

A History of **Bethany**
United Methodist Church

R Wayne Gray

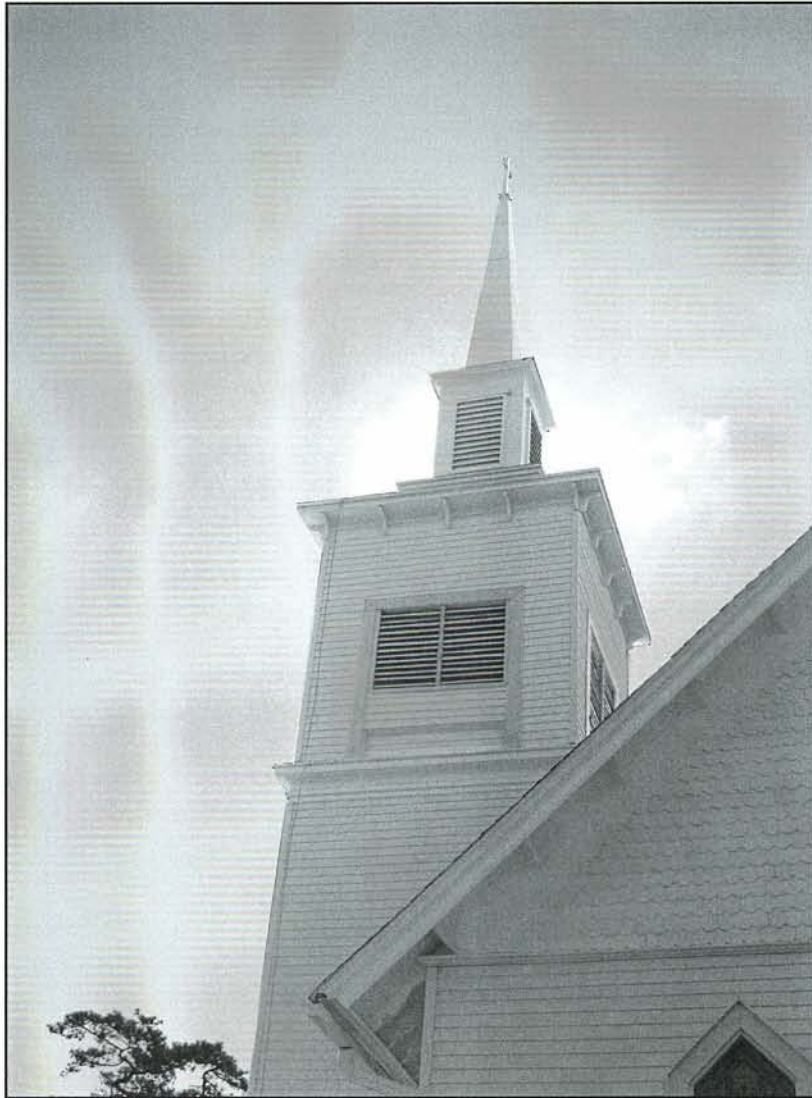


Bethany United Methodist Church
Wanchese, North Carolina
1848 - 2009



A History of Bethany
United Methodist Church
R Wayne Gray





BETHANY UMC STEEPLE, 2009. Our constant guiding light.
(Bud Watts photo.)

DEDICATED TO All Bethany members, past and present.

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Cover: Christmas at Bethany by Glenn Eure
(Marc Basnight collection.)

Flyleaf: Daniels' Day Gathering circa 1950
(Button Daniels collection.)

Captions: Nancy Beach Gray



Marc Basnight is a member of Bethany United Methodist Church, owner and operator of Basnight's Lone Cedar Restaurant, and Senator Pro Tem of the North Carolina State Senate.

Foreword

Roanoke Island and the Outer Banks are rich in the history books—from the first English colony in America to the first powered flight by the Wright Brothers.

But our richest heritage by far is the people who live here, tied together through the years by their love of faith, family and community. My family's church, Bethany United Methodist Church, dates back to 1848 as one of the two original Methodist churches on Roanoke Island.

Although its structure has changed over the years, within its walls lived a God-fearing people who have always opened their arms to their fellow man. Bethany United has brought generations of individuals, families, and communities together—not just in worship, but in fellowship and friendship. Throughout time, this church family has reached out to help those in great need spiritually, emotionally or financially—those who found themselves tried and tested, and with nowhere else to turn. And the church has always been there—not standing alone as bricks and mortar and wood, but alive with people with great heart and charity.

—Marc Basnight



ROANOKE ISLAND (circa 1585).
An inset of John White's illustration of Roanoke Island as
he viewed it when the Englishmen first arrived.
(Outer Banks History Center.)

PREFACE

I agree with Edmund Burke who wrote that “history is a contract between the living and the dead.” Our church is a living history of our community and as long as we have records of its history it will stay alive.

Our sketchy church records go back only as far as 1883. Many of our old records are lost or were never written. Now that our archives are centralized and will soon be properly bound and preserved, I hope that this book will be an incentive for us to keep careful records in the future so that our history can be updated by future historians. This volume is far from a definitive history of Bethany United Methodist Church. However, I feel extremely fortunate in validating its history by being able to locate the 1836 deed from Daniel Cudworth for the building of the old church, and for finding a picture of the old church, as these are important cornerstones of Bethany’s history and our church’s heritage.

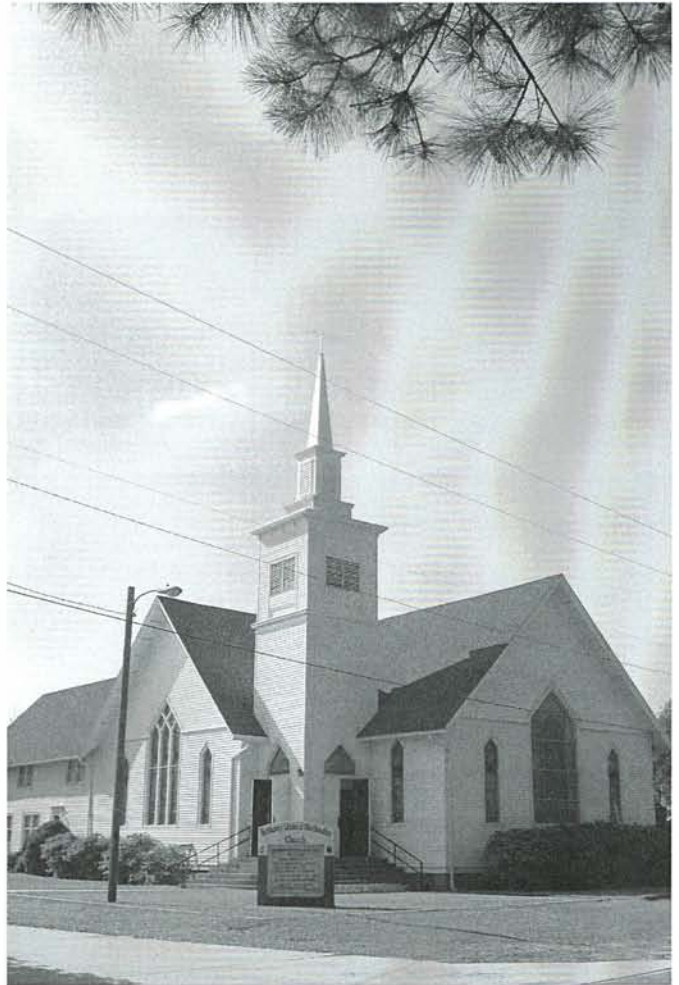
Many members of our congregation have supplied me with information about the past and have given me many leads enabling me to uncover information on the verge of being forgotten. Over a hundred and fifty years is a long time for memories and information to stay alive.

My research has been as thorough and carefully collected, studied, documented, and presented as possible. Much information gathered, both oral and written, often conflicted; sometimes presenting as many as three renditions or dates concerning the same story. In these cases I put forth the facts in the best interpreted light and recorded all scenarios. Perhaps new truths will emerge in the future.

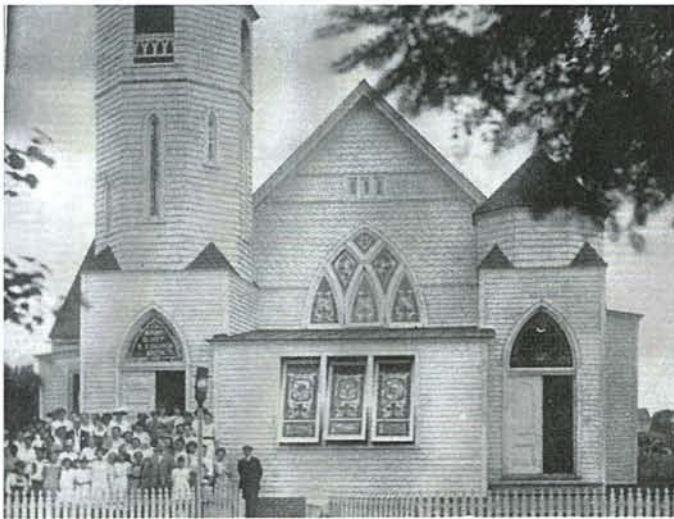
I hope this volume will give a better understanding of the importance of documented history illuminating Bethany UMC.

When meditating in the Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary, I often think of the many people who built and supported this church who live within the halls of this church and the halls of Heaven.

Three Sister Churches



**BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
Wanchese, NC.**
(Bud Watts photo.)



**MT. OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
Manteo, NC.**
(Mt. Olivet UMC collection.)



**MT. CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
Manns Harbor, NC.**
(Mt. Carmel UMC collection.)



THE CONGREGATION OF BETHANY UMC 2005. Many members of the church gather outside to have their picture taken on November 20, 2005, the day the new fellowship hall was dedicated, the centennial of the sanctuary was celebrated, and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the preschool was commemorated. (Minta Meekins photo.)



(Melba Melson collection.)

**BETHANY UMC (top picture circa 1975, bottom picture years later.)
Although there seems to be no structural changes, it didn't take long
for small pines to start growing.**



(Bethany UMC collection.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

You cannot have a history without people dedicated and willing to help preserve the memories and pictures of their heritage.

During my research I never met anyone who wasn't willing and eager to help me. Many people provided old photographs and identification and details that were just waiting to be put into print. My work with people in my own community provided me many opportunities to sit in old rockers on hundred-year-old porches and listen to oral history. Visiting and "just settin'" is something most of us don't do anymore. What a wonderful experience it was for me to reunite with people I have known all my life but rarely get to really talk with. And I learned so much!

After having written what I thought was the history of Bethany United Methodist Church, I came across two great discoveries—a picture of the old church on Old Church Road, labeled as such on the back, found by Jane Gray in my grandmother Daisy's papers. Also, I met Joe Meekins' three children, grandchildren of the builder of our present church, who had a treasure trove of pictures and stories. It was then that I realized my "history" had just begun, and I started over, writing from the beginning.

My first encouragement came from Pastor Bill Holliday who read some of my early notes and helped steer me in the right direction concerning Methodism. Then, thanks goes to Pastor Bill Cottingham, who gave me further encouragement and provided the beginning of funding for the project. Capt. Wayland Baum told me a lot about our church's beginnings long before I ever thought about writing its history. Levina Fleming, Lawrence Meekins, and Hester Meekins, who opened their home and hearts up to me, provided information and pictures I never dreamed of getting.

The real support and mainstay for this book came from my wife, Nancy, who strongly believed in the project from the beginning. She edited when necessary, added facts and information, pushed me when I got overwhelmed and discouraged, did a lot of the typing, and wrote the fine, creative captions. She was my guiding light every step of the way. She was always there to listen, to guide, to encourage, to help me come to logical conclusions about my theories, and to tell me when I had lived in the past too long, was getting too crazy, and it was time to come back to the present.

Meriting special thanks are Marc Basnight who allowed me to use the cover picture he commissioned Glenn Eure to paint, Amy Fulk of Marc's pro tempore office who spent much of her valuable time on the phone, e-mailing me much needed information, the staff of the Outer Banks History Center (KaeLi Spiers, Sarah Downing, Tama Creef, Stuart Parks, and Kelly Grimm), Melody Leckie and John Wilson of Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc., Dare County Library (vertical files), Dare County Register of Deeds, Currituck County Register of Deeds, Bethany UMC records, and *The Coastland Times*.

I am especially grateful to Adam "Bud" Watts who took many photographs and scanned all of the photographs and put them on discs, Joe Wagner who did the computer layout from our "paste-up," Suzanne Tate who graciously acted as a broker with the printer who printed all of her books, and to Angel Ellis Khoury, my best friend and fellow writer, who answered my many questions and followed the project from beginning to end, and, lastly, Daniel Khoury, who looked at old deeds during his crisis and gave me his professional opinion which helped with one of my biggest problems.

All photographs contributed have been credited (when possible) by each picture.

My appreciation to the following people who through their pictures or memories made this book possible.

Amelia Austin	Hettie Cudworth	Lois Gallop	Lawrence Meekins
Merlee Austin	J.M. Cudworth	Bubba Gallop	Lish Meekins
Bethany UMC collection	Button Daniels	Edith Gaskill	Minta Meekins
Bill Ballance	Candy Daniels	Daisy Pugh Gray	R.S. Meekins
Dorita Ballance	Cleopatra Daniels	Jane Gray	Melba Melson collection
Larry Ballance, Sr.	Peggy Daniels	Neil Gray	Mill Midgett
Hughie Basnight	Robin Daniels	Rev. Bill Holliday	Annette Scarborough
Steve Basnight, Jr.	Ken Davenport	Rev. Jerry Jackson	George Scarborough
Connie Bateman	Laura Domingue	Tammy Jennings	Vicki Simpson
Wayland Baum	Ken Doughty	Rev. Dick Lewis	Rev. Jerome Smith
Becky Beacham	Jack Dunn	Denise Mann	Brenda Stephenson
Betty Kay Beasley	Rev. Sidney Epperson	Ken Mann	Caroline Stetson
Rev. Holt Clarke	Francis Epperson	Marcy Mann	George Strawley
Rev. Tom Clarke	Robin Etheridge	Orman Mann	Rev. Tom Supplee
Rev. Bill Cottingham	Levina Fleming	Eleanor Meekins	Barbara Tillett
Jana Cottingham	Rev. Betty Francis	Hester Meekins	Gayle Tillett
Rev. Jerry Cribb	Bill Hardesty Gallop	Joyce Meekins	Bud Watts

A special thank you to the congregation of Bethany UMC who had confidence in me and supported me one hundred percent from the beginning.

In addition, a loving thanks to my grandmother, Daisy Gray, who loved her church and would be proud of this book.



A CHIEF LORD OF ROANOKE, 1590. Engraving by Theodor de Bry after John White's illustrations in Thomas Hariot's book *A Briefe and True Report of the Newfoundland of Virginia*.
(Outer Banks History Center.)

In the beginning

Before the first ship ever left England to explore the new world, Christianity and its tenets were foremost in the minds of Queen Elizabeth and the Crown as stated in the March 25, 1584 grant letters patent to Walter Raleigh in discussion of its rules and regulations: “And also so as they be not against the trewe Christian faith or religion now professed in the churche of England nor in any wise to withdrawe any of the subjects or people of those lands from the allegiance of us our heyres and successours.”

Later in December of 1584, in a bill to confirm Raleigh’s patent, it stated “And is also desirable that the knowledge of God and trewe religion might be her heighness [Queen Elizabeth] labors by propogated amongeste foreign nations.”

Hence, from the first attempts of the English Colonists to establish a colony on Roanoke Island, Christianity was a major part in the development of our history.

When Thomas Hariot arrived on Roanoke Island in the summer of 1585 as a scientist, linguist, mathematician, and cartographer for Raleigh’s Colony, he might well have missed his calling as a minister since his writings portray his strong concerns and efforts to convert the Algonquin Indians to Christianity. As a talented linguist he put “together the first Algonquin-English dictionary and...translated sermons into Algonquin for the edification of the Indians.” Richard Hakluyt, a geographer and publicist for the first colonists also “was concerned... that every effort be made to induce them [Indians] to become good members of the Church of England.” He also was very concerned that the Indians be led to conversion in a truthful and legitimate manner. Hakluyt thought the North American Indians were “of better wits than those in Mexico or Peru...whereby it may be gathered that they will easily embrace the gospel...”

Hariot, with his many diverse talents, was busy during his stay on Roanoke Island. However, he always seemed to make time to share his religious beliefs with the Indians in an effort to convert them. “Manie times and in every towne where I came,” he wrote, “I made a declaration of the contents of the Bible; that therein was set fourth the true and only GOD and his mightie workes” and the “true doctrine of salvation through Christ.” Hariot was, indeed, dedicated to his gospel-spreading missionary work. Having already spent much time with Manteo and Wanchese, both on Roanoke Island and in England, he already knew about the Indians’ religion in which a few of their beliefs were similar to those of protestants. However, of their religion, “there is hope it may bee the easier and sooner reformed.”

Hariot later added that the “Wiroons with whome we dwelt called Wingina, and many of his people would be glad many times to be with us at our prayers, and many times call upon us in his owne towne, as also in others whither he sometimes accompanied us, to pray and sing psalmes, hoping thereby to be a partaker of the same effects which we by that means also expected.”

When Hariot began to explain the particulars of the Bible, the miracles, for example, the Indians often became confused even though he told them he was not talking about the Bible in a material manner (the physical book). As a result, they would “be glad to touche it, to embrace it, to kiss it, and to holde it to their breastes and heades, and stroke over all their bodies

with it, to shewe their hungrie desire of that knowledge which was spoken of.”

Wingina’s faith fluctuated even though Hariot worked incessantly to convert him. When he was sick he called on his own priests to help him. However, when he almost died on two occasions, he sent for Hariot to pray to the English God. “His reasoning, under such circumstances, was not only that the English God might allow him to live, but that, if the time had come for him to die, then with God’s permission he might ‘After death dwell with him in bliss.’” **The Algonquins believed in their own heaven and hell and ‘the immortality of the soul.’**” They believed their gods lived in eternal bliss and happiness and that hell was a deep pit. They tried to live their lives according to their beliefs and behave in such a manner that they would not go to hell which was for the sinful.

One of the problems, however, that Hariot had with his attempted conversions was that many of the Indians observed and felt first hand the brutality and cruelty of a number of the leading colonists whom they had earnestly befriended. In this light, Christianity didn’t look like a good idea to them.

Two years after Hariot arrived on Roanoke Island, the Indian Manteo was baptized on August 13, 1587, the “first recorded religious ceremony in this hemisphere.” Another author states, “He (Manteo) would act as a nominal convert, to be paraded by implication in Hakluyt’s published version of White’s narrative of 1589 as a successful result of missionary activity...” Virginia Dare was christened less than two weeks later as the first English child born in America. In addition to Manteo and Wanchese, an Indian named Raleigh (or Rawley) went to England and “remained in Grenville’s service until 1589. He became a Christian and his christening in Bideford Parish Church is recorded on 27 March, 1588. He lived for just over a year after that and was buried in the churchyard on 7 April, 1589.”

In retrospect, it is interesting to think about “Manteo and Wanchese...each leaders of tribes on Roanoke Island...present in London when Queen Elizabeth knighted Walter Raleigh and gave permission for a permanent settlement in the new world.” During this time they also observed much holiday merry-making on the twelfth day of Christmas. Both were Algonquin leaders ahead of their time, four hundred and twenty-five years ago, meeting Amadas and Barlow when they arrived as explorers, and, in turn, visiting England, living there for approximately eight months, part of the time in the home of Sir Walter Raleigh.

It is also ironic that as a consequence of Manteo’s christening, he became a member of the Church of England—the same church that John Wesley was a member of.

In conclusion, we have an extremely close-knit religious history for a small island approximately the size and shape of Manhattan.

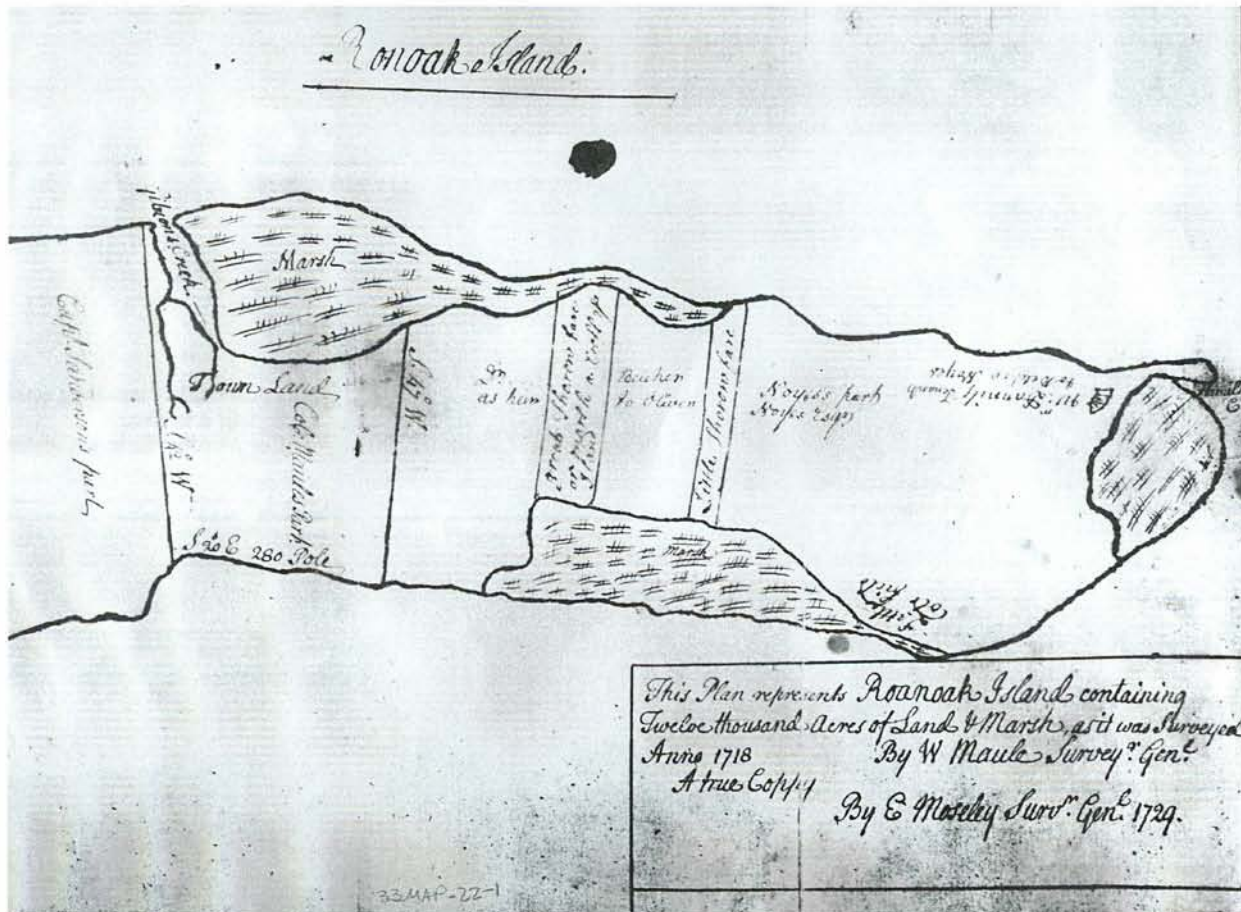
SCENES FROM THE LOST COLONY OUTDOOR DRAMA



ENGLISHMEN coming ashore carrying a cross.
(Outer Banks History Center.)



QUEEN ELIZABETH and Sir Walter Raleigh.
(Outer Banks History Center.)



ROANOKE ISLAND MAP, 1718.
 By 1718 people began to seriously settle on the Outer Banks.
 (Outer Banks History Center.)

Early settlement and the beginning of Methodism

Forty years after the disappearance of Roanoke's Lost Colony, several important documents existed which showed that Christianity was still foremost in the minds of individuals promoting early settlement in North Carolina. For example, in 1629, Sir Robert Heath was granted a region which was to be "incorporated into the province of Carolina." The charter maintained that "enlarging the Christian religion" was one of the primary reasons for colonization. Also, one of the reasons given in Charles II's Proprietary Charter of 1663 was for the "propagation of the Christian faith."

Several later merchants and traders asking for land grants stated that conversion of the Indians was one of their reasons for advocating settlement. In fact, as mentioned earlier, the Indians were greatly interested in the Englishmen's religion, but found it "hard to reconcile Christian teachings and the settlers' actions."

Early settlement began on the Outer Banks in 1663 when a plantation was established by John Whittie on Colington Island. He grew corn and tobacco and raised cattle and hogs. He also began a winery using grapes that he cultivated. In addition to these means of making a livelihood, he sold oil he extracted from whales that washed ashore.

"By 1700 most of the residents of the Banks were stockmen, runaways, whalers, or simply small landowners trying to gain a foothold in the new colony." Most of them also hunted, fished, and had gardens. Also, "wrecking," or claiming goods that washed ashore from wrecked vessels became a way of life.

In the meantime, the few remaining Indians on the Outer Banks were struggling to survive. By 1714 most of the Indians had been wiped out by the new settlers, leaving a handful of survivors to eke out a living. Another enterprise that affected the Outer Banks was the Golden Age of Piracy which began in 1713 and ended with the death of Blackbeard in 1718. It affected the Outer Banks for about a year. Shortly after Blackbeard's death, a few men secured grants for large parcels of land and a number of people began to seriously settle on the Outer Banks. For example, Gov. Samuel Stephens was given title to Roanoke Island about 1669. He sold part of it and it continued to be split and sold in large parcels numerous times. In any event, by the beginning of the Revolutionary War, which did not greatly affect the Outer Banks, the first phase of settlement was completed. "By 1783...approximately 1000 people were living on the Banks proper and on the nearby islands...."

Meanwhile, the proprietors strongly advocated the Anglican Church of England. However, they made it clear that dissenters were free to worship in their own manner. Hence, Quakers, Presbyterians, and other sects began to branch off and form. As a result, many European immigrants had come to North Carolina during the proprietary period, and as late as 1717, Governor Eden referred to the "deplorable state of religion in this poor province."

During Colonial times, the last protestant sect to appear were the Methodists. Like many others, they originated as a reform movement in the Church of England. It was after the American Revolution before they appeared as an organization.

They appeared under John Wesley, a young Anglican preacher, who called them "his followers." During this time a number of ministers spread the doctrines of the "Methodist Society" throughout North Carolina. Although Methodism really began as a revival movement, neither John nor Charles Wesley intended to found a denomination. However, by 1739, while in England, Wesley "made four important decisions which eventually formed the underlying bases for Methodism. After much internal debate, he approved preaching outside the pulpit, the use of lay persons as ministers, the formation of an organization to supervise converts, and the acquisition of formal structures to house his societies. Methodism had become a true church in every sense of the word."

Joseph Pilmore (or Pilmoor) arrived in Philadelphia on October 22, 1769, accompanied by Richard Beardman, the first two preachers appointed by Wesley to come to America. Upon his arrival, Pilmore said in a statement "that the Methodist Society was never designed to make a separation from the Church of England or to be looked upon as a church." Reverend Pilmore founded the first Methodist Society at Portsmouth, Virginia on November 14, 1772. Two months earlier he preached the first "Methodist Sermon" at the Currituck Courthouse in Currituck, North Carolina. There is an historic marker there commemorating that sermon. It is said that Reverend Pilmore "possessed a voice whose volume enabled him to address vast crowds with ease." One year later the first "Methodist Society" in North Carolina was organized in 1773 in Halifax County.

"Though a minister named James Adams had served in Currituck County as early as 1708, there is nothing to indicate that any minister actually visited the Banks until October 7, 1766, when the Reverend Alexander Stewart went to Portsmouth [Island] for bathing in the salt water" and reported that he "baptised twenty seven children from the different islands around me."

As stated earlier **"formal religion...was relatively overlooked on the Banks during the Colonial era**, when subjects for thought and planning followed the Revolution." Records from this period are very scarce because, according to David Stick, "people never bothered to record any information." Also, perhaps people were too focused on just surviving.

However, we know that Reverend Pilmore preached the Methodist faith not only in Currituck but in various other eastern North Carolina counties as well. Other ministers such as Robert Williams, Thomas Rankin, and Devereux Jarratt were also preaching at whatever places or homes they were welcomed—well into the nineteenth century. On July 14, 1773, the first American Methodist Conference met in Philadelphia eleven years before the Methodists in America officially organized as a denomination.

Although the first Methodist Circuit in the colony began in 1774, the first North Carolina circuit was organized as a conference in Baltimore, Maryland on May 21, 1776 with Clergymen Edward Dromgoole, Francis Poythress, and Isham Tatum.

As a result of the creation of the previously mentioned organizations, and the circuit riders who were beginning to canvass the country on horseback, and in our area by boat, the Methodist faith began to make great strides.

The "word" came by tough, pioneer-spirited circuit riders. They preached (often twice a day), conducted funerals, performed marriages, and administered communion in addition to many other duties. In effect, they kept the spirit of Methodism alive. Their job was tough and slow, traveling by horseback through Indian trails and swamps. They stayed on the move all the time, stopping at "preacher's homes" on the route where they kept a change of clothes and books. As one writer states, "possibly many valuable men dropped out of the it due to the lack of support. It was almost impossible for a married man to do the work of the itinerant preacher."

Each circuit rider was assigned certain areas where he was to preach. They were paid very little (\$64.00 a year prior to 1792), and they traveled extraordinary distances during the course of a year. Hence, there were very few circuit riders. These "itinerant preachers often slept in the woods without necessary food...and suffering from want of clothing."

According to official records at the Currituck Courthouse there were only nine families on Roanoke Island in 1776. Whatever worship services, if any, were probably held in private homes by the man of the house or by one of these circuit riders.

