

In Northampton County, about three miles north of Seaboard, North Carolina, and very near the Virginia state line, stands a little white country church. There is no written history of Concord Methodist Church so we know nothing of the first one hundred years. Our deed, which is found in the Northampton County courthouse (D.B. 10, p. 172), shows that a building for public worship was located here before the seven trustees, Jordan, Luke, Harrison, Finner, Jordan, Fennell and Dupree, bought the one acre from Smith. Was this the building that now stands here? When was the church organized? How many people attended the services? How was the name "Concord" selected? These questions we cannot answer. But we do know that the deed was dated Nov. 6, 1794, and recorded at the courthouse Dec. 10, 1795.

Many have asked if this building was constructed 200 years ago. We do not know for sure, but the man who checked for termites reported that the construction underneath was of that time period. Most of the names of the trustees are no longer in the neighborhood. But in 1795, James W. Clark owned the land to the east, Robert Finney's land joined Clark's, Dupree's Crossroad is a few miles to the west and Jordans were in the area within memory. By the early 1900s these were gone and had been replaced by Moodys, Longs, Parkers, Harris, Whiteheads and others.

There has apparently been no change to the outside of the building except the recent addition of a ramp and new steps in 2000. As we entered the 20th Century the interior of the old building remained just the same, with a large pot-belly stove, kerosene lamps by the windows and unpainted handmade pews. The floor is made of wide pine boards with no sub-flooring. There were places where the wood knots had fallen out and the earth below could be seen! An old out-house stood out back. Had the altar, pulpit and chairs been there from the beginning? We do not know. There were three sets of pews with two aisles leading to the altar. On each side of the altar were three pews with an organ by the window.

During the 1930s the organ was replaced by a piano. The choir floor was raised and chairs purchased for that area. In the 50s, electric lights replaced the oil lamps and gas replaced the wood burning stove. In 1984, with the help of good friends, the floor was carpeted and those holes where the cold air came in were

covered! The burgandy on the pulpit chairs was changed to blue as were the curtains.

The generation that has now passed on used to tell of the all day meetings with picnics on the grounds under the many large oaks. Buggies and wagons were the means of transportation. Mr. J. T. Moody , who died in 1935, was the last to come by buggy. By that time most everyone had a T-model!

Until sometime in the 50s, the services were held in the afternoon. The pastor came only twice a month. There were four Sunday School classes. The adult class was in the northeast corner with Laura Long as their teacher for many years. She had come to this area as a school teacher and on her first Sunday at the church was asked to teach the S. S. lesson! In the northwest corner the beginners had their lesson with Grace Whitehead as teacher. Effie Moody taught the juniors in the southeast corner and Anna Harris was teaching the teens in the southwest area. And during this time (1930s) Charlie Edwards was Superintendent and Jenus Long was Treasurer. Once each year there was a Quarterly Meeting and representatives from the other three churches on the charge came to take care of business.

One big event of each year was Children's Day. All the children were dressed in white as they marched into the church. Each one had a "piece" to say, and songs were sung. At Christmas there was another children's program. There was always a huge Christmas tree and Santa came in to give gifts to every child. After the Easter service, there was always an Easter egg hunt for the children. And there was always the week of Revival in August (after the farmers had "laid by" their crops.)

In October of 1994 there was a great 200th Anniversary celebration, Our pastor, Rev. Hunter Preston, and District Superintendent Thomas Loftis came dressed as Circuit Riders and riding on horses. A band played hymns outside and after the service, dinner was served on the grounds under the old oak trees.

Around that time, with about \$15,000 saved, the idea of building a classroom for the children and indoor restrooms was discussed. Perhaps we could get a small mobile unit or build a small building. Everyone was definite on not wanting a debt. But Pastor Hunter had

a vision! When he brought in the blueprints for a 30 by 60 floor plan, which even included a kitchen, we were quite skeptical. How could we build that with our small savings? We decided to build what we could, not go in debt, then finish as we could get the money. A friend of the pastor had drawn up the blueprints without charge. A friend of the church offered to do the foundation free. An electrician volunteered all the electrical work. Others sent money when they heard of our plans or volunteered to come and work. Our pastor worked constantly, day and night. One night he was working alone and locked his keys in the building as he came out to go home near midnight. So he had to walk the three miles back to Seaboard, rather than waken someone.

As we planned for our Homecoming in October of 1997, things were indeed going well. The interior was completed except for the carpeting and the kitchen. We purchased tables and planned to borrow chairs for our dinner, when on the day before the occasion 60 chairs were delivered to us, free. These chairs were used but much better than what we would have bought. Since that time the floor has been carpeted and the kitchen has been completed.

