

In a special business session Sunday morning, August 10, Jim Wagoner, chairman of the deacons, recommended that the church renovate the sanctuary and accept the recommendation of the organ committee that the **Randall Dyer** Company build and install a pipe organ to replace our electronic organ. Total project cost would be \$155,000.

It was recommended that the church finance the project through special gifts, and if money was needed over and above the five-year commitment of members, or if additional money was needed, the trustees were authorized to borrow the money. The 19-rank, 841 pipe organ would be housed in walnut cases on either side of the baptistry window. Other modifications to the sanctuary would include a new drywall ceiling matching the curvature of the present ceiling; new lighting including recessed lights and chandeliers, reconstruction of the choir loft walls; modification of the baptistry window, expansion of the choir loft by moving the choir railing toward the pulpit; repair of plaster walls and crown molding; fresh paint throughout, and refurbishing woodwork. The deacons authorized the organ and renovation committees to see if there was support in the congregation for undertaking sanctuary renovation and organ purchase. There was an enthusiastic response and by the end of the year the new pipe organ had been ordered, commitments amounting to 99% of the project had been returned, and \$95,115 of the \$155,000 required had been received.



In October the church approved the recommendation of the personnel committee and the deacons that the church allow Pastor Adkins to pursue his Doctor of Ministry degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

1986

Sunday School attendance showed growth with the creation of two new classes, one for three-year-olds and one for young adults. With the reorganization of Acteens, the WMU once again had active missions groups for every age in the church.

This year saw the addition of a Senior Adult Choir which sang for the first time May 4, 1986.





The youth choir joined with Chester Baptist Church youth choir to sing *Celebrate Life* at both churches. There were now six choirs, an instrumental ensemble, and a handbell choir.

Our church participated with other Baptists in simultaneous revival services in March. In February there was Wednesday night training for witnessing, and assignments were made for visitation. Dr. Robert McClernon, pastor of Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, NC, led our revival and Ken Harrell, former organist, returned to play at one of the services.

The barbershop property which was purchased in 1985 was demolished in 1986 and the land graded for parking.

With the entire corner of Starling Avenue and Memorial Boulevard now

vacant of buildings our church structure had a greater visibility than any time since it was built. Kevin Lewis planted Leyland cypress and Nathez crepe myrtle trees on the back of the new cleared property as his Eagle Scout project. It was the first phase of long-

range landscaping design which had been offered in 1985 by the landscape architect from the Sunday School Board. Future phases in the architect's proposal included a new sign for the corner.

Special studies during the year included a series for parents on how to talk with children about death, sex, and their relation to God; and a study of the history of Christian worship. In the fall, an in-depth study of Isaiah was offered. There was an experiment with evening vespers on Wednesdays during the summer. The theme was learning to live faithfully through the stories of people of faith, from Abraham to Lottie Moon

The youth organized for ministry as well as fellowship. In May the youth sponsored an intergenerational event for

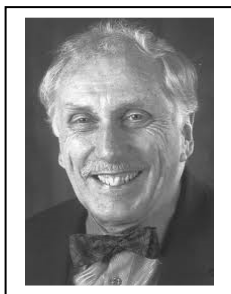
the church's senior adults so the two groups could get to know one another better and celebrate being in church together. In December the youth sponsored a Christmas fellowship for the Open Arms Sunday School class, the class for mentally handicapped adults which our church had partnered in creating with other area churches.



Ten messengers from our church attended the SBC in Atlanta, and there was greater interest in the meetings of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. We joined Virginia Baptists in setting aside Cooperative Program funds for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs should the SBC defund the fifty-year old agency it had helped found.

The church enjoyed three major fellowships: the spaghetti supper in February; a well-attended fall picnic at Camp Lee Ford, which included autumn walks and a brainstorming session for 1986-87 programs; and caroling to shut-ins followed by a fellowship to warm up the chilled carolers. Our softball team provided fellowship both on the field and in the bleachers.

In February we celebrated the tenth anniversary of our pastor, David Adkins.



James Dunn, the Director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, spoke to our Baptist Men on their work protecting the religious liberty and

separation of church and state on behalf of Baptists.

After fourteen years of leadership, Emma Washburn handed over the new gavel Charlie Biggs had made for the Fellowship Club to her successor, Midge Huddle.

The church constitution which was adopted in 1981 was reviewed by a committee consisting of Wade Lawrence, Berenice Minter, Marcella



Minter, Warren Robertson, and the pastor. Changes were made in the process of church deacon selection. Now the church would directly elect deacons without nominations from a nominating committee.

