

In 1995, tragedy again struck, with the untimely death of David Sr. from leukemia at age 52.

Friends of the family, Robert and Carolyn Reed, presented an antique pulpit-size Bible for the Sanctuary, in memory of David Hamilton Strickland Sr. It continues in use.

Mrs. Theo Strickland Hornsby died in 1998 at age 84. Her funeral was held in the Chapel, where she faithfully sat for 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning services. "Her pew" was towards the front, beside the windows—about the same spot where her flock of children had once been photographed before her first husband died. Mrs. Theo loved to keep track of theatre, movies, and TV productions in New York or Los Angeles. Her daughter Gail had become a noted actress.

New life was breathed into the Mountain Brook Baptist Church Strickland legacy in 2008, when David III and his wife Tracy joined this church. Tracy, an engineer, had grown up in the First Baptist Church of Montgomery. It was time for the family dedication service for their first child, David Hamilton Strickland IV. Wanting to honor the son's heritage in Mountain Brook Baptist Church, they asked Dr. James D. Moebes to hold the service in the Chapel, remembering the generations of family who had worshiped in that space. The event on April 5, 2009, was attended by a big cluster of family and friends. The baby wore the dedication gown previously worn by his father, aunt, and uncle.

The gown was worn again on May 4, 2014—the dedication day for Robert Holden Strickland. He is the second son of David III and Tracy. Both Hamilton and Holden have grown up in the Mountain Brook Baptist Church Early Learning Center, with Holden due to finish this year.

The Stricklands can rightly be considered a 75th Anniversary heirloom family. The dedication of four generations blesses the church every day.



*Hamilton and Holden Strickland stand with the antique Bible which is a memorial to their grandfather, the late David Strickland Sr.*

*Robert Holden Strickland was dedicated May 4, 2014, with Dr. Moebes officiating in the Chapel. Among family and friends at Holden's dedication were his aunt Kathryn Strickland and her husband John Whitman (on the left), grandmother Susan Strickland, his older brother Hamilton, and his parents Tracy and David.*



MAY 19, 2019



WE'VE A STORY TO TELL  
75th Anniversary Memories of Mountain Brook Baptist Church

## FAMILY DEDICATION

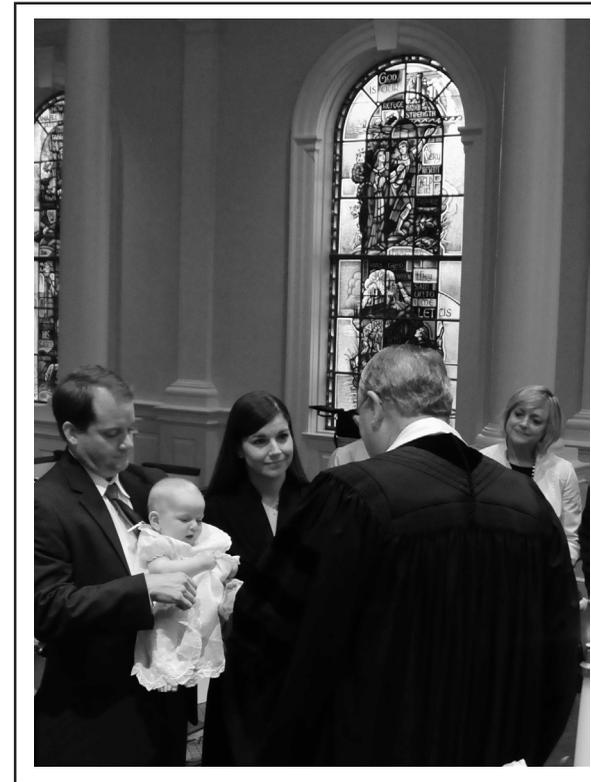
When babies are presented for dedication before God and Mountain Brook Baptist Church, the ceremony is not only for the little one, but also for their entire family. When David Hamilton Strickland IV was dedicated in 2009, and Robert Holden Strickland was dedicated in 2014, the boys represented a historic dedicated family in the church, dating from 1944.

Their great-grandparents, Clarence Lynn Strickland and his wife Theodosia McKellar Strickland, were charter members of the church. The young couple were pioneers of the newly incorporated City of Mountain Brook, with a brand-new home in the heart of Crestline Village, on West Jackson Boulevard, not far from the first house-chapel of the new church. They moved their membership to Mountain Brook Baptist from Southside Baptist Church.

Mr. Strickland had started his own business, Lynn Strickland Tire Co. Still, he found time to be one of the original Deacons of Mountain Brook Baptist Church in 1944. He was elected Deacon chairman, the fourth, to serve 1947-1948. It was during this year that the founding pastor, J.O. Colley, resigned.



*Charter members of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Lynn and Theo Strickland (on the right). They were photographed in their customary pew in the Chapel around 1954-1955. Left to right are: Bonnie, Gail, David, Andy, Lynn Jr., Mrs. Theo Strickland, and Mr. Lynn Strickland Sr. The windows in the Chapel were made of opaque glass until stained glass was installed as a memorial gift in 1985. David Hamilton Strickland Sr. (third from the left) was the first child baptized in the Chapel.*



*Above: At baby and family dedications, Mountain Brook Baptist Church always presents a Bible, a certificate, and a white rose.*

*Left: A fourth generation Strickland, David Hamilton Strickland IV, was dedicated on April 5, 2009. Dr. Moebes conducted the ceremony in the Chapel where the baby's ancestors had faithfully worshiped. Known as Hamilton, the baby is surrounded by his parents, Tracy Peace Strickland and David Hamilton Strickland III, and his grandmother Susan Strickland Sr., the widow of David Strickland Sr.*

Mr. Strickland then served on the pulpit committee during months of keeping the pulpit supplied, while searching for a permanent pastor. He was in active leadership as the Chapel building was completed. At this time he and wife Theo were diversifying their business, and they bought the original house-chapel from the church. They acquired adjacent land on which apartments were built. The original church and the Strickland apartments have now given way to the Mountain Brook Board of Education and Crestline's Piggly Wiggly

The Strickland family grew to bring five children into the church: Lynn Strickland Jr., followed by Andy, then David, Gail, and Bonnie. David Hamilton Strickland was the first child baptized in the Chapel, after it was dedicated in 1950.

Tragedy struck the family and the church in 1957, when the father dropped dead from a heart attack while at Lake Gunter'sville. With five children to support, Theo Strickland stepped up to take over the tire company and real estate ventures. Family stories (and newspaper interviews) remember that she proved herself to be a formidable businesswoman, for in those days banks did not want to grant credit and loans to women. She effectively grew family fortunes.

Theo Strickland was on the elite committee charged with convincing Dotson M. Nelson to accept the pastorate of Mountain Brook Baptist Church in 1961. When the Sanctuary was built, she provided the stained glass Healing Window as a memorial to her late husband.

In 1964, Theo married Robert Hornsby of Eufaula. As children married, they brought spouses into the church. David's wife, Susan, continues as a member of Mountain Brook Baptist Church today. David became "David Hamilton Strickland Sr." when he and Susan had children: David, Kathryn, and Charles.