



CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

139 YEARS CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1872-2011

For many years, O God, You have blessed Your people in this congregation. As You guided and protected Your people Israel, so You have guided us. We thank You for the past, in which You have made known Your salvation time and time again. While we celebrate the past, we nevertheless do not forget that You are with us in 2011. Even as we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future. We pray that You would continue to make Your saving acts known among us. Give us a zeal for mission. Help us to look beyond our walls to those who do not know You. Make this church a blessing to those around us, and embolden us to move forward with strength toward what lies ahead.

In the precious name of Jesus - Amen

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Psalm 150

¹ Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. ² Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. ³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, ⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, ⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. ⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Greetings from Pastor Freeman Gause, DD

"REAPING THE HARVEST OF SOULS"



It is our task in the church, in this community, and abroad to evangelize. Too many church folk are concerned about entering Heaven and having a mansion. Before we can live in a Heavenly mansion, we must live as Christians in this world. There are fields all around our sanctuaries and the churches must go into the fields and reap the harvest of souls for which Christ has died.

Every Christian should be concerned about relatives, friends, acquaintances, and other neighbors who do not know Jesus Christ. When Jesus was sending out the seventy, the thirty-five teams, He told them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). In fact there are sinners in the church and outside the church.

There are sinners in the home and outside the home. Therefore; we are accountable to becoming laborers in the harvest of souls.

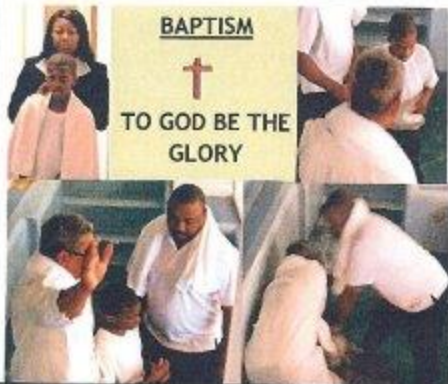
We are challenged to be in prayer for concerned Christians to unite as we reap the harvest, gathering souls into the church before Christ returns for the church. Some members have left the church for whatever reason; we must seek to reclaim them—to bring them back. All around us is that harvest of souls and we should live such lives so as to be able to at least invite them to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. As Luke 10:3 indicates, "Behold I send you forth as lambs among wolves." Every person will not be ready to receive the Word and some will be as deceitful as wolves among lambs. In spite of the consequences we are accountable for evangelism.



Pastor Gause receives "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine" Award

Pastor Gause was presented this prestigious award by Rev. Ray Gilbert at the Ocean View Association Men's Union, February 29, 2011. The award is dated January 30, 2011 and signed by Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is among the most prestigious awards presented by the Governor of North Carolina. *The Order of the Long Leaf Pine* is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. Contributions to their communities, extra effort in their careers, and many years of service to their organizations are some of the guidelines by which recipients are selected for this award.



Brother Victor Kavaugn Randolph

Baptized 13 February 2011 by

Rev. Levi Grissett and Deacon E.J. Grissett, Jr.

Kavaugn is the son of LaShonda Grissett and Victor C. Randolph. His grandparents are Archie and Joyce Grissett, Lyndell Randolph, Sr. and Peggy Mack.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28: 19-20

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates 139th ANNIVERSARY

In the year of our lord 1872, just after the Civil War ending the dark days of slavery, a group of Negro brothers and Sisters who were worshipping at the Mount Pisgah Baptist Church (white) of Supply, North Carolina decided that they would rather have a church, pastor and officers of their own. They did not feel that they had the freedom that rightfully belonged to them in Mount Pisgah Church. They were restricted to a special area which had been fenced off in the church for them to worship. Realizing that this action was against Bible teachings, they started getting together making plans to establish a church of their own. They continued to worship at Mount Pisgah while making plans for their church. They held meetings under a large oak tree which they called the Committee Tree. It was under the shade of this tree, with faith in God and under the leadership of the late Rev. Moses Louder, the Church was organized.

