

The meeting was called to order by the Commission Chairperson; Douglas Jonas. Rev. Dennis Lamm then made an opening prayer. The minutes were read and approved. Doug Jonas then spoke concerning the open positions on the Commission and ask us to try and find people to fill them, where upon Stephanie Ashworth said that she would be glad to fill one of the spots. Doug said that he would follow up with Christine Dodson concerning this possibility.

Our budget is well within our limits for this time of year and a motion was made by Bryan Huffman that we transfer \$4,018.72 to our Trust Fund; was seconded by Dennis Lamm. It was suggested that we have a work day at the Archives building on January 27, 2018 by both Commission and Historical Society members (This has since been changed to February 10, 2018). It is budget time and Dennis and Doug will do the budget.

Other items discussed were to look for software that is capable of converting a picture to a single line drawing for creating a coloring book. Continuing to finalize a contract between Duke Seminary Library and the NCC Archives & History.

Doug ended the meeting by sharing with all of us about his trip to Drew and with a gift of a thumb drive that had a number of items on it.

The next meeting will be at the Spring meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dennis Lamm, secretary

NOTE: To receive Saddlebags via email, send your full email address to Ani Simpkins at: ani.simpkins@nccumc.org

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



SPRING MEETING - APRIL 28, 10 AM - 3 PM- First UMC - Fuquay-Varina

Please email Ani Simpkins – ani.simpkins@nccumc.org to reserve a spot for lunch.

First UMC - Fuquay-Varina Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina

History

Just as Jews, Christians and Muslims look back to a common ancestor in Father Abraham, the churches of Fuquay-Varina UMC and First UMC of Fuquay-Varina share their origins in the roots of all Methodism in America; and, especially, in Methodism's rapid growth in the Southern colonies. When the fourth conference in the new land met in Baltimore, May 21, 1776, the Carolina Circuit was one of four new circuits added.: Fairfax, Hanover, Pittsylvania and Carolina. The Carolina Circuit had the Atlantic Ocean as its eastern border, but the southern and western extents were limitless; and, preachers traveled as far as they could, weather, horseflesh and health permitting.

In organizing this vast territory, preachers on horseback divided the land by names of rivers, creeks and streams. The first preachers for this first circuit in North Carolina were Francis Poythress, Edward Dromgoole and Isham Tatum.

It was during Francis Poythress' years on the Carolina Circuit that the huge territory was divided into more manageable circuits. In 1779 there were New Hope Circuit, portions of Orange, Chatham, Cumberland and Wake Counties. Roanoke Circuit in the east, Tar River Circuit on the coastal plain. The Upper Cape



Fear River Valley was included in the Tar River Circuit. By 1775, 2,384 of the 3,148 Methodists in America lived in the South. In 1780, 7,808 of the 8,540 members of Methodist societies lived south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

When Francis Asbury made his first visit to North Carolina in 1780, he preached, on July 15 of that year, at B. Hartfield's in what is now Harnett County, then moved on to Brother Merritt's in Chatham County; and, while there, preached at Taylor's Preaching House. He also attended meetings at some Quaker campgrounds in the area. The earliest reference to a specific church recorded in Asbury's Journal was made January 18, 1790 when he kept an appointment at Merritt's Chapel on New Hope

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Is your church celebrating an anniversary? If you would like an Anniversary Certificate to commemorate the event, please contact Ani Simpkins at ani.simpkins@nccumc.org. You will be sent a form to fill out and you will receive a certificate signed by Bishop Ward and your District Superintendent. Please allow 4 weeks to receive your certificate.

First UMC; Fuquay: 402 North Main Street (US 401 South), Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Creek in Chatham County (New Hope Circuit). The second circuit to reach into the Upper Cape Fear Valley was the Haw River Circuit, formed in 1793, from portions of the New Hope and Tar River Circuits, but disappearing one year later. Haw River Circuit shows up again in 1797, completely replacing the New Hope Circuit, probably including Memphis Church, located just a mile across the Cape Fear River from Chatham County and three miles from Corinth.

In 1903, Fuquay Springs was a rural crossroads with no paved streets. Made up primarily of cotton farmers, the community was best known for the health-giving waters of the Fuquay Springs (NRHP, 1986 -naturally occurring bicarbonate of soda). On October 13 of that year, seventeen (17) citizens gathered to organize the Fuquay Springs Methodist Episcopal Church South. There were already several churches in the community: Wake Chapel Christian Church, organized 1856, The Fuquay Springs Missionary Baptist Church, organized 1902, and The Free Will Baptist Church at the corner of Fuquay Avenue and Academy Street (no organizational records now available). The first meetings held by Methodists in the community were in a three-room schoolhouse and in the now destroyed Free Will Baptist Church, Rev. J.O. Guthrie, preaching.

