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.

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

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

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 1950’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-year-long list for possible closure.

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.

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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 journalist 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’in’s” 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