

*A Century Of*  
**OPEN DOORS**



**BLACK'S CHAPEL**  
*1876 - 1976*

JESUS SAID: "I AM THE DOOR: BY ME IF ANY MAN ENTER IN, HE  
SHALL BE SAVED" (John 10:9)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BLACK'S CHAPEL

CENTENNIAL

1876 - 1976

"O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Charles Wesley

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O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My Great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King  
The triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread thro' all the earth abroad  
The honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears  
That bids our sorrows cease,  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
His blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
New life the dead receive;  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;  
The humble poor, believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
Your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;  
And leap, ye lame for joy. Amen

OPEN DOORS  
Past, Present and Future

To the church, Black's Chapel, in Godwin write:  
"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God. Let the listener hear what the Spirit says to the Churches." (From Rev. 3:7-13)

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"God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm."

(The Book of Hymns, Pg. 215)

It would seem that when Providence was ready for Methodist Church doors to be opened here, Mr. Wiley Trice Rhodes, a resident of Orange County, moved into this community. This was in or around the year 1865. His inspiration inspired others to join together in an effort to establish a Methodist Church here.

In his history, Methodism in the Upper Cape Fear Valley, the Rev. C. Franklin Grill recorded the following: "Another church just seven miles south of Dunn, near Godwin, was named Black's Chapel after the beloved Rev. W. S. Black, presiding elder of the Wilmington District from 1874 to 1877. Founded in 1876, it was the first Methodist Church in northeastern Cumberland County and was organized and started in what later became a schoolhouse located a few hundred feet from the present structure. Mr. Wiley Rhodes and Mr. William Culbreth were leaders in the community and saw to it that a suitable church building was soon erected."

When it was first built and the carpenters had finished their work, they locked the doors of the church because there was not sufficient funds to pay the balance due. This prohibited worship in the new building --- thus a church with closed doors!

We have been told by a granddaughter of William Culbreth that her grandfather raised funds in the community to pay the indebtedness. The next Sunday morning Mr. Culbreth went to the church, unlocked and opened the doors and rang the bell, announcing that the church was open for worship. The people began to gather for the first service and ever since then the doors of Black's Chapel have been OPEN DOORS!

Mr. Grill continues: "The church first operated as a part of the Sampson Circuit and later was transferred to the Dunn Circuit. In 1922 it went on the Erwin Circuit for a few years, then went back with Dunn until 1952 with 93 members it became a part of the Wesley Circuit in the Raleigh District. Today (1966) Black's Chapel has 88 members and is a part of the Wesley-Black's Charge in the Goldsboro District."

Today, (1976), with 87 members, Black's Chapel is still a part of the Wesley-Black's Charge now in the Fayetteville District.

The schoolhouse in which the church was started became known as Black's Chapel School. Later a two-teacher school was opened in Godwin.

At the time of the founding of this church, the people of the community were served by Rhodes Post Office. This area later became known as Holland's Lake, now Rhodes Pond. The Godwin Post Office, which was opened at a later date, now serves the community.

The following are the names of the 18 Charter Members:

L. J. Tew	Wiley T. Rhodes
Elizabeth N. Rhodes	Katie H. McNeill
Penny Pope	Sallie Tew
Elizabeth J. McIntyre	King J. Rhodes
Cornelia M. Rhodes	Virginia C. Rhodes
Effie McIntyre	Sarah A. Ammons
David J. Godwin	Andrew J. Ammons
Caroline Godwin	Louisa Wade
Virginia B. Rhodes	Lizzie Wade

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."  
(Prov. 29:18)

In 1914 a belfry was erected. A new pulpit and altar were built by an outstanding layman of the church, Mr. A. B. Yarbrough, who was Sunday School Superintendent for 20 years.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Forrest D. Hedden and his wife, members were inspired to construct three classrooms back of the present pulpit, the building was renovated inside and out, and the pews now in use were installed. The year was 1948.

Divine Street Church (founded in Dunn in 1887) is to be remembered for its gifts of kindergarten furniture and a communion set. The communion set has now been replaced.

Our Methodist Women deserve much credit for their contributions toward the furnishings and upkeep of the church through the years. They also paid a proportionate part in the building of the parsonage located near Wesley's Chapel. The parsonage was erected in 1954.



