





STITHTON BAPTIST CHURCH

95 Park Ave. Radcliff, Kentucky 40160

+ HISTORY OF THE STITHTON BAPTIST CHURCH +

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RADCLIFF, KENTUCKY

+ Revised this date of May 17, 1989 +

On January 9, 1887, The Stithton Baptist Church, located at Stithton, Kentucky, was organized. After prayer and a sermon by Dr. Basil Manly of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, the body adopted a church covenant, articles of faith and rules of decorum.

The Stithton Baptist Church was located in the beautiful farm town of Stithton, Kentucky. Rev. R. W. Jones was called as the first pastor and preached his first sermon as pastor on February 19, 1887.

Thomas Stith founded the agricultural community in the early 1850's.

Benjamin Jones, the town's (his relationship to R.W. Jones, if any, is unknown) first post-master, was operating a hotel in 1881. The only other businesses at that time were J.F. Wooldridge's General Store and Ed Carrico's wagonmaking shop.

After a four month pastorate by Rev . Jones, Rev. t?C. Hooldridge was named pastor. Again, any relationship between this pastor and the owner of the General Store is unknown. Stithton, Kentucky, in 1910 had a population of 400 people. One description of the town around 1910 states that there were two general stores, two dry goods stores, one hardware store, two banks (Union Bank of Stithton and Peoples Bank of Stithton), three churches (Baptist, Catholic and Methodist), three doctors, a dentist and a two-room school. In 1909 the largest gooseberry farm in the world was located near Stithton and was opened by H.O. Rahm.

Meanwhile, Benjamin Jones was selling off his farm to the railroad for a depot and freight sidings and to various newcomers for homes. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad came through the area in 1873. That railroad station in the town of Stithton would later become the most photographed and remembered landmark of the town.

The famous Dixie Highway was constructed through Stithton in 1837 and was first known as the Louisville and Nashville Turnpike and was operated as a toll road. The old turnpike is now known as Wilson Road.

Then the Federal Government bought the town of Stithton for the establishment of Camp Knox. Camp Knox was established in August of 1918 at Stithton, Kentucky, and was named in honor of Henry Knox, artillery general and Secretary of War 1785-1794.

In January of 1917 the Government bought the Stithton Baptist Church property as a part of Camp Knox and for several years the building was used as an Army Chapel. In a short time, the entire town of Stithton was bought by the Government and the church disbanded in May of 1919. Families relocated.

On June 22, 1979, the Department \cdot of the Army, to commemorate the town of Stithton and note its location, named the traffic circle on Post STITHTON CIRCLE. Yes, the Fort Knox traffic circle was where the small town of Stithton once existed.

The town of Stithton was no more and residents dispersed to all parts of Hardin, Meade and Bullitt counties. Some moved to the newly formed town of New Stithton just south of Camp Knox.

Then Camp Knox became Fort Knox and expanded again and New Stithton was bought and on September 27, 1942, the church trustees were authorized to convey the title of the church property to the United States Government. To these two acquisitions Fort Knoxdisplaced 1,460 families.

The church disbanded from 1919 to 1926.

In the fall of 1919 Horace McCullum bought a tract of land along the Dixie Highway and built a general store (across from Kroger's, which is now Sav-U-Foods) and named the community Radcliffe in honor of his good friend, Major Radcliffe, who was then commander of the Quartermaster Corps at Camp Knox.

In 1923 a small remnant of members met together with the Methodists, who had also sold their property to the Government, and together they repaired an abandoned school house. This building was used for Sunday School and for separate preaching services with the Methodists having their own pastor and the Baptists using students from the Baptist Seminary in Louisville once each month.

From 1943 to 1948 the church, with the help of "Mother" Sallie Brown, stayed together even though without a church building. Some worship was conducted in the U.S.O. Club in Radcliffe by these Stithtonians. On March 23, 1948, they voted to build a church building on Dixie Highway (Highway 31 W) in Radcliffe, Kentucky. In 1943, at the height of the Second World War, Radcliffe really began to grow. Radcliff was incorporated in 1956 with 2,200 people. At this time of incorporation the "e" was dropped from the name Radcliff.

