

THE HISTORY OF THE LILES BROTHERHOOD CLASS

The compilation of the information appearing in this resume has been secured by contact with many class members, and other persons who have personal knowledge or remembrance. This resume is not to be considered as final, as it is felt that there are other individuals who could have some interesting facts to relate, and that it could be acknowledged in the form of a supplement, or a sequel to this letter.

Prior to the organization of the "Liles Brotherhood Class," the following data can be used by documentation.

In the album of the class activities, there is a picture taken of the "East Lake Brotherhood Class," date being 1915. As best as can be determined, there were eighty-one in the group. The class became known as the Liles Brotherhood at a later date, but it cannot be documented as to a definite date.

Mr. Liles was a very active Methodist layman and represented this church in many layman activities, as well as being a representative in other capacities in the North Alabama conference of Methodism. It is understood that he was employed by the government as a Farm Agent in this area. It has not been possible to contact any family members surviving to get more detailed information concerning Mr. Liles.

Mr. Liles activities as farm agent brought him into contact with the youth in conjunction with the 4-H farm program. He attended many camps with them in this connection. Mr. J. R. Trucks recalls some of the action taking place at that time, having lived in the Pinson area in his earlier years. He has a picture of an award made in some of the judging that was made during that era, --- a procedure called "clipping of the ears" of the pork stock that was raised by the youth in the 4-H program. This was a recognition of the excellence in attaining this coveted award so desired by the youth active in the program.

In 1924 Mr. D.C. Williams, who is a present member, was invited to come to East Lake Church by Mr. L. A. Whetstone. In 1925 the class moved to the basement of the old church. Some of the members were Clisby Aldridge, Dave Blackerby, George Busby, D.A. Clements, A.C. Witte, D.C. Williams, A.G. Gay, Murph Golder, Dan Traywick. D. A. Clements was the father-in-law of Ed Blackburn. He was a member of the class for many years.

In 1928 Mr. Cecil Holliman, who is presently a member, joined the class. Mr. Liles was teacher of the class at that time. As best can be determined Mr. Frank Dominick probably taught before Mr. Liles--probably earlier than 1924.

When the class met on the top floor of the present Sunday School building, the membership was approximately 250.

Our "Bud" E.W. Weir was the president of the class when the plaque bearing the name "Liles Brotherhood Class 1958", was placed over the entrance to Wesley Hall. The Class activities album bears an entry concerning a resolution under date of April 19, 1958.

In this resolution the membership was stated as having 300 with average attendance of 180. The membership grew and in 1959, the enrollment reached 330 with average attendance of 200. In this year, Louis Harper was elected President and installed in October 1959. Tom Mann was First Vice President, A.B. Hale was 2nd Vice President. Mr. A.B. Hale was a U.S. district court reporter. During this period, membership crested at 350 and enjoyed the distinction of being the second largest men's class in the southeast, the largest being from the state of Texas. Much of the credit for the growth of the class was attributed to Mr. Hale and the many workers that were so active in this era of time. All of them contributed to this growth with their dedicated efforts. Many of those members are still members of the class and still active in some type of ministry for the class members.

On display in the kitchen, near the telephone, is an attendance award made to the Liles Brotherhood Class with the names of J.D. Albright, J. O. Harrison, S.B. Lanier (grandfather of Pat Hearon), Jack Harrison, J.L. Jenkins. It is understood that the plaque and lettering was done by S.B. Lanier, deceased. All of the aforementioned names are still active class members, with the exception of S.B. Lanier. An additional contribution was made to the class and the church and it is being used to this date, that being the podium which is used in Wesley Hall which was given by Mr. S.B. Lanier.

"God's Box". This is the wrought iron stand with box atop that was given to the class by Mr. George Payne. The purpose of the box was for members to contribute to a Love Offering. This offering was to be used to aid members whose circumstances were such to warrant this type of ministry.

A portrait of Mr. Liles is on display in Wesley Hall.

It would be well to note some of the causes this class has supported over the years and several are documented in the class activity album. Taking note of this would be a letter under date of October 2, 1959, to Mr. M.E. Stone from Birmingham Baptist Hospitals, 718 Tuscaloosa Avenue and 2236 Highland Avenue in regards to a bill for hospitalization for Cathy Cunningham expressing thanks for the contribution of \$210.25 to be applied to her hospital expenses for a worthy cause for the little girl.

The George Turner Class has been the sponsor of the present Boy Scout Troop 14 for many years. For a period of time following 1950 the Liles Class sponsored Troop 214. The troop ceased to exist a number of years ago. The Liles Class sometimes helps Troop 14 by contributing money for their causes. On May 7, 1959 there was an article appearing in the Eastern Sun newspaper recognizing E.W. Weir as President and Ed Blackburn Chairman of the troop committee.

