

Turner Hill Missionary Baptist Chyd.

Turner Hill Rd. LL # 121. 16th. Dist. DeKalb Co.

Lithonia Dist.

Nov. 7, 1939.

① Cannon, Calvin E. 8/4/1854

② Cannon, Martha M. 5/18/1859 - 3/27/1935

W. of Calvin E. C.

③ Mann, Lura Cleland. 1851 - 1930.

W. of Jno. A. M.

④ Parker, Leroy Mrs. - 1917 - 1934.

⑤ Ragsdale, Annie Laura. - 2/9/1923 - 2/13/1931.

Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. E. T. R.

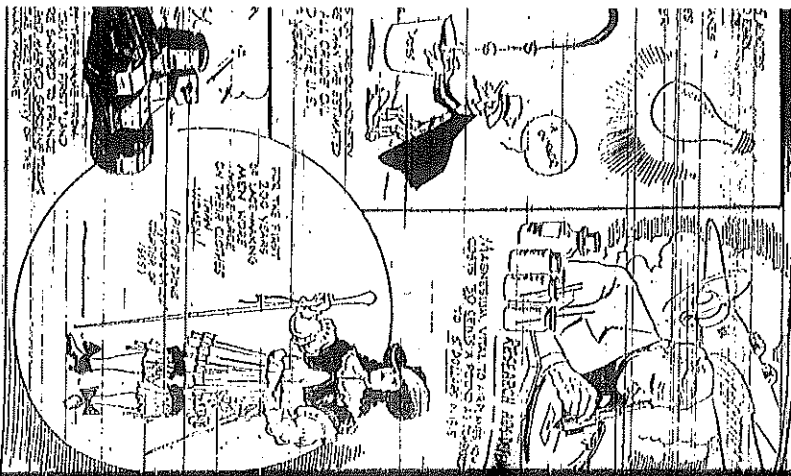
⑥ Smith, Myrtis E. White. - 6/12/1895 - 4/13/1930.

W. of E. G. S.

⑦ Turner, Chas. Jr. - 1/6/1922 - 6/12/1934.

Son of Mr. & Mrs. C. O. T.

POCKET BOOK KNOWLEDGE



Use of Women Voters

Next woman in the non-competitive system has been Mrs. M. J. ... Letter from the ...

GENTLEMEN FARMERS' TOMATO CONTEST

DeKalb Businessmen County Officers Heated Competition to Raise Largest Specimen By AL KUEPNER

The story of a contest. Now don't stop reading so ... this week threaten to assume the proportions of ...

Schools, Churches Charities May Lose Endowment Funds ...

James Piper, Crash Victim, Buried Monday

Stone Mountain Youth Killed in Auto Accident

Funeral services for James Piper ... Stone Mountain Youth Killed in Auto Accident ...

What Is a Republican? ...

DeKalb Survey To Determine Realty Status

County, WPA to Finance Project Costing \$43,000

At a cost of approximately \$43,000, DeKalb County and the WPA are beginning a cadastral survey of real estate in the entire county, exclusive of Decatur and the portion of Atlanta inside the county. The purpose of the survey is to determine the status of all property in the county and the preservation of the survey in the form of a map of every block. These plans will be kept in the tax assessor's office of the county together with individual maps of every house in the county. The maps will carry such information as ...

