



**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**THE FIRST**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**GRAHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**1896 ~~~~ 2004**

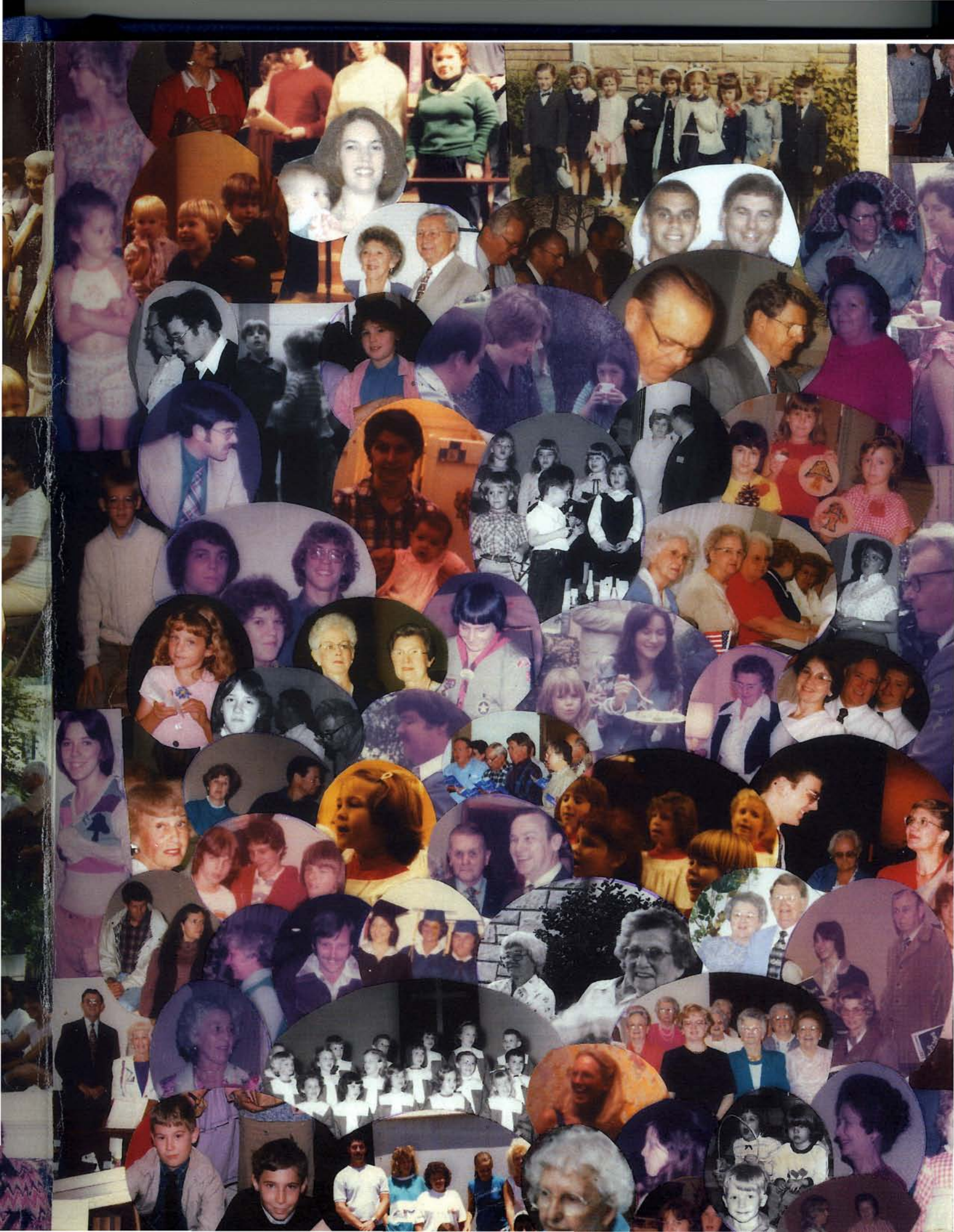
THIS VOLUME OF THE HISTORY  
OF  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
GRAHAM NORTH CAROLINA  
1896-2004

Is placed in honor of the History Committee of  
First United Methodist Church Graham,  
North Carolina

BY  
The United Methodist Men  
First United Methodist  
Graham, North Carolina

Heritage Sunday  
April 24, 2005





2004

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**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
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**1896 ~~~~ 2004**

FRANCES HEATH

LYDIA RICKS

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## PREFACE

*Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee: thy elders, and they will tell thee. Deuteronomy 32:7 (KJV)*

Jesse Lee wrote in his *Short History of Methodists* in 1809, "We wish for Methodists to see what great things the Lord has done for them, and for their fathers and friends before them." Such is the reason this history of our church has been written. It is meant to serve as a tribute and honor to all those named and unnamed who have passed through the doors of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Methodist Protestant Church, the Graham Methodist Church, and The First United Methodist Church of Graham. It would be impossible to name all the individual endeavors, including countless hours of work, dedication to whatever task was at hand, and sacrificial giving on the part of each. All these have accomplished what we blithely take for granted and enjoy today. The work has been and is a continuing labor of faith, hope, love and an unceasing commitment to service.

The writers have tried to convey as accurate and complete history as was attainable. We have relied on the written records of Quarterly Conferences, Official Board meetings, financial reports, correspondence, church bulletins, and in some cases, the memories of members. Even so, errors, inaccuracies, and imperfections in grammar, writing style, dates, etc., have appeared. In an effort to "send into the world the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth", quotes, numbers, dates, and figures have been used exactly as recorded. We have done this in honor of the efforts of those secretaries, stewards, board members and others who oftentimes struggled to accurately record information. It is asked that you accept the imperfections and defects as owing to the lack of better information or knowledge of better means of translating the spoken word to the written page.

This history of the beginnings and foundings of the two churches that became one actually begins with the history of Methodism. Throughout every page is the thread of who we are as Methodists, why we are Methodists, and the reasons for our rituals and observances; even down to the way we keep our records. Everything we do and the specific way we do it has a traditional connotation. We have an important history. We have tried to show its significance and meaning on every page; lest we and our children's children loose sight of our heritage.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Paragraph 247 of the *Discipline* states:

The Charge Conference may elect a church historian who shall be responsible for preparing, where it does not exist, a history of the local church or churches from the time of organization; shall provide for preserving the same in permanent form; shall bring the history up to date at the close of each year....

As early as 1922 the Methodist Protestant Church saw the need for a church history and selected a committee for that purpose. Reverend Spencer wrote the history of the then twenty year old church which is included in this book. In 1957, Reverend Whitehead appointed Mrs. W. B. Green, Mrs. C. C. Burke, and Mrs. R. T. Troxler to a Records and History Committee for the purpose of writing a "complete church history". The first tangible evidence of their work (and credit is given only to Mrs. Green) was the collection of pictures of former pastors of the church. Reverend Whitehead told the congregation this was a special project "underwritten by interested friends, and large contributions would not be needed, but the dimes, quarters, half-dollars and dollars coming in from all the families of our church would help see the project through". Many hours of faithful service were given to this project. The pictures have been framed and hung permanently in the hallway outside the Goley Memorial Chapel. As more ministers came, their pictures have been added. Mrs. Green also wrote "A History of Graham Methodist Church". Copies were placed in county libraries as well as being available to members. The entire history, as well as excerpts, has often been used on special occasions.

In the 1990s Peggy Jenks and Frances Heath initiated conversation at a board meeting regarding the need for an updated history. More than ten years passed before this was accomplished. Frances Heath, Lydia Ricks, Myrtle Wilson, Gretchen Briggs, and Amy Buckner were appointed as a committee.

This task would have been impossible without the words of encouragement and support from everyone. Specifically we owe an immense debt of gratitude to Carolyn Seay. She voluntarily dedicated numberless hours at the computer typing, correcting, and retyping the manuscript.



**We also thank the following people:**

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Our  
Christian  
Heritage

**REMEMBER OUR ROOTS**

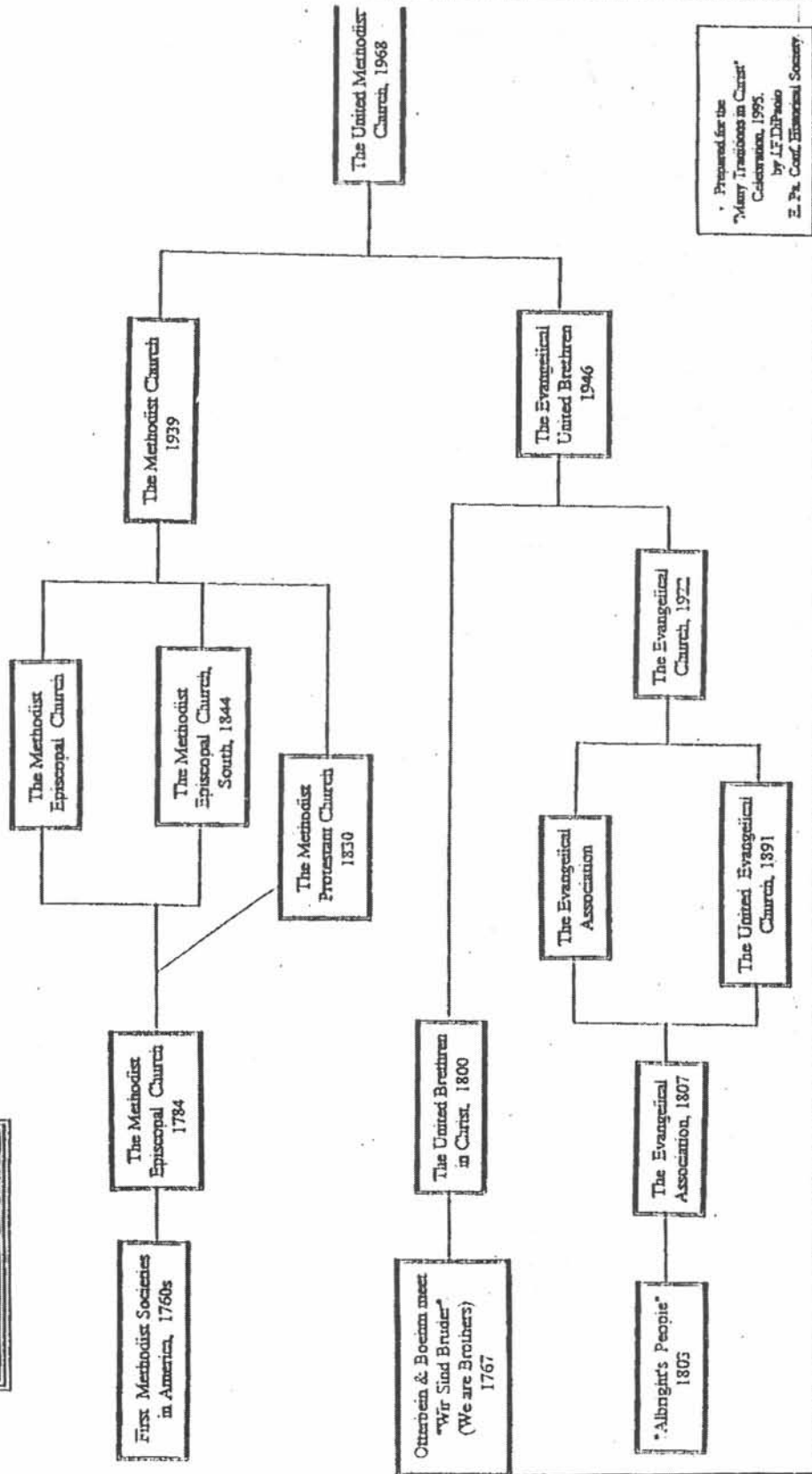
“And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church”  
...Colossians 1:18

The Church is of God: That truth should be the root and source of any church. “This is my body given for you” should constantly remind us of this.

## OUR HERITAGE TIME-LINE

- June 17, 1703 ..... John Wesley, Founder of Methodism, was born.
- March, 1736 ..... John and Charles Wesley, as Church of England Missionaries, came to the Colony of Georgia.
- December, 1736 .... Charles Wesley returned to England.
- February, 1738 ..... John Wesley returned to England. This was his only visit to America.
- May 24, 1738 ..... John Wesley had a “Heart Warming Experience” at Aldersgate Street, London.
- 1739-1791 ..... John Wesley crisscrossed England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland preaching until his death, March 2, 1791, to evangelize the nations.
- 1769 ..... John Wesley sent two lay preachers, Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore, to America to strengthen the Methodist work in the Colonies.
- 1771 ..... Richard Wright and Francis Asbury were sent to undergird the growth of Methodist societies.
- 1773 ..... The first conference of preachers in the Colonies met in Philadelphia.
- 1775-1783 ..... The American Revolution interrupted the spread of Methodism.
- December, 1784 ... The Christmas Conference of preachers was held at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, Maryland.
- May, 1828 ..... The Methodist Protestant Church was formed.
- 1844 ..... Southern churches formed the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
- 1861 – 1865 ..... The Civil War brought death, poverty, and division to our nation and our churches.
- July 12, 1896 ..... The Graham Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was organized.
- July 3, 1903 ..... The Graham Methodist Protestant Church was organized.
- April, 1939 ..... The Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Protestant Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were united into the Methodist Church.
- November 12, 1939 The Methodist Protestant Church and The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Graham were united to become the Graham Methodist Church.
- April, 1968..... The General Conference meeting in Dallas, Texas, signed the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church to become The United Methodist Church.

**FAMILY TREE OF  
UNITED METHODISM**



Prepared for the  
"Many Treasures in Christ"  
Celebration, 1995,  
by J.F. DiPietro  
E. Pa. Conf. Historical Society

## METHODISM IN ENGLAND



John Wesley

Ours was a movement long before it was organized as a Church. Through the early church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, seeds were sown that would lead to our birth.

Our distinction comes in the Wesleyan tradition and there we begin our history. We see John Wesley, born June 17, 1703, in the “old Rectory” of Epworth, England, as the dominant force in our beginning. We must not forget the influence of his parents, Samuel and Susanna, along with eighteen brothers and sisters, including Charles Wesley who wrote so many beautiful hymns. While at Oxford University, John Wesley and others, including Charles Wesley, formed a Holy Club. They became known for their spiritual disciplines such as weekly communion and accountability to God and one another. They also stressed visitation to prisons. Some of their detractors labeled them “Methodists.”



Samuel Wesley



“Old Rectory” in Epworth, England



Susanna Wesley

John Wesley was a natural leader and was devoted to education, serious Bible study, and firm commitments. He and Charles Wesley came to the Georgia Colony in America in 1736, as a part of the Church of England, but soon returned home with a sense of failure. This was the only trip John Wesley made to America. Searching for deeper spiritual meaning, he experienced his “heart-warming experience” at Aldersgate Street, London, on May 24, 1738, as he listened to the reading of Martin Luther’s preface to Romans. Hear his words from his journal.... “I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt

I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sin, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.” He joined some Moravians and they met regularly on Thursday evenings “to watch over one another in love and work out their salvation.” Societies, as all Methodist congregations were being called, were formed. By 1742, “they had greatly increased as they divided into classes of about twelve persons committed to the care of a leader.”

From 1739 to just before his death in 1791, John Wesley went to the people in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland preaching to evangelize the nations. He would preach in mines, slums, fields, homes, and prisons. Historians record that his preaching, teaching, and writing prevented a social revolution. Once he preached from his father’s grave to a crowd standing in the cemetery. He had been forbidden to preach there unless on family property.

On June 25, 1744, the first conference was held in London with six clergymen and four traveling preachers. Charles Wesley presided. The subject of their deliberations concerning theological and organizational matters was discussed in question and answer form and recorded as the Minutes of the Conference. Thus, began our tradition of the question and answer format of our Quarterly and Annual Conference reports. This conference established the foundation of early Methodism.



Historical Marker on St. Simon's Island,  
Georgia



Wesley Oak, St. Simon's Island



## METHODISM IN AMERICA

John Wesley did not forget America. In 1769, he sent two lay preachers, Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore, to America to strengthen and build societies. In 1771, he sent Richard Wright and Francis Asbury as representatives in America to undergird the growth of these Methodist societies. As growth continued, the first conference of preachers met at Philadelphia in 1773. Mr. Wesley appointed Asbury to be his assistant. Wesley, himself, was considered the head of the church, being the founder. All the preachers were considered "helpers."

The American Revolution (1775-1783) brought great changes and conflicts of loyalty, since John Wesley remained faithful to England and remained with the Church of England. Yet he had a love for the societies in America and rewrote the "Articles of Religion" and other worship materials for their use.

In December, 1784, the famous Christmas Conference of preachers met at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, Maryland, to chart a course. On December 27, the societies officially became a church. The Methodist Episcopal Church of America was born, making Methodist Episcopal the oldest title for an American organization of Methodists. Francis Asbury was "set apart" as the Superintendent. The title, Superintendent, was later changed to Bishop.

What John Wesley was to England, Francis Asbury became for America. He rode horseback, preaching, setting up groups, and choosing lay people as leaders. While stagnant and weak from the Revolutionary War, the new church began to spread and followed the open road westward.

Founding new churches in a new denomination in a new nation created organizational problems. Basically following John Wesley's rules and structures did not suit everyone, preachers nor laymen. Consequently, some new churches emerged.

The Methodist Protestant Church originated in protest against what its followers regarded as a lack of democracy in American Methodism. At the General Conference in May, 1828, the Methodist Protestant Church was formed. Presiding elders were to be elected, rather than appointed, and the office of Bishop was eliminated. The Conference had a President which was equal to a Bishop. The basic difference lay in the power of these chief officers to appoint the preachers and the period of time for which they were elected. It gave to every member the full recognition of his rights as a man and a Christian in the policy and work of the church. Every official held his place at the will of the majority. From the election of a man into the membership of the church to the highest office, the layman with the minister shared an equal responsibility, and all was done by vote.

## Historic Churches in United Methodism



First church of the Evangelicals at New Berlin, Pennsylvania.



Jacob Albright is buried in the graveyard of the Albright Memorial Church in Kleinfeltersville, Pennsylvania.



John Street Church, also known as Wesley Chapel, is the oldest Methodist society in America, organized in 1766 in New York.



Old Otterbein Church in Baltimore, Maryland, the first church to be built in downtown Baltimore, is one of the official United Methodist shrines.



Old St. George's, Philadelphia, is America's oldest Methodist meeting house in continuous service.



Lovely Lane Meeting House was the scene of the Christmas Conference of 1784. It is considered to be the Mother Church of American Methodism.

In 1844, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was started by Southern churches whose members refused to give up ownership of slaves. The General Conference approved a Plan of Separation which allowed the conferences in slave-holding states to form a separate General Conference. This separation remained in effect for ninety-three years, until unification in 1939.

The Civil War (1861-1865) brought death, destruction, and poverty to the South and its churches. Reconstruction was difficult and a long process.

It was not until April, 1939, after years of negotiations, that a Plan of Union was agreed upon, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church united into the Methodist Church.

## THE ITINERANT MINISTRY



“The winter day was bitterly cold. As a man peered out the door of his dry, warm frontier cabin he said, ‘There is nothing out today but crows and Methodist preachers.’ The circuit riders were so faithful and diligent in their travels to preach the gospel that they became proverbial.”

Wesley appointed preachers, notably Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore, to care for his followers in the colonies. They were assigned to three-month tenures.

After the Revolutionary War and Methodism had organized as a church, Francis Asbury became one of the first two general superintendents, soon to become known as Bishops. He was a powerful advocate of itinerancy as he now had the power to appoint preachers.

Life was hard for the itinerant preachers, first called Methodist Circuit Riders. Few survived beyond thirty-five years of age and rarely married. The second conference held in Philadelphia, May 25, 1774, allotted “every traveling preacher \$64.00 a year and his expenses.” At the third conference in 1775 “it was planned for some of the preachers to change in three or six months.” The preachers felt “that it would be best for them and for the people to have frequent changes of gifts and congregations. And we still know the good effects of having strangers to preach and strangers to hear.” A Virginia minister said, “And in most places where the people were lively in religion,

they were fond of having itinerant preachers to visit them.” The fact that they were appointed for only a year in 1779, with a salary of less than \$100.00, made most men hesitant to become ministers. Eventually the appointment time limit was changed to two years, then to three. By 1888, the assigned pastorate was for five years and even this ceiling was removed in 1900.

Theodore Roosevelt once said:

*The whole country is under a debt of gratitude to the Methodist circuit-riders, the Methodist pioneer preachers, whose movement westward kept pace with the movement of the frontier; who shared all the hardships in the life of the frontiersman, while at the same time ministering to that frontiersman's spiritual needs, and seeing that his pressing material cares and the hard and grinding poverty of his life did not wholly extinguish the divine fire within his soul.*

Myrtle Wilson relates:

*Neither of the two churches in Graham kept ministers very long. Some for a year, some for two, and a few stayed three years. You know, I don't know why they changed so often; whether the membership was dissatisfied with their services or if they were dissatisfied with a poor salary. Reverend J. J. Boone said from the pulpit after he had been here about a month, 'I want you to know I haven't unpacked my trunk. You have kept ministers from six months to two years so I thought I just better leave my trunk packed.' He actually stayed five years.*

As in the traditional form of church government, bishops still appoint ministers to their charge in the twenty-first century. Decisions are made with the help of the congregation and the cabinet members.

*Appointments are to be made with consideration of the gifts and evidence of God's grace to those appointed, to the needs, characteristics, and opportunities of congregations and institutions and with faithfulness to the commitment of an open itinerancy. Open itinerancy means appointments are made without regard to race, ethnic origin, gender, color, marital status, or age, except for the provisions of mandatory retirement. Through appointment-making, the connectional nature of the United Methodist system is made visible. [1996 Book of Discipline]*

The average tenure is now six years as the church has found that shorter terms are not as conducive to growth. Methodist pastors are “sent” rather than “called.” The last act of business at an annual conference is when the bishop “fixes” the appointments for the coming year. Preachers may be assigned to the same church for another year or to a different church.

This song was used during our Bicentennial Service, September 12, 1976:

*Circuit Ridin' Preacher*



*The circuit ridin' preacher used to ride across the land,  
With a rifle on his saddle and a Bible in his hand;  
He told the prairie people all about the promised land  
As he went riding, singing down the trail.*

*The circuit ridin' preacher traveled thru the mire and mud,  
Told about the fiery furnace and of Noah and the flood;  
He preached the way to heaven was by water and the blood,  
And he went riding, singing down the trail.*



Participants in our Bicentennial Observance

## METHODISM IN NORTH CAROLINA

The Reverend Jesse Lee, native of Person County and a traveling preacher of the late 1700s and early 1800s, gives a vivid and descriptive account of early Methodism in our state. Much of this information is gleaned from his *A Short History of Methodists*.

Joseph Pilmore, an Anglican Clergyman sent by John Wesley, preached at the small Currituck Sound Courthouse on September 28, 1772, to an organized society. In 1774, Robert Williams began to form societies from Petersburg, Virginia, southward along the Roanoke River into North Carolina. Three preachers were assigned to this North Carolina circuit. A great revival added over 1800 members the next year. This one society reported at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland, on May 21, 1776, that "there was a very gracious work in North Carolina where we had but one circuit in all the state."

At the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in 1778, the preachers divided the one circuit into three, called Roanoke, Tar River, and New Hope. In 1780, Yadkin Circuit was added and, in 1788, Guilford, Caswell, Salisbury, Marsh, Bertie, and Pasquotank became circuits. "At a quarterly meeting on the Guilford Circuit in March, between forty and fifty people professed to be converted in the course of that meeting." Most important to us at Graham, is that in 1793 the Haw River Circuit was formed. "At another quarterly meeting held at Hickory Mountain Meeting House in the month of June, in the Haw River Circuit, they had the greatest time of the power and presence of God that they had ever seen in that place."

During this time, the Revolutionary War was a formidable obstacle to church development. At one conference it was reported that 873 members were lost because of war. Reverend Lee relates:

The war was so distressing that when preachers could not attend their circuits and some of the societies were dispersing or being prevented from meeting. Male members were drafted, some lost their lives, and others were made shipwreck of the faith and but few of them returned home with as much religion as they formerly possessed. Yet, notwithstanding all their difficulties, they stood fast as one body, and waxed stronger and stronger in the Lord.

Eastern North Carolina was among the sections of the original Colonies where Methodism began to flourish before the Societies were organized into the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784. In April, 1785, near Louisburg, the Green Hill House was the scene of the first Annual Conference of the newly organized Methodist Episcopal Church, which had its inception in the famous Christmas Conference in 1784, held at Lovely Lane Chapel in

Baltimore, Maryland. "In a spacious 'Upper Room' twenty preachers from thirty-one circuits on the continent met with the newly consecrated Bishops Asbury and Coke to report nearly 1000 new members." A lay preacher and colonial political leader, Major Green Hill, served as host for this and three future conferences, two in 1792 and one in 1793.



