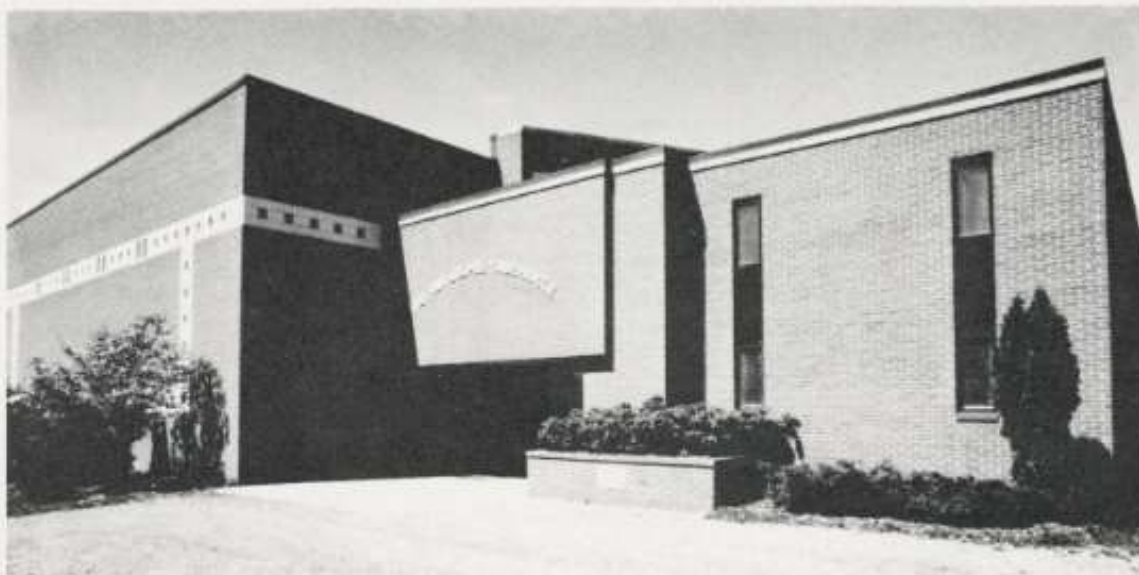


# **DRY RUN GOSPEL TABERNACLE**



***50th ANNIVERSARY***  
***1939 - 1989***



Pastor Lewis Shaw, Sr.

"Because the family was very poor and with very little schooling, they were always frowned upon and disrespected by some the neighbors who had full and plenty of most everything. There was never a time when anything stolen or missing wasn't blamed on the Shaw brothers and whether guilty or not they took the blame. Everyone was ready to condemn the boys but no one ever seemed to care for the Salvation of their souls."

"One day when Lewis was about eighteen years of age he met a young lady by the name of Martha Leighty, in the little village of Poplar Run. Martha and Lewis became very close friends and after some time Lewis picked up enough courage to ask her father for his daughter. Lewis and Martha were married on July 15, 1900 in Newry, PA. The drink habit had it's hold on Lewis and he went out of town to find work. He came home weekends with little or no money from his paycheck which first went into the hands of the bartender."

"The Lord soon saw best to reach down and take the oldest boy, Boyd. In his graciousness He did bless them with two little girls, Elva and Nora. Many a night Lewis would come home, get Nora up from her little bed and give her drink. When she was just three weeks old he gave her two tablespoons of whiskey and from that time on she drank with her Dad. Elva would not drink with him but Nora would get up when he came home at night and sit on his back as he lay drunken on the floor and wait until he sobered enough to give her a drink. Nora loved to go along with him and stand on a stool at the bar and wait for Lewis to give her next on his drink. He was very proud of his girls, especially Nora, and she often sang for another drink."

"A Mennonite preacher by the name of Enos Hartzler started a little Gospel Mission in a store room. He would visit the Shaw home often and invited them to attend services. Martha made the excuse that the girls didn't have clothes suitable to go to church. The preacher's wife brought dresses for the girls to wear and so they went to Sunday School the next Sunday morning. The teacher gave the lesson on Jesus Healing the Sick Man and used for illustration a picture representing Jesus and the sick man. Jesus had taken the sick man by the hand and then He put His other hand on the sick man's forehead and told him to rise, and he was made whole."