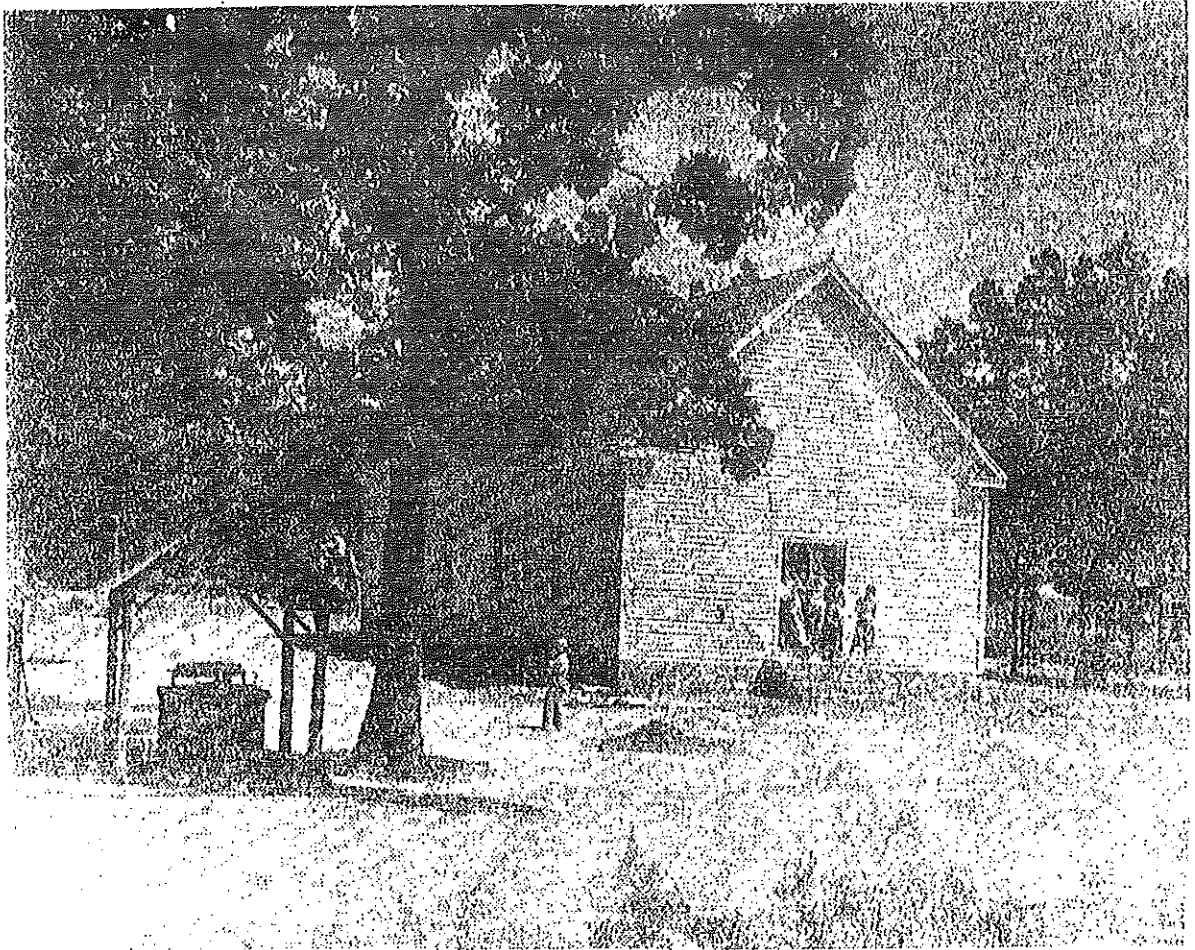
What Is a Republican? ...

Atlanta is famed all over the nation for its homes and magnificent residential districts. A notable progress is being made in the homes and magnificent residential districts of the districts that aren't heard of. 4,800 of the standard dwellings in Atlanta already been torn down or will be torn down.

Interview showing completed structure prepared for Clark Howell Howell construction.

Preface
By
Sister Ellen Reagin Frix

Just before the ending of the 18th century, a need for a place to worship created the beginning of a church that was to be constituted and later to be known as Turner Hill Baptist Church. The first services were held in the Old County Line School building which was located at the corner of Rockland Road and McDaniel Road. The circumstances, preacher, and records on how these services were conducted are not available.



