



Thank you, First UMC, Wilsn, for hosting our meeting in October 2010.

Greetings from the NC Conference Commission of Archives and History and The Historical Society of the NC Conference

You have received a copy of this Newsletter because you are a member of the Historical Society, a member of the Commission, you are a District Superintendent or other leader in our Conference, or your church has entered your name in the online database as the local church historian. If there needs to be a correction in your address, please let us know at The NC Conference Archives, 700 Waterfield Ridge Place; Garner NC 27529 or archives-history@nccumc.org.

Books for Sale from Archives and History!

.Methodism Alive in North Carolina: (paperback) A commemorative volume for the Bicentennial of the First Carolina Circuit - \$5.00

Early Methodist Meeting Houses in Wake County: (paperback) by Franklin Grill - \$6.00

The Lumbee Methodist: (hardback) A folk history by Jane & Michael Smith - \$10.00

Prices include shipping. Make checks payable to "Archives and History". Mail to: Robin Harry- PO Box 1970- Garner NC 27529

*Archives and History
NC Conference of the UMC
The United Methodist Church
700 Waterfield Ridge Place
Garner NC 27529*



Saddlebags The NC Conference Commission on Archives & History

Saddlebags is a bi-annual publication of The NC Conference
March 2011

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SPRING MEETING OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY - APRIL 9, 2011

The spring meeting of the NC Historical Society and the Commission on Archives and History will be held April 9 2011, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in NEED CITY HERE. Church historians and interested persons are invited to attend. Lunch will be served. Please call Robin Harry, toll free 800.849.4433 or 919.779.6115, ext. 252; or email at rharry@nccumc.org to reserve your spot for lunch.



About Wesley Chapel

Wesley Chapel is nestled in a woodland setting approximately five miles north of Kenansville, North Carolina on Highway 11-903. Its story began in 1815 when a group of "bridge builders" founded a "preaching place" at a meeting house known as Dark Branch School. At the time of its formation, James Madison, fourth president of the United States, was in office.

The date of the old Wesley Chapel building has been identified as 1844, which made it one of the oldest Methodist buildings in the North Carolina Conference still in continuous use.

Since 1815 about one hundred ninety-six years have elapsed, bringing many changes. In the 1930's the primitive building was renovated to create a central door. The slave balcony was removed. The front porch and education building were

added in the 1960's. In 1975-76, in celebration of its heritage, the congregation engaged in an extensive restoration project. The educational building's interior and the entire exterior were painted. Shutters were added to the windows to give a colonial appearance. The pews and chancel furniture were refinished to their natural finish. A central heating and cooling system was installed. Later other projects included adding vinyl siding to the exterior, landscaping the grounds, purchasing playground equipment, and establishing a memorial library in a Sunday school room.

In 1974 Wesley Chapel, along with Kenansville, Sarecta, and Woodland churches, became a part of the Kenansville Parish. The Kenansville Parish flourished under the capable leadership of Reverend Jack Benfield. This structure remained until 2004 when Wesley Chapel was placed on a two-

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Directions to Wesley Chapel UMC from Kenansville NC

Travel approximately 5 miles north on Highway 11-903. Wesley Chapel is located on the left at a crossroads (Wesley Chapel Road and Dark Branch Road). Its address is: 1127 North NC 11 and 903 Highway, Kenansville, NC 28349.

NC CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES - October 2, 2010

The NC Conference Commission on Archives and History and the Historical Society hosted a workshop on Saturday, October 2, 2010 at First UMC Wilson, NC. The topics presented were "Recording Oral Histories" by Dr. Dale Patterson from the General Commission on Archives and History and "Employing Computers to Research and Store History" by Mr. Harvey Powers, a retired jour-

nalist and web designer and consultant from the Jerusalem UMC, Warren County NC. There were approximately 30 people in attendance from local Churches across our Conference. This was a very informative event and greatly appreciated by everyone in attendance. This workshop was held in lieu of our regular meeting. It was so nice to have this event offered conveniently to the local Churches of our

area. Our lunch of local Brunswick Stew, Pork Barbecue and all the "fix'ins" gave us the opportunity to share in fellowship and was enjoyed by all. This is another example of how our Annual Conference can help to encourage and support our local Church Historians with their ministry of history.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Warren, Secretary

Information was submitted later about our next meeting location by Rev. Jack Benfield to confirm that Wesley Chapel, Duplin County, has agreed to host us, and April 9, 2011 will be the date, as contingently approved by the NC Conference Commission on Archives and History. Mrs. Snodie Wilson (Nancy) is the church historian and contact person for the meeting. Her address is P. O. Box 246, Kenansville, NC 28349 and phone number is 910 296 0824.