In 1986 our total giving to mission causes was \$34,094. Over \$4,600 was earmarked for world hunger and local hunger relief.

In November, 1986 the church grieved with Gerry and Betty Robinson and their family over the death of their infant son, Daniel.

1987

As 1987 began we mourned the death of Cremote Marshall, who upon his retirement had joined his wife Beulah in the custodial care of our church and had by her side given loving care to our building and grounds. The Marshalls had been with our church for over half of its life.

In March the church was asked to accept Mr. Lewis Rhodes of 408 Union Street as a member of the church. His wife, Marion, was already a member, but his health problems had prevented his attendance. Deacon Ed Huddle went to visit with Mr. Rhodes and reported Mr. Rhodes' condition and his sincere wish to profess his faith and be part of the church. In view of these

special circumstances the church accepted Mr. Rhodes as a member through profession of faith.

In December the church voted to install new air conditioning in the sanctuary as part of the other renovations previously approved. It was during this renovation that the huge exhaust fan was removed from the sanctuary ceiling where it had served to move air in those days before air conditioning.

1988

Renovations on the sanctuary began in January. After January 17th, all worship services were held in a crowded fellowship hall until the work was completed. The old wooden chairs there lacked the comfort of the padded pews, and the congregation was packed all the way up to the speaker stand. But the spirit was wonderful, and congregational singing was lively.

At the Baptist Men's breakfast in February a video of Millard Fuller's explanation of Habitat for Humanity to the Christian Life Commission inspired Bill Adkins to step forward and propose the creation of a local Habitat for Humanity chapter. "We can do that," he said. After gathering more information and making contacts, including correspondence with former President, Jimmy Carter, Mr. Adkins called for an organizational meeting which was held in the church fellowship hall in September with over thirty representatives from local churches. Out of that meeting Habitat of Martinsville and Henry County was born. As of this writing Starling Avenue continues to provide office and meeting facilities as well as other support.

Ten messengers from the church attended the Southern Baptist Convention June 14th - 16th in San

Antonio, Texas. The pastor and messengers returned convinced that irreversible changes were taking place in the SBC.



Sunday morning, July 17th, the church was called into business session to hear a motion from the deacons read by Harry Dalton.

1. *The deacons being concerned about the recent events at the Southern Baptist Convention, called on the church to pray for God's guidance in making an appropriate response.*

2. *The deacons also recommended that the church through the nominating committee establish a committee consisting of eight persons. This committee should be charged with the following duties:*

- *To study the present situation and issues in the Southern Baptist Convention.*
- *To educate and enlighten the church membership as to these matters.*
- *To make recommendations for appropriate action.*

This matter was further discussed at the business meeting, Wednesday, July 20th and approved by the church the following Sunday.

In 1987 the deacons and building and grounds committee recommended the church install an elevator which would make all three levels of the church handicapped-accessible. A few questioned the expense, but as it turned out some injuries underscored for others just how much it would help. At that

time only one entrance to the church did not involve a lot of steps. As the church became more aware of handicapped accessibility issues, a gap was cut into the retaining wall outside the educational entrance to allow for wheel chairs and walkers. Handicapped parking spaces were also set aside.

In December Carlton Crenshaw tendered his resignation as deacon due to health problems. The nominating committee asked Lewis Compton to fill the vacancy until October 1, 1989.

1989

Sunday morning, March 12, 1989, the pastor shared a recommendation from the deacons that Wilbert E. Evans be accepted into the membership of the church. As in the earlier case of Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Evans' declining health prevented his presenting himself for membership, but deacons and the pastor had met with him. The deacons voted to bring his name to the church. When Mr. Evans died March 10th the deacons took the unusual step of proposing we affirm his membership retroactive back to the day they told him of their decision, March 6, 1989. The congregation gave a hearty "Amen."

Dr. Alan Neely, professor of missiology at Princeton Theological Seminary and former professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and missionary in Columbia, South America, was the preacher for a revival.

The church mission committee proposed a special mission offering for church ministries not in the current budget. With the deacon's endorsement and the church's affirmation the first offering was taken in May.

The first project the offering funded was a summer youth worker. The church employed Christy Huff, a

member at Fieldale Baptist Church and a student at James Madison University, to lead the program. It was such a success that the stewardship committee decided to include funds for a youth worker in the 1990 budget.