- On October 22, 1982, L.F. Hibberd and Earl Brown showed Pastor Waggoner where the previous churches had been located.
- 1888 a one room frame building located on now what is 5th Avenue and C Street across from the Post General's driveway, Fort Knox. Rev. B. F. Hagan, pastor at the time of building.
- 1907 the old church was torn down and a new one constructed in the same location. Rev. W. F. Jaggers, pastor at the time of building. It was another one room frame building. On June 26, 1915, electric lights were put in at a cost of \$30.30.
- 1934 A one room brick veneer building with full basement was built in New Stithton on Wilson Road across from number nine tee at Anderson Golf Course. The first service was held in it in October, 1934. The Stithton Baptist Church was then with the Salem Association, joining with the Severns Valley Association in 1936.

 Rev. C. L. Niceley was the pastor at the time of building.
- 1948 W. M. Brown and D. E. New gave the site for this building, located on Dixie Highway (31 W) in Radcliff. It was a brick veneer building with full basement. This building was torn down on (insert date)
 Rev. Denny Stringfellow was the pastor in 1948.
 In 1961, Pastor Waggoner led the church to remodel the sanctuary to create nine class rooms. The basement is now used for our ceramics class. The old pews, pulpit furniture and baptistry were sold to a sister church.
- 1955 An educational building was built behind the 1948 church building, Rev. W. R. Cook was the pastor at the time of building.
- 1961 On August 3, 1960, a motion passed to borrow \$130,000 to build a new 550 seat sanctuary behind the educational building. It was erected at a cost of \$162,035 and was used for the first time on June 18, 1961. Rev. W. R. Cook was the pastor at that time, resigning on July 5, 1961.
- 1974 On July 26, 1961, Gene B. Waggoner was called as pastor. His first Sunday was August 7, 1961.

 On April 29, 1973, ground was broken for a new recreational-educational building. Church Bonds in the amount of \$416,000 were sold in 1973 for the erection of this building. It contains a regulation size basketball floor, a kitchen, a fellowship hall, a game room, two locker rooms and 35 new class rooms. It was dedicated on September 8, 1974. Rev. Gene Waggoner, pastor at that time.
- 1986 Because of overcrowding in the 1961 sanctuary, two Sunday morning worship services were conducted by Brother Waggoner beginning on April 3, 1977, in order to seat the crowds. After nine years of two Sunday morning worship services, the church voted to build a new sanctuary on May 5, 1985. Ground was broken for it on Sunday, September 15, 1985.

A contract for the new sanctuary and the renovation of the present sanctuary was signed with the Jenkins-Essex Construction Company at a cost of one million five hundred eight thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$1,508,365.00) on October 21, 1985.

A three-year "Together We Build" program was entered into from November 28, 1982, through November 24, 1985. Upon its completion the program was called "Together We Built" and carried on.

Through Security Church Finance, Inc., of Houston, Texas, the church sold a bond issue of \$1,300,000 in 1985. The maturity schedule is from December 1, 1986, through December 1, 2000.

The new sanctuary was used for the first time on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 23, 1986.

Adding furnishings, sound system, carpet, pews, stained glass windows, etc., to the construction costs, the total cost was in the neighborhood of one million eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$1,850,000).

This new sanctuary, seating 1,300, is fan-shaped with five sections of pews-a total of 130 pews. They are sapela (cherry) wood, rose fabric, with white ends. The baptistry cross is also made of sapela wood and backlighted.

The floor is sloped and six laminated wood beams can be seen spanning over one hundred and thirty feet above the worship area.

There is a balcony on three sides, and stained glass windows on either side of the baptistry. There are six chandeliers and six ceiling fans. The entrance hall also contains 5 special stained-glass windows.

The main floor has the approximate dimensions of two basketball floors side to side, with proper sight lines and accoustically-angled walls. The carpet color is burgundy and there is enough of it to carpet fifteen houses. With the completion of the new sanctuary, work began on the renovation of the existing sanctuary. It was converted into offices, reception area and work areas with a second floor being added for classrooms.

Six sanctuaries in five locations!

The present sanctuary is located on Park Avenue in Radcliff in Arcadia subdivision, the oldest housing area in the city. In fact, Park Avenue was the first paved street in Radcliff.