"The following week little Roy became very sick and when the doctor came he told Martha and Lewis that the baby was very poorly and probably would not live the day out. The night was long but morning came and Elva and Nora came down the steps into the kitchen for their breakfast. Nora walked over to her mother and said 'Mum, what are you crying for?' but mother never answered. Again Nora said, 'Mum, what is wrong, why are you crying?' Martha said, 'Oh! dear little Roy is going to die, the doctor said he is so sick and he can't get well.'"

"Martha said nothing, she was very quiet, but Nora so very confident that Jesus was all powerful shook her mother's arm and said 'Mum, Jesus can make him well, can I pray for him?' Martha said, 'go ahead,' never realizing what was about



to take place. Nora took Roy's little hand in hers and laid her other hand on his forehead like the lesson said Jesus had done, then she bowed her head and prayed. She prayed 'Now dear Jesus come down and make my little brother well like you did the sick man in the Bible.' She no more than finished her prayer when Roy jumped down from the mother's lap and started to play with little Nora."

"The whistle blew at the shops telling Lewis it was now quitting time, and he was so concerned about his sick boy that he did not stop to get a drink but ran straight home. He was so amazed to hear how God had worked and to see Roy well and playing on the floor that he said 'well Mum, when the kids does things like that it's time for you and I to start so tell the preacher that he can have a prayer meeting here.'"

"The preacher took little Roy on his knee and talking to Roy but meaning it for all of us, and especially for Lewis, he said: 'Roy do you know we are all sinners but God loved us all so much that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him hath everlasting life. Now that whosoever means me, you, and everyone in this room.' Lewis was standing behind his chair holding on to the back of it, the devil saying, 'don't be so foolish to believe that' and the Holy Spirit telling him 'Now is the time.' There was a real battle but praise God Lewis said 'I want to accept Christ as My Saviour, he left go of the chair, fell on his knees and prayed the sinner's prayer 'God be merciful to me a Sinner and Save me for Jesus' sake'... He rose from his knees went out into the kitchen, emptied a keg of beer down the drain. He emptied all his booze out and said 'this is the end.'"

"Lewis could neither read or write but Martha would sit and teach him to read the Bible and spell out the words and through the help of the Lord and the teaching and leading of the Holy Spirit he grew in knowledge and wisdom of the Word."

"He was about thirty-three years of age when he first began his ministry and at the age of seventy-two the Lord called him home. Thirty-nine years of faithful service to the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Years that only Eternity shall reveal the harvest of his faithful and consistent seed sowing. The memories of the cottage prayer meetings and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit there have carried many a boy and girl, man and woman, along the straight and narrow way. The transformed lives of many a sinner brought to the feet of Christ in full repentance have continued to bring Glory and Honor to the Saviour in reaching others along the way. The name of Lewis Shaw was not only written in the Lamb's Book of Life but deeply engraved in the memories of those who came in contact with his ministry."

[An edited version of Mrs. Nora Vandrew's "A Brand From The Fire To A Crown Of Glory."]



1946



1946 Sunday School Picnic



Pastor Lewis Shaw, Jr.



"There was great rejoicing at the home of Lewis and Martha Shaw on June the second, 1913 when Lewis Jr. arrived. He was brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, in a home where the Bible was read and each child was taught to pray around the family altar."

"When Lew was six years old he was ready to begin his first year of school. At that early age he not only began school but also started to steal. At sixteen years of age he thought himself to be a man and soon met up with some country boys his age who knew nothing of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Saving Power, and the awfulness of SIN."

"He didn't want to be called a preacher's son or a sissy, so when the gang had a jug of hard cider and when they passed the jug, he drank with the rest."

"Lew's father was busy working in the shops and preaching at different places every night and he never realized how far Lew was wandering in sin until one night on his way home from the Rescue Mission, he met Lew and his friend. He knew Lew had been drinking, but with his love and compassion for Lew, he gave him some spiritual advice, which Lew felt sure he didn't need."

"He drove a coal truck for an old Jewish man and when he wasn't hauling coal down the mountain at eighty or ninety miles an hour and out of gear, he would haul junk. They would put the junk in bags and put it in the man's garage and later in the day Lew would go to this garage and take a bag of the junk up to the Jewish man's house and sell it to the poor old fellow. He would pay Lew for the junk and tell him to just put it in the garage with the rest of the junk. Sometimes Lew would sell him the same bag of junk four or five times a day."