Habitat for Humanity under the direction of Bill Adkins completed its first project: the renovation of a donated house in Fieldale. The home, as it turned out, was the oldest house in Fieldale and upgrading it was more challenging than a new structure would have been. As a way of supporting Habitat, the BYW published a cookbook which quickly sold out. Over \$500 in profits was raised for the ministry.

An elevator fund was created and a committee appointed to bring a proposal about a new elevator.

In September bids for paving the barbershop property were sought. The actual cost to pave the lot was \$9,000. At the same time a member donated a new brick sign with the church name for the corner facing Memorial Boulevard.



In September the SBC study committee presented its findings in a well attended church forum. Copies of *The Takeover* were made available to church families.

Special speakers during the year included Dr. Robert Bratcher, the translator of the Good News Bible, speaking on the challenges and blessings of translating the Scriptures.



Rabbi Friedman joined us in our studies of our Jewish heritage and a celebration of Passover.

Roberta Damon, minister of counseling at First Baptist Church, Richmond, was a speaker in February at Ladies Night.

October 1, Jim Wagoner, on behalf of the stewardship committee, the building and grounds committee, and the deacons, recommended that \$2,500.00 be borrowed to cover the cost of the removal of the old education annex boiler with its asbestos insulation in order to make room for the elevator shaft. After the asbestos was removed professionally, volunteers helped dismantle the sooty boiler through a plastic tunnel made through the fellowship hall. It was memorably dirty work.

1990

The previous October, Beulah Marshall announced her retirement as custodian at the end of the year. On Sunday, January 7, 1990 Mrs. Marshall was honored during the worship service, at which she was joined by her family. She was presented with a plaque, memory book, and a "money tree" which Cecelia Hundley and Ora Donavant had spearheaded. The service was followed by a reception.



Dr John Bunn, former professor of Old Testament at Campbell University was the winter bible study leader, discussing the new light from recent historical investigations on our understanding of Abraham.

Sunday morning, April 15, the church was called into business session by the deacons to consider the recommendation that the elevator be installed in the church at a cost of between \$42,000 and \$45,000; and that members be asked to make pledges towards its purchase and installation. Dover Elevator of Greensboro, North Carolina, was in charge of installation. At the Wednesday evening April 18th business meeting Bill Adkins explained more about the construction needs. The old furnace was being removed; they had to go twenty-five feet deeper under the building for the elevator shaft and the shaft had to be cut and framed before the elevator could be installed. The project was approved by the church on April 22nd.

In July the church began adopting specific relief projects as the focus of the annual world hunger offerings. While World Hunger Sunday had been observed in October since 1977, the new approach focused the gifts on one development project each year. In succeeding years the church would buy goats, cows, seed and farm tools; build bridges; dig wells; plant orchards; and purchase sewing machines.

In August of 1990 Karen Hamann began a music internship under the supervision of Gerry Robinson, as part of the requirements for a church ministry degree at Averett College. The internship required 7.5 hours each week in the church's music program and worship services from September, 1990 through April, 1991. The internship did not involve remuneration, but the

church included a love offering in its 1991 budget.

In October the church voted to identify itself with the Alliance of Baptists. The Alliance had grown out of the awareness that the Sunday School Board, mission boards and seminaries would be drastically altered by the takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention. The pastor served on the Virginia Alliance of Baptists board which was instrumental in the formation of Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond.

Following the Southern Baptist Convention in June, the Baptist relations committee, made up of Harry Dalton, Sarah Fain, Ronnie Prillaman, Patsy Roach, Barbara Smith, Jim Wagoner, and Geneva Winn, proposed that the church join with other moderate churches in forming the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. This happened in an August gathering in Atlanta. CBF would become an alternative agency appointing missionaries. Smyth & Helwys would offer an alternative to the SBC Sunday School Board. Diane Adkins, the pastor's wife, was invited to be one of the first lesson writers for Smyth and Helwys.



In 1990 Joe and Merle Prince were commissioned as our first international volunteers in mission to Tanzania. Roseanne Goble created a banner as a gift to give the churches with which they would work.

1991

John Manson retired in April 1991 after serving the church for nineteen years as church organist. A reception was held in his honor in the church fellowship hall following church services. John had served First Baptist Church, Martinsville as its Minister of Music until retirement. When Starling Avenue asked him to become its organist in 1972, he agreed. When Mr. Manson died in December of 1993, his wife gave the church his library of organ music.

In May Dottie Donavant, who had been nursery director for many years, announced that she would give up that position in 1992 for health reasons.

