

## THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR CHAPEL

September 15, 1860    September 15, 1987

We are very blessed to worship today in our Chapel, one hundred and twenty seven years after the original structure was constructed. On September 15, 1904 Mr. Marvin Groce, a youngster at the time laid the cornerstone to the existing structure.

From the origin of religious services in a little red school house built in 1845 and located near by, the dedication and spiritual hunger of our ancestors kept the chapel alive. Struggling families and the aftermath of the Civil War increased their needs for a church.

Mr. John Morris, faithful and dedicated to God's will, donated five acres of land for the first church and a much needed academy of learning in 1860. The community residents and children were over-joyed at having both.

Years passed and the destruction of war took its toll. Meager monies were insufficient to repair the church. Interested community and church families met, praying for God's guidance-whether to repair or build anew. Their prayers were answered. By willing and talented workers donating time, meager monies, whether from bartering a bushel of corn or selling of eggs. Donating of local timber and the cooperation of sawmills readily available, construction began. Sacrificing time from daily routine occupations to help, a miracle was happening with the teamwork of everyone to turn a dream into reality. What an honor for Mr. Marvin Groce to have been chosen to lay the cornerstone.

The Chapel derives its name from Mr. Morris. His portrait is exhibited in the Church Narthex. The portrait was presented to Morris Chapel Church on Homecoming Day, 1986 by Mr. Marvin Groce. A tremendous gift for which we are grateful.

The faith of our ancestors and the lovely Chapel have been treasured for 127 years. Many hearts have found peace kneeling around the altar as the gentle touch of the Masters Hand freed them of anxiety and pain. His words, "Leave your troubles here, I shall not forsake you." gave comfort to many. The Angels must have also rejoiced as each little child was dedicated to God.

Many have loved ones for whom the bells have tolled, but the legacy of the Christian faith has thrived and descendants are proud to remark "This is the Chapel of my ancestors. Maybe making notes as they stroll through rows of neatly kept graves for a date that has become dim in memory unless written down. We can all relate to this.

As we faithfully dedicate our lives, time, talent and monies and begin another year of whoship in the Chapel, we too can preserve our heritage of his bountiful blessings. Our descendants too may relate in time, "This is the sacred place where my parents worshipped." May God continue to shower us with blessings.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MORRIS CHAPEL

*Virginia Gunter Maddox  
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Sept. 15, 1987*