METHODS WERE THE FIRST RELIGIOUS GROUP TO FORM A PERMANENT CONGREGATION IN THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON, NC. METHODISM STARTED IN WASHINGTON IN 1775 AT THE HOME OF DEMPSEY AND SARAH HINTON. IN 1782, FRANCIS ABBURY, ONE OF THE FIRST TWO BISHOPS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE US, VISITED THE HINTONS. IN 1784, HE RETURNED AND FORMED THE FIRST METHODIST SOCIETY IN TOWN.

THE FIRST WASHINGTON REVIVAL WAS IN 1791. RALPH POTT, SARAH REDDING AND REV. JAMES AVENT ARE CONSIDERED FOUNDERS OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, WASHINGTON. IN 1800, RALPH POTT, KNOWN AS “THE FATHER OF METHODISM IN WASHINGTON,” PURCHASED A LOT AND BUILT A CHURCH ON MARKET STREET AND DONATED IT AS A GIFT TO THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. IT WAS KNOWN AS THE OLD RED CHURCH ON MARKET STREET AND AS POTT’S CHAPEL.

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IN 1831, PLANS WERE MADE FOR A NEW BUILDING. MRS. SALLY QUINN DONATED “A LOT ON SECOND STREET, UPON WHICH THE PRESENT CHURCH NOW STANDS.” THE DEED RECORDS SHOW THAT ON JANUARY 1832 JOHN TYLER SOLD, TO THE GROWING MEMBERSHIP FOR THREE DECADES.

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The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

The question was asked, “What are some of the challenges at the local church?” Some responses were: records in the attic, need more people to help, displays in the church kitchen, keeping the buildings and facilities clean, and keeping a record of the church’s history. 

The work of the local church historian consists of caring for the church’s memory.

The Ministry of Memory – Why History Matters – Local activities are ongoing in the local church. It is interesting to see how those in the past did their ministry.

• Entertainment - Elise, A book about her life that is delightful.
• Inspiration – Photo from 1910 of church repair work – Question by a youth, “That was a century ago. Why have we not solved this problem?”
• Understanding – Mrs. Mariam Corfiord started the ideas for this process.

Local Church Archives Workshop

What do we need to keep at our church and how can we use this to celebrate and educate our congregation?

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• Inspiration – Photo from 1910 of church repair work – Question by a youth, “That was a century ago. Why have we not solved this problem?”
• Understanding - who we are
• Helps us manage our work –

Where are the records of the Ad Board, Policy for Marriage members and non-members?

The Mission Statement and Policy Collection Policy

• Mission statement is the guiding principle of the archives.

• Items that do not have to be kept, calendaring, notes from the church office, Collection Policy provides the details on how to fulfill the mission.

• Describes how broadly or narrowly the church will collect

Planning for the Future

It is a tool which allows your church to control what comes in to its archive.

~ Someone noted that we need to be aware of the State & Federal requirements of record keeping, but Dale noted that there are records that the State does not have authority over.

Survey the Church’s Records

• Locate local missing records
• Create a list of what records you have
• The list will show what you have and what you lack
~ Add on to the list as you get more material

Basic Records to Keep

Be familiar with the people who have theminutes of church meetings if not in the church office. Be on the email list to receive those records for the church archives.

• Change Conference Reports
• Church Newsletters
• Bulletins
• Committee Reports
• Church membership registers, baptisms, marriages

Records that give evidence of the primary ministry of your church.

To make sure that our future has a past we must be concerned about the records of today.

Church History Committee – Telling Church’s Story

• They can be used to celebrate events in the church’s life
• Invite the youth to create a scrapbook – people can view it as they go out by the pastor
• Make a video for new members’ class
• Do some oral history – photos and memories of the church

Ways to “histories” your website

• Have a history article on the site
• Make occasional changes to the historical articles featured
• Focus on a variety of activities

Mix history with the stories of your ministers and members

• UMW, Mission Teams, youth work, Work at local hospital
• Again mix video, sound, music, with text

We are doing history as we are doing ministry.

Document teaching about electronic records is available online at www.gcah.org/resources/celebrating-history.

Do we need to keep at our church and how can we use this to celebrate and educate our congregation?

CLERGY

Westley Paul Aitken
August 19, 1924 – August 28, 2014
Husband of Ruth Ellen Aitken

Robert Franklin Pierce
October 17, 1954 – September 1, 2014
Husband of Kathy Weaver Pierce

M. Randall Baker
May 6, 1927 – October 28, 2014
Husband of Freda Baker

Glenn Bates Everett
July 3, 1942 – October 29, 2014
Husband of Patricia B. Everett

Jack Manly Hunter
May 2, 1930 – November 2, 2014
Husband of Wilma Holt Hunter

Peleg D. Widgeet, III
September 6, 1923 – November 19, 2014
Husband of Carol W. Midgett

Henry Westbrook Lee
October 7, 1937– December 1, 2014
Husband of Joanne M. Lee

John Gilbert Olive
January 26, 1933 – December 3, 2014

Clarence Garner
October 28, 1927 – December 10, 2014
Husband of Elgie U. Garner

James Milan Waggoner
August 24, 1933 – December 14, 2014
Husband of Margaret J. Waggoner

Amos Henry Stone
July 12, 1921 – January 18, 2015

Leland Jan Fogelman
November 3, 1952 – February 7, 2015

Frank Owen Fitzgerald, Jr.
December 11, 1918 – February 10, 2015
Husband of Mary Owens Bell Fitzgerald

Haywood W. Gillkin
April 13, 1943 – February 18, 2015
Husband of Jenny C. McIntosh

Leon Delanoa Fowler
November 26, 1934 – February 19, 2015
Husband of Neva Ruth Fowler

Respectfully submitted,

SPOUSES

Paul Bottari
August 8, 1962 – September 14, 2014
Wife of Rosario V. Bottari

Virginia Lupton
October 8, 1921 – August 22, 2014
Wife of James Glen Lupton

Inez S. Nickens
April 17, 1914 – October 14, 2014
Wife of Charles G. Nickens

Irene H. Mullikin
December 10, 1922 – October 20, 2014
Wife of Wade Allen Mullikin

Wanda Hamilton Dodson
June 30, 1964 – October 24, 2015
Widow of Jerry Stephen Dodson

Alexanne Clarke
July 5, 1941 – November 30, 2014
Wife of William Thomas Clarke

Mary J. Walton
March 13, 1921 – November 5, 2014
Widow of William C. Walton, Jr.

Julia Rogers Mayo
April 18, 1932 – December 15, 2014
Widow of Leonard Edward Mayo

JoAnn W. Mentzer
September 3, 1939 – January 9, 2015
Wife of James G. Mentzer

Sheryl Runge Nelson
Wife of Michael Norwood Nelson

Floeta C. Edwards
October 6, 1926 – January 15, 2015
Widow of John Everette Edwards

Betty Lee Jordan Hamilton
July 9, 1932 – January 20, 2015
Wife of John Everette Jordan

Paula Matthews
December 14, 1952 – February 6, 2015
Wife of Jack Manly Hunter

Jean P. Jerome
November 13, 1911 – February 17, 2015
Widow of Robert L. Jerome

Christine Crawford Winberry
June 26, 1924 – February 19, 2015
Widow of Herman S. Winberry

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As local church historians, we help the church to remember where we came