Pastors Who Have Served

Black's Chapel

F. A. Bishop	1876 - 1877
D. Culbreth	1877 - 1880
Z. F. Harrison	1880 - 1882
S. D. Peeler	1882 - 1883
D. W. Watkins	1883 - 1885
E. Pope	1885 - 1887
Z. J. Needham	1887 - 1888
J. J. Barker	1888 - 1890
J. D. Pegram	1890 - 1892
George T. Simmons	1892 - 1894
C. W. Cain	1894 - 1895
Langhom Letch	1895 - 1896
E. C. Sell	1896 - 1897
D. B. Parker	1897 - 1898
W. A. Forbes	1898 - 1901
E. M. Snipes	1901 - 1905
J. A. Lee	1905 - 1908
A. J. Parker	1908 - 1909
F. A. Bishop	1909 - 1911
J. H. Shore	1911 - 1915
J. A. Hornaday	1915 - 1917
J. M. Daniels	1917 - 1921
J. H. Buffaloe	1921 - 1922
H. L. Davis	1922 - 1924
L. C. Brothers	1924 - 1927
J. J. Boone	1927 - 1932
Frank Culbreth	1932 - 1934
J. A. Russell	1934 - 1937
L. M. Hall	1937 - 1940
O. W. Dowd	1940 - 1944
F. D. Hedden	1944 - 1948
J. V. Early	1948 - 1952
J. W. Lineberger	1952 - 1953
Wayne G. Shelton	1953 - 1954
S. E. Landers	1954 - 1957
Harley Owens	1957 - 1959
J. G. Snypes	1959 - 1961
G. H. Bercaw	1961 - 1963
Wesley Noble	1963 - 1966
N. P. Edens	1966 - 1975
C. Ray West	1975

Presiding Elders and  
District Superintendents

W. S. Black	R. B. John
S. S. Burkhead	J. D. Bundy
R. O. Burton	R. H. Willis
W. H. Bobbitt	F. S. Love
N. H. D. Wilson	Rev. Barnhart
J. H. Cunningham	Rev. Glass
George A. Oglesby	H. D. Porter
W. H. Moore	H. Grady Dawson
F. A. Bishop	W. M. McLamb
B. R. Hall	Mark W. Lawrence
J. B. Hurley	Leon Russell
J. T. Gibbs	Albert Fisher

James H. Miller, Jr.

B I S H O P S

J. C. Granberry	J. H. McKoy
W. W. Duncan	B. G. Waterhouse
A. W. Wilson	J. C. Kilgo
R. K. Hargrove	U. V. Darlington
O. P. Fitzgerald	W. W. Peele
C. B. Galloway	Paul N. Garber
E. E. Hoss	William R. Cannon
Collins Denny	Robert M. Blackburn

Some Sunday School Superintendents

A. B. Yarbrough  
E. J. Godwin  
T. L. Royals, Jr.  
J. F. Royals  
G. L. Hemmingway  
Wallace Warren  
J. D. Jackson  
Jack Wise

## M E M O R I A L S

"Time would fail us to tell of" all gifts in memory of "the dear and faithful dead, for those who have made the distant heavens a home for us, and whose truth and beauty are even now in our hearts." However, a few names and gifts we shall mention here.

The painting above the communion table was done by Mr. Zeno Spence, Jr., a grandson of William and Nancy Culbreth, and given to the church by the Culbreth heirs.

Mrs. Clyde Culbreth McLellan was church pianist for some 50 years. In 1960 her family presented a pulpit Bible in her memory.

The latest memorials dedicated were the ten stained glass windows and the transom over the front door; the sanctuary lighting fixtures, and a lectern.

When we think about "the dear and faithful dead," how can we help but sing!

"How happy are the saints above,  
Who once went sorrowing here!  
But now they taste unmingled love  
And joy without a tear."

(The Book of Hymns, pg. 183)

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### The Present

Our prayer is threefold:

1. That our spiritual life may be deepened.
2. That our number shall be increased as the Lord shall "gather together" others "in His Name."  
(Mat. 18:20)



3. That finances and gifts may be sufficient to meet our needs as we -- as I endeavor "To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill -- To do my Master's Will!"

(The Book of Hymns, Pg. 150)

#### Projected Hopes or Plans

1. To install a central heating and air conditioning system in the Sanctuary: (We have \$500.00 in this fund now.)
2. To remodel the Sunday School rooms. finish the second floor. install heat and air conditioning, and replace the roof on the entire church;
3. To install new pews to match the chancel furnishings. (If there are those who would like to give a memorial, may we suggest a pew: \$200.00 each.)

#### Open Doors Today

1. Sunday School each Sunday morning at 9:45 except the 4th Sunday at 11:00.
2. Preaching, 11:00 A. M. every 2nd Sunday and 9:45 every 4th Sunday.
3. Prayer Meeting, Tuesday 7:30 P. M.
4. Holy Communion the 11:00 o'clock service every 2nd Sunday of the following months: January, April, July and October;
5. The Lord's Supper each Maundy Thursday night 7:30;
6. Easter Sunrise Service, 6:00 o'clock;
7. United Methodist Women meet at 7:30 P. M. Monday after 3rd Sunday.