THE FIRST CHURCH The first Church was a log structure which was erected between the Stone Chimney Road and a place called Sand Hill. The Church was built under a large cedar tree with other cedars growing nearby. From these cedar trees the church obtained its name, CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. Through the years the spot on which the first church was built has remained clear and it is referred to as a sacred spot because no trees have grown on it. The first church had seventeen (17) Charter Members. The first Deacons were Brothers Wade Bryant and Riley Hewett. The first Trustees were Brothers James Bryant, Jackson Clemmons, S.R. Eagles and Joseph Gore. In the year of our Lord 1958, the cedar stump under which the first church stood was taken up for preservation. It had decayed but there was enough to preserve. The stump was cleaned, varnished, and put in a small building on the church grounds to serve as a memorial to the founders of the first church.

THE SECOND CHURCH The site for the second church was purchased from Deacon Wade Bryant and a new log structure was built. As time passed, the members became dissatisfied with the log structure and again made plans to erect a new building. A new structure was constructed, and the members worshipped in this church until the year 1910.

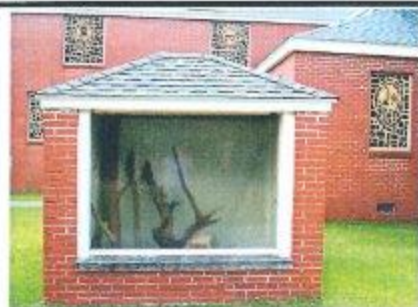
THE THIRD CHURCH In the year 1910 another framed building was erected on the same site. This site was approximately one quarter mile from the present site. This building was used until the year 1951. The final week of services was held in the old building with inspiring sermons preached each night. On Friday night before the third Sunday in May 1951, The late Rev. Bennie Price Stevenson gave the final message.

(Somewhere between the Third and Fourth church, another group of Christian brothers and sisters who worshipped at Cheerful Hope Baptist Church (black) closed their doors and united with the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church family. The exact location of the Cheerful Hope Church is not known, (somewhere near the present site of the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church off Holden Beach Road). The members included the Johnson's who lived in what is called Johnsontown. The merging of these two churches increased the membership and the church continued to grow in size and in Christian fellowship).

THE FOURTH CHURCH The members moved into the new cinderblock structure under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. William Henry David Flowers on the third Sunday in May 1951. Rev. Flowers delivered the morning message, and the late Dr. I. Irving Boone, accompanied by the late H.T. Hopkins, bought the afternoon message. Dinner for this memorable occasion was served in the canning house which was located near the church. The new structure had a larger sanctuary, two classrooms, a pastor's study and a room for the ushers and choir.

As time passed Rev. Flowers, the Deacons and members felt the need of improving the church with additional rooms and other facilities. In the year 1965 the foundation for the additional rooms to the building was poured. The addition included classrooms, kitchen and dining room, assembly room, dressing rooms and baptistery and the bricking of the entire structure. In the latter part of 1971 and the beginning of 1972 improvements were made on the yard, and in 1999 the entire parking lot was paved and parking spaces marked off. In 1986, windows were replaced in the entire church with stained glass windows. In 1995 ground was broken for a new dining room and on the first Sunday in February 1999 the new dining room was dedicated and dinner was served immediately following the dedication service. The cornerstone for the new dining hall was laid and dedicated on September 11, 2005. Under the leadership of God fearing men and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church has grown in size, membership.

THE MINISTERS: The church has progressed under the devoted leadership of the following God fearing ministers: Rev. Moses Louder, Rev. Bennie P. Stevenson, Rev. John Crowsling, Rev. Sam J. Bryant, Rev. Jackson Eagles, and Rev. W. J. Stevenson, Rev. J. R. Holmes, Rev. Thomas Brown, Rev. H. A. Robinson, Rev. Willie Pugh, Rev. Dr. W. H. D. Flowers and our current pastor who has been with us since 1983, Rev. Freeman L. Gause, DD.



THEIR LEGACY OUR ROOTS

THEIR LEGACY - OUR ROOTS

By Bertha Bell

This question was asked by a young man in our community; "Mom, why are those roots sitting in that little house?"