To celebrate one hundred years of the blessings of God the church had centennial celebrations and dedication services on January 11-12, 1987.

Gene B. Waggoner was the pastor and Terry Bennett was the Chairperson of the New Sanctuary Building Committee.

In the seventies we built the new recreational-educational building. Ground was broken in April of 1973 and it was completed in September of 1974. In the eighties we built the new 1,300 seat sanctuary. Ground was broken in September of 1985 and we had our first service in it on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 23, 1986. Then followed the renovation of the old sanctuary, completed in May of 1987.

Sixteen months in the 70's and 20 months in the 80's gives us 36 months or 3 years in building programs under the leadership of Pastor Waggoner.

The whole church plant is now worth four million dollars.

The first Stithton Sunday School was organized in 1906; the first Training Union in 1916, the first W.M.U. in 1935, and the first Brotherhood in 1955.

In 1952, under Rev. W.C. Dobbs, a church parsonage was built at 281 South Wilson Road. On February 5, 1969, under Pastor Waggoner, the church voted to sell that parsonage for \$15,000 and to buy the house and property located at 949 North Woodland Drive for \$28,000. On Thursday, June 19, 1969, Pastor Waggoner and family moved into this new parsonage. The house was built in June of 1966 and the property is 150 feet wide and 140 feet deep. This house was sold to Pastor Waggoner in January of 1979.

A Church Library was begun in March of 1962 with Mrs. Allen Bell as librarian. Full-colored church bulletins were used for the first time June 3, 1962. On August 7, 1963, the church adopted a Church Constitution and By-Laws as drawn up by Pastor Waggoner, Deacons Allen Bell and Dr. Marion Logsdon.

Stithton began a Bus Ministry in 1972. A 1951 Ford and a 1956 Chevrolet were first purchased from the school system. A new church bus, a 1972 Ford-66 passenger, arrived on October 15, 1971, at a cost of \$7,990.09. On November 9, 1974, a 1966 Chevrolet bus was purchased. In September, 1975, a 1970 Volkswagen Van was purchased. On July 19, 1977, a 1968 International 66 passenger bus was purchased.

On Saturday, May 14, 1988, 27 of 67 on a church bus of another denomination were killed as they returned from a trip to Kings Island. A drunken driver in the wrong lane of an interstate highway struck the bus and the bus burned. Stithton had six young people on that bus: two died, two were badly burned and two were able to get off virtually unharmed. Pastor Waggoner was asked by the community to bring the Memorial message at the North Hardin High School Football Stadium filled with 6,000 people on Thursday, May 19, 1988.

On Sunday, September 18, 1988, with an eye to safety, the church acquired two new buses. One, costing \$38,000, and seating 27, was donated by a family much interested in our bus ministry. The other, costing \$36,500, and seating 26, was paid for through contributions from our members and friends. A total of \$74,500! The 1972 Ford was also reconditioned and two of the older buses gotten rid of.

Stithton was the first church to be integrated, receiving her first black member on December 4, 1963.

The church was incorporated on January 3, 1964.

A new 5'8" Baldwin piano was purchased October 6, 1965, at a cost of \$2,275. Church bulletins were mailed out to all resident members weekly beginning on August 31, 1967. In the summer of 1968 the men of the church built an outside Amphitheater.

On December 19, 1976, 260 Standard and 50 White Gold new Baptist Hymnals were purchased and imprinted with the church's name by an anonymous donor in the amount of \$1,289.90. On April 20, 1978, the church purchased three new Kawai piano's and on October 6, 1978, our new Allen Computer Organ was installed at a cost of \$14,805. Schulmerich Handbells (three octaves) arrived June 17, 1980, at a cost of \$3,185.00.

On August 17, 1983, the church bought the house at 100 East New Street for \$53,000,

Many times Stithton has been among the top ten churches in the state in the number of baptisms and additions reported for a given year.

January 9, 1887 to January 9, 1989 - 102 years of Amazing Grace!

The reason Stithton Baptist Church exists today is because of the grace and goodness and mercy and greatness of God!

We continue to plant seeds for the future. Stithton Baptist Church is rich in its history. But the more important thing is that we make history today. Great as have been the blessings of God in years gone-by, the opportunity which confronts us today is the greatest we have ever faced.