8. United Methodist Youth Fellowship meets at 7:30 P. M. Monday after 2nd and 4th Sundays.

### The Future

Do you want to see the doors of Black's Chapel remain open? What will YOU do to make this possible? Here are a few questions to consider:

1. Do you hold sacred your church vows to "be loyal to the Church, and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?"
2. Have you remembered the church in your will?
3. Better yet, why not give your gifts NOW while you can see and enjoy what they accomplish:
4. Pray about these and "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it." (John 2:5)

### PAX VOBISCUM

"Peace Be With You."



Church History Committee

Wesley Noble, Chairperson  
Mrs. Virginia Rhodes Williams  
Mrs. Ruth Starling Williford  
Mrs. Garnette Godwin Jackson

Centennial Committee

Wesley Noble, Chairperson  
Mrs. Isabelle Caine, Vice-Chairperson  
The Rev. C. Ray West, Minister  
Mrs. Louise Wise  
Mrs. Ruth Williford  
Mrs. Kathleen Warren  
Mrs. Louise Jackson  
Mrs. Dessie Starling  
Bobby Tew



1976 Church Roll

Mrs. Victoria Holland	Mrs. G. L. Jackson
William R. Barnes	Mrs. William R. Barnes
Mrs. Earl McLellan	Linda Clyde McLellan
Mrs. J. F. Royal	Harold D. Williford, Sr.
Mrs. Harold Williford, Sr.	George B. Williford
Mrs. Roger Collier	Wallace Warren
Mrs. Wallace Warren	Mrs. Lester Hawley
Mrs. Raymond Johnson	Willie Tew
Mrs. Willie Tew	W. Hurley Randall

Mrs. Shirley Tew Royster	Helen Rhodes Hall
J. D. Jackson	Mrs. J. D. Jackson
Mrs. Amy R. Hawley	Harold Rhodes
Mrs. Mary Frances Braswell	David Martin Holland
Mrs. H. T. Caine	Mrs. Carol Thornton Johnson
Mrs. G. R. Washburn	Mrs. Gerald Jackson
Joan Jackson	Mrs. Earl D. Jackson
Earl D. Jackson	Carl Langston
Mrs. Carl Langston	Virginia Rhodes Williams
Charles Starling	Mrs. Ethel Starling
Clyde S. Godwin	Joy M. Tew
Laverne Britt	Albert Earl Lucas
Laurice M. Lucas	Laurice Holland
William Kenneth Hawley	Mrs. Dorothy W. West
Mrs. Thomas Petty	Bonnie Yelverton Willette
Mrs. Essie Mae Palmer	Rebecca Warren Allgeier
Jack Wise	Mrs. Sue Yelverton Williams
Mrs. Jack Wise	Mrs. Sue Ann Williford Stoudt
Wesley Noble	Joyce Warren Hamilton
Pandora Jackson	Nancy Lucas Reep
Jennifer Denise Dorman	Kimberly Pam Dorman
Vanessa Gayle Jackson	Kim Loraine Hobson
Mrs. Charles Starling	Mrs. J. C. Sanders
Clifton Edward Sanders	Gloria Kay Sanders
Nancy Rene' Reep	Margaret Regina Reep
Gillian Perry Wise	Phillip Laverne Wise
Lucindia Ann Jackson	Michael Dennis Jackson
Joanna Willis Starling	Gary Dwight Lee
Wilda Darlene Lee	Jenny Alice Dorman
Lois Wood Dorman	Larry Mike Sanders
Robert Sanders Tew, Jr.	Annie Lou Lee
Mrs. Laurice McLellan Lucas	Darrin Earl Tew
Robert Sanders Tew, Sr.	Stephen Bart Tew
Kelly Earl Jackson	Blanche R. Snead
Mrs. Pearl G. West	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

BICENTENNIAL

1776 - 1976

"God Bless Our Native Land"  
(Tune: "America")

Siegfried A. Mahlmann

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God bless our native land!  
Firm may she ever stand,  
Through storm and night;  
When the wild tempest rave,  
Do thou our country save  
By Thy great might!

For her our prayer shall rise  
To God, above the skies;  
On Him we wait;  
Thou who are ever nigh,  
Guarding with watchful cry,  
God save the state!

Not for this land alone,  
But be God's mercies shown  
From shore to shore;  
And may the nations see  
That men should brothers be,  
And from one family  
The wide world o'er. Amen