The house was built and the roots placed there in 1958. Where did they come from and what is their meaning? The roots were excavated from the Sand Hill river area from property owned by Harry and Annie R. Bryant located between Stone Chimney Road and the Lockwood Folly River. The roots represent our beginning.

The first CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH (1872) with 17 charter members and the community obtained its name from this area that the first church was erected. The church was built under a large cedar tree with a grove of other cedars growing around. Hence the name CEDAR GROVE for the church and community was born. The roots from these cedars were placed in the little house as a memorial and a tribute to our organizers who had the vision to move us from the back of the roped off area of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. Dr. W. H. D. Flowers as pastor and Mr. P. E. Dubar Sr., Agriculture teacher at Union High School, were instrumental in overseeing the preservation of the stumps taken from the site.

Thanks young man for asking that question. We need to see that our history is better preserved and written so that generations to come will know why it is there. We are proud of our ancestors and our heritage.

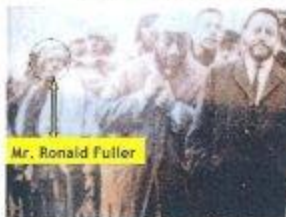
139th Church Anniversary - Program Schedule

Date	Time	Minister and Choir	In Charge
Sunday- 13 March	5:00 PM	Rev. Jesse Smith and Little Macedonia MBC	September/October
Monday-14 March	7:30 PM	Rev Ronnie Blue and First Saint Paul	November/December
Tuesday-15 March	7:30 PM	Rev. M. C. Herring and Mt Zion MBC	January/February
Wednesday-16 March	7:30 PM	Rev. Edwards from Lott Carey and Cedar Grove MBC	March/April
Thursday-17 March	7:30 PM	Rev. Leo Stevenson and Big Macedonia MBC	May/ June
Friday-18 March	7:30 PM	Rev. Gregory Hewett (Rev. Hewett will bring choir)	July/August
Sunday-20 March	11:00 AM	Rev. Freeman Gause and Cedar Grove MBC	
Sunday-20 March	Lunch	Cedar Grove Fellowship Hall	
Sunday-20 March	3:30 PM	Rev. Timothy Moss and Spring Hill MBC	

The 139th Church Anniversary is very important to all its members and the churches that help celebrate the occasion by joining in our services as outlined above. The anniversary concludes with the results of the Birthday Rally during the final service March 20 following a wonderful lunch and fellowship. We will all gather with Rev. Timothy Moss and the Spring Hill MBC and other visiting family and friends, and before closing out the celebration; the announcement will be made declaring which Birthday Month has donated the most money. This is always a joyous time as it reflects how God continues to bless the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church. The Birthday Rally is the only fundraiser we have during the year. Through stewardship, tithes and offerings God blesses our congregation and the Cedar Grove community. The Birthday Captains are:

January	Thomas Gause, Margie Grissett	July	Lucrevia Moses, Lynette McKenzie, Eva Bryant
February	Flora Johnson, Christerbelle Bryant	August	Phyllis Hewett, Cynthia Stevenson, Valeria Fullwood
March	Dea. Theron Johnson, Reeda Hargrove, Craig Grissett	September	Marva Brown, Sandra Robinson, Vonnice Fulwood
April	Arcildra B. Jefferson, Zelphia Grissett	October	Edreenda Thomas, Thurgood Grissett
May	Evelyn Gause, Ann Johnson	November	Myrtle Stevenson, Zelma Williams, Doretha Johnson
June	Emmett Grissett, Ann Spellman	December	Brenda Hewett, Bertha Bell

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church 2011 Black History Program



Mr. Ronald Fuller



Mr. Ronald Fuller [husband, father/grandfather, Air Force Viet Nam Veteran, NC A&T State University Industrial Engineering graduate, retired Production Engineer from John Deere & Company, in Des Moines, IA, and as an eighteen year old,] participated in the historical Selma to Montgomery Freedom Marches.