Bishop Thomas Coke

Bishop Coke said, "We spent three days in conference and a comfortable time we had together." The commodious Green Hill house was considered a "mansion" with three stories, consisting of five rooms in the basement, four on the first floor, and the large attic where the sessions were held. "By laying beds on the floor there was room for all."

"The North Carolina Annual Conference, the oldest conference in the Methodist Protestant Church, was organized in Whitaker's Chapel on Friday, December 19, 1828. A constitution was drawn, recognizing Christ as the head of the church, and all elders in the church as equal, which secured to every adult layman the right to vote and to be represented in every church meeting. Whitaker's Chapel, which was first erected in 1740, is located near Enfield, North Carolina. In April, 1970, the General Conference designated the Chapel as the Fifteenth Shrine of American Methodists."



**GREEN HILL HOUSE**  
Louisburg, N. C.  
Site of First Annual Conference  
of American Methodism  
1785

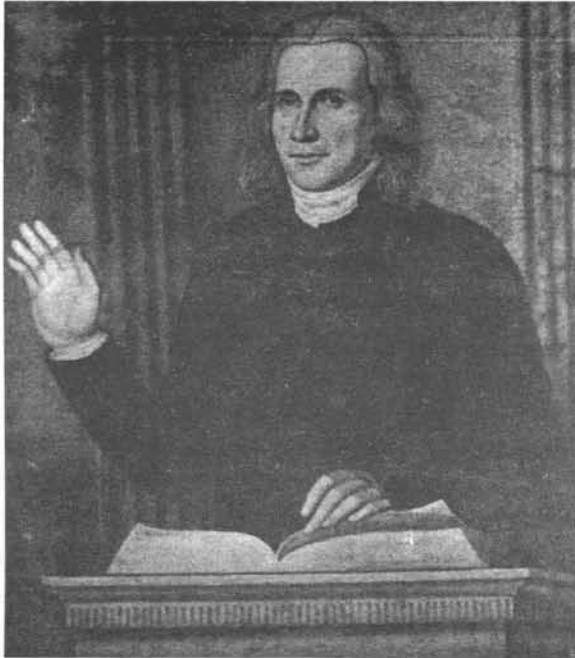


Whitaker's Chapel  
20th Century Shrine



## METHODISM COMES TO ALAMANCE COUNTY

Methodism in Alamance County can trace its history back to the latter years of the eighteenth century when Francis Asbury passed through this area. An interesting account of his travels in 1780 is recorded in his journal as follows:



This earliest known portrait of Francis Asbury, painted in 1794, was lost for many years.

In 1866 it was found being used as a fire screen. Note where a hole had been cut for the stovepipe (see his raised hand).

July 20<sup>th</sup>, After we set out on the journey; we came to a desperate creek called North-East where the bridge was carried away by the freshet. We had to go through among rocks, holes, logs, I was affrighted, yea, it was wonderful that the carriage did not upset; Brother Poythress said the horse was down twice and covered all but the head; however, the water kept up the carriage and we came safely through all our difficulties to Brother Merritt's. Sunday, July 23, 1780, we passed Haw River wide but shallow then we had to travel the pathless woods and rocks again after much trouble and fear and dejection, we came to Taylor's preaching-house. July 24, in general I walk my horse; as the rides are so long and bad roads. I crossed Rocky River about ten miles from Haw River; it was rocky sure enough. I could see little else but cabins in these parts built with poles and such a country as no man ever saw from a carriage. Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rode seven miles to Hillsborough and preached in the house of Mr. Cortney, A Taveran, to about two hundred people. They were decent, well-behaved; I was much animated and spoke loud and long.

Very little Methodist Episcopal work was organized in the counties west of Rockingham, Guilford, and Randolph before the late 1800s. One of the oldest organizations in the state is the Salem Church of the Saxapahaw Circuit in Alamance County. It was organized as an "Associated Methodist Church" by the Reverend Alexander Albright in 1826. Haw River was a preaching appointment on the Chatham Circuit July 23, 1883, at which time a Quarterly Conference was held there.

In 1870, a hundred years after Asbury visited the area, Reverend F. S. Gladstone, newly transferred from the Methodist Protestant Church, was assigned to a circuit called

Alamance, Chatham, and Orange. The next year, Reverend J. B. F. James was appointed to the Randolph, Chatham, and Alamance Charge. There are three unnamed church properties dated in 1896, 1900, and 1902 in Alamance County, but no surviving church buildings or further information.

In observance of the Bicentennial Year of our nation and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carolina Circuit, (the first Methodist Circuit in North Carolina), our North Carolina Conference published a directory of the founding date of each United Methodist Church. The following list was given for Alamance County:

- Bellefont – Formerly Methodist Protestant, founded in 1883.
- Bethel – North of Burlington, founded in 1800 and named Pyle's Meeting House.
- Bethel – Near Snow Camp, formerly Methodist Protestant, founded in 1836 when services began in a log dwelling known as the Bobbet House.
- Burlington, Davis Street – Founded as First Methodist Protestant Church in 1890.
- Burlington, Emmanuel – Founded June 8, 1969, as a merger of Webb Avenue and Trinity (founded in 1952).
- Burlington, Faith – Methodist Protestant Church founded in 1918.
- Burlington, Front Street – Founded in 1888.
- Burlington, Grace – Founded in 1955.
- Burlington, St. Paul – Founded as Fountain Place Methodist Protestant Church in 1922 and became Saint Paul in 1955.
- Burlington, West Burlington – Founded in 1924 as West End Methodist Church.
- Cedar Cliff – Founded in 1885 as Wesley Methodist Protestant Church.
- Christ – Founded in 1959.
- Concord – Formerly Methodist Protestant founded in 1832.
- Elon – Founded as West Burlington Methodist Episcopal in 1924, relocated and renamed in 1994.
- Fairview – Formerly Methodist Protestant founded in 1832.
- Friendship – Methodist Protestant founded in 1896.
- Graham – Formed in 1939 by merger of Methodist Episcopal Church, South, founded 1896, and Methodist Protestant Church founded in 1903.
- Haw River – Methodist Protestant Church founded in 1883. Holt's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, South, founded in 1894. Merger occurred in 1942.
- Hebron – Founded in 1859.
- Mebane – Founded as a Methodist Protestant Church in 1900. Central Methodist Episcopal Church, South, founded in 1919. Merger occurred in 1941.
- Mount Hermon – Founded as a Methodist Protestant Church in 1829.
- Phillips Chapel – Founded in 1849.
- Rock Creek – Formerly Methodist Protestant founded in 1836.
- Saint Luke's – Founded in 1961 and merged with Glencoe Methodist Church.

Salem – Founded between 1780 and 1790 and became Methodist Protestant in 1828.

Saxapahaw – Founded as Saxapahaw Union Church in 1890 and used by the Protestant, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Quaker, and Presbyterian groups. Became Saxapahaw Methodist Church in 1939.

Shiloh – Founded about 1825.

Sweptonville – Founded in 1887 as Newlin Methodist Church.

## **AFRICAN AMERICAN METHODISM IN GRAHAM**

On November 29, 1758, John Wesley baptized his first black converts at Wandsworth, England, and claimed them to be the first African Christians he had known. Blacks embraced Methodism in the United States very early. They were charter members of early societies. From 1784 – 1864, blacks were included in the membership of white congregations. By 1786, there were 1,890 black members in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Harry Hoozier, a traveling companion of Francis Asbury, accompanied him to preach to the colored people. Henry Evans is credited with organizing the first inclusive church in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The conclusion of the Civil War and the establishment of emancipation brought the separation of almost all Negroes from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, but most remained loyally with the Methodist family. All the founders of the black Methodist denominations got their start in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Examples of this were the organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (A.M.E.Z.) Church. Their North Carolina Conference was organized in 1864 with 2,654 members.

At Graham in 1868, William and Jane Clendenin sold a “certain lot of land for a church lying on the west side of the road running north from Graham.” It was deeded to Wyatt Outlaw, Edmund White, Martin Van Buren, Benjamin Paisley, and Giles Bason as trustees. This acre lot sold for \$20.00. The building on the lot was used as a school and a meeting place for both Baptists and Methodists.

In 1883, the Graham Methodists organized as a unit of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and chose the name Wayman Chapel in honor of the denomination’s Bishop Wayman. Construction on a new building began on the corner of North Main and College Streets, simultaneously with a project of the same denomination in the

neighboring town to the west, which had not then become Burlington but was known as Company Shops. The *Gleaner*, the Graham newspaper, reported this unusual event in August: "A large number of people excuted (sic) to Company Shops and this place last Friday to witness the laying of the corner stones of the A.M.E. Churches – one at each place. The party was accompanied by two colored brass bands, who made good music." In September the *Gleaner* reported that vandals "had committed the rascally trick of tearing down the cornerstone of the Graham Church to remove the few coins placed in it." The church was completed and continues to house an active congregation.



Wayman Chapel Cornerstone



Wayman Chapel A.M.E. Church on North Main Street

## CHURCH ORGANIZATION

*"We give thanks to God always for . . . your work of faith, and labor of love."  
First Thessalonians 1: 2-3*

When the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in Baltimore, Maryland, on December 27, 1784, it was imperative to establish procedures for conducting church business. "The Methodists were pretty generally pleased at our becoming a church and heartily united together in the plan which the conference had adopted. And from that time religion greatly revived."

Jesse Lee in his *History Of The Methodists* wrote: "Being now formed into a church, a regular plan of proceedings was laid, and a form of discipline drawn up. In the minutes of the conference there were eighty-one questions to be answered." It is necessary to take particular notice of these regulations or rules, which formed at that time.

Question 3 asked: "As the ecclesiastical as well as civil affairs of these United States have passed through a very considerable change by the Revolution, what plan of church government shall we hereafter pursue?" The answer: "We will form ourselves into an Episcopal Church under the direction of superintendents, elders, deacons, and helpers, according to the forms of ordination annexed to our liturgy, and the form of discipline set forth in these minutes."

By 1789, the regulations of the Methodists were called the "Large Minutes" which became the basis for the first *Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church* published in 1785. These became the standards for membership and growth as well as the marks of excellence for the itinerant preachers.

The preachers regulated their business at the Quarterly Meetings generally held on a Tuesday to preach, settle their business, hold a Love Feast, and sometimes a Watch Night Service. After a while in some country places, the Quarterly Meetings would continue for two days. After further trial and error, it was concluded that Saturdays and Sundays were best. The wealthy people would come, and the slaves could come on the Sabbath. The poorer people could not spare the time or procure horses for transportation unless it was on the Sabbath.

By the late 1800s, the Quarterly Conference continued to meet four times annually (generally an evening meeting) bringing together the stewards, delegates, lay and ordained preachers, licensed elders, deacons, and trustees from each church on a circuit. The conference dealt with matters of concern to every church member. The pastor gave a

written report that was included in the minutes of the conference. The State of the Church, the Sunday School, and Missions were included in his report.

The excerpts from the Quarterly Conference records that are used in this history give valuable insight to the issues and practices from the past to the present.

## THE GENERAL RULES



Reverend Ricks reads a 1918 edition of the *Discipline*

The general rules can be found in the *Discipline* and are the directions which John Wesley gave to his followers to enable them to test the sincerity of their purpose and to guide them in this life. There are three basic principles – “doing no harm, doing good and using the means of grace”. Through the centuries church organization has evolved into its present structure based on these original tenets.

The 2000 edition of the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* begins by asserting:

The *Discipline* is the book of law of the United Methodist Church. It is the product of over 200 years of the General Conference of the denominations which now form The United Methodist Church. The Discipline is the instrument for setting forth the laws, plan, polity, and process by which the United Methodists govern themselves, remains constant. . . . We do consider it a document suitable to our heritage. It is the most current statement of how United Methodists agree to live their lives together. It reflects our understanding of the Church and of what is expected of its laity and clergy as they seek to be effective witnesses in the world as a part of the whole body of Christ.

The *Discipline* dictates that each local church shall be organized so as to pursue its primary task and mission in its own community. The basic organizational plan shall include a:

- Charge Conference
- Church Council
- Committee on pastor – parish relations
- Board of Trustees
- Committee on Finance
- Committee on Lay Leadership

And such other elected leaders, commissions, councils, committees, and task forces as the charge conference may determine.

## SACRAMENTS OF METHODISTS

John Wesley affirmed baptism and Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) as the only sacraments. He felt both were outward signs of an inner grace. Through the years Wesley's beliefs about the sacraments have been interpreted and misinterpreted. This is an attempt to be true to the Wesley tradition.

### Holy Communion (The Lord's Supper)



This Sacrament was, in John Wesley's view and practice, central to the life of the congregation. He spoke of Holy Communion as the "grand channel whereby the grace of Christ's Spirit was conveyed to the souls of all the children of God."

John Wesley saw the Lord's Supper as a sacrament in which Christ is truly present, conveying grace to the recipient. We come bringing a recognition of our unworthiness and a "divinely wrought conviction" of His promise to be present.

The basis of the Lord's Supper is that it directs our faith to the merits of the death of Christ by which alone we are saved. We are always to remember that. Christ's presence in the sacrament is not in terms of substance, and the act of consecration does not bring about any change in the elements (bread, wine or grape juice). Christ is present through the Holy Spirit to bless. The approach by God calls for a response of faith by the believer.

Wesley not only saw the sacrament as a time to remember Christ and salvation, to experience the presence of Christ, but also as an assurance of the "glory to come." It is a means for bringing that faith which prepares us for our final destiny. The early Methodists lived, communicated (Holy Communion) and died in the reality of the doctrine of the Communion of Saints. The Church militant and the Church Triumphant constitute "one family." No wonder John Wesley participated in this sacrament on an average of every four or five days throughout his ministerial life.

According to Wesley, the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful people in which the pure Word of God is preached and the Sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance.

Complete services are printed in *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

### **Baptism**

John Wesley believed that baptism was the beginning of a Christian's new life and that it normally took place in infancy. He felt and wrote that this was in line with the New Testament teaching.

Baptism declares that God has begun the work of regeneration in our lives, and God's purpose is to bring us to the conscious acceptance of that "new birth". Our response is through faith.

In the congregation, Baptism sustains and nourishes believing souls, with parents and congregation pledging to teach each child the way of the Lord.

At such time a child or youth chooses to be incorporated into the community of faith (the Church), confirmation is the transitional act.

Clara Montgomery is recorded as the first child to be baptized in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Graham on May 21, 1899, by Reverend J. A. Dailey.





Confirmation class, 2002



The Lloyd Family



## COVENANT / WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

One experiment that Wesley tried that proved successful was the Watch Night Service. The first one was held on April 9, 1742, in London. Watch Night was literally what the term indicates, a "watching" through the night, with singing, witnessing, and exhortation. At first, services were for one or two hours before midnight. Mr. Wesley ordered it to be once a month at the full of the moon, then once a quarter and recommended it to all his societies. He sent them word, "I designed to watch with them on the Friday, nearest the full moon that we might have light thither and back again. I began preaching between eight and nine and we continued til a little beyond midnight, singing, praying, and praising God." Membership tickets were required and were not for the general public.

The Watch Night Service was not always held on New Year's Eve. The first record of a service in our church occurred after Unification on Sunday, December 31, 1939. The bulletin announcement read:

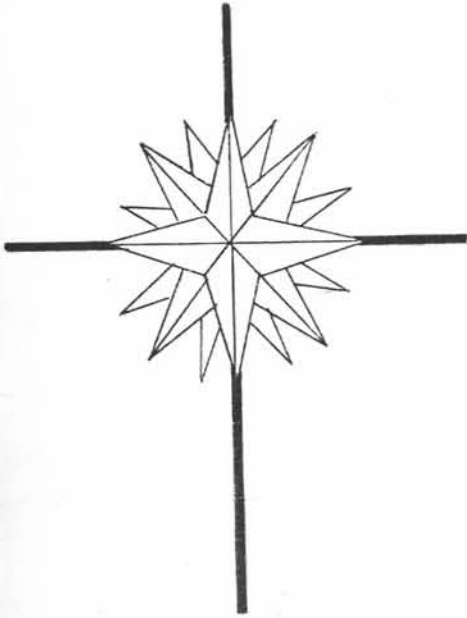
Watch Night Service tonight at this Church from 10:30 to 12:00. There will be no preaching at the regular 7 o'clock hour. If you are interested in your Church; in the progress of our United Church, you should by all means attend the service tonight at 10:30 to 12 o'clock. Perhaps you could not make a better New Year's resolution than to resolve that 'This year, 1940, I am going to be more loyal to my Church and Lord than I have ever been before'.

The service included singing, responsive reading, prayers, special music, addresses by Mr. Don Holt, W. B. Green, and Reverend D. R. Williams. There was a period of personal testimonials. The prayer of dedication was at midnight with the entire congregation kneeling at the altar for the benediction.

In the December 29, 1967, bulletin, Reverend Whitehead announced the 11:00 p.m. service. John Wesley's New Year's Covenant Service would be used and the young people would have a part as well as music by the Chapel Choir.

The Covenant Service is found in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*.

## LOVE FEASTS



### ***Christmas Lovefeast*** *First United Methodist Church* *Graham, North Carolina*

In addition to singing, a tradition that Wesley adapted from the Moravians was the Love Feast. It had two distinct features, the distribution of bread and water followed by spiritual testimony, comparable to a fellowship meal. Love Feasts were for members of the societies. There was a time of singing and witnessing accompanied by the breaking of bread and the drinking of water from a two-handled mug that passed from person to person. As in the Watch Night Services, membership tickets were required of those who attended. The ticket bore the name of the holder and the signature of the preacher. This guaranteed that the bearer was a member in good standing of a particular Methodist class or society and had the right to attend. The tickets were honored at any Love Feast anywhere in the Colonies. This served to draw Methodists together into a tightly knit organization.

The first authentic Moravian Love Feast held in our church was in December, 1978, when the Reverend R. Dennis Ricks invited the Reverend Harvey Johnson and Mr. I. B. Sutherland from Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem to organize and conduct the service. Church ladies, dressed in white, passed Moravian-baked buns served on trays made by Charles Staton. Mugs of specially brewed coffee with sweet milk and sugar following the traditional Moravian recipe were served. The choir sang seasonal songs during the serving of food. A Christmas message was delivered by the Reverend Ricks. The lights were dimmed and men brought in trays of lighted beeswax candles. As the congregation sang, candles were passed to every person to lift heavenward on the singing of the final stanza.

Love Feasts may be held anytime of the year but are especially appropriate at Christmas. This season is the only time the candles are used. They are a symbol of the life of Christ as he came into the world. Beeswax is a symbol of purity and the candlewick is the heart of the candle as we think of our own heart and soul.

We continue to celebrate Christmas with the Moravian-style Love Feast.



Marsha Jones directs the trimming of the Love Feast  
candles



Hulon Briggs and Gordon Painter bring in the coffee.



Howard Walters and John Way  
prepare baskets of  
Love Feast buns.



The choir is served.



Photo by Anglin Studio, Phone 1095, Burlington, N. C.

**GRAHAM METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH  
GRAHAM, N. C.**

# THE GRAHAM METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was officially organized on July 12, 1896, with the leadership of the Reverend J. A. Dailey. According to information written by William B. Green, "This was his first work and he was appointed to this charge in 1895. There was an organization here a few years before this time and services were held in the courthouse." The June 11, 1896, *Gleaner* printed the following announcement:



Alamance County Courthouse built  
in the 1850s

Reverend J. A. Dailey will preach at the courthouse Sunday at 11 o'clock. It is his regular appointment. He will preach next Sunday at 4:00 p.m. All are invited and especially members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as we wish to transfer some business after the service.

There were nineteen charter members and eight others joined during the year, either by certificate or by vows. They were:

M. F. Crawford	July 12, 1896 C	Julia Burke Bright	October 25, 1896 C
Mrs. M. F. Crawford	July 12, 1896 C	Annie Elmore	October 25, 1896 V
Callie Gray	July 12, 1896 C	Sallie Farrell	October 25, 1896 V
Mrs. A. R. Howland	July 12, 1896 C	Arlendo Norwood	October 25, 1896 V
Miss Tillie Howland	July 12, 1896 C	Thomas Oakes	October 25, 1896 V
J. D. Vaughn	July 12, 1896 C	Ada Shields	October 25, 1896 V
Mrs. J. D. Vaughn	July 12, 1896 C	Alex Trogdon	October 25, 1896 V
Susan Revis	July 12, 1896 C	James Underwood	October 25, 1896 V
Lillie Revis	July 12, 1896 C	Rocita J. Underwood	October 25, 1896 C
Mrs. Lizzie H. Montgomery	July 12, 1896 C		

The November 19, 1896, issue of the *Gleaner* reported that "The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is arranging to buy a church site here and hopes to begin the erection of a house of worship next year."



Geo. W. Anthony,  
M. F. Crawford,  
C. W. Hunt  
J. J. Arnold  
and  
J. S. Daily  
Wife  
Mary

This indenture made this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 1896 between  
Lorick L. Turnode and his wife Mary Turnode of Guilford  
County, State of North Carolina, of the first part, and  
George W. Anthony, Michael F. Crawford, Charles W. Hunt  
and  
Janey T. Arnold and John S. Daily, all of the county of  
Hammance and State of North Carolina, parties of the  
second part, Witnesseth: That for and in consideration of  
the sum of One Hundred and sixty Dollars, the receipt  
whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said parties of the  
first part have given, granted, bargained, sold and  
conveyed, and do hereby give, grant bargain, sell and convey  
unto the said parties of the second part all of the following  
real property, to-wit: a lot or parcel of land situate in the  
Town of Abraham Hammance County, North Carolina,  
it being a part of a lot sold at the court house door  
in the Town of Abraham N.C. to the last and best  
bidder by J. D. Smith, Jr. and J. S. Long Trustee on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
day of September, 1893 at which sale said Lorick L.  
Turnode, became the purchaser, and bounded as follows:  
Beginning at a stake on N. Melville street (the street  
running north from the county jail to the rail road  
depot), thence East at right angles to said street fifty &  
33/100 feet to a stake thence in a northeasterly direction  
fifty = one & 9/100 feet to a stake on North Main Street (the  
street running from the court house in said town of  
Abraham to the railroad depot in a north and south-  
westerly direction) thence with said North Main Street  
in a southwesterly direction to a stake one hundred &  
forty three & 17/100 feet thence in a southwesterly direction  
thence south with North Melville Street  
one hundred & thirty-five feet to the beginning, containing  
twenty-seven hundredths (27) of an acre more or less.  
To have and to hold the said lot or parcel of land  
with the appurtenances thereto belonging to them the  
said George W. Anthony, Michael F. Crawford, Charles W.  
Hunt, Janey T. Arnold and John S. Daily, the  
said parties of the second part Trustee, and their  
successors in office and assignee forever in trust reser-  
vations for the following uses and purposes and some  
thereto-wit: That said premises shall be used kept  
maintained and disposed of as a place of divine worship  
for the use of the ministry and membership of the  
Methodist Episcopal Church South - subject to the title

November 16, 1896 deed

Dr. Durwood T. Stokes in his book *Auction and Action* said:

"The site was purchased from Lovick L. Kernodle by George W. Anthony, Michael F. Crawford, Charles W. Hunt, Yancy T. Ormond, and John A. Dailey, church trustees, and contained 27/100 of an acre. It was a triangular lot formed by the intersection of North Maple and North Main Streets."

The deed was dated November 16, 1896, Book 19, Page 113. In 1897, the congregation completed building their church and it served them for almost two decades.

Mr. W. B. Green wrote, "The old church was built in 1897 by Reverend J. A. Dailey, who was sent to this charge, ... Mr. Dailey stayed here four years and at the end of this time there were about 60 members." Reverend Dailey was a native of Alamance County, having been born in the Pleasant Grove community, and educated at Whitsett Institute and Trinity College. He married one of his parishioners: Miss Matilda "Tillie" Howland.

The first Quarterly Conference records in our possession are dated April 9, 1899. The East Burlington (later called Webb Avenue), Haw River and Graham churches were organized as a charge in the Durham District. Reverend Dailey listed the Sunday School enrollment at 65 with an average attendance of 30. He explained that "the spiritual development and attendance wasn't as he would have liked it due to the excitement of a smallpox epidemic."

Reverends Thompson and Rood succeeded Reverend Dailey. In 1901, Reverend G. O. Green, "a very promising young pastor", came to Graham for his first appointment. He contracted typhoid fever and died on September 24, 1902. At the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Conference held on October 4, 1902, J. C. King, W. A. Shoffner, and J. W. Boone were appointed to "draw up resolutions to be placed on the conference records in memory of Reverend Green." His brother, W. B. Green, a local pastor, finished out the year and returned to serve the appointment in 1903. The church had grown to "around 160 members and the Sunday School to more than 200."