Edith Parker (deceased), daughter of the late Dr. J.M. Judd and a charter member, speculated that most, if not all of the original seventeen (17) members were probably already Methodists who had grown up in the churches of Memphis (across the Cape Fear River), Buckhorn, Cokesbury, Olive Branch (Kipling) or Holly Springs. As the Fuquay Springs community continued to grow - driven by the economic engine of the Springs - local Methodists wanted a church of their own. The charter members were received by Rev. J.W. Guthrie and Rev. G.T. Adams, 10th District Superintendents and both, presumably, representing the Buckhorn Charge, Raleigh District, of which the Fuquay Springs Methodist Church would become a part. In 1904, Rev. G.W. Starling received nineteen (19) additional members, probably serving several churches, holding services on a rotating schedule of morning and afternoon preaching.

In those early years, none of the local churches had fulltime pastors. Services were scheduled every first Sunday at the Baptist Church, every second Sunday at the Methodist Church, every third Sunday at Wake Chapel Christian Church and every fourth Sunday at the Presbyterian Church with most of the community attending church every Sunday, wherever preaching happened to be that week.

The newly organized Methodists went to work straightaway to construct a building. A site was acquired on South Main Street just opposite Pine Street, and a wood frame building constructed. Church records indicate the structure was built and paid for in six months.

The congregation began active work right and held regular services. Described as "a good, one-room structure, very nice for the time", the building included a vestibule for hanging coats and hats with a steeple above the vestibule containing a bell for calling the faithful to worship. The bell was rung for Sunday School as well as for Worship and could be heard for several miles with most families arriving in horse-drawn buggies. Once inside, the pulpit could be seen straight ahead in a semi-circular bay with windows behind (see present day Purdie UMC, Tarheel, NC). The pulpit was furnished with a wooden love seat and two upholstered chairs as well as with stacks of small wooden chairs which would be set out behind a curtain drawn across to create a classroom for the "beginners" or "card" class - average attendance for the first year, 28.

Later, but probably prior to 1922, the church was able to buy a piano. At Quarterly Conference time, members would bring picnic fare for dinner on the grounds. If the day happened to be cold or rainy, two long wooden pews would be turned with seats together to create a table inside. The pews have a bit of history of their own. Mrs. Edith Parker remembered that her father liked the comfort of the pews at Edenton Street Methodist Church so he went to church and drew a pattern of the seats, then had pews for the local church made at the Blanchard Saw-mill across the street from the present location of First UMC of Fuquay-Varina.

The church was assigned to the Buckhorn Circuit of the Fayetteville District with Rev. G.W. Sterling serving as pastor for 1903 - 1904. This original structure still stands and has been used as a pack house, an antique shop and is, today, an apartment building. As the Town of Fuquay Springs grew, so did the Methodist Church. Records show that in 1924 a new charge was created within the Raleigh District and Fuquay Springs, Olive Branch (Kipling), Cokesbury, Buckhorn, and Holly Springs Methodist Churches became a part of that charge. It was in that same year that

DECEASED CLERGY & SPOUSES

Clergy:

James Ralph Oliver
August 13, 1940 – October 6, 2017
Husband of Judy Mitchell Oliver

Haywood Allen Smith
January 15, 1952 – October 18, 2017
Husband of Meleah Williamson

Henry Blue
March 30, 1943 – November 8, 2017
Husband of Bessie Peace Blue

Lawrence Edward Lugar
March 22, 1927 – November 10, 2017
Husband of Jean Hodges Lugar

Edwin D Stanfield
September 30, 1946 – February 16, 2017
Husband of Vera Stanfield

Robert Dennis Ricks Jr.
May 22, 1931 – December 21, 2017
Husband of Lydia Bryan Ricks

Lon William Miller
April 30, 1950 – December 30, 2017
Husband of Marilyn A. Miller

Leland Monroe Heath Jr.
September 29, 1942 – February 7, 2018
Husband of Joy A. Heath

Samuel Hoyt Brown
May 17, 1928 – March 9, 2018
Husband of Beverly Marcucci Brown



Spouses:

Freda K. Baker
February 25, 1927 - September 7, 2017
Widow of M. Randall Baker

Mollie Davis King
July 20, 1931 – October 22, 2017
Wife of William Robert King, Sr.

Sue Manning Hodgins
September 6, 1934 – November 11, 2017
Wife of Hubert Howard Hodgins

Rosamond CritcherSexton
September 13, 1924 – November 19, 2017
Wife of Kenneth Bryan Sexton, Sr.

HelenBame
September 19, 1921 – November 23, 2017
Widow of Robert Lee Bame

Charlotte Hill
October 6, 1928 – December 14, 2017
Widow of Noah Bright Hill Jr.

Iris M. Hutchinson
July 5, 1936 – January 1, 2018
Wife of Charles Howard Hutchinson

Frances McCarver
August 7, 1922 – January 14, 2018
Widow of Clyde Gay McCarver

Rose Tillett Davenport
October 27, 1953 – January 17, 2018
Wife of Kenneth Leroy Davenport

Burnie Collins
November 29, 1934 – January 17, 2018
Husband of Gayla Estes Collins

Frances Sue Page
April 12, 1917 – February 7, 2018
Widower of Jack Ward Page

Kathryn Christian
April 14, 1938 – February 20, 2018
Wife of Robert S. Christian

Susan Carol B. France
January 16, 1947 – February 25, 2018
Wife of Everett Joseph France