Mr. Ronald Fuller

Black History was celebrated at CGMBC, 26 February at 3 pm, with a first hand account of the Selma to Montgomery Freedom Marches, March 7-25, 1965. Kim Grissett was the mistress of ceremony. The youth marched in singing "Ain't Nobody Gonna Turn Me Round" waving signs simulating the marchers. Verdell Darby gave the purpose of Black History. The Bethlehem Children's Choir (Sunday school Beginners Class) marched in and sang "I Shall Not Be Moved". Deacon Theron Johnson introduced his friend, Mr. Ronald Fuller who gave a detailed account of the famous marches that marked the political and very emotional peak of the American civil rights movement. His account was personal and touching as he walked us down memory lane, bringing us to tears several times as well as causing us to smile and laugh. Although this history lesson is documented in books, movies and internet; a one on one history lesson is the way to go. This Black History Program is one we will not forget because of our awesome speaker, and the coordination efforts of the Youth Supervisor, Deborah Green, Lisa Sowell, Eva Bryant, Kim Grissett, the Freedom Marchers (youth), and the Freedom Choir, Lynette McKenzie, Flora Johnson, Glenda Winborne, Michael Lucas and Jackie Fullwood, who sang like the choir stand was full. The photographs were furnished by Rev. William Vereen and Deacon Delwood Johnson. *Following the wonderful program, we all fellowshiped with an old fashion potluck soul food dinner.*



Dea. Theron Johnson

Cops (left)
Shermone Fulwood
and (right)
Devonsha Gilbert

Freedom Marchers

Guest Speaker
Mr. Ronald FullerMistress of
Ceremony
Kim GrissettBlack History
Purpose
Verdell
Darby

Artwork by Lisa Sowell



Freedom Choir



The Famous Bethlehem Children's Choir

SPOTLIGHT ON CEDAR GROVE BLACK HISTORY

Mrs. Annie Rebecca Bryant (April 27, 1909~August 21, 1995)

Missionary, Visionary, Historian, Teacher, Prayer Warrior, Medicine Woman,
(expert on homemade cures and remedies) Poet, Author, Role Model, Mentor,
and a Child of God



Sister Annie Rebecca Bryant was the daughter of the late Reverend Samuel James Bryant and Rebecca Gore Bryant. She was born in Supply, NC. She was united in holy matrimony to Brother Harry Bryant. Six children were born to their union, five boys, Curtis, James Hobson, Howard W., Harry Conrad, Miles; and one daughter, Bertha Bryant Bell.

She was converted and joined Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at an early age where she remained a devoted and faithful member and worker until her health failed.

She lived a full and prosperous life filled with serving her family, community and church. She was educated in the public schools of Brunswick County but was not satisfied with the level of training. At the ripe age of 73 she attended Brunswick Technical College and in only 6 months passed the GED exam. (See related information of page 5). She served as President of the Ocean View Home and Foreign Missionary Auxiliary, Sunday School Teacher, President of Cedar Grove Missionary Circle, a charter member of Cedar Grove Salem Lodge #198, a member of the Board of Directors of the Grand United Order of Salem, district worker for the Ocean View Sunday School Convention, Chaplain of the NAACP, and various other church and civic organizations.

The highlight of her life was a visit to the Holy Land in 1973 where she waded in the river Jordan. Everyone in Cedar Grove and surrounding communities remembers that if you had an ailment you were welcome in her home for prayer and home remedies, no matter the time of day or night.

As documented on the following pages, Sister Annie received many awards for volunteering to help educate youth at public settings and at the church. Governor Jim Hunt gave her an award for being an outstanding citizen and while attending Brunswick Tech she received an award for being the most dedicated student. She received many awards and recognition at the local, district, and state level by the General Baptist State Convention for her work in the Women's Mission Division.

As far as Cedar Grove Black History, Sister Annie Rebecca Bryant left a legacy of dedicated service, love, and commitment for everyone to strive to accomplish. We all are better family members, church members, and community members because she passed this way.



"They did not sit with bowed down heads
And grieve as though someone was dead
They picked up the ax, the hoe and the plow
And worked and prayed and lived somehow".