"On November 18, 1912, the members of the church and the townspeople suffered a blow when the church building was destroyed by fire." The cause was never known or at least never recorded. Neither the congregation nor the pastor, Reverend E. G. L. Edwards, was discouraged but immediately began making plans for a new building. A second church, this time a brick building, was constructed on the same site and the first service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 22, 1914. This amazing feat was accomplished in about one and a half years.

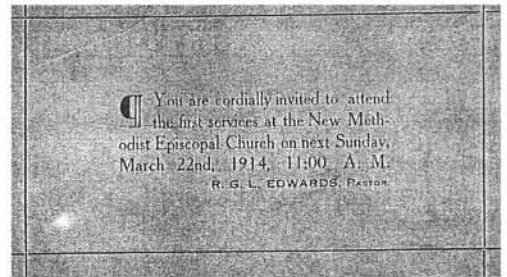
During the pastorate of the Reverend H. E. Meyers, 1916-1917, the indebtedness was paid and the building dedicated. Dr. H. E. Spence preached the dedicatory sermon and his text was "Again I shake the earth and heaven also, that the things that can not be shaken may remain."

The next development in the way of church building was the construction of the hut behind the church during the ministry of the Reverend G. M. Daniels (1920-1924). "This gave needed additional space for church activities, specifically for the purpose of holding classes for the young people."

From the time of Unification until July, 1956, when the congregation moved into new facilities, this building served as the house of worship.



First cornerstone (may have been broken when church burned)



These are the Bishops that served the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, until unification in 1939:

Bishop Alpheus Wilson	1896-1897	Bishop E. H. Hoss	1911-1912
Bishop Robert Hargrove	1897-1898	Bishop Collins Denny	1912-1913
Bishop Oscar P. Fitzgerald	1898-1899	Bishop J. H. McClay	1913-1914
Bishop Eugene R. Hendrix	1899-1900	Bishop R. G. Waterhouse	1914-1915
Bishop Henry C. Morrison	1900-1901	Bishop John C. Kilgo	1915-1917
Bishop Robert Hargrove	1901-1902	Bishop Warren Chandler	1917-1918
Bishop A. Cole Smith	1902-1903	Bishop W. V. W. Dalington	1918-1922
Bishop Warren A. Chandler	1903-1905	Bishop Collins Denny	1922-1926
Bishop Alpheus Wilson	1905-1907	Bishop Edwin D. Monfond	1926-1934
Bishop Charles B. Galloway	1907-1908	Bishop Paul B. Kern	1934-1937
Bishop Alpheus Wilson	1908-1910	Bishop Clare Purcell	1937-1939
Bishop Eugene R. Hendrix	1910-1911	Bishop W. W. Peele	1939-1940

Presiding Elders:

Reverend E. A. Yates	1896-1900	Reverend J. C. Wooten	1917-1919
Reverend W. H. Moore	1901-1902	Reverend M. T. Plyler	1919-1923
Reverend J. T. Gibbs	1902-1906	Reverend Mike Bradshaw	1923-1927
Reverend J. B. Hurley	1906-1909	Reverend J. C. Wooten	1927-1932
Reverend R. C. Beamon	1909-1914	Reverend H. C. Smith	1932-1935
Reverend W. N. North	1914-1915	Reverend H. B. Porter	1935-1938
Reverend J. L. Cunningham	1915-1917	Reverend A. J. Hobbs	1938-1942

The following list of charge appointments, of which Graham was a part, was provided by the North Carolina Conference Archives:

Haw River's church was Holt's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, South

**East Burlington (Webb Avenue), Graham, and Haw River**

1898 – J. A. Dailey  
1899 – B. C. Thompson  
1900 – G. R. Rood  
1901 – G. O. Green  
1902 – W. B. Green  
1903 – C. M. Lance  
1904 – C. M. Lance  
1905 – N. C. Yearby ( G. D. Langstrom)  
1907 – W. F. Sanford  
(No records for these intervening years)

1918 – J. R. Edwards (Graham & Haw River only)  
1919 – C. T. Thrift  
1920 – G. M. Daniel  
1921 – G. M. Daniel  
1922 – G. M. Daniel  
1923 – G. M. Daniel (Graham, Haw River and East Burlington, Webb Avenue)  
1924 – G. W. Starling (Graham and Haw River)  
1925 – G. W. Starling (Graham and Haw River)  
1926 – G. W. Starling (Graham and Haw River)  
1927 – A. C. Holler (Graham and Haw River)

1935 – C. F. Heath (Graham, West Burlington, Webb Avenue)

Most of these preachers lived in the parsonage in Graham while preaching at East Burlington and Haw River.

## STATE OF THE CHURCH

Question #4 of the Methodist Episcopal Quarterly Conference records asked: "Is there a written report from the preacher in charge on the General State of the Church?" Following are direct quotes written by some of the ministers.

July 2, 1899 – Reverend J. A. Dailey – "Our people are not filled with the spirit of God. We are hoping and praying for the baptism of the Holy Ghost on our charge this year. There are no students from our charge attending the church schools. Education is at a low ebb with us."

October 1, 1899 – "Our Sunday Schools are in a flourishing condition ... Graham officers and teachers 6, number of scholars 110, avg. attendance 60 collection \$4.05."

At his last conference he reported: "We have been blessed with good revivals this year. The church has been strengthened. We hope to get all the collections both the conference claimants, and the Pastor's salary. We hope to have our work by conference in such good shape as that our successor will find it easy to enter upon."

April 15, 1900 – Reverend B. C. Thompson – "Our mission work is being pressed and we have secured in money and by subscription a good part of the amount assessed this charge. Our people are responding very liberally..."

July 13, 1900 – "The spiritual condition of the church is fairly good some of our young people are worldly minded but hope to be able to get them to see the importance of right living and have the spiritual condition of the church what it ought to be."

April 9, 1901 – Reverend G. R. Rood – "Many members have been lost by removal especially at Haw River. East Burlington and Graham have each lost from the same cause about one-fifth of its members. The lock-out being the cause. A few of these have written for their letters." (No explanation was given nor has been found in church records explaining the "lock-out". It has been suggested the "lock-out" may have referred to a mill strike.)

June 22, 1901 - "At Graham the state of the work is excellent. They are trying to raise our debt with very good chances of success. This time a membership list for Graham included: Clarence, Gertrude, and Monte, children of Mrs. J. W. Boon; Mattie Louise, child of Mr. F. C. Montgomery were baptized. John W., Amelia A., Emma Hall received by certificate, John Turner by profession of faith. More are to come in by letter and vows."

1902 – Reverend G. O. Green – “The spiritual condition of the work is not as good as we would have it but we are hopeful and feel sure we will go forward. None have been received, died, removed, withdrawn, or have been expelled since we came.”

February 14, 1904 – Reverend Charles M. Lance – “We have an Epworth League of Graham. We have recently re-elected our League Officers and getting the work organized. We hope to do some good this year. We have three Sunday Schools with a total enrollment of about 500. These schools are all doing good work. The school at Graham has an enrollment of 192 and average attendance is 130. We are giving instruction to the children as we have opportunity.

“The spiritual state of the church, generally speaking is good. In the attendance of church worship our people are above average.

“We have no missionary societies. I recently secured the services of Rev. Mr. Hirahira, a Japanese student at Trinity College. He delivered two very interesting lectures, one at Webb Ave. Chapel and the other at Graham with good results.

“I have written our publishing house for literature to be distributed among the membership of the church. It is my intention to preach a sermon on the subject of missions in the near future and press the collection.

“We have preached on the subject of Christian Education at all the churches, emphasizing the education that our schools and colleges offer. There are none from this charge attending a denominational school and one in Chapel Hill. We have good graded schools at Burlington and Graham. Haw River will have one in the near future.”

January 17, 1906 – Reverend J. G. Langston – “The time since my appointment to this work has been so short, I have not been able to learn much about the spiritual or financial condition of the work. But am glad to say I have met a number of Godly men and women at all the churches who seem interested in the work of the church, and received me very kindly, and thus gave me very much encouragement. I am praying and expecting great things.”

March 31, 1906 – “Our Sunday Schools at each church are doing a great work for the Master. They are increasing in numbers of scholars and instruction. We have two Epworth Leagues in infancy. We hope by feeding them with the milk of the word, they will develop into a power for good in the future. Our Sunday Schools are organized into missionary societies as the Discipline directs. We need libraries at each church. Am doing all I can to instruct the children.”

June 24, 1906 – “The spiritual condition of the charge is on the line of improvement. But not so good as we wish it to be. Family prayer is very much neglected. We have

had a meeting at Graham for 2 weeks. The church membership was much revived. A number reclaimed. Two accessions to the church.”

“The general state of the church is good, much better than I expected to find it. We have had large and attentive congregations at all points. Have had words of encouragement from a large percent of our people. We are looking forward to and expecting a gracious revival all over the work in the near future Our people are kind and responsive to every good work.”

November 8, 1908 – Reverend W. Francke Sandford – “It is with reluctance that I can not report the spiritual condition all that may be desired; but my faith in the promises of God lead me to believe that showers of blessings will yet fall upon the churches and the day is not far distant when new and quickened life will prevail through this Zion of God.”

January 31, 1909 – Reverend T. G. Vickers – “The Church is perhaps not quite so live spiritually as it should be, but in view of the fact that at two of the appointments, there have been no protracted services in the past two years, this is not to be wondered at.”

Question #31 asked: Is there any miscellaneous business? At the November 13, 1910, Quarterly Conference the answer: The question of dividing the charge was discussed.

The next Quarterly Conference Record Book in our possession is dated January 1919-1923, Graham and Haw River Charge, Durham District, North Carolina Conference.

January 19, 1919 – Reverend J. R. Edwards – “We have no Epworth League at the Graham Church. But we hope to have one soon. We have an Epworth League at the Haw River Church which is doing pretty well. In each of our two churches we have a Sunday School which is doing well. There are a lot of children and young people in our charge who are going to have a good deal of attention from the pastor. We want to have a revival meeting early in the year and are looking toward a good year.”

March 28, 1921 – Reverend G. M. Daniels – “If there are any schisms, discords of actions there influences are not noticeable in the general affairs and undertakings. It is to be doubted if there is a more consecrated and devoted teacher than Brother L. C. Fogleman of the Graham Men’s Bible Class.”

December 9, 1923 – “The general state of the church, Graham and Haw River charge, is I consider good. In the face of some obstacles all of our financial obligations for the year just closed were met in full. The churches are approaching still nearer all the time adequate, effective, organization. The leaders seem to understand and appreciate what is in the true spirit of Methodism; a willingness to cooperate in the programs of the

church as they come to us from the general boards and agencies. Committees is everywhere evidenced by interest and sometimes by consecrated sacrifice. The officials are giving the pastor as fine cooperation and sympathetic assistance as he has ever enjoyed anywhere ...”

June 22, 1924 – “In this report, in all fairness to both our congregations, it should be stated that, according to many, this immediate section is in the grip of extreme financial depression—the worst experienced in twenty five years...The worst phase of the situation is, we have no reasonable expectation of relief this conference year.”

September 28, 1924 – “There seems to have maintained pretty well throughout the year a feeling of depression—that we have been under some sort of handicap. We have not been hopeful, and consequently it is not to be doubted that we have lost much which we might have had. The depression seems to be common to all our organizations and departments. However, just now, there are signs which point to a brighter day in the matter of living and making a living, so our people are taking heart, and are more hopeful as regards our church affairs. There has been no noticeable slump except in financial affairs.”

March 4, 1928 – Reverend Adlai C. Holler – “We are still behind our privilege in respect to Lay Activities, Stewardship, and the Wesley brotherhood, not being formally organized.”

Nota Bene: “May I state that we have been most graciously received by the people of Graham and Haw River and that they have won a place in our hearts by their thoughtfulness and genuine concern for our material welfare. Mrs. Holler and I appreciate every thing that has been done for us, personally, and in making the parsonage more home-like.”

January 3, 1929 – Quarterly Conference Records were listed as the Graham Charge, omitting Haw River. No explanation or information was given.

December 29, 1929 – Reverend J. W. Dimmette – “We have been kindly treated since coming to Graham. The Ladies of the Missionary Society had the house warmed and a hot supper prepared for us. Also several of the members were there to welcome us to our new home. They desired to make the Christmas holiday more pleasant for us so they gave us a large fat turkey. The church has given us a warm welcome, too.”

February 15, 1931 – Reverend J. L. Rowland – “We have a good S. S. There are about 186 on roll and we have regular attendance of about 130. We do not have an Epworth League. Our W. M. S. is in good condition and all the members are doing some work. The finance of the church is in very good condition.”



May 21, 1931 – “This is a delightful little church to serve and we are working together for the kingdom of God.”

April 24, 1932 – Reverend Garfield Evans – “During the past quarter two Epworth Leagues have been organized Senior League with Mrs. W. B. Green counselor and Hi League with Mrs. Comann Isley and Miss Lena Brown counselors. Thomas Moon, Jr., is recommended for confirmation as President of Senior League. Our church grounds have been beautified with the planting of shrubbery.”

Another financial victory was attained when the debt for paving the streets on each side of the church was paid. Reverend C. Freeman Heath reported at the April 30, 1934, Quarterly Conference that “the Angelina Phillips Bible Class and the Men’s Bible Class made a payment on debts of the hut and street assessments.”

December 15, 1935 – Reverend C. Freeman Heath – “We are happy to have the privilege of working with the good people of Graham-West Burlington charge for our fourth year. We have already gotten down to business and the stewards at each church are making plans to make this the best year of the four. We realize that our greatest need is the development of a Spiritual awareness of God: a wholehearted surrender to him; and a willingness to do his will... Out of the 110 families of the Graham Church there are more than eighty who are not members of the Church. This includes husbands, wives, and children.”

May 10, 1936 – “Many of our people have been out of work and some are still out of work. We are having to make every effort to reach the paid expenses in full for the half year by District Conference. The Graham Church is trying to raise sufficient funds from the regular pledges to reach this goal. Both churches have raised their orphanage apportionments in full and have sent these amounts to Mr. Borrus.”

October 11, 1936 – “We are having Prayer service at both churches. These services are conducted by the laymen and lay women and are well attended. Those attending stand up and speak as they feel guided. We feel that the increased spiritual interest manifested in our churches is largely due to the work of these prayer meetings.”

August 1, 1937 – Reverend J. A. Martin – “The attendance in church school is holding up well during the summer months. A Junior department have arranged in Graham school so that the Juniors can have their own opening worship.”

March 27, 1938 – Reverend B. O. Merritt – “We are planning for a Union revival between this church and the M. P. Church to be held sometime in May. We request the prayers of the members of this conference that God will make this a real revival.”

September 30, 1939 – “I feel that the state of the church will compare favorably with

other charges. Both S. S. are well organized and doing excellent work. We held the Vacation Church School in one church with enrollment of fifty-eight. We have two missionary societies that are doing fine work and are the spiritual backbone of both churches.

“This brings us to the close of our second year. If in the providence of God the Graham-W. Burlington Charge should be dissolved at our annual conference and we should be assigned to another field, I shall remember these years as two very pleasant years of my ministry. I wish to thank the good people of this charge for their faithfulness and Loyalty during my Pastorate here.”

## FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

The following excerpts are taken from the Quarterly Conference Record of the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH, 1899 – 1902, East Burlington, Graham, and Haw River Charge.

### Durham District North Carolina Conference

April 9, 1899, East Burlington, Graham, and Haw River were organized as a separate charge.

#### Membership, Baptisms, and Church Property

Local Preachers	1
Members	197
Total members last year	171
Additions on profession of faith	6
Additions by certificate and otherwise	23
Removals by death, certificate, and otherwise	3
Infants baptized	1
Adults baptized	3
Number of societies in the charge	3
Number of houses of worship owned	3
Value of houses of worship	3,500
Indebtedness on houses of worship	200
Number of parsonages	0
Value of parsonages	0

#### Financial

	<u>Assessed</u>	<u>Paid</u>
Presiding Elder	\$ 20.00	\$ 5.00
Preacher in charge	305.00	62.30
Bishops	2.00	0
Conference Claimants	7.00	0
Foreign Missions	17.00	0
Domestic Missions	11.00	0
Church Extension	5.00	0
Education	6.00	0

Methodist Episcopal Church members were assessed an annual dollar amount by the Board of Stewards. A copy was mailed to each member, and his assigned steward was responsible to see that each family paid their obligations.

July 15, 1900 – “the amount of assessment has been received by subscription and cash. Our people are poor but have responded very liberally.”

## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE RECORDS

### East Burlington, Graham, Haw River Charge, Durham District, North Carolina Conference

#### February 14, 1904, Information on Membership, Baptism, and Church Property:

Total Members	342
Additions on Profession Faith	17
Additions by Certificate or otherwise	18
Removals by death, certificates, or otherwise	17
Infants baptized	9
Number of societies in the charge	3
Number of houses of worship	3
Values of houses of worship	\$4000.00
Value of other church property	500.00
Money expended for church and parsonage	62.00
Insurance carried	900.00
Premiums paid	16.20

#### Epworth Leagues, Sunday Schools, and Women's Societies

Number of Senior Leagues	1
Number of Senior League Members	41
Number of Sunday Schools	3
Number of officers and teachers	31
Scholars enrolled during the year	500
Amount collected for Sunday School Supplies	\$ 117.43
Amount collected on Children's Day	2.00
Amount collected for other objects	40.38
Total amount raised by Sunday Schools	\$159.87

#### Financial

	<u>Assessed</u>	<u>Paid</u>
Presiding Elder	\$ 22.05	\$ 22.05
Preacher in Charge.	313.00	313.23
Bishops	4.00	4.00
Conference Claimants	10.00	10.00
Foreign Missions	24.00	24.00
Domestic Missions	18.00	18.00
Church Extension	9.00	9.00
Education	9.00	9.00
American Bible Society		2.00
Methodist Orphanag	3.00	3.00
For Other Objects		357.87
Total am't raised for all objects during year		\$773.59

September 26, 1909 – Reverend T. G. Vickers – “There is a church aid society at Graham that is working hard on the debt, have raised \$50.00 and also pays for the sexton and light bill. It also proposes to pay for the installation of our electric lights as soon as we are free from debt.”

October 26, 1919 – Miscellaneous business – “Resolution to ask the General Board of Church Extension for a loan of \$1000 and also to ask the conference board of Church Extension for a donation of \$500 and General Board for donation of \$500.” (No explanation of need was given.)

July 8, 1923 – Miscellaneous business – “The trustees of Graham Church are authorized to borrow money to be used in paying debt against hut.”

Trustees Report for 1924-25 – “Trust clause in deed states Parsonage made to Church Extension Board of Louisville, Ky. and Hut to Graham Building and Loan Assoc. Amount due on Parsonage 1200 and paid Hut 200.”

December 4, 1927 – Resolution - Authorization for loan on Graham Church Property.

Whereas there is a debt on the Hut to the sum of \$700, and the same should be paid, this second Quarterly Conference of the Graham and Haw River charge gives the trustees of the Graham Church authority to borrow such sum as is needed to satisfy the above named debt. This money is to be borrowed from the Building and Loan Association of Graham if they will make the loan, and such property as is necessary to secure the loan is to be mortgaged by the trustees.

March 4, 1928 – Reverend Adlai C. Holler – “We have had a new galvanized iron roof put on the hut at Graham. The ladies Missionary society paid fifty dollars on that and the balance is nearly all provided for.”

November 16, 1930 – Reverend J. W. Dimmette – “Make application for \$1500 from conference to be paid back in 5 years.”

February 15, 1931 – Reverend J. L. Rowland – “The finance of the church is in very good condition. We have a budget system and it is working. We are not up to date with the budget but is being carried in all departments.... We have in our budget all the claims of the church and some indebtedness. We are going to work it on the percentage plan and each item will receive its proportional part.

July 3, 1931 – “We are trying to make arrangements to pay all the indebtedness on the church. We have an opportunity to get the street assessment cut into if we pay the rest and we are trying to do so. The financial standing of the church is rather poor. It has

pressed the leaders to keep up the current bills with the small amt. that has been coming in." Miscellaneous Business – "Authorized to borrow \$1500 or as much as needed to pay for paving, on parsonage, church and Hut to be secured by mortgage on Parsonage. Committee to borrow money C. A. Thompson, L. C. Allen, J. H. Eason."

1932 – J. H. Eason, District Steward and Charge Lay Leader – "We have a wonderful Pastor and are looking forward to one of the greatest years in the history of the church. Our budget for the year is \$2267. We have had an every member canvass. Our District Steward meeting in Durham was one of the best ones. Most brotherly meeting I have attended for the past few years."

Graham and West Burlington Methodist Episcopal Churches, South, had the following notice printed in the April 1, 1934, bulletin:

NOTICE: HONOR ROLL

On account of the bad weather for the past several Sundays and because of the lack of space in this week's bulletin we have decided to publish the honor rolls next Sunday. All who pay up their pledges in full through today – or 18 Sundays – will be placed on the honor roll next week. This will give those a chance to catch up who got behind during the bad weather. To get on the honor roll you must turn in your offering to our church treasurer not later than Wednesday afternoon at seven o'clock.

Following is the financial statement for November 6, 1938:

<u>Cause</u>		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Paid Balance</u>
Pastor	\$1000.00	\$533.50	\$466.50
Elder	80.00	80.00	0
Benevolences	350.00	158.91	191.09
Incidentals	201.00	153.33	49.67
District Work	10.00	0	10.00
Orphanage	100.00	100.00	0
Janitor	149.00	105.00	44.00
Superannuate	10.00	3.90	6.10
Ministers R. F.	10.00	10.00	0
Total	\$1910.00	\$1142.00	\$767.36
Less the amount on hand			\$194.98
Amount to be raised			\$572.38

Note: There were only ten days before Annual Conference to raise \$572.38.

Question # 6 of the Quarterly Conference Reports asks: "What amount has been estimated by the Board of Stewards for the support of the preacher?"

1899 – The first record available listed \$305.00 as the annual salary. "For the present quarter \$67.30 has been applied to Pastor salary and \$5.00 to the presiding Elder."

1904 – The salary was	\$330.00
1905 – It was	376.00
1906 – It was raised to	386.00
1907 – The total amount to	400.00
1923 – Salary was 1800.00 (Graham \$1350.00 Haw River \$450.00)	

## SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The use of Sunday as a time to teach was pioneered by Robert Raikes who organized a Sunday School for neglected children. With reference to teaching them, John Wesley instructed his ministers with the following advice printed in the *Discipline* of the Methodist Episcopal Church of 1784:

Wherever there are ten children in a society, spend at least the hour with them twice a week. And do this, not in a dull, dry, formal manner, but in earnest with your might. But I have no gift for this. Gift or no gift, do it, else you are not called to be a Methodist preacher. Do it as you can, til you can do it as you would. Pray earnestly for the gift and use the means for it, particularly study the children's tracts.

Education was of major interest to Wesley. The hymns he and Charles wrote were for instruction as well as inspiration. The Wesleyan Class meetings had educational values and purposes. At the General Conference in 1790, the question was asked: "What can be done in order to instruct poor children, white and black, to read?" The answer given was: "Let us labor, as the heart and soul of one man, to establish Sunday Schools, in or near places of worship." Schools started in several places but as the teachers received no pay and few children attended regularly and "with little prospect of doing good," the teachers soon gave up.

The Methodist Sunday School Union was established in 1827 and National Sunday Schools became popular by 1832. A committee prepared outlines for a uniform lesson from the Bible to be used by all ages on a given Sunday.

In the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Sunday School Charge Conference question # 3 asked: "Is there a written report from the preacher in charge regulating the number and state of the Sunday Schools?"

Some of the ministers' reports follow:

April 9, 1899 — Reverend J. A. Dailey — “Due attention is given to the Sunday School work on the charge and special interest in and instructions given to the children in the way of good advice both by exhortations and sermons.” He gave the following numbers:

Webb Avenue —	number on roll -	145	Average attendances	65
Graham —	number on roll -	55	Average attendance	30
Haw River —	number on roll -	60	Average attendance	40

December 31, 1900 - Reverend B. C. Thompson — “There are three Sunday Schools in good working condition. When we visit from house to house and come in contact with the children, they will be instructed in practical Godliness. The children take grate (sic) interest in the work, but the teachers and grown people do not take the interest I would like. Some of them do not attend regular.”

1902 — Reverend G. O. Green — “We believe from what we hear that the Sunday Schools are doing better work than they did last year.”

March 26, 1904 — Reverend Charles M. Lance was proud to report: “...the Sunday School enrollment was 192 with an average attendance of 130. Notwithstanding bad weather, our Sunday Schools have not missed a Sunday this year.”