John Manson said some found his humor irreverent, but his faith was deep. In his last years he took up Vietnamese to talk with the refugee to whom he and Alpha opened their home. Sometimes if you were too quiet coming in the sanctuary during the week, you might find John on his knees before the altar deep in prayer. His music came from devotion.



The church anniversary was celebrated in November with Dr. James Dunn as guest preacher. *The history committee for 1990 included Emma Washburn, Ted Ussery, Evelyn Elliott, Cecilia Hundley, Nannie Helms and Martha Prillaman (Lee)*



In May the church called Kathryn (Kay) Spencer to become the church organist. Kay and Ed and their family had been members of the church while they served as musicians at another church locally. Kay grew up in Johnson City, Tennessee and had received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Carson - Newman College in Jefferson, Tennessee and her Master of Church Music from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. She had served as a missionary journeyman in Taiwan for two years.

In October of 1991 the room behind the balcony was set aside for prayer. Joe and Martha Lee invited others to join with them there to pray for the church before Sunday School. "The Upper Room" continued to meet weekly until April, 2010.

In response to actions of the Southern Baptist Convention, the church in its 1991 budget "negatively designated" the Southern Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee, the SBC Executive Committee, Southern Baptist seminaries, the Christian Life Commission, and the Historical Commission. The church shifted those monies to CBF, the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, and the Alliance of Baptists.

1992

In April, the mission committee invited members to give to a Alliance of Baptists mission offering for Broadneck Baptist Church in Cape St Claire, Maryland which was in the process of purchasing a church building for their mission congregation. The church had previously received aid from the Home Mission Board, until they called a woman as pastor. The youth had gone to Broadneck for several summers prior to this to conduct backyard Bible clubs as the church reached out to its community. The amount of \$696 was sent to Broadneck Baptist Church.

In May a fund for "Volunteers in Missions" was established. The amount would supplement resources of members who gave time and talents through the Virginia Baptist Partnership Missions program.

Renovation plans were drawn up to completely redesign the third floor of the educational building. This plan called for larger classrooms, a mini kitchen, new carpet, and handicapped accessible restrooms. Also a part of the plan was re-carpeting the sanctuary. The total cost was estimated to be \$150,000. The church voted to have \$75,000 in the renovation fund before starting the project.



On Sunday Morning, March 1, 1992, during the morning worship service, tribute was paid to Obie Nunn for the many years he had given to the

deaf ministry in the church. Through Obie's efforts the church had come to have one of the oldest continuing ministries to the deaf in any Virginia church.

A History of the Silent Bible Class

In the fall of 1932 Dr. J. P. McCabe extended an invitation to a small group to establish a Sunday School for the deaf at First Baptist, Martinsville. Mr. Gerner Bondurant who was living on Cleveland Avenue was the first teacher for more than a year before relinquishing the post due to his poor health. Mr. Obie Nunn took over teaching the class in 1935.

In 1937 the Bible Class moved to Starling Avenue Baptist Church since most of the members lived in Southside. The deaf remember with great respect and love the Reverend John Woody. Rev. Woody prompted a class to learn the sign language.

Mrs. Juanita Polk became interested in having the Silent Class join in the morning worship service. Interpreters were contacted.

Mrs. Catherine Stone was the first interpreter for the deaf for a short time. Becky Woody Camden and Mrs. Joan Joyce learned to sign and became the interpreters for the class and for the services.

In December a church council discussed creating a music school committee. There would be a pilot program for eight weeks to see if the school would be a success. The music school would serve as a mission outreach program of the church. Funding would come from tuition paid by the students, and classes would be held in two rooms of the church building. The school would be operated by a director hired by the board of directors of the school.

1993

The church voted to establish an eight week pilot program for a music school. Clarence Stegall recommended that a separate checking account be set up for the school. The school was to be governed by a board of directors with seven members from Starling Avenue Church. The nominating committee appointed the board members. Kay Spencer taught the



pilot school as its director with the help of three teaching assistants. The members of the board from Starling Avenue were Don Hinton, chairman; Sarah Fain, secretary; Lynn Fitzgibbons, Ran Minter, Kathryn Warren, Rev. Robinson, and Dr. Adkins.

Clara Barnes, church secretary, resigned on May 31. A farewell reception was held for her on Friday, May 29th. Jamie Caviness became church secretary.

The church hosted the AIDS Symposium sponsored by the West Piedmont AIDS task force.