By Annie Rebecca Bryant date unknown

Branswick Technical College

Faculty, staff, students, and
visitors invited to
celebrate with
us

From
Mrs. Annie R. Bryant

The Faculty, Faculty and Graduate Class

of
Branswick Technical College

request the honor of your presence

at

Branswick Technical College

To
Mrs. Annie R. Bryant &
Family



Graduation Day
September 17, 1982



BRYANT FAMILY TREE

BY

ANNIE R. BRYANT

Bryant Family Tree
Born in the last days of Slavery
in the Sand Hills of Pitt County lived
the Bryant family on a plantation owned by
a Slaveholder named Bryant among the
was one John Jack Bryant whom wife was
named Holland. In the time of Slavery the
Slaves kept on the name of their owner
Near the close of Slavery John Jack Bryant and
his Slave born within slave held to one John
John in Brunswick County by name of Jack
Bryant. Upon this name could be established with
the Bryant Slavery was abolished. Each &
Slave was given a tract of land by a Grant
and 1 Bushel of Corn or some value of land
and was told to go out and work for him-
self. Jack Bryant and his wife Holland with the
first four happy fruits of 3 (Eight)
Children & 2 boys and two girls.
James, Pompey Marshall, Mable, Andrew,
Melode, George, Phoebe, and Charity.
The Bryant were sincere honest and hard working
people. They believed in God and had a great
concern for raising their children. They desired
a good Christian and dignity. James when
quite a young man after completing his
Education in the Old Blue Book Speller,

and Sanford's immovable orthodoxy, he decided to
further his Education and went to Fayetteville State
Normal School. In the year 1881 on November
16th James Bryant was married to Miss Louisa
Hambright at the home of his father John
Jack Bryant by Magistrate Dr. Jeremiah Holberry
Witnessed by J. M. Bryant and George Bryant
all of Brunswick County.

James (his) and his wife along called
settled down on a small tract of land given
him by his father



ANNIE BRYANT studies for the GED exam in the Learning
Lab at Branswick Technical College in Supply.

Annie Bryant Chosen GED Student Of Week

Annie Bryant of Supply has
been selected the Branswick
Technical College GED stu-
dent of the week. And it's
well-deserved honor because
Mrs. Bryant passed her GED
exam last last week.

Mrs. Bryant is a lifetime
resident of the Cedar Grove
community near Supply. She
raised six children, six of them
graduated from high school
and three have completed
college.

"I always wanted to go to
school," Mrs. Bryant said.
"I've regretted my lack of
education. But when the col-
lege (Branswick Technical
College) came here and it was
located in close to home, I
finally had the opportunity to
finish my schooling."

Through the years Mrs.
Bryant has tried to acquire
life knowledge to make it as
much as possible. She wants
to keep up her yard all, she

passed the GED exam after
only six months of study.

Mrs. Bryant has always
been active in community
activities. She is an intern-
ship teacher and president of
the auxiliary
circle at the Cedar Grove
Baptist Church. She is also a
member of the Women's
League convention and served
the Holy Land with that group
in 1973. She is presently serv-
ing as president of the Women's
Auxiliary at Cedar Grove.

Mrs. Bryant has been an
active member of Cedar Grove
Baptist Church in 1979, and
chaplain for the OLVMP, Ce-
dar Grove branch.

On Oct. 19 at 7:00, Mrs.
Bryant will speak at a civic
reading and discussion as part
of the History of Branswick
College anniversary observance.
held at the Branswick Tech-
nical College campus in Sup-
ply.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON, Thursday, May 7, 1987

Students Take A Look At Community Heritage



HEER PATRICK, Samuel James Bryant, studied from the blue book speller, Annie E. Bryant (seated) tells students Marie Chesney and Jessica Woodhouse. Later,

ing in St. Elizabeth's Hallway, a volunteer who demonstrated the art of bread-making.

BY SUSAN USHER

Mrs. Annie Bryant of Cedar Grove guarantees her "cal'mus root" is good for what ails you—be it bad breath or colitis.