Reverend T. C. Vickers praised the system of using denominational pins as an excellent device in Graham. “I only have words of commendation for the Sunday School and its workers.”

1928 — Reverend Holler — “The Graham Sunday School is housed very comfortably but there are not enough trained teachers on the regular list to adequately take care of the needs.” Later he commended the teachers for making progress and observing Promotion Day. “Much interest is being manifested on the part of officers and teachers and these with head and hart (sic) in the work. Graham has six officers and teachers, 110 scholars, 60 average attendance and \$4.25 collection.”

The Angelina Phillips Bible Class and the Men's Bible Class were the only two classes referenced by name in materials available for the first decades of the church's existence.



In Mr. W. B. Green's history he wrote:

Frank Wilson was the first Sunday School superintendent who moved away in 1901 and J.W. Boone was elected in his place he served about two years and A.J. Thompson served one year then Mr. Boone was re-elected and served until 1906. The church had grown at this time to around 160 members and the Sunday School to more than 200.

The following also served as Sunday School Superintendents:

Frank Wilson	1899-1901	I. I. Henderson	1923-1925
J. W. Boone	1901-1904	L. C. Allen	1925-1933
A. J. Thompson	1904-1905	W. D. Barrett	1933-1939
W. B. Green	1908-1923		



PRIMARY DEPARTMENT  
PROMOTION CERTIFICATE

This Certifies That

*Amy Buckner*

is hereby promoted from the Primary Department to the

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

of the *Methodist Episcopal Sunday* School  
of *Lebanon* Date *Sept 27* 1925

*Mrs. B. M. Cook*  
Superintendent Primary Department

*Clyde F. Heath*  
Pastor

*Lewis C. Allen*  
Superintendent

## THE WINNIE NORTON GREEN CLASS

(Taken from a "History of the Winnie Norton Green Sunday School Class")  
The writer and date unknown



Winnie Norton Green  
(later Mrs. A. P. Harrington)

About fourteen years ago Mrs. Green became the teacher of the Young Ladies Class here. She has been teaching ever since with the exception of her absence.

Some of the work done:

The most outstanding thing was our raising money to send Mr. Shoe to the Sanatorium for two months.

Our class tithed for one week last year in order to raise \$25.00 to furnish a bed for the Stephenson Memorial Hospital in Changchow, China. We had the privilege of naming this bed so we called it the "Winnie Norton Green Bed."

In several instances we have helped with the incidental expenses of the church.

For several years at Christmas time we write Mrs. Reeves of the Orphanage at Raleigh for names of the children who do not get many presents. We always remember these with Christmas presents, and it is surprising the nice letters we get from each of these children telling us how happy they are to get our box at Christmas.

At the present time we are clothing a little girl at the Orphanage. Her name is Ruth Pate and she is now 12 years of age. We started clothing her in the spring of 1934. They send us two lists of clothing a year – one in the spring and one in the fall. She visited us for a week last summer staying in the different homes which she enjoyed very much. We enjoy this more than anything we are doing because it is the largest thing we have undertaken and we only hope we will be able to continue to clothe her while she is there because she is very appreciative of what this class is doing for her.

Also, at the present time we are sending the Greensboro paper to a tubercular patient at the county home. We also have held services at the county home.

Although the Class responds very willingly and very heartily with their means, we feel that the greatest services we have rendered and are rendering the Church is in furnishing teachers for the Sunday School in the Primary and Junior Departments.

We have monthly meetings of the Class on Tuesdays after the third Sundays. Our officers for this year are:

President -	Mrs. C. D. Isley
Vice - President -	Ruth Ward
Sec. & Treas. -	Eileen Harrington
Program Chr. -	Mrs. Zollie Foster
Entertainment Chr. -	Louise Buckner
Membership Chr. -	Mrs. Alice Henderson
Publicity Agent -	Rachel Ward

All the officers met at the first of the year to plan the year's work and to prepare Year Books. (A copy of this Year Book is in the Archives) This is the first year we have had Year Books and in preparing them we found that our class did not have a name so at the next meeting we decided on - The Winnie Norton Green Sunday School Class - for our teacher.

The records of the Class roll up to 1929 have been destroyed but we would estimate between 15 and 20 to be the first members of this class. Some of these were:

Hazeline Bradshaw	Fannie Fogleman	Flossie Moser
Lelia Ward	Flossie Boswell	Emily Hornbuckle
Lessie Ezell	Cornelia Hornbuckle	
Jessie Wicker	Blanche Moon	

## WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, records indicate that the Minnie P. Gates Missionary Society was organized February 8, 1919. Charter members were:

Mrs. C. H. Phillips, President	Mrs. W. B. Green
Mrs. J. N. Taylor	Mrs. J. D. Lee
Mrs. T. C. Moon	Mrs. W. L. Andrews
Miss Mary Phillips	Miss Fannie Spoon
Miss Lillie Hannah	Miss Fannie Richardson
Mrs. W. T. Ezell	Mrs. W. D. Thompson
Mrs. Carlene Fowler	Miss Margaret Robinson



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FROM MID-THIRTIES

- Row 1: Hattie Sue Hardie Taylor, Frances Ward McKinney, Louise Holt Heath, Daisy Williams Heckel, Mrs. W. B. Green Harrington (teacher), ?, Louise Buckner, Ruth Ward Wolfe, Pinky Murray Troy
- Row 2: Agnes Holt, Rachel Ward May, Ruby Marlette Alexander, Aileen Harrington Garrison, Leora Petty, Mrs. L. C. Allen (asst. teacher), Mattie Wilson, Mary Elizabeth Wicker, Rachel Williams Mills, Mabel Caruthers Harris
- Row 3: Helen Bradshaw, Nita Brummitt, Myrtle Hobby Fox, Hazel Andrews Thompson, Nettie Harden, Ruth Henderson Grant, Fannie Reid Quakenbush McClure, Pearl Williams Collier, ?, ?, Edna Anderson Bagley
- Row 4: Ruby Sykes, ?, Lottie Hughes, Grace Foster Pike, Pearl Quakenbush Barker, ?, Anne Thompson, Florence Henderson Redmond

Reverend C. J. Thrift reported at the December 28, 1919, Church Conference: "We have a good Missionary Society at Graham. Missions will be kept to the front at all times." The Missionary effort included the participation of the children and young people. It may have been somewhat akin to the current Sunday School classes.

In March 1919, Mrs. W. E. Thompson organized the Bright Jewel Band, a children's group, with the following as some of the charter members:

Edith Lee	Emily Lee	Ruth Ward
Josephine Ward	Lessie Ezell	Erma Dell Phillips
William Taylor	Wallace Taylor	John D. Lee
Hazel Andrews		

The other members' names are not available.



Bright Jewel Band

The quarterly report of October 11, 1925, included the following Missionary Society report:

- Total membership 28
- Entertained the District Meeting
- 15 Sacrificial gifts
- 2 Bible classes
- Social work: trays, flowers, visits to the County Home and jail, clothes given to a needy family, gifts valued at \$30 given to a burned-out family

The Young Peoples' Society was organized in 1925 by Mrs. J. D. Lee with the following members:

Edith Moon	Emily Lee	Ruth Henderson
Ruth Ward	Pearl Williams	Rachel Williams
Ann Thompson	Mary Lee Starling	Mrs. I. I. Henderson
Alice Flythe	Margie Flythe	

The Society's financial report: \$ 128.87 sent to Conference treasurer  
 285.67 local work  
 15.00 Miss Merritt's shower  
 55.00 gifts  
 Total \$ 484.54

Much of the women's funds were still being used for the local church. In an effort to raise money, various projects and bazaars were held. One that helped the most financially was feeding the Kiwanis Club weekly. The stoves were oil cook stoves, ice boxes, and very crude equipment. Everyone worked together in harmony and fellowship and the September 11, 1927, report indicated the success of their endeavors:

Amount raised	\$ 320.83	
Local work	244.00	on parsonage debt
	30.00	painting parsonage roof
Remainder on equipment for the hut.		
Conference pledges	99.95	
Orphanage	16.00	
Home Missionary	10.00	

This was accomplished with a membership of 25 ladies.

Reverend Adlai Holler's September 30, 1928, report contained these statements: "The Woman's Missionary Society is very active. They have done much during the year. I fear that some of the men are not doing all that they can because they feel like letting the women do the work. If all the men and all the women would work together and accomplish as much in the year as the women we would really have the Banner Charge."

In 1929, the President of the organization stated: "We have a Young People's Society and a Primary and Junior Society. A beautiful spirit of cooperation has been manifested by the society members during the year. At the monthly meetings programs used in the Missionary Society were carried out in addition to the business of the 27 members. \$106.10 was sent to the Conference treasurer and \$440.07 was spent on local work. We

are on the Honor Roll for all conference obligations and all study work completed for the year.”

In 1931, the secretary of Christian Social Relations of the Woman’s Missionary Society was appointed as a member in Graham of a 500-citizens committee to promote better relations between the races. This was known as the Governor Graham Interracial Committee. She also sent a letter to the County Commissioners asking that an all time health unit be established for Alamance County.

Fourteen members subscribed to the *Missionary Voice*. Later publications included *World Friends* and *World Outlook* which were used for program material.

The following women succeeded Mrs. C. H. Phillips as president:

Mrs. J. D. Lee	Mrs. Nell Henderson
Mrs. W. B. Green	Mrs. W. E. Thompson
Mrs. J. M. Buckner	Mrs. J. S. Bowman
Mrs. R. N. Cook	

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES- EPWORTH LEAGUE

The Epworth League was formed nationally in 1889. This organization gave the young people of the church an outlet for fellowship and socializing. With a minimum of literature but tremendous effort and ingenuity on the part of leaders, programs were provided for the spiritual growth of the youth and to provide wholesome entertainment.

In Graham the first Epworth League was organized in 1903 with the following officers:

President	A. J. Johnson
Vice President	J. M. Buckner
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Bessie Staple
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Mrs. A. R. Hambard
Sec-Treas.	Ada Shields

At first it functioned well and was an active group but the interest began to wane until they finally disbanded. From time to time according to church records the League was



re-organized but was short-lived.

Question #3 of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Quarterly Conference reports asks: "Is there a written report from the preacher in charge concerning the Epworth League?" The following reports are taken from these and are direct quotes of the ministers.

February 14, 1904 – Reverend Charles Lance – "Epworth League at Graham has been organized, officers elected, and the work getting organized."

March 31, 1906 – Reverend J. G. Langston – "Epworth League at Graham in infancy. We hope by feeding them with the milk of the word they will have developed into a power for good in the future."

January 31, 1909 – Reverend T. J. Vickers – "There are no Epworth Leagues on the charge."

July 6, 1919 – Reverend J. R. Edwards – "I hope to organize a League next Thursday night at Graham. On October 26 he reported "...the Graham Epworth League is well attended and doing splendid work."

March 4, 1928 – Reverend A. C. Holler – "The Epworth League at Graham is either dead or fast asleep. They have had no meetings since I came as pastor. As soon as possible I intend to try to get it started."

Mrs. W. B. Green wrote in her Church History "...the first really active Epworth League was organized by the Reverend Garfield Evans in 1932. She was a counselor and Thomas Moon was President."

## PARSONAGES

It was not until 1800 that any official action was taken to provide parsonages for ministers. As late as 1810 there were only three Methodist parsonages in all of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia according to records of Bishop Paul Garber. He wrote that Bishop Robert R. Roberts once moved his family into a house which was described as "consisting of rough log walls, clapboard roofs and sleepers and having neither chimney, door, windows, floor, or loft or furniture."

## METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH, PARSONAGES

The earliest recorded information is brief and sketchy. The Quarterly Conference records of the East Burlington, Graham, and Haw River Charge of July 27, 1902, credit \$18.40 spent furnishing the parsonage. In October, there was \$23.18 in a parsonage fund. However, a "...motion carried to sell the parsonage furniture at cost and J. W. Boone was authorized to sell same."

July 24, 1903, the number and value of parsonages for the charge were listed as "zero". On September 15, 1906, J. T. Gibbs reported "A committee to consider and if practical for East Burlington to secure a parsonage for the charge and report to the next Quarterly Conference."

There were no further reports until July 6, 1919, when "... a special committee . . . was given the power to act to collect parsonage money from East Burlington." By this time East Burlington was not on the charge with Graham and Haw River.

In her Church History, Mrs. W. B. Green wrote "... in 1918-1919 when conditions improved and became normal again after the influenza epidemic our church bought a parsonage back of the Baptist Church facing Maple Street. Reverend J. R. Edwards and his new bride were the first parsonage family to occupy the dwelling."

July 10, 1920, records show: "The present parsonage was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Rives for \$6,250." The location was 431 North Main Street. (Recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Alamance County, North Carolina, in Deed Book 71, page 125). Reverend C. T. Thrift was pastor of the charge.

Next year on March 28, 1921, the minutes recorded: "The action of the Trustees of Graham Methodist Episcopal Church in selling the parsonage property to J. R. Guthrie is hereby approved by conference in session." (The writers wonder if this was the parsonage on Maple Street referred to by Mrs. Green.)

W. E. Thompson made a motion June 22, 1924, that "The Board of Trustees be authorized and empowered to sell the lot in the rear of the parsonage if it seems wise and apply the money as they see fit." Twelve hundred dollars was due on the parsonage.

Good news was reported on January 3, 1929. "The parsonage at Graham is now fully paid for. The last payment to the Board of Church Extension has been met in August. This handsome property is now the unencumbered property of the Graham Church. Some repairs have been made such as painting and the women have paid for these."

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA—Alamance County

THIS DEED, made this 17th day of July, 1920, by M R Rivers and

County and State of North Carolina of the first part, to John C. Harrison, C. M. Harrison, J. W. Harrison, J. W. Harrison and J. W. Harrison of the second part:

WITNESSETH, That said M R Rivers and in consideration of the sum of \$1000.00 Dollars, to them paid by the parties of the second part, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey to said parties of the second part all that certain tract or parcel of land situate in Alamance County, State of North Carolina, adjoining the lands of John C. Harrison, C. M. Harrison, J. W. Harrison, J. W. Harrison and J. W. Harrison

to have and to hold the aforesaid tract or parcel of land and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said parties of the second part and their heirs and assigns, so long as they lawfully use and enjoy the same. And the said M R Rivers and covenant, to and with the said parties of the second part and their heirs and assigns, that they and their heirs and assigns, shall and lawfully shall warrant and defend the said title to the same against the claims of all persons whomsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said M R Rivers and hereunto set their hand and seal, on the day and year first above written.

Attest: J. J. [Signature] (Seal)  
M R Rivers (Seal)  
M R Rivers (Seal)  
M R Rivers (Seal)

NORTH CAROLINA Alamance COUNTY.  
I, J. J. [Signature], do hereby certify that M R Rivers and his wife, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the annexed Deed of Conveyance; and the said M R Rivers being by me privately examined, separate and apart from her said husband, touching her voluntary execution of the same, doth state that she signed the same freely and voluntarily, without fear or compulsion of her said husband or of any other person, and that she doth still voluntarily assent thereto.

Witness my hand and seal, this 17th day of July, 1920.  
J. J. [Signature] (Seal)

Deed for parsonage, 1920



Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Parsonage

Ten years later, Reverend Merritt reported in 1939, the parsonage had been remodeled and "...is now a modern and up-to-date building." In December 1951 Reverend Lanning "...invited the Board to visit the parsonage since it had been renovated and the parsonage family was enjoying it."

The last record of the parsonage at 431 North Main Street was in February 1962 when "I. I. Henderson reported at an Official Board meeting that the Trustees had a cash offer of \$9,000 for the old parsonage. The Board approved the offer."

At this time, the Mamie Parker House on Albright Avenue was serving as the parsonage.

## THE METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN



Orphanage resident

At the North Carolina Annual Conference in 1898, the Reverend John Wesley Jenkins proposed establishing an orphanage. The selection committee chose Raleigh, North Carolina as the best location. The first building was occupied in 1901 with twenty-eight children. By 1904 the Annual Conference assessed each charge “an amount equal to ten per cent of the pastor’s salary” to ensure financial support. Under capable leadership the Orphanage expanded facilities and increased occupants.

After Unification of the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1939, children in the Methodist Protes-

tant Home in High Point were transferred to the Methodist Orphanage in Raleigh. The women continued to generously support this project. Boxes of clothes and monetary donations were always forthcoming. Two girls, Rachael Muse and Ruth Pate, were clothed by the Winnie Norton Green Sunday School class and a seven year old boy was “adopted” and cared for as long as he remained at the Home. These children even visited in Graham during the summers.

The 1955 class was the last to graduate from the Methodist Orphanage High School. All the children were transferred to off-campus public schools. Also, the name of the orphanage was officially changed to “Methodist Home for Children”.

In the 1970s nondiscrimination policies of the United Methodist Church were put into place. All races of children were admitted. Another major innovation was moving from a campus-based approach to a model, based on the context of families and communities. A network of youth homes and family-centered outreach programs spread across the conference.

The 2002 Conference Journal gave a report by Michael Safley, President/CEO regarding current issues and information. His report is summarized as follows: “The mission continues to build upon the social, physical, emotional, and spiritual strengths of the children, youth, and families and to affirm their worth.”

In 2002, two hundred and seventeen youth were served in group homes, one hundred seventy-nine in juvenile homes and two hundred sixty-three in foster care. Two hundred families receive In-Home Family Support. Twenty-six adoptions were completed and sixty-five others in the process. He concluded his report that the cost of care for the

children continued to escalate and had become a major challenge. He asked for our continued support and prayers so the children may continue to receive the “best quality services possible.”

Our Outreach Ministry Fair Share included in our budget, enables us to continue to support the facilities and services needed. In addition, the United Methodist Women continue to contribute annually.



## PERIODICALS AND LITERATURE

“To supply their members, preachers, and Sunday schools with Christian literature, the churches established publishing operations. The Methodist Book Concern, organized in 1789, was the first church publishing house in America...From the presses of their printing plants came a succession of hymnals, *Disciplines*, Newspapers, magazines, Sunday school materials, and other literature to nurture their memberships. Profits were usually designated for the support and welfare of retired and indigent preachers and their families.” – *Discipline*

From 1899 – 1902 Question # 18 asked: “What are we doing for the American Bible Society?” The answer was “nothing as yet”.

Question # 18 was changed and asked: “How many copies of the Conference Organ and of the General Organ are taken, and what has been done to increase their circulation?”

In 1904, the answer was fourteen Conference Organs (*Nashville Christian Advocate*) and 1908 there were twenty-three Conference Organs.

Question # 7 of the Quarterly Conference Records asked: “Who are appointed to assist the pastor in the circulation of our Christian literature?” The earliest recorded answer was August 20, 1920, and listed Minnie Hornbuckle, Clarence Bradshaw and Mary Phillips.

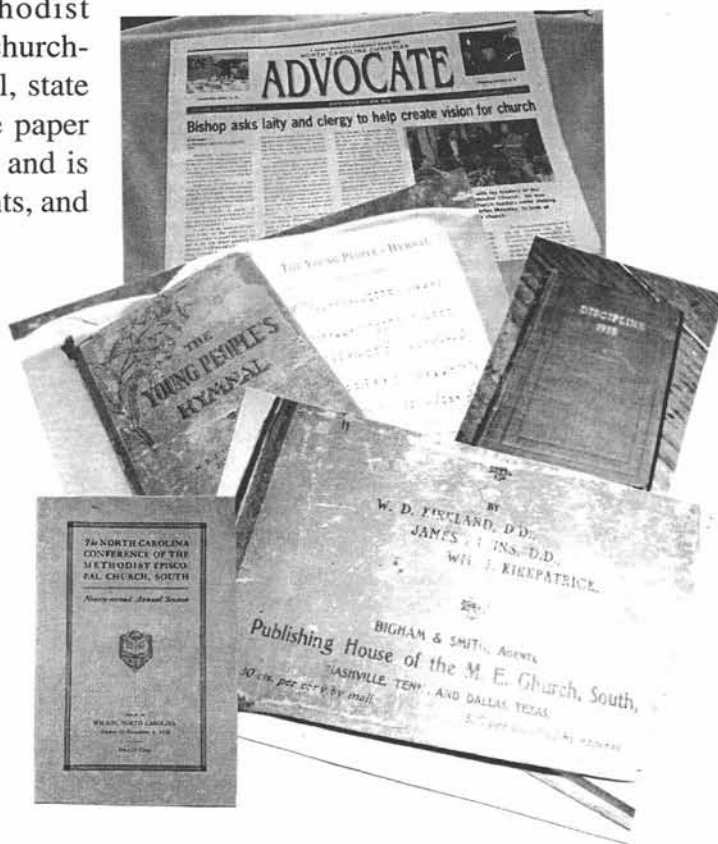
Question # 13 asked: "What has been done by the pastor and his assistants to put our Christian literature in all the homes of this charge?" The answers for 1923 – 1927 were "preaching on the use of good books and taking subscriptions for advocates".

After Unification the question was, "What measures are used to assist the pastor to increase the circulation of our Christian literature?" Through the years and up to the present time, answers have included:

- Complimentary subscriptions for new members
- Phone canvassing
- Newsletter articles
- Copies in the library
- Sending \$100 yearly to the Advocate Endowment Fund

From the beginnings of our church records, it is recorded without exception, that every minister has admonished the congregation to subscribe to the *Advocate*. A committee or an individual has the responsibility of promoting it. Mrs. Nettie Ruth Bason, Barbara Crissman, Vivian Williamson and Carole Steele have served as representatives in the past few years.

The *North Carolina Christian Advocate* remains the official publication for The United Methodist Church. It gives the latest church-related international, national, state and local church news. The paper targets pastors and members and is funded by subscriptions, grants, and advertising.







