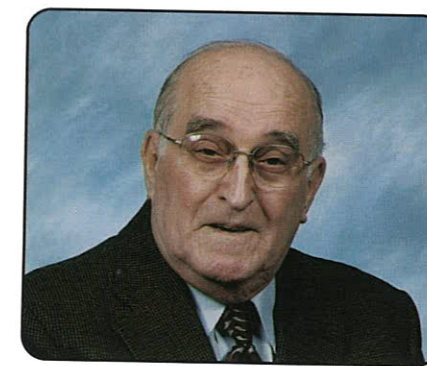
Craig & Karen Brown



Norman & Tasha Bullock



Becky Creasey,
Wyatt & Emily



Bonnie Cummings



Gus & Felecia Curry,
Scott & Abby



Terry & Elaine Bullock



Alois & Raye Butler



Clabe Coffman



Joseph & Jo Ann Davidson,
Adler & Erik



Eddie & Barbara Eaton



Jeff & Joyce Ellis,
Samantha, Sophia & Sara
& Masha Zalutskaya



Earle Coleman



Randy & Sheena Comer
& Alissa



Dennis & Darlene Conover,
Chase, Justin & Scott



Lance & Kim Fish,
Zachary & Joshua



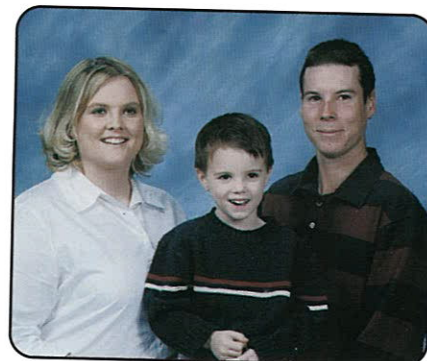
Brenda Flood,
Melissa, Kaylee & Austin



George & Mary Ann Frazier



Helen Courter



Aaron & Carrie Cracraft
& Jayse



Greg & Jeanne Cracraft
& Misty



Howard Gilgour



Wayne & Opal Guernsey



Terry & Chris Hall,
Sarah, Scott, Kimberly
& David



Jeff & Sabra Hamilton,
Ashley & Zack



Tom & Carma Hansel,
Brett & Mandy



Ora Hatten



James & Wanda King



Verniece King



Leslie & Helen Kinnison



Darlene Heldenbrand



Joann Hillyard



Jack & Diana Hodge



Dean & Nora Kitchen



Randy & Cheryl Klingensmith,
Adam & Jake



Floyd & Georgia Lacy



Darryl & June Hutchison



Gene & Linda Ishmael



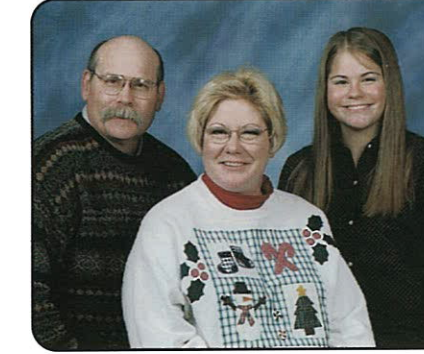
Bernard & Mary Jincks



Rex Lacy



Wayne & Joyce Lee



Bill & Janee Lehlitner
& Kristin



Lance & Jan Johns



Lester & Terri Johns



Kelly & Traci Kadolph,
Zach & Logan,
Kalsey & Matt Higley



Bill & Tammy Lenhart,
Johnathan & Creed



Jim & Sherry LeRette



Larry & Angie Linthacum,
Micah & Sarah



Dennis & Maggie Lisle



Robert & Mildred Loman



Louise Long



Carolyn Montgomery



Dena Montgomery
& Harleigh Fletchal



Rick Montgomery,
Tiffany & Alynn



Brandi Loving



Leo & Sharol Madison,
Ryan & Brad



Gary & Kathie Marrs,
Amanda & Chris



Helen Morgan



Larry & Janet Morgan