1994

The renovation committee asked that the church proceed with the renovation of the third floor and new carpet for the sanctuary so that it would be done by the 60th anniversary celebration in November, 1995. Some of the work was done by volunteers from the church family. The renovation committee members Ann Harrell, Nan Dalton, Louise Shuford, and Betty Jo Robertson traveled extensively and worked tirelessly to find the right carpet, furniture, fabrics and other adornments to beautify the space. By incorporating all the existing support columns within walls, maximum utilization of the space was realized. Adult classes moved into the new area, which was also used by the WMU and deacons for meetings. The kitchenette accommodated communion preparation and the new restrooms were designed to double as baptismal dressing rooms. The total cost was just over \$120,000. By the end of the year our indebtedness for all the project (including the new roof on the office building) was \$52,500. Gifts and pledges to the renovation fund were used to retire the resulting debt.



Camping and hiking was a regular part of youth events in the summer. Here is a group resting on the way to Dragon's Tooth.

The electric organ which had been removed from the sanctuary when the new pipe organ was installed and had been sitting in a classroom behind the sanctuary was removed and donated to Orchard Drive Baptist Church, a new church in the Henry County Baptist Association. It was given in memory of John Manson.



Cecil Sherman, the director of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), came to the church February 13 to talk about the unfolding work of this new Baptist network of missions support. Other churches were invited to come to an afternoon event with Dr. Sherman.

The church offered the option to church members of designating the mission portion of their regular offerings and their gifts to special

mission offerings to the SBC, Alliance, or CBF. In 1994 most of our members were designating their missions gifts through the CBF. Members were kept informed of the changing Baptist landscape through the Baptist Relations Committee reports, through serving as messengers to or in positions of leadership within the local association and the Virginia Baptist General Association.

In addition to keeping our food pantry well-stocked, the members gave nearly \$1,000 at our communion services to help meet the need for local benevolence. Through these resources seventy-four families were helped with food and other emergency assistance that year.

Mission action during 1994 took a few of our members outside Virginia. Merle Prince was part of a state WMU team on mission to Mexico City where she worked with a church to provide VBS. A team of our youth, accompanied by Linda Mabry, Brenna Harris, and the pastor, went on a mission trip to Broadneck Baptist Church in Cape St. Clair, Maryland. They painted one side of the church building and conducted two backyard Vacation Bible Schools.

Habitat for Humanity held a capital "faith working through love" campaign, with the sign showing progress standing on the corner of our property. We continued to contribute office space, money, leadership and volunteer labor.

A new ministry to developmentally disabled adults began in 1994. The Henry County Association began a partnership the Virginia Baptist Children's Home and Family Services to open a home for developmentally disabled adults in our community.

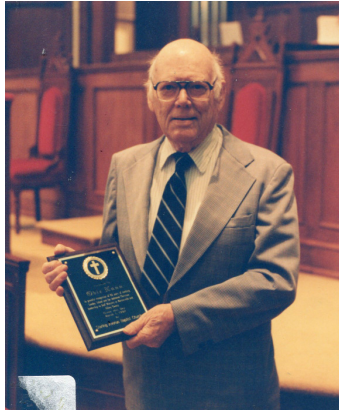


Bill Adkins donated a house on Mulberry Road. Several of our members served on the developmental disabilities ministry committee and on the renovation team which transformed it into a group home.

To deepen spiritual life a Lenten study of intercessory prayer was offered on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings. Small groups met to study and to practice prayer together. A "prayer chain" was formed under the leadership of Cecelia Hundley. The three groups covenanted to offer an ongoing ministry of intercessory prayer. The group covenanted to pray and to keep confidences.

In 1994 Marcella Minter, assisted by Linda Mabry, established and coordinated a new ministry to the homebound. An almost overwhelming 70 individuals were identified to receive this ministry. Through the willing help of volunteers, deacons, and mission groups, this ministry ensures that those who are not able to be active in the life of the church are kept in touch.

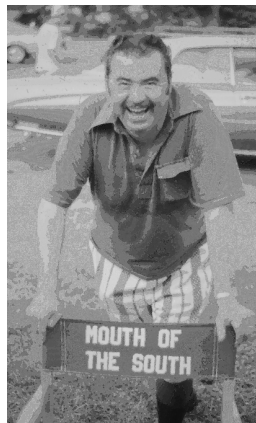
The history committee planned for a new pictorial directory to be complete in time for our 60th church anniversary in 1995. The committee also began asking all members to update the information in our family files, a permanent record of relatives, births, deaths, marriages, and other milestones, which the church keeps of every family which has been a part of the church.