On October 13, 1900 it is believed that the people met in the school house to constitute the church. The Presbytery was made of members from Rockdale Baptist Church and Macedonia Baptist Church. The Constitution, the Decorum, the Order of Conference and the first conference are recorded on the next pages in their original context with all wording and spelling unaltered. Keep in mind these clerks were mostly hard-working farmers with a strong desire to have a place to worship and to document what is now our church history. Our current Decorum is also recorded on these pages.

1900 — 1953

One of the first committees that was formed was the Finance Committee and as you can see at the first conference, six women were chosen to be on this committee. The first expenses of many more to come were the corner stone that cost \$1.50 and the collection of \$1.60 for Brother W. H. Cox who had been elected the pastor. There were good times and bad times, and when times were hard and money was hard to come by, the church treasury had as little as 25 cents in it.

A deed for one acre of land was given to the church by Brother E. L. Turner on November 22, 1900.

A motion to change the name from Turner Hill to Turner's Chapel was made in November 1900 but was reconsidered and the name was changed back to Turner Hill in December 1900.

There were several men that came to the church by letter as deacons. However, the first deacon to be ordained in the new church was Brother John Shaw on April 27, 1901

On September 13, 1901 the church joined the Second Georgia Baptist Association, but the Association disbanded in 1907. Turner Hill joined the South River Association in 1908 and remained there until 1909 when Turner Hill Church was dismissed to join the Pleasant Grove Association as a charter member on October 28, 1910. There were seven other churches that were also charter members of this fledgling Association: Bay Creek, Pleasant Grove, Gloster, Sharon, Pleasant Hill (Rockdale), Union Grove and Honey Creek. In 1916 Turner Hill hosted the Association for the first time, and would continue to host the Association many more times in years to come.

Our forefathers set an example which many would follow in years to come. Help was needed to build this new church so members and non-members pitched in and began to build the church. It was a wood structure with two single doors in the front and two in the back of the church. There were three rows of wooden slat benches, a wood-burning stove, kerosene lamps and a row of posts running through the center of the church. There were three windows on each side, and during the summer months if you wanted to sit by a window, you had to arrive early. (Cardboard fans that had been donated from funeral homes were a welcome sight as they could be used to help ease the heat). Likewise, if you wanted to be warm during the winter time you would get to church early to get close to the wood or coal stove. That's why the preachers will make the spiritual comparison of getting close to God and the pulpit where the gospel is being preached by telling the members, "if you want to get warm then get close to the fire".

As the singing and preaching began to fill the church and revivals began to be held, the gospel began to spread, and the congregation soon outgrew the church. At this point, the windows became a means for people who could not get into the church to be able to hear the service. It was not uncommon to see people standing at the door or the windows, and even sitting on the hoods of their cars because there was not enough room in the church.

Babies on pallets around the pulpit, some sleeping, some playing, a pot-bellied stove, a coal box, kerosene lamps, dippers, cardboard fans, horse-drawn buggies, and outhouses were some of the things that were as much a part of the church and facilities as the people themselves.

