

Pensacola News Journal
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UPTON RESIGNS
VERNON (Special)—The Rev. R. E. Upton has announced his resignation as Sunday School superintendent for the West Florida Baptist Association.

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CAMPBELLTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. R. E. Upton, Pastor
10:00 a. m., Sunday School each Sunday.
11:00 a. m., Preaching each 1st and 3rd Sundays.
6:00 p. m., Training Union each Sunday night.
7:00 p. m., Midweek Prayer Meeting each Wednesday.

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JOHN M. REYNOLDS
CHIPLEY (Special) — Funeral services for John M. Reynolds, 83, who died Friday at his home in Chipley, were held Saturday at Holmes Creek Baptist Church with the **Rev. R. E. Upton** officiating. Burial was in Glenwood Cemetery at Chipley and was directed by Blackburn Funeral Home.

AT A CRADLE OF CHRISTIANITY — Here are some of the older members and the pastor of the 123-year-old Ebenezer Baptist Church in Holmes Valley in Washington County. From left, they are Nevil Brock, the **Rev. R. E. Upton**, pastor, Henry J. Brock, Mrs. Mary Vivian Brock and Mrs. Dan Bruner. The church is about four miles from Vernon.

(Pensacola Journal photo by **E. W. Carswell**)



Baptists to Meet At Chipley Today

CHIPLEY — (Special) — The West Florida Baptist Association will hold its fifth Sunday meeting today at the New Orange Baptist Church.

The church is six miles south of Chipley just off the Orange Hill highway.

Rev. R. E. Upton, church pastor, said all pastors of the association are invited and urged to attend.

The program:

—10 A. M. Sunday School; 10:50 Opening exercises, 11:00 **Rev. J. W. Baker**, 11:20 **Rev. Johnson**; 11:40 **Rev. Chas. Temples**, 12 Noon —Dinner.

1:20 P. M. **Rev. G. M. Turner**, Rom. 5:1; 1:40 **Rev. Adams**, Jno. 6:35; 2:00 **Rev. Duncan**, Jno. 6:68; 2:20 **Rev. C. G. Lane**, Jno. 8:56-58; 2:40 **Rev. Sanders**, Jno. 10:10; 3:00 **Rev. F. L. Dykes**, Jno. 11:35-36.

A Reporter Goes to Church

Church Has 123 Years of History

This is another in a series on "A Reporter Goes to Church. A different church, temple or synagogue, regardless of race or creed, in the Pensacola area is visited each weekend.

VERNON — Sitting beside the historical St. Augustine-to-Pensacola trail on a ridge deep in the woods of Holmes Valley is a little white frame church.

It's the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The church is 123 years old. The present building was completed in 1894. The building and adjacent cemetery occupy a site of several acres along a sandy clay road that is soon to be paved.

The paving will erase a bit of history in Northwest Florida, but the church will still stand as a monument to the past among tall oaks covered with Spanish moss.

The church, which holds ser-



By
George Parrish
Journal
Church Editor

vices every other Sunday, is about four miles southeast of Vernon and 140 miles north-east of Pensacola.

The church has 16 active members and 25 persons, including three or four visitors, were present Sunday. They sat on pine slat pews.

There was a fire going in the wood stove and the light is furnished by bulbs loosely hanging from the ceiling. The lamp holders are still on the walls.

A vase of beautiful white lilies sat on the offering table in front of a simple pulpit.

Mrs. Dan Bruner was the pianist and she called out the hymn numbers from her bench in front of an old upright piano. There was no song leader.

The congregation sang "At the Cross," "The Lily of the Valley," "Near the Cross," "Blessed Assurance" and "Prepare to Meet Thy God."

The sermon was delivered by the Rev. R. E. Upton, a retired school teacher who served as principal and instructor at Vernon High School for 20 years and principal at the Wausau Junior High School for one year. He has been preaching at Ebenezer Baptist for about nine years.

He held an open Bible in his hands and talked about a lot of things, but his remarks about

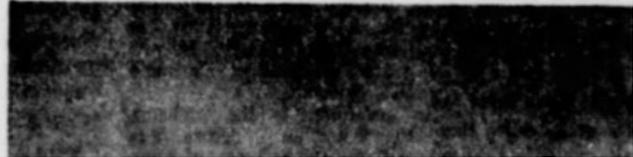
the Vietnam War struck home.

"War is costly," he said. "If we had seen fit to invest more money in missionaries for countries like Vietnam we would be sending fewer sons to the battlefield."

Boyd Collins said the opening prayer, O. L. Bruner blessed the offering and E. W. Carswell said the benediction.

The oldest member present was Henry J. Brock, 74. He joined the church in 1913. It's his church and he watches over it and the cemetery like a shepherd over his flock.

The cemetery is full of markers bearing the name of Brock. There's a decaying brick enclosure at the rear of the burial ground that shields the graves of two doctors.





THIS HISTORIC CEMETERY IS LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH IN HOLMES VALLEY NEAR VERNON
... oaks clinging with moss stand guard over the graves along a sandy clay road that soon will be paved with progress

A Reporter Goes to Church