On May 3rd of 1998, there was a Dedication Service and the building was named "Asbury Hall", as Francis Asbury was a guest here sometime around 1800. At this service we were honored by the presence of our Bishop, Marion Edwards, our District Superintendent, Thomas Loftis, and our former Pastor, Hunter Preston, along with retired ministers Hank Wilkinson, C.M. Mitchel and Daniel Bowman, and Lay Speaker Lee Taylor.

All in all, this building is truly a miracle. We never even had a bake sale, and our building is completely without debt. We wonder now how we ever got along without it. Our attendance now is small, usually not more than thirty. It seems that with each generation the population of the neighborhood has decreased and so has the church attendance. But we invite all to come and visit our 1790's building and our 1990's building as they stand side by side on this historic spot.

During the past summer (2003), a central AC and heating unit was installed, and also a sound system.

SMITH to JORDAN & Others - This indenture made this 6th day of November in the year of our Lord 1794 between Joel Smith of Northampton County in the state of North Carolina of the one part and Jesse Jordan, John Luke, Charles Harrison, Robert Finner, Batt Jordan, Isham Fennell and Thomas Dupree, part in the said County, part in Greenville in Virginia of the other part witnesseth that in consideration of Five shillings current money of North Carolina by the said Jesse Jordan, John Luke, Charles Harrison, Robert Finner, Batt Jordan, Isham Fennell and Thomas Dupree to the said Joel Smith truly paid before the sealing and delivering hereof the receipt whereof the said Joel Smith doth hereby acknowledge and for divers other causes and considerations him thereunto moving the said Joel Smith hath granted bargained and sold and by those present doth bargain and sell unto the said Jesse Jordan, John Luke, Charles Harrison, Robert Finner, Batt Jordan, Isham Fennell and Thomas Dupree, their heirs and assigns forever, all that lot or parcell of ground whereon the <sup>2</sup>, erected for publick worship now stands in the County and state aforesaid. Beginning at a corner white oak on James Walter Clark's line, thence west to a corner red oak, thence north to a corner Spanish oak, thence east to a corner pine on the said Clark line, thence on the said line to the beginning, containing one acre of land more or less together with all the ways and priviledges to the said premisis appertaining and all the profits thereof with all the right title in trust in Law & Equity to have and to hold the said lot or parcell of ground to the said Jesse Jordan, John Luke, Charles Harrison, Robert Finner, Batt Jordan, Isham Fennell and Thomas Dupree, their heirs and assigns forever, nevertheless upon special trust and confidence and to the intent that they and the survivors of them and the trustees for the time being do and shall permit Francis Asbury Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America and such other persons as he shall from time appoint and at all times while he retains the office of a Bishop in the said Methodist Episcopal Church and no other person to have and enjoy the free use and benefit of the said Premisis the said Francis Asbury and such other persons as he shall appoint may therein preach and espound the Holy Scriptures and after his deceast or when he shall

cease to exercise the office of Bishop in the said Methodist Episcopal Church upon further trust and confidence and to the intent that the said Jesse Jordan, John Luke, Charles Harrison, Robert Finner, Batt Jordan, Isham Fennell and Thomas Dupree or the major part of their trustees or of the trustees for the time being shall from time to time and at all times forever permit such persons as shall be appointed at the yearly conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and no others to have and to enjoy the said for the purposes aforesaid and upon further trust and confidence that as often as one of the trustees for the time being shall cease to be members of the said Methodist Episcopal Church or shall remove to so great a distance as to be unable to discharge the duties of a trustee the rest of the said trustees or the trustees for the time being as soon as conveniently may be shall and may choose another trustee or trustees in order to keep up the number of seven trustees forever. In witness whereof the said Joel Smith hath hereunto set his hand and seal day and year aforesaid. Signed, sealed & delivered in the presents of

William Finner  
John Perry

Northampton County Sept. Court  
1795 This deed was proven by the  
oath of John Perry. Ordered to be  
Registered.

Witness E. Haynes, C.C.

(signed) Joel Smith

James Dancy - Reg. 10th Dec. 1795

Book 10, page 172-173  
Northampton County Deeds  
Jackson, N.C.