*J. R. Edwards*

CHURCH SCHOOL 1940-41

*This is M. E. Visiting List*

Board of Christian Education

W. D. Barrett	Mrs. W. B. Green
Mrs. W. D. Barrett	Mrs. I. I. Henderson
Mrs. J. S. Bowman	W. E. Howard
Mrs. R. N. Cook	C. A. Thompson

Officers of the Church School

W. D. Barrett	General Superintendent
Mrs. W. B. Green	Superintendent Adult Division
Mrs. J. S. Bowman	Young People's Division
Mrs. R. N. Cook	Children's Division
C. A. Thompson	Secretary-Treasurer

TEACHERS

Adult Division

W. E. Howard	Mrs. I. I. Henderson
Mrs. W. B. Green	

Young People's Division

Dan Rader	Mrs. Ernest Thompson
Mrs. Charlie Foster	Mrs. C. C. Horner

Children's Division

Miss Wade Hardie	Miss Fannie Richardson
Miss Eula Mae Holt	Mrs. C. D. Brittain
Mrs. R. N. Cook	Mrs. M. L. Perry
Mrs. W. E. Howard	Mrs. B. L. Parker

Officers of Epworth League

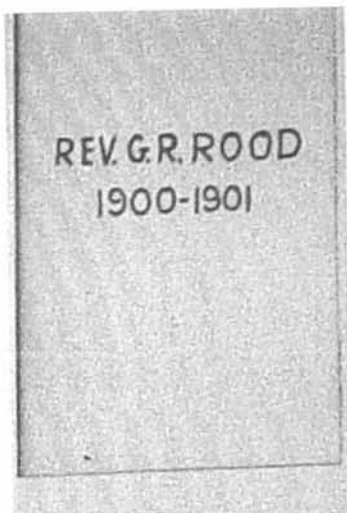
President	Lillian Marlette
Secretary	Eula Mae Holt
Treasurer	Billy Green



REV. J.A. DAILEY  
1896-1898



REV. B.C. THOMPSON  
1898-1900



REV. G.R. ROOD  
1900-1901



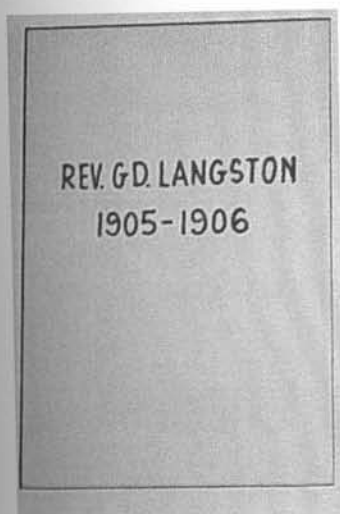
REV. G.O. GREEN  
1901-1902



REV. W.B. GREEN  
1902-1903



REV. C. M. LANCE  
1903-1905



REV. G.D. LANGSTON  
1905-1906



REV. T.G. VICKERS  
1908-1911



REV. R.G.L. EDWARDS  
1911-1914



REV. C. M. GRANT  
1914-1915



REV. H. E. MYERS  
1915-1917



REV. D. E. EARNHARDT  
1917  
MARCH 26, 1918



REV. W. G. McFARLAND  
MARCH 26, 1918  
DECEMBER 16, 1919



REV. C. T. THRIFT  
1919-1920



REV. G. M. DANIEL  
1920-1924



REV. G. W. STARLING  
1924-1927



REV. A. C. HOLLER  
1927-1929



REV. J. W. DIMMETTE  
1929-1930

REV. J. L. ROWLAND  
1930-1931



REV. GARFIELD EVANS  
1931-1932



REV. C. FREEMAN HEATH  
1932-1936

REV. J. A. MARTIN  
1936-1937



REV. B. O. MERRITT  
1937-1939

## MEMBERSHIP ROLL IN 1938

(Methodist Episcopal Church, South)

Mrs. Emma Buckner Allen	Louise Buckner	Mrs. W. T. Ezelle
Kenneth Angel	Earl Buckner	David Flyth
Edna Anderson	Ruth Buckner	Mrs. David Flyth
Mrs. Kenneth Angel	Amy Buckner	Ernest Flyth
Madge Andrew	R. H. Campbell	Mrs. Ernest Flyth
Mrs. W. L. Andrews	Rachel R. Campbell	Ada Flyth
Lane Atkinson	Agnes Campbell	Evelyn Flyth
Mrs. Lane Atkinson	Mary E. Campbell	M. N. Flyth
Mrs. Alice Barrett	Mrs. R. S. Campbell	Frank Flyth
Mrs. Elizabeth Barbour	R. S. Campbell	E. A. Fogleman
W. D. Barrett	Earl B. Caruthers	Fannie Fogleman
Mrs. W. D. Barrett	Mrs. Mabel Lee Caruthers	Joseph Fogleman
Mrs. Edith Parrish Barrow	D. Pete Coble	J. M. Foster
Alma Grey Beaver	Katherine Coble	Mrs. J. M. Foster
Mary Lee Beaver	Mrs. R. N. Cook	Emanuel Foster
Daisy Boggs	Robert Cook	Z. V. Foster
Robert Lee Boone	MacRae Cook	Mrs. Wilma H. Foster
Junius Boswell	Addie Crawford	Mrs. Z. V. Foster
Mrs. Junius Boswell	James Crawford	C. D. Foushee
W. H. Boswell	C. H. Crocker	Mrs. C. D. Foushee
Flossie Boswell	Mrs. C. H. Crocker	Harvey Foushee
Elsie Boswell	Mrs. Eula Thomas Dance	Mrs. S. E. Freeze
Ursal Boswell	Mrs. Eugenia Deans	Sam Freeze, Jr.
Annie Leigh Boswell	Atlas Deans	Estelle Flyth Gay
J. S. Bowman	Russell Deans	Ed Gilliam
Mrs. J. S. Bowman	Callie Shoe Deaton	Mrs. Ed Gilliam
James Bowman	Will Dixon	G. C. Glover
Julia Bowman	James Drumwright	Mrs. G. C. Glover
Mrs. W. V. Boyd	T. C. Drumwright	W. B. Green
Mrs. Addie Mae Boyd	Mrs. W. N. Drumwright	Mrs. W. B. Green
Mrs. W. A. Bradshaw	J. H. Eason	Mary Lena Green
Helen Bradshaw	Mrs. J. H. Eason	Bill Green
C. L. Bradshaw	C. T. Edwards	Mrs. Hazel Griffeth
Mrs. C. L. Bradshaw	Mrs. C. T. Edwards	Versie Guthrie
Mary Katherine Bradshaw	Stanley Edwards	W. T. Hall
L. B. Bradshaw	Paul Edwards	Mrs. W. T. Hall
T. C. Bradshaw	Nelo Edwards	Mrs. Tom R. Harden
Mrs. T. C. Bradshaw	J. W. Edwards	Helen Henderson Hancock
Thomas W. Bradshaw	Mrs. J. W. Edward	Charles Harden
Dwite Brittain	Parker Edwards	Patsy Hardie
Mrs. Dwite Brittain	Jessie Wicker Ellis	J. H. Hardie
Elizabeth Brittain	W. J. Eulis	Mrs. J. H. Hardie
Clay Brittain	Mrs. W. J. Eulis	Bettie Wade Hardie
J. M. Buckner	Henderson Eulis	James Hardie
Mrs. J. M. Buckner	John Eulis	Hattie Sue Hardie
James Buckner	Clifton Eulis	Carson Hardie

Joseph Hardie  
Dabney Hardie  
May Hardie  
Eleene Harrington  
Mrs. Daisy Williams Heckle  
Mrs. Alice Henderson  
Albert Henderson  
Nina Ray Henderson  
A. R. Henderson  
Mrs. A. R. Henderson  
Ross Henderson, Jr.  
Holt Henderson  
Mrs. Cameron Henderson  
Mrs. Dahlia Henderson  
I. I. Henderson  
Mrs. I. I. Henderson  
Mrs. Ralph Henderson  
Jack Henderson  
Ruth Henderson  
Mrs. Bernice Hogan  
L. R. Holt  
Mrs. L. R. Holt  
Eula Mae Holt  
Louise Holt  
Harvey Holt  
Floyd Holt  
W. L. Horn  
Mrs. W. L. Horn  
Mrs. C. C. Horner  
W. E. Howard  
Mrs. Grace Shoe Howard  
Mrs. W. E. Howard  
Jaunita Howard  
Mrs. Marjorie Huff  
J. M. Hughes  
Mrs. J. M. Hughes  
Coleman Isley  
Mrs. Coleman Isley  
Mrs. John R. Jones  
Mrs. Carmen Beaver Johnson  
Mrs. Ida King  
Jack Wesley King  
J. D. Lee  
Mrs. J. D. Lee  
Emily Lee  
J. D. Lee, Jr.  
Miss Patty Lewis  
Hal Lewis  
Mrs. L. G. Logan  
Billie Lucas  
North Lynch

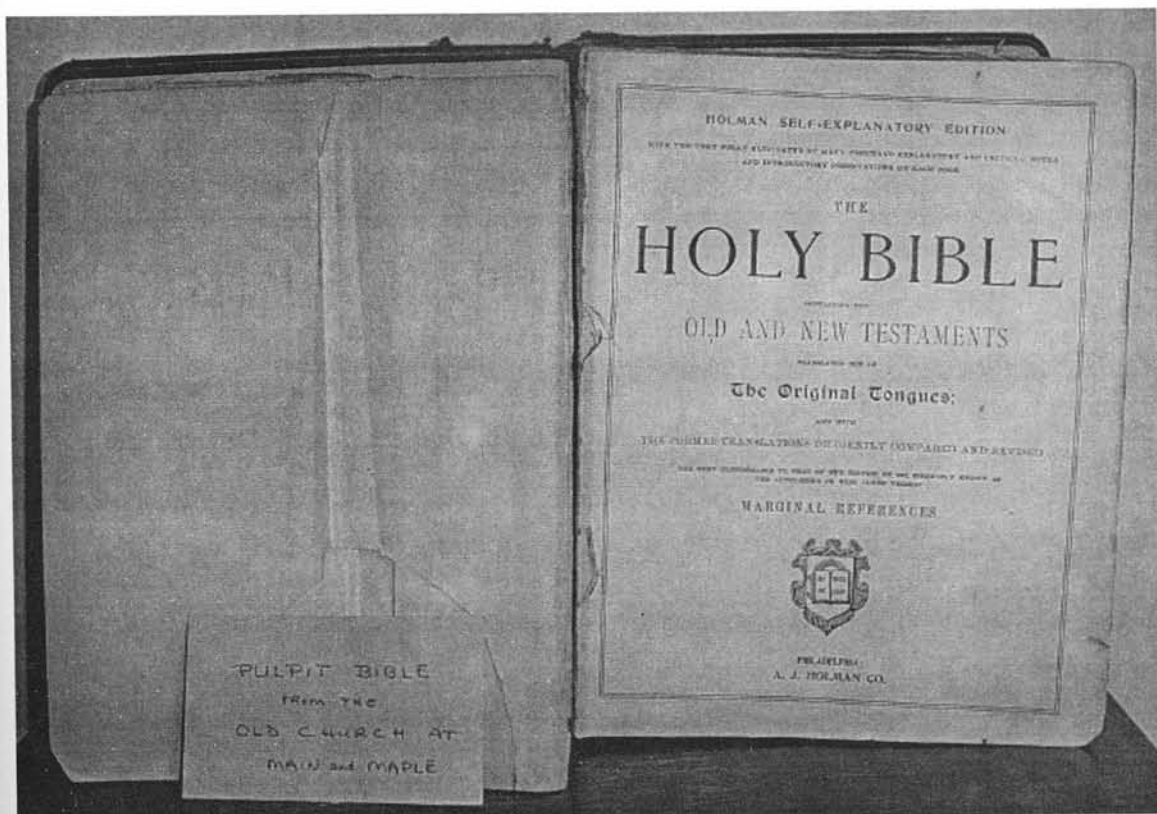
Mrs. North Lynch  
Mrs. W. H. Marlette  
W. H. Marlette  
Wm. Henry Marlette  
Robert Marlette  
Ruby Marlette  
Lillian Marlette  
Sarah Frances Marlette  
Inez Marlette  
Mrs. Eva Martin  
K. T. Martin  
Miss Nettie Martin  
Walter Martin  
Winifred Martin  
A. W. Massey  
Mrs. A. W. Massey  
H. S. Mawyer  
Mrs. H. S. Mawyer  
Dillard Mawyer  
Mrs. Frances McKinnie  
Mrs. C. E. McLeod  
Mrs. B. O. Merritt  
Benjamin Merritt  
Wilbur Merritt  
Cooper Moon  
Jack Dentist Moon  
Lurline Moon  
T. C. Moon  
Mrs. T. C. Moon  
Joseph Moon  
Eugene Moon  
C. B. Moore  
Mrs. C. B. Moore  
Bonnie Moore  
Opal Moore  
Helen Moore  
Mrs. M. M. Morris  
J. L. Murray  
Mrs. Callie Myrick  
Mrs. S. E. Nelson  
J. W. Neville  
Mrs. J. W. Neville  
Margaret Neville  
Katherine Neville  
J. W. Neville, Jr.  
A. W. Norwood  
Mrs. B. L. Parker  
Mark Parrish  
Mrs. Grover Patrum  
M. L. Perry  
Mrs. M. L. Perry

T. H. Perry  
Mrs. T. H. Perry  
Eugene Perry  
Parks Perry  
W. E. Petty  
Mrs. W. E. Petty  
Leora Petty  
William Petty  
Max Pickard  
Eugene Pickard  
Wilbert Pickard  
Irene Phillips  
Mrs. J. L. Phillips  
Josephine Phillips  
C. E. Porterfield  
Mrs. Lucile Alice Pritchett  
Pearl Quackenbush  
Bettie Rader  
Jean Rader  
Beverly Ann Rader  
R. G. Rainey  
Mrs. R. G. Rainey  
Mrs. T. E. Redman  
C. A. Riggins  
Miss Fannie Richardson  
Mrs. C. A. Riggins  
Ed T. Roach  
Mrs. Ed. T. Roach  
B. M. Rose  
Mrs. B. M. Rose  
John W. Rose  
Charlie Saunders  
Desmond Shoe  
Mrs. Desmond Shoe  
Elsie Shoe  
J. W. Shoe  
Robert Shoe  
Mrs. Robert Shoe  
J. H. Slaughter  
Mrs. J. H. Slaughter  
C. D. Sledge  
Mrs. C. D. Sledge  
T. H. Sledge  
Mrs. T. H. Sledge  
Mrs. Opal Snipes  
Edith Starnes  
J. P. Steele  
Panzee Steele  
Mrs. Duncan Stewart  
L. B. Swanner  
Mrs. L. B. Swanner

Wade Swanner  
Jewel Swanner  
Mrs. M. W. Teague  
M. W. Teague  
Mrs. T. A. Teer  
Mrs. J. M. Thomas  
Blanch Pickard Thompson  
C. A. Thompson  
Eli Thompson  
Elizabeth Thompson  
Annie Thompson  
Edwin Thompson  
Mrs. Katheline Thompson  
Mrs. Nancy Thompson  
W. E. Thompson  
Mrs. W. E. Thompson  
Sarah Bell Thompson

P. D. Tinnin  
Mrs. P. D. Tinnin  
Raymond Tinnin  
Robert Tinnin  
Thomas Tinnin  
Joseph Tinnin  
Grant Tinnin  
Annie Turner  
Mrs. L. C. Vaughan  
Mrs. Z. B. Ward  
Lelia Ward  
Miss Lillian Warren  
Eunice West  
Mrs. G. L. Whittemore  
Mrs. J. E. Wicker  
Jeff Wicker  
Mary Elizabeth Wicker

Winston Wicker  
A. C. Wilkerson  
Mrs. A. C. Wilkerson  
Allen Wilkerson  
T. H. Williams  
Nancy Leigh Wilkerson  
Mrs. T. H. Williams  
Pearl Williams  
Rachel Williams  
Fred Williams  
Mrs. Hayeline Wilson  
Sid G. Wilson  
Mrs. Ruth Ward Wolf  
Mrs. Julia Mae York  
Mrs. J. S. Zachary



This Old Bible includes the *“Apocrypha”*



# Methodist Protestant Church

NORTH MAIN STREET

Graham, North Carolina



"This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." "Surely the Lord is in this place."



"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come into His courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

A WELCOME AWAITS ALL

## THE GRAHAM METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

When the history of any event is viewed or written by more than one person, differences of what, when, or where, though slight or even major, will occur. This is true in putting together the various accounts of the organization of our church. Reverend C. L. Spencer wrote the first recorded history of this church. Writing from a twenty-year perspective, that account was written from available records and individual recollections as he was not present the entire period. According to quarterly conference records that history began like this:

When the third Quarterly Conference met on July 22, 1922, a committee composed of Dr. Goley, J. A. Hunt, H. M. Rogers and A. N. Neese was appointed to write "up a history of the church from the birth to the present tune."(sic) October 21, 1922, Brother J. A. Webster made a suggestion "that the History Committee get to-gether and write up the History of the church at once." April 13, 1923, "History of the church from the time the Church was organized was excepted." (sic)

The following is a reproduction of Reverend C. L. Spencer's history dated July 6, 1923. We recognize the grammatical errors but honor the writer's version. (The original is housed in the church archives.)

### HISTORY OF THE GRAHAM METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH, Graham, N.C.

The Methodist Protestant Church at Graham was organized By Rev. G. F. Millaway, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of July A.D. 1903,  
Bro. Millaway was at that time Paster of the Church at Burlington, This Church was organized in the home of Dr. W. R. Goley, on North Main St. With 12 Charter Members, The Following names were Charter Members of this Church:

- 1.—Dr. W. R. Goley
- 2.—Mrs. W. R. Goley
- 3.—Mrs. Margaret Goley
- 4.—W. C. Hornaday
- 5.—Mrs. W. C. Hornaday
- 6.—W. T. Bain
- 7.—Mrs. W. T. Bain
- 8.—Mrs. Rachel Garrett
- 9.—Mrs. Sarah C. Shoe
- 10.—W. R. Wilson
- 11.—Mrs. W. R. Wilson
- 12.—Mrs. Savannah Henderson

Services were held in the Court House until the Church was built, 2 lots were bought over in the western part of Town, Which was later sold, and a Lot was bought adjoining that of the Roller Mill on the South, During the Pastorate of Rev. C.M. Whitaker, during the year 1907, a Church was built on this lot, The first service was held here and a Sunday School Organized on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in April, 1908, The first Supertendant was W.M. Ray, Later dureing the Pastorate of Rev. O.B. Williams, The year 1916 A more sutable site was purchased on N. Main St. where the Church now stands, and the Church building was rolled from the first site to the presant one. Dureing the Pastorate of Rev. R.S. Troxler, about the the year 1919, Sunday School Rooms were built to the rear of the building which cost about \$3,500.00 During the Pastorate of Rev. C.L. Spencer, in the year 1922, a lot was purchased adjoining the Church lot on the North, For a Parsonage lot, This parsonage lot was purchased for \$500.00. This Church was made a Station at the Conference in Burlington, in November 1921,

The names of the Pastors are as follows:

- |                                                  |                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.-Rev. G. F. Millaway, Who organized the Church |                                                      |
| 2. Rev.C.H. Whitaker,                            | 1907-1908                                            |
| 3. Rev. J.R. Hutton                              | 1909,———                                             |
| 4. Rev. A.H. Bryan                               | 1910,———                                             |
| 5. Rev. G.L. Curry                               | 1911—1913                                            |
| 6. Rev. O.B. Williams,                           | 914—1916                                             |
| 7. Rev. R.S. Troxler,                            | 1917—1920                                            |
| 8. Rev. J. Clyde Auman,                          | 1921, He went from here to Japan,<br>as a Missionary |
| 9. Rev. C.L. Spencer                             | 1922—1923                                            |

List of S.S. Supertendants:

- |                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1. W.M. Ray    | 1908—1909 |
| 2. R.R Bain    | 1910      |
| 3. H.M.Rogers, | 1911—1912 |
| 4. J.S. Cook,  | 1913—1916 |
| 5. J.L. Amick  | 1917—1919 |
| 6. P.B. Core,  | 1920—1921 |
| 7. C.P. Holt   | 1922—1923 |

In 1956 Mrs. W. B. Green was authorized to "...write a complete history of Graham Methodist Church". She wrote a history from a 50-year perspective, with the advan-

tage of Reverend Spencer's twenty-year history, additional church records, and word of mouth. (A copy of her history can be found in the archives.)

This, the third church history, written currently (2004), owes a great deal to Reverend Spencer and Mrs. Green. Additional sources include decades of Quarterly Conference records, local history archives, deed registers, books, and newspapers. Yet, the current writers realize that "the rest of the story" may never be uncovered.

At the risk of some duplication, this history is written in hopes it will fill in some gaps and missing links. It is also hoped that this additional information will give due credit to the members and their pastors: their loyalty and dedication, their decisions, prayers, financial support, and inspiration to others, deserves our tribute.

## THE GRAHAM METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

This church was organized on July 3, 1903, in the home of Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Goley on North Main Street. (This is now the site of the First State Bank.) The Reverend G. F. Millaway, who was serving Davis Street Methodist Protestant Church in Burlington, served as the first minister. He contributed "his old organ to be traded in on one for the church."

The twelve charter members were:

Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Goley  
Miss Margaret Goley  
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hornaday  
Mrs. Sarah Shoe

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Bain  
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Wilson  
Miss Rachael Garrett  
Mrs. Savannah Henderson



Home of Dr. and Mrs. William R. Goley



Goley children (front L-R) Marcie, Willard, (back) unidentified, and Margaret, later a charter member of the church

16		17	
Public Contribution		Public Contribution	
1891	1250	1892	1225
1892	1250	1893	1250
1893	1250	1894	1250
1894	1250	1895	1250
1895	1250	1896	1250
1896	1250	1897	1250
1897	1250	1898	1250
1898	1250	1899	1250
1899	1250	1900	1250
1900	1250	1901	1250
1901	1250	1902	1250
1902	1250	1903	1250
1903	1250	1904	1250
1904	1250	1905	1250
1905	1250	1906	1250
1906	1250	1907	1250
1907	1250	1908	1250
1908	1250	1909	1250
1909	1250	1910	1250
1910	1250	1911	1250
1911	1250	1912	1250
1912	1250	1913	1250
1913	1250		

Treasurer's book from Graham Methodist Protestant Church showing entries for 1911 - 1913

The congregation worshiped in the Alamance County Court House for the next five years. The earliest deed for property was November 16, 1897, Book 19, Page 285. "In 1897, L. Banks and McBride Holt sold .68 of an acre for \$60.00 to Trustees W. C. Hornaday, W. L. Bain, and W. W. Garrett for a Methodist Protestant Church. The address in the deed was given as Main Street, but the lot was some distance from the street and also was bounded on the south by College Street." (Auction And Action) Reverend C. L. Spencer wrote a 20-year history and related the following concerning site selection. "Two lots were bought over in the western part of town which were later sold, and a lot was bought adjoining that of the Roller Mill on the South, [behind what was then the North Graham Elementary School and approximately where the recreational building is today]. A church was built on this lot in 1907 under the ministry of the Reverend C. H. Whitaker. He conducted the first worship service in April, 1908. A Sunday School was organized at that time as well."



Alamance County Courthouse about 1912  
(used by Permission, City of Graham)



Graham Public School building (used by  
permission, City of Graham)

During the pastorate of the Reverend O. B. Williams in 1916, a more suitable site was purchased on North Main and Water Streets. "The property of a Captain Parker was divided into lots and sold after his death in 1914. The Methodist Protestant Church bought the one bounded on the south by Water Street and moved their church building to that location." (Stokes) Deed for this property is recorded in Book #58, pages 83-92. Reverend Spencer wrote the Church was "rolled from the first site to the present one." (Currently, a four-apartment complex sits on this location.)

Witness, State of North Carolina,  
Graham County of Alamance.

W. P. Church This Deed, made and executed this 5th  
Day of July, A. D. 1916, by E. C. Parker and  
from William E. Parker, parties of the first part, and  
E. C. John and Pearson, F. E. Cole, Alfred H. Cole,  
Maurice J. Anglin and C. A. Albright, Trustees for  
Parker's Graham Methodist Protestant Church, par-  
ties of the second part, all of said parties be-  
ing citizens and residents of Alamance  
County, North Carolina.

Witnesseth:

That the said parties of the first part for and  
in consideration of the sum of Five Hun-  
dred Dollars (\$500.00), the receipt of which  
is hereby acknowledged, have given, grant-  
ed, bargained, sold and conveyed, and  
they do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell  
and convey unto the said parties of the sec-  
ond part, and their successors and assigns  
forever, all of the following described lot  
or parcel of real property to-wit:

A Lot or Parcel of Land lying on the  
East side of North Main Street in the town  
of Grapeland, Alamance County, North Caro-  
lina, and adjoining said North Main  
Street and an alley or street running be-  
tween the lands of the late E. S. Parker and  
W. E. Wilson, also bounded and describ-  
ed as follows:

W. E. D.  
E. S. D.  
7/5/16  
W. P. Church

July 5, 1916 deed

CONTRIBUTED TO BUILD GRAHAM METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

(Copied as written on ledger pages found pinned together with a rusty pin)

Paid in by Rev. G. F. Millaway including loan	300.00
On Lot	30.00
Lumber, etc.	296.00
Rev. J. H. Bowman	5.00
W. M. Taylor	1.00
C. W. Bailiff	.25
Mrs. M. M. Kuhns	1.00
Rev. J. S. Dunn	.50
Mrs. Kate Kime	5.00
V. M. Euliss	1.00
C. C. Thompson	1.00
Rev. C. L. Whitaker	5.00
C. T. Hadley	5.00
Mrs. W. J. Nicks	5.00
Rev. T. M. Johnson	6.00
J. M. McCracken	5.00
H. W. Ray	5.00
Rev. G. W. Holmes	5.00
Mebane M. P. Sunday School	5.00
C.D. Johnson	5.00
Rev. N. G. Bethea	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hornaday	25.00
Dr. Walker	1.00
Mr. Reeves	1.25
Mr. Thompson	.25
Dr. Paris	.25
G. A. Nicholson	1.00
Mrs. Margaret Goley	15.50
W. J. Teague	1.00
P. M. Mail (sic)	10.00
Rev. G. A. B. Holderby	2.00
R. B. Hunter	2.00
W. H. Holt	5.00
Mrs. W. W. Garrett	5.00
" Lucy C. Hunter	1.00
N. W. Baker	.25
H. W. Scott	5.00
L. Banks Holt	80.00
R. S. Mebane	25.00
W. H. Ausley	2.50



Walker and McAdams	.55
Midway Brick Co.	4.00
Grant Estloe	2.00
McBride Holt	2.50
H. B. Mebane	1.00
Burlington M. P. Church	59.23
Graham Hardware Co.	5.00
Mrs. Teal	1.00
Offering at Church June 2 & Aug 11	20.37
Mrs. Polly Isley	1.00
" A. R. Flintom	1.00
Dr. Simmons	1.00
J. S. Cook	5.00
Z. V. Waller	1.00
A. J. Marshburn	2.50
O. R. Cox	2.50
Charles Tarpley	.50
Henan Hughes	5.00
R. G. Foster	5.00
A. J. Thompson	1.00
J. D. Albright	1.00
J. S. Holt	1.00
W. J. Nicks	1.00
A. M. Hadley	10.00
J. M. Thomas	2.00
W. A. Wood	1.00
J. S. Albright	1.00
S. P. Holt, Sr.	1.00
J. B. Robertson	1.00
C. P. Holt	3.00
Mr. And Mrs. Isaac Holt	11.00
A. A. Clark	.50
J. M. Anglin	1.00
M. P. Helpers	23.48
Material Sold	47
J. L. Scott, Jr.	5.00
Hawkins Chapel, Littleton ct.	4.00
Winston M. P. Church	7.00
High Point M. P. Church	8.00
Dr. F. S. Harris	1.00
Dr. F. R. Harris	10.00
S. R. Harris	5.00

Lawrence G. Nicholson	2.00
Rev. A. L. Hunter	2.00
Board Chuch Extension	150.00
Rev. A. O. Lindley	5.00
John Tinnin	5.00
Friendship Sub Dist. Conference	11.17
	<hr/>
	1825.23
Less Error W. C. H. Contribution	20.00

Two attached notes:

"Overlooked. Paid to

Rev. C. H. Whitaker

Capt. E. S. Parker 5.00

E. S. Parker, Jr. 5.00

Paid to Mrs. Margaret Goley

Rev. ? E. Smith 1.00

Mrs. C. A. Albright 4.00

J. G. Stockard .50

Wm. Fogleman 1.00

Miss Ola Payne .25

Miss Edith Payne .25

A. J. Thompson 2.50

Rev. T. J. Ogburn 10.00

G. W. Anthony Co.

Book racks 10.00

## CHURCH FINANCES

Perhaps due to financial necessity or a shortage of ministers, the church was assigned to a charge and shared the minister with the Haw River and the Carolina Methodist Protestant Churches during the years 1903-1921. At the North Carolina Methodist Protestant Annual Conference in November 1921, the church became a station appointment.