"Now the time had come as it does in every young man's life when he starts looking for a beautiful girl for his wife. There were many girls who loved Lew in spite of his drinking and even if he did treat them rough. He always said, 'the rougher you treat them, the better they like it.' But the girl he really loved and later married was Elinor Sharpless from the neighborhood where he lived. She took Lew to her home one night and her father thought he was O.K. for he entertained Lew down in the cellar at the wine barrel. They became real good friends. When her mother knew they were both drinking together, she didn't want her daughter going with a drunk, so she told him to leave. A little later in the fall, Lew and Elinor were married in the parsonage of the Mennonite Memorial Church by the Pastor, Lew Glass. They resided at the home of Lew's sister until they could get an apartment of their own. While they were living there, God began to answer the prayers of Lew's loved ones concerning him."

"Each night before bed time, there was family altar devotions in his sister's home. The Bible was read, they all heard the Word of God, his sister and each one of her girls prayed. They never ceased to pray for God to bless Uncle Lew and Aunt Elinor and to save Daddy. The sister's husband was a church member but he did not know Christ as his personal

Savior. One night while they were praying, the Holy Spirit led one of Lew's little nieces to say 'Uncle Lew, why don't you pray with us, it's your turn?' He was so under conviction that he could not stand it any longer, he just fell on his knees and both he and his wife accepted Christ as their Saviour. It didn't stop there, his brother-in-law, Tom accepted Christ. After he accepted Christ, he ran down the street to find his closest friend Dykes. He told Dykes what had happened and he won Dykes to Christ. Then later through the effort of Dykes, his wife also accepted Christ as her Saviour."

"After Lew, Tom, and Dykes were saved, the Lord led them together to sing. Soon Lew's brother Bill accepted Christ and they then formed a quartette. They would go to the home of Mrs. Stutzman, who would play the piano for them as they sang. God really blessed their singing to His glory. Lew then used his singing talent for the Lord. The evenings were spent in a different way now. Each evening they would gather together for a cottage prayer meeting in each one of their homes. They attended the Mennonite Memorial Church and grew in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. They prayed for God to use them as He was fit. The Lord was now able to accomplish His good purpose. In a short time, God called Lew to preach the Gospel. He preached his first sermon at the Rescue Mission, his text was Isaiah 53:6. About three years after he was saved, the Lord opened the door to a little country church in Dry Run. It was in December, 1938, and there were no services being held in the church at that time. The Gospel team began to hold services there. Lew preached one Sunday and his Dad, Lewis, Sr., preached the next Sunday until one day the father called him up to his room, gave Lew his books, and told him that he would not be able to preach any more. He told Lew he would have to do the preaching himself from now on. He then told him that many trials and persecutions would come, but he said, 'preach the Word of God without fear and never compromise.' Lew worked in the P.R.R. shops and continued preaching. He missed so much work in the shops going out to sing and preach at funeral services that they called him into the office. He continued his work until one day he became very ill. The doctor said it was a stroke. He was confined to his bed for a while, then he had to decide whether he should give up his preaching ministry or quit working in the shops. He went out full time for the Lord and God has blessed him. They have been in Dry Run Church twenty-one years and have won hundreds of souls to Christ."

"God has blessed Lew and Elinor with a wonderful family of seven children, four girls and two boys now living. One little boy, the Lord saw fit to take home. Each child has accepted Christ as their Saviour and Lord and we are praying that the Lord will continue to bless and to save souls through Lew's oldest son Boyd. We pray that the seed will be bringing forth much fruit down through the next generation."

[An edited version of Mrs. Nora Vandrew's "Lifted Out Of The Miry Clay."]



In December, 1938, Mrs. Susan Wilt visited Lew Shaw, Sr. of Altoona to ask about holding services in the church building known then as The Dry Run Community Church, located on Dry Run Road. Lew Shaw had a Gospel Team that would go various places holding services. The building was in need of much repair. No services had been held there for sometime. The Shaws agreed to hold services on the first Sunday of January, 1939, with seven people and \$.27 offering. The Gospel Team consisted of two preachers, Lew Shaw, Sr. and his son, Lew Shaw, also a Gospel Quartet. The quartet consisted of Tom Vandrew, Lead; Bill Shaw, Baritone; Charles Halton, Tenor; young Lew Shaw, Bass. Mrs. Edna Stutzman played the organ. Roy Shaw supplied the transportation with his automobile for the team. A frequently sung chorus was:

"Have you been to the Dry Run Tabernacle,  
Have you been to the Place of Praise and Prayer,  
There's no carpet for your feet,  
There's no cushions on the seat,  
But the Glory of the Lord is there."