1900 — 1953

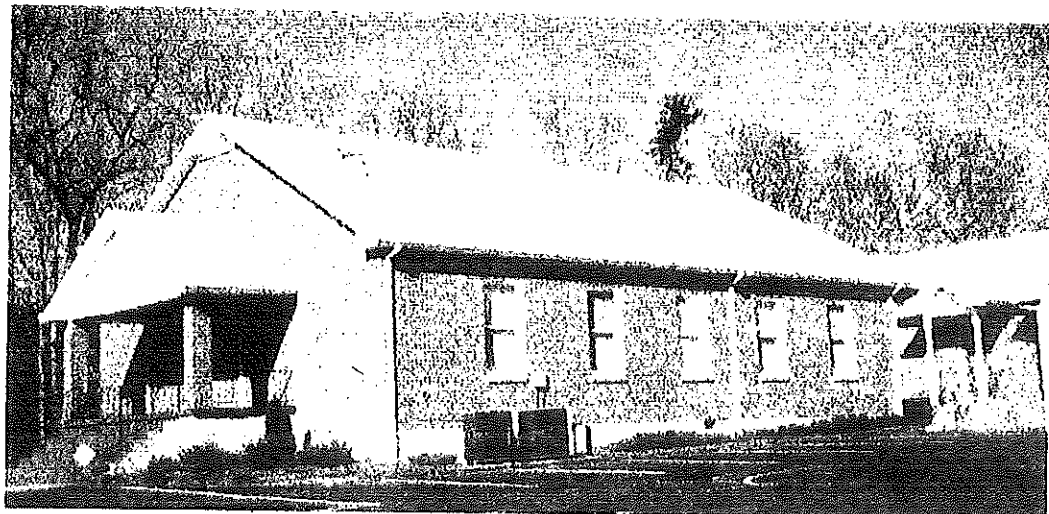
Aside from being filled with the spiritual water of life being preached, there was also the natural well, with a water bucket and dipper that were kept handy to help quench the natural thirst. There was nothing like drawing a good cool bucket of water and drinking from the dipper. However, something would occasionally happen to the well and it would have to be cleaned out. There was one time, after being frustrated from not having water, that a committee was appointed to GET SOME WATER. Running water was not a luxury until 1977.

Over the years Sunday meetings have been held at different times of the month. During the early years of the church, preachers had to be shared between several churches, so in the beginning meetings were held once a month on the 2nd Sunday of each month and in 1913 it was changed to the 1st Sunday of each month. Later on we met on the first and third Sunday of each month, and we started meeting full time (every Sunday in the month) in 1987. The weather, planting, harvesting and whether there was a need for a conference played an important part in determining the number of conferences held each year.

The membership roll for Turner Hill numbered 52 members when we joined the Pleasant Grove Association. The first membership roll in 1913 indicated 67 persons, and by 1921 we had grown to 62 members. Currently, our membership roll contains 151 people.

In 1930 there was a 10-foot addition to the length of the church and double doors were put in the front with single doors being placed on the side. There were two rows of new benches installed. On October 16, 1931, a committee was appointed to see about and advise as to whether or not to build a new church. This committee was compiled of five men and two women. A committee was appointed on November 1931 to see each member of the church for a donation toward the church treasury for the building fund.

In 1939 the words "Let there be light" took on a new meaning when electricity was installed. For the next 14 years many repairs would be done on the church including painting, roofing, underpinning, and installing screens on doors and windows. The official "go-ahead" to build a new church was given on March 1953.



1953 — 2000

By

Sister Lurene Richardson Emerick

Almost 53 years passed before the members of Turner Hill Baptist Church considered building a new church in which to worship.

It was decided on March 14, 1953 to build a new brick church that would be 40 feet by 60 feet in dimension. The cost was estimated by Brother Harry Spivey to be approximately \$6200 up to the brick stage of the construction. The location of the new church would be to the right of the old church.

The building committee, having already been selected, was ready to start construction. Lumber that was needed was obtained from trees cut from Brother Aaron Lowe's property on Turner Hill Road. The timber was purchased from him and sized at the mill according to the need or swapped for needed lumber.

The male members of the church wanted to do as much of the construction as possible. They met every Saturday for months working on the church. The wives and female members prepared lunch on Saturdays to feed all the workers. Reverend Harvie Singleton was the pastor during this time and he worked right along with the members. The building of the new church was a perfect example of fellowship and working together as I feel God intends for us to do.

Although the outside was not complete with the brick, the interior was completed and ready for services. The church would be bricked later that year, but the first service was held in the new church on August 14, 1954. Our new church had something special which would make Turner Hill Church a little different from a lot of the churches in the neighborhood — a floor that was raised from front to back, allowing those in the back of the church to have a clear view just as easily as those members who were sitting up front.