The Revolutionary War, however, changed organized religion as the colonists knew it. Religious

sects such as the Quakers, Moravians, and German Reformed “lost ground or remained almost static.” Also, the Church of England “was officially disestablished in the state by the Constitution of 1776.”

So, even though the Methodists built up a strong following, the Revolutionary War also had a bad effect on Methodism. Many of John Wesley’s followers heeded his advice to “remain loyal to the Mother Country.” As a result of his calm plea, missionary activity ceased, many local churches closed and “Methodist Societies were greatly restricted.” Methodist preachers became suspect and most fled out of fear for their lives. This persecution of the Methodist preachers, who were suspected of being Tories (British supporters) certainly hindered Methodist growth. However, “it did not stop it. By the end of the war in 1783, the Methodist numbered about 1500 with 80 preachers.”

During the Revolutionary War Francis Asbury alone remained even though he spent most of his time hiding in Maryland. However, in 1780 he spurred new Methodist activity when he made a missionary tour through North Carolina as well as other nearby states. He was a popular orator with a vivacious personality. By 1783, largely as a result of his activities, there were “ten Methodist circuits and 2,339 members” in North Carolina. “The Camden Circuit was organized in this year. That took in all of Currituck County which at that time included much of what is now Dare. The Camden Circuit reached the Outer Banks in 1785, and in 1789 the Pamlico Circuit had extended eastward to Roanoke Sound.”

Two years before the Camden Circuit reached the Outer Banks, the following note appeared: “Both Methodist and Baptist had been making their way out to the sand barriers and islands through the eighteenth century, finding favorable reception in the same areas. **‘I have met with a degree of friendship,’ wrote Methodist missionary Henry Metcalf in 1783, ‘from Mr. Saml. Midyett on Roanok (sic.) Island,** as also Cap. Jacob Farrow and his brother Hezikiah, but Mr. Payne has behaved with coldness.”

Reverend Thrift writes that “In 1783 Camden Circuit had only twenty-two members, but in 1784 it reported 350 and appears on the minutes as Camden and the Banks. This is the first time the Banks appears in the list of appointments. The large number of members reported so soon after the formation of the circuit was no doubt due to the fact that many who were already in the Methodist Society had emigrated into this section from other parts of the country. In 1785 Richard Ivey served the Camden Circuit. He was one of the foremost men in early Methodism. That same year the Banks appeared as a separate appointment with David Hoggard as its pastor.”

To conclude, the formal organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church was in 1784 at Baltimore, Maryland. Thus, from this meeting emerged the official beginning of the Methodist Church. On April 20, 1785, near Louisburg, North Carolina, the first annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held. Superintendents Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke were attending.



E.R. DANIELS' STORE was located across from his home.
He was also the first postmaster in Wanchese.

(Vicki Simpson collection.)



E.R. DANIELS' HOME was located where Jimmy and Merle Daniels' home on E.R. Daniels Road is today.

(Vicki Simpson collection.)

A brief sketch of Methodism in Dare County

Currituck was formed from the Albemarle precinct in 1670. This included the Outer Banks and Roanoke Island. In 1870 Dare County was formed from Currituck, Hyde, and Tyrrell Counties. By this time, Methodism had been established for many years and the county was decidedly Methodist; more so, perhaps, than any county in the state. As one writer stated, "Methodism is a stalwart type. It's keynote is loyalty and liberality. The people believe in her doctrines and policy and rally to her demands right royally. I know of no section that contributes more in proportion to property possessed."

When Dare became a county, Nags Head and Roanoke Island were taken from Currituck. East Lake, Croatan, and Stumpy Point were taken from Tyrrell, and Oregon Inlet to Hatteras was taken from Hyde. All of Dare County except for the last mentioned portion was a part of the Virginia Conference under the name of Currituck Mission. In 1880 the name was changed to Dare Circuit. The Outer Banks from Oregon Inlet to Hatteras was in the North Carolina Conference. Roanoke Island became a part of the North Carolina Conference in 1891.

Before the formation of Dare County, church record keeping was irregular at best. Fires claimed many records. Ministers sometimes took church records with them. And, many times, church records were simply not kept at all. Hence, as mentioned before, there are frustratingly huge gaps in our church history with little information during this period of time.

During this period there were few trained clergymen so a minister would have several churches he



LAWRENCE MEEKINS' HOME on Old Schoolhouse Road in Wanchese is still standing and is owned by Casper Dalton Meekins Jr. of Elizabeth City, NC. (Tammy Jennings collection.)

was responsible for in different communities. He had to take care of his “charges” by alternating Sundays, having visiting members help him, ministers in training assist him, or enlisting the aid of lay readers. As Grissom writes, “These were days of sacrifices and devotion. The preachers were doing all they could to live on the small amount allowed, and eternity alone will reveal what the bold women of early Methodism did in helping these men of God to bridge over many financial embarrassments. Clothing was high, and these good women made many articles of clothing with their own hands to supply the needs of this persecuted and poorly paid set of men.”

By the late 1870s “Roanoke Island was turning away from stockraising and toward fishing, thanks to increased steamboat service and northern markets vying for Outer Banks fish and oysters....” However, churches were important then, as they are now, as centers of everyday social and religious activities. Only a few churches had been built on Roanoke Island at this time. It was a time of bustling businesses and an increase in population. Shad fishing turned Wanchese into a minor frontier town.

During the time the present church was built, only a handful of people had any financial wealth—and they were merchants. However, **shad fishing was at its apex and the majority of the local men were fishermen.** They caught and shipped tremendous numbers of shad, at very high prices, to northern markets. So, it can be stated with some authority that shad fishing was the backbone of Wanchese’s economy; hence, it was responsible to a large degree for the building of the church. Commercial fishing led the local economy. It was a very prosperous business. The fishing community was thriving. It must have been an exciting time for the whole village to see such a large, beautiful building erected for the glorification of God.

Joshua Davis moved to Wanchese in 1888 to teach school (probably at the Hooker’s School which was on present day Owens Shipyard Road). He boarded with “Captain Sam Daniels, a fisherman, and his family....‘Most of the people here are fishermen,’ he wrote. ‘They go out with their nets before day...very little farming is done in this section.’” Davis noted that “Wanchese Fishermen often had their own ice houses, where they stored ice, cut during winters from Croatan Sound and packed in sawdust.” He also observed and commented on local potato houses, where farmers stored and cured sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes.

“Wanchese’s stores, like Manteo’s, were open till eleven at night. E.R. Daniels, who opened Wanchese’s post office in 1886, and Jeff Hayman were two of the town’s busiest merchants, dealing in both dry goods and fish; other merchants included Isaac Davis and the Pughs.”

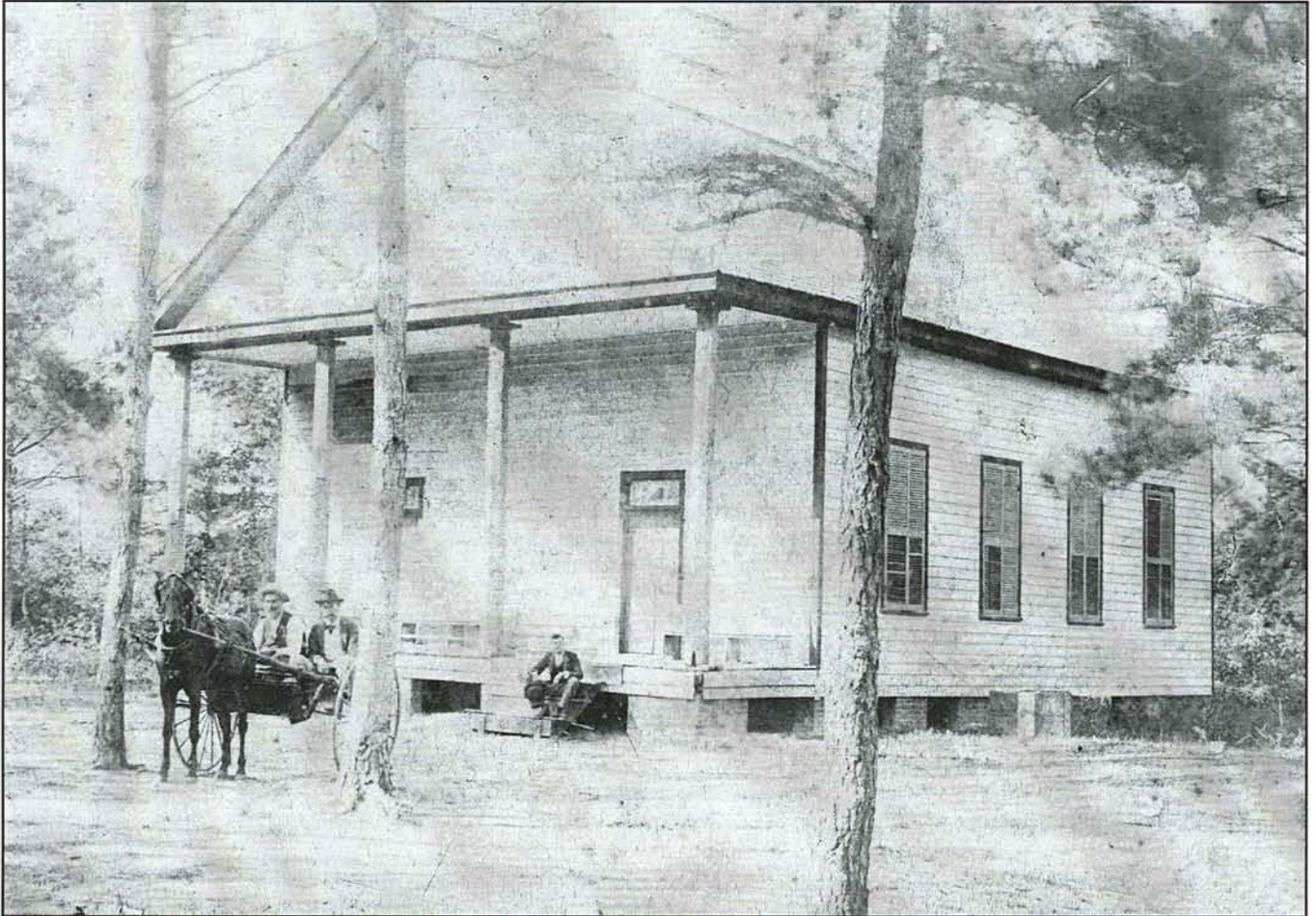
At this time camp meetings or big revivals played an extremely important part in assisting the ministry. These events drew people from all over the Outer Banks to a central meeting place or church where the activities sometimes lasted for several days with much socializing and tables laden with all types of food. All of this was a part of the proceedings as well as preaching and other religious functions. One writer stated: “Perhaps no such camp meetings were ever seen like the Outer Banks camp meetings. Everybody went and went to stay and pray and work. Often hundreds would be shouting at once while sinners lay prostrate or rolled in the straw under deep conviction. The Banks people are a good pious membership. They believe in the ‘old time’ ways and as they often express it ‘the old time religion that makes the soul happy and makes a man shout the praises of God.’” The writer goes on to state that Roanoke Islanders proved to be the most zealous and useful members. A part of the oral history of this period and recorded in “Ripley’s Believe it or Not!” is that **Anderson Gray, who often preached at these revivals, could be heard several miles away in the next village on a clear day with the right wind!**

Joshua kept a diary during his time in Wanchese. In one entry he wrote that he “attended a Colington Island camp meeting that summer, sailing across Roanoke Sound in a Kunner with other friends.” He noted seventy-five boats tethered in the harbor and at least fifteen different tents on the Methodist meeting grounds. At this time Methodists were becoming increasingly prominent in the Outer Banks.

Earlier records tend to be sketchy but in 1837 we find the name of Joseph Darden, P.C. In 1839 the Currituck Mission was divided into a number of parts according to a history written by Reverend C.T. Thrift. They were "The Banks, Roanoke Island, Stumpy Point, Lower Crowetan, and the Lake." Also, an early quarterly conference record refers to a meeting on Roanoke Island in the winter of 1839. There were some familiar family names listed as stewards at that meeting: William Daniel, Thomas Midgett, Edward Mann, Griffin Sawyer, and Caleb Leach. In addition to these, the members of the conference were James M. Darden, Avery Daniel, Spencer Daniel, Noel Carron, William N. Wroten, Charles G. Williams, Caleb Sawyer, Joshua Guard, and William Guard. In the same year, Mill Tail was added, and in 1842 Nags head was listed, followed in 1843 by Nags Head Banks. As Methodism continued to grow, Roanoke Island was divided into North End and South End in 1844, and Kitty Hawk was added.

The next records are in 1848 (the same year Bethany was formed) when Bannister H. Jarvis was sent as supply pastor. There was then ten classes with 240 members. He served for \$300.00 and he covered most of the Outer Banks. Rev. Jarvis is described as being "A faithful local preacher who supplied Currituck Mission from time to time for a number of years when no other could be had and laid broad and deep the foundations of Methodism in these isolated parts." At about the same time Albert G. Browning was sent to Hatteras Mission by the North Carolina Conference. He was described as being "Mighty in the scripture and fearless in his denunciation of sin." From 1848 Currituck Mission was also served by Nathan Poyner, Newton H. Coxe, J.E. Bristow, W.M. Hinton, William White, and Richard Payne.

As stated earlier it was a growing, exciting time for Methodists on Roanoke Island. Progress and development in the community was beginning to grow and prosper. The following quote is indicative of the feeling on Roanoke Island: "As a religious movement Methodism is the greatest success of the past century. No church since the days of the Apostles, has in so short a time and against such odds, won so much of power over man as she...."



THE OLD CHURCH stood about a hundred yards up the present Old Church Road across from where Bethany UMC stands today.
(Daisy Pugh Gray collection.)

Tracing Bethany's Roots

PART 1

The Rush Trail

by Cleopatra Midgett Daniels

The Methodist church of Wanchese is an institution of many years. This writer does not know the exact year of its origin but it is known that through many years it has held an important place in the hearts of many people.

Much of what I have learned of the early history of our church is in answer to many questions. I have learned our village was church minded long before there was a church building. In many of the early homes there was one room, set aside for the Preacher, who came as a "Circuit Rider" to our community. This room held the nicest furniture, fanciest piece work quilts made by grandmother to be used only when the Preacher came. Thus its name: the "Preacher's Room." These visits were mostly in the spring and summer as travel was by sailboat only. These meetings were held in the home. I have been told that the smoke house of Woodsey Daniels and his wife Eliza, was often used as a place of worship. This couple being my great-great-grandparents show that Methodism in Wanchese has served at least six generations.

Our first Methodist Church was located about 200 yards north of our present church building. It stood in a lovely pine thicket. It was a one room wood structure built up high off the ground with a portico facing the road. Its roof was supported by four large columns. There were two entrances. Inside there were two aisles leading up to the pulpit. One either side of the pulpit were three short pews. Those on the left were called the "Amen Corner," those on the right were used for the choir—or those who led the singing. There were three rows of pews for the congregation. The men usually sat on the left side of the church and the women on the right.

The lovely pine thicket was also used as hitching posts. All those who had horses rode to church in either a buggy or cart. One family had a beautiful surrey with fringe on the top.

Wanchese had the first Methodist church on the island. Many of the people from Manteo attended this church especially during the revivals which were held during the summer. These services were conducted by the "Circuit Riders" or local preachers in the community. It was not until 1884 that we were assigned a preacher. He was the Rev. Joseph G. Lennon sent out from the Virginia Conference. In the meantime Manteo had built a church and a parsonage. Rev. Mr. Lennon was the first preacher sent to this circuit. Services were held each Sunday in both churches unless weather conditions interfered as our road conditions were bad. Rev. Lennon served this circuit four years. He was dearly loved and highly respected. Records show he did much for our people. We do not have space to name all those early preachers and what their ministry meant

AUTHOR'S NOTE

The memoirs of Cleopatra Midgett Daniels (Miss Pate) were a last minute find for me. My contacts at the Outer Banks History Center came upon this treasure and called me as soon as they realized what they had. Not only does it record forgotten practices and events of the late 1800s and early 1900s in Wanchese, it confirms the validity of some of the suppositions I had arrived at. It is presented here at this juncture in the book to introduce us to the next chapter in Bethany's history.

to our church, but we recall (by record) Rev. G.D. Langston. He and his family were so loved and admired that his name and those of his children still remain as names for the children of the present generation. One of his grand children, Mary Langston Evans, is our own Superintendent of Public Schools in Dare County at this time.

In the year of 1905 we moved to our present church building. We had out grown the old church building. It was torn down and the materials saved to be used in the new church. This change was made during the pastorate of Rev. A.S. Parker Sr. Services were held at the school building which later became the Masonic Hall. It was during the summer of the year we were without a church building, that a great spiritual awakening in Wanchese took place. The men of the church in unity, built an arbor in which to hold revival services. Rude benches were built for seats. The ground was covered with rushes cut from the marshes. These served as a floor cover. From the rafters were hung kerosene lanterns to furnish light for night services. The Rev. A.S. Parker Sr. was our minister and Rev. Mr. Church the visiting evangelist. Together they worked. This revival was one of great importance to Methodism in Wanchese. Its effects are still alive. Many of the older people as well as scores of our youth followed the "Rush Trail" as it was named, and from these services came two Methodist ministers to say nothing of the lay men and lay women who still fill their places in the church both at home and abroad.

We are proud of our church history. There seems to have been a rise and fall in our growth. Some days and some years have been better than others. In the year of 1925 our church, as a body, decided we were able to launch out alone and become a charge. This we did and Rev. William E. Hardesty was our first preacher. He served with us four years. During those years he was instrumental in building a parsonage on the adjoining church property. He never had the pleasure of living in it. Rev. T. E. Davis being the next preacher and he occupied it first. Our present preacher is the Rev. Robert E. Pullman.

We are proud of our church and its history. It could have been better but today it stands as a monument to those who gave not only of themselves but of their means to provide a place of worship and study for those who follow its founders. To the church building has been added an educational building which includes both primary and youth facilities. There are two assembly rooms, a kitchen, bathrooms, and 13 classrooms.

We who are older have a great sense of pride and a deep devotion for our church and all it stands for in our community. The memories we all hold dear of its founders and sustainers, but our greatest desire is that our children, and youth who follow, may hold high the torch passed on to them and that its light may so shine for those yet to come that Christ's kingdom may come, and His will be done in all things.

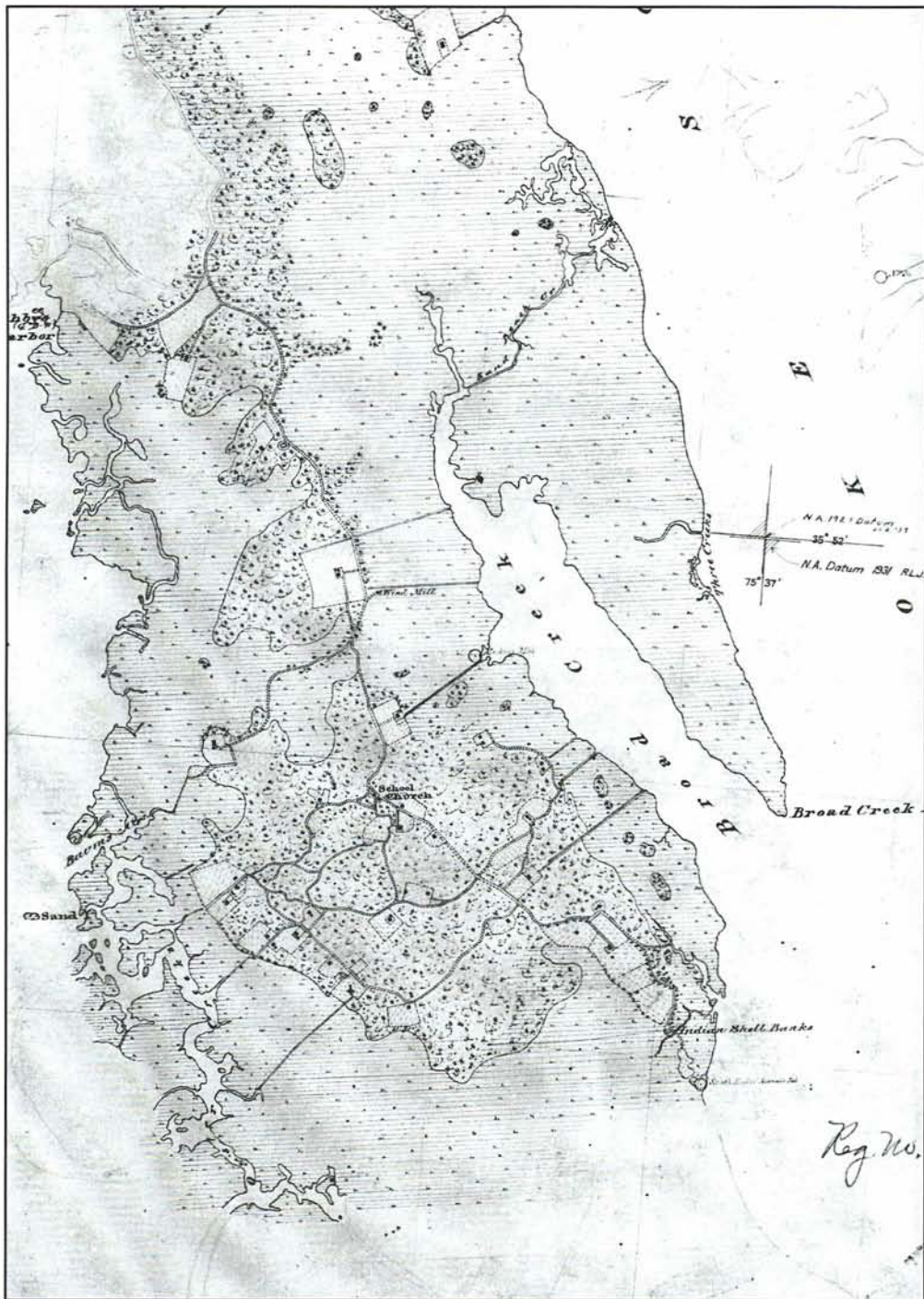
*Come with me, all who may
Down the highway, the Wanchese way
At the forks of the road set among the pines*

*Is a church and in it you'll find
Friends, who are old, and some who are new
Each will have a welcome for you.*

*Step inside, there you will see
A sanctuary—not fine—but free
From pompous show but has sincere trust
In those who'll come and worship with us.*

*We're Methodist in faith, but all are welcome
To share our Christ—He came for all nations.*

by Cleopatra "Miss Pate" Daniels



A 1851-1852 GEODETIC SURVEY MAP made by the U.S. Corps of Engineers confirms that a church and a school were in existence at the Old Church site. (Outer Banks History Center.)

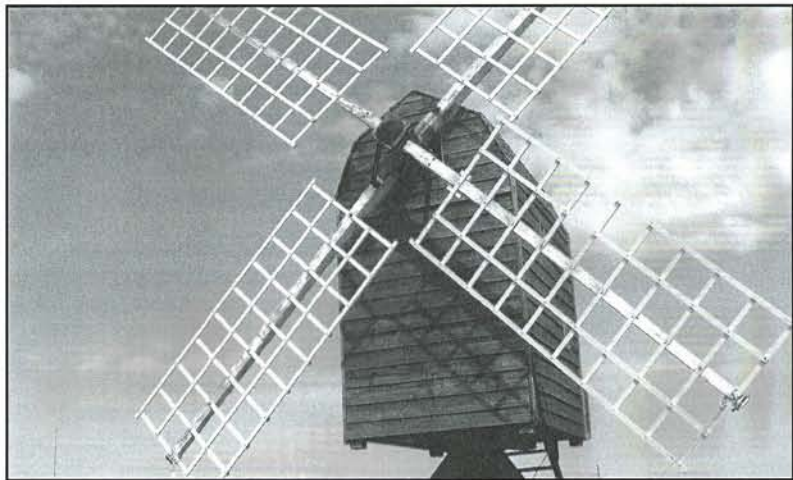
Tracing Bethany's roots

PART II

In 1776, according to Currituck Courthouse records, there were only nine families living on Roanoke Island. There was no church building on Roanoke Island at that time. Services, it can be assumed, were held in private homes. The first Methodist church building in what is now Dare County was probably at "Sandy Ridge," near Skyco. "It was constructed of pine and logs and was about twenty-five feet long and twenty feet wide. It stood on the east side of the old Main Road, in what is now known (1944) as Midgett Field. This building was kept in repair and was used for about thirty years. Then a new and larger building was erected (about 1829) across the road from the first one. It was built of rough lumber and the shingles were made by hand. The timbers were sawn from native pine and cypress. This building lasted for about forty years (about 1869) when the third one came into being some five or six years after the war between the states."

Because of the close proximity to Wanchese, several miles away, it can be assumed with reasonable authority that many Wanchesers attended these churches. Aline Robbins stated that this last church was just south of her present driveway in Skyco and was built by her grandfather as a church which was served by circuit riders. Skyco was becoming a growing community, so it also served as a school. Aline mentioned the different families and where they sat at their desks made with benches. For example, she remembered where the Lennons sat. As a child she played in the empty building after the pews were taken out. She stated that the podium in the Men's Bible Class at Bethany UMC is out of the Skyco Church. This same church was later moved on logs by oxen to the present Bethany UMC and attached to the back of the building.

An 1836 deed in the Currituck Register of Deeds shows that "Daniel Cudworth deeded to Spencer Daniels and others...(Trustees and witnesses... Avra Daniel, Archibald Daniel, William Daniel Austin, Woods Daniel, Joseph McDaniel, and Thomas Daniel) for the sum of ten cents...Land lying on Roanoke Island near Mann Midgett's... for the use of building a meeting house for the Methodist Episcopal Church." It was signed in 1836



THIS REPLICA OF AN OUTER BANKS WINDMILL gives us an idea of the size and shape of the windmills that were located in Wanchese. Inland farmers traded their corn for shrimp that they used as fertilizer. (R Wayne Gray photo.)



THESE CHILDREN STAND in front of an old Wanchese school. It may possibly be the Wanchese Academy on Old Wharf Road judging by the shape of the building and the fact that there are three teachers pictured with the students.

(Outer Banks History Center.)

the same exact scenario—showing the Old Church and a school at the crossroads of Wanchese. As stated by Penne Sandbeck, “Roanoke Island’s south end fishing community was growing...the final copy of Lieutenant William Franklin’s 1851 and 1852 survey maps marked at least twenty-one buildings, probably three-quarters of which were dwellings. North of the settlement was a windmill, and Meekins’ Mill (which may have been another windmill) at Broad Creek.” These windmills were used for grinding corn from the mainland that had been obtained by trading fish for it. **There was also a school and church in the settlement, sited dead-center in what would become the village of Wanchese.**

This early church building is described as being “traditional in design with separate doors for men and women, and men and women did not sit together.” In cold weather it was necessary sometimes to leave the building and to hold services in the old Wanchese Academy (on present day Old Wharf Road) according to the recollections of older members of the congregation. The church was probably a white frame structure much like that of the early churches in the area. (An example is Clark Bethel in Salvo, one of the oldest Methodist Churches on Hatteras Island, founded in 1886). The Old Church was built about a hundred yards up the present Old Church Road from where Bethany UMC stands today. Bill Hardesty Gallop states that his uncle, Raymond, told him the church stood approximately where Chuck and Stella Hollingsworth’s home stands.

George Scarborough’s great-grandmother, Eleazor Gallop Tillett, attended the Old Church as well as the school across the road. Children from the school would go to Mann Midgett’s house to get water and carry it back to the school. She said that the school was in such bad repair that some of the children went on the roof and dropped cats onto the other children down below.

He remembers her describing the round columns on the front porch of the church and that woodpeckers had made their nests within the columns.

and registered in the Currituck County Courthouse on June 23, 1837. It is a reasonable assumption that the Old Church which preceded our present church (Bethany UMC) was built soon afterwards. In any event, a Corps of Engineers Survey Map of 1851-52 shows a church and a school in Wanchese in the same approximate location where we know the Old Church was located. We also know a school was situated directly in front of the Old Church. Hence, it is with positive certainty that the Old Church was built between 1837 and 1851-52. At present, that is as close as the building of the Old Church can be dated. In 1861 a U.S. Coast Survey Map drawn by A.D. Bache and titled **PART OF ROANOKE ISLAND, N.C.** depicts



ELEAZOR GALLOP TILLETT
(George Scarborough collection.)



**THIS FLAT BOTTOMED
BOAT is tied up at
Davis Landing.**
(Levina Fleming collection.)

When they began to tear the Old Church down just prior to building the present Bethany UMC, Thomas Glen Gaskill says that his parents paid the workers five dollars to delay deconstruction so that they could get married in the church the next day! Much of the wood from the church was salvaged when it was torn down and used in building the new church.