Those buried at Concord

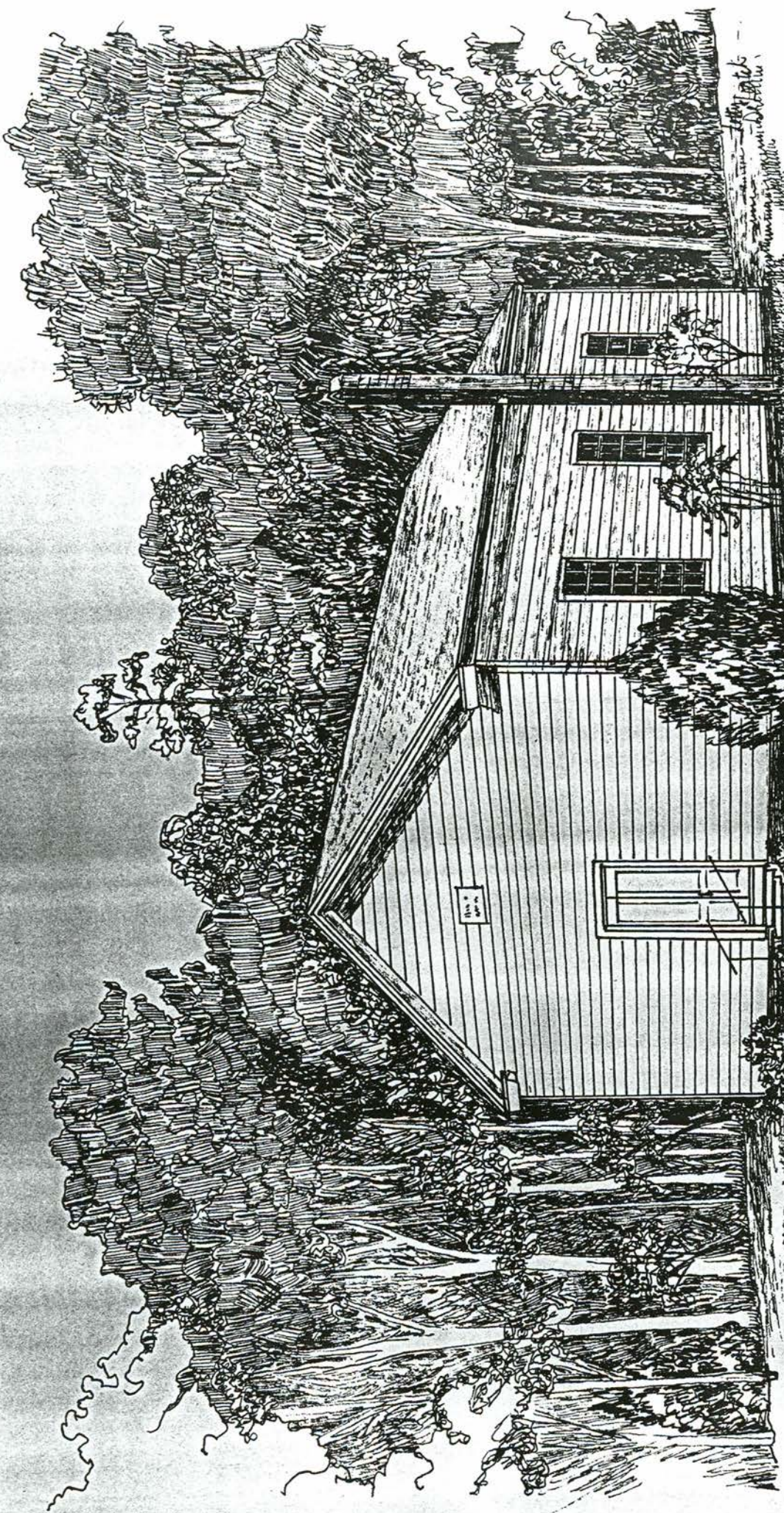
1. Mrs Charlotte Ann Brantley - 5 Dec 1843 - 12 Jul 1917
2. Bettie M. Darden - 1 Sep 1845 - 2 Aug 1896
3. J. M. Darden - 20 Aug 1836 - 9 Jun 1894
4. Maggie Darden - 12 Jul 1868 - 28 Aug 1940
5. Benjamin Thomas Drewett - 10 Nov 1884 - 22 Nov 1949
6. Henry Clifton Drewett - 8 Jul 1916 - 25 Apr 1951
7. Edward Lewis Edwards - 17 May 1899 - 20 Mar 1950
8. Lena Barnes Edwards Worrell - 25 Jan 1901 - 16 Jun 1989
9. Mary Lucille Edwards - 28 Oct 1920 - 24 Nov 1920
10. Charlie N. Edwards - 17 Aug 1883 - 21 Jul 1962
11. Sarah E. Edwards - 21 Mar 1886 - 17 Feb 1960
12. Henderson Edwards - 17 Jun 1835 - 27 Oct 1914
13. Bettie P. Edwards - 14 Sep 1847 - 8 Oct 1922
14. W. T. Edwards
15. E. U. Edwards
16. W. J. Edwards
17. Large cement space for 2 persons, no name
18. Miss Sylvia Etson - 1824 - 2 May 1907 83 years
19. J. W. Irvin - 19 Mar 1854 - 29 Apr 1926
20. Rosa J. Irvin - 6 May 1865 - 10 May 1947
21. J. T. Lee Irvin - 14 Oct 1894 - 16 Jan 1973
22. Rosa P. Stephenson Long - Aug 1854 - 15 Oct 1947
23. Jesse Thomas Moody - 1857 - 1935
24. Susan Ann Moody - 1866 - 1945
25. Delta I. Moody 28 Feb 1905 - 9 Sep 1952
26. Raymond C. Moody - 18 Apr 1929 - 2 Jan 1966
27. Bessie Jane Long Parker - 27 July 1881 - 13 Sep 1945
28. Joseph Clingman Parker - 16 May 1871 - 18 Nov 1950
29. Dorthulia wife of Richard Pope - 1861 - 2 Jun 1896
30. Richard Pope - 12 Aug 1850 - 18 Mar 1912
31. Alexander H. Reid - 1 Jun 1840 - 2 Jan 1908
32. Mary E. Dickerson Reid - 8 Oct 1843 - 3 Jul 1915
33. 34. M. Reid & M. Reid Cement top, no dates