On April 19, 1958, the church authorized the selection of a fund committee to raise the money needed for the addition of Sunday School rooms. All of the classes had been meeting in the sanctuary until this time. In January 1959, a committee was appointed to inquire about the building of the Sunday School rooms. In April 1960 it was decided to start construction of the rooms. The next major addition came in June 1962 with the additions of the bathrooms. At the same time we added rails around the porch and the steps. Through the years we progressed from attic fans to air conditioning in 1971; heating and air conditioning for the Sunday School rooms in 1972; additional Sunday School rooms in 1972; carpeting; from well water to county water in 1977.

1953 — 2000

On September 20, 1993, during a thunderstorm, tragedy struck Turner Hill Baptist Church when lightning hit the church in one of the Sunday School rooms. As word spread of the incident, many members gathered at the church with tears streaming down their faces, to witness what would become to them, the biggest tragedy in the history of our church. Although the church is just a building, it has also been a home to us — one that has provided our spiritual growth. Before the fire could be contained by the fire department, the Sunday School rooms had been completely ruined. Although the fire did not actually progress into the sanctuary, the sanctuary was heavily damaged from smoke and water. Songbooks, furniture, and the interior would have to be completely replaced. One thing that survived the fire though, was Peter Myers' Bible laying on the back bench of the church and he still uses that Bible today.

What could have turned into a disaster for the members of Turner Hill Church was turned around into a first-hand experience of proving to each of us that God is still in control and that He knows how to take care of every situation that is sent our way. Without even having to search for a place in which to worship, Doug Henry of Henry Funeral Home in Lithonia invited the members to hold services in his chapel for Sunday morning services. We did not have Sunday evening services during this time. Union Grove Baptist Church offered the use of their church for conference each month. Various church members opened up their homes so that we could still hold our prayer meetings during this time. These meetings have been lovingly referred to as "cottage prayer meetings" and hold a special place in our hearts for those of us who have attended such meetings.