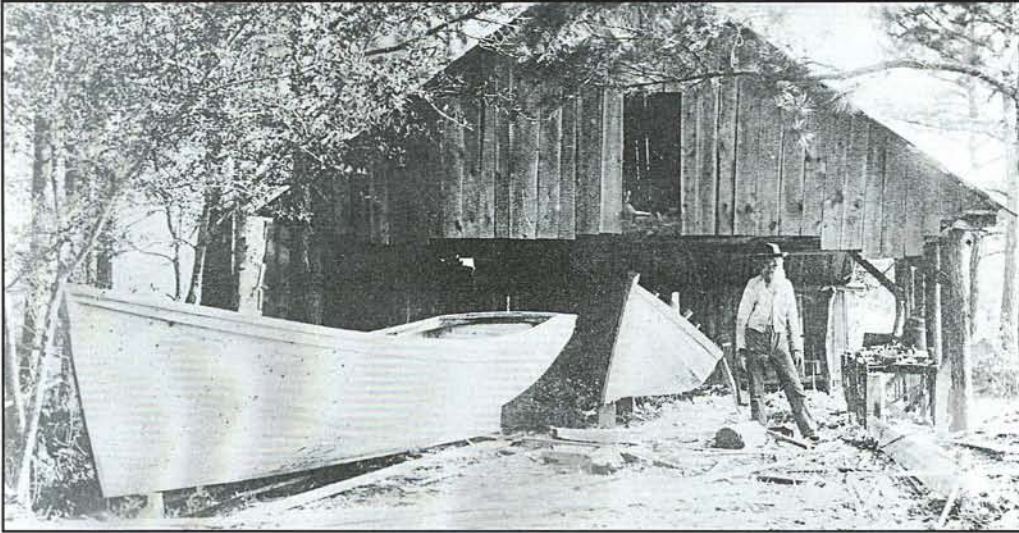
Inez Lynn Daniels, daughter of George Charles Daniels of Wanchese, in a written account “reveals something of her relationship to her father and her observations of customs of church attendance of that day: ‘It was my good fortune to make trips with George Charles, Senior, to a picnic for a Sunday School. He didn’t like to miss one, either at Manns Harbor, Wanchese, or Manteo, on the North End, on the hills or near them. Sometimes I attended speeches at Manteo in the courthouse. I remember one especially well. J.Y. Joyner, Superintendent of Public Instruction, was the speaker. George Charles never sat way back. He either wanted to be near the speaker, the better to hear every word that was spoken, or perhaps it was a habit he had acquired from church attendance when he always sat up front in the “Amen Corner.” I never understood why a certain place was for Amen.

“The men of mature years occupied the upper left hand corner of the Old Church at Wanchese. They did say “Amen” occasionally if the discourse was pleasing to their understanding. I can look over the years and I seem to hear a lot of those old “Ameners” giving “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound...all the power of their lungs. They did put in a lot of grace notes where they were not written in the music, but they really had rhythm and gusto, if they lacked time and strict adherence to the tempo. I often wondered why the ladies sat in the middle or on the right hand side away from their men folks. It was a rare thing to see men and women go in church and sit together.”

Paired entrances were common during this period. For example, in 1865, Haven Creek Baptist Church in Manteo was formed. Between 1860 and 1870 the Good Hope A.M.E. Zion Church (Methodist) was also built. These were African American congregations in Manteo. A documentary photograph from the late nineteenth century shows one of the churches...with paired entrances.

With few extant records available, we can only imagine what took place at our Old Church which was definitely a hub of the community. Certainly, they had their regular Sunday meetings. Special functions such as weddings had to take place as well as commemorations for holidays such as Easter and Christmas. Perhaps gatherings were held on the grounds with much celebrating, socializing, and food. In the case of a death, funerals were not usually held at the church as they are now. The deceased was kept at the home until a graveside service could be held.

“Some of Wanchese’s current streets—E.R. Daniels Road...Old Wharf Road..., and Mill Landing were virtually in place in 1852. E.R. Daniels Road’s streetscape included small docks and canals leading from respective homes to Oyster Creek. **Pugh Landing and Davis Landing were already in place as was Baum Landing at Baum Creek**, the farmstead of Samuel Baum” (which was highly productive and progressive with big yields of corn, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, peas, and



GEORGE WASHINGTON CREEF, the originator of the North Carolina Shad boat, built his boats in this boathouse located across from Bethany and in front of the Cudworth Cemetery. (Outer Banks History Center.)

founded and was named "Lower Roanoke Island" according to records at Duke university. It was formerly known as Blue Ridge-Atlantic Methodist Episcopal Church and had a membership of 398.

Twenty-seven years later, in 1875, the earliest known deed in what is now Dare County was deeded to "Bethany Church M.E.S. Religious Society" stating: "Mann Midgett and his wife, Debro; George C. Daniel and his wife, Nancy; and Lewellyn Cudworth, all of Dare Co. Deed to Spencer Hooker and others as Trustees of the Bethany Church M.E.S. Religious Society, worshipping on Roanoke Island, Sept. 2, 1875. For \$5.00 a certain tract of land on Roanoke Island on the main road adjoining F.A. Meekins and A.M. Etheridge, 105 Ft. X 420 Ft. Along Meekins' line to Etheridge's line, 210 Ft. X 420 Ft. WIT: D.B. Austin. Reg. Sept. 20, 1875.

It is reasonable to assume that this piece of land adjoins the Old Church property. It was later sold in 1918 and referred to as the Old Church property.

Bethany's first record book that is extant is titled Methodist Episcopal Church, South 1884. Joseph G. Lennon was the first pastor and was sent in 1884 from the Virginia Conference to minister to Bethany Church in Wanchese and others in the county which had been established as mission churches. **It can be stated with reasonable certainty that the structure built for a meeting house or church between 1837 and 1851-52 became known as Bethany Methodist Church in 1848 when Bethany was founded.** Pastor Lennon served both Wanchese and Manteo until 1887. He lived in Manteo. (Wanchese was without a parsonage until 1928.) He was sent to Dare Circuit "singing and preaching and energetically pushing everything for the cause of Christ. He was a man of God that needeth not to be ashamed of his work. He found the charge in a rather dilapidated condition. He threw his energy and consecration into it and 'there was a mighty moving in the valley.' He lived among his people and won their love and confidence. In three years he built neat, commodious churches at East Lake, Manns Harbor, and Manteo— and left \$1,000.00 in hand to build at Stumpy Point." It is interesting to note that some of Joseph Lennon's descendants still live on Roanoke Island.

Robert H. Mullen followed Rev. Lennon in 1887 and served until 1890. He was assigned as joint pastor of the church at Manteo and the one at Wanchese. He also preached once a month at a small chapel at Skyco. This church was discontinued in 1920 and the membership moved to Wanchese. Rev. Mullen held one service each Sunday at the Manteo and Wanchese Churches. This arrangement continued until 1924 when the churches became strong enough to separate and each have a full time pastor. It was written in an article at the time that Rev. Mullen "was a man of fine spirit and deep piety. He was also an experienced hydropathist and as it was in the days when physicians were scarce, he was often called to administer to the sick and was wonderfully successful. He was a good swimmer and saved three lives on a certain wreck."

The church expected Christlike behavior out of its members. One member was expelled in

beans) "at the island's southeastern tip were Indian shell banks left from a century or more."

By 1850 Roanoke Island had the highest population of slaves at 168. By the end of the 1860s about 500 people lived in Wanchese. "In 1870, four shad houses emerged at the south part of Roanoke Island including Davis & Co., founded by Isaac Davis, a longtime Wanchese merchant." The community was growing and Methodism was continuing to build.

In 1848 Bethany was

July 1889 for “drunkenness and disorderly conduct.” Another was expelled in August 1892 for “profanity and heresy.” Members who did not attend regularly were dropped from the roll.

The Third Quarterly Conference for 1891 Dare Circuit recorded the amount raised during the present quarter for the support of the ministry for Bethany to be \$19.33 as compared to \$9.47 for Mt. Olivet, \$5.25 for Mt. Carmel, and \$32.50 for Mt. Pisgah.

The following also pastored this first church:

<i>L.A. White</i>	1891-1892
<i>Joseph R. Sawyer</i>	1892-1894
<i>G.D. Langston</i>	1894-1898
<i>J.J. Barker</i>	1898-1901
<i>Samuel T. Moyle</i>	1901-1902
<i>A.J. Parker</i>	1903-1906

The early record books of the first Bethany Methodist Church indicate that Mt. Olivet and Bethany worked closely together. On the inside cover is the notation: Bethany \$392.25 and Mt. Olivet \$152.50. Total membership for Bethany on January 12, 1896 was 202 and the total baptisms was 95.

In the register of infant baptisms, some of the early recordings are:

Charles B., child of Charles B. and Alexina Daniels, 1888.
Kayte B., child of S.C. and Mary A. Baum, 1888.
Mabel Augusta, child of R.C. Evans and Delia A. Evans-June 23, 1889.
She was baptised by Thomas H. Campbell, listed as presiding elder.
John Cowles, child of Asa V. and Celia A. Evans-June 23, 1889.
Carl D., child of Charles B. and Alexina Daniels, 1892.
Herbert A., child of George W. and Annie M. Creef-July 23, 1893.
Hattie, child of George W. and Annie M. Creef-July 23, 1893.
Bessie Lillian, child of L.D. and Alethia Hassell-April 26, 1897.

Some of the earliest marriages recorded in this first church, to name a few, are listed as follows:

<i>William J. Jones and Alice S. Sims</i>	<i>April 29, 1888</i>
<i>W.P. Lennon and Garnett S. Etheridge</i>	<i>May 12, 1891</i>
<i>William J. Gilbert and Virginia May Hooper</i>	<i>March 20, 1892</i>
<i>Granberry Dowdy and Clarissa M. Daniels</i>	<i>December 24, 1892</i>
<i>L.J. Pugh and Elnora T. Garrison</i>	<i>December 25, 1892</i>
<i>Emerson Etheridge and Susie Brinkley</i>	<i>January 31, 1894</i>
<i>Augustus G. Sample and Ida Mae Shaw</i>	<i>July 18, 1894</i>
<i>Herman Drinkwater and Susan Brinkley</i>	<i>January 31, 1894</i>
<i>John W. Midgett and Sallie E. Cofield</i>	<i>May 19, 1895</i>
<i>Eugene H. Peele and Augusta Langhinghouse</i>	<i>June 9, 1897</i>

The last service held in the Old Church was the wedding of Thomas Grace Gaskill and Bettie Daniels on May 17, 1905.



THE LAST COUPLE to get married at the Old Church, Thomas Grace and Betty Daniels Gaskill, are pictured here years later in front of their new house just after the birth of their daughter. The couple on the right is Rev. and Mrs. Stack who served at Wanchese from 1918-1919. (Edith Gaskill Collection.)



WILLIAM LAWRENCE MEEKINS, designer and builder of Bethany United Methodist Church.
(Joyce Meekins collection.)



WILLIAM LAWRENCE AND ELIZA (TILLETT) MEEKINS had eight children:
1. Lillian Aldean Meekins (1882-1945); married Henry Bunyon Simpson
2. Lawrence Raymond Meekins (1884-1974); married Marina Weber Simpson
3. Delilah Fair Meekins (1886-1976); married Marvin Leslie Gallop
4. Sallie Meekins (1890-1948); married Walter Chandon Gaskill
5. Joseph Gideon Meekins (1892-1997); married Mary Levina Tillett
6. Chauncey St. Oswald Meekins (1895-1990); married Milah S. Peele
7. Sophronia Langston "Fronie" Meekins (1898-1994); married Elisha Gray Tillett
8. Casper Dalton Meekins (1901-1991); married Eulalia Rosemond "Eula" Daniels
(Tammy Jennings collection.)

Bringing Bethany United Methodist Church into the Twenty-first Century

While our present church was under construction, Mrs. James W. Davis remembered when she was a child attending a revival held in a tent between the church and where the present parsonage is now. Mrs. Davis had twin brothers. On some occasions when a baby was born, he was named for the pastor. Such was the case with the twin brothers. They were named John Barker and Asa Parker Midgett, after Rev. John Jo. Barker and Asa J. Parker. Later, William Hardesty Gallop was named after Rev. W.R. Hardesty.

The construction of Bethany United Methodist Church was begun in the early summer of 1905 and, due to the size of the project, was probably not completed until sometime in 1906. It was designed and built by William Lawrence Meekins who was considered one of the finest carpenters on the island. He had eight children. One of his children, Chauncey, later served as church treasurer and Sunday School superintendent for fifty years. Casper Meekins, Jr. told of how his dad used to carry lunch to Mr. Meekins and his two uncles, Joe and Chauncey, who were helpers of his grandfather in building the church. He thought that Theodore Daniels helped them too. Casper, Jr. has a "shingling hatchet" that was used to put cedar shingles on the roof of the church. According to Lish Meekins, Lawrence Meekins made many of his unique tools from old files. Casper also has a plane built by his grandfather as well as a chair from the pulpit of the Old Church.

The church was built entirely with hand tools. Although ships' timbers were used in many Roanoke Island homes for framing, they were not used in the construction of our church as far as we know. The lumber was purchased from Kramer Brothers of Elizabeth City. In the Dare County Record of Deeds, Book M, page 362-363, it states: "The Trustees of Bethany M.E.S. church of Wanchese is indebted to Kramer Brothers of Elizabeth City for \$2,399.97 payable the first of May 1907 and 1908." This in effect, was a deed of trust. It can be stated with confidence that the church and property was mortgaged for lumber purchased to build the church. As stated by Penne Sandbeck, "Kramer and Sons, the Elizabeth City lumber mill founded in 1871, became a major supplier of building goods to the Outer Banks....It was a large planing and sawmill facility. Kramer descendants recall sailboats and steamers coming from Manteo, Nags Head, and other ports of call to pick up lumber and millwork for



WILLIAM LAWRENCE MEEKINS made many of his tools out of files that he used to build the church.
(Hester Meekins' photo.)



THE TOOL CHEST
belonging to William
Lawrence Meekins used
during the building of
the church.
(Hester Meekins' photo.)

blew off during a severe fall hurricane of 1937. It was soon replaced by a less steep steeple. However, this steeple kept leaking. It was a constant problem. Several methods were used in an attempt to fix it, but none of them worked. Finally, in 1968 a fiberglass steeple was ordered and put on with a crane. "It fit like a glove," said Wayland Baum.

At least one interesting event took place during the construction of the church. J.T. Daniels tells about his father's three year old brother, George Albert, who died. His father went to Lawrence Meekins in March of 1906 while he was still building the church and asked him to build the child's casket. Mr. Meekins stopped construction and built the boy's casket on site. It is also fitting to note that William Lawrence Meekins' funeral, twenty-five years later, was preached at the church that he so beautifully built!

Mr. Meekins built several houses in the community. Vernon Gaskill's home was one. His son, John Gaskill, says Mr. Meekins built the back part of the house and, as he usually did, signed his name, his helpers' names, and the weather conditions on a board of the building he built. As concerns the church, the board with such facts, if it, indeed, exists, could possibly be on the timbers of the church or somewhere in the church sanctuary attic.

The long, open span of our sanctuary, without any visible supports, has long mystified many viewers in our congregation. Casper Meekins, Jr. always wanted to go up in the church attic to see how the construction was designed. It is such a long span which never

Outer Banks clientele." Wayland Baum told about cutting cypress and juniper logs, tying them in a raft, and towing them to this lumber mill when he was a young man. Later, after the logs were milled and cut into planks, they would be shipped to him on a barge. Hester Meekins said that the lumber for the main structure of the church was delivered from Elizabeth City by two sailboats, the ONWARD and the SEA BIRD.

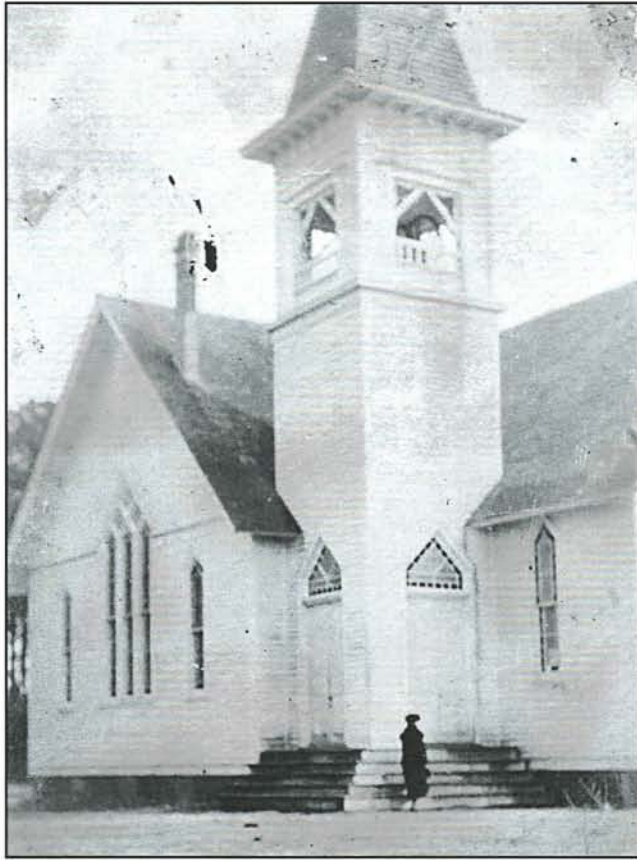
It is also likely that some of the lumber, particularly the shingles for the roof, came from the Buffalo City Lumber Company because of its close proximity to Wanchese and because it was still operating when the church was being built. It operated until 1910. A telephone interview with Jesse Basnight who is one of a handful of very knowledgeable people on the subject of Buffalo City upheld this assumption.

The original steeple of Bethany was very steep like the original one of Mt. Olivet. It

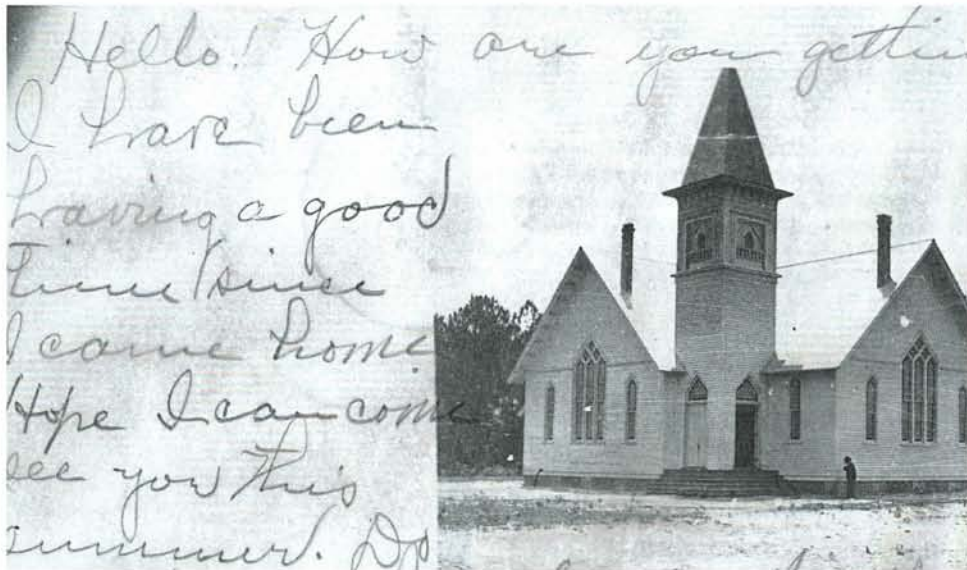


MEMBERS OF BETHANY had always heard that
the 1905 church was built using wood from the
Old Church. This photograph taken in the sanc-
tuary attic of a wide assortment of different
boards validates that belief.

(Hughie Basnight photo.)



THE ORIGINAL STEEPLE was quite steep with an open belfry. It blew off in a hurricane.



POSTCARDS PICTURING BETHANY were very popular with Wanchese residents. This card was addressed to Miss Carrie Gallop, 419 W. Main Street, Washington, NC. and has a two cent stamp and a postmark dated June 19, 1907. The card was sent from I.P. Davis.
(Robin Etheridge collection.)



THE CEILING IN THE SANCTUARY covers a long expanse without columns. William Lawrence Meekins possibly saw pictures of European cathedrals and deduced how to apply the buttress effect in building the sanctuary. Visitors often marvel that the ceiling of such an old building with such a lengthy span has never sagged.

(R Wayne Gray photo.)

present church and parsonage, was always contributing to the progress of Bethany.

"L. Cudworth and his wife, Rebecca G., and E.R. Daniels and wife, Eugene A., all of Wanchese, deed to W.S. Hooker, J.L. Garrison, T.W. Daniels, S.C. Baum, P.D. Midgett, W.L. Meekins, and C.C. Johnson, Trustees of Bethany M.E. Church, S., May 15, 1905, for \$150.00 a tract of one acre in the village of Wanchese on the main or Davis Road adjoining said Cudworth 70 X 70 X 70 Yds. and along a line. Reg. June 2, 1905."

When completed sometime in 1906, the sanctuary had two big pot-bellied stoves installed—one on each end of the room, east and west. Often the fires would be started in the stoves on Saturday night so the church would be warm on Sunday morning. Wilmont Tillett, "Uncle Sigs," kept the fires going for many years; a demanding job. Later, there was a coal shack (also called a generator room) out by the old Skyco Church addition. There were two windows behind the choir loft that matched the windows in the prayer room. All of the stained glass windows were rectangular with colored blocks bordering all of the edges. There were no bathrooms. A door was cut in the vestibule on the right leading to the Men's Bible Class. The door by the choir loft led to the outside—simply a drop off!

The church's steeple bell was order from Sears, Roebuck by Wayland Baum's father, Tom

showed any signs of sagging. The author contacted Lawrence Meekins, Jr., an engineer, and asked him if he could explain this phenomenon. His answer is as follows: "One of the most unique features of the Bethany Methodist Church is the lack of columns in the sanctuary. Therefore, good visibility is propagated between choir, pastor, and the congregation. My grandfather, William Lawrence Meekins, as builder achieved this advantage by a buttress effect, roof timbers extending from the back of the congregation (Men's Sunday School Class) in the rear, and the same buttress effect from the extended pastor, choir area, in the front. Flying buttresses to support roof loads are common in the cathedrals of Europe."

The land that the church sits on is some of the highest land in elevation in Wanchese. It was sold for a nominal fee to the church by the Cudworth family who, from the inception of the Old Church to the



EUGENIA AND E.R. DANIELS *(Vicki Simpson Collection.)*



THE STERN AND SOBER 1916 CONGREGATION took picture-taking seriously and the only smile appears on the face of the minister, Rev. Hester, who is standing left holding a little girl. The youngster is Sybil Daniels Etheridge. Her mother, Carrie (Melvin) Daniels is standing next to the preacher. On the wooden steps on the front row stand Joe Tom Daniels, George Charles Daniels, Binkley "Bink" Daniels, Titus Tillett, Thomas Crowder Tillett, Ben Cahoon, and Grant Johnson. Buck Sanders stands one step down on the ground with his hair parted in the middle. Tink Tillett is directly behind Buck Saunders. Tom Bill Daniels is the bearded man on the right. Tom Baum is the man on the far right against the building. Frank Daniels has grey hair and stands directly below the right door jamb and is peering around a tall lady and her hat. A few people over from him with a white flower on her hat is Anilla or Amelia. The last lady on the left is Dezzie Bummy and the lady next to her on the right is Dashie. Kol Montague stands behind Titus Tillett. The man on the far left is also named Frank. Also in the gathering may be Melvin Daniels Sr., Charles "Bummy" Daniels and Elsie Davis Harold. (Melba Melson collection. Identifications by Texie Meekins with help from Laura Daniels Domingue and Tammy Holton Jennings.)



STILL REMAINING IN THE SANCTUARY ATTIC are remnants of the chimneys that were on the east and west ends of the building.

(Hughie Basnight photo.)

Baum, and was brought in by the HATTIE CREEF to the old Wanchese Wharf. It was offloaded by horse and cart. Mr. Wayland remembered helping his father and how extremely heavy the bell was. The men hoisted it to the belfry with very thick manila ropes, using block and tackle that was borrowed from Long Shoal Lighthouse where Mr. Tom Baum was keeper.

During this period commercial fishing "accounted for sixty percent of the area economy." Also, many men were employed as lighthouse keepers. It was a time of growing development and there must surely have been excitement everywhere about the construction of the new church! It was such a monumental event that the citizens of Wanchese marked time by it. Instead of

saying that an event occurred before or after the turn of the century, Wanchesers said that an event occurred before or after the building of the church, according to R.S. Meekins.

Other Roanoke Island churches were experiencing times of growth and construction. "George Baum, an African American pastor, preached at Haven Creek Baptist Church. Also, the Roanoke Island Baptist Church continued to operate even though they "did not rebuild the meeting house burned by the Union Army until 1886."

The first two ministers involved in our present church were Asa J. Parker (1902-1905) and W.H. Brown (1906-1909). From this period to the present, records at the church listing pastors, membership, infant baptisms, and marriages are in fair uniformity! All other records are either incomplete or non-existent. From 1905 to the present we have had thirty-five ministers up to our current pastor Rev. Dr. G. Jerome Smith.

Other ministers who served from this early period until the completion of our parsonage in 1928 are as follows:

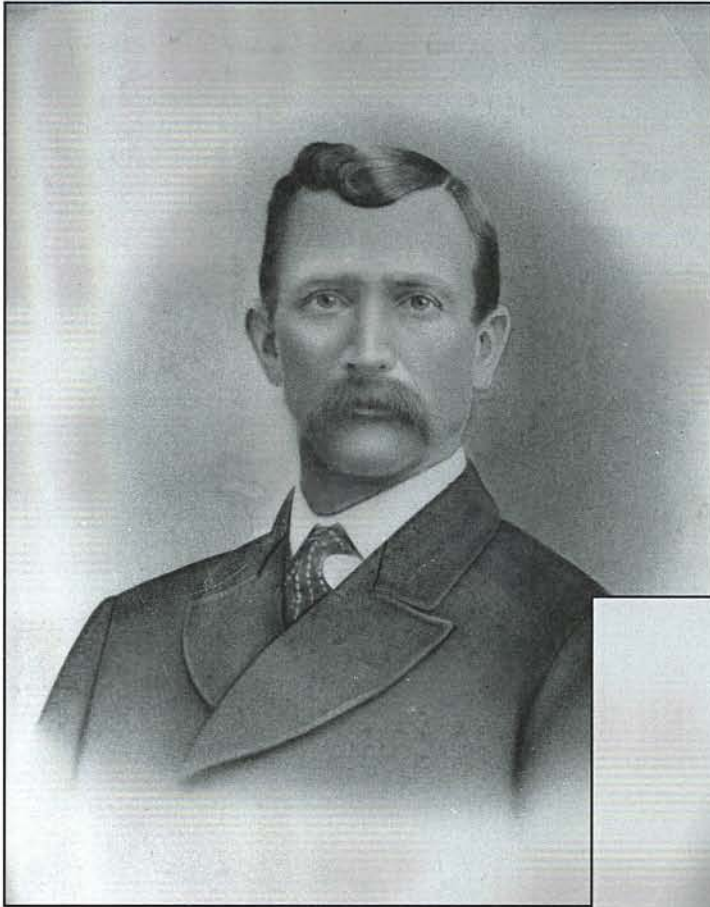
1909-1912	A.W. Price
1912-1914	J. T. Deafner
1914-1916	M.W. Hester
1916-1918	J.C. Humble
1918-1919	E.L. Stack
1919-1921	L.M. Chaffie
1921-1923	J.Barcum Hurley
1923-1925	A.W. Price
1925-1928	William R. Hardesty

*New pastors arrived in the area in November or December. Hence, the overlapping of some dates.

Getting to church was an event in itself. Edna Daniels remembered walking to church while others rode in horse and cart. Shawnee Tillett Brothers said, "My father piggybacked me to church every Sunday. We went to revivals in the mornings and in the evenings. We could hear the church bell ring every Sunday so loud and pretty. Mr. Chauncey let me and Margaret Walker ring the bell. We'd almost climb to the top."

As mentioned earlier, Wanchese had no parsonage until 1928. One was located in Manteo. Wanchese and Manteo continued as a combined charge until 1924. This in itself supports the previous statement that Bethany and Mt. Olivet worked closely together over the years.

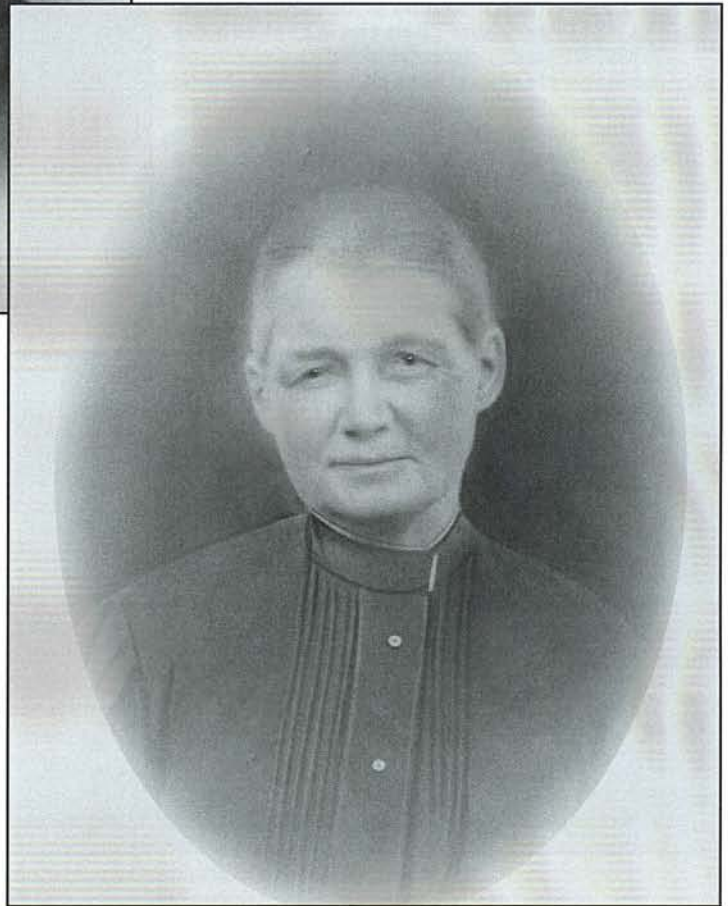
The first report of Bethany Sunday School gives the number of officers and teachers as 31, the number of scholars on roll as 307, the number on cradle roll as 42, and the total



LLEWELLYN CUDWORTH
(Connie Bateman collection.)

THE CUDWORTH FAMILY.

From the inception of the Old Church to the present church and parsonage, the Cudworth family was always contributing to the progress of Bethany.

