

**William Suddarth: I Was in School with a Friend—The Call to Elkton Baptist**

WS: I was in school with a friend, at Belmont College, and he asked, could I, could he give my name to the Elkton Baptist Church. He did, they came to Smith County where I was then pastoring, and asked me to come and speak for them. That was in 1966. And we drove down one Sunday and spoke for them, and the church extended a call. We moved here in July or August of that year, 1966. And I'll never forget Bud McFarland, he said to me after we were here some months, "Now when anyone moves to Elkton and they wear out a pair of shoes, they don't ever leave." So that was those years whenever we were younger and I was trying to get finished with my education, driving to Nashville twice a week on the old 31, it was a long trip. I did not get to finish because of the family, because of the drive. I began full time, pretty well, on call every hour of the day.

**William Suddarth: Rural Community**

WS: This was a rural community, very few people had public jobs, a few did. It was a community that when I would see a car pass, I would know the family, know what kind of car they were driving, know where they lived. The general area surrounding Elkton was rural. There were not many people moving into the community new, most of them were related to each other. There were only one or two families in the church that were not kin to someone in the church.

**William and Frances Suddarth: When the High School Burned**

WS: I guess the most depressing experience we had, the first time, was watching the old high school burn. . . In fact, that Sunday morning, we were getting ready for church, and our son looked up there and saw the smoke coming, and that was, we felt like that was the end of the high school for here. . .

FS: You know, Billy had horses in the barn, in the Whitfield barn, that was adjoining this property that the house has been torn down, and he had been to feed those horses that morning, and had just come home, and put on his clothes for Sunday school, and looked, he was the one that spotted the fire, wasn't it? . . . And it was already ablaze.