We have a past to be proud of, a future to prepare for, but only the present to do it in. Jesus promised that "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me." May His name be glorified by this membership and His will be done in all the work of this church. Lord, Your will be done!

Stithton Baptist Church is affiliated with the Severns Valley Association of Baptists, the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

There have been many feats of faith. The evidence of God's guiding hand is strong. " $\cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot$ these days should be remembered." Esther 9:28. We thank God for the founding of this church and we express our thanks and our gratitude to the pastors and the devoted people of the congregation, who through the successive years of advancement, problems, difficulties, and rejoicing, have contributed of their vision, their devotion, their abilities, their money, their courage, their leadership, and self-sacrifice.

PASTORS OF STITHTON BAPTIST CHURCH

	NAME	DATE OF PASTORATE	
2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.	Rev. R. H. Jones Rev. ~J' · C. Wooldridge Rev. B. F. Hagan Rev. R. C. Kimble Rev. J. D. Dunkin Rev. J. S. Hill Rev. B. F. Hagan Rev. J. C. Willett Rev. J. W. Downey Rev. W. H. Bruner Rev. W. F. Jaggers Rev. H. S. Shipp Rev. C. W. Bowles	January 9, 1887 - May 14, 188 May 14, 1887 - November 19, 1887 December 17, 1887 - January 25, 1890 January 25, 1890 - April 1, 1891 April 1, 1891 - July 9, 1892 July 9, 1892 - June 9, 1894 December 1, 1894 - January 5, 1895 January 5, 1895 - December 7, 1901 December 7, 1901 - February 13, 1904 June 11, 1904 - June 10, 1905 September 9, 1905 - August 12, 1912 October 12, 1912 - December 5, 1914 February 20, 1915 - May 18, 1919 CHURCH DISBANDED	LENGTH OF PASTORATE 4 Months, 5 Days 6 Months, 5 Days 2 Years, 1 Month 1 Year, 2 Months 1 Year, 3 Months 1 Year, 11 Months 1 Month, 4 Days 6 Years, 11 Months 2 Years, 2 Months 1 Year 6 Years, 11 Months 2 Years, 2 Months 4 Years, 3 Months
15.	Rev. J. V. Carlisle Rev. E. L. mlit10w Rev. C. L. Niceley Rev. Carlyle 11arney	June 10, 1926 - March 1, 1929 June 18, 1931 - April 18, 1933 August 14, 1933 - September 1, 19 ^L fO December 15, 1940 - August 18, 1943	2 Years, 10 Months 1 Year, 10 Months 7 Years, 18 Days 2 Years, 8 Months
18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25.	Rev. William Gamble Rev. W. C. Dobbs Rev. W. R. Cook REV. GENE B. WAGGONER Dr. Walter Davis Dr. Wayne Lipscomb	GOVERNMENT ACQUIRED CHURCH PROPERTY ow August 18, 1948 - November 28, 1948 February 2, 1949 - April 30, 1950 June 7, 1950 - August 31, 1954 January 19, 1955 - July 5, 1961 AUGUST 7, 1961 - 1997 August 15, 1998 - August 2005 - August 2005 - August 2015	3 Months 1 Year, 3 Months 4 Years, 3 Months 6 years, 6 Months 36 years 5 years 10 years