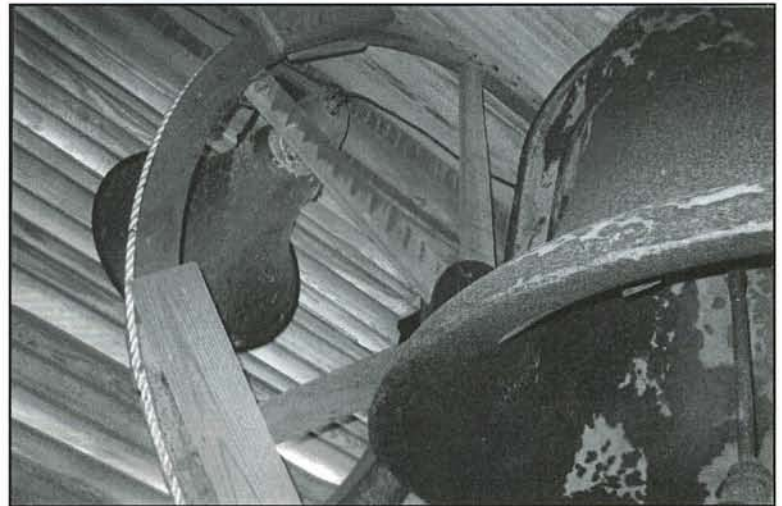


REBECCA G. CUDWORTH
(Connie Bateman collection.)



OUR CHURCH BELL was ordered from the Sears, Roebuck Company. It has rusted unevenly in many places, but is still in very good working order.
(Hughie Basnight photo.)

GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN have enjoyed ringing the steeple bell by pulling the rope in the vestibule. This picture shows the ropes threaded along the edge of the large metal wheel. When the rope is pulled from below, it turns the wheel in one direction. Then the wheel rotates in the opposite direction pulling the rope (and the child) up into the air. The black speaker that is against the slatted wood is connected to the chime box on the organ. The chime box and the wiring have recently been repaired and chimes can once again be broadcast from the belfry.
(Hughie Basnight photo.)



A PICTURE FROM A LOWER ANGLE shows the bell's clapper. Several years ago, the Trustees became concerned that the bell might fall. Mark Nixon shored up the bell and used a chain to strengthen the configuration.
(Hughie Basnight photo.)

number as 380. No date is shown but it is a reasonable assumption from various facts collected that the year was 1924. The next Sunday School Report is dated "Beginning January 1, 1925, ending April 26, 1925 and is signed by Melvin R. Daniels, Secretary and Treasurer. This report shows 32 officers and teachers, 311 scholars, and 46 for cradle roll with a total of 421. It also records the following:

Paid	A.S. Barnes M.E. Orphanage	\$48.04
	Lamon and Barton	\$91.36
	Near East Relief	\$27.98
	Poor and Needy	\$17.59
	Total Amount Paid Out	\$184.94

Two of the first Sunday School teachers were Tom Baum in the east wing and Sam Baum in the west wing. Sam would have each of his students read a section at a time in the quarterly study book. This was how they studied their lessons. Most people never knew that Sam could neither read nor write!

Mrs. B.H. Davis was the first president of the United Methodist Women and the first report shows an amount raised of \$71.45; active members 25. The average attendance was 12. This report is dated December, 1924 to March 31, 1925. When this organization was first organized, it was known as "Ladies Auxiliary."

Minutes of the Quarterly Conference, 1926-1927 stated: "On motion it was ordered that the trustees be authorized to sell the Skyco Church." It was signed by Rev. H.I. Glass, presiding elder. Obviously this never took place since it was moved to Wanchese and attached for a time to the back of our present church for a Sunday school building. Later, it was torn down.

The first Quarterly Conference record for the Wanchese Charge is dated January 1, 1925 through October 1928. At this time A.C. Daniels was the Sunday School Superintendent, William B. Hardesty was the minister, and C.B. Culbreth was the presiding elder. Stewards were: G.C. Daniels, E. R. Daniels, C.L. Midgette, W.M. Tillett, P.D. Midgette, T.G. Gaskill, J.B. Hooker, R.E. Tillett, Mrs. W.C. Simpson, and Mrs. Lucy Midgette. Recording steward was W.S. Baum. T.H. Baum was lay leader and Rena Baum was president of the Epworth League. Mrs. B.H. Davis was president of the Women's Missionary Society. The names J.T. Daniels and M.L. Gallop appeared on the official roll but it did not state in what capacity they served.

The first recorded president of the Epworth League (a youth group) was Mrs. Dezzie Daniels. The first report was signed by W.R. Hardesty, P.C., and stated: "The general state of the church is good. The Epworth League, Sunday Schools, Women's Missionary Society, and the other societies are well organized and doing sound work.

On June 13, 1921, the "trustees of Bethany Church of Roanoke pastoral charge deeded to Lewellyn Cudworth and William Lance Montague for \$40.00 a tract of land near the main road known as the Old Church lot." Hence, the property where the Old Church stood was finally sold.

On July 24, 1928, the trustees of Bethany purchased one-half acre adjoining the church property for the purpose of building a parsonage. The purchase price was \$100.00. Since the inception of Bethany there have been more than fifteen land transactions by the church and pertaining to the church recorded in the Dare County Deed Books in addition to the one in the Currituck County Deed Books. (Please see APPENDIX A)

The parsonage was built in 1928 by Bannister Davis. He was criticized by some members of the congregation who wanted to make certain changes in the construction, but Mr. Davis would not allow them to be made. He built a good, sound building that is still functioning as our parsonage and it is in excellent structural and cosmetic shape today. Levina Fleming, granddaughter of William Lawrence Meekins, states that the basic blueprint



BETHANY'S PARSONAGE was constructed in 1928 by Bannister Davis and according to Levina Meekins Fleming was patterned after Joe Meekins' home on Old Schoolhouse Road.
(Bud Watts photo.)



NEWBORNS were issued Cradle Roll Certificates to encourage their parents to bring the children to church as soon as they were old enough.

(Daisy Pugh Gray collection.)

and what is now the parsonage to house a big Delco generator unit for providing lights for the church. It was purchased from Vernon Gaskill, an agent for the Delco Light Plant. Tom Baum and Ignasus Scarborough wired it. An oil furnace replaced wood and coal stoves and kerosene was delivered to the church by Don and Wayne Gray for R.H. Gray of the Old Wharf. Jimmy Davis was in charge of the furnace.

**Please see APPENDIX B for some of the early members and organizers of Bethany United Methodist Church.

Progress had rapidly been coming to the Outer Banks before this era. Transportation was by horse and cart for the most part and the area depended on boats to get from one island to the next. In 1929 and 1930 two wooden bridges were built. The first bridge was over the Roanoke Sound and the second bridge, known as the Wright Memorial Bridge, spanned the Currituck Sound. This proved to be a solid decision since just three years before this time **in 1926 a severe freeze stopped all boat traffic in the sounds nearby.**

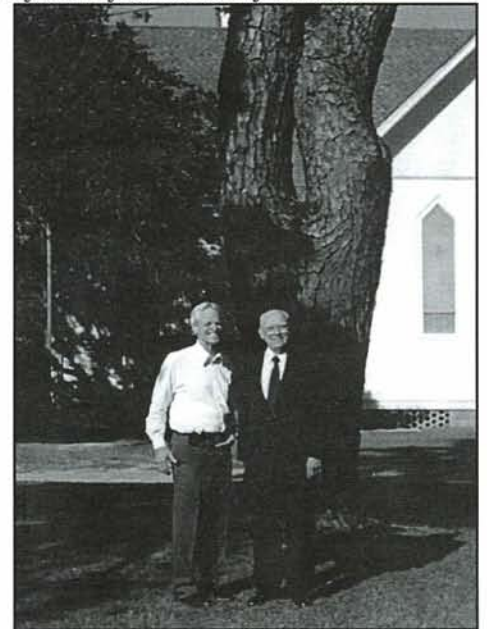
Although the bridges kept the Outer Banks from being cut off from the outside world, the Great Depression had arrived and unemployment was very high as it was throughout the nation. Even commercial fishing was at an all time low. During this time a group of the women came up with an idea called "pounding" to help the needy in the community and oftentimes the minister. This consisted of going from door to door in the village and asking for a "pound" of food goods which they later distributed. They knocked on the doors of houses of church members and non-church members. Beryl Gallop Williams recounts a similar practice used to raise money for expenses to send the pastor to annual

was based on her father, Joe Meekins' home, which is also standing and in pristine shape.

LaSalle Tillett told of tying a knot in a pine tree sapling when he was a boy. The odd-shaped tree, which looks like a lady's legs upside down, can be seen in the parsonage yard today. He also said he stacked wood for the stoves of the parsonage while his mother cleaned the church.

Over the years talk began about building a new parsonage. Gage Williams and Wayland Baum went against the idea, stating that there was nothing wrong with the old parsonage. It was put to a vote by the trustees and there was a tie. Wayland Baum cast the deciding vote to keep the present parsonage. Later, there was also discussion about buying what was then Rollins Beasley's brick house near the church for a parsonage. That too was "nipped in the bud" by Wayland who conclusively said, "We don't need to be in the real estate business."

Earlier a small building was built between the church and what is now the parsonage to house a big Delco generator unit for providing lights for the church. It was purchased from Vernon Gaskill, an agent for the Delco Light Plant. Tom Baum and Ignasus Scarborough wired it. An oil furnace replaced wood and coal stoves and kerosene was delivered to the church by Don and Wayne Gray for R.H. Gray of the Old Wharf. Jimmy Davis was in charge of the furnace.



LASALLE TILLETT AND PASTOR BILL COTTINGHAM stand in the parsonage yard in front of the pine tree that LaSalle told Jana Cottingham that he tied in a knot when he was a boy. (Jana Cottingham photo.)

conference one year. An apron was passed from home to home. Each woman who received the apron sewed a patch on the apron over some money she wanted to give. In this way a donation could be given without others knowing the specific amount.

Around 1937 or 1938 two women held a revival that began in Kinnekeet and came to Wanchese. The services were held in Tink Tillett's fish house and Mamie Etheridge's store. Also tent services were held where Lucy Willis' house is now. Several key members of Bethany were saved and wanted to be a part of the first pentecostal church which was down Industrial Park Road where Sculley's Boatworks is now. This breaking away caused hard feelings for some as oftentimes members of the same family now attended different churches. However, current Assembly of God members have fond memories of strong roots of faith beginning at Bethany.

During the 1950s Dare County began to make a slow comeback in its economy due to real estate sales and tourism. During this time the children's education room was in the old Skyco Church which was abutted to the back of Bethany. R.S. Meekins remembers his mother saying that it was moved there on logs by a team of oxen decades earlier. It was a clap-board structure with a flat shed roof added in order for it to join the back of the sanctuary to protect Sunday schoolers from inclement weather. Rain ran continually off the roof of the church and rotted the porch, causing it to leak. Rev. Wesley, at a time when some members of the church wanted a new parsonage, said that something was needed for the children who were wet during rainy weather and hot during the summer in the old Skyco Church addition. Gage Williams and Alec Davis were in charge of the building project for the new addition. **Mr. Walter Ballance was contracted in 1956 to tear down the old Skyco Church addition and to build a two story fellowship hall attached to the sanctuary.** With the help of Larry Ballance, Sr., Noah Forbes, and Herbert Tillett he completed the project in five or six months. Edgar Perry installed the hardwood floors and Dallas Tillet put up the ponderosa pine paneling. The new addition featured a spacious fellowship hall (now the choir room), a nursery (now the pastor's office), a kitchen (now the secretary's office), and two bathrooms downstairs. Upstairs were five classrooms, each with windows and closets. Much of the finish work was done with hand tools under an old oak tree out back that provided shade for the workers. It is thought that the cost of this project was approximately \$6,000.00 and the loan was paid off in about six years. The addition was dedicated to Rev. Wesley. Lasalle Tillett remembered it was about this time that a group of women from the church would go down to the docks when the boats came in and ask for a fish from each crew until they made

List of those who have payed on Church Light Plant
showing those who have promised to pay more,

From, Entertainment, By Leira Tillett, And Milah Meekins, T.H.Baum, by 8 days work, Chauncey Meekins, E.R.Daniels, Roscoe Daniels, Titus Tillett, M.W.Daniels, James Gaskill, George Midgett, J.B.Hooker, R.H.Gray, Clyde Daniels, E.C.Green, C.A.Simpson, W.S.Baum, W.E.Daniels, Gage Williams, T.G.Gaskill, H.L.Davis, John M.Cudworth, Wayland W.Baum, I.H.Searborough, Chesebro Brothers And Robbins, J.D.Pegram, (School Teacher) Casper Meekins, I.N.Davis, M.R.Daniels,		Paid,	These who have promised to pay more,
	\$20.00.	"	
	21.00.	"	
	10.00.	"	
	10.00.	"	
	5.00.	"	
	5.00.	"	
	3.00.	"	
	2.00.	"	-- Promised To pay more,
	5.00.	"	
	2.00.	"	-- Promised to pay more,
	2.00.	"	-- Promised to pay more,
	3.00.	"	
	1.00.	"	-- Promised to pay more,
	1.00.	"	-- Promised to pay more,
	1.00.	"	-- Promised to pay more,
	4.00.	"	
	1.00.	"	
	3.00.	"	
	1.00.	"	-- Promised to pay more,
	1.50.	"	
	6.65.	"	
	5.00.	"	
	5.00.	"	
	5.00.	"	
	1.50.	"	
	5.00.	"	
	5.00.	"	

Paid Later,
You may call on these marked as promised to pay
more, again,

J.B.Hooker,	20.25.	
Minnie Mingerly,	5.00.	
L.V.Gaskill,	21.00.	
Total, paid in, -----	\$168.50	✓
Total Paid out or cost,	\$445.33	✓
Balance due,	\$276.78	✓

A SMALL BUILDING next to the church housed a Delco light plant which provided electricity to the sanctuary some time before the parsonage was built. Money was collected for this venture-with promises to pay more!
(found by Neil Gray researching the Hubby Davis collection.)

The Voice of Bethany

Lenten Number

Volume 2 WANCHESA, N. C. - MARCH, 1947 Number 2

The Voice of Bethany

Published monthly by Bethany Methodist Church in the interest of Church and community.

Rev. V. A. Lewis Editor
Miss Rowena Midgett Reporter
C. S. Meekins Business Manager

Subscription Price \$1.00 a year

Church Services

Sunday Church School 10:00 a. m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a. m.
Junior M. Y. F. 3:00 p. m.
Senior M. Y. F. 4:00 p. m.
Evening Worship 7:00 p. m.
Holy Communion—Each First Sunday Morning.

LENT

We all need deepening of spiritual life and increase of power. But these things must be sought, and in the right way. Lawrence of Arabia took several of the native chieftans with him to the Paris peace conference. These sons of the desert were amazed at many things, but nothing else astonished them so much as the running water in their hotel rooms. They knew the scarcity of water, and its value; yet here it was, to be had for the turning of a tap, free and exhaustless. When they were preparing to leave Paris, Lawrence found them trying to detach the faucets, so that out in their native desert they might have water. He tried to explain that behind the flowing water were huge reservoirs, and that without this supply the faucets were useless. But the Arabians insisted. They were sure, that armed with these magic instruments, they would have available an exhaustless supply of water.

Before offering criticism of such simplicity, might we not ask ourselves if we do nothing similar and less excusable? Do we ever forget the necessity of adequate spiritual resources, or fail to keep these resources replenished? The Lenten season presents an opportunity for such a replenishing. It tells us to cease depending upon unattached faucets. Do we ever try to give without first getting? Do we ever try to perform tasks without spiritual preparation? The Lenten season is a period of great opportunity for attainment to spiritual plenitude.

In the formal sense, Lent is a season of special penitence and self-denial continuing for forty days, not including Sundays. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Saturday preceding Easter. It is preeminently a season of spiritual

revival in the Church. It is supposed to have had its origin in a desire to commemorate the Lord's forty days of fasting in the wilderness and His temptation by Satan. At first it lasted only forty hours, the length of the time the Lord lay in the grave, and was purely voluntary. In time, however, it developed into a regular prescribed forty days fast, and was observed by Christians generally. Proper observance of the season offers opportunity for a general deepening of the spiritual life and for evangelism.

The call of Lent is Christ's own call. It is a call to cast out hypocrisy, pretense, self-righteousness, and make believe. Only on a foundation of utter honesty can the house of Christian faith and character be built. Men need to inspect the materials with which they build their houses. Far more than that, they need to inspect the motives that guide and control their lives. Lent is inspection time.

It is a call to self-discipline. Bodily fasting is good. The soul must also keep its fast if it is to maintain a living, growing faith and to increase in holiness that is pleasing to God.

It is a call to men to consider what God has done for them as well as what they ought to do for God. One thing will make the impulse to lead the Christian life strong within the heart. That is the sight of the cross upon which the Prince of Olney died.

LOCAL NEWS

The February meeting of the Dare Youth Fellowship Organization was held at the Manteo Methodist Church on the last Saturday of the month. The ninety young people in attendance from the several churches of the county were the guests of the Methodist and Roanoke Island (North End) Baptist youth groups. Two beautiful banners were awarded. The one for best attendance—number present multiplied by the distance traveled—was awarded to the Rhodanthie Methodist M. Y. F. and the banner of merit for having the most constructive program during the past three months, was awarded to our own Bethany M. Y. F. group. The awards were made on the basis of a vote of the group present, with no local group voting for themselves.

Under the direction of our Charge Lay Leader, C. S. Meekins, and our associate Charge Lay Leader, Mrs. Dallar Tillett, Layman's Day was observed with a fine program at Bethany Church on March 22nd.

Peggy Midgett is again in school after having undergone an operation in the Albermarle Hospital in Elizabeth City.

(Please turn to page 1.)

(From page 1.)

At the present time the Intermediate and Senior M. Y. F. groups are without an Adult Counselor. Mrs. R. J. Edwards, who has done a splendid work with them for the past year, has resigned to return to hospital nursing. She is now employed at the Albermarle Hospital in Elizabeth City.

Mrs. Kalb Daniels and Mrs. Dallas Tillett attended the District executive meeting of the W. S. C. S. in Elizabeth City on February 8.

BIRTHS: To Mr. and Mrs. Liewellen Daniels on January 19, a daughter, Myra. To Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Ethridge on February 3, a daughter, Carrie Laurette.

ALTAR FLOWERS: During January and February the altar flowers were the gifts of Mr. Ben Daniels, Madms. Pete Daniels, George W. Midgett, Rowena Midgett, Charlie Ward and Dallas Tillett.

FUNERALS: The community is saddened by the recent death of two well liked men. Bethany extends deepest sympathy to the families of W. B. ("Uncle Bink") Tillett, and Jack Daniels.

VISITORS: Recent visitors at Bethany have included Mr. Raymond Meekins, John Ethridge, Henry Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Stevens, of Norfolk, Va. Lt. and Mrs. Royce Daniels, of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. (Lt.) Harley Ross, of Norfolk, Va.

WELCOME: Hearty welcome is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Perkinson who have returned home after living the past year at Holland, Va., and to Mr. Watts who has moved from New Jersey to make his home among us.

The community is also glad to see again the friendly face of Russel Nixon, who has recently returned home.

School News

The P. T. A. is an asset to any school. Ours is no exception. This is the organization that unites parents and teachers and strives to help the pupil.

Wanchese School has had the cooperation of most of its mothers all through the years.

This year, our special interest has been our lunch room. At our last meeting we planned to purchase a much needed gas stove for our kitchen. A special committee was appointed to canvas our community to secure funds to help. We want to thank those who served as well as those who gave. We hope to get it installed soon.

Another project for the month has been movies. Kitty Hawk School has been kind enough to come and bring its movie machine so we have had movies twice. This we enjoyed—getting together and the show itself.

We also will mention our Bingo Party of the month. We all had a good time. Mrs. Toby Tillett won the blanket.

program. won't you come to our next meeting, and stand up for your boy or girl? As you know the room who has the most mothers present gets the banner for the month. Come and see the look of joy and pride in your child's eye when you go home and tell him which room won.

—Mrs. Pete Daniels, Pres.

Ist, 2nd and 3rd Grade News Story

In spite of our crowded room conditions, we have many hours of good fun and hard work. By way of hard work, the first grade is finding it hard to guess the answer to 9 plus 4. The 2nd grade can't believe that carrying goes along with adding, and the third grade seems to think the multiplication tables are something to be learned just any time during ones life. Now our real pleasure comes when things happen like our grade-mothers surprising us with good treats. Many thanks to you grademothers. We also enjoy days like Valentine when Mrs. Miloh entertains us with a Bingo and Pepsil party. We all love the Valentines our friends send us and Mrs. Miloh likes hers best of all.

The highlight of our day at school comes at 11:45 when we march in the lunch room and fairly "stuff" Mrs. Laras and Aunt Rettie's good biscuits.

We want to thank Mrs. Harwood of the Dare County Library for the box of lovely books she has recently sent us. We are enjoying them.

Mr. Leake came to see us Monday. We are always glad to have our Big Chief. (Our county superintendent).

Report of the Fourth and Fifth Grades

What busy, happy days the Fourth and Fifth Grades have! Now that our examinations for mid-term are over we are getting straightened out for our last home run.

This was hard for us, the Fourth Grade. We had never had such before. Now we can look back and laugh at such words as Shat-el Arab and Medierranean.

The Fifth Grade gets mixed up too when it comes to proper and improper fractions. But by following the old rule of "Try Again" we conquer.

We don't work all the time. Fixing our border for the black-boards for different seasons, such as Christmas, St. Valentine Day, George Washington's birthday gives us lots of pleasure. Then too, we have "Grade Mothers". We wish to thank them for our Cho Cows and peeps.

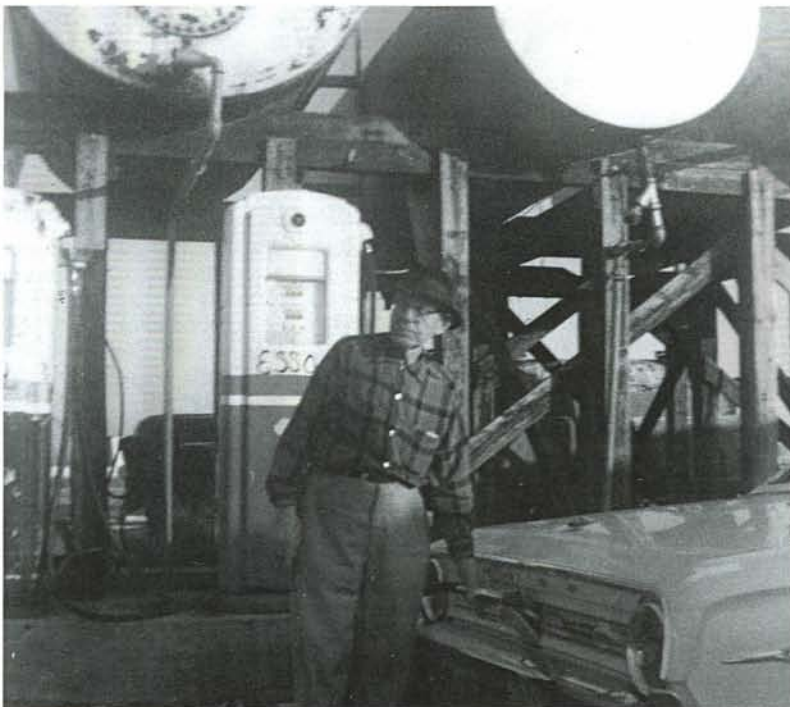
We are proud to be the winner of our new P. T. A. banner for having the most mothers present at our February meeting of the P. T. A. Come next time, mom, so we can keep it.

Now if you go by our school in the afternoon about 3:15 and hear quite a racket that's us playing "Old Mother, Hobbie Gobbie". See, Miss Pate knows "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

We do enjoy our school.

PAGE 4

"THE VOICE OF BETHANY" was the title of this March 1947 newsletter. It is interesting that local news and public school news are part of the format. (Bethany UMC publication.)



RICHARD H. GRAY stands in front of oil tanks at the Old Wharf. He and his son, Don, and grandson, Wayne, delivered oil to the church for a time. (Daisy Pugh Gray collection.)

THE METHODIST CHURCH WANCHESE, North Carolina
 JAMES W. SNEEDEN, PASTOR

SUNDAY JULY 4 1943
 For "ORDER OF SERVICE" See NEW METHODIST HYMNALS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL -C.S. MEEKINS, GEN'L SUPT.-- 10 o'clock A.M.
 MORNING WORSHIP -THE LORD'S SUPPER" 11 " "
 JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP- 3: P.M.
 YOUTH FELLOWSHIP 7:45 P.M.
 EVENING WORSHIP *Sermon by Pastor- 8:30 P.M.
 WEDNESDAY -Prayer Service- 8:30 P.M.

NEXT SUNDAY: at the ELEVEN O'CLOCK HOUR, Rev. John C. Brinson will preach for us. Brother Brinson comes to us by courtesy of the DUKE FOUNDATION to direct a "YOUTH WEEK". Detailed announcements will be made next Sunday by the YOUTH FELLOWSHIP as to the activities to be engaged in during the week. Brother Brinson is a young man with a fine home and cultural background, and we feel assured he will bring us a message well worth hearing. Every one in the community is cordially and urgently invited to come out and hear him.

THIS APPEARS TO BE A MID-YEAR UPDATE on the financial state of the church. There is a column entitled "due" and one entitled "paid."
 (found by Neil Gray researching the Hubby Davis collection.)

The following statement was prepared by direction of the BOARD OF STEWARDS, and is for your information:

	DUE	PAID
World Service	300.00	103.31
Pastor's Salary	1350.00	787.50
Conference Claimants	94.00	47.25
Episcopal Fund	30.00	15.20
District Superintendent	94.50	47.25
Administration Fund	8.10	4.06
Sustentation Fund	27.00	13.00
Methodist Orphanage	168.00	113.69
Ministers Retirement Fund	13.50	6.74
Insurance (Ch. & Parsonage)	83.20	83.20
Coal & Wood	66.77	21.77
Lights	20.00	10.00
Cleaning Church	60.00	35.00
Note in Bank	200.00	50.00
Golden Cross	30.56	-----
	<u>2546.51</u>	<u>1337.97</u>
Balance due November 1	-----	1208.54
LESS: Balance in Bank as of June 25	-----	450.32
Amount necessary to be raised on or before Nov. 1	-----	<u>758.22</u>

SPECIAL FUNDS paid out by order of the Board of Stewards:
 R.H. Lewis, former pastor, proportional part of excess funds paid in during last year ----- 42.00
 N.C. Camp Activities 39.00 Boy Scouts 10.56
 Week of Dedication 54.84 Rev. S.E. Mercer 111.76
 Fellowship of Suffering 5.84 Choir Books 1.47
 Bro. Ed Daniels (Hospital, Epn) 10.00 Grape Juice .95



ONE OF TWO KNOWN MINISTERS TO MARRY at Bethany was Rev. Douglas Fleming who married Levina Meekins. He came to Wanchese as a Duke student to be an assistant to the Rev. Ralph Lewis who was a returning missionary from Korea. Levina and Douglas met the summer of 1943 and married the following summer at Bethany. Douglas' parents, Rev. and Mrs. J.P. Fleming came from Texas to attend Doug's graduation from Duke Theological Seminary and then came to Wanchese to perform the wedding ceremony for their son. The happy couple is pictured here with her parents, Joe and Bina Meekins.
(Levina Fleming collection.)

up a hundred pound fish box. They then had this box shipped to New York or Philadelphia, took the proceeds, and gave it to the church.

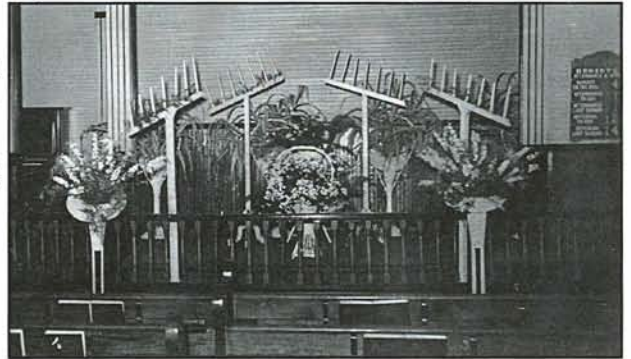
In December of 2002 Penne Smith Sandbeck wrote a book entitled *HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE SURVEY OF THE OUTER BANKS* in which she wrote narrative essays on historic houses and other buildings on the Outer Banks. Bethany UMC was one she chose to view and write about. The following contain her pertinent comments:

"The present church, a large Gothic Revival Style frame building, retains original fish scale shingled gables, shaped rafter ends, deep eaves, and lancet arch stained glass windows, as well as a prominent painted arch stained glass window in the church's north gable. **The form of the church is roughly that of a cross, with a projecting north section, projecting east and west wings,** and a small gable rear extension and shed at the south that have mostly been swallowed up by later additions. The entrance, incorporated in the northeast corner steeple, is accessed by two paneled doubleleaf doors. At the southwest corner of the north (front) elevation, there is a flat-roof weather boarded 1940s utility room, its brick flue chimney, exposed rafters, three-over-one double-hung sash window, and metal venetian blinds little changed in sixty years.

"Bethany Methodist Church now has twentieth-century extensions at its south (rear) elevation—a two-story annex perpendicular to a one-story wing—but the original sanctuary retains its auditorium plan, as well as its Akron plan classrooms. Apart from replacement pews and carpeting, **nearly all of the interior sanctuary is intact.** The ceiling was lowered (author's

note: the wooden bead board squares were covered over with acoustical tiles) but its wood coffers are not unsympathetic to original interior elements. The room is a rectangular auditorium plan that slopes from north to south, to a three-part arcade space with ogival arches, composed of a private prayer room, and an open altar/pulpit and chair stall; this recessed area is supported, at the altar/pulpit, by square fluted columns. A handsome wood serpentine rail, with Colonial Revival style square posts and turned rail balustrade, separates this inner sanctum from the congregation space. Apart from replacement brass lighting fixtures, the room is lit by three opalescent stained glassed windows at its east and west walls and a round stained glass window above the altar, portraying Jesus in the garden at Gethsemene.

