

Below is the story that accompanied the Wilmington Baptist Church Dedication picture. The story and the picture are from the August 27, 1953 issue of the Walton Advertiser.

The Wilmington Baptist Church of Fiskburg, Ky., will dedicate its new \$50,000 building on Sunday, August 30, at 2:00 p. m. Dr. E. K. Judy, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Newport, Ky., is to be the guest speaker.

This new structure is the outgrowth of a building program begun in June, 1945, under the ministry of Dr. T. J. Powers, now pastor of the First Baptist Church, Versailles, Ky. In July, 1952, while the church was without a pastor, five trustees: Willard Benson, Foster Bridges, Hobart Bridges, Joe Finnell, and Elmo Menefee, were entrusted with the responsibility to build.

The last service in the former building was the homecoming on August 17, 1952. Dismantling began August 18 and was completed August 20, as men and women labored together. No sooner was the dismantling done than the basement was dug. Happy hearts gathered for a cornerstone laying October 19, 1952. As work continued, they thanked God for the mild winter and use of the Mason's Hall for services. They became anxious as overdue materials delayed progress and time for Vacation Bible school and revival came. But through it all the plans of Alvin Oliver, the architect and member of the church, grew into a reality. The undertaking has been completed during the ministry of Jim Helvey, who was called as pastor in September, 1952.

The building offers every facility: Central heating system, modern kitchen, soundproof folding partitions for two basement assembly rooms, individual class rooms, baptistry, balcony, vestibule, and a "crying room." New furnishings include pews, pulpit furniture and spinet piano for the auditorium, opera seats for the balcony and choir, chairs and tables for the lower grades and folding chairs for the older grades of the Sunday School.

The actual cost has been approximately only \$40,000, because of much donated labor and materials by members and friends. To finish the work, \$6,000 was borrowed, but the church hopes to liquidate this debt on Dedication Day.

The Wilmington Baptist Church was organized on June 2, 1804; it affiliated as a member of the Campbell County Baptist Association at its beginning in September, 1827. Services have convened in homes and schools, but the church has progressed from a log house in 1842 to a brick building in 1953 though the former frame structure was erected during 1871-1875. While ministering to the needs of its own people it has provided the nuclei for four churches in nearby areas: Crittenden, January, 1850; Liberty of Grant County, 1861; Gardnersville, 1891, and Piner, May, 1952.

The history of Wilmington has been described as a bouncing ball—proving
(Continued on Page 5)

DEDICATION SUNDAY

(Continued from Page One)

that what goes down will come up. According to the records, when William Hume was pastor in 1826, he became so discouraged after two years of labors that he went to a business meeting intending to resign. But three persons presented themselves for membership and it so revived the church and pastor that he remained 12 more years.

In all 148 years Wilmington has continued to grow—from six members in 1804 to one hundred and eighty-one resident members in July, 1953. This year it celebrated a record attendance of 140 in Sunday School, set a record enrollment of 128 in Vacation Bible School, enjoyed an enrollment of 50 in Training Union, and maintained an active W. M. S. With a new building and facilities, Wilmington looks forward to its 150th anniversary with high hopes and great goals, pressing "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Wilmington Baptist Church is the new brick church on state highway 17, 22 miles south of Covington, "serving on the highway to heaven."