We were saddened by the sudden death of Obie Nunn who established the deaf ministry at Starling Avenue over fifty years earlier. Obie touched the lives of hearing and deaf alike. Several participated in a signing class taught by Joan Joyce in order to be more able to communicate with the hearing impaired.

The first church handbook was finished by the church council, collecting into one resource the work of different officers, committees, and organizations within the church.

The recreation committee sponsored three fellowships. In addition to the popular Valentine's spaghetti supper in February, a pig-picking picnic was held Saturday, May 14 at the Southside



Park. Lewis Compton and friends provided music, and "foot fellowship" ensued.

In September the church enjoyed another beautiful, relaxing Sunday afternoon together at Camp Lee Ford. Whether fishing or sitting by the lake in the golden sunlight or playing a hard

game of volleyball, we enjoyed the day together.

Gerry Robinson served a second time as president of the Virginia Baptist Male Chorale in an important time of transition for that group after the retirement of Allen Brown. In addition Gerry undertook the responsibilities of Associational Music Director again. During the year there were several Christian education opportunities in addition to Sunday School. The WMU led a study of missions in Europe. Midweek studies included "The Bible and 'Hot Potato' Issues," "Communication: the Art of Relationship," and books of *Hosea*, *Matthew*, and an intensive study of *The Gospel of John*.



Linda Mabry made sure children knew the books of the Bible. The rice bowl on the table was used for years for world hunger offerings.

The music school under the direction of Kay Spencer continued to reach out to young children throughout the community who were hungry for early music education.

For the first time the church used Smyth and Helwys Vacation Bible School material, "A Heart for Missions," under the direction of Linda Mabry and a most capable staff of teachers. Pam Martin sewed unforgettable banners representing the Bible stories. Children in grades 1-6 were a fast-growing group. The GA program was large and vibrant and invited boys in grades 1-6 to join in study of missions. A new Sunday School class began in December for ages 18-26.

Several single adults attended the Single Adult Weekend in November and came back talking about a single adult fellowship at the church.

During 1994 a total of \$260,631.80 was given to God's work through the church. \$38,051.38 of this was given to missions through the budget and through designated gifts. \$23,981 was designated to the renovation project. Through the faithful giving of the congregation, we more than covered all the budget expenses.

The 13th annual Hanging of the Greens was celebrated with new greenery and gold bows which

the flowers and decorations committee secured through special donations.

Ran Minter organized and directed *Gaudete* ("Rejoice!"), an ensemble of twenty choristers, thirteen of whom were members of Starling Avenue to sing *a capella* sacred music for Advent through Epiphany. Their first concert December 4 was enthusiastically received by the community.



Among the highlights of the year was a second production of Amahl and the Night Visitors with Joel Spencer as Amahl.



Economic Transitions of Martinsville and Henry County

Martinsville and Henry County was the most industrialized community per capita in Virginia in the 1970s. Here is a brief overview of the story of these industries.

After local tobacco companies were bought out, furniture companies began to emerge:

- 1902 Bassett Furniture incorporated
- 1906 American of Martinsville founded
- 1924 Hooker Furniture begun
- 1924 Stanley Furniture begun
- 1925, 40 percent of the working population in Martinsville-Henry County was employed in the furniture business.
- In 1925 William Letcher Pannill opened the first textile operation in Martinsville.
- In 1928 Samuel Walker founded the Virginia Underwear Co. which in 1964 merges with Bassett-Walker Knitting to become Bassett Walker.
- In 1931 Marshall Fields set up towel factory in what became Fieldale.
- Sale Knitting was founded and grew to make sixty percent of the nation's sweatshirts, later becoming Tultex.
- In 1941 DuPont opened its second nylon factory in Martinsville.
- In 1989 Virginia Underwear is sold to Vanity Fair.

- *In 1994 NAFTA was passed.*

- In 1994 Sara Lee, which had bought Pannill Knitting, stopped production
- In 1997 5 B's Embroidery opened a plant
- In 1998 DuPont closed local manufacturing.
- In 1999 Tultex (earlier known as Sale Knitting) filed for bankruptcy.
- In 1999 Pluma closed. 5 B's filed for bankruptcy.
- In 2001 Vanity Fair closed production.
- In 2001 Hooker cut back on domestic production, shifts it overseas
- After 2000 Pulaski, Ridgeway and Vaughan closed furniture production.
- Congress passed the "fast track" world trade package that gave the President power to negotiate deals and trading benefits to South American countries.
- In 2005 Bassett closed factories in Bassett
- In 2010 American of Martinsville and Stanley closed factories
- In 2010 unemployment soared above 20% as the nation faced recession.