The class was also noted to have annual breakfasts in East Lake Park. The men in the class did the cooking. Some of the scenes for this activity also are documented by photos appearing in the class album. Dave Gammage was a mainstay in preparing these annual breakfasts, being in charge of the cooking.

"Senior Citizens" activities as it is known today was organized by Dr. Foster Gamble in December 1958. He was a loyal member of the Liles Brotherhood Class for many years, being in the Lord's service as associate pastor of East Lake United Methodist Church. His widow survives him, and she is active in teaching Sunday School classes today.

The list of living past presidents are many, some having served two terms, and most are active class members. The year of service is shown opposite each name, if known.

Eugene C. Cole	George Payne	Chris Nichols '82
Giles S. Combs '77	David Gammage '66	Bill Rickets '78
Robert Crotty '80-'81	Joe Jones '75	Richard Milam '79
Jimmy Dunion	Jas. L. Jenkins '83	Tommie Miller '76
Murry Lyte	Jerome Lindsay '67	E.W. Weir '58
James Fenn	H.G. Lord '73	Carl Thompson
Sid L. Gunter '74	Tom Mann '60-'61	

As best can be ascertained at this date, the line of succession of teachers would be Frank Dominick, J.L. Liles, Ed Blackburn. In 1955 Ed Blackburn left East Lake Methodist Church for about two years to attend the Huffman Methodist Church, which was the nearest church at that time to his new home in Killough Springs. He and his family returned to East Lake in 1957. In 1955 the class was taught for a short term by a Dr. Sutherland, a chemistry teacher at Howard College. He moved from town and Frank James was selected. He taught until his heart failed about 1967 or 1968. Ed Blackburn returned at that time. He left the Friendship Class as teacher to teach the Liles Brotherhood Class at the request of the class and the Rev. Robert W. Bugg.

During their life span, we find that D.C. Wann, Bob Bohannon and George Pierce were serving as able assistants.

The class has been fortunate to have had such a gifted and dedicated member as Bebe Mann to serve as pianist and vocalist over the "short 39 years" as she has expressed, and is continuing to serve in that capacity.

Since the early 70's Percy Bundy has served as chairman of the Ministry of this class. His dedication and consistent fulfillment of these responsibilities is beyond words of expression, and the class is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated member. These duties come under the Sunshine Committee which Percy is head.

To assist the Sunshine Committee in fulfilling the ministry within the class, you will find many members involved in mailing cards, making telephone calls and visitations to shut-ins. Presently serving on a church visitation program are James Fenn, Tom Morris, Jake Albright, Tom Latham. Their visitations include class members as well.

If you need a hot cup of coffee and some fellowship, come to the "Coffee Room" and you will find Vernon Wilson, Cecil Rayburn and Charles Sutherland most every Sunday morning, as well as Bob Bundy. The fellowship hour is held about 15 minutes before class and you get to greet each and every member, and it does one good to know that this is an important factor in this class association. We try not to have a STRANGER in our midst.

Many vocations are represented in this group, some are still working, many are now retired and many are engaged in some type of church activity.

Traditionally, on the second Friday night at or about 6:30, during the month of December, this class has a Christmas banquet, which has been held annually for a number of years. It is the gathering of members and their wives, and is also open to others who desire to attend.

The present class enrollment is 98 with an average attendance of 63. The Secretary-Treasurer is L.H. Crumbley who has served in this capacity for the past eight years. The member who joined this class the first Sunday in September 1936 is Mr. R.R. McClellan, who was 95 on December 20, 1983. Mr. D.C. Williams is a charter member with membership dating to 1924 and is still active.

The class officers for 1984 are:

F.L. "Chick" Ray	President	Robert Day	Introduction of Visitors
H. G. Lord	Vice Pres.	Tom Morris	Asst Introduction of Visit.
L.H. Crumbley	Sec.-Treas.	Tom Mann	Recognition of Birthdays
Robert Hovater	Asst. School Secy.	Earl Boudrow	Asst Recognition of Birth.
Percy Bundy	Sunshine Committee	Visitation	Total Class Participating
Tom Lucius	Song Director	Collectors	L.O. Harris
E.W. Weir	Asst. Song Director		Robert Hovater
Bebe Mann	Pianist		
Ed Blackburn	Teacher		

Ministerial Members for Class Services

Jake Albright	Robert Crotty
Dwight Aders	Tommie Miller
Earl Boudrow	Tom Mann
Giles S. Combs	Robert Day

It is the intent that this resume would be adopted by the class in its corrected form to be made a record of the activities album. It is the hope that a continuing annual record be made and posted in the class activity album and that a proper action be taken to assure this being done by future class officers.