In the beginning, services were held every Sunday afternoon. Eventually, Sunday School was held in the morning and evangelistic services in the evening. Lew Shaw, Sr. and his son Lew would alternate preaching in the morning and evening services. The original building soon became too small to hold the growing crowds, and it became necessary to add another section to the church. The Lord continued to bless as people continued to come to the services, and souls were being saved. It soon became evident that a new building was in great need. The congregation prayed and gave of their resources until this was a reality. Land was donated by Bill Parks, one of the neighbors, and in March, 1960, they were able to break ground for their new building. The present building is located on this same site. The building was completed and dedicated in 1962.

Pastor Lew Shaw pastored the church for 28 years from its conception. In 1967 Pastor Shaw went home to be with the Lord, having been stricken with cancer, and was buried in the cemetery behind the church.



Pastor Lewis Shaw, Jr. (Second from Left) in the Dry Run Choir, 1956.



1956 Bible School



1960





1960 Bible School



Maze Jackson, Lew Shaw, Jr.

TUNE IN

**The Lifeline Broadcast**

**DRY RUN GOSPEL TABERNACLE**  
**LEWIS SHAW, PASTOR**



- |                         |          |  |
|-------------------------|----------|--|
| <b>ALTOONA, PA.</b>     | <b>-</b> | <b>Every Sunday Evening 10:00 - 10:30</b><br><b>WVAM 1430 on AM Dial</b>   |
| <b>PHILIPSBURG, PA.</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>Every Sunday Afternoon 3:00 - 3:30</b><br><b>WPHB 1260 on AM Dial</b>   |
| <b>MARTINSBURG, PA.</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>Every Sunday Afternoon 3:00 - 3:30</b><br><b>WJSM 90 - 2 on FM Dial</b> |
| <b>BUFFALO, N. Y.</b>   | <b>-</b> | <b>Every Saturday Evening 9:00 - 9:30</b><br><b>WDCX 99 - 5 on FM Dial</b> |



Evangelist Daniel Hummel



"The years our family served at Dry Run Gospel Tabernacle were some of the most exciting, spirit filled, God blessed days of our lives. We were young and just getting started in our pastoral ministry. We were called upon to follow a spiritual giant who had recently been promoted to heaven and I remember the fear, uncertainty, and inexperience that filled my heart. Pastor Lew Shaw had well trained and prepared the hearts of the people and we were well received and greatly helped by a congregation that earnestly prayed and stood by the side of there new pastor."

"Mistakes were made, blunders occurred, and I stubbed my toes and skinned my shins many times in those early days. But love, prayer, kindheartedness, and a committed group of people over came all my blunders and the church continued through troubled waters."

"After a few years of adjustment the Lord began to greatly bless the church. I remember the numbers on the attendance board had started to turn yellow and we decided to set a new record attendance. The old one was 215 and we broke it with a record attendance of 216. We were so excited but that was just the beginning. It was not long until we broke the record with 234, then 264, then 278, then over 300, and 400, and then 600, and finally we reached 725. I remember the fellows holding up a big sign in the back of the church that had 725 on it in big numbers. We were shouting the praises of the Lord. It was during those days we started the bus ministry, junior church programs, and printed hundreds of thousands of gospel tracts all for the purpose of introducing lost, hell bound sinners to the saving, keeping, life transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ."

"The many memories are deeply embedded in my heart and bring occasion for great rejoicing when I reflect upon them. Volumes could be written about our days with 'the Church on the mountain top.' Our gratitude to the saints still with us and to those already in the presence of Christ is warmly and lovingly given. Because it was here I was given the opportunity to preach His word without fear, favor, or compromise. A great congregation taught me to 'let it rip.' It was here I learned the power of prayer as miracle after miracle occurred when people united their hearts together in earnest prayer. It was here my heart became burdened to see the lost saved and to use every available means to win the lost to Christ."

"Great people who lovingly served a great Savior built a great church. I am delighted I had the privilege to be a part of this ministry. May God bless Dry Run Gospel Tabernacle and Pastor John Leatherman on their 50th Church Anniversary."