"At the north end of the sanctuary are three sets of folding paneled pine doors, with translucent glass panes. Beyond these is the small Akron plan classroom, lit by opalescent stained glass windows at its east, west, and north elevations. These classrooms,



THE ALTAR AREA is decorated for the June 1944 wedding of Levina Meekins and Rev. Douglas Fleming. Note the old hymn board, and the piano in the choir loft.
(Levina Fleming collection.)

designed by an Akron, Ohio Sunday school teacher in the 1860s, were a practical innovation for churches well into the twentieth century. First, it gave Sunday school pupils flexibility in terms of being part of the service, or being shut off into classrooms. Also, in the case of revivals, the doors could be opened and additional space for visitors and congregants created. In summation, the Akron plan perfectly embodied the late nineteenth century's interweaving of popular morality with rationalized efficiency.

"The church retains exterior and interior elements and features no longer seen in the North Outer Banks' contemporary ecclesiastical architecture, notably the heavily-altered Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Manteo.

"BUMC, in spite of alterations during the twentieth century, is now the most intact church on Roanoke Island. Unlike Mount Olivet, first remodeled in the early twentieth century and then substantially remodeled by the architectural firm of Stephens and Francis in the 1990s, Bethany retains nearly all of its original interior sanctuary. This includes its auditorium plan, the choir stall and altar's ogival arch arcade, and at the room's north end, an Akron plan classroom with its original folding wood doors."

Over the years, the congregants have felt a strong desire to stay true to the original lay out and design of the sanctuary. However, small and beneficial changes have been made as the decades have passed. Carpet was laid and cushions were added to the pews. Pulpit furniture was purchased. In 1961, a campaign began to buy and have installed new stained glass windows depicting symbols of Christianity and familiar scenes from the Bible. It began with Rena Baum Tillett who purchased the circular window above the pulpit area of Jesus praying in the garden. The large window depicting Jesus walking on the water and holding his hand out to Peter on the north side of the sanctuary was purchased in honor of Carrie Green by her Sunday school pupils and children. The other uniform-sized windows which could actually open at the bottom were purchased in memory and in honor of loved ones. Three windows are dedicated to the glory of God and given by the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

New kneeling pads were made for the altar in 1973 and beautiful chandeliers were hung. Many times these improvements came about when a beloved church member died and family and friends wanted to honor them in a tangible way. For example, when Laura Gaskill passed away, three ceiling fans were bought and put in.

A new education building and fellowship hall was built in 1975. It ran perpendicular to the 1956 addition and featured a larger fellowship hall, five classrooms, a janitor's closet, and two more bathrooms. Larry Tillett, Sr. was chairman of the building project. The cost was approximately \$125,000.00 which was not enough money to build what they wanted. Hence, a flat roof was installed instead of a conventional roof because of a shortage of funds. Reggie Owens of Harbinger, NC was the contractor. The dedication of the new building was on Homecoming Day, August 27, 1978.

Our church offers two educational scholarships to young members of Bethany. The Melvin and Carrie Daniels scholarship is a \$500.00 award given to a student who plans on going into the fields of ministry, music or education. The United Methodist Men give a scholarship of \$1000.00 to a well-deserving high school senior who plans on going on to higher education. Pastor Bill Holliday helped the UMC organize and implement this program.

The Walter B. Davis scholarship is affiliated with Bethany and is awarded to students who will continue in the North Carolina public education system.

Great foresight by earlier church leaders has been documented in the way our church



REVEREND JERRY JACKSON married **Annette Rogers** of Manteo while he was serving as pastor of Bethany UMC. (Edith Gaskill collection.)



IN THIS RARE PHOTO of Bethany UMC one can see the Skyco church attached to the back of the sanctuary before the two story addition. Note the flatter steeple, the chimneys still in place, the lack of a furnace room, and the block stained glass windows.
(Levina Fleming collection.)

Shores, Corolla, to Bethany. It was sold in June 1999 for \$40,470.60 and some of the money was set aside for a new kitchen. Most of the money was used for a spacious cement parking lot that was built underneath the pines in front of Bethany at a cost of \$38,500.00. The church was incorporated that same year at the prompting of the conference.

The kitchen idea started to grow and gain support, and **the inception of a new addition began in 2001.** In July of the same year the garage was moved a short distance behind the church to make space for the latest addition. The conference office suggested architect Bill Ballenger of Virginia Beach, Virginia as the preferred professional to make the dream a reality. He had experience in helping churches plan and build additions that were complimentary to their existing edifices. Upon seeing our historic structure, **he fell in love with Bethany's lines and design.** He took his inspiration from the outside of the sanctuary and mirrored the steeple and fish scale shakes on the addition. He worked tirelessly with the board of Trustees, chairman Ken Doughty, and a specially formed kitchen committee to hear and implement their ideas and suggestions.

Previously, Bethany had applied for and received a grant from Duke Endowment for \$90,000.00 as a rural church for a new fellowship hall and kitchen. In August of 2002 Brock Daniels was accepted as the general contractor for the new building. In addition to the building with a fellowship hall and kitchen, the project would also encompass constructing an A-line roof over the existing flat roof of the 1975 education building, replacing the heating and air conditioning units that were on that roof, and making

has been added on over the generations. Each addition seemed to double the square footage of space. And with each addition there was a feeling that there was finally enough room to adequately minister to the congregation and community. The home-style kitchen in the 1956 addition was a tight fit if more than three or four ladies were working together. Ken Doughty took up the ladies' cause and kept the dream of a larger kitchen alive while he served on the Board of Trustees. Things began to fall into place in the 1980s when Keith Fearing of Manteo contacted the church and asked if there was interest in buying his land which adjoined the back of the existing church property. The Trustees were glad to obtain the land for \$60,000.00.

In February 1998 Bob and Laurie Tillett DeGabriel gave a piece of land in Monterey



ANOTHER BETHANY POSTCARD featuring the two story 1956 addition, the new stained glass windows. A second less pitched steeple is in place on the church tower and the chimneys have been removed.



ROANOKE ISLAND'S PIONEER FAMILY GATHERS IN REUNION—Descendants of Ephraim Daniels, who bought the southern half of Roanoke Island and moved down from Salem, Mass., in 1784 gathered this week for the first reunion of the now widely scattered family. Planned as an outdoor picnic the reunion was moved into the ancient Masonic Lodge Hall when rain continued to fall. Here are some of the overflow. Standing in third place to the right of the pillar is Capt. John T. Daniels, retired Coast Guardsman; now, with Orville Wright, the only survivor of the little company that launched the first airplane from the top of Kill Devil Hill in 1903. Standing next to Captain Daniels is Josephus Daniels, a great-grandson of the first settler.

THIS VALUABLE AUGUST 1934 NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPH shows Capt. John T. Daniels and Josephus Daniels at the first reunion of the descendants of Ephraim Daniels (now called Daniels' Day). The text says that it was originally planned as an outdoor picnic but was moved to the Masonic Lodge Hall (the old Wanchese academy building). Thereafter, Daniels' Day has been held at Bethany UMC in August.
(Outer Banks History Center.)

Our Junior M. Y. F.

While it is a pleasure to work in any department of our church, I am especially happy to work with our Junior Fellowship group. Let me tell you a little about the work of this group during the past year.

Our group is composed of children from six to twelve years of age. We have an enrollment of thirty-five, and an average attendance of twenty-one. This group has their own officers and prepare their own programs. They study the whole program of the church, and take an active part in every phase of the local church program.

Financially, our children also make a worth while contribution to the church program. Last year they paid thirty-five dollars on our Crusade For Christ offering, made a monthly contribution to our Chinese Orphans Fund, gave to the Red Cross, sent fruit, candy, and flowers to the sick of the community, and sent Christmas boxes overseas. They now have a nice balance in their treasury to begin the work of the new year.

Any Sunday afternoon that it is convenient for you to attend their worship service at the church, you will find it an hour well spent. And your presence would be an encouragement and inspiration to them. What our community and church is a few years from now will be deter-



mined largely by these children. The church is proud of them.

Above is a picture of a part of this group made at a recent worship service.

The officers of the Fellowship are: President, Mona Gray; Vice President, Murry Bridges; Secretary, Barbara Midgett; Treasurer, Laura Joan Daniels.

(Mrs. Mary Tillett, Adult Counsellor)

MARY TILLETT'S JUNIOR MYF was large and active as evidenced by this article.
(Laura Domingue collection.)



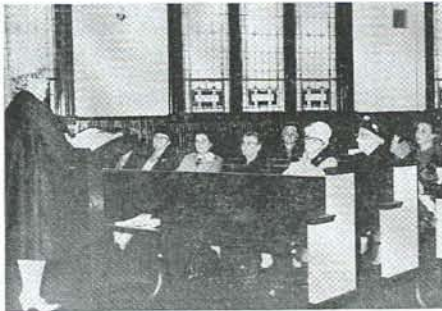
MINISTER RECEIVES CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

Budget

BETHANY METHODIST CHURCH WANCHESE, NORTH CAROLINA BUDGET—CONFERENCE YEAR, 1965-1966

I	MISSIONS, WORLD SERVICE, AND SPECIAL OFFERINGS		
	World Service and Conference Benevolences	\$3,700	
	Advance Specials:		
	World Missions: Theis Work Fund	25	
	National Missions: Alaska Methodist University	25	
	Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief	25	
	Conference: Elizabeth City District	25	
	Missionary Speaker:		
	Honorarium	\$10	
	Travel	25	35
	School of Missions	10	
	Missionary Literature	15	
	Interdenominational Cooperation	30	
	Special Offerings:		
	One Great Hour of Sharing	22	
	Fellowship of Suffering and Service	22	
	Methodist T. V. Ministry	18	
	Methodist Student Day	8	
	Race Relations Sunday	18	
	Christian Education Day	12	
	Total		\$3990
II	PASTORAL MINISTRY		
	Pastor's Salary	\$3800	
	Travel	700	\$4500
	Episcopal Fund	76	
	District Superintendent's Fund	209	
	Conference Pension Fund	608	
	Minister's Retirement Fund	76	
	Minimum Salary Fund	284	
	Ministerial Education Fund (1% Plan)	137	
	District Work	90	
	Pastors' Moving Fund	25	
	Total		\$6005

CONTINUED (Inside)



OUR TEACHING MINISTRY



BUDGET — Continued

III	COMMISSION ON MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM		
	Visiting Minister (Revival)	\$ 125	
	Evangelistic Literature	25	
	The Upper Room	75	
	Writing Non-resident Members	6	
	Pre-revival Publicity	7	
	Total		\$ 238
IV	COMMISSION ON STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE		
	Visual Aid (Record Player)	\$ 70	
	Collection Envelopes	68	
	Motion Picture Rentals	20	
	Every Member Visitation	70	
	Total		\$ 228
V	COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS		
	Literature		\$ 35
VI	OUR CHURCH HOME		
	Janitor's Salary	\$ 720	
	Insurance	380	
	Electric Current	140	
	Fuel (Gas and Oil)	550	
	Bulletin Board (Inside)	10	
	General Repairs	350	
	Janitorial Supplies	50	
	Total		\$2200
VII	COMMISSION ON EDUCATION		
	Church School Literature	\$ 950	
	Christian Workers' School	20	
	Family Week:		
	Literature and Refreshments	25	
	Film or Filmstrips	5	
	Award to Family-of-the-Year	4	
	Total		\$1004
VIII	MUSIC		25
	GRAND TOTAL		\$13,725

BETHANY'S 1965-1966 PUBLISHED BUDGET was probably challenging for the parishioners then, but would seem like a relief to the modern congregation. Note the pastor's salary.
(Joyce Meekins collection.)

a handicapped accessible bathroom out of a janitor's closet. The original quote for the total job was \$520,000.00. At the same time, the contractor would handle the renovation of the old fellowship hall into a self-contained preschool room with its own entrance, bathroom, and play yard. Rev. Tom Supplee and preschool teacher, Gayle Tillett, applied for and received a separate \$58,000.00 program grant from Duke Endowment for this expenditure.

As with any building project, the addition cost more and took longer than expected. To add to the confusion, there were changes in pastoral leadership. Rev. Tom Supplee was called to another charge and Rev. Holt Clarke replaced him, staying only one year. When Rev. Bill Cottingham arrived he soon discovered that he had inherited a host of problems related to construction and financial matters that took several meetings with the district superintendent, Al Shuler, and the Trustees to sort out.

About the time the third addition was completed another milestone was reached. The congregation was marking the 100th year anniversary of the sanctuary building. This was cause for commemoration and a Centennial and Consecration Celebration was planned for Sunday, November 20, 2005. Special speakers were bishop Dr. Al Gwinn, district superintendent Dr. Albert Shuler, former pastor Tom Supplee, historian R. Wayne Gray, and Senator Pro Tem Marc Basnight. After the 4:00 service a bountiful meal was served to contribute to the blessed and spiritual gathering.

The idea of adding an early morning contemporary worship service was born during Rev. Holt Clarke's tenure. Again, Rev. Bill Cottingham had unfinished business to complete when he took his post here. He helped fashion a service that was primarily lay led. A praise band using guitars, bass, piano, and later keyboard and drums was assembled. A laptop computer was used to project images and words of songs on a screen. The 8:30 service brought a lot of excitement and new energy into worship.

In 2009 there is a feeling in the church that we are on the verge of great and glorious things. The members of Bethany feel that the Spirit is leading them into a new era of service and worship. Bethany has a rich and faithful history. It is something to be grateful for and a good foundation for the present congregation. But we all know that the Lord has



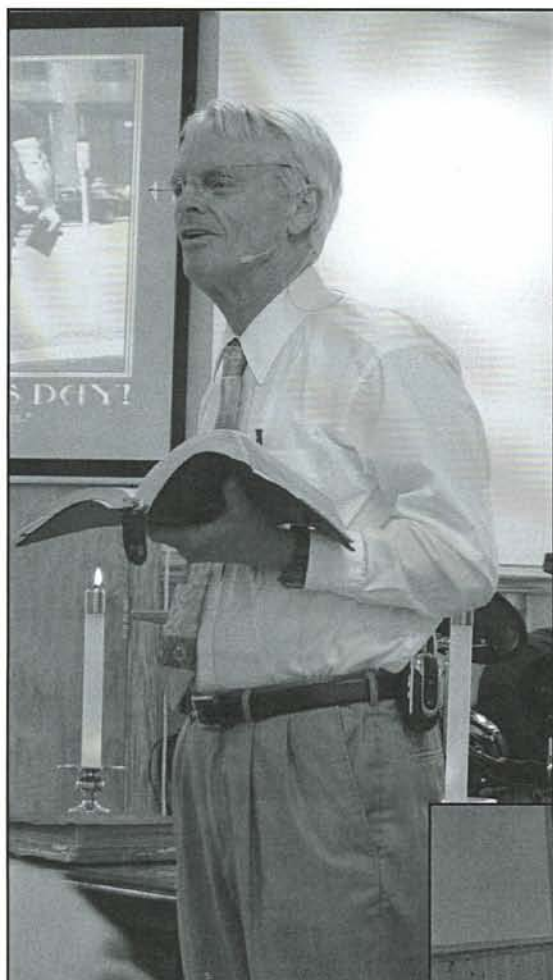
ARCHITECT BILL BALLENGER of Virginia Beach mirrored the sanctuary's church tower, round glass window, and fish scale shingles when he designed the 2005 addition.
(Bud Watts photo.)



THE STAINED GLASS picture of Jesus walking on the water has been a beacon of light in the Wanchese community since the 1960's.
(Bud Watts photo.)



A REAR VIEW OF BETHANY shows the large addition and the new play yard for the preschool. There is one stained glass window in the addition which is dedicated to Sophronia Meekins Tillett, daughter of William Lawrence Meekins.
(Bud Watts photo.)



WHEN BILL COTTINGHAM was sent to Bethany, he had numerous issues to sort out with finishing the addition.
(Bud Watts photo.)

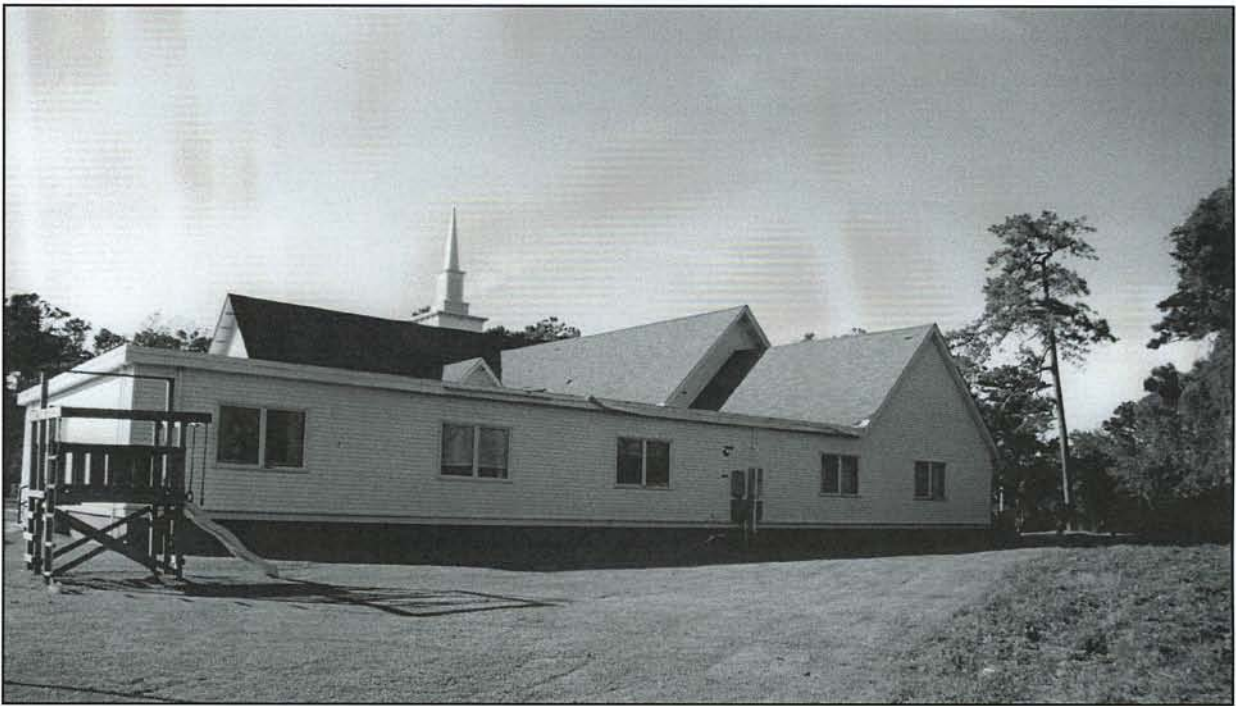
no grandchildren. Each generation and each individual has to come to know Jesus on his own and serve Him in the time he lives. We cannot rest on past laurels but must boldly move on into the next chapter of our lives and the life of Bethany United Methodist Church.



BISHOP AL GWINN was the featured speaker at the Consecration and Centennial Celebration in November 2005. Ken Mann is working the sound board.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



JANA COTTINGHAM was tireless when it came to helping her husband and serving the church. She tried to be a friend to all and was involved in all of the events and activities that she could be. She is shown with her husband, Pastor Bill Cottingham, Hudean O'Neal, Harvey Hirsch, Liz Ann Creef, and Ben Midgett.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



BEFORE: This perspective of the 1975 education addition shows its flat roof. The location of the preschool playground can also be seen in this 2003 picture.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



AFTER: The first stage of the building project in July 2004 was to put an A-line roof over the 1975 education addition. The unfinished attic is a large and spacious place.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



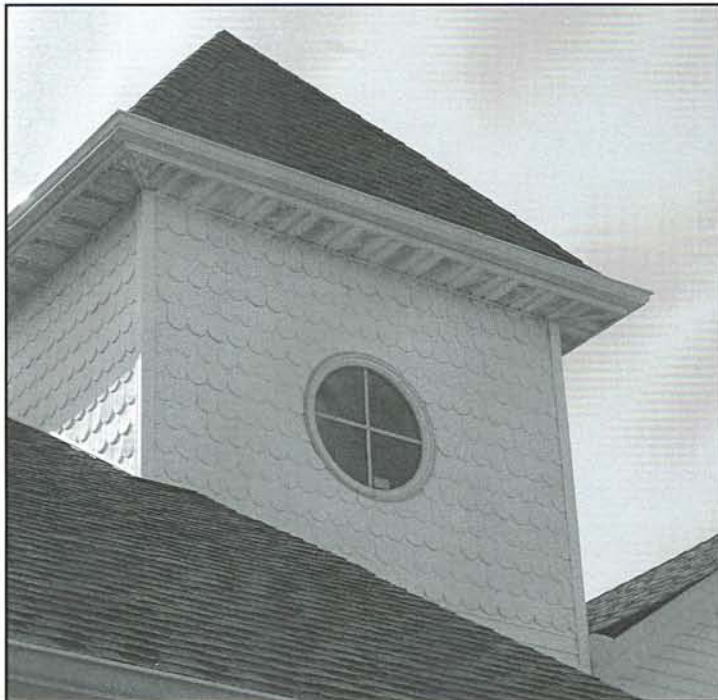
THE KITCHEN AND FELLOWSHIP HALL phase of the project is well underway in September 2004.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



DECEMBER 2004 found the outer building mostly completed, but much to do on the inside.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



A SIDE VIEW OF THE BUILDING gives an idea of how large the addition is. The expansive second story is an unfinished space with a bright future.
(Bud Watts photo.)



THE STEEPLE ON THE ADDITION TOWER is reminiscent of the second replacement steeple on the sanctuary tower that was less pitched than the original and present day steeples.
(Bud Watts photo.)



HOMECOMING AT BETHANY was celebrated in the early 1960's. Ken Doughty, Ron Tillett, Sam Sparacino, Wynola Sparacino, and Nell Tillett enjoy a picnic on the grounds.
(*Marcy Mann collection.*)

FINANCIAL MATTERS are discussed by Orman Mann, Tom White, Rev. Pullman, Evelyn Gibbs, and an unidentified church member.
(*from a Bethany UMC publication.*)



THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN have a Christmas dinner together in the first fellowship hall. Prominent faces on the left are Rowena Midgett, Vara Daniels, and Bernice Midgett. Rena Tillet sits at the head of the table. On the right, from the left to the right are Miriam Daniels, Melba Melson, Vivian Baum, Juanita Ballance, Lucille Midgett, Liza Edwards and Myrtle Tillet. Other possible diners are Lennie Tillett, and Evelyn Gibbs.
(*Marcy Mann collection.*)

Our Laity

The Methodist Church depended on laymen from its inception. Because of a limited number of ministers, laymen became the backbone of the church in its day to day operation. These men may not have been of the clergy but neither were many of the circuit riders. However, both of them were responsible for preaching the “word of God.”

It has been difficult to “track down” many of our lay leaders. Again, a lack of proper record keeping causes part of our history to be lost. Hopefully, this will soon be corrected.

A few recent lay leaders are mentioned here because of their outstanding service. They are Maxine Daniels, Jimmie Williams, Chuck Hollingsworth, and Nancy Gray.

“Prior to 1968, the DISCIPLINE of the Methodist Church provided for a nation wide Board of Lay Activities. This board consisted of five bishops and many prominent lay leaders. The board met periodically and its functions were delineated as follows:

The program of lay leaders shall conclude:

1. Christian stewardship
2. Sound finance in the local church
3. Adequate support of the ministry
4. Benevolences
5. Men’s work; Methodist Men
6. Lay leadership
7. Lay speaking
8. Training of official boards

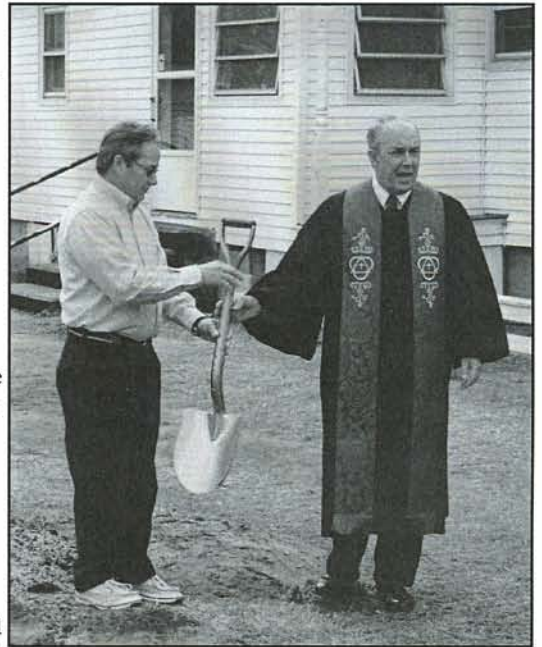
After 1968, when the Methodist Church and the United Brethren combined to form the United Methodist Church, the board became known as the Board of the Laity. The purpose and programs remained much the same as they had in the past.

CHUCK HOLLINGSWORTH LAY LEADER 1996–2006

I wished that I would have developed my speaking skills through the Lay Speaker training. Since I only went to one session of Lay Speaking I’m not qualified to be a Lay Speaker. But while leading the morning worship services when the pastor is away, **it has been an honor to lift up the prayers of others to the Lord.** I was one who couldn’t even give a book report much less stand up in front of a group of people and talk. The Lord had helped me and enabled me to do the things that I thought that I could never do. I have learned that all things are possible with God. To know Him is to love Him and to do the things that He wants you to do is brought about by letting go and letting Him have His way with you.

I served as Lay Leader of Bethany United Methodist Church starting in January 1996 and ending January 2006. The church calendar year goes from January to January.

It was a very educational time of my life. Some said I was too young for the job. But after much prayer and thinking of all the others in the Bible that God used to do His work, I knew that he could use me. I asked, “What is the term of this position?” The answer I got from the Lay Leader at that time was, “for life.” Well, I wasn’t looking to serve for that long! But I soon realized that your commitment to being saved and serving God is for life.



PASTOR TOM SUPPLEE passes lay leader Chuck Hollingsworth a golden shovel. He was given the honor of being the first to symbolically break ground for the new addition.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



MAXINE DANIELS
 celebrated her eightieth
 birthday in the second
 fellowship hall in 1995.
 (Betty Kay Beasley photo.)

I was automatically a member of all of the committees in the church. I learned the nuts and bolts of the Methodist church by going to the workshops and seeing how our church operated.

As Lay Leader I have seen great changes in our church. We have had growth and development making us into a more open and caring church for the spreading of the Gospel in our own community and in missions around the world. I believe and know that Bethany is not only a caring church but a very giving church. It has never failed to rise to an occasion or a need in the church or community.

This position in the church has helped me to grow into a more mature Christian. I have learned to be open-minded and slow to speak. So many times we let our emotions take control of what we say. This is something that I have been dealing with for some time. But I know He is still working on me. This position helped me to get closer to the Lord and to the members of our church. And I am still learning to love everyone that I meet.

MAXINE DANIELS

LAY LEADER AND UMW MEMBER

by Caroline Stetson

Mrs. Maxine Daniels was strong, independent and highly motivated to see good things done through the church. She joined the United Methodist Women as a teenager and remained loyal and active well into her eighties. She participated at the local, district, and southeastern jurisdictional levels of UMW. Traveling to meetings with her all over eastern North Carolina gave us insight into her life and times as a wife, mother, teacher and member of Bethany UMC.

Mrs. Maxine was instrumental along with Reverend Jerry Jackson in getting the preschool program started at Bethany UMC. She participated as assistant and substitute teacher of the preschool during the first few years of its existence. She loved children and was an advocate of individual attention for each child. She volunteered in the public school system and tutored students at the request of teachers who recognized her ability to encourage and strengthen students in areas of weakness.

Mrs. Maxine was Bethany UMC's representative to the Annual Conference for many years. She devoted herself to being informed on the issues of the church and to vote as representative of the church according to godly standards. She would return each year with a detailed report which she read to the congregation. Mrs. Maxine was honored to be our representative and a United Methodist of the Wesleyan tradition.

We are honored to have been members together with her.

LAURA DAVIS GASKILL

by Steve Basnight, Jr.

Laura Davis Gaskill was born on September 18, 1899 and was married to James Thomas Gaskill. Her father was Isaac Newton Davis who ran a rather large country store in Wanchese. Mr. Davis' wife was Zephia Jane Simpson Davis. Mrs. Laura had five children: James Lee, Grady Hart, Tena Jane, Carolyn Yvonne, and Linda. All of her children attended Bethany UMC.

Mrs. Laura was the heart of her family. She kept things going and in her soft spoken way kept them all as straight as she possibly could. They were a simple family and didn't have a lot, but were rich in spirit as Mrs. Laura made them feel like they had what they needed. She loved to sit at the piano and play and have the whole family gather around and sing church hymns. Most of the family had good voices and could sing well. Mrs. Laura believed in prayer and also believed in kneeling down when she prayed. When someone was sick she prayed, when money was needed she prayed, when things were good she prayed. She loved the Lord and her church. When something was needed at the church she was one of the first to try and see that it got done. She loved to cook and was an excellent cook. In fact she cooked at the Manteo school lunchroom and managed it in the late 40's and early 50's. One of her



LAURA GASKILL receiving an award from
 the United Methodist Women.
 (Edith Gaskill collection.)

favorite times was when the church had homecoming and she would prepare a feast to take out to the church and set up tables outdoors and everyone always wanted to come by her table and get some of her fried chicken and vegetables, especially her collards.

