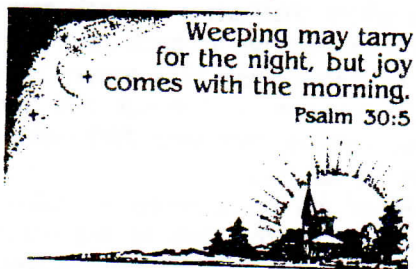


Following Christ has two requirements: believing Him and obeying Him. Dad Sipe believed and he obeyed. The sermon he preached was the life he led. He was such a kind and humble soul; I never once heard him raise his voice in anger. I remember running up to their house, and he would be sitting in his chair reading the Bible. After his death, I thumbed carefully through his well-worn Bible and was impressed by the underlined passages. Two verses that he had underscored more boldly than all the others were Romans 8:38, 39:

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I recall Dad Sipe's later years and how involved he was with the Golden Agers. After he had driven a group to the mountains for an outing, he came down to our house to tell us about the day's events. With a twinkle in his eye (and obviously excluding himself) he said, "Those old people really enjoy themselves!"

Recalling "precious memories" of my grandparents brings tears - tears of sadness because they are gone, tears of joy because they are not forgotten.



## MEMORIES OF OUR ANCESTORS

- Barbara Kever, Earl Propst  
and Brenda Gail Gilbert Reed

Mt. Zion's second pastor was Lawrence Propes. We have a short history of him in an earlier Centennial Times. Pastor Propes was born right here in Hickory and served our church from 1895-1906.

Pastor Propes is the great uncle of Barbara Propst Kever, Earl Propst and Brenda Gilbert Reed.

The parsonage during Pastor Propes times was in the front yard of Margie and Clara Townsend's home. After the Propes left, Amy Sipe Killian and Billy Killian, who are two of our charter members, lived in this house. The Townsend family lived in this white two-story house until about 15 years ago when it was moved.

Pastor Propes' father, Billy Probst, fought in the Civil War. Three of Billy's brothers also fought in the war and two died there.

Billy Probst and wife had 6 boys and 6 girls. One other boy, Ottis, was also a preacher. He later moved to California.

Another brother of Pastor Propes was George Propes. He is the grandfather of Barbara, Brenda and Earl. George was a real character and the only person we knew to go out west in a covered wagon. George often talked with Barbara and Earl about his travels and life. We do not know why he went west, but while there he was quarantined and not allowed to leave for a while because of an outbreak of disease. George told about watching gunfights from his hotel window. They returned two or three years later on horseback.

George, his wife Edna and their children alternated going to church at Miller's and Mt. Zion. In the early years these churches did not have a full-time pastor. Miller's was then called St. Stephens' and was across Springs Road where the cemetery is now. Later, after a gift of land from the Miller family, the church was moved to where it is today and called "Miller's."

For many years George Propes was the gravedigger here at Mt. Zion. George, his wife Edna and three infant sons are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

The spelling of the Propst name has changed at least 5 times. The name was spelled Brobst or Propst when the first people immigrated from Germany. Later it changed to Probst, Propes, and Propst.