MINISTERS OF MUSIC

MINISTERS OF MUSIC					
2. Mr. Larry B. Putman No 3. Mr. Conrad T. Gillstrap Oc 4. Mr. Billy L. Funderburk (Fa Mr. Billy L. Funderburk 5. Mr. Harvey Britton 6. Mr. Mark Maslin 7. Mr. David C. Red 8. Mr. David Childers 9. Mr. Brian A. Voelker	PERIOD rch 6, 1963 - August 1, 1964 vember 25, 1964 - June 26, 1966 tober 16, 1966 - May 4, 1969 art-time) October 1, 1969 - January 1 all-time) June 30, 1971 - October 29, cember 20, 1972 - November 26, 1975 oruary 15, 1976 - May 22, 1977 otember 7, 1977 - May 25, 1980 gust 27, 1980 - January 16, 1983 eart-time) April 3, 1983 - December 3 cull-time) January 1, 1985 -	1972 Sixteen Months Thirty-Five Months Fifteen Months 2 Years, 8 Months 2 Years, 5 Months			
MINISTERS OF EDUCATION 1. Mr. Charles Edward Benton 2. Hr. Randy Wayne Karschner 3. Mr. David Earl Marlow	February 8, 1976 - July 14, 1978 January 1, 1979 - October 30, 1982 October 30, 1983 - May 30, 1988	2 Years, 4 Months 3 Years, 10 Months 4 Years, 7 Months			
 Mr. John David Baker Mr. Ronald Stephen Maser Mr. Gregory Freeman Qualls Mr. Darryl Glass Mr. Joe Hammond Mr. Roy Easter 	MINISTERS OF YOUTH January 1, 1979 - June 28, 1981 October 14, 1981 - January 23, 1985 June 14, 1987 - July 16, 1989 October 15, 1989 -	2 Years, 6 Months 3 Years, 4 Months 2 Years, 1 Month			
	CHURCH SECRETARIES				
Mrs. Alice Henry Mrs. Laura Lucks Miss Gabriele Horn Miss Linda Hammers Mrs. Bea Hager Mrs. Linda Atcher Mrs. Joyce Funderburk Mrs. Bonnie Dawley Mrs. Phyllis Laymon (died 8/1/84) Mrs. Charlene Dixius Mrs. Anita McGlone Miss Kathy Kohler Mrs. Lynda Jones Miss Susan Breeding Mrs. Doris Cissell Executive Secretary Executive Secretary Church Secretary	November 1961 - July 1963 July 1963 - March 1965 March 1965 - May 1966 May 1966 - August 1966 August 1966 - May 1969 May 1969 - January 1970 January 1970 - November 1970 November 1970 - November 1973 January 1974 - May 1974 (age 46 a June 1974 - October 1980 October 1980 - June 1981 July 1981 - November 25, 1981 November 25, 1981 - July 2, 1982 July 6, 1982 - May 15, 1987 May 18, 1987 - 1997 1998 C.K. January 16, 1993 Melinda February 1998 - 2009	6 Years, 4 Months 8 Months 5 Months			
MEN NOW IN THE	-				
MINISTRY Joe Wilep Joe Boone William LaWall Mike Trammell Bill Lucks Wayne Hauser	William Eugene Mathias Larry Brown Mark Logsdon Mike Crowell Larry Cook	Bruce Springer Bruce Underhill David Schlener Mike Stroud Joseph Harper, Jr. Tom Gray			

The following men have led Stithton Baptist Church in Revival Services during the pastorate of Pastor Waggoner.

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1961	October	Spurgeon Hendrick		1981 Octob	-	Gene B. Waggoner Tom Lowry
	October April	Sam Sloan Hugh Brooks		1982 Octol	April oer	Brian Harbour Former Stithtonians
Octob	per April	E. Warren Rust Albert Gisler M. D. Morton			May ember	Mitchell Postol Stadium Crusade- Lewis Adkison
Octob		Terry Davis Jerry Vardaman			May ember	Jack Randles Jim Ponder
1966 April October 1967 April		Charles Gray		1985 February October		Frank Crumpler Johnny Hunt and Robin Waggoner
Octob		John Turpin Dan Kong			April	Benton Williams A. B. Colvin
1968 Octob	per	Don Coleman Gene B. Waggoner		1987 Augus	-	Bob Norman
	April October April	Dan Moore Anis Shorrosh Bruce Myrick		1988 Novem	April	Paul Williams Bill Sims and Bob Norman
	May July October	Robert Young Homer Martinez Carter Gospel Team		1989 Octob	April	Eddie Benton Bill Sims
1971	June	T. L. McSwain Bill Glass Homer Martinez	-	1990	April September	Bill Jaggers Van Thompson
1972	May October	Laymen-Led Calvin Wilkins		1991	April September	Vince Cervera Don Short
1973		Boyce Evans Sam Cathey	:	1992	-	
1974	April October	George Redding Bruce Myrick				
1975	April October	W. R. Cook Ernest Carswell				
1976	April September October	Richard Shanks E. J. Daniels Bill Sauer				
1977	May July September	Barry Schann Gene Williams Jim Wilson				
1978	March October	The Stalneckers Richard Shanks				
1979	May November	Eddie Martin The Stalneckers				
1980	April June September	Charles Stewart Bill Glass John Laida				