She takes the root, considered a carcinogenic by the medical profession, from home-grown sweet flag, a member of the Arum family that also gives us calla lilies and jack-in-the-pulpit. Made into a syrup with honey, it helps a baby sleep better than paregoric, she told youngsters. Taken as a tea, it soothes digestive disorders, and sliced into Lifesaver-size rounds and chewed, it freshens the breath.

While most people rely today on medicine from the local drugstore, Mrs. Annie still gets requests, she said, for the roots and herbs used by local families for generations.

Mrs. Annie was one of numerous volunteers sharing bits of their history with hundreds of students at Shallotte Middle School's Heritage Days celebration last Friday.

With her she also had the blue-back speller from which her father, Samuel James Bryant, learned to read and write, as well as a document more than 100 years old, passed down from one member of her family to another. It was a "certificate of cohabitation," something much like a marriage certificate, signed by Brunswick County Clerk of Court Swift Galloway in 1866, following the Civil War. It offered documentation that former slaves Jack Bryan(t) and Holland Lancaster had lived together as man and wife since 1842.

Mrs. Annie has made sure that every household that's kin to her has a copy of the certificate, a reminder of the roots of the local Bryant family.

State of North Carolina



James G. Martin
Governor

Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to

ANNIE E. BRYANT

In grateful appreciation for your dedication and devotion in providing volunteer services to North Carolina's greatest concern, her people.

James G. Martin
Governor August 27, 1987

State of North Carolina



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NAACP Begins Campaign

The Cedar Grove Branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) has begun its fall/winter membership campaign, with the slogan "If we can get you, you can get us," with the goal of recruiting 1,000 new members this year. 2022 Annie E. Bryant (seated), branch president, shown with him are J. Andrew Butler, presidential adviser, and Annie E. Bryant, branch chapter.

Students Enjoy Cedar Grove Resident's Stories Of Past

BY TERRY POPE

While entering the Charlotte Middle School sixth-grade classroom last week, Annie Bryant paused to view the more than 50 students who had gathered to hear her stories.

February is black history month, and the lifetime Cedar Grove resident came prepared with stories of famous black Americans and a simple tale about her own life. There was a time when Ms. Bryant would walk three miles each morning, enter a school yard and stroll into a one-room classroom filled with students from grades 1-9.

For her, education ended at the seventh grade, and began again in 1981 when she obtained her GED (general equivalency diploma) from Brunswick Technical College after just six months of study. Now surrounded by colorful classroom displays, carpeted floors and students dressed in designer jeans and parachute pants, Ms. Bryant's lesson to the students was first and to the point.

"All of you have talent of some kind," she told the students while clapping a stony finger in their direction. "It's up to you, along with your parents and teachers, to build that talent."

Among the stories Ms. Bryant told were ones about such talented blacks as Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver, who discovered more than 200 products from the peanut, a thought that stirred the students' imaginations. Studying history and other subjects has never stopped for Ms. Bryant; after all, it wasn't by her own choice that she once had to end her education in the seventh grade.

"Sixty-five years ago, the highest anyone could go was the seventh grade," she said. "There were no high schools in Brunswick County. If your family couldn't afford to send you to Fayetteville, then you were not able to get a high school education in Brunswick County."

But many years later, Ms. Bryant took advantage of an opportunity to receive her GED when Brunswick



INSPIRED BY STUDENTS at Students Middle School, Cedar Grove's Annie Bryant answers questions.

Technical College opened its doors. As a seventh grader, she had received her certificate granting her to the eighth grade, but it never made it handy and had a family of four to raise.

Originally going GED was also just three miles from her first training, the now distance Ms. Bryant had to walk each morning to attend Cedar Grove Elementary School. She was one of 500's outstanding student of the month in October, 1981, and several stu-



She was one of 500's outstanding student of the month in October, 1981, and several stu-

dents who were named outstanding GED graduate during commencement exercises at the Charlotte Middle School campus, just a short drive from the classroom where she was once sharing her knowledge with dozens of students.

"A teacher best over to me one day and asked, 'Ms. Bryant, are you really?' 'You're now you're not, outstanding student in this school' and I said, 'No, I didn't know that.'"

