

# BEMIS BRO. BAG COMPANY GAVE PROPERTY TO ALL BEMIS DENOMINATIONS – 1949.

Union Church became Bemis United Methodist Church in 1949.

## Direct Index of Deeds, Madison County, Tenn.

DATE FILED	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	Date of Instrument	Kind of Instrument	Vol.	Page
1-16-48	Beare Ice & Coal Co.	James & Nettie	1-16-48	Deed	154	48
1-11-49	Bennett, R. W.	J. E. Baulch	1-11-49	Deed	154	46
1-12-49	Bergel, Samuel S.	Bruce Edenton	1-12-49	Deed	154	78
1-20-49	Bell, Mary E.	Basil L. Bell	1-20-49	Deed	154	40
		Theresa Bell				
		John Bell				
1-22-49	Bell, Mary E.	John Bell	1-22-49	Deed	154	110
1-22-49	Beard, J. E.	John Bell	1-22-49	Deed	154	15
1-22-49	Bear, J. E.	John Bell	1-22-49	Deed	154	15
1-26-49	Buchanan, Grady	Indie L. Smith	1-26-49	Deed	154	177
1-29-49	Bell, Lela S. & Ed	B. F. Howell	1-29-49	Deed	154	197
2-7-49	Beard, J. E. & W.	J. E. Murren	2-7-49	Deed	154	241
4-16-49	Berry, Waldo C. & Ed	Phillips School of Theology	4-16-49	Deed	154	615
	Berry, Charles D.					
5-5-49	Beare, R. L. Jr.	City of Jackson	5-5-49	Deed	155	53
5-4-49	Benton, Lucy W.		5-4-49	Deed	155	54
5-13-49	Bernie, B. O. Bag Co.	J. M. Leavey	5-13-49	Deed	155	77
	"	Harold West				
	"	Henry Herron				
	"	Martin E. Sum				
	"	Bemis Baptist Church				
	"	Herron Chapel				
5-11-49	Beare, R. L. & J.	Five Points Lumber Co.	5-11-49	Deed	155	78
5-31-49	Beard, J. E. & W.	Johnny B. Kiser	5-31-49	Deed	155	181
6-2-49	Beard, J. E. & W.	Paul W. Lee	6-2-49	Deed	155	201
6-22-48	Bemis Bro. Bag Co.	Bemis Methodist Church	6-22-48	Deed	155	278
	"	A. M. Edwards				
	"	Hallum Vernon				
	"	J. J. Woodson				
	"	R. L. Bell				
	"	F. H. Hammond				
	"	G. L. Cobb				
	"	L. E. Wyatt				
	"	James R. Davis				
	"	Bennie Brazelton				
7-22-49	Betts, Louise Anderson	Lillie Ann Hall	7-22-49	Gift	155	377
8-3-49	Bennett, E. E.	Edward Bell	8-3-49	Deed	155	452
9-24-49	Berryman, Elmer S.	R. H. Kane	9-24-49	Deed	156	69

## Bemis Company Gives Gift To Methodists

By ALLEN HINES

A landmark of religion, provided by a benevolent man, for people who wanted a sanctuary in which to worship, was handed over free to a congregation when Bemis Bro. Company presented deeds to the Bemis Methodist Church and the property on which it is located to the people who have made it the home of their religion for 40 years.

In a quiet ceremony held at the church last Thursday, Fred J. Young, Sr., manager of the Bemis plant and town, presented the deed to the Rev. H. W. Davis, pastor of the church.

Before April 18, 1908, there was no church building in Bemis, and union services were held on Sundays in an assembly hall on the second floor of the Bemis Mercantile Co. building. Methodists, Baptists, Pentecosts, and followers of the Church of Christ took turns at holding services.

In that year a union church building, of English architecture that has since been scrutinized by the eye of many an aspiring architect, was provided through the generosity of the late J. M. Bemis, one of the Bemis founders. Dedicated as a union church, services for all denominations were held in it at the beginning. The first pastor was the Rev. T. F. Saunders, father of Dr. W. G. Saunders of Jackson.

Then the Baptist believers drifted off and built their own church, now Herron's Chapel Baptist; members of the Church of Christ built themselves a church on lots given by Bemis. Then the Pentecosts left, and the union church was occupied only by Methodists.

Now that the church, valued at about \$70,000, has been given to the people who have made it the center of their religion, a new dedication ceremony is planned for it as soon as some repairs are completed. This time it will be dedicated as a Methodist Church.

A note of peculiarity about the first dedication of the church in 1908 is that its beginning was not recorded on the customary corner stone, because the stucco construction made no provision for one. The "corner stone" has rested inside the church since it was built.

One of the many who will be present at that dedication service is A. M. Edwards, treasurer of the church who came to work for Bemis Bro. as a cashier two years before it was built in 1908.

There will be an appropriate ceremony witnessed by:

The board of trustees—R. L. Bell, Hallum Vernon, L. E. Wyatt, A. M. Edwards, F. H. Hammond, Sr., J. T. Woodson, Bennie Brazelton, G. D. Cobb and J. R. Davis, all of whom serve on the board of stewards, which also consist of:

Paul Babb, W. W. Bates, P. H. Brasher, A. A. Copeland, B. H. Creasy, M. F. Fry, J. C. Gaugh, Elco Hensley, H. C. Johnson, Kirby McKnight, Fred Payton, A. M. Tate, Hallum Vernon, chairman.

and Leonard Wilson. Other officials of the church are Mrs. A. M. Edwards, president of the WSCS; Miss Monica Jackson, communion steward; Mrs. E. D. Pettigrew, Golden Cross director; J. T. Woodson, Sunday School superintendent, and Mrs. J. T. Woodson, organist.

The Bemis Methodist Church is not the only one to benefit from Bemis Bro. generously; you might say they have had a sort of program of it recently.

A few months ago the company donated one of the best and most centrally-located lots in the town to the Baptist Church as the site of a projected new building. It was the first time in the history of the town that a lot within the limits proper has changed ownership. The company also plans to contribute substantially to help finish out the \$100,000 cost.

The Bemis Church of Christ is thinking in terms of setting up a new building, and the company plans to contribute to its financing. Not so long ago, it made a considerable donation to the recently completed Missionary Baptist Church.

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