On November 19, 1967, Pastor Daniel Hummel was called to pastor the church. In 1968 the mortgage on the church was paid, and a mortgage burning ceremony was held. The church continued to grow, and it became evident that a larger building would be required. In April, 1973, the congregation

began to build this new addition which would be an auditorium seating 1200 people. Pastor Hummel resigned as pastor in January, 1975, to go into evangelism.



September 10, 1972



Pastor Bruce A. Weil



"Although I came from a religious family and went to Sunday School and church every Sunday, yet I was unsaved until I was 35 years old. My salvation took place in an Evangelical United Brethren Church in the small town of Lingelstown, PA. The Pastor, at the time, was Pastor Homer Falstick. He had come to the church as our Pastor and held Evangelistic Meetings, which were unheard of in the church before. Having been a former Evangelist for the Denomination, he knew the Lord as his own personal Saviour."

"I sang in the choir and therefore, decided I would be at the services. On the first service, which was Sunday Night, March 20, 1960, I left the choir loft and went to the altar and was gloriously saved. It changed my life completely."

"One year later, God called me to preach and I have been serving the Lord ever since."

"While pastoring the Dry Run Gospel Tabernacle, I have many fond memories. Perhaps the most significant of these memories was the Sunday Morning (Palm Sunday) the church burned to the ground. It seemed like a tragedy but the Lord used it to unite the people and to build an addition to the unfinished new building and to finish the whole building. Of course the souls that were saved in that building is the highest spiritual highlight of my ministry there. The fellowship and love shown to my wife and I while we were there and since, has been especially sweet. Thank you all for those 7 years and 4 months of our lives with you."

In February, 1975, Pastor Bruce Weil was called by a 100% vote of the membership to pastor the church. Pastor Weil's first service was held February 23, 1975. On March 19, 1978, Palm Sunday morning, a fire broke out in the main section of the building, and it burned to the ground. A fire wall between this main section and the new auditorium saved the new auditorium which had not as yet been completed. Construction was then stepped up on the new auditorium. For the first two months after the fire, we were able to continue our Sunday and Wednesday services in the auditorium while construction was continuing. It became necessary to find another place to meet during the months of June, July, and August. Contractor Bob Montgomery, whose men were working on the building, allowed us to use his large hanger at the Blue Knob Airport to hold our services in, for which we were very grateful. This made it possible for us not to miss any of our services. On September 3, 1978, we moved back into the completed auditorium. Construction had already begun on a Sunday School addition to the auditorium. This addition was completed in October 1979, and the first Sunday in September we were able to use this portion of the building.