The earliest conference records are dated December 10, 1921, and the assessment from the General Conference was \$420.00 and Annual Conference was \$140.00. This budget was "accepted"(sic) to be raised and paid in full. It was also recommended that the church debt be paid as well as securing and paying for a lot for a parsonage.

### Treasurer Report of Graham MP Church at April 1st 1922

Rec'd in envelopes	\$5.32.58 (Believed to mean \$532.58)
Disbusments to April 1st (sic)	5.23.08 (Believed to mean \$523.08)
Balance in trasuse (sic)	9.50
Pd Pastor	350.00
House Rent	52.50
A C B	100.00 (Annual Conference Budget)
fee envelopes and Reckard Book (sic)	20.58
Totle (sic)	5.23.08 (Believed to mean \$523.08)
Cash in trasure (sic)	9.50
Signed S.S.Holt Treasure (sic)	

Reverend Spencer urged the congregation the following year to "pay the debt on the church in full and pay for a parsonage lot." His next report verifies this was accepted in earnest and on July 22, 1922, he announced that "all debts paid in full on the Sunday School Rooms."

October 21, 1922 (Note dollar and cents marks were not used)

Stewards Report Bud Just Behind about 400.00	
"treasur of Ensidential Dr Goley had on hand at first of year"	4993
received	15560
	20553
Totle (sic)	17034
	3519

Paid to Janitor	8200
Church Register	350
Church Ensurance (sic)	4576
Lights	2007
Fuel	500
Stove Pipe	235
Oil and Matches	30
Broom and oil	68
Boy for cleaning parsonage	50
Something Els (sic)	1000
Totle Paid out	17034
Balance on hand	3519
or	3537
Error	18

In 1924 C. H. McPherson reported that he thought "his members has pledged well in Raising Pastures salry (sic) for this year." The pastor's salary was to remain the same. A \$15.50 payment was due on the parsonage lot and by October 20<sup>th</sup>, only \$50.00 was owed with \$81.00 in unpaid subscriptions. R. F. Williams reported that "Burlington would pay \$500.00 on our assessment."

In July the bill for the pipeless furnace was \$365. By November 29 evidence of the depression was catching up in Graham. The report at the Quarterly Conference was "the church was Behind with money and pasture salry" which was to remain at \$1,200 for the fourth year. Late November 1925 the church raised the pastor's salary to \$1,375. By 1928 the pastor's salary was \$1,500 until 1932 when it was reduced to \$1,350 where it remained until 1939.

City water was installed in the church August 5, 1925. The water bill for April 17, 1926, was \$10.00, and Dr. Goley had "no money". Along came the street assessment amounting to \$480.90. The December light bill was \$4.10 and the water bill \$1.05.

Various and interesting financial reports follow:

In 1925, the pastor's salary was "fixed" at \$1,200 if they remained a station. W. R. Goley made a motion, seconded by J. L. Amick, with discussion as to what best served the church, "half-time or all-time". Mr. Amick recommended "the church share a minister with some other church for one year." No record indicates that this happened.

A similar vote was taken again in October, 1928, when the pastor's salary was "fixed" at \$1,500 for full time service. A motion was made to give one Sunday in each month to some other church. Nine voted for the change and six voted to remain a station. No record indicates that this happened.

Two months later, "a motion was made to leave pastor's salary at \$1,500 and give Haw River Church one Sunday if they pay \$400 If not, try to pay \$1,500 for full time." The motion did not carry. A second motion to cut salary to \$1,350 full time or take Haw River by their paying \$400 of salary for \$1,500 passed.

The April 16, 1929, Quarterly Conference minutes recorded, "A motion to take the vote Building a Hut and the vote was taken as following 27 voted for the Hut and none against it. A motion carried the Trustees to work to that End." Reverend Minnis's annual report concluded "As the crowning efforts of the year has been erecting of the splendid hut of which we are justly proud." The treasurer's report of October 30, 1929, recorded that the total cost was \$1,410.80 with a balance owed of \$1,165.81.

Quarterly Conference minutes for August 14, 1931, include "The hope expressed that we will not let the great depression which is on us weaken our courage and make us less zealous in the great cause of the kingdom which we seek to foster."

J H McPherson Said the "Treas was collected (Figure was erased) for the month

Dr. Goley pledged	10.00
J. A. McPherson	5.00

He made a motion that the chair approve a comity to Rais the Remander (sic) of the furnace money Miss Mattie Cheek and Miss Blanche fuller was appointed"

Z E Noah Reported	Collected	86.95
	Paid Parsonage Rent	52.50 (per quarter)
	Paid Paster sal	125.00
	Bal	9.45
	Loose Collect	28.85
	Paid Water Rent	1.05
	Bal	27.80

April 9, 1927

J.L.Amick Reported that the "Det (debt) on the Furnis (sic) was \$790 Dollars and he had not paid would be glad they would pay at once"

No Date

J L Amick Reported the Sunday School was "Holding its own He reported that the Furnice (sic) was all Paid for except 45.00"

J L Amick was elected Del to A Co 23 Paul Cheek 19 (Delegate to Annual Conference)

Z E Noah Reported Collected	527.50
Paid Pasture (sic)	400.00
Paid Parsonag Rent (sic)	52.50
Paid Janator (sic)	28.00
Paid Water	1.05
Bal	26.52

July 25, 1928

"the Trustees call a meeting and Voted to Give Permission for the Hut to be Built the Building to meet the Aproval of the Trustees of the Church and the Plans muts Be Presented to the Trustees of the Church"

Z E Noah made his report	
Collected	707.59
Paid Janitot (sic)	28.00
Pasture salries (sic)	485.00
Paid insurence (sic)	2288.00 (Probably \$ 22.88)
Parsonag (sic)	52.50
V W Foust	20.00
?	60.00
Lights	6.90
Water	4.20
Coal	9.75
Loose Leaf Ledger	1.20
Alamance Gleaner Stationary	4.00
Stamps and Envelopes	1.20
Total Collected	675.63
Bal in Treas	87.81

October 30, 1929

N E Sykes Reports Cash Received on hut	245.00
Borrowed 1000.00 from National Bank	
Cash Paid	635.68
Bal in Bank " "	599.32
Cash on Hand	10.00
Total Cost Hut	1410.80
Cash Rec to Date	245.00
Bal Due on Hut	1165.81

The Sunday School Supt. made a report for the secretary as follows:

Balance in Bank 5/23/34 -	\$22.49
Cash from S.S.	100.72
Total	123.21

Disbursements	
7/2/34 Orphanage	10.02
7/22 Young People	3.00
10/12 Orphanage	8.72
10/21 Certificates	1.50
10/26 Literature	23.69
Total	\$46.93
Bank Balance on date 10/30/34	\$59.45

Paid on Budget:

Dining Room - Dining \$ 12.00  
 Books - Dining 26.00  
 A.C.R. By Subscription 25.00  
 G.C.R. By Treasurer 100.00  
 Endowment - by offering 35.00  
 A.C.R. By Subscription 15.00  
 A.C.R. By Treasurer 50.00  
 Health & Hygiene 25.00  
 G.C.R. By offering 25.00  
 A.C.R. By Subscription 25.00  
 Total Budget to Date \$ 338.50  
 Paid on account. 201.50  
 Balance in Budget \$ 137.00  
 C. T. Spencer

Encourage Staff

Only about \$ 4,500.00 of the pledges in the Room - are yet have been paid.

There is about \$ 81.00 in unpaid Pledges.

By the consent of the C. E. Society, we borrowed \$ 50.00 from the amount they had raised, we applied it on the note in it was due.

These Pledges should be paid, but their amount is repaid in the amount

Respectfully  
C. T. Spencer



COMMISSION, 1% ...

*M. P. Church*  
*By W. R. Goley*

**BOUGHT OF**  
**JOHNSON & JOHNSTON**  
COAL AND WOOD DEALERS

TERMS: CASH WEEKLY

	Price	Amount
1/2 Tons Coal	950/1425	
Delivered		
1/2 ton Johnson		
P.M. Johnson		
R.		

Received above in good order

STATEMENT

GRAHAM, N. C., Oct 31 1925

*M. Graham M. P. Church*

IN ACCOUNT WITH  
W. R. GOLEY, M. D.  
PHONE 213-J

1924-5		
By Cash opening		174.90
To Paying, Pencil and lights		
for labor paid 9/21/24		
Balance 9/28/20		
To Natl Bank of Commerce		
By City and State Bank, Printing		181.10
By Cash Recd		
To National		188.20

The National Bank of Alamance

GRAHAM, N. C. 3/10 1924

Graham M. P. Church

City

Dear Sir:

Your account appears overdrawn on our books in the amount of

\$ 5.48. If this is correct, please make deposit to cover.

Very respectfully,

CHAS. A. SCOTT, Cashier.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Graham Methodist Protestant Church

WEEKLY OFFERING

For Congregational Expenses, \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." I Cor. 16:2

LET EVERY ONE give. Let every one give AS HE IS ABLE. Let every one give as he is able, REGULARLY.

56

European Relief Council

HERBERT HOOVER, Chairman

42 Broadway, New York City

4763

12/14 1920

In acknowledging receipt of Eight Dollars,

From Protestant Church Graham

the European Relief Council takes this opportunity to express sincere thanks for your generous contribution for the suffering children of Central and Eastern Europe.

FRANKLIN K. LANE,  
Treasurer

By FB Payne

The liberal soul shall be made fat.

Hut Hut HUT Hut Hut

I promise to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward building the M. P. Hut in Graham, N. C.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord Loveth a Cheerful Giver.

Give and it shall be given unto you.

**THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH**

TO \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

Graham, N.C.  
May 10, 1937

Church Member:

On April 30, 1937, we concluded the first half of our church year. It is with pleasure and pride that your Board of Stewards reports the following splendid position:

Item of 1937 Budget:		AMT PAID	AMT DUE
		First half	Last half
Pastor's Salary	\$1,350.00	\$ 675.00	\$ 675.00 (none past)
Rent	300.00	150.00	150.00
Misc. Account	246.16	123.08	123.08
Insurance	45.76	45.76	None - Paid
World Service	125.00	43.00	82.00 Due end
High Point College	65.00	65.00	None - Paid
Superannuates	41.00	None	41.00 Oct.
Annual Conference Exp.	37.00	37.00	None Paid Feb.
Church Extension	17.00	None	17.00 Due June
Annual Conference Debt	17.00	None	17.00 Due Aug.
M. P. Herald Subsidy	7.50	7.50	None Paid April
Church Service	88.00	40.00	48.00 None
Misc. Offerings	30.80	30.80	None
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,370.00</b>	<b>\$1,217.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,153.08</b>
Balance in Bank	\$ 20.01		
Amt. raised first 6 months	1,237.15		
Amt. to be raised	1,133.07		
<b>Total Budget as above</b>	<b>\$2,370.22</b>		

You have made this report by your excellent co-operation, and by your making regular weekly contributions. Let us keep up this good work. Let us have the satisfaction of knowing that we have all our church's obligations paid up to date all the time. Continue to pay on weekly basis all you can. Do not let us get behind again.

Of the \$2,237.15 CONTRIBUTED TO DATE, the treasurer's books show that YOU have given the following amounts:

(Names) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We sincerely thank you.

The Board of Stewards of the Graham M. P. Church

## SUNDAY SCHOOLS

In 1866, the Methodist Protestant Church Conference urged all district superintendents to organize Sabbath Schools. They elected Joseph Causey in 1869 as a field agent to organize them in the churches. In 1875, each minister was admonished to preach on the importance of organizing all church members and children to attend religious instruction.

October 20, 1923 – C. P. Holt, superintendent, reported “the Sunday School was doing well considering the ups and downs” and asked each member to help make it better. Average attendance for the year was 122. He asked for cooperation and help “to select some teachers that would be good and regular in attendance.” He concluded that the Sunday School was doing “very good considering the bad weather.”

October 22, 1926 – J. L. Amick, superintendent of the Sunday School, reported “the school was holding its own and hoped it would do better in the coming year after the furnace was installed.”

October, 1927 – He believed the school needed older teachers for some classes.

March 21, 1928 – “Attendance was on the increase and the opening program was good.” Amick was well pleased with the Bracco (Baraca) Class teacher, Mrs. Holt, and with Miss Blanche Fuller’s class.

April 26, 1929 – The superintendent appealed to the ladies of the church “to help in securing some regular teachers.”

December 11, 1929 – P.S. Dixon, superintendent, requested “new equipment for the Sunday School that included chairs, tables, partitions and blackboards and the most essential need was the teaching force.”

Sunday School rooms were added to the rear of the church in 1919 at a cost of \$3,400 during the pastorate of the Reverend R. S. Troxler. Then a lot was purchased adjoining the church on the north side for a parsonage at a cost of \$500. During the pastorate of the Reverend C. L. Spencer the debt on the church and Sunday School rooms was paid.

June 25, 1932, the Sunday School Superintendent’s report was read as follows:

Average attendance	175
Amount of collections	\$101.78
Amount paid out	55.27
Bills due	27.43
Amount on hand	46.21

The report for 1933:

Total collection for year	\$251.47
Amt retained by classes	42.48
Actual collection	208.99
Paid out	156.59
Balance	52.40

Those who served as superintendents:

W. M. Ray	1908-1909	Ernest Kirkman	1924-1925
R. R. Bain	1910-1911	J. L. Amick	1926-1928
H. M. Rogers	1911-1912	P. S. Dixon	1929-1930
J. S. Cook	1913-1916	C. E. Core	1930-1932
J. L. Amick	1917-1919	J. L. Amick	1932-1934
P. B. Core	1920-1921	Don Holt	1935-1936
C. P. Holt	1922-1923	Charles Cates	1936-1939

Reverend Surratt reported to the Quarterly Conference of 1939 "...the Christian fellowship has been outstanding among our constituency this year. A fine spirit of cooperation has been evidenced among the Methodists in Graham. This has resulted in a movement for the unifying of the membership of the two churches. It is hoped that this Christian undertaking will have God's blessing upon it."

He also recommended "...a delegation be formed to meet the authorities of the two Methodist Churches in a conference to be held Wednesday afternoon at five o'clock, October 11<sup>th</sup>, at the former Methodist Episcopal Church, in order to discuss the matter of our church affiliation."

Unification of the three branches of Methodism took place in 1939. After uniting with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to become the Graham Methodist Church, the white-framed Methodist Protestant Church, located at the corner of North Main and Water Streets, was sold. It was dismantled and removed from the lot.

The following were Conference Presidents of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church:

Reverend T. M. Johnson	1902-1907
Reverend W. E. Swain	1907-1912
Reverend C. A. Cecil	1912-1915
Reverend J. W. Holmes	1915-1917
Reverend R. M. Andrews	1917-1922
Reverend A. G. Dixon	1922-1927

Reverend S. W. Taylor	1927-1932
Reverend R. M. Andrews	1932-1937
Reverend J. E. Pritchard	1937-1939

(Note of Interest: In the earliest picture of the Men's Bible Class Reverend T. M. Johnson appears on the second row behind his son, Talton Johnson, who holds his son, Joe.)

## WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

The earliest record found of a women's organization [women organized for missions] was in the Methodist Protestant Church. This group was called the Ladies Aid Society, organized January 4, 1912, at the home of the pastor, the Reverend George L. Curry. The charter members were:

Mrs. George Curry, President	Mrs. Clara Steele
Mrs. S. S. Holt, Vice President	Mrs. Jim Black
Miss Bronie Coble, Secretary	Miss Fannie Ray
Mrs. W. R. Goley, Treasurer	Miss Rebecca Brown
Mrs. M. J. Neese	Miss Bessie Tinnin
Mrs. Isaac Holt	Miss Bell Brown
Mrs. John Anglin	Miss Pearl Neese
Miss Lola Ezell	

The purpose of this group was to support their local church. The purchase of a communion set was the first project. Around 1922, the name was changed to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (auxiliary) as the need to reach out beyond the local church to serve others became apparent. Additional members included:

Mrs. C. W. Bain	Mrs. J. W. Batton
Mrs. Charles Soots	Mrs. H. M. Rogers
Mrs. Herman Hughes	Mrs. C. L. Ezell
Miss Ethel Thompson	Miss Flora Black
Miss Myrtle Batton	Miss Swanna Black
Miss Duell Bayliff	

Following are reports, or excerpts from reports, of the quarterly conference minutes: (quoted exactly as recorded).

July 7, 1923 - "Mrs. Black, President of Woman's Forin (sic) Mission - no report Report of Ladys Aid Mrs. J. S. Cook Reported \$15.63 paid out \$10.17 in Bank making a Total \$25.00 Members on roll 22" A similar report was given for October 25, 1923.

First Quarterly Conference, 1928 – “Mrs. Goley reports the Mission soc (society) was going to raise money this year for church expenses”

April 26, 1929 – “Mrs Minnis Report no. of members in the Mission 28 in one and 28 in the other. The Woman’s Auxiliary has met each month. Four circles have been active all the year. 3 adult circles and one childrens circle. Splendid programs have been prepared for the monthly meetings.

Two Thanksgiving services have been held.

The ladies of the auxiliary have cooperated with the committee in raising the birthday offering for the Children’s Home.

A number of the ladies attended the N.C. Branch Meeting at Thomasville. The auxiliary has been responsible for flowers for the church.

Handkerchiefs were sent to the inmates of the County Home last Christmas.

\$4.00 was raised to be used on the purchase of an automobile for our missionary in China

A rug was bought for the parsonage.

Two dinners were served downtown last fall, from which a profit of \$70.00 was realized.

\$12.00 were given by members of the auxiliary to pay on debt.

\$7.50 made from the sale of birthday cards.

14 subscriptions to *Missionary Record*.”

January 19, 1934 – “The Conference Secretary was instructed to write a letter of appreciation to the Auxiliary in appreciation for the addition built inside the Church Hut.”

February 1, 1935 – “The President of the Woman’s Auxiliary made her report saying the Auxiliary had given up paying for the church cleaning. A motion was made that the Sunday School pay .75 per week for church cleaning which was to be under the supervision of the Auxiliary for one year.”

October 27, 1936 – Woman’s Auxiliary receipts -	\$179.35
paid out	176.87
bal. on hand	2.48

April 6, 1937 – The Auxiliary has a Young Ladies circle added to its group.

October 24, 1937 – “woman’s auxiliary Mrs. Hughes reports on roll 65 with 22 dolars in Treaere” (sic)

March 29, 1938 – “A verbal report of the Women’s Aux. was given by Mrs. Burke for the past year as being a very, very good year. The women paying the budget in full has also paid (\$10) dollars to the Minnis fund, dressed a child at High Point Children’s

Home, bought a stove for the hut, accepted a \$10 raise in the budget for the next year and has approximately \$30. (dollars) in the treas. This report was accepted.”

“The womans auxiliary has had a very successful year. On average attendance at circle and auxiliary meetings have been higher than last year. We have paid our apportionment in full. And at the end of March we had paid our years dues in full which was \$110.00 extra on the fund known as the Minnis salary. Gave \$50.00 for General Conference fund. bought and paid cash for 2 stoves one for the parsonage and one for the hut bought curtains for the parsonage clothed a child at the children’s home by individual gifts from the women and sent \$9.00 for shoes. Paid \$35.00 for janitor service.

“One of our circles is carrying building and loan stock which is now going into its fourth year this circle also has \$62.50 in it own treasure. (sic) Mrs. Heenan Hughes, Pres.”

July 31, 1939 To The Third Quarterly Conference:

As president of the Women’s work I submit the following report:

Since being installed in April I have attended and presided at all regular Auxiliary meetings and one meeting of the Executive Committee. Under the capable leadership of Mrs. A. P. Williams, Mrs. C. A. Cates and Miss Gladys Amick the three adult circles are doing a splendid work. The Young Ladies’ Circle has been re-organized and we are expecting much good to be accomplished by this group. The Sec. of Spiritual Education, Mrs. C. A. Cates, is endeavoring to stimulate interest in prayer life by urging the members of the Auxiliary to set up more family altars in the home. As an auxiliary we are paying monthly our budget as required by the N. C. Branch. We are again this year clothing a child in the Children’s Home, High Point, and plans are even now underway to send a fall outfit. Plans are also being discussed for placing some books in the library of the Seminary in compliance with the request of Dr. Forlines, who stated in the Quarterly Meeting, Thomasville, this week the pressing need of the Seminary at present. Although we are an organization of small numbers we do feel that much useful work has been and still is being done.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mrs. J. H. McPherson,  
Pres. Of W. Aux.



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES –CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

Christian Endeavor was a national organization founded in 1882 by a Congregational clergyman in Maine. It was a non-denominational movement for religious, social, and literary activities. In Graham, the Methodist Episcopalals had their Epworth League, the Baptists had their Baptist Young People's Union and the Presbyterians and Methodist Protestants had Christian Endeavor. The movement was popular and has been appraised as the most effective organization for youth. Of course, the other denominations would want to claim the same for their youth programs.

In North Carolina, Christian Endeavor Societies were organized by 1892. The first record found of the group in Graham was a financial report of October 24, 1931. Myrtle Foushee (Wilson) was President and gave the following report at the church conference.

February 12, bank acct.		\$ 10.04
July 15. check	\$2.00	8.04
August 20 check	2.00	6.04
Sept. 1	bank acct overdrawn	7.50
October 5	payment at bank	1.46
Amt in Treas.		4.30
Bills due		1.90

M. R. Kirkman, Superintendent of the Sunday School, gave the following reports:

June 18, 1935 – “The Christian Endeavor Dept. meets regular every Sunday for worship. And have been meeting once a week for song practice under the direction of the Pastor or Bro. F. W. Steele as song leader. Also meets once each month for Business and Social Hour. Attendance very good at all services. Some good interest and some good workers in this Group.”

October 27, 1936 – “Met with them last November, had 17 members, now have 35 members on roll. Paid out during year:

Incidental expenses	\$ 7.74
Reverend Junius Neese	1.00
Reverend Wilson Cheek	1.00
Carolina Jr. Girls Quartet	3.34
Song Books	6.20
C. E. Assessment	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21.53</b>

Have met once a week since May for song practice. Won the Christian Endeavor County Banner at Haw River for singing. Also held Business Meeting once a month. Met with Bethany Presbyterian Christian Endeavor once. Held joint service on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday nite with preaching service for some time. 3 have united with the church in the past year. Gave a basket to the poor on Thanksgiving. Also gave a basket on Christmas. Have held Service the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening in each month for the past year with the Pastor and Rev. Junius Neese with us at the County Home.”

April 6, 1937 – “No report from the Christian Endeavor as it does not seem to be working now.”

July 31, 1939 – A verbal report on Christian Endeavor was given and he reported that “the work was progressing nicely.”

## **METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH PARSONAGE**

This information about the parsonage is taken from the Church Conference minutes and is a reproduction exactly as written:

December 10, 1921 – “Trustees elected for the purpose of looking after parsonage: Dr. Goley, S. S. Holt, A. N. Neese, Also for making arrangements for purchasing or securing lot to build parsonage on. Lot to be secured with note on bond bearing interest from note.”

1922 – “A lot was purchased adjoining the church lot on the north for a parcentage (sic) for \$500.00.” Reverend C. L. Spencer was minister.