Four months after being enrolled in the GED program, Ms. Bryant received a note from the school asking her to be prepared for a test and exam. It was a request of motivation for the widely noted who had received all six children, all high school graduates, while three had also earned college degrees.

But now, the letter in her hand "opened like I opened my eyes," she recalled. While searching across the page along with the other 12 students, all dressed in caps and gowns, her mind was wandering back to the days when she had longed for the moment long ago.

There was never any doubt that she would succeed in her quest for a diploma but it was the "spark that started me," she added. "I can't wait to go to college now."

She draws her strength from her religious background, as a lifetime member of Cedar Grove Fellowship Baptist Church where she also serves as chaplain. Cedar Grove is also rich in black history. It's famous, especially when one day several black church members and ministers a group of older ladies and decided to form their own church, a daughter of the People Baptist Church, she added to the news.

Today, Ms. Bryant views the classroom and schools and recalls how things have changed. The tales of the new-age classrooms, heated by lighter logs and without wires to electricity or better textbooks interested the students.

"The just delighted to see each student building today," she said. "That when I see things that would be admired today, my mind goes back to those early days."

Even without the beautiful classrooms or supplies, in those days "that was all we had. We enjoyed life in those days, too," she said.

She left the students with a few history lessons and a few lessons on life. She left them with a smile.

"I hope I'll be able to make it," she said. "I hope you will, too. You only see 10 minutes. So it's much better, so much easier to make than to live."

Bryant Recalls Brunswick Past

Fifth grade students at Charlotte Middle School celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day recently. Among the words of the party was the story of "Annie's Story" and culture was an address to the children of Mary Sylvia by long time Brunswick County resident Annie Ruth Bryant.

The touching letter was prepared by Mrs. Bryant, an author of "Annie's Story" and author of Brunswick County. It is printed as section of the book "Annie's Story" and other clear hand.



Mrs. Annie Ruth Bryant

BY MRS. ANNIE R. BRYANT

Mrs. Bryant resides in Cary and is a member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church. She is a former teacher and holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of North Carolina. She is also a member of the State of North Carolina.

Mrs. Bryant attended the Public Schools in Brunswick County and completed the Tallapoosa County as far as schools in Brunswick went in her day. She always had a yearning for higher education but was not able to go off to school but she studied books at home. She went to Cedar Grove School, a one-teacher school.

Some time later a two teacher school was built. The school house was built. The water supply was poor, some time it was brought in a bucket from a neighbor's house.

Each student was asked to bring his or her own, and a good deal used to be the way.

School was opened with singing. The school house was built. The water supply was poor, some time it was brought in a bucket from a neighbor's house.

Children walked a distance of one to three and four miles to get to school. I recall there were no buses in Brunswick County in my school days.

I recall studying my lesson by a light, made some time by a light and the light was a lamp or lantern light. There was no electricity in Brunswick County in my school days.

Nothing was done by hand with a wash tub and washboard. Cooking was done on a wood burning stove. In the winter they were busy making quilts and bedding the girls how to put things together to make quilts and make doll baby clothes.

The men and boys were busy cutting wood, hunting, and gathering in the woods.

Mrs. Bryant and her husband had other children. One son died in 1918, the other children are James Jackson, Howard Wilbur, Henry, Conrad, Miss Tarwater, and Mrs. Berna Bell.

After having raised her own children and sent them to school and to work, Mrs. Bryant did not have a yearning to go back to school to further her education. She enrolled in the Brunswick Technical College located in Supply and was awarded her DIPLOMA and is now doing substitute work in the Brunswick County Hospital system.

"Miss Annie" as she is often called gives her time and talent freely in the classrooms telling the boys and girls, how she remembers Brunswick County sixty years ago and how, and the students that had been made to make the county a better and more prosperous place to live.



Award Winners

Gregory Randolph was third runnerup in the Youth Award category and Annie Bryant was second runnerup in the Church Award category when Brunswick County volunteers were given recognition for their volunteer efforts Saturday night in ceremonies at the county complex.