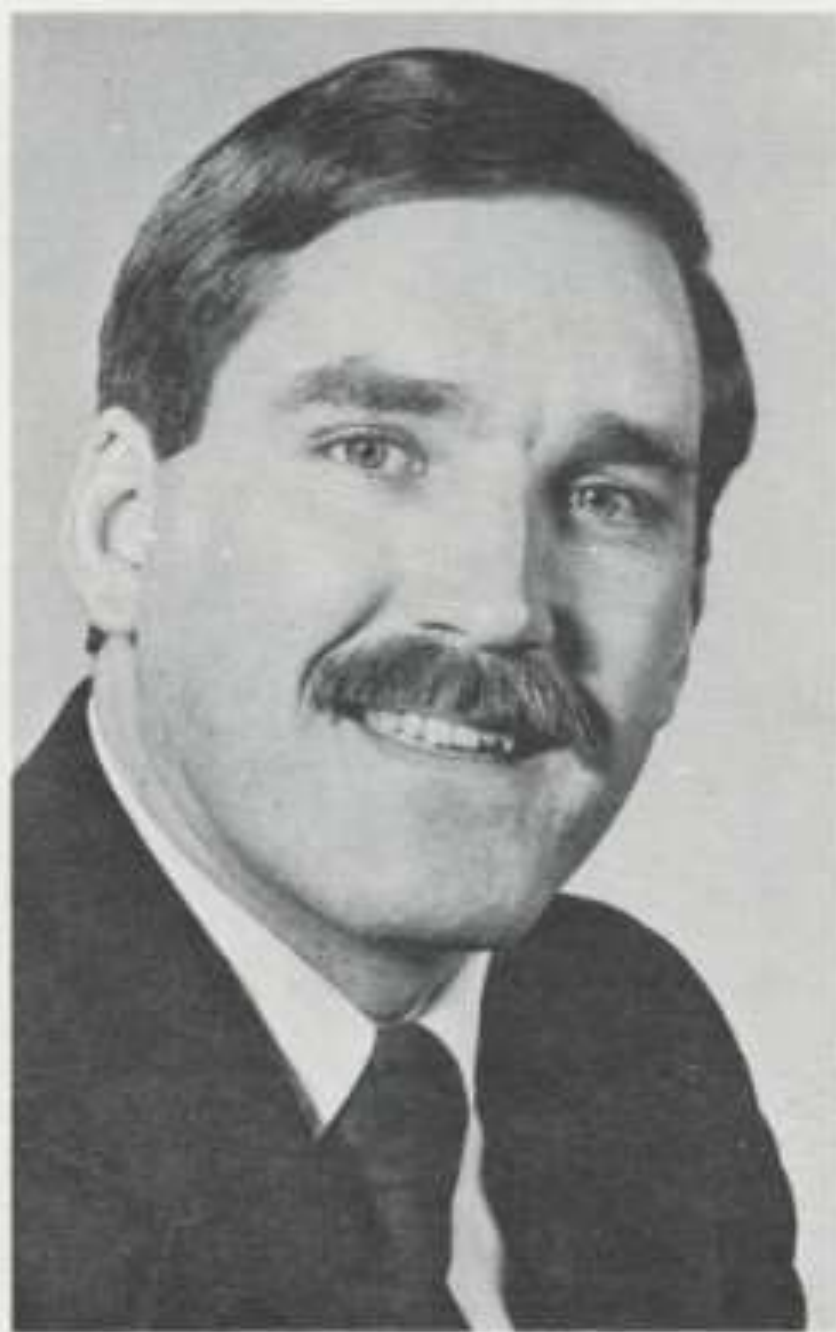


Dry Run Gospel Tabernacle before the fire.

March 19, 1978







Pastor John D. Leatherman

"I was born and raised in Keyser, WV. Our family had it very rough for several years. My father was very sick and finally died before I reached five years of age. Our dear mother was forced into the working ranks just to make ends meet. Being the youngest of four children I got to spend a lot of time with my grandparents while our mother worked, and it was perhaps here where the Lord first impressed my heart."

"But those impressions soon faded in my teenage years. It was the sixties and the age of rebellion against all authority. And these years I dare not elaborate on, to my own shame, and out of respect to my dear mother who was doing what she could to raise a family and work at the same time."

"Upon graduation from high school, I left Keyser to go live with my brother in the Baltimore, MD vicinity. My brother Don was a great influence in my life, especially in my salvation. Don and his family were attending Faith Bible Church in ElkrIDGE, MD at the time. So when they went to church, I naturally tagged along with them."

"After attending periodically for over a year, the Lord was dealing with my heart concerning salvation. So in my bedroom in February of 1973, I asked Christ to forgive me for my sin and to come into my heart as Lord and Saviour."

"One month later, I married my high school sweetheart and she has been dearer to me than any person on earth. Two years after we were married, God began to deal with my heart concerning the ministry."

"After graduating from Bible school, it has been our tremendous pleasure to serve our blessed Saviour these last twelve years in the Pastorate. Nearly five of those years have been spent here at Dry Run. These have been some of the best years of our lives. We have never been associated with finer folks than are found here at the Dry Run Gospel Tabernacle. They are the sweetest people we have ever known. Words cannot describe our love for them. We just pray that God will be able to use us here at Dry Run and give us another fifty years to practice historic fundamentalism if He spares His coming."

In January, 1985, Pastor John Leatherman started as Pastor of our church. Since then, the Lord has richly blessed us with each of his services. We continue to hold Sunday and Wednesday church services at Dry Run Gospel Tabernacle. We have been very grateful that God has always provided for our church. We hope that we can continue to serve God and do His will here at Dry Run Gospel Tabernacle for another fifty years, if not then before the Second Coming of Christ.



1984 Sunday School Picnic



1984 Corn Boil -- Blue Knob





1984 Christmas



1985 Sunday School Picnic



1985 Sunday School Picnic



1987 Sunday School Picnic