Mrs. Laura was in the choir all the years I was privileged to attend church with her. She always invited the pastor to come and have dinner with her family and any extra people who would come by. She always had enough for everyone and never turned anyone away. Many times Mrs. Laura would say she didn't feel like going to church, but after attending she would always say it made her feel much better. She was a member of the Rena Baum Circle.

Mrs. Laura was on the Trustees when they borrowed money to build the new Sunday school rooms as well as the fellowship hall that is now the preschool. She served on the Trustees with Wayland Baum, Vara Daniels, and others. When it was paid for all of them participated in the burning of the note. Preacher Wesley was the pastor when they burned the note. A picture of this exists in some of the family albums.

CAROLINE DOUGH STETSON

In 1967, one of the first dates with my husband Rusty was attending Sunday evening worship service at Bethany UMC. I have since learned that his father had laid down the law that if Rusty wanted to be out with his friends on Sunday evening, he must first be in church. I was a willing participant that Sunday evening and have been ever since. Little did I know that night, that God had a plan for my placement in His church.

An earlier encounter with Bethany UMC was in 1957 when I was a flower girl in my oldest brother's wedding. But my only remembrances of that day was how beautiful my sister-in-law was in her bridal gown, the tall double doors of the church opened wide, the petals falling to the floor as I scattered them down the aisle, and the little beetle bug climbing in the layers of sheer fabric of the skirt of the beautiful bridal gown that I saw as I stood behind the bride. I was eight years old.

My paternal grandmother, Esther Baum Dough, moved from Baumtown in Wanchese to the North End of Roanoke Island when she married my grandfather. I moved from North End down to Wanchese when I married Rusty. My grandmother would not go to the Roanoke Island Baptist Church at North End because she said she "was a Methodist." My father, being the only son, would transport her on weekends to visit her family in Baumtown in a horse and cart with the hopeful intention of attending Bethany UMC.

I was not quite so stubborn. Although I had attended the Roanoke Island Baptist Church at North End all of my young life, I was quite happy to attend Bethany UMC and was married there on July 14, 1968, my nineteenth birthday.

As sunlight streams through the inspiring stained glass windows, the fellowship of believers attend worship services, funerals, weddings, revivals, reunions, baptisms...and life happens. Jesus, the Light of Life and the Lord of Life meets with His people. It was in February 1987 that I truly came to know Him. He forgave me, washed me, and placed me in His body, the Church of the living God. And from that day, I have known that He placed me in Bethany UMC.

The physical structure of the church is a delight to the eye, and the saints who come into the building are a delight to the soul. The memories of past ministers and the members who have gone before us are evidences of God at work and an encouragement to our faith. **Women like Louisa Williams, Myrtle Tillett, Maxine Daniels, and Lessie Tillett, to name only a few gave me the revelation of not only living in Christ through life's challenges as wives and mothers but also dying knowing that He is waiting to receive us.** As evidenced in them and others in my life, we can live and die in peace knowing Christ Jesus hold the keys.

Our pastors in these past forty-one years have each taught me lessons that serve in practical and spiritual ways. Each with their own personalities and life experiences along with Biblical teaching have been servants whom God has used to shape Bethany UMC. Pastor Luther Wesley performed many wedding services at Bethany. I remember him telling Rusty and me that up to that point, no couple he had married had been divorced and he wanted us to help him keep that record intact. The names of each of the next nine pastors and the lessons learned from their ministry come easily to me. I hope to meet with each in heaven and thank them for the time they spent with us.



CAROLINE STETSON exercising her gift of teaching Sunday school in the new classroom area of the addition. Percy Hunter, Rusty Stetson, Caroline, Becky Beacham, and Barry Stetson are ready for class to begin. (Minta Meekins photo.)



KEN DOUGHTY
(Ken Doughty collection.)

"Our Heavenly Father, as Your people serve together at Bethany United Methodist Church and as the years ahead of us slip into eternity, may You find us faithful to serve You with our whole heart. What joy it will be to be with You and Yours in heaven. What joy it is to be with You and Yours at Bethany in Wanchese in this present age. Your people are the best. In the unity and love of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen"

KENNETH DOUGHTY

There has been progressive times and lean times in our forty-two years as members of Bethany. I recall an instance in the late 1960's when we had to borrow money from the bank to meet our conference assessments. During this time the only paid person in the church was the pastor.

In the 1950's our thoughts fell on building a new parsonage and our pastor said he would rather see a Sunday school building built for the children. We had an old, dilapidated one story building in the area of the handicapped ramp in the rear which would have to be torn down. We began raising money by having suppers and by having several people go throughout our village collecting money monthly for the building fund. (This practice still goes on for collecting for the Building and Maintenance fund.) The two story addition was completed. Some years later heating and air conditioning was put into this area as well as in the parsonage.

We continued our fund raisers and collections each month. The money was brought to to altar and we prayed and thanked God for His blessing. We added on again in the 1970's. We had a ten year bank note on the new building and are grateful that we paid it off in seven or eight years.

We had a lot deeded to us in Monteray Shores, Currituck County which we sold and used the money to build the parking lot.

We had several set backs over the years. Once we were having the sanctuary resingled and the workers removed the old shingles and failed to cover the roof. A storm came up over night and we had six to eight inches of water in the sanctuary with no insurance to cover the cost of repairs. Once the oil furnace for the sanctuary blew up and filled the building with smoke and soot. We were blessed to have insurance and a crew was sent in to scrub and clean the entire building. At that time we replaced the heating and air conditioning unit with a heat pump.

Our next project was to buy approximately one and one half acres of land behind the church and parsonage with the idea of adding a kitchen, dining room, social hall, and Sunday school combination. This we recently completed. The second floor remains uncompleted, but many possibilities exist including more Sunday school classrooms, dormitory rooms, and bathrooms. During this last addition, we built a gable roof over the flat roof of the Educational building and renovated the old social hall and made it the preschool. We have set up a library and continue to do other maintenance jobs in the building. We have been blessed richly by God and by a lot of the older folks who have passed on to be with our Father. Amen.

WOODROW S. STETSON

by Caroline Stetson

Woodrow Stockton Stetson was born in Colington but lived most of his life in Wanchese. He loved the church and was faithful and quiet in his attendance and giving. He was not a spokesperson but he led in giving, which was his greatest pleasure. To this day, we often hear testimonies from people Woodrow helped in time of need or who received a gift from him in secret. When Reverend Richard Lewis was pastor at Bethany



WOODROW AND LUCRETIA STETSON in a 1983 picture. (Caroline Stetson collection.)

UMC, Woodrow made a spiritual commitment to God and came to an understanding of salvation that he had not enjoyed before. Before this time, he did not participate in communion, The Lord's Supper, because, in his own words, he "did not feel worthy". With the help of Pastor Lewis, the Holy Spirit revealed to my father-in-law that participating in communion was a sign of our relationship with the One Who died in our place. What a joy it was to see him walk down the aisle, kneel at the altar and receive the sacrament of God's love for him. The Lord loves a cheerful giver. And a cheerful giver loves the Lord.

MYRTLE TILLET

by Caroline Stetson

Mrs. Myrtle Tillett was the grandmotherly type of church member who would give you a smile, cup your face in her hands, kiss you on the cheek, and say, "I love you". We lovingly remember her for her gentle spirit and faithful church attendance of all the weekly services. She was the church pianist for many years. We still smile as we remember her switching on the light over the piano, removing her glasses and placing them on top of the piano, opening the hymn book, smoothing the pages open with her beautifully aged hands and playing the familiar hymns of the church. Her biological grandchildren and great-grandchildren shared their affectionate title of "Mom Myrt" with their generation of church members at Bethany UMC. Mom Myrt will be remembered for her love and trust in Jesus and her love for us.

In Sunday evening services, we shared personal testimonies. I must include a favorite testimony that Mom Myrt shared. After she retired from working at Fearing's Department Store in Manteo, Mom Myrt continued work at home doing alterations for those who knew she offered the service. Being a widow and living alone she had learned to depend on God in many ways that most people would not think of. One evening as she was sewing, she dropped a button on the floor and it rolled away from sight. She said to God, "Lord, I need Your help in finding that button. The light in this room is not that good and crawling on the floor is not easy for me." As soon as she began the search, she found the button. She thanked the Lord for being so good to her and resumed her sewing. My heart was warmed by her intimate relationship with her Heavenly Father. Being dependent on One so compassionate is a beautiful thing and we all need that reminder. Mom Myrt's testimony lives in my heart as a reminder of God's tender care.



MYRTLE "MA MYRT" TILLET showed love for everybody.
(Annette Scarborough collection.)

NANCY GRAY LAY LEADER 2007--

I can hardly put into words how I feel about Bethany UMC, but I will try.

As a young woman and "foreigner" to Dare County, I have found it to be a place of welcoming and love.

As a concerned mother, I have found it to be a place where my children received guidance, a moral compass, and a foundation of faith.



EDWARD LEE MANN, MARCY MANN, AND NANCY GRAY are finished cooking for the congregation on Education Appreciation Sunday. *(Jack Dunn photo.)*

As a seeker of God, I have found it to be a place where the gospel was presented and salvation was accepted.

As a new Christian, I have found it to be a place where the Bible became real and my walk with Jesus became closer as I studied God's Word.

In a time of crisis, my husband and I have found it to be a place where the family of God surrounds the ones in need with support and affection by their prayers and acts of kindness.

As the Lay Leader, I have found it to be a place where I am challenged to serve the Lord not in my own strength, but in His.

I'm so grateful to live in this time, in this place, and to be a part of this particular body of Christ.



EDNA DANIELS, 104, AND WAYLAND BAUM, 103, receive recognition from Dorita Ballance and the congregation for being our oldest members.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



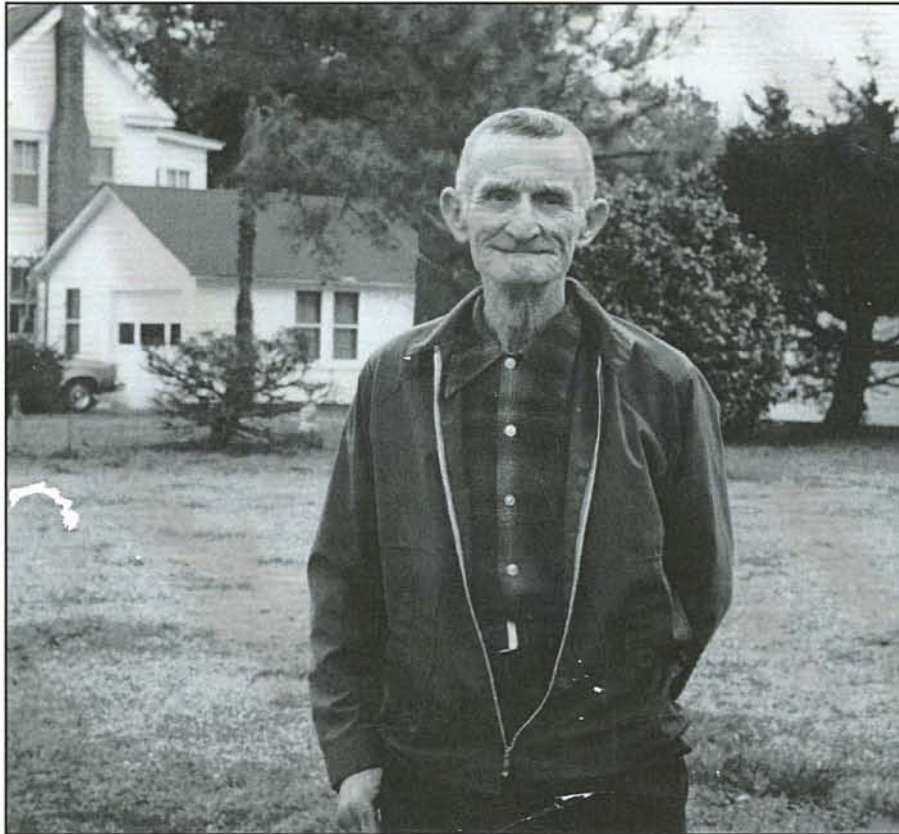
MANY WEDDING CEREMONIES have been performed at Bethany including Marc and Sandy Basnight's nuptials. Hughes Tillett Sr., Lessie Tillett, Marc Basnight, Candy Tillett (with one sock down), Sandy Basnight, Julie Tillett, Janice Tillett, and Hughes Tillett Jr. are in attendance.
(Candy Daniels collection.)



MILAH P. MEEKINS shares a story with **Cliff Tillett**.
(Marcy Mann collection.)



HOMECOMING PICNIC GOERS include from left **Ede Daniels**, **Rev. Carroll Daniels**, **Lessie Tillett**, **Caroline Rogers**, **Patricia Rogers** (with a bow in her hair), little **Kim Doughty**, and **Nell Tillett** in white heels.
(Marcy Mann collection.)



JOHN KELLY BEASLEY was a loyal member of Bethany and was there every time the doors were opened.
(Candy Daniels collection.)

JIMMIE WILLIAMS III
the background were
present and accounted
for at the Consecration
and Centennial
Celebration.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



JOYCE MEEKINS, granddaughter of William Lawrence Meekins, participates in the ground breaking ceremony to begin the new addition. From left are Tom Baum, Ken Doughty, Norm Fabri, Chetty Mann, Hughie Basnight, Marilyn Fabri, Myra Supplee, and Harvey Hirsch.
(Minta Meekins photo.)

GEORGE TOLER,
JENNIE O'NEAL, AND
LYNN FIDANZANTO
enjoy a meal together at
the Consecration and
Centennial Celebration.
(Minta Meekins photo.)

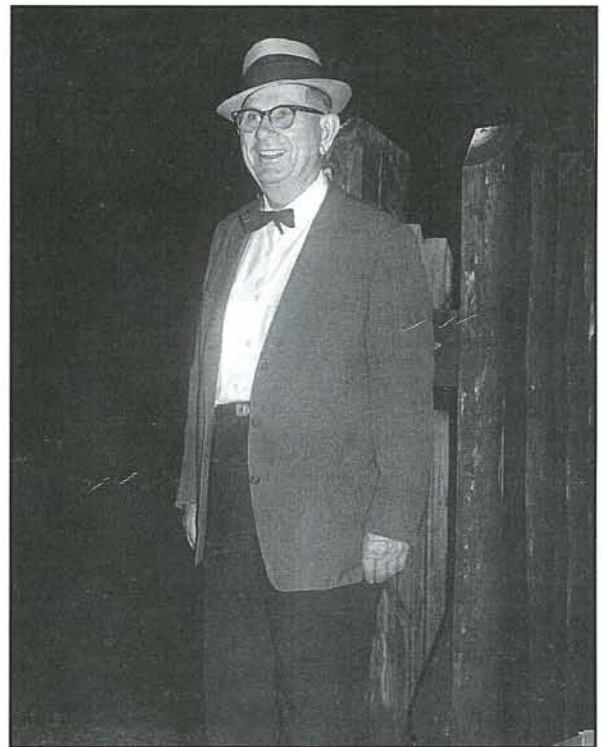




MIRIAM AND ARNOLD DANIELS both supported Bethany with their prayers, presence, and gifts. She was an active member of the UMW teaching several missions studies and attending conventions as a representative. She was an MYF leader as well. Arnold was a member of the board and served as an usher.
(Brenda Stephenson collection.)



GEORGE ALBERT DANIELS taught Sunday school for many years.
(Laura Domingue collection.)



CHAUNCEY MEEKINS, son of William Lawrence Meekins, served as treasurer of Bethany UMC for over fifty years. Congregants remembering him accounting for every expenditure down to the last penny when he read the financial report.
(Merlee Austin collection.)



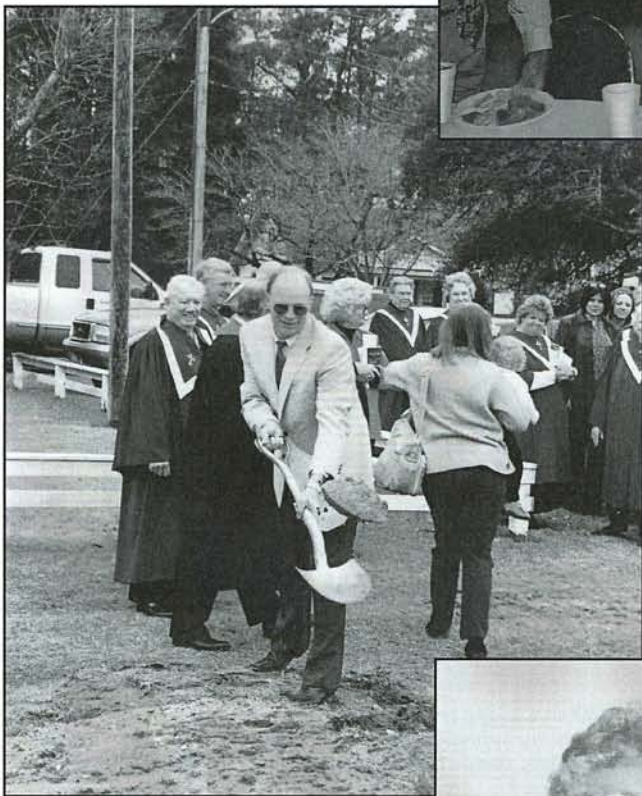
THE MEN'S BIBLE CLASS OF 1983 sport polyester suits in the fellowship hall. On the floor are David Hardee and Wilbur Austin. Sitting or kneeling are Leland Tillett, Wayland Baum, Randy O'Neal, Cliff Tillett, Woodrow Stetson, Alfred "Dad" Tillett, Johnnie Robbins, Irvin Aldridge, Maynard Daniels, and Homer Austin. Standing are Larry Ballance Sr., Moody Baum, George Toler, John Kelly Beasley, Amos Daniels, Cloyce Daniels, Nick Sapone, Don Payne, Ralph Tillett, George Paul, Edward Hunter, Larry Tillett Sr., Chesley Midgett Sr., Ken Doughty, LaSalle Tillett, Dave McKnight, Orville Rogers, and Thomas Baum.
(Bethany UMC 1983 directory photo.)

LARRY TILLETT, SR. was the chairman of the building project when the 1975 educational addition was constructed. His wife, Barbara, solicited donations for all of the furniture in the fellowship hall and classrooms.
(Barbara Tillett collection.)



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that so many of these saints have gone on to heaven. From the back to the front are Florine Williams, Vivian Baum, Wayland Baum, Ophelia Smith, Zeta Tillett, Ray Davis, Shawnee Brothers, Sophie Brumsey, Bill Owens, Ola Tillett, and Ceil Daniels.
(Mill Midgett collection.)

LASALLE TILLET served as the Chairman of the Administrative Council for over thirty-five years.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



KEN MANN throws the sand high during the ground breaking ceremony.
(Minta Meekins photo.)

LINDA MANN AND DORITA BALLANCE take on their regular duties of serving others in a new environment, the industrial style kitchen.
(Minta Meekins photo.)





BETHANY'S FIRST PRESCHOOL CLASS in 1980 was under teacher Jane Thomas.
First row: Mara Tillett, Drew Meekins, Jonathan Daniels, Jerome Lassiter, Samantha Daniels, Kelly Johnson, Timmy Payne
Back row: Tricia Harrell, Cody Dough, Tiffany Midgett, Bobby Ruhle, Jamie Hayes, Phillip Quidley, Betsy Ruhle.
(Becky Beacham collection.)

Our Youth

Teaching our youth christian principles began with Sunday School. In order for the church to continue, our youth must be taught and trained whether it be in Sunday School, Junior MYF, Senior MYF, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, or other church oriented organizations. Faith in our youth who will become our future leaders is a mandated part of our church's curriculum. We have to support our young adults and Bethany United Methodist Church works with them in many areas.

The Epworth League, a youth group, was in position in the beginning years of our church. We have evidence of its beginning as early as 1928. This league was involved in almost every activity of the church. As stated previously, Mrs. Dezzie Daniels was one of the early leaders.

"The Epworth League had its name changed in 1941 to Methodist Youth Fellowship with the same projects, recreation, and Bible Study being carried on by a Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship and a Senior Methodist Youth Fellowship. The object of the change was to make the youth realize the church can be the center of their activities for fun, services, spiritual growth, and for building a strong faith in God."

THE HISTORY OF BETHANY UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL

by Gayle Tillett

Bethany UMC Preschool was started in the fall of 1980 under the pastorship of Jerry Jackson. Becky Beacham and Maxine Daniels were instrumental in beginning the preschool. Both ladies did much research and studying in order to best start a school that would benefit the children and also be a ministry to the community.

We are in our thirtieth year of preschool. During these past years, we have enrolled close to seven hundred and fifty children. Children have come from all areas of Dare County including Kitty Hawk, Nags Head, Manns Harbor, Manteo, East Lake, and Wanchese.

We have seen two generations of students attending preschool. Some parent/child alumni are Tricia Harrell Tawes and her daughter Julia, Carla Gallop and her daughter Rachel, and Barry Stetson and his son Tucker. Our preschool began meeting in a small room that we shared with a Sunday school class. In the beginning, we had an enrollment of twenty children and our playground was located behind the parsonage. At that time, we had no place to serve snacks to the children. When I expressed a need for a picnic table, Elisha Meekins built us a sturdy one with heavy rollers on it so that it can be moved. It is still in use today.

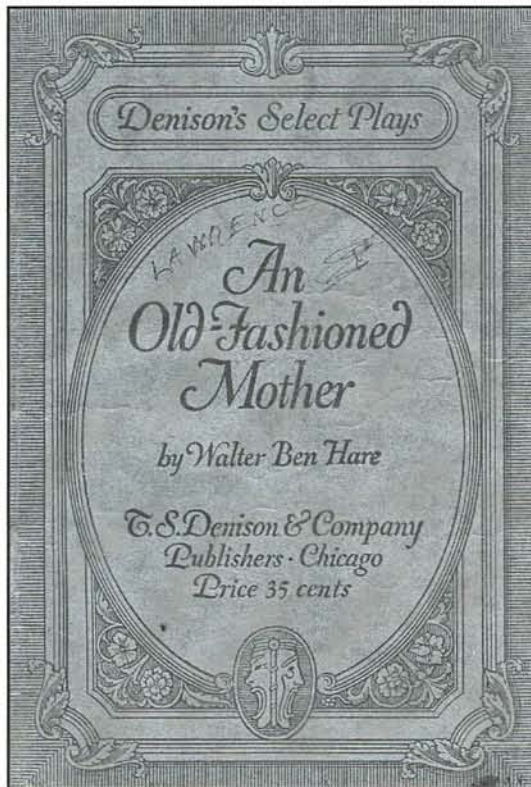
We updated our playground equipment when Marc and Sandy Basnight donated a wooden playground unit that had been located at the Lone Cedar Restaurant. We used that equipment for ten years. Over the years we have had many donations that have enhanced our school.

As our church membership grew and the need for an addition was in the works, Pastor Tom Supplee who was our pastor from 2000-2004, saw the need for a larger preschool room. He and I had a conversation about converting the fellowship hall into the preschool room. The church was applying for a building grant from Duke Endowment and the preschool applied for a separate

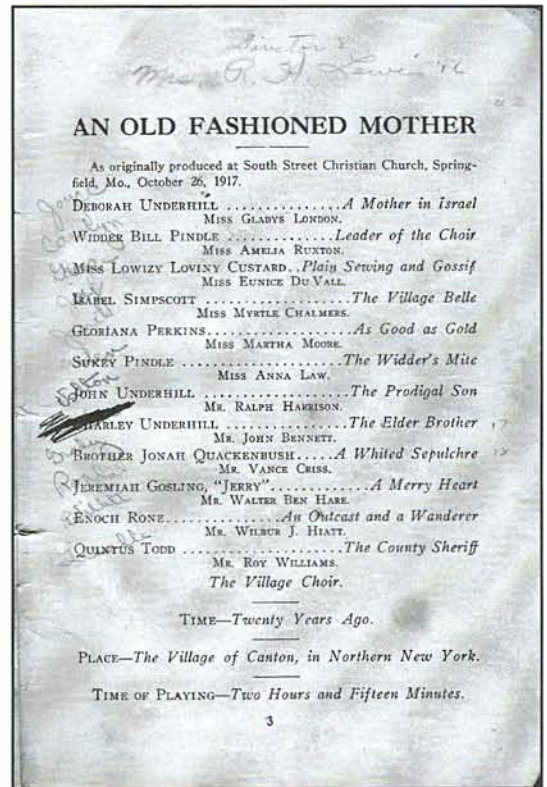


GAYLE V. TILLETT
(Gayle Tillett collection.)

MANY WONDERFUL PLAYS have been performed at Bethany throughout its history. "An Old Fashioned Mother" was directed by Anna May Lewis who was the wife of Rev. Ralph Lewis. Many remember her for her dedication to the youth and for the way she rode her bicycle throughout the village. Front row: Mildred Tillett, Joyce Tillett, Janet Williams. Middle row: Douglas Fleming (Duke intern), Lois Tillett, Levina Meekins, LaSalle Tillett, Ola Tillett, Anna May Lewis. Back row: Thomas Glen Gaskill, Lawrence Meekins, Valton Williams. (Levina Fleming collection.)



LAWRENCE MEEKINS' COPY of the script. (Levina Fleming collection.)



THE CAST OF CHARACTERS with the names of the actors and actresses penciled above each name. Fittingly, Joyce Meekins played the old fashioned mother. (Levina Fleming collection.)

program grant. We received \$58,000.00 for the project. This money gave us the opportunity to make our room self-contained. We have our own child-sized bathroom, art sinks, cabinets for storage, and refrigerator. Children have ample space to work and play. We now have a fenced in playground with updated playground equipment. The preschool also installed a car port which is used for snack and party times. Computers and desks, a copier, and a laptop were purchased with the project money. One of our members donated four printers to the school. Since our room was enlarged, we were able to increase our enrollment to twenty-five students.

The preschool has seen a number of teachers and assistants working with the children during the past thirty years. Jane Thomas was the first teacher. Maxine Daniels and Becky Beacham helped her that year. Jeri Hight and Nicki Ballance were there the next two years. Peggy Davenport and Bet Etheridge taught the children for the next six years. Gayle Tillett has taught for the past twenty years with Bet Etheridge, Stella Hollingsworth, Jennie O'Neal, Audra Shackelford, Scarlet Clarke, Amy Garretson, and Cristie Daniels working with her.

The main goal of the preschool is to enhance the children socially and emotionally. They should be able to follow a structured schedule as well as grow and have fun. As the years have progressed, the children have been taught more academics. They have learned to grow spiritually as they sing and listen to Bible songs and stories. They have become well rounded children with a strong foundation for public school.

For me, this has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Just to hear from the parents that the children are doing well in public school and that they have a good foundation make you realize that you have touched their lives in a positive way. I just appreciate the opportunity to have been a part of this ministry. I praise God for giving me the gifts of teaching and nurturing.

BARBARA TILLETT

We were happy to move back to Wanchese in 1969 when Larry retired from the U.S. Coast Guard. I had lived here at different times after we married in 1952. I always felt a part of the community and blessed to be a member of the special church you see as you enter Wanchese. I soon got to know everyone. Now when I go to the Red and White or the post office, I know so few people.

I would collect church money for Larry's mom at times. I remember going to Mrs. Mattie Melson and her sister. Her home was always spotless and she would be sewing. She sewed for the Lost Colony. I also went to Dewey and Mattie Mann's. Then in 1969 I started collecting for the building fund. This was for the 1975 educational building. There were four of us: Alec Davis, Margie Gallop, Marie Tillett, and me. Mrs. Vara Daniels was treasurer. One day when I was collecting from an older lady, her husband saw me in the yard. He told his wife that the church beggar was coming. We thought it was funny. The best part of collecting is visiting with the people.

In 1973 **Mrs. Milah Meekins asked me to take her place, which was the Co-ordinator of the Primary Department. I told her I was not a leader and that I could not stand up in front of people and speak. Her answer was, "If you have something to say, you can say it."** So I guess through the years there have been times when I had something to say. At the time I was asked to do it for a short time, until another lady could take the position. The lady left the church to join another one. Each year since then I have been asked to continue. I am so grateful to God and the members of Bethany for giving me the opportunity to work with the children and youth of the church. I have truly been blessed. Two years ago I felt a need to give up some things to be with Larry since he was sick. Button Daniels became the leader and she asked me to work with her. We work very well together.

Mrs. Rena Tillett was the pianist for the children's choir and at Sunday school. When she gave up working with the children, I asked Gayle Tillett to help. Not only did we work together we also became good friends. When Denise Mann got older she joined us. Through the years we have put on plays, gone on trips, and did many things with the children. When I first started working with the children I would take them to Caroline Stetson's home. They would swim in the sound and have a picnic lunch. Then people started getting swimming pools. That was the end of swimming in the sound.

Mrs. Rena Tillett was also leader of Vacation Bible School. She asked me to work with her, which



DENISE MANN AND BARBARA TILLETT are always present on Sunday morning to lead the children's assembly. Singing the first Sunday in the new fellowship hall are Ashlen James, a friend, Emili James, Gussie Saunders, Maggie Dough, Jen James, Brady James, and Merichris Saunders.
(Minta Meekins photo.)



AN EASTER CHOIR included Tabitha Wright, Cody Dough, Mara Tillett, Laura Beth Parker, Aletia Meekins, Erin Tillett, Michael Brown, Brenda Payne (behind Michael), Jessica Meekins, Jenny Ballance, Bobby Ruhle, Betsy Ruhle, and Farrah Tillett.
(Gayle Tillett photo.)



AMONG THE CAST IN THIS CHRISTMAS PLAY are Madee Toler, Richie Austin, Cullen Malarney, Hayes Wilson, Gussie Saunders, Emili James, Kate Snapp, Samantha DeFosse holding Liam DeFosse, Loralee Grimes, Ginger Shackelford, Julia Tawes, Madison Cudworth, Nikki Snapp, and Zach Walker.
(Gayle Tillett photo.)