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point charge with Sarecta United Methodist Church. In 1994, Wesley Chapel celebrated the 150th anniversary of its sanctuary; however, this was the 180th anniversary of the congregation known as Wesley Chapel.

It has been said that the only thing constant is change, and so it seems. In the early 2000's Wesley Chapel began changing again with the congregation making plans to replace the old sanctuary. The sanctuary was rebuilt with the interior in keeping with the previous colonial style. New pews were purchased, but the old altar furniture was kept and refinished. The cross hanging above the pulpit was fashioned from a beam from the old church. Also, the exposed beams were the original ones. A balcony was added to the new sanctuary reminiscent of the old slave balcony that was removed in the 1930's. The sanctuary project was completed in 2007. A dedication service was held in 2007 with District Superintendent Chuck Cook and Pastor Tuck Bounds officiating.

After successfully completing the new sanctuary, plans got underway for the removal of the old fellowship building and the construction of a new one. In late November of 2010 this project was completed and a dedication service was held in conjunction with Homecoming on December 5, 2010. District Superintendent Chuck Cook and Pastor Deborah Sutton officiated at this service.

Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church is not only a vital link to our colonial past, it is an active, contemporary congregation worshipping in the Wesleyan tradition and serving others under the Lordship of our God. We are committed to the growth and nurture of our faith community, our outreach ministry, and the preservation of our current church building.

As Wesley Chapel continues into the 21st century, the words of the old hymn "Amazing Grace" seem appropriate. Surely our ancestors, now that great cloud of witnesses, stood firm on these words, "Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home." With humility and thanksgiving, we acknowledge our heritage and remember those bridge builders who came before us and blazed a spiritual trail at the crossroads. With "open hearts," "open minds," and "open doors" we accept the challenge to inventory our strengths and witness effectively to future generations who will be Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church.

Nancy Grady Wilson

DECEASED CLERGY AND SPOUSES

Spouses:

Lucille Jones Chaffin
August 24, 1923 – June 24, 2010
Widow of James Claude Chaffin

Moeline Weaver Wiggins
January 30, 1935 – September 10, 2010
Wife of Carson Olin Wiggins

Jodie Marshburn
November 12, 1969 – September 18, 2010
Wife of Eric A. Marshburn

Raymond Vitkus
August 8, 1950 – September 25, 2010
Husband of Kerry L. Vitkus

Lina W. Eubanks
September 7, 1929 – October 5, 2010
Widow of George B. Eubanks

Ruth Callipher Boone
November 6, 1917 – October 29, 2010
Widow of Daniel Clifton Boone

Pauline Methvin
October 13, 1921 – December 3, 2010
Wife of Rayford Homer Methvin

Wilma Leatherman
November 24, 1927 – December 10, 2010
Wife of Harold Leatherman



Clergy:

John S. Pearsall
May 23, 1920 – March 2, 2010
Husband of Mary Pearsall

John Clifton Lupton, Jr.
November 22, 1952 – September 10, 2010
Husband of Bernice Salter Lupton

Todd Stephen Krueger
October 17, 1964 – October 16, 2010
Husband of Martha White Krueger

Samuel Duncan McMillan, III
November 12, 1959 – October 25, 2010
Husband of Paige Lancaster McMillan

Jack Monroe Benfield
January 8, 1937 – November 8, 2010
Husband of Jane C. Benfield

Allen C. Edens, Jr.
June 18, 1918 – November 24, 2010

Russell W. Conner
July 15, 1945 – February 3, 2011
Husband of Kathleen Conner

Sam Jones Womack, Jr.
Unknown – February 2, 2011

Edgar Earl Whitley
August 5, 1920 – February 8, 2011

Henry Arthur Bizzell, Jr.
July 25, 1928 – February 21, 2011

Harold F. Leatherman
August 27, 1924 – March 1, 2011