DEACON CHAIRMEN OF STITHTON BAPTIST CHURCH

1959	L. F. Hibberd	1990	Wayne Vannoy
	Lo Fo Hibberd	1991	
	L. F. Hibberd	1992	-
1962	Raymond Bennett	1993	Lee Bishop
1963	Charles Deaton		
	Charles Deaton		
	Guy Berry		
1966	Norman Shumate		
	Allen Bell		
	Allen Bell		
	Marion Logsdon		
1970	Kenneth French		
1971	D. E. Denson		
1972	Guy Berry		
1973	John Quiggins		
1974	Bob Schaffner		
1975	Marion Logsdon		
1976	Joe Smith		
1977	Shelby Belcher		
1978	Randy Acton		
1979	Cyril Hall		
1980	Frank Crowell		
1981	Charles Kerr		
1982	Charles Kerr		
1983	Leon Aschbacher		
1984	Frank Crowell		
1985	Kenneth French		
1986	Kenneth French		
1987	Randy Acton		
1988	David Gray		
1989	Wayne Vannoy		

On April 13, 1989, the church purchased and erected a new highway church sign at the cost of \$8,900.

On October 10, 1990, the church voted to buy the Brown house located next door to the church at 105 East Park Avenue for \$61,000.

On December 9, 1990, the church purchased a seven foot Kawai concert grand piano for \$11,700.00 for the sanctuary.

Bruce Springer was ordained to the Gospel Ministry on December 16, 1990.

After 9 years of two Sunday morning worship services the church voted to build a new 1,300 seat sanctuary on May 5, 1985. Ground was broken for it on Sunday, September IS, 1985. A contract was signed for \$1,508,365.00. The church sold a Church Bond issue of \$1,300,000.00.

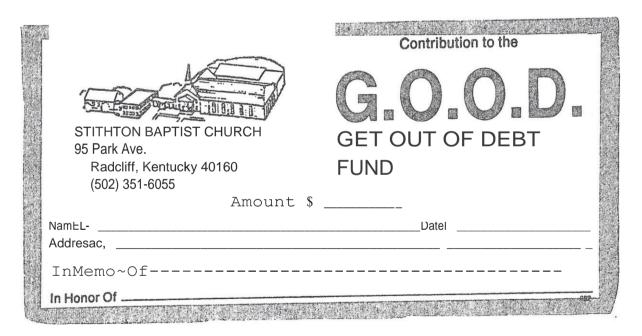
METHOD OF PAYMENT/REPAYMENT - DESIGNATED FUND

November 28, 1982 - November 24, 1985 / TOGETHER WE BUILD

December 1, 1985 - December 1, 1986 / TOGETHER WE BUILD PLUS

December 1, 1986 - December 31, 1990 / TOGETHER WE BUILT

On December 13, 1989, the church voted to replace the T.W.B. fund with a new designated fund called G. O. O. D. (Get out of debt) beginning on January 1, 1991. New envelopes will be used as indicated below.



The church adopted a Revised Church Constitution and By-Laws on Wednesday, February 13, 1991.

The church voted to buy the David Hunter house located at 537 New Street, across from the church at the corner of New Street and Park Avenue. The cost was \$50,000.00.

OUR SPANISH MISSION

On Sunday, January 6, 1980, we began having Spanish-speaking worship services in our church with 19 present. It became a mission of our church on October 12, 1983.

The following men have served:

Claudio Mariottini - January 6, 1980 to August 14, 1983

Walter Baptista - August 14, 1983 to February 17, 1985

Antonia Silva - February 17, 1985 to May 25, 1986

Donoso Escobar - June 1, 1986 to
November 9, 1986

Luis Pedraja - November 12, 1986 to July 31, 1988

Antonio Aja - September 14, 1988 to August 26, 1990

Ricardo Ruano - September 12, 1990 to the present

During the week of February 25 - March 4, 1991, the gym floor was sanded and resurfaced and repainted at a cost of \$4,740.00 and a covering was purchased to cover the floor at a cost of \$2,858.00.