I did for a few years. When she quit as leader, I took her place for many years. I had training under Mrs. Milah, Mrs. Rena, and Mrs. Mary (Larry's mom). Then Connie Bateman became leader for two years. Denise Mann took her place and is continuing as leader. Some of the mothers from the Assembly of God Church sent their children to Bible School. I got to know them and we are friends today.

I have had a lot of help through the years. Lou Tillett helped me with some of the plays and other things. She is always willing to help when needed. Mr. Alec Davis gave me a generous donation and encouragement to step out in faith to get all new furniture for the Primary Department.

Today Peggy Daniels is choir director for the children. They sing once a month at the 11:00 worship service. The adults always enjoy them.

I have learned you do not have to be a good leader if you have great teachers, helpers, children, and youth who are willing to do whatever is needed. I think they are the best you can find anywhere. My heart overflows with the love and joy that they have brought to my life. Thanks to all.



BETHANY HOSTED A ST. JUDE'S BIKE-A-THON to raise money for the children's hospital. Riding anything with wheels are Annie Etheridge, Hayes Wilson, Darren Saunders, William Brown, Derrick Sellers, Emily Brown, Dalton Wilson, Austin Shackelford, Emili James, Raylee Mayo, Ginger Shackelford, Gussie Saunders, and Ashlen James.

(Denise Mann photo.)

PEGGY DANIELS

Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me..."

This should be our number one priority at Bethany UMC. Currently as choir director, I meet with the children every Sunday at 10:00 and on the third Sunday of the month. At that time we learn and practice music, which we present in the 11:00 service on the fourth Sunday of the month. We have also been teaching Bible verses to the children during these practices so that we not only sing the Word but we are memorizing Scripture as well. Our slogan has been, "The Word is Mine in 2009." Since we have had very poor attendance this summer, we have discontinued the memorization of

Scripture but will resume in the fall. What we are doing isn't enough! It isn't even scratching the surface as to what we need to do with our children. **We need a youth/children's pastor—one who is trained to work with the youth and children on their level.** We have plenty of "helpers" in our church; we need a strong, spiritual leader for these children. I would like to see a "children's church" taking place during the 11:00 service. The children would have their own pastor leading the service for them while the adult service is taking place. This would not only get the children involved in the worship service, but it would increase the attendance at the 11:00 service. Parents would attend the worship service because the children would have some place to go where they could understand, participate, and worship. A good youth/children's pastor could pull in the youth to assist in this type of service. We do not need to limit this only to Sunday. Churches grow when there is much involvement during the week. We should have activities for our youth/children going on all week. Only someone who is hired (paid) would be able to have the time



SINGING IN PERFECT HARMONY are Danny Daniels, Connie Bateman, and Peggy Daniels at the 2009 Daniels' Day Celebration.

(Robin Daniels photo.)



STEVE BASNIGHT, JR.
has worked with the
youth of Bethany for
over forty years.
(Steve Basnight collection.)

to co-ordinate all the weekly activities that would involve youth and children. I would like to see the Bethany United Methodist Preschool connected to the growth of the church. It should "feed" children and families into this church by encouraging participation in our church. This is not the impossible dream. It is critical that we begin planning, looking, and praying for this special leader whom God has for our children and our church.

STEVE BASNIGHT JR.

I first attended Bethany UMC sometime in the latter part of 1949. My quest was not so much to grow closer to our Lord, but to be able to see my girlfriend, who went to church every Sunday morning and night. She was not allowed to go out on Sunday night, except to attend church. My intentions were not at all spiritual, as they should have been, but bent more toward the social aspect of attending church. I attended the Baptist church in Manteo on Sunday morning and went to Bethany in Wanchese just about every Sunday evening.

Mr. Guthrie was the pastor during those days and I thought that he preached some very good sermons. Many times I felt his message was directed to me. Even though my intentions were not all good, I certainly benefitted by being there and hearing the weekly message.

I continued to attend Bethany on Sunday nights until I graduated from high school in 1953. The young lady I was seeing on those Sunday nights was Carolyn Gaskill, the middle daughter of James and Laura Gaskill. Carolyn and I continued to date while I was in college and later when I joined the U.S. Coast Guard. On December 1, 1957 Carolyn and I joined hands at the altar at Bethany and were married by Pastor Warren. The only thing I remember about Pastor Warren was that he was blind and used braille books to do the ceremony. He would type his sermons in braille and then he followed along with his finger on the paper as he gave the sermon. I was very fortunate to be stationed close to home and that made it possible to attend church on Sundays when I didn't have duty.

In 1961 I got out of the Coast Guard and returned to East Carolina College to finish my college education. I started teaching and coaching at Manteo High School in the fall of 1961. Carolyn and I continued to attend Bethany and in 1964 I officially joined Bethany and, of course, Carolyn had been a member just about all of her life.

Around 1965 Dorita Ballance and I became MYF Youth co-directors. We both continued in those positions for about twelve years. I feel that both of us got as much from serving as the young people did by participating. During this period of history, the young people did not have as much to do, so they enjoyed taking part in the activities. We had people from Manteo participating in some of our activities. Some of the things we did with the group was to have water skiing trips and cookouts on the sand island off Wanchese, have dances in my garage on Saturday nights, and attend district meetings with other churches from the district. I still have many adults come up to me and say that they still remember taking part in some of those activities.

In the late 60's I was asked to teach Sunday school at the seventh and eighth grade level. I continued to teach at that level until I was asked to take over Mrs. Mary Tillett's class which was made up of fifth and sixth graders by Mrs. Barbara Tillett, Superintendent of Sunday School. It is hard to say no to Mrs. Barbara who is a wonderful person in every way who is especially dedicated to serving the children of our church. I was a little apprehensive because I had always worked with the older youth. I remember praying about that decision knowing that the Lord will put us where we need to be. I listened to my heart and what a blessing it has been to have the privilege to bring God's story to these young people. Some of the people I taught are now teachers in our church.

I need to interject something in this for the benefit of someone who might be considering teaching Sunday school. You will be the greatest benefactor in this endeavor. By doing this you will have to read and study the Bible and you will be blessed so much when you see their eyes light up and get excited about learning the Bible. You will be forced to read the Bible over and over in order to teach the lesson. What a blessing it will be to you. I think I have been teaching at Bethany UMC very close to 50 years. I have been attending church at Bethany on a regular basis ever since 1957. One of the greatest things about attending Bethany is the people. They love you and make you feel welcome. Of all of my possessions, my church family is one of the greatest things I have in life.

DENISE MEEKINS MANN

I have a lot of fond memories at Bethany UMC. I have attended church there since I was born. The first minister I can remember was Rev. Luther Wesley. I remember Mrs. Rena Tillett taking me to Vacation Bible School. When I was twelve years old I joined the church. Also at twelve, my friend, Kim Doughty Grimes, and I joined the adult choir because at that time there was no choir for our age group. I have been great friends with all of the members of the choir over the years. I think about and miss all of the older people who have passed away or have stepped down from the choir. When we were growing up you had to wait until the seventh grade to join the MYF. My first leader back then was Mrs. Jean Tillett. **I remember that I just could not wait to be in youth group.**

When I was older I started working with the children's choir along with Mrs. Barbara Tillett and Mrs. Gayle Tillett. We worked with many children and did many plays. Now most of these children are married and some have children of their own. At one time the church had activities on Wednesday night and I had the privilege to work with Delores Harrell in the nursery. Later I started leading the children's group on Sunday nights. We learned things together and went on many trips to different places. We had lots of fun and laughs together. Some children from back then still stop me and we talk about things we did in the past. One of the high lights we do each year with the children's group is Christmas caroling. Weeks before we go caroling the children make a homemade gift for each person. We gather the children in the back of a trailer or truck and take them to homes of the sick and shut-ins and sing a couple of songs. **One year after we had been caroling I received a call from Mrs. Mary Fleming. She wanted to thank me for bringing the children by.** She had been feeling down that day and our visit really lifted her spirits. I use this conversation as an example of how important this ministry is each year as we start to prepare for caroling.

I also have great memories of helping with the Vacation Bible School program. I started helping other teachers and then I started teaching in the nursery and preschool classes. Later the position of director became available and I became the Vacation Bible School director. I am still the director and I enjoy the opportunity of working with the adults and youth who help every year. We all get to meet

so many new children each summer and teach them about the Bible. During VBS we have helped with numerous mission projects in our community and around the world.

I am still working with the children's group along with Mrs. Barbara and Mrs. Valarie Pate. We are teaching the children lots of things about the Bible and making memories with a new generation.

These are just a few of my memories and ministry areas that I have at Bethany UMC.



TAKEN ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE CHURCH these children are adorable in their Easter finery. The boy on the left is not Buster, but Morris Daniels. Next to him is Tana Ray Johnson, Betty Lou Stetson is in front and Sheila Tillett peeks out from behind her. Next are Myrtle Joyce Meekins, Ralph Wayne Johnson, and R.S. Meekins. On the back row the first two children on the left are unidentified. Charlie Boy Creef has on a cap and then stands Bet Gallop, Charles Macon Meekins, Brenda Joyce Daniels, Curtis Cudworth, an unidentified girl, and Elsie Davis. (circa 1952.)



RENA TILLETT LED THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR for many years. Front row: David Wagstaff, Button Daniels, Chris Wagstaff, Betsy Ballance, Mona Brothers, Yvonne Meekins, Delone Daniels, Lois Carol Midgett. Middle row: Marcia Daughtery, Santa Tillett, Patricia Rogers, Judy Gallop, Becky Ballance, Deanna Daniels, Millie Gallop, Eleanor Gallop. Back row: Karen Love, Linda Brothers Margaret Joy Walker, Mrs. Rena Tillett, Carol Alice Forbes, Myrtle Joyce Meekins, Rusty Stetson.

(Bethany United Methodist Church collection.)



NOT ALL OF THE CHOIR MEMBERS could be identified, but the tallest blonde girl in the back is Rena Pearl Sanderlin. In front between the candles are Allen Baum and Lexie Sanderlin. Behind Lexie is Jenny Payne. Behind Allen is Cathy Ballance and Lisa Baum is behind the first chair. The altar rail has been covered with material and a garland.



LITTLE WANCHESE GIRLS IN SUNDAY DRESSES are Candy Tillett, Laurie Tillett, Robin Tillet, and Marcy Rogers. (Marcy Mann collection.)



BETHANY'S PRESCHOOL CLASS 1995-1996 posed on the front steps of the sanctuary. Front row: Lauren Jones, Sarah Elliot, Matthew Holliday, Taylor Carawan, Loralee Grimes. Middle row: Matthew Davis, Michael Norman, John Bundy, Meredith Dunnigan, Levi Curles, Dylan Swain. Back row: Carson Dunn, Ashley Madry, Zach Walker, Sydney Daniels



WITH DARK HAIR AND EYES Marcy Mann starts to sing. Jerald Baum is behind her and Stevie Basnight is behind him. Kyle Gaskill is on the far right with clasped hands and Charlene Rogers stands in front of him. Robin Tillett is on the left with dark bangs and Kenny Whittington stands in front and to the right of her. (Marcy Mann collection.)



MEADE SHACKELFORD is baptized on a warm summer day. His father, Britton, and grandmother, Edith Meads, hold the baptismal water for Pastor Bill Cottingham. *(Jana Cottingham photo.)*



CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR Gayle Tillett leads the children in singing for the worship service. In front are Ginger Shackelford and Gussie Saunders. Front row: Madison Cudworth, Anna Basnight, Emily Brown, Austin Shackelford, Leo Woodard, Colby Sawyer. Middle row: Evan Davis, Lillie Callaway, Lorelee Grimes, Dennis Schillings, Billon Hollingsworth, Danny Quidley. Back row: Samantha DeFosse, Katherine Sellers, Kayleigh Tillett, Sarah Davis, Karen Grimes. *(Gayle Tillett collection.)*



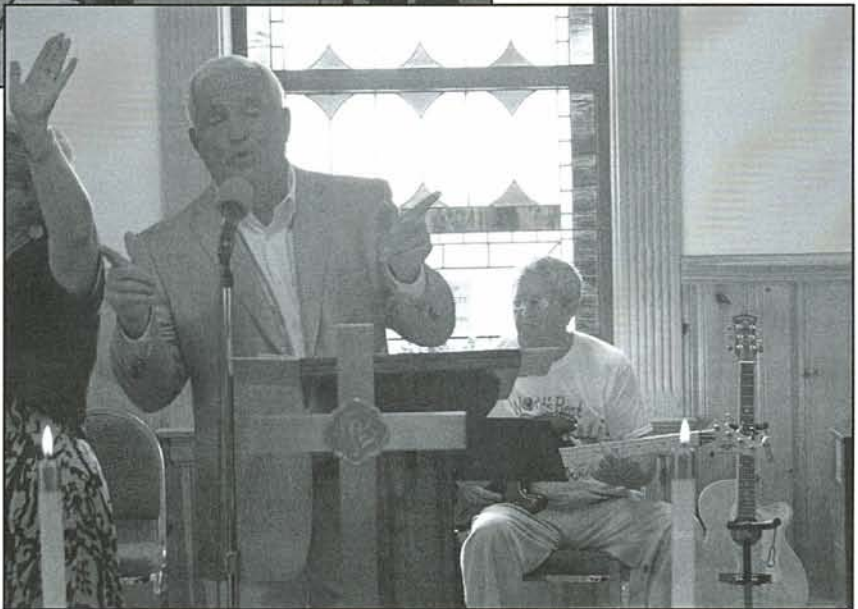
THE SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP was strong under the leadership of Pastor Bill Holliday. Here they put on a courtroom drama for the congregation. This photo is especially precious because it includes Craig Parker Jr. and Danny Daniels who both later died at an early age. Their deaths greatly affected their peers and brought a tighter bond among the youth. First row: Samantha Jones, Craig Parker Jr., Beach Gray, Omie Mann, Justin Bateman, Bart Garrison, Gabrielle Clift, Lindel Jones (as the judge) Second row: Kelly Anderson, Dionne English, Danny Daniels, Patrick Waters, Rebecca Basnight. Third row: Ryan Heroux, Rheana Gray, Kara Jones, Carolia Hollis, Candice Hollis. Back and center: Stephen Bateman. *(Connie Bateman collection.)*

SHANE BAUM plays the drums as Amy Garretson, Connie Bateman and Janice Midgett sing praises at the 8:30 worship service.
(Bud Watts photo.)



THE EARLY MORNING SUN streams in as Danny Daniels leads the congregation in worship. Tom Baum and Chuck Hollingsworth play guitar and Marc Creef brings a unique dimension to the band with the harmonica.
(Bud Watts photo.)

BEN MIDGETT holds down the bass. Vital, but unseen, is Peggy Daniels on the keyboard.
(Bud Watts photo.)



Music

Music has always been an important part of our church. During the early days of Methodism, music consisted mostly of singing hymns—a combination of gospel and camp meeting hymns.

“The Methodist Episcopal Church, South published its first hymnal in 1847, and it was supplemented by a collection in 1851 called SONGS OF ZION.

In 1935, the three major Methodist groups prepared a new publication called THE METHODIST HYMNAL. For the first time, a genuine effort was made to prepare a collection of hymns that were suitable for congregations both small and large, both rural and urban. There was also a shaped-note edition provided primarily for the rural churches in the south.

The first United Methodist Hymnal was published in 1990 and includes not only traditional hymns, but also hymns from the gospel, Hispanic, American, and Black traditions.”

There have been many people involved in the music leadership of our church. The majority of them were and are volunteers. Written records of the people who served are scarce. However, some interesting data has been collected.

THOMAS BAUM

I remember the first song that I ever sang before someone was “Away in a Manger” in a Christmas play at church with Mrs. Milah Meekins as the director.

I remember singing in Sunday school as Mr. Chauncey Meekins led morning worship at Sunday school.

I grew up singing in church and at an early age joined the choir with my mother when Mrs. Rena Tillett played the organ and Mrs. Pearl Scharff played the piano. I have been singing in the choir from an early age up to the present time.

Sometime in the early eighties, I was part of a music group call the Kindred Spirits. I sang and played guitar, Janice Midgett played piano, Ken Mann played bass, and Shane Baum played drums. Other members of the group were Gayle Tillett (the choir director), Linda Mann, Kim Grimes, and Carolee Tillett.

About 1986 I was a member of a newly formed gospel group called The Undivided. It consisted of Shane Baum as drummer, Ben Midgett as bass player, Walter Baum as lead guitar, Ken Mann as lead and rhythm guitar, and Wayne Robinson, Thomas Baum, Walter Baum, and Will Fields as lead singers. Back up singers were Janice Midgett, Sandy Robinson, Betsy Robinson, Valerie Bliven, Amy Garretson, and Scarlet Clarke. This group played in our church as well as churches and at other functions throughout the state. We traveled as far away as West Virginia. We are still playing and singing today.

In 2006 I became part of a group that leads early morning worship in church. It consists of Peggy Daniels, Danny Daniels, Shane Baum, Kim Grimes, Connie Bateman, Amy Garretson, Janice Midgett, Ben Midgett, Chuck Hollingsworth, and Mark Creef. Liz Ann Creef and Mitchell Bateman handle the visual and sound elements.

CHOIR HISTORY

by Gayle Tillett

Thirty-five years ago Mrs. Barbara Tillett came to talk to me and asked if I would like to help with the children’s Sunday school department, and that began my tenure of service to Bethany. She wanted me to play piano for the children during their opening time of worship. I had just gotten married and was new to the community, but not to Dare County. I had come to Dare to work as



DANNY DANIELS, Connie Bateman, Peggy Daniels, Roy Riddick, and Ken Mann worship with those who attended the Daniels’ Day 2009 reunion.

(Robin Daniels photo.)



THOMAS "TOMBOY" BAUM has served the Lord and Bethany faithfully.
(Bud Watts photo.)

the music teacher for the public schools. It was 1973 when I agreed to come out and help. Mrs. Barbara was the co-ordinator of the primary department. The children met in the fellowship hall, sang their Bible songs, and dismissed with The Lord's Prayer. As time passed, I began working with the children's choir. We would meet on Tuesday afternoons with the children getting off the school bus and Mrs. Barbara and I taking them home after a good thirty to forty minute practice. Some of the first children that came to choir practice were Donna and Debbie Owens, Tina Daniels, Amber Davis, Milah and Cookie Daniels, Denise Meekins, and Erin O'Neal. Later we moved choir practice to Sunday afternoons. The children's choir would present Christmas and Easter programs. Extra practices were scheduled during the week. We would often practice in a Sunday school room as the children learned the songs and the speaking parts. The children never complained about practice or the time they spent learning the songs and parts. The children

were good friends and that friendship made for a close choir. Some of the Easter programs that were presented were "Along the Road with Jesus" and "Vinegar Boy." Our Christmas programs included "Baa Baa Bethlehem" which the children presented twice, once when they were in elementary school and once when they were in high school. Other musicals included "Christmas from Scratch," "Gofers' Christmas," and "Santa Bowed at Christmas" in which Mr. Jimmie Williams portrayed Santa.

If the choir did not present an Easter play, we would sometimes do a play in the spring or fall. Some of these musicals included "Who Built the Ark?" and "Good King Josiah." We would present musicals at the community building and other churches. Over the years, the choir would go through times when the group wasn't as large as other times. Two particular choirs stand out. We had a large group both years and they truly loved to sing and perform. One group included Cody Dough, Betsy Ruhle, Farrah Tillett, Mara Tillett, Aletia and Jessica Meekins, Jenny Ballance, and Laura Parker. **Another group included Kara and Samantha Jones, Erin Tillett, Dionne English, and Rheana Gray. Our children learned to give of their talents to the church and to their Lord.** The children's choir did have the opportunity to go to Pennsylvania two years in a row to see "Noah's Ark" and "Behold the Lamb" at the Sight and Sound Theatre. The children's choir would also go to the rest home to sing and minister.

In 1978, under Pastor Jerry Jackson, I was asked to become the choir director of Bethany. I directed a Christmas musical entitled "I Believe." Mr. Jackson asked members of the church to come and be a part of the group. The adult choir grew by leaps and bounds as the additional people joined the adult choir. Mrs. Rena Tillett and Mrs. Pearl Scharff accompanied the group on the organ and piano. I became choir director thirty years ago. It has been quite a journey. I have seen many changes in musical presentation, including the use of tapes and cd's instead of the piano and organ accompaniment. Mrs. Rena and Mrs. Pearl played as long as their health would allow. Mrs. Rena was honored for her years of service under Pastor Richard Lewis. Mrs. Myrtle Tillett, or Ma Myrt as she was lovingly called, played the piano for many years. Some of the choir members I remember when I first began were Mildred Davis, Idail Daniels, Sybil Sawyer, Chauncey Meekins, and Fannie Payne. Carletta Ballance and Mike Harrell joined the choir as we presented the "I Believe" musical.



BETHANY HAS A GOOD REPUTATION for providing wonderful music for the Daniels' Day reunions year after year.
(Robin Daniels photo.)

The choir raised their money to purchase music and whatever else they needed. Each summer we would have a hotdog, dessert, and homemade ice cream sale at what used to be Maria's Handicrafts in Wanchese. We sold ice cream at Dare Days and at the Seafood Festival in Wanchese for many years. With the money we raised, we purchased choir robes. There were chairs in the choir loft when I became choir director. We purchased the cushioned pews as well as the sound system with the money we earned. We later purchased the risers that are still being used today.

Over the many years that I directed the choir there have been many friendships formed. We became a very close group laughing, singing, socializing, and ministering together. The adult choir was a very dedicated group of people giving of their time and talents whenever the Lord called on them. We sang for many funerals. The choir presented many Easter and Christmas musicals, always enhancing the worship service when asked by the pastor serving the church at that time. As the years passed, the adult choir would present mini-musicals, instead of a cantata.

I can say I truly loved the time I spent working with the adult choir.

PEGGY DANIELS

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to SING praises unto thy name, O most High...Psalms 92:1

That is my goal as I direct the adult choir at Bethany UMC. Since taking the job in November 2008, I have seen not only physical growth but also spiritual growth as people meet together weekly to "prepare" themselves to minister and to receive God's blessings. The growth of the choir has been phenomenal—from six to eight members to thirty-seven singing in the Christmas cantata. We have an average of twenty people who are committed to singing in the Sunday 11:00 worship service. Our choir is a ministry in two ways: we are vessels used by the Holy Spirit to sing in weekly services and we present special programs such as the Christmas and Easter cantatas. Also, the choir practices are "worship services" so that members of the choir can re-fuel and seek God's presence for themselves. It is a time that we come together to encourage each other and to minister to one another as needed.

I would like to see the choir members come to the place that they see each opportunity to sing as an opportunity to minister. It isn't the ability to be able to sing beautifully, but it is the availability to allow God to use us. The choir is growing weekly. We are reaching out to people who are often "overlooked" in church for whatever reason. We see the choir as a "refuge" for those who need a special place to minister and to be ministered to. People are sitting in the pews who do NOTHING but attend church. We want to get them involved and connected to our church. The choir is doing that and will continue to "seek" for those who don't realize they have a special gift. WE plan to continue special musical events, which we hope will open the door for people to attend Bethany. I want more people in the choir. The choir has grown; the choir is growing; and the choir will continue to grow—only for the GLORY OF GOD.

AMELIA AUSTIN

I remember some of the older members of the choir. They were Mildred Davis, Idail Daniels, Pate Daniels, Laura Gaskill, Casper Meekins, Chauncey Meekins, Joe Davenport, Walter Gaskill, Evelyn Davis, Myrtle Tillett, Sally Daniels, and Ray Davis.

Rena Tillett and Pearl Scharff worked many years with no pay. When I was a child, Mrs. Pearl played a pump organ. The organ that we have now was give by Peleg Dameron (P.D.) Midgett, Jr. in honor of his parents Peleg Dameron Sr. and Martha Jane (Mattie) Midgett. Other siblings were Mildred Davis, Pate Daniels, Idail Daniels, and twins Parker and John who were named for former pastors.

CHIMES

Our organ in the sanctuary had the capability to play chimes. They were so wired that the sound traveled up to the belfry in the steeple and the music was broadcast throughout Wanchese. Mrs. Rena Tillett would play songs with the chimes on Sunday morning and children within a mile of the church knew that it was time to start walking to church for Sunday school. Ann Mihovch and Kathy Ruhle remember hearing them at their home on Jover's Lane and hurrying to get out the door. The Grays remember hearing them at the end of Old Wharf Road. After years of silence, the chime box was fixed in 2009 and the tradition of playing and broadcasting chimes in Wanchese will resume.



AMELIA S. AUSTIN.
(Amelia Austin collection.)



PEARL SCHARFF lived to be 105 years old. She is pictured at Phillip Quidley's home at one of her "over 100" birthdays.
(Minta Meekins collection.)



Pearl Scharff and Rena Tillett, lived together the last part of their lives as sisters and widows. Another bond that they shared was music. They played together at Bethany for many years—Rena on the organ and Pearl on the piano. The living room of their home told the story. Pearl's baby grand piano and Rena's electric organ dominated the room with less than half of the room left for a sitting area.

Mrs. Pearl was the winner of the North Carolina Florence Cooper cup for music for writing music and lyrics. Her well-known "Virginia Dare March" was played by the U.S. Marine Band and was said to have been used for a full-score symphony number. Mrs. Pearl also played the accordion.

(Minta Meekins collection.)



THE BIG WHITE CHURCH in the fork of the road has welcomed visitors to Wanchese for over one hundred years.
(Bud Watts photo.)

The Pastors

Since Rev. Lennon arrived in 1883 as our first recorded pastor, Bethany United Methodist Church has been ministered to by thirty-five pastors, nine of whom are living. Each has made his own legacy of help and assistance. Some served as pastor less than a year. Others served for several years. Rev. Guthrie served longer than any of the others to date. He served for eight years.

These men came from many different backgrounds. They had different strengths and abilities. Some were better speakers in the pulpit. Others were better at pastoring their members. However, all of them were devoted to helping others, and all of them left their mark in the development of Bethany United Methodist Church.

Many of our pastors found a home at Bethany. Rev. Guthrie and Rev. Tom Clarke retired here. Two of Rev. Clarke's grown children married and stayed on in Wanchese. Rev. Cottingham said he found a place here "to heal." Rev. Jerome Smith said he had found a "sanctuary" here. Many of them have become intertwined with our families in social celebrations, in performing baptisms, funerals, weddings, and working with our youth. All of them were there to support us in times of need. They have shared our griefs and our joys.

To conclude, we have been sent many excellent pastors, men of God, dedicated men who became enmeshed not only with our congregation but with our community.

REVEREND DR. JERRY ADDISON JACKSON 1978-1982

Rev. Jerry Jackson grew up in Lumberton, NC. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion and a minor in Philosophy and English literature from Methodist College (now Methodist University) in Fayetteville, NC in 1975.

He is married to Annette Rogers Jackson of Manteo, NC who is a preschool teacher. They were married at Bethany UMC in Wanchese during his time as pastor

here. They have two daughters: Doris who is the Director of Student Activities at Methodist University and Jerianne who plans to teach in the public school system when she graduates from Methodist University.

Rev. Jackson is very active in Disaster Response and Recovery and has led many mission work teams. He enjoys writing and teaching Biblical studies in addition to his obligations to the church he serves. Evangelism and winning people to Christ is a main priority for Jerry and he is on the NC Conference Evangelism Commission. His hobbies include cooking pigs, making cakes, refinishing furniture, and remodeling homes.

REVEREND WILLIAM T. CLARKE 1982-1987

Rev. Tom Clarke was born in Lawrence County, Tennessee. He graduated from Lambuth University in Jackson, TN and then went on to receive a Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School in 1967.

He married Alexanne Bourdas of Kinston, NC in 1961 and they have three children: Lisa Clarke Hunter of Wanchese, Thomas Brantley Clarke of Wanchese, and Dr. Holt Alexander Clarke of Charleston, NC. He is the grandfather of eight grandchildren and counting.

Rev. Clarke retired in 2002, but has continued to work as pastor to a church. He has also officiated at several hundred weddings on the Outer Banks.

"Bethany was a special church and had a great missionary spirit. They sponsored my son,





Holt, as a youth missionary to the Fiji Islands for a year in 1986.

“Bishop Robert M. Blackburn and Bishop Marion Edwards were my favorite bishops in my fifty years of service.

“Alexis de Toqueville of France stated in 1835 that, ‘The Judeo-Christian faith is the key to the greatness of America.’”

REVEREND RICHARD F. LEWIS 1987-1992

Rev. Dick Lewis attended NC Wesleyan College and graduated in 1974 with a BA degree. He completed the course of study at Duke University Divinity School and attended Southeastern Baptist Seminary at Wake Forest, NC. He has served as a United Methodist minister since 1967.

Rev. Lewis has been married to Jo Ann Dail Lewis for over fifty years. They have three children: Richard Farmer Lewis of Manteo, Ralph Michael Lewis of Calypso, NC, and Amy Jo Lewis Evans of Calypso, NC. He has five grandchildren.

REVEREND J. SIDNEY EPPERSON 1992-1994

Brother Sid was born in New Bern, NC. His undergraduate degrees were from Louisburg College and Wofford College. He attended graduate school at Tulane University and Duke University Divinity School.

He and Francis Neill Quinn of Gastonia were married in 1960. She has been a school teacher and had taught in many different settings. They have two daughters: Cheryl Jablonski who works within the Texas Department of Health as an Epidemiologist and Neill Berkowitz who is a research psychiatrist at the University of Pennsylvania. Brother Sid has three grandchildren.