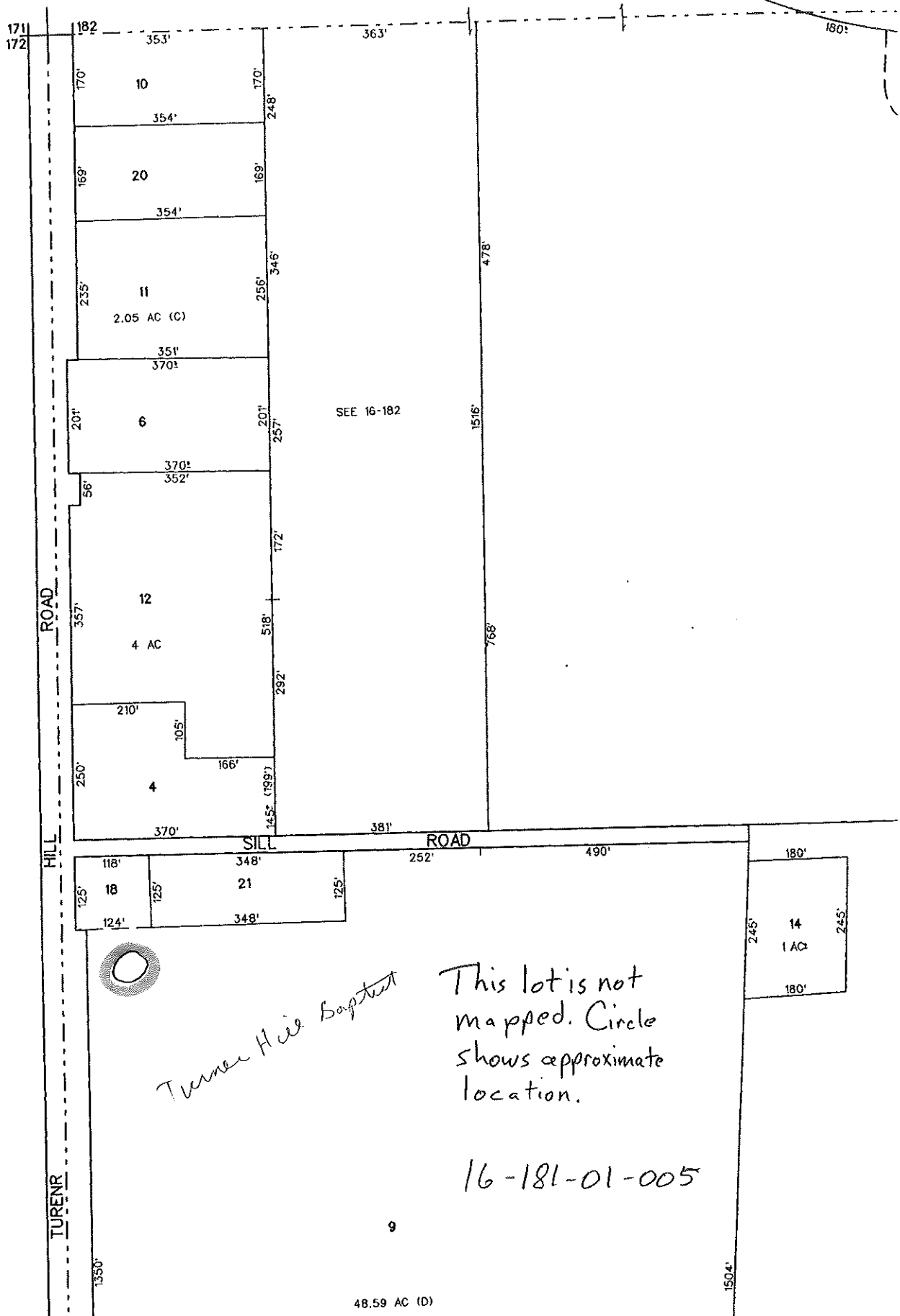
The Sunday School rooms were completely removed and the reconstruction began. Along with new Sunday School rooms, a completely new interior was required for the sanctuary. Reverend Bobby Fields was chosen as the contractor for the rebuilding. Accompanying the many months of construction was the purchases of new blinds, benches, carpet, songbooks, light fixtures and bathroom fixtures. The piano was able to be salvaged with some extra-special cleaning and some repair work.

After many months, we were able to have our first worship service in the newly rebuilt church on February 27, 1994. On Sunday, March 6, 1994 we began a 5-day revival to celebrate reoccupying our church and giving God honor and glory for bringing us through this trying time.

Only one thing was missing in our little country church — a steeple. Annie White Harrison, sister of Brother Josh White was instrumental in getting our steeple by making a donation to our church. The steeple was chosen and erected in 1991.

The cost of replacing our church was not totally covered by the insurance, but the Lord knew how to take care of that situation too. Donations came pouring in from all over the surrounding area. We would like to extend many loving thanks to each church that sent a donation or offered up sincere prayers in our behalf. Also, our sincere thanks go to every individual who may have sent a donation or remembered us in your prayers. From the church as a whole, we thank you and love you very much for everything. May God Bless each one according to his or her individual need.

In conclusion, it is my sincere desire that God will continue to bless our church as He has in the past 100 years. I pray that future generations will always serve God in the same paths their forefathers walked.



171
172

182

353'

363'

180'

10

170'

170'

354'

248'

20

169'

169'

354'

11

2.05 AC (C)

235'

256'

351'

370'

6

201'

201'

SEE 16-182

370'

352'

56'

257'

478'

1516'

12

4 AC

357'

172'

518'

292'

768'

210'

105'

4

250'

145' (199')

166'

370'

381'

HILL ROAD

SILL ROAD

TURENR

1350'

118'

348'

252'

490'

180'

125'

125'

125'

124'

348'

245'

14

1 AC

180'

Turner Hill Baptist

This lot is not mapped. Circle shows approximate location.

16-181-01-005

9

48.59 AC (D)

1504'