David & Carol Mulnix



Reva Mayse



Bruce & Rita McCall
& Kim



Melissa McLain



John & Sharon Murphy,
Ethan & Lily



Nadine Nicholls



Juanita Packer



Steve & Lisa Miles,
Sam & Ben



Mildred Miller



Dale & Doris Mitchell



Gerald & Kay Parker



Richard & Karen Parker



Leora Parman



Doug & Diane Peterson,
Sydney, Paige & Spencer



Gwendolyn Price



Norma Price



Alma Simpson



Stuart & Peggy Slatten



Carl & Kathryn Smith



Robert & Jana Price,
Kristen & Brennen



Clarence & Carolyn Rinehart



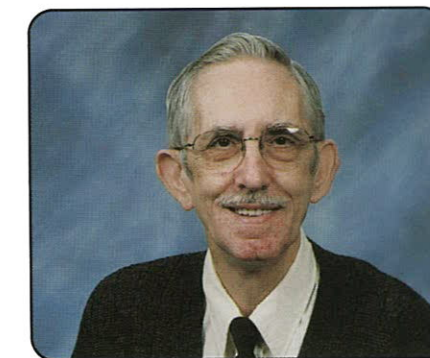
Peggy Rinehart



Chad & Shelly Smith,
Baylee & Kaitlyn



Mike & Mandi Smith
& Chloe



Al Joe Spence



Lavona Rodgers



Mike & Shelly Rogers
& Anderson



Blanche Ross



Lorine Stewart



Paul & Ethel Stewart



Jeanna Stratton



Gladys Schmidt



Geneva Scott



Eugena Sherer



Robert & Frances Stratton



Eric & Kathy Sweat,
Morganne & Andrew



Joyce Sweeten



Eugene & Maurine Taylor



Grace Thacker



Bud & Bette Tharp



Greville & Connie Willis



Eldon & Sue Woodward



Jackie & Betty Wynne



Dean & Jean Thompson



Richard & Dorthy Turner



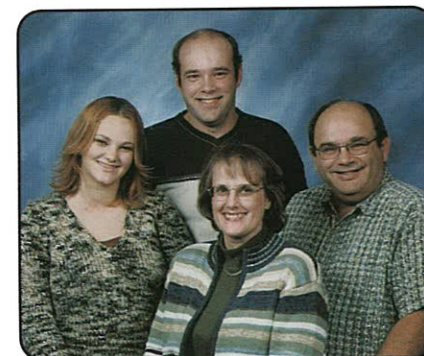
Rick Turner



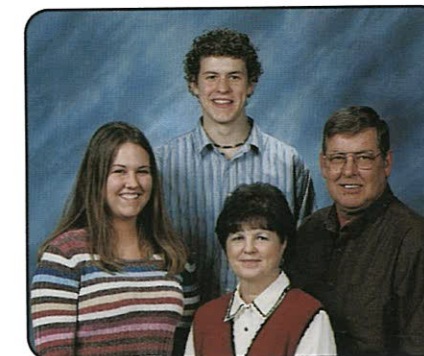
Doretta Youngman



Cleo & Anita Zimmerman



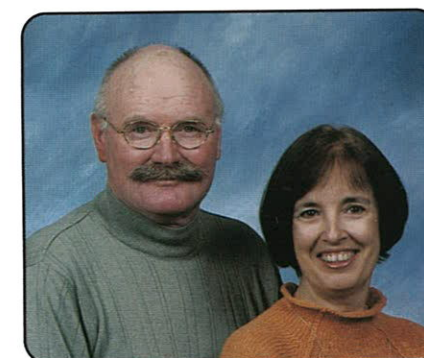
Ken & Lois Vandiver,
Bryan & Shellie



Randy & Linda Watson,
Alyssa & Adam



Richard & Phyllis Westlake



John Jr. & Marcia Whitt



Marilyn Wilkinson



Todd & Julie Willhite,
Sarah, Michael & Steven

THOSE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PICTURES



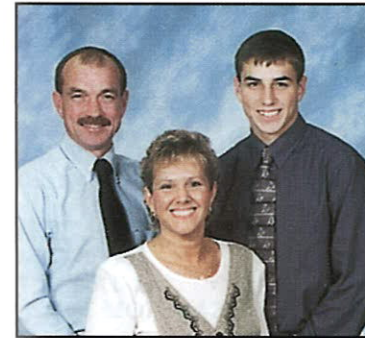
Lee & Nadine Hammack



Nile & June Lampkin



LaVerne & Eloise Madison



Gary & Charmayne Robertson
& Garret



Lloyd & Norma Robertson



Lee & Imogene Rinehart



Lois Willis



Arlene Wilson