“We are happy to express our good wishes to the good folk at Bethany UMC. We have many wonderful memories that Francis and I share together. **My favorite times were spent in beginning and working with the young adult Sunday school class.** They were all such precious people. We also enjoyed Caroline’s

teaching and having fellowship with her.”

Francis remembers many of the senior citizens—Ma Myrt, Ray Davis (and taking a nap at her house after substituting at school), Marie Herr, Trece and Cloyce Daniels, Aileen and Louis Cudworth, Alma Cudworth, and Catherine Tillett. She recalls how Brother Sid worked in the parsonage garage late at night with wood and how it caused a lot of people to wonder what in the world the preacher was doing. It was in the garage that Jay Cudworth accepted Jesus as his Savior and the Eppersons considered him to be an adopted son.

Francis remembers, “I loved the parsonage because it had plenty of room, and it seems that we had more company there than at any other place that we lived. The screened in porch was always a favorite of our guests (and us too). The house seemed to them like their own home place. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to refurbish the porch and sand all the old paint off the floor and put new screen all the way around it. We have loved everybody at Bethany. Bethany is a sweet church with a rich history and a great legacy. We pray for God’s richest blessing to rest upon you all.”

REVEREND WILLIAM E. HOLLIDAY 1994-2000

Pastor Bill Holliday was born in Jamesville, NC but was reared in Orlando, Florida. He graduated from the University of Florida and Duke University.

He married Elizabeth Adams McMurray in 1983. They have two sons: Zachary Sean McMurray Holliday who is a rising senior at The Citadel and Matthew Denver Hershey Holliday who is a freshman at The Citadel.

“I can truly say that I enjoyed serving the good people of Bethany. I have fond memories of the youth and children, families and elder members of the church. **Trips with the youth, Christmas Eve services, are special memories.** Both of our sons have fond memories of the church. I pray that most people remember that I tried to give my best ef-



fort to the church. I have no regrets about my six years at Bethany. I felt welcomed by the people and loved by most."

REVEREND TOM SUPPLEE 2000-2004

The Apostle Paul wrote, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you..." Philippians 1:3.

"In April of 2000, my District Superintendent called me to let me know where my new appointment would be in June. He said, 'You're going to Wanchese!' My immediate response was, 'WOW! That's a great church!'

"I was familiar with Bethany church through the ministry of Rev. Dick Lewis. I also attended several Elizabeth City District Christmas parties while I was serving other churches in the district. I remember the seafood cuisine and the gracious hospitality of the church family.

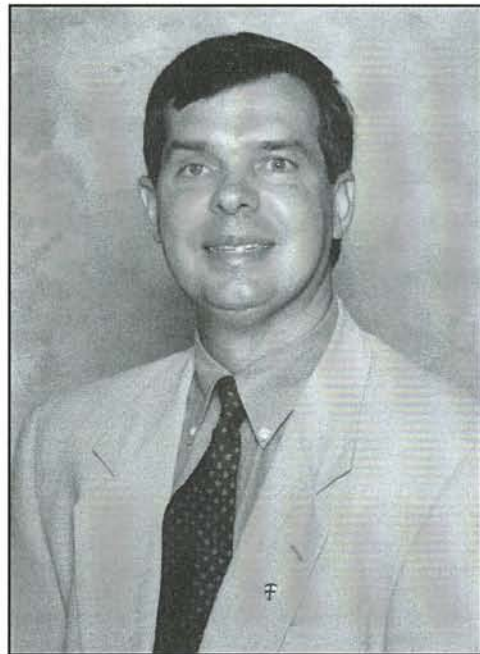
"Bethany Church is one of the finest appointments in all of the North Carolina Annual Conference. I would describe the church this way: loving, caring, serving, Christ-centered, and people of the Word of God!

"Bethany Church has been a lighthouse for the Gospel on the south end of Roanoke Island for a long time. It's the 'mother' church of several other churches in the area. Bethany has a genuine hopeful future because the people of Bethany have remained true and faithful to the person of Christ and the mission of His church in the community.

"The church is a community of faith in Jesus Christ. Yet, a new minister or casual visitor will be struck by the beauty and the simplicity of the building itself. The stained glass windows tell many Biblical stories and are glorious in their appeal and splendor. The craftsmanship of the building made with hand tools before electricity was in Wanchese was a work of grace. The building, like the people, has stood the test of hurricanes and nor'easters and the land God placed the church on is the highest point in the village. God always knows what He is doing!

"I am thankful to you for the opportunity God gave me among you. The friendships made, the victories won, the tears of death and disappointment, the work of God continues for the next generation until Jesus comes again. When the roll is called up yonder, and I give an account for my service in Christ at Bethany, I trust that I will have been found faithful to Him and to you.

"Thank you for the memories. Thank you for your partnership and friendship in the work of the Lord. Thank you for loving me and Myra. Many I knew are now with Jesus. Many of you remain and even more have joined your ranks since I left in 2004. What a joy it is...to hear good reports coming from you!"



REVEREND DR. HOLT ALEXANDER CLARKE 2004-2005

Pastor Holt graduated from NC Wesleyan College with a bachelor of arts. He received his Masters of Divinity from Duke University and his Doctorate degree from Drew School of Theology in Madison, NJ.

He married Jackie L. Clarke in Frisco, NC in 2001 and they have three children: son Jordan Elwood Clarke, daughter Alexis Dare Clarke, and daughter Kiera Loren Clarke. A fourth child, Luke Alexander Clarke, will be born in late 2009.

He is serving as a wedding minister and marriage coach in Charleston, SC. He is starting a non-denominational church called The Rising Church.

"Some of my fondest memories growing up was living in Wanchese when my father, Rev. Tom Clarke served Bethany UMC as pastor during the early 80's. It was through the generous financial and prayerful support of Bethany that I was able to tour the Holy Land in 1986 and attend Youth With a Mission's six month Discipleship Training School in Hawaii and Fiji. It was divine providence that brought me back to Bethany as pastor in 2004-2005. I give thanks for the time I was able to serve Bethany as pastor



and spiritual coach. May God continue to bless you all!"

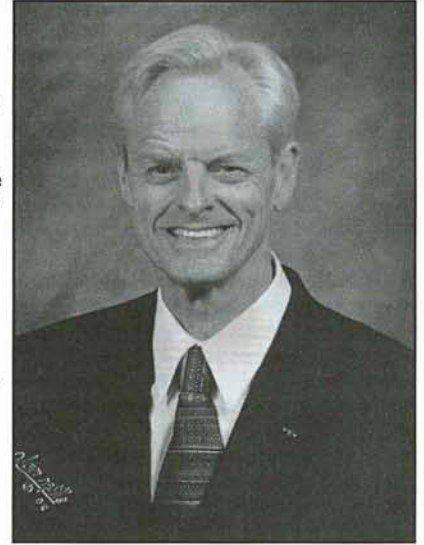
REVEREND WILLIAM T. COTTINGHAM 2005-2009

Born in Douglas, Georgia, Pastor Bill is the oldest of six children. His parents were educators. He graduated from UNC Wilmington and Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Pastor Bill is a certified member of the United Methodist Church Business Administrators.

He has served over fifty years with the Boy Scouts of America and was awarded the Silver Beaver Recognition in 1986. His hobbies and interests include auto mechanics, running, Pilates, listening to satellite radio, electronics, and mission trips.

Pastor Bill believes that the first Reformation of the sixteenth century "turned scripture over to the laity." The current reformation is turning "ministry over to the laity."

He is married to Jana Nichols of Wallace, NC and they have two children, Sara and Paul.



REVEREND DR. GEORGE JEROME SMITH 2009--

Pastor Jerome received his B.A. degree from Methodist College in Fayetteville, NC. He earned his Masters of Divinity degree from Southeastern Theological Seminary in Wake Forest and his Doctorate from Drew School of Theology in Madison, NJ. He comes from a long line of pastors and his father and brother are in ministry.

He is married to Leona Smith and they have three children: Leanna, Hannah, and Andrew. He was Director of Communications for the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC and worked at Lake Junaluska. He enjoys technology and media and designed and founded many websites including our North Carolina Conference web site and the Igniting Ministry public website. After spending years in an administrative position, he was called back to his first love—being a pastor and doing ministry on the local church level. He writes columns, devotionals, poems, and praise songs.

"Bethany United Methodist Church celebrates a rich history and tradition on Roanoke Island. The Methodist Connection has provided a common thread throughout it's history. From the earliest day circuit riders coming to the island to the current time, Bethany UMC has been a Church in motion.

"This has provided a mission-minded people, who consider themselves workers in the Lord's vineyard. One of the current projects is the establishment of an orphanage in Haiti. Under the leadership of Craig Parker. Working with Helen Little, the Bethany Mission Team will travel in 2010 to make this mission possible. Bethany UMC also has a First Responders Team, which provides emergency services during times of storm and disaster. With the Fellowship Building providing much needed facilities, the community of Wanchese is truly blessed to have such a place during times of need.

"The year 2010 will provide an opportunity for Bethany UMC to celebrate 'Who We Are.'

This ministry focus will provide the foundation for the Church in years to come. Bethany UMC shares a rich history of dynamic worship and times of fellowship. Currently, the three worship services provide contemporary, traditional and basic styles of worship. The services are exciting and the fellowship is a blessing to members and friends alike. It is clear from the various events focused on children that Bethany UMC has a rich tradition in age-level ministries. One of the true gifts of Bethany UMC is the celebration of music. The music ministry covers a wide range of styles, including praise, choir, youth, children and more. The Wanchese community has a rich history of musical talent.

"It is an honor to be the pastor of Bethany UMC. I have found the people called Methodist in the community to be a faithful fellowship. In years to come, this wonderful history will provide much needed reference information as the story of Bethany unfolds. We invite you to come and visit the Church in the 'fork in the road.' Come and see the stained glass of Jesus walking on the Water. Come and enjoy the exciting worship services. Come and be a part of the fellowship as the story of Christian Faith continues to be a spiritual anchor to the community.

"You can visit the website at www.bethanyunited.com and watch videos, listen to sermon podcasts, read about current events and learn more about the mission and ministry of Bethany UMC."



CHAPTER 9

Born of Bethany

A remarkably high number of missionaries, pastors, and church workers have come out of the small village of Wanchese. Bethany has given her share of laborers for Christ to the world. Here is an accounting of just a few of them.

KENNETH LEROY DAVENPORT

Ken was called into the ministry mid-life while he was living in Wanchese. He was able to earn a BS degree from Elizabeth City State University in computer science and information, and went on to receive a MDIV from Duke University. He is married to Rose Tillett Davenport and has two sons, Kenneth Leroy (Lee) and Herbert Conrade. He has served Methodist appointments in Stumpy Point, Jamesville/Siloam Charge, Hyde County Cooperative Parish, Page Memorial, and Trinity Parish in Zebulon.

“As I look back on this life God has blessed me with I see His hand preparing me for the call I now enjoy. I recall an English teacher from my high school days who I thought at the time was making my life hard. In reality he was preparing me for such a time as this. So I say thanks to the teacher who touched my life at an early age and for the disciplines he tried to instill in me that have now become important tools I use as a minister.”



Kenneth Leroy Davenport



Billy Ballance

BILLY BALLANCE

There comes a time in one's life that looking back brings you in touch with your heritage. A heritage, made up of many loving faces, arms of gentleness and acceptance, and hands of firm discipline, correction, and direction. A heritage of community and servant hood, love for all mankind, touching the needs of others, and embracing the truth of life that stands when all else fails. It is that type of great heritage I was fashioned and molded by at Bethany.

With the privilege of growing up in a home that made God and church central came the importance of having a church that modeled the person of Jesus. Sunday school teachers, VBS workers, MYF leaders, Choir directors, Children's department leadership, Christmas and Easter Production directors, and many more held not only the privilege but the responsibility of molding lives for the future. I have to say my life was blessed as I received out of the sacrifice of love and giving from many of them in the Bethany community.

On a Sunday morning, when I was 8 years old, sitting



Cathy Ballance Daniels

next to my grandmother I began to weep as God made me aware, in the simple way he would for a child, of my Pastoral calling. I have had the privilege of fulfilling that calling through, Youth Ministry, Counseling, Drama, Worship, Missions Outreaches, Teaching and Preaching, over the last 33 years. Not many weeks go by that I do not prayerfully thank God for all the people in my life that faithfully labored that I might be the servant of God I am today.

My heritage is what the Wesley brothers believed in and knew would happen if we held to the truth, taught the truth, and lived the truth not only in our churches but in our homes and in the market place. I have to say thank you to the people of Bethany for such a heritage and the opportunity to develop the gifts and talents that God gave to me. You have shared in my training and development, and so you share in my rewards.

SUSANNA WILLIAMS FITCH-SLATER

Reverend Doctor Susanna (Susie) Fitch-Slater, daughter of Beryl and Jimmie Williams, is currently serving as Associate Pastor of Edenton UMC, Edenton, NC.

After graduating from Manteo High School, she attended North Carolina Wesleyan, her BA degrees in Religion and in Theatre in 1979. Susie then went to seminary at Duke University and received a Master of Divinity in 1981.

After serving several appointments in NC, Susie moved to Connecticut and married Rev. Michael Fitch. She affiliated with the United Church of Christ and served as pastor for 18 years in West Suffield, CT and East Hartland, CT. She gave birth to two sons, Michael Jr. and Timothy. After her husband became ill and passed away, Susie married Thomas Slater and continued to serve at First Church in East Hartland.

Susie returned to NC with her family and rejoined the NC Conference of the UMC, and served churches in Rodanthe, Salvo, and Avon. She was awarded Doctor of Divinity in 2000 while she was serving as pastor at St. John's UMC in Avon.

Susie serves as District Youth Coordinator for the Elizabeth City District of the UMC, as well as serving on the district ministry team. At the conference level, she is on the conference committee for youth ministry and the committee for children's ministry.

CATHY BALLANCE DANIELS

Bethany United Methodist Church was a teething block for me. I attended from the first week of my life until I was a teenager. In my early years of Sunday school and MYF involvement, I was taught to love and respect God, to follow His words, and to know His grace. I understand now that it is because of His grace that I've been allowed to spend the past twenty-two years as a foreign missionary with my husband: 1987-1997 as missionaries in Israel and 1997-2009 as missionaries in India.

As I have experienced God's grace in my life, it has helped me to live honestly, faithfully, and in a trustworthy way among those around me. Godly living displays itself much more than words. Bethany has been a vital part of my journey in life. To this I am grateful for my heritage. To God be the glory!

RANDI HARRELL SKAGGS

Randi Harrell Skaggs grew up attending Bethany United Methodist Church. One of her earliest memories are of standing on a chair in front of the choir loft so she could be seen singing a solo. Her childhood was spent living from children's musical to children's musical directed by Mrs. Gayle and Mrs. Barbara. She went on to join the adult choir and eventually went on to college at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri where she studied music education. It was at college where she met her husband, Jerry Skaggs. They were married and went into music ministry with the Assemblies of God. They are currently celebrating fifteen years of music ministry together. Randi is also in her thirteenth year of teaching elementary music. She currently serves as the lead music teacher for Cabarrus County Schools.

When reflecting on her years at Bethany she said, "I feel like the most blessed person in the world to have grown up surrounded by people who encouraged and loved me. I always knew growing up that I had a large community of people who were watching me and cheering me on. When I get the chance to come home and visit now, I feel the same way. The love and encouragement from the church have always been a huge blessing in my life and have given me the responsibility of passing on that love to others in my own life and ministry. I will always have a soft spot in my heart for Bethany!"



Randi Harrell Skaggs

APPENDIX A

A list of known pastors and the years that they served

<p>Joseph G. Lennon 1883 to 1887</p> <p>Robert H. Mullen..... 1887 to 1890</p> <p>I. A. White..... 1890 to 1891</p> <p>J. A. Sawyer..... 1891 to 1893</p> <p>George D. Langston..... 1893 to 1897</p> <p>John J. Barker 1897 to 1990</p> <p>Samuel T. Moyle 1900 to 1902</p> <p>Asa J. Parker 1902 to 1905</p> <p>E. R. Welch 1905 to 1906</p> <p>W. H. Brown..... 1906 to 1909</p> <p>A. W. Price 1909 to 1912</p> <p>J. T. Deafner..... 1912 to 1914</p> <p>M. W. Hester 1914 to 1916</p> <p>J. C. Humble..... 1916 to 1918</p> <p>E. L. Stack 1918 to 1919</p> <p>L. M. Chaffie 1919 to 1921</p> <p>J. B. Hurley 1921 to 1923</p> <p>A. W. Price 1923 to 1924</p> <p>W. R. Hardesty 1924 to 1928</p> <p>T. E. Davis 1928 to 1930</p>	<p>John P. Brass..... 1930 to 1934</p> <p>W. N. Vaughan 1934 to 1937</p> <p>J. W. Sneed..... 1937 to 1944</p> <p>V. A. Lewis 1944 to 1948</p> <p>C. W. Guthrie 1948 to 1956</p> <p>C. L. Warren..... 1956 to 1959</p> <p>J. M. Carroll..... 1959 to 1961</p> <p>R. S. Pullman..... 1961 to 1966</p> <p>J. B. Eskridge 1966 to 1968</p> <p>Heggey (not in the journal).... 1968 (three months)</p> <p>Luther V. Wesley 1968 to 1973</p> <p>Roy O. Burgess 1973 to 1978</p> <p>Jerry Jackson..... 1978 to 1983</p> <p>Thomas Clarke 1983 to 1988</p> <p>Richard F. Lewis, Sr...... 1988 to 1993</p> <p>William E. Holliday 1994 to 2000</p> <p>Tom Supplee..... 2001 to 2004</p> <p>Holt Clarke 2004 to 2005</p> <p>William Cottingham..... 2005 to 2009</p> <p>G. Jerome Smith..... 2009</p>
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APPENDIX B

Some of the early members and organizers of BUMC are as follows:

Isaac Davis	Moses D. Lane	Isaac K. Hooker	Ella Hooker
Summers C. Baum	Sallie Lane	Tautan Fulcher	Cornell Hooker
C. Bailey Daniels	Evalena Lane Tillett	Leon R. Tillett	Bettie E. Baum
George C. Daniel	Alice T. Anciel	Shaylor Meekins	Salinda Daniels
Annie Austin	Cassander E. Smith	Daniel E. Davis	Odessa V. Tillett Wescott
Sallie Baum	Elizabeth Meekins	Sarah J. Burgess	Chas. C. Tillett
Caroline V. Etheridge	Sarah F. Midgett	Eliza A. Forbes	Avery Daniels
Thomas Baum	Eliza Meekins	Elizabeth Hayman	Wm. L. Baum
Mary M. Burgess	William L. Meekins	Viola F. Lane	Sarah F. Taylor
Annie M. Creef	Lewis N. Midgett	Margaret J. Daniel	Mary J. Daniel
Mathias Cahoon	Cinthia Pugh	Penelope E. Simpson	Caledonia Tillett
Barbara Cahoon	Rachel Pugh	Clarissa M. Daniel Dowdy	Florence L. Daniels
Zilphia S. Creef	Elizabeth N. Sykes	Laura Davis	Josephus Baum
Llewellyn Cudworth	Trusa A. Smith	Beatrice B. Davis	Ann E. Daniels
Nancy Cahoon	Charlotte Tillett	Isadore Gallop Davis	Jimmie L. Daniels
George W. Creef, Sr.	Thomas F. Toler	Armicie Gallop Igott	Arlissia D. Hooper
Margaret Creef	Mary E. Ward	Colinda A. Gallop Tillett	Martha A. Hogarth
George W. Creef, Jr.	John R. Anciel	Julettie A. Daniel Drinkwater	John D. Johnson
Rebecca Cudworth	Nancy S. Tarlor	Ellis Liverman	R. W. Smith
Nancy J. Daniel	Nancy C. Meekins	Joseph T. Daniel	Irena Davis
Jane Daniel	James Barnet	Robt. W. Daniel	Eleanor Gallop
Annie D. Daniel	Mary A. Baum	Marcellus W. Daniel	Samuel N. Davis
Charles S. Daniel	Alonzo M. Etheridge	John D. Brothers	Anletta Daniels Tillett
Elizabeth Daniel	Joseph G. Tillett	Nacy Brothers	G. W. Wignn
Joseph G. Daniel	Columbus C. Johnson	Joanna Fulcher	Elrado Johnson
Sabra Daniel	Sabra A. Johnson	Henraetta Hooker	Martha Gallop
Mary L. Montague	Thomas C. Tillett	Mary Forbes Midgett	Maggie Cahoon
Mahala Bliven	P. Dameron Midgett	Sarah F. Daniel	Mary M. Daniels
Darcus Daniel	Ezekiel R. Daniel	Asbury Quidley	Bell V. Johnson
Ancewith Daniel	Eugenia A. Daniel	Maggie Midgett	Timothy O. Tillett
W.J.W. Daniel	Julius Clyde Sykes	Mattie Midgett	B. K. Daniels
Sarah M. Daniel	William S. Davis	Alexina Daniel	U. S. G. Johnson
Darcus Murphy	Alwilda Davis	Caroline Etheridge	Henry Johnson
Francis Daniel	Joseph Gaskins	Alice Hooker Selff	J. D. Haymon
Sarah C. Gaskins	John D. Johnson	Hellery Evans	Wm. A. Frost
Sarah E. Etheridge	Ellen Midgett	Joseph E. Hayman	W. B. Tillett
Amos R. Etheridge	William M. Beasley	William M. Cahoon	Edward Daniels
Matilda E. Tillett	Stewart M. Daniel	John Hogarth	L. J. Pugh
Samuel F. Forbes	Mary E. Daniel	Joseph B. Daniel	Woodsey Tillett
Julia Forges	John Simpson	W. Mott Tillett	W. D. Shepard
J. T. Garrison	Mann Midgett	Mathias D. Hayman	E. H. Riggs
Sarah C. Garrison	Edward C. Green	Spencer Daniels	Josephine Green
Caroline Gallop	Jefferson D. Hayman	Robt. F. Sanderlin	Mamie E. Daniels
Elnorah T. Pugh	McAlister Montague	Mary Midgett	Albertie Daniels
Mary Hayman	Thomas W. Daniel	Bessie V. Baum	Ethel Daniels
Nancy Hooker	William T. Cahoon	Ellie Hooker	Avery Daniels, Sr.
Spencer Hooker	Thomas W. Toler	Alwilda Daniel	Jennie Daniels
Sabra Hooker	Esther Baum Dough	Emma Wise	Jessie Rodgers
Samuel D. Hooker	W. St. C. Pugh	Samuel Baum	
William S. Hooker	Bannister H. Davis	Carolina Daniel	
Laura V. Hooker	Rufus B. Murphy	Enola E. Daniel	

APPENDIX C

Land deeds relating to Bethany

Currituck Registry of Deeds

Book page

21 352 Daniel Cudworth to Spencer Daniel, William Daniel Austin, Thomas Daniel, Avery Daniel and Archibald Daniel, Trustees

...one acre of land on Roanoke Island near Mann Midgett's for the use of building a meeting house for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Beginning at a holly tree at the main road running SW seventy yards to marked pine and thence SE seventy yards to a marked oak and thence NE seventy yards to a marked pine at the aforesaid road and thence to the first station.

Woods Daniel

Joseph M. Daniel

William Austin, Jurat Reg. June 23, 1837

Dare County Deed Books

Book Page

A 275 Mann Midgett and wife, Debro; George C. Daniel and wife, Nancy; and Lewellyn Cudworth, all of Dare Co. Deed to Spencer Hooker and others as Trustees of the Bethany Church M.E.S., Religious Society, worshiping on Roanoke Island, Sept. 2, 1875, for \$5.00 a certain tract of land on Roanoke Island on the Main Road adjoining F. A. Meekins and A. Am Etheridge, 105 ft. x 420 ft., along Meekins' line to Etheridge's line, 210 ft. x 420 ft. Wit: D. B. Austin. Reg. Sept. 20, 1875.

K 585 L. Cudworth and wife, Rebecca G., and E. R. Daniels and wife, Eugene A., all of Wanchese, deed to W.S. Hooker, J.L. Garrison, T.W. Daniels, S.C. Baum, P.D. Midgett, W.L. Meekins, and C.C. Johnson, Trustees of Bethany M.E. Church, S., May 15, 1905, for \$150.00 a tract of one acre in the village of Wanchese on the Main or Davis Road adjoining said Cudworth 70 X 70 X 70 yds. And along a line. Reg. June 2, 1905.

Z 197 George C. Daniels, E. R. Daniels, and T.H. Baum, Trustees fo Bethany Church of Roanoke pastoral charge, deed to Lewellyn Cudworth and William Lance Montague, all of Dare Co., Dec. 21, 1918, for \$40.00 a tract of land near the main road adjoining said Montague, said Cudworth, and L.A. Meekins, 210 X 400 X 210 X 400ft., known as the old church lot prior to the removal of said Church and erection of the new Church at its present location. This lot was conveyed to the Trustees by deed dated Sept. 2, 1875 and recorded in Book A at page 275. Reg. June 13, 1921.

11 157 L. Cudworth and wife, Rebecca, of Dare Co. Deed to E.R. Daniel, J.B. Hooker, and R.E. Tillett, Trustees of Bethany M.E. Church, S., at Wanchese, July 24, 1928, for \$100.00 a parcel of one-half acre in Wanchese on the east side of the State Highway adjoining said Cudworth and the Church lot purchased by deed recorded in Book K at page 585, running 35 x 70 x 35 x 70 yds. Reg. Nov. 20, 1928.

Book Page

12 31 B.H. Davis, W.E. Daniels, and M.R. Daniels as Parsonage Trustees of the Bethany M.E. Church, S., in Wanchese deed of trust to the Board of Church Extension, March 1, 1929, for \$400.00, with the security being a parcel of one-half acre adjoining L. Cudworth, 35 x 70 x 35 x 70 yds, located on the east side of the State Highway, deeded to Wanchese Parsonage on July 24, 1928 by L. Cudworth. Reg. April 11, 1929.

13 498 E.R. Daniels, G.C. Daniels, J.B. Hooker, and T.O. Tillett, Trustees of Bethany M.E. Church, S., deed to L. Cudworth and wife, Rebecca G., of Dare Co., Oct. 5, 1931, for \$1.00 that parcel of land on which is situated the Bethany M.E. Church, S., conveyed to the Trustees on May 15, 1905 by deed recorded in Book K at page 585. Reg. Oct. 7, 1931

13 499 L. Cudworth and wife, Reecca G., of Dare Co. Deed to E.R. Daniels, G.C. Daniels, J.B. Hooker, and T.O. Tillett, Trustees of Bethany M.E. Church, S., is situated, conveyed by deed to the Trustees on May 15, 1905 and recorded in Book K at page 585. The Trust Clause is included herein. Reg. Oct. 8, 1931

24 229 B.H. Davis, Melvin R. Daniels, W.C. Gaskill, S.B. Tillett, George A. Daniels, Arnold Daniels, Wayland W. Baum, Andrew Tillett, and W.E. Daniels, Trustees of the Wanchese Methodist Church, deed to trust to the Board of Church Extension, June 22, 1943, for \$100.00, with the security being a tract of one-half acre adjoining the Church lot, 35 x 70 x 35 x 70 yds., it being the same land sold to the Trustees by deed recorded in Book 11 at page 157. Reg. July 7, 1943.

67 95 Indexed as the Trustees of Bethany Methodist Church deed of trust to Southern Loan and Insurance Company, with the security being the church at Wanchese, 1956.

68 43 Subordination of lien by the Board of Church Extension to the Trustees of Bethany Methodist Church of Wanchese, May 11, 1956. Whereas B.H. Davis, W.E. Daniels, and Mr.R. Daniels as Parsonage Trustees of the Bethany Methodist Church executed a mortgage deed to the oard of Church Extension on March 10, 1929 for \$400.00, which was recorded in Book 12 at page 31, and another mortgage for \$100.00 was executed by the Trustees on June 22, 1943 and recorded in Book 24 at page 229 and whereas the Trustees have negotiated a loan for \$6,000.00 with the Southern Loan and Insurance Company, for \$1.00 these two liens are subordinated. The

security was a lot conveyed by deed recorded in Book 11 at page 157. Reg. May 21, 1956.

115 575 Indexed as the Trustees of Bethany Methodist Church deed of trust to Ralph D. Basnight, Trustee, with the security being land in Wanchese, 1964.

120 152 Indexed as the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Church subordination of lien to the Industrial Bank, with the security being the Wanchese Methodist Church, 1964.

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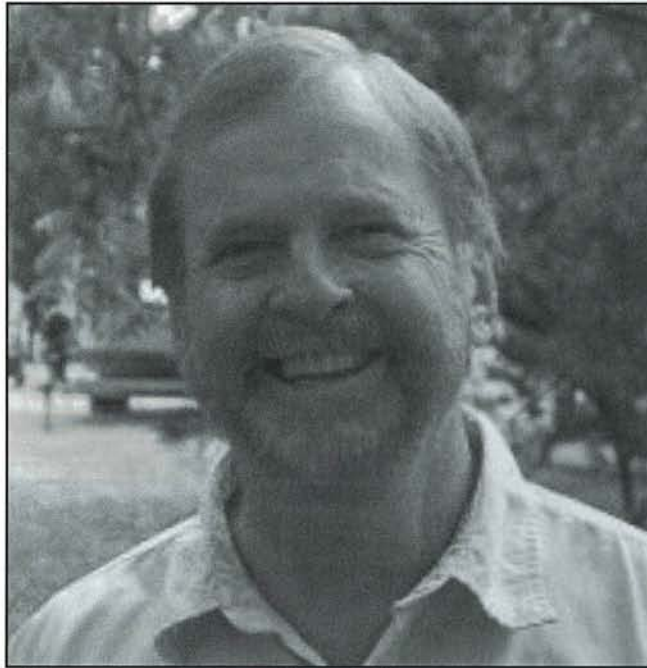
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