35. William Robert Vick - 3 Jul 1858 - 1 Mar 1934
36. M. Alice Reid, Wife of W. R. Vick - 6 Apr 1862 - 5 Mar 1892
37. Zena A. Vick Harris, Wife of J.L.Harris - 29 Jun 1889-8 Sep 1925
38. Grace Drewett Whitehead - 5 Oct 1890 - 1 Feb 1948
39. Franklin Guy Whitehead - 7 Mar 1889 - 2 Mar 1977
40. Virginia L. Whitehead - 22 Jan 1921 - 30 Nov 1924
41. In the woods there is a plot with the name Gay; no names, dates.

We honor those who have come and served among the membership of The Seaboard Charge. The shaping of the churches theology, visions, and missions have been part of the tasks accomplished by these faithful servants while they served to meet the needs of the community. Many have gone on to their rewards, while others have moved on to new appointments, the church has forever been changed because of their presents.

Rev. C. E. Hobday	1880-1882	Rev. Gene Cobb	1979-1980
Rev. T. J. Bayton	1883-1885	Rev. Bobbie Jordan	1980-1981
Rev. T. O. Edwards	1886-1888	Rev. Hank Wilkinson	1981-1982
Rev. C. W. Cain	1889-1890	Rev. Brooks Patton	1982-1984
Rev. T. J. Dailey	1891-1892	Rev. Hyder Crawley	1984-1985
Rev. Z. T. Harrison	1893	Rev. James E. Dykes	1985-1987
Rev. J. R. Tillery	1894-1895	Rev. Sam K. Dodson	1987-1989
Rev. J. D. Pegram	1896-1898	Rev. Kenneth C. Singley	1989-1992
Rev. G. W. Fisher	1899-1900		
Rev. G. W. Fox	1901-1902		
Rev. J. G. Johnson	1903-1906		
Rev. D. L. Earnhardt	1907-1908	(While Rev. Kenneth Singley was in Desert Storm, Hank Wilkerson was our pastor Dec. '90 to June '91; Lee Taylor, June '91; Dan Bowman, July - Aug. '91.)	
Rev. E. N. Harrison	1909-1911		
Rev. M. Y. Self	1912-1915		
Rev. R. W. Bailey	1916-1918	Rev. Hunter Preston	June 1992- Jan. 1998
Rev. William Towe	1919-1922	Lee Taylor & H. Wilkerson	Jan - June 1998
Rev. B. P. Robinson	1922-1924	Rev. Raymond Pearce	June 1998 - Jan. 2000
Rev. Frank Culbreth	1924-1928	Rev. Thomas S. Fleck	Jan. 2000 - June 2001
Rev. R. R. Grant	1928-1932	Rev. Lon W. Miller	June 2001 - Apr. 2002
Rev. L. A. Watts	1932-1937	Dr. Robert F. Dean	May 2002 - June 2003
Rev. W. G. Ferrar	1937-1939	Rev. Carol Taylor	June 2003 -
Rev. J. B. Hurley	1939-1943		
Rev. J. D. Robinson	1943-1947		
Rev. J. P. Pegg	1947-1951		
Rev. J. K. Bostick	1951-1952		
Rev. Ben Musser	1952-1956		
Rev. Bob Gibson	1956-1958		
Rev. M. C. Mitchell	1959-1961		
Rev. Holt Cheek	1961-1965		
Rev. Wallace Green	1965-1967		
Rev. Dan Bowman	1967-1972		
Rev. Robert A. MacLean	1972-1976		
Rev. Ronnie Patton	1976-1979		
Rev. C. O. (Bruce) Smith	1979-(3 months)		
Rev. Norman Flythe	1979-(3 months)		





Concord Methodist Church  
Seaboard