Esther Spence Sherman
July 4, 1925 - March 19, 2018
Wife of William Welby Sherman Jr.

the Fuquay Springs church decided that its next major project would be the construction of a parsonage. Work began on a new church at 402 North Main Street in January, 1930. Money was scarce and the pastor, E. C. Maness, mixed mortar and carried bricks for the building. Mrs. Parker remembered that the men who brought the bricks insisted on payment before they would allow the bricks to be unloaded. She said sometimes the church didn't have the money to pay, and Dr. Judd would provide cash so the bricks could be unloaded. Within six months the sanctuary was completed and opened for services. The Sunday School annex was completed in the spring and summer of 1931. The radiators for heating the Sunday School building were installed the latter part of July 1931. Rev. Maness described the new structure as "a very substantial modern church. It has four department rooms and a nursery room and ten other rooms besides the church auditorium and the two lavatory and cloak rooms."

Rev. Maness pointed out that the Fuquay Springs Methodist Church was organized on the 13th day of October, 1903; that the first deposit on the building fund for the new building was in the bank on the 13th of November, 1929; and that this new church building was first opened for services on the 13th of July 1930 - rather interesting coincidences!

The Fuquay Springs Methodist Church was a part of a "charge" or "circuit" until 1944, when the Fuquay Springs Church became a "station" church; i.e. they no longer shared their pastor with another church. In 1954. The United Methodist Men's Group was chartered and, because of rapidly expanding Sunday Schools, approval was given in July, 1956, for a new educational wing, including a large fellowship hall and kitchen, choir room, classrooms and a memorial chapel. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on Dec. 9, 1956.

The new educational facilities were opened on September 15, 1957, on Promotion Day. Sunday School rooms were assigned by Iris Brown, chair of Education and the late W. E. Medlin, Sunday School Superintendent. Air conditioning and heating were added in 1962. It was a red-letter day in the life and program of the Fuquay Springs Methodist Church in November, 1964 when they dedicated this new education building and celebrated Homecoming. A front-page spread appeared in the North Carolina Christian Advocate, the official Methodist newsletter, covering the event. Bishop Garber delivered the sermon and was assisted in the service by former pastors.

Through the years. the name of the church has changed several times, often as a result of changes beyond its control. In 1963, the twin towns of Fuquay Springs and Varina merged to change the name of the town to Fuquay-Varina. In 1968 the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren to become the United Methodist Church, thus resulting in the portmanteau name: Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church.

Beginning in 1996, a building committee explored options for the future of a growing congregation. A church member was in possession of a piece of property which he wanted to give to the church for new construction but some members were intent on staying at the historic location, location, location at the intersection of US401, NC55, and NC 42, not to mention the Norfolk & Southern Railway. After two years of negotiations with Kermit Braswell, District Superintendent, those who wanted to stay in the historic location were informed that they could stay a form a new congregation with Fuquay-Varina UMC moving to the new location. Negotiations were undertaken with the stay and grow group (Friends of FV-UMC) to purchase the physical plant. The Church Council voted unanimously on June 8, 1999 to accept the resolution and present the offer (after negotiations) to a Church Conference scheduled for June 30, 1999. On July 11, 1999, the relocating congregation moved out and those who wished to stay (18) walked in. The new congregation selected the name First UMC of Fuquay-Varina and the Reverend Dick Blankenhorn came out of retirement to shepherd the group through a time of growth and discernment regarding becoming a United Methodist Congregation, 2001. As of the Annual Conference, 2017, First UMC of Fuquay-Varina was reported to be the most effective congregation in the Fairway District of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Stephanie Scarborough Ashworth, BFA, MA

First United Methodist Church of Fuquay-Varina
402 North Main Street (US401South)
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526 / 919.567.8384

☯Yesterday☯

The North Carolina Conference Historical Society was in existence as early as 1893. At that time all clergy were members of the society. In 1978, the Commission on Archives and History reorganized the Historical Society and opened its membership to anyone interested in the history of the United Methodist Church. The purposes included in the bylaws of the newly formed Society included: the collection and preservation of materials related to the history of the United Methodist; promotion of writing and historical research; training local church historians; and publicizing information and news.

☯Today☯

At present time the NC Conference Historical Society meets twice a year - once in the spring at a church or location of historical interest, and once in the fall at the United Methodist building in Garner, NC. Meetings may include speakers on historical topics of interest, information for local church historians to share in their own churches, fellowship and a meal.

Society meetings are open to all!

For more information contact:

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4620 Wayne Memorial Dr.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
bryanhuffman@nccumc.org

Doug Jonas, Chr. of NCC Commission on
Archives and History
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Morrisville, NC 27560
Dcjonas2000@gmail.com

Support for Church Historians and others interested in church history is available through participation in the NC Conference Historical Society. Renew your membership today!

Membership in the N.C. Conference Historical Society

Dues are for a year and payable to: N.C. Conference (please put "Historical Society" on the memo line)
Mail to: Archives & History, 700 Waterfield Ridge Place, Garner NC 27529

_____ Student	\$3.00	_____ Contributing	\$25.00
_____ Regular	\$7.00	_____ Life	\$100.00
_____ Patron	\$10.00		

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