April 13, 1923 and October 20, 1923 – “Report on the parsonage lot – Bal. Due about \$50.00 yet to be paid. Parsonage trustees re-elected.”

March 15, 1924 – “Reverend E. A. Bingham recommended building a parsonage or heat the church. Mr. Noah Rich recommended radiator heat for the church.”

November 29, 1924 – “Ask that the Church Build a Parsonage and ask the Conference help in running the Business of the church.”

No date – “the Pasture (sic) said he wants to say something Regard the parsonag (sic) Said the Trustees might Locate a Lot some where or use the one they Had if they use the Present Lot they would be sory (sic) of it sometime.”

August 5, 1925 – “the Pasture (sic) Reckmended (sic) to the church change the Lot for a nother Lot to Build a Parsonage.”

November 28, 1925 – “Pastar (sic) suggested That the Trustees Bring Some Plans before the Church for a Parsonage Provide the Church.”

April 9, 1927 – “Pastor rechmended (sic) that the church Parsonag trustees Locate a Lot for the parsonage or make some improvement on the one we Have here But the main thing in mind was to get the Parsonage trustees to an Parsonag.”

October 26, 1927 – “Pastor advised the Church to build a parsonag the coming year.”

July 25, 1928 – “Pasture stated he hoped to see a Parsonage when he came to Graham but Had lost all Hopes.”

April 26, 1929 – “S. S. Holt ask that the Parsonage Trustees be discontinued.”

March 5, 1933 – “the building of a parsonage was brought before the quarterly conference.”

February 1, 1935 – “A motion was made that the trustees look out for a parsonage and also that a parsonage committee be appointed.”

October 25, 1935 – “N. E. Sykes had a plan on foot to build a parsonage or make some arrangements to finance the project.”

June 18, 1936 – “moved and carried to sell portion of lot bought for a parsonage subject to majority vote of church members.”

November 2, 1936 – “Members of Graham Methodist Protestant Church voted for the Trustees to sell the lot bought by the church for a parsonage. The motion was made and carried that nothing but a dwelling would be placed on the Lot.”

November 24, 1936 – “Chairman reported parsonage lot was sold for \$800.00 and the deed was made out.”

April 4, 1940 – “the furniture in the former Methodist Protestant parsonage be turned over to Ladies Club of the church to be used as needed in the new parsonage or disposed of to the best benefit of the church.”

At the time of unification of the two churches, it was recorded that “since the Methodist Protestant Church did not have a parsonage building, their parsonage furniture was moved into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, parsonage.”

Apparently amidst all the buying, selling, and discussing, a parsonage was never built. The quarterly and yearly financial records listed an amount paid out for parsonage rent. Examples; April 1, 1922, House Rent \$52.50; November 2, 1938, Rent \$225.00 for the quarter. The rented house is believed to have been located at 317 North Main Street, Graham, N. C. Telephone: 484-J. This is verified by the letterhead on Reverend Surratt's stationary, church bulletins, and members' memories.

## THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHILDREN'S HOME

The first Methodist Protestant Children's Home in the world was established in 1910 by the Women's Home Missionary Auxiliary and located in Denton, North Carolina. It was moved to High Point, North Carolina in 1913.

The conference recommended that every pastor see to it that each church hold a Thanksgiving service on Thanksgiving Day, at which time "the claim of the Orphan's Home shall be presented and an offering taken for its support".

Records show that the Graham Church participated on a regular basis and following are only a few examples.

April 1, 1922 - contributed \$46.93 and urged to continue to give aid.

December 9, 1930 - contributed \$14.60.

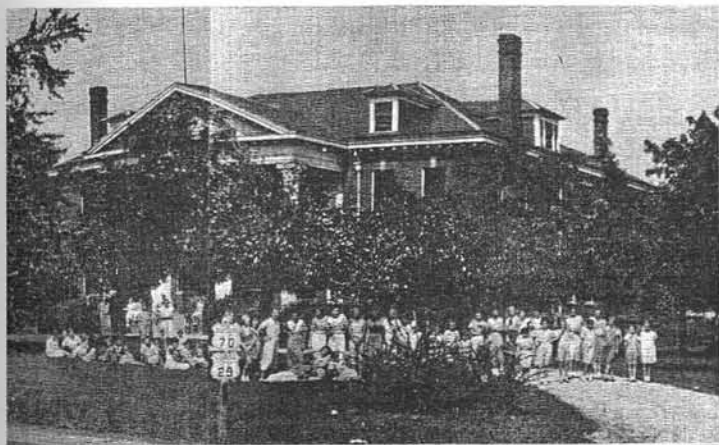


METHODIST PROTESTANT CHILDREN'S HOME  
AT DENTON, N. C., 1910

July 2, 1934 - contributed  
\$10.02

October 30, 1934 - contrib-  
uted \$18.74.

No Date - contributed \$60.14  
- "The ladies of the auxiliary  
have cooperated with the  
committee in raising the  
birthday offering for the  
Children's Home. Octagon  
soap coupons have been sent  
to the Children's Home."



METHODIST PROTESTANT CHILDREN'S HOME AT HIGH POINT, N. C. 1935

On April 8, 1937, the Children's Home Superintendent urged the churches to "keep those coupons coming." He was hoping that "good spring weather would result in good monetary benefits". He reported that it was costing \$1650 monthly to operate the home.

March 29, 1938 – "dressed a child by individual gifts from the Women's Auxiliary"

November 2, 1938 – Graham church stood first in the Anniversary Offering with \$56.

July 31, 1939 - "again this year clothing a child and plans underway to send a fall outfit" announced by Mrs. J. H. McPherson, President, Women's Auxiliary. Reverend Surratt reported in his yearly report "Our Children's Home has appealed to the hearts of our people. You have been very liberal in your support of this institution."

## PERIODICALS AND LITERATURE

John Wesley had an appreciation of education and use of the printed page. In addition to using their voices, the early Methodists were great users of the printing press. They spoke to multitudes by means of inexpensive single sheets or "broad-sides" and by means of sermons printed in leaflet form. John Wesley wrote commentaries on Scripture, devotional booklets, and many other kinds of material for mass circulation.



Methodism has always been concerned about the quantity and quality of reading material for its members. *The Methodist Protestant Herald* was the official organ of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. It was established in 1894 by the Reverend J. F. McCulloch. A one-year subscription was \$2.00; six months, \$1.00.

In the December 10, 1921 Quarterly Conference of the Graham Church, it was recommended and adopted that January be made a *Methodist Protestant Herald* month and that an effort be made to get it in every home of members."

April 1, 1922, there were 15 subscriptions. At the December 11, 1929, conference, Reverend J. T. Minnis recommended "That we grow in Godliness by reading the better class of papers, especially the Church paper and secure our full quota of subscriptions to *The Methodist Protestant Herald*."

A few years later, a goal of 50 *Upper Rooms* in members' homes was set. Reverend Minnis stated:

"For Church periodicals and literature, we earnestly urge your continued interests. In order to keep informed about our church we must subscribe to The Methodist Protestant Herald for local news, to the Methodist Protestant Recorder for denominational news, to the Missionary Record for missionary information and to the North Carolina Christian Advocate for news outside our church."

November 23, 1937, Reverend Surratt informed the Quarterly Conference:

"Our church has an official organ – the M.P. Recorder – which our church leaders ought to have as an aid to an intelligent understanding of their work. Every Christian home ought to have a Church Paper, for how can a person be an intelligent Christian without reading religious literature. Our own M. P. Herald will supply this need. The membership ought to be informed of our missionary effort. The Missionary Record will furnish this information. The Upper Room is a fine booklet for supplying a wholesome thought each day for devotional life. I recommend that the M. P. Herald Agent and one other be a committee for securing the following goals: M. P. Recorders 5, M. P. Herald 60, Missionary Record 15, and the Upper Room 60."

Our own Reverend Whitehead wrote the Sunday School lesson that was printed for April 11, 1937, and as President of the Conference Council of Religious Education wrote other articles for *The Methodist Protestant Herald*.

November 2, 1938, the Graham Methodist Protestant Church headed the list of churches in *Methodist Protestant Herald* subscriptions and percentage ratings. Mrs. C. C. Burke, Miss Gladys Amick, and Miss Laura Jane Neese were appointed to serve as distributors of church periodicals and literature.

Following are two articles from *The Methodist Protestant Herald* written in the 1930s by church members.

**Graham, April 6.**—Our work is progressing very nicely. Attendance has been unusually good the past few Sundays.

On Easter Sunday the children gave a short program at the Sunday school hour. Miss Elizabeth Dixon was our soloist at the morning service. In the evening the program consisted of Scripture readings, a musical reading, and pantomimes. We were glad to have the following visitors worship with us: Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Wood, of Washington; Mrs. C. D. Hunt and family, of Gretna, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Grady Brown, of Hillsboro; and little Miss Glenn Abbott Harden, of Charlotte.

Our pastor has been bringing some fine messages. Last Sunday he preached on "What Does the Church Expect of Us?" At the conclusion of the sermon, the Lord's Supper was administered. The subject for the evening service was, "Am I Easily Offended, or Am I Loving?" which was one of a series on "Making the Best of Life."

We welcomed the following new members into our fellowship Easter Sunday: Mr. C. E.

Russell, Junius Hunter, Billy Fuller, Doris Quakenbush, and Edith Phillips.

We are happy to have Mr. and Mrs. John Amick back with us. They have been spending several months in Florida. Mr. Amick made a short talk to the Sunday school on Sunday morning, which was enjoyed very much.

The Woman's Auxiliary held its thank-offering service Monday evening, March 8, at the hut. Mrs. H. F. Surratt was in charge of the worship service and Mrs. S. S. Holt brought the thank-offering message. The new auxiliary officers are: President, Mrs. Fannie Hughes; vice-presidents, Mrs. A. P. Williams and Mrs. H. M. Rogers; recording secretary, Mrs. E. F. Steele, and corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. F. Surratt. A number of the ladies are planning to attend the Branch meeting next week.

Mrs. John Murray continues quite ill. Mrs. Murray is the mother of Mrs. Percy Amick and Mrs. C. F. Clapp, of our church. Mrs. Broadus Culler is improving rapidly. She is recuperating from a recent operation at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Williams.

The Friendly Helpers' class held its March meeting Friday at the home of their teacher, Mrs. Foust Thompson. Mrs. Alvis Wilson conducted the devotional. Mrs. Winifred Martin presided over the business session. A delightful social hour was enjoyed, during which the hostess served ice cream and cake. Mrs. Thompson was remembered with birthday gifts from the class.

Mr. George Webster and Miss Frances Susan Moore were married at the parsonage by Rev. H. F. Surratt. They have our best wishes. Mr. Webster is the son of Mr. John Webster.

We are sorry to report the death of one of our members, Mrs. Rebecca Thompson. Funeral services were held at the church by her pastor, assisted by Rev. M. N. Fleming and Rev. E. G. Dawson. Our deepest sympathy goes to Mr. Thompson and the four children.

MRS. CHARLES CATES, Reporter.

**Graham.**—The attendance at church school and preaching services have been real good, especially considering the weather for the last few weeks.

The Youth Fellowship program of our church was used yesterday in all of our services. At the school hour Rev. H. F. Surratt, our pastor, made a brief talk of appreciation in honor of our teachers and leaders.

The morning worship program was also used with Rev. Junius Neese, a ministerial student of our church, bringing the message of encouragement of our youth. After this our pastor called for all under 25 years old that would pledge to consecrate themselves anew for service. About 30 responded and then he asked the older people that would join them and help to encourage youth. Quite a number responded. Then the Christian Endeavor followed the youth program in this service and several young people responded to the call of reconsecration for more and better service in the Master's Kingdom; also two that were not Christians held their hands for prayer that they might accept Christ.

At the evening service the youth candlelight Communion service was carried out with a good program. Mrs. Alvis Wilson, Junius and Laura Jane Neese had charge of the program for the day.

The Boys' quartet furnished special music at the church school hour.

Rev. H. F. Surratt, our pastor, made an address on "Practical Plans for Preparing and Teaching the Sunday School Lesson," at the Burlington-Graham Township Sunday School institute held in the Macedonia Lutheran church in Burlington yesterday evening.

If you are in our town on the Sabbath day visit us. A MEMBER.



Elizabeth Shoffner holds a very old copy of the *Discipline* that she and her husband Harvey have donated to the church archives.

This is to Certify that

Velsie Shoffner Beale

was received by

Rev. R. S. Fosler

into full membership in the

M. P. Church

of Graham, N.C.

on the Oct. day of 1916

H. Fred Surratt  
Pastor

Clerk

This is not to be used as a letter of transfer or dismissal

This is to Certify that

Hilda Beale

was received by

Rev. J. C. Anuman

into full membership in the

M. P. Church

of Graham, N.C.

on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of Mar. 1933

H. Fred Surratt  
Pastor

Clerk

This is not to be used as a letter of transfer or dismissal

This is to Certify that

Vivian Beale

was received by

Rev. J. C. Anuman

into full membership in the

M. P. Church

of Graham, N.C.

on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of Mar. 1932

H. Fred Surratt  
Pastor

Clerk

This is not to be used as a letter of transfer or dismissal



MRS. VIVIAN WILLIAMSON  
AND MRS. VELSIE BEALE



# CHURCH OFFICIALS

## TRUSTEES

N. E. Sykes, Chairman

J. L. Amick	R. E. Bain	W. C. Goley	M. R. Kirkman
J. M. Anglin	L. W. Cheek	S. S. Holt	J. A. Webster

## STEWARDS

J. M. Anglin, Jr., Chairman

Miss Gladys Amick	J. T. Fuller	E. F. Nicks	Mrs. E. F. Steele
Miss Nannie Burke	C. W. Hunter	Mrs. H. M. Rogers	Mrs. N. E. Sykes
L. W. Cheek	Mrs. J. D. Linens	C. E. Russell	Mrs. S. R. Young
Mrs. J. S. Cook	Mrs. W. A. Morrison	Mrs. G. S. Stafford	

## PIANISTS

Mrs. C. A. Cates  
Miss Laura Jane Neese, Asst.  
Mrs. P. E. Cheek  
Mrs. C. F. Clapp

## CLASS LEADERS

J. L. Amick  
J. A. Webster

## TREASURER

Mrs. C. C. Burke

## REPORTER

Miss Gladys Amick

## USHERS

P. H. Amick	J. M. Dixon	E. N. Kirkman	B. H. Phillips
J. M. Anglin, Jr.	W. A. Flinton	J. T. Fuller, Jr.	W. V. Pickard
W. H. Cheek	J. A. Hester	E. F. Nicks	J. O. Thompson

## CHURCH SCHOOL

E. N. Kirkman, Supt.	Mrs. A. P. Williams, Asst. Pianist
C. A. Cates, Asst. Supt.	Mrs. M. R. Kirkman, Supt. Jr.-Primary
B. H. Phillips, Sec.-Treas.	Miss Emma Foushee, Asst. Supt.
W. H. Cheek, Asst. Sec.-Treas.	Miss Ruth Cheek, Pianist, Hut
H. M. Rogers, Leader of Music	Mrs. C. A. Cates, Supt. Beginners
Miss Laura Jane Neese, Pianist	

## WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Mrs. Heenan Hughes, Pres.  
Mrs. A. P. Williams, Vice-Pres.  
Mrs. H. M. Rogers, 2nd. Vice-Pres.  
Mrs. E. F. Steele, Sec.  
Mrs. C. C. Burke, Treas.

## CIRCLE CHAIRMEN

No. 1—Mrs. A. B. McPherson  
No. 2—Mrs. E. F. Steel  
No. 3—Miss Gladys Amick  
Lou Goley—  
Meryl Minnis—Mrs. J. S. Cook

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN

### EDUCATION

H. F. Surratt	Mrs. Don S. Holt
C. A. Cates	Mrs. S. S. Holt
Mrs. C. A. Cates	E. N. Kirkman

## BOY SCOUTS

Troop Number 41

C. A. Cates, Master  
E. N. Kirkman, Asst. Master  
J. L. McPherson, Patrol Leader  
Chas. Russell, Patrol Leader



REV. G.F. MILLAWAY  
1903-1907

REV. W.F. SANFORD  
1906-1908



REV. CH. WHITAKER  
1907-1908



REV. J.R. HUTTON  
1908-1909

REV. A.H. BRYAN  
1909-1910



REV. G.L. CURRY  
1910-1913



REV. O.B. WILLIAMS  
1913-1916



REV. R.S. TROXLER  
1916-1920



REV. J. CLYDE AUMAN  
1920 - 1921  
1930 - 1935



REV. E.A. BINGHAM  
1923-1924



REV. D.R. WILLIAMS  
1924-1928



REV. J.F. MINNIS  
1928-1930



REV. H.F. SURRATT  
1935-1939

## MEMBERS AT THE TIME OF CHURCH UNION IN NOVEMBER 1939

Ada Shields Thomas  
 Pattie Lewis  
 C. L. Bradshaw  
 Eugenia Cooper Moon  
 Josephine Jones Bradshaw  
 Clara Ezell Steele  
 Lonnie Ezell  
 Eliza Shoffner Rippy  
 Mrs. C. L. Ezell  
 Mrs. P. B. Core  
 Fannie Shoffner Clark  
 Mrytle Batton Love  
 Flossie Boswell  
 Katie Webster Parrish  
 Willard C. Goley  
 Gaynell Webster Pickard  
 Versie Guthrie  
 Josie Dixon  
 Winfrey T. Martin  
 Fannie Fogleman  
 Gladys Amick  
 Mamie Fogleman Guthrie  
 Callie Foust Modlin  
 Percy Amick  
 Margaret Cook  
 Ola Faucette Longest  
 Mary Jane Edwards  
 Kathleen Bradshaw Baker  
 I. I. Henderson  
 Agnes Liner Burke  
 Mary Hannah Bradshaw  
 Ben Bradshaw  
 Clarence McPherson  
 Maude Long Foust  
 Ola Shoffner  
 Harvey Linens  
 Bertha Black Thompson  
 Mattie Cheek  
 C. Bascom Moore  
 Velsie Shoffner Beale  
 Lola Williams King  
 Alice Bradshaw Coe  
 Winnie Norton Harrington  
 Allene Long Thompson

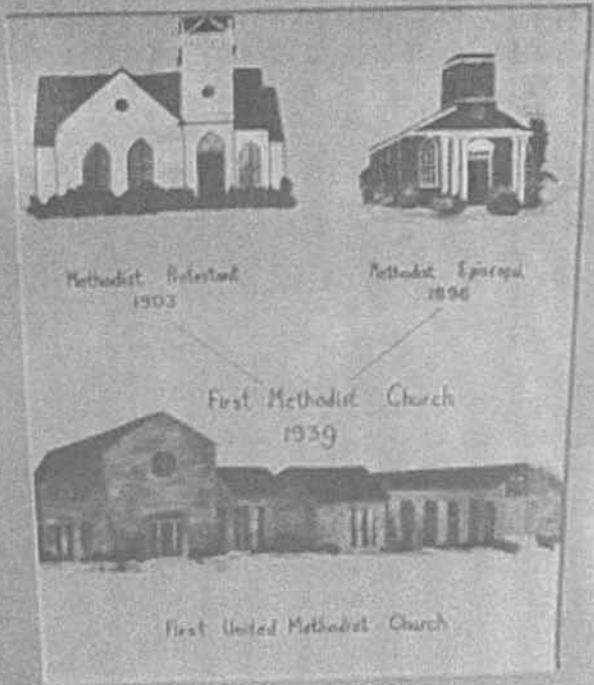
Edith Moon Isley  
 Emma Bayliff  
 Beatrice Murray Clapp  
 Ethel Parks Martin  
 Mrs. John A. Webster  
 Hadessa Foster Guthrie  
 Mrs. Ida Cheek  
 Bertha Cheek Holt  
 Bernice Layton Cheek  
 Lawrence Cheek  
 Bernice Ward Logan  
 Elma Morrison  
 Paul Cheek  
 Doyle Cheek  
 Willard McPherson  
 Dole Core  
 Charles M. Love  
 Mary Sykes  
 Roger Stout  
 Delancy Parrish  
 Nettie Whitfield  
 Dora Cook  
 Helen Bradshaw  
 Louise Buckner  
 Holt Henderson  
 Frances Ward McKinney  
 Blonzie Steele  
 Adele Cheek Linens  
 Ralma Hornaday Revis  
 Ola Cheek Hunter  
 Joy Belle Stafford  
 Mary Webster Satterfield  
 Mary Hunter Hornaday  
 Ed Roach  
 Nadine Whitfield Core  
 Czarina Murray Amick  
 Frank Flythe  
 James S. Cook, Jr.  
 Carleen Black Self  
 Ivey Black Garrett  
 Hanley Holt  
 Mrs. J. T. Fuller  
 Etta Jones  
 Edith Parrish Barrow

Rachel Williams Mills  
 Mrs. E. F. Thompson  
 Bertha Henderson Campbell  
 Anne Thompson  
 Elizabeth Thompson  
 Ella Simmons Hall  
 W. T. Hall  
 Mrs. Ben Bradshaw  
 Alice Flythe Prichette  
 David Flythe  
 M. N. Flythe  
 Evelyn Flythe  
 Lurlene Moore Moon  
 Mary Foust Shouse  
 Maurice Shoffner Fogleman  
 Ruth Bain Cates  
 Lola B. Roach  
 Junius Boswell  
 Henderson Euliss  
 E. C. Porterfield  
 Landon Core  
 Ross Layton  
 Bryant Roberson  
 Arthur Shoffner  
 Bemis Core Cheek  
 John Thompson  
 A. C. Wilkerson  
 Sophia Wilkerson  
 James S. Bowman  
 Bertha Bowman  
 John Lee McPherson  
 Robert N. Cook, Jr.  
 Charles Harden  
 Ruby Marlette Alexander  
 Charles Clapp  
 Ruby Garner Bason  
 Helen Clark Williams  
 Comann D. Isley  
 Lenora Linens Bennett  
 Vivian Beale Williamson  
 C. W. Hunter, Jr.  
 James Carter Black  
 Lillian Fuller Black  
 Carrie Mae Vaughn

Grace Albright Foster  
Onie Thompson Andrews  
George Webster  
Imogene Moser McPherson  
Mabel Harris  
Mrs. T. H. Perry  
Mrs. Thomas R. Harden  
John M. Anglin, Jr.  
Alma Beaver Euliss  
Ollie Gilliam  
Ruth Buckner Albright  
Ed H. Gilliam  
Opal Moore Narron  
Annie June Black Johnson  
Warren Amick  
Edith Clapp  
Lawrence Evans  
Max Foust  
Elizabeth Dixon Cates  
Sara Catherine Hughes  
James Linens  
James H. Hardie  
Mrs. I. I. Henderson  
Emma Foushee  
Sara Belle Thompson Williams  
Mrytle Foushee Wilson  
Charles Foushee  
Robert A. Davis  
Iola Zachary Davis  
Floyd Eugene Pickard  
Mary Ann Drumwright  
Richard Dabney Hardie  
Ursal Boswell  
Jack Y. Henderson  
Blanche Parrish Thompson

Nancy James Deaton  
Joseph Hardie  
M. Carson Hardie  
L. B. Bradshaw  
Thomas W. Drumwright, Jr.  
Alvis R. Wilson  
Beatrice Boyd  
Kathleen Holt Lockamy  
Helen Moore Harrington  
Harvey Holt  
Ross Henderson, Jr.  
May Hardy McGee  
Mary Beaven Warren  
James Merle Dixon  
Robert Holt  
Charles A. Cates  
Winfey Thomas Martin, Jr.  
Lottie Hughes  
James Troy Pugh  
Clara White Pugh  
Delois Whitfield Gilmore  
Sallie McLeod  
Catherine Coble Wightman  
Jean Rader Phillips  
Jack Wesley King  
Thomas W. Bradshaw  
Robert Marlette  
Clinton Euliss  
James A. Bayliff  
Hattie Bayliff  
William D. Longest  
F. Vernon Steele, Jr.  
Banks Russell  
Kenneth Linens  
Charles Russell

Mrs. L. B. Swanner  
L. B. Swanner  
Mrs. J. H. Slaughter  
C. Ed Russell  
William Lee Fuller  
Edith Phillips Satterfield  
MacRae C. Cook  
William Walter Evans  
Eva B. McPherson  
Dorothy Steele Apple  
Jean Hunter Harris  
Mescal Hunter Councilman  
Henry G. Loy  
Iris Ausley Loy  
Lucille Isley Flythe  
North Lynch  
Grace Lynch  
Mildred Hester  
Mrs. John G. Gaddy  
Franz N. Pritchett  
Frances Webster  
Ila Vaughn Lambe Clark  
George F. Davis  
Ernest Brummitt  
Nita Brummitt  
Nannie Lambe  
Beatrice G. Stout  
James David Linens  
Charm Don Holt  
Lucille Sykes James  
Mrs. J. M. Whittemore  
Ruth Ray Core  
Chalmers Bennett  
Sammy Bradshaw  
Joe James

