

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT NEW HOPE

Sunday School is truly the place "where your hopes are renewed".

1884 *Sunday School and prayer meetings were held each Sunday; both James T. Busby and "Miss Cynthia" were known to "preach a good sermon".*

Members of the first Sunday School class:

<i>Mr. James T. Busby</i>	<i>Wad Gray</i>
<i>Mrs. James T. Busby</i>	<i>Charlie Gray</i>
<i>Mr. Abner Bolt and family**</i>	
<i>Mr. Billy Bolt and Aunt Martha</i>	
<i>John Gray</i>	<i>Lula Gray (Elrod)</i>
<i>Mr. Mize Taylor-visitor</i>	<i>Mamie Gray(Elrod)</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. William Gray</i>	<i>Rosa Gray(Thomas)</i>
<i>Anna Busby*</i>	<i>Pink Busby*</i>
<i>WF Broadwell family</i>	<i>Bud Bolt & family</i>
<i>D. F. Busby*</i>	<i>Attaway Busby*</i>
<i>Adolphus Bolt Family</i>	<i>John Busby*</i>
<i>Ebernickle family</i>	<i>Jones McGee family</i>
<i>Walter Busby*</i>	<i>Joe Bowen</i>
<i>Athela Busby*</i>	<i>Mamie Busby*</i>
<i>Bessie Busby*</i>	<i>Net (sister) Busby*</i>

**refers to Mr. and Mrs. James T. Busby's children*

Joseph Yancy Busby, an 11th sibling, not listed;

*** Mr. and Mrs. Abner Bolt and several good neighbors helped build the church.*

1912-1928 *W.Y. Broadwell, Sunday School Superintendent*

1928-1931 *No Sunday School*

1931-

-1943

Mrs. Frank (Viola) Norris, Superintendent

New Hope on the Orrville circuit (1931), with preaching services monthly.

Spring 1931, "non-denominational" Sunday School started: Viola Norris, Mr. DJ Bolt (song leader), and Mrs. Lewis Martin were Methodists; Frank Norris, Miss Artie Coker (Brock) were Presbyterians and Mrs. DJ Bolt was a Baptist.

*Church heated by pot-bellied stove.
Jimmy Sonefelt, a gifted artist, illustrated the lesson. Socials were held once a month at Joe and Emma Coker's home.
Homecoming Day revived.*

- 1943-
-1958 Carl Busby, Sunday School Superintendent*
- 1952 Mrs. Bertha Murphy started a "Young Couples" class.*
- 1964-
-1967 Available records show "Eunice Martin" class, with L. D. Coker as teacher, had an enrollment ranging from 51-67 in attendance (class named to honor Mrs. Lewis Martin for her many years of service).*
- 1969 Moved into new building.*
- 1971 L. D. Coker classroom named in memory of Mr. Landy Coker at the time of his death.
(Landy Coker 7 Nov 1927-Aug 1971)*
- 1992 The "Agape Class" for young couples was started; it is now the "Seekers".*
- 2009 Currently, classes are held for all age groups: preschool-kindergarten, elementary, youth, and young adult (Seekers), there are two adult classes, (Eunice Martin class and the LD Coker class. A nursery is available during Sunday School. Children enjoy a Children's Message during the "preaching" service and then attend Children's church.*

Vacation Bible School, from pre-school to adult, is held each summer. Many of our students today are the grandchildren of those who were enjoying VBS in the late 50's and early 60's.

Others who have served in Superintendent capacity were:

L. D. Coker, Waymond Hatcher, Lin Cox, Debbie Norris, Sally Taylor, Bill Stewart, Bertha Vickery, Alice Davis, Lynn Stout, Nancy Bouknight, Ernie Wilson, Ron Nichols.

***MUSIC MINISTRY** “Sing a joyful noise....”*

Music is an integral part of our worship, adding a depth of emotion and expression, as we praise our Savior in song. This tradition can be traced back to 1931 (no record before this time), when Mr. Adolphus Bolt (also known as Dolphus), was the song leader for Mrs. Viola Norris, during her time as Sunday School Superintendent. Mr. Bolt was born in 1861 and was most likely the Adolphus Bolt listed in the first Sunday school class of 1884. (See picture of Bolt family in church).

Organists and pianists over the years:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| <i>1920-1926</i> | <i>Ida McGee Smith</i> |
| <i>1926-1927</i> | <i>Helen McGee Chamble</i> |
| <i>1931-1943</i> | <i>Artie Coker Brock</i> |
| <i>1943-1961</i> | <i>Mrs. Beulah Busby</i> |
| <i>1962-1967</i> | <i>Mrs. Alice Skeleton (date uncertain)</i> |
| | <i>Mrs. Irene Norris (date uncertain)</i> |
| | <i>Mary Jane Cathey (date uncertain)</i> |
| | <i>Martha Vickery Thrasher (intermittent time periods)</i> |
| <i>1962-</i> | |
| <i>- onward</i> | <i>Debbie Bannister “cut her teeth” on the ivories, as she started playing the piano when she was 7 years old.</i> |
| <i>1996</i> | <i>A hand bell choir was added to our program, directed by Sally Taylor. The hand bells add warmth to our music and are played during special services.</i> |

2003 *A keyboard was added and has been incorporated into the musical selections by Lynn Caldwell. How exciting it is to hear the sounds of other instruments coming from the keyboard.*

2004-
-2009 *Sally Taylor accompanies the choir, as well as directs "Sally and the Boys".*

2009 *Debbie Bannister and Sally Taylor, piano; Martha Thrasher, organist; Lin Cox, Hymn leader.*

Choir Director: Lin Cox was choir director for 16 years; he now leads the hymn singing; Chase Bannister served as Assistant Choir director during his high school years.

1967-2009 *Debbie Bannister is the current choir director .*

Those who entered the ministry from New Hope:

<i>Sammy Coker</i>	<i>Stan Patterson</i>
<i>Frank Copeland</i>	<i>Mary Rowell</i>
<i>Jim Hunter</i>	<i>Robert Rowell</i>
<i>Crate Murphy</i>	<i>Darla Whisler</i>

Lay speakers in 2009:

<i>Jimmie Cash</i>	<i>Lynn Stout</i>
<i>Alice Davis</i>	<i>David Whitt</i>
<i>Floyd Mainous</i>	<i>Ron Nichols</i>