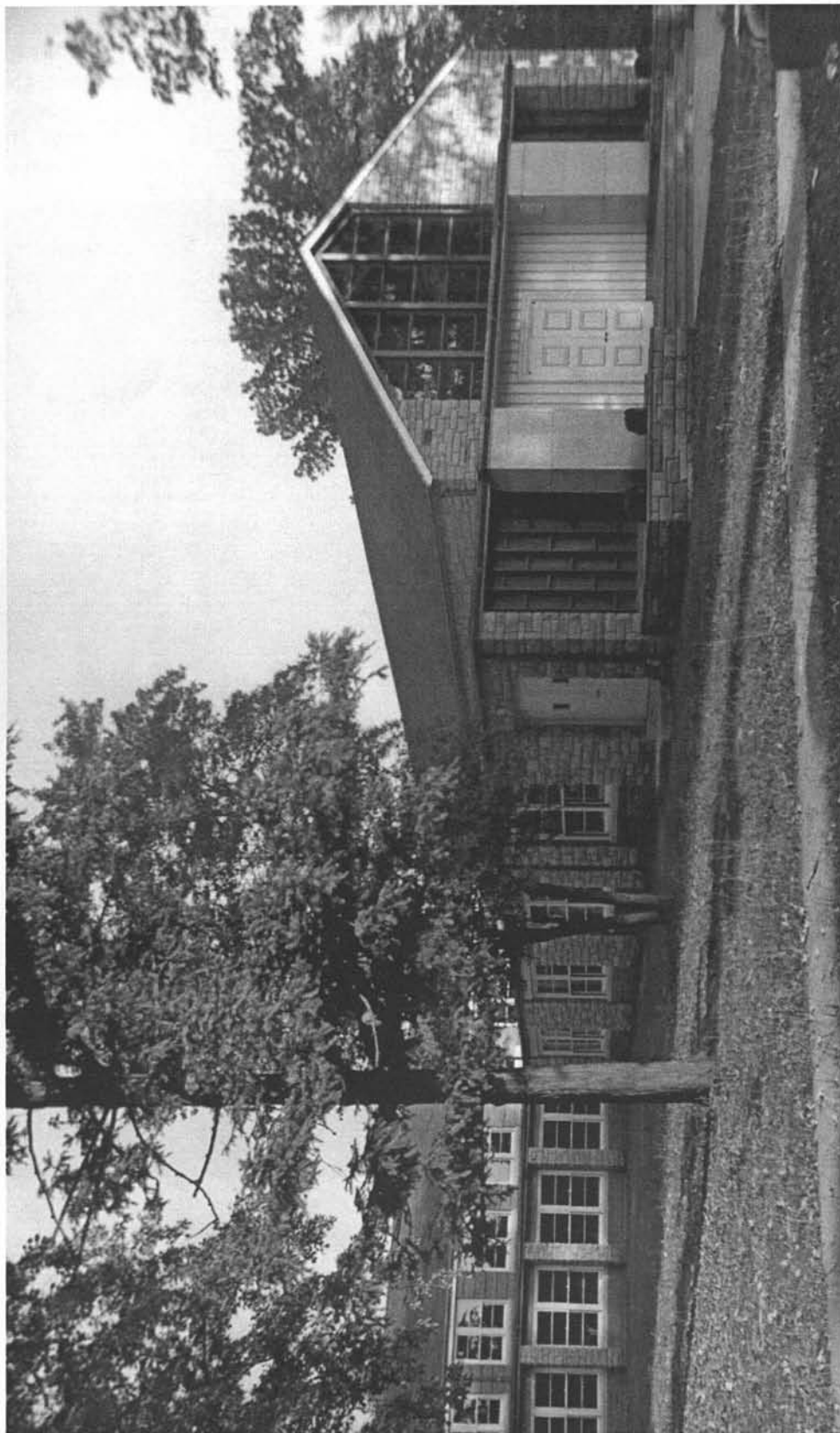


Methodist Protestant  
1903

Methodist Episcopal  
1896

First Methodist Church  
1939

First United Methodist Church



Graham Methodist Church, Educational Building

## THE GRAHAM METHODIST CHURCH

The union of the three major branches of the Methodist Church occurred in May, 1939, in Kansas City, Missouri. This union became official in North Carolina in November of that year at the Annual Conference. The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church united to form the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. Delegates from their respective churches in Graham were J. L. Amick from the Methodist Protestant Church and W. Ernest Thompson from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. A moment of significance for all Graham Methodists came at this conference on Sunday afternoon, November 12, 1939, when the Bishop's secretary made the following announcement concerning charge boundaries: "*Combine the two Methodist Churches in Graham and form the 'Graham Station'.*" Graham Methodist Church came into existence at that moment. Bishop Peele appointed the Reverend J. R. Edwards to serve the newly established appointment. He and his wife occupied the parsonage of the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South. They must have felt right at home as they initially came to Graham as newly-weds when Reverend Edwards was pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, from 1918-1919.

At the time of union, the two congregations were about equal in numbers and resources.

<u>Item</u>	<u>M. P. Church</u>	<u>M. E. Church</u>
Church Membership	321	346
Church School Enrollment	210	272
Women's Organization	75	41
Benevolences	\$825.00	\$350.00
Pastor's Salary	\$1350.00	\$1000.00
Total Money Raised	\$3208.00	\$2553.00

The church building of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was used by the combined congregations for worship services. The sanctuary was more spacious when the two large Sunday School rooms on either side were opened. There were also doors on both sides of the pulpit that folded back to accommodate large crowds.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**Graham Methodist Church**  
**C and G Class**  
**"COME AND GO"**

JESUS SAID:—  
**COME** Unto Me All Ye That Labor  
**AND** Are Heavy Laden.  
**GO** Ye Into All The World and Preach  
 The Gospel To Every Creature.

You Are Invited To Join Our Class,  
 We Need You—The Church Needs You

OFFICERS:  
 B. F. MCGUIRE, Pres.  
 AMY BUCKNER, Vice Pres.  
 JEAN HUNTER, Sec.-Treas.

COMMITTEES:

MEMBERSHIP: Winfred Martin, Aubrey Buckenosh, R. G. Drumwright, Ho Young Lamb.	PROGRAM: C. W. Hunter, Jack Love, Amy Buckner, Ernest Newark.
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------

SOCIAL:  
 Jess Hunter, Robert Holt,  
 Mary E. Brittain, Charles Russell,  
 Ralph Norwood,  
 C. W. Hunter, Leader of Song.

TIME: 10:00 A. M., Prompt.

Sunday School publicity card

The Sunday Schools had to continue to meet in each church due to space limitations. Reverend Edwards reported at the first quarterly conference on January 21, 1940, that "We have one congregation but still maintain two Sunday Schools." An effort was being made to organize the church according to Methodist standards. In May, 1941, he was able



to boast that "Our church is well organized in every department. Our finances are in good shape; about three-fourths for the year has been paid."

The Official Board of the new Graham Methodist Church was composed of the members of the Boards from the former churches. They were:

From the Methodist Episcopal Church

C. A. Thompson  
C. B. Moore  
W. D. Barrett  
Mrs. Lee Andrews  
J. S. Bowman  
C. L. Bradshaw  
C. D. Brittain  
J. M. Buckner  
Mrs. J. A. Bason  
E. A. Fogleman  
W. B. Green  
A. Ross Henderson  
I. I. Henderson  
Mrs. T. C. Moon  
Parks Perry  
Mrs. Franz Pritchette  
W. Ernest Thompson  
A. C. Wilkerson  
Mrs. E. H. Gilliam  
Mrs. W. B. Green

From the Methodist Protestant Church

J. M. Anglin, Jr.  
Mrs. W. T. Martin  
L. W. Cheek  
Mrs. J. S. Cook  
J. T. Fuller  
C. W. Hunter  
Mrs. J. D. Linens  
Mrs. W. A. Morrison  
Mrs. H. M. Rogers  
C. E. Russell  
Mr. E. F. Steele  
Mrs. N. E. Sykes  
Price Dixon  
James Linens  
Don S. Holt  
Dr. W. C. Goley  
J. L. Amick  
J. M. Anglin, Sr.  
R. R. Bain  
S. S. Holt  
J. A. Webster  
M. R. Kirkman  
E. N. Kirkman  
Mrs. J. H. McPherson  
Mrs. S. S. Holt

Reverend Boone arrived as minister in 1941 and his first report to the Quarterly Conference addressed the Sunday School situation as follows: "From what I have been able to see we have a good church school. We are using both of the church buildings and also both Huts. This makes it impossible for us to do the best work possible. Our laymen seem to be willing to cooperate and work in every field. We are now discussing and weighing and will soon begin to try our strength."

January 13, 1943 – He reported "that the church school continued to do good work, but not what we would like to see done. We have been carrying on in two units but we are now at work and will soon have all of our church school pupils and workers in one building. Our laymen are above average in willingness to do."

In 1943, the hut from the former Methodist Protestant Church was moved to the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South, (now called the Graham Methodist Church) and repairs were made on the huts of both churches at a cost of \$200. This enabled the Sunday School to be held in one place and gave visible evidence to the union which had taken place.

October 27, 1943 – What a glowing report from Reverend Boone. “Our church is in a splendid condition. Our worship services are fine. Our Church School is in a healthy condition. Our finances are better than we hoped for under the circumstances.”

February 17, 1946 – Reverend Boone – “The Pastor rarely ever preaches but what he has in mind the children. The greatest children and youth problem we have is failure on the part of Parents to cooperate. Most of our children after church school walk out and go home and we are failing to create church going habits. If children are not brought up in the church and preaching service by the time they reach middle teen age their case is rather hopeless.”

February 16, 1947 – Encouraging and uplifting news from a new minister, Reverend O. L. Hathaway – “The congregation has been very receptive of us and very generous in their gifts. We wish to express our appreciation to these good people and pray that we may be worthy of their love and confidence.

“The morning congregations have been filling the sanctuary and are an inspiration to the pastor. Our evening services have been showing evidence of growth and interest. The Men’s Choir at the evening hour has been furnishing us with some good singing and the people are enjoying the music. Brother W. B. Green assisted with our first communion service.

“The Church School is functioning very efficiently under the wise leadership of Mr. W. Ernest Thompson and his splendid and helpful officers and teachers.

“The Woman’s Society Christian Service under the leadership of Mrs. Charles A. Cates, President, and her leaders have their work plans underway. These splendid ladies are giving to the church a great deal of their time, talents, and gifts, for which we are grateful. Dr. E. S. Lupton, as chairman of the building fund, keeps moving towards the goals for a new church building.”

October 22, 1948 – The pastor reported that Sunday School attendance for the third quarter dropped off due to the Polio Epidemic. The Board of Temperance gave its first report that Commitment Day was observed, literature by the Allied Church League was distributed, and the church took a stand against Sunday baseball and Sunday movies, but lost out by the Mayor and the majority of the Town Commissioners.

January 18, 1950 – In the month of December, the church had its largest Communion congregation and its highest attendance for preaching services and Sunday School on record.

January 15, 1951 - Reverend Jessie Lanning's first report on the general state of the church was commendable. He described the congregation as encouraging, interested, and responsive. "The people have received us very warmly. They gave us a real 'pounding' soon after our arrival. Then they renovated the inside of the parsonage making it quite delightful. They already have a big place in our hearts."

September 7, 1952 – Reverend Lanning must have been filled with enthusiasm when he wrote the following report. "We have a splendid Board of Education... Our church school is doing good work... The W.S.C.S. is doing a splendid work... We have an excellent Boy Scout program... We have had a School of Missions, Vacation Bible School, successful Youth Week, and Christian Worker's School."

He concluded with the following update: "An outstanding matter is our new Church transaction and plans. We sold the M. P. Church lot on North Main Street for \$4000 and bought the old Christian Church lot adjoining our new Church site for \$6,750. We have secured Harold Wagoner of Philadelphia as architect and we are expecting the preliminary plans any time now."

"Thirty nine of our members have transferred to the new Trinity Methodist Church." (now Emmanuel United Methodist Church).

September 22, 1953 – "We have made real progress both with the new church plans and finances. Our hearts are set on beginning our new church before too long."

May 16, 1955 – Reverend T. J. Whitehead – "The State of the Church – The interest in the work of our church has been excellent this year. Attendance has been good at all of our worship services. Your pastor and his family deeply appreciate the kind way that the people have received us. We have never received fuller cooperation from any church than we have received from the good people of Graham. Our Organizations – The Official Board is fully organized, our financial obligations have been paid up to date, the Church School is well organized, the officers and members of the Women's Society of Christian Service have taken seriously their responsibilities, Junior and Senior Youth Fellowships hold regular weekly meetings." This Conference confirmed the resolutions adopted by the Church Conference of February 28, 1954, relative to the erection of a new Methodist Church in Graham. The vote was unanimous.

May 20, 1955 – We have the following organizations in our church:

The Church School	Boy Scout Troop No. 41
The Women's Society of Christian Service	Brownie Troop No. 49
The Methodist Youth Fellowship	Brownie Troop No. 22
Methodist Men	

August 7, 1955 – “On Sunday afternoon, our congregation met at the site for our new building for the formal ground breaking ceremony which would mark the beginning of the construction of our first unit in the building program of our church. It was a beautiful afternoon, and our people entered fully into the service. One felt that there was a strange feeling of joy in the hearts of the people as they gathered there on that occasion.”

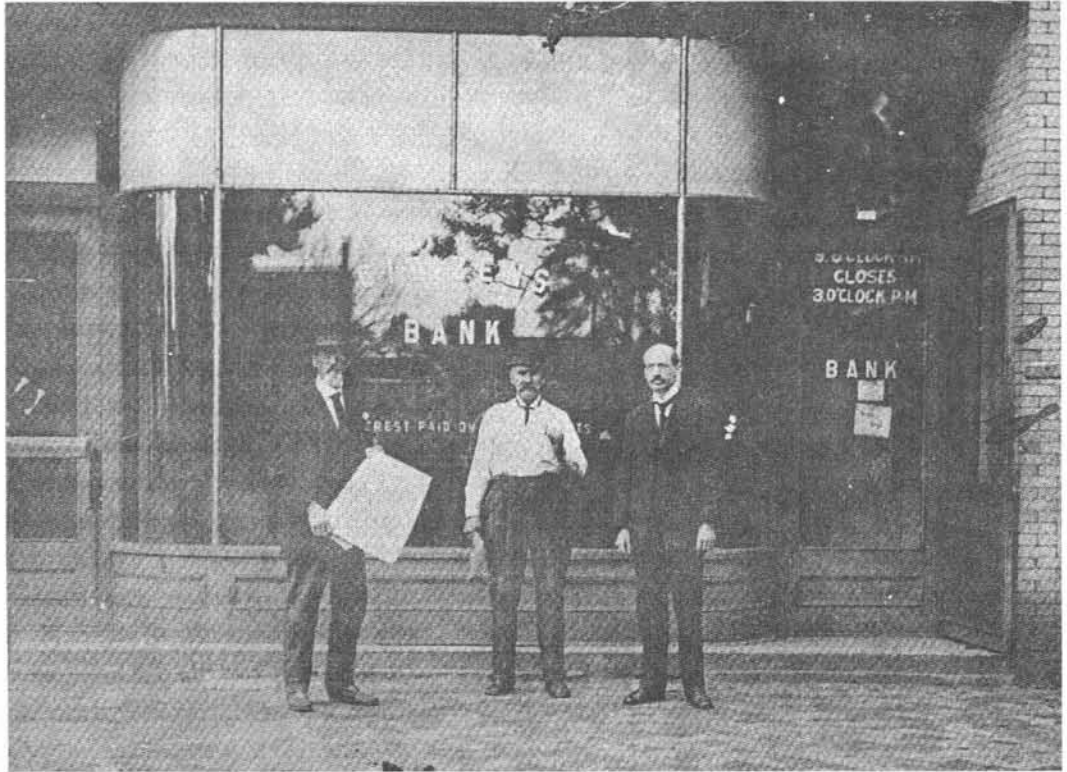
Looking to the future - “When we move into the new building, we are going to be in a much better position to serve the people of our community. More people need to be brought into the various activities of our church. All boards, commissions, and organizations should begin making plans by which we can extend our usefulness to a larger number of people.” Reverend Whitehead continued to remind and challenge the congregation of the importance and privilege of serving through evangelistic efforts.

### **Honorary Church Treasurer**

In 1956, Reverend Whitehead praised the efforts of the church treasurer, Mr. C. A. Thompson, at the December Official Board Meeting by saying, “Keeping the records for the Graham Methodist Church has been a Herculean task when you consider the regular budget and the building or construction fund, and our treasurer, Mr. C. A. Thompson, should be thanked and commended for doing this job so efficiently.”

Reverend Whitehead suggested a way to honor Mr. Thompson would be to purchase offering plates and dedicate them to him. A year later, in 1960, Reverend Whitehead announced that Mr. Thompson had asked to be relieved of his duties. A letter of appreciation was sent to him as well as bestowing honorary treasurer for life. Elsewhere it was noted that Mr. Thompson had also served for 45 years as a trustee.

Our New Building – “On Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1957, our congregation entered the first unit of our church plant. There was a large congregation of members and friends for the first Church School and worship service. A full account of the day's activities will be recorded in the historical records of our church by our committee on church records and history.”



J. N. H. Clendenin, director, W. J. Nicks, president, and Charles C. Thompson, cashier, of the Citizens Bank about 1914 standing in front of the bank then located at No.14 Northeast Court Square. The building was then known as the Goley Building. Used by permission, City of Graham

After Unification, The North Carolina Conference placed great emphasis on standards of organization.

May 19, 1958 – “We consider that our Church is well organized to serve the moral and spiritual needs of our people. The following are our organizations that have functioned during the past year:

The Official Board  
 The Church School  
 The Commission on Education  
 The Commission on Membership  
 and Evangelism  
 The Commission on Stewardship  
 and Finance  
 The Commission on Missions  
 Women’s Society of Christian  
 Service  
 Methodist Men

Adult Choir  
 Junior Choir  
 Junior Sunday Evening  
 Fellowship  
 Intermediate Sunday Evening  
 Fellowship  
 Methodist Youth Fellowship  
 Brownie Scout Troop #22  
 Brownie Scout Troop #49  
 Boy Scout Troop #41  
 Vacation Church School”

July 21, 1958 – A discussion by the Official Board regarding air conditioning the sanctuary ended in a vote to continue using fans. In August, screens were placed in the windows of the church office, study and cradle roll class.

April 20, 1959 – The following motion was made by T. M. Johnson and seconded by C. A. Thompson: “Due to the organization of Christ Methodist Church in south Graham, it has become necessary for us to become known in the future as *First Methodist Church of Graham*, North Carolina.” The motion was carried. A proposal to use a picture of the church on the cover of the bulletin was put into action.

September 19, 1960 – Reverend Whitehead appealed to the Official Board: “From time to time your pastor is called upon to meet some need which calls for an expenditure of money. In the past we have had no such funds available for such purposes.” He requested that the opportunity be extended to our people to contribute to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund from which he may draw in providing relief and help to people who need and deserve such consideration. It is understood, of course, that the decision of expenditures shall be at his discretion and shall be held in his confidence. Only offerings that are especially given for this cause will find their place in this fund. This was the beginning of the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund and remains in effect today.

“We began this year, 1960, with the objective in mind of paying in full the indebtedness on our Educational Building. On the Sunday just before Thanksgiving the people made an offering that made it possible for us to make the final payment on our debt. As the people stood to sing the Doxology at the close of the service that day, they were able to sing from the depths of their hearts, ‘Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow’.”

Mrs. W. B. Green, early Church Historian, was an active member during Reverend Whitehead’s ministry and she summarized this period in the life of the church:



During the ministry of the Reverend T. J. Whitehead, 1954 – 1962, the church experienced a period of rapid growth. There was a great influx of young people into our area and many babies were born each year. The Sunday School flourished and there was a need for broadening the program of the church and a brand new educational building waiting to be used. In 1958, Mrs. Betty C. Williams was employed as an Educational Assistant to work with Reverend Whitehead in developing a program to meet the needs of the people of the First Methodist Church

of Graham. According to Reverend Whitehead, 'A great sense of unity and cooperation had brought the church together during the period of the construction of the first unit of our plant. There was a new spirit of enthusiasm as the officials and members sought to strengthen and enlarge the program of the church.' The Sunday evening Fellowship and additional Family Night Suppers highlighted this period of our church history. New people were welcomed into the fellowship of our church and made to feel that they were a part of it. This time publicity materials played a very important role during which our people were informed of all the options available to them. Emphasis was placed on the Sunday School, leadership training, beginning a children's choir program, Scouts, Mission Studies, Vacation Church School, Youth Activities Week, Christian Adventure Week, M.Y.F. meetings, and Junior Fellowship. A program of church camping was initiated beginning with the Day Camp setting for Juniors then expanding to include resident camping for Juniors, youth and family groups. Junior Worship Services were a vital part of our program during this period of time. Under adult supervision, these children planned and carried out their own worship service in their department during the morning worship hour. Our church was well organized for the work it must do and the people were willing to work. In the words of Reverend Whitehead, '...the congregation never lost sight of the fact that it is the primary function of the church to bring together people to worship God. In the new, attractive fellowship hall (which was designed to serve as a temporary sanctuary) our members and friends met for many hours of spiritual examination, enlightenment, inspiration, and dedication'. ...

Reverend Langill Watson served as pastor from 1962 – 1966. Shortly after his arrival he reported:

September 25, 1962 – "This is a wonderful church and I take great pride in being the pastor. There is a strong desire on the part of many members to continue with the building program begun a decade ago and which has been planned for a quarter century. There is no question that it can be done on the basis of past performance. But the speed with which it can be done will in large measure depend upon establishing some regular and dependable pattern of giving. We need to also take note of the upcoming College Crusade Fund. We will participate in it." (Graham's fair share quota amounted to \$19,690).

October 11, 1964 – "The financial condition of the church is good. We pledged the largest financial support of the program of the church this year that has ever been pledged: \$39,000 Operating Budget, \$22,120 for the Building Fund, Total \$62,638. The organizational structure of the church is good. We have 110 workers in our Church School program. The state of the church is good. It is financially healthy, well organized to do the work of the kingdom and a good spirit pervades its common life. For over a year our members have consistently been giving \$1,500 a month to the Building Fund. At the present time we have about \$63,000.

"This past Sunday the pastor preached on the call to preach. It is his conviction that out of the great and fine number of young people in this congregation, there should be some who feel a call to commit their lives to the ministry of the church.

"Church Anniversary – On Sunday night, November 12, 1939, at the first session of the North Carolina Annual Conference in session at Hay Street Church, Fayetteville, N. C. it was announced by the secretary of the cabinet that the two Methodist Churches in Graham would be combined to form the Graham Charge. Next month we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that event. Time has proved the worthwhileness of that decision.

For today Methodism stands strong and united in Graham, giving an effective witness to the life of this community. We have much to take pride in in these years and may God bless our cause as richly in the next twenty five years as he has in the past." (A copy of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Program is in the Archives.)

Mrs. Green summarized the period from 1962 – 1966:

During this time, our church continued to experience evidence of growth and change. Preaching was emphasized along with the building of a growing church program. An excellent music program was organized with six choirs providing musical experiences for all ages. The Church School continued to grow and broaden its program in the areas of youth work and camping. A financial campaign was organized in which over 100 men participated annually. The key word during this period was involvement. Perhaps more than at any other time in our church history, more different people were involved in all phases of the work of our church.

April 10, 1967 – Reverend Christian White – "This has been a year of tremendous growth and development. The educational program is in the process of expanding. The financial program is carried on in a fine manner and the entire budget is being covered by pledges. Much time has been spent this year in the tremendous building program. We believe that we will have one of the finest church facilities in this part of the country." (In fact, the architect's proposed church drawings had been featured on the cover of the *International Journal of Religious Education* in 1960.)

"We have been very pleased with the attendance at Sunday morning worship services with attendance running above a 400 average. We believe that the general spiritual condition of the church is at a high peak here at First Methodist Church."

October 9, 1967 – "To Mary Evelyn Rich, our church financial and administrative secretary, we are very grateful. Her orderly and helpful assistance in the affairs of the church make the job much easier.



“All Conference obligations have been met, but we still have some local bills and our payment on the old Okey property which we bought for parking and expansion.”

May 9, 1969 – “We thank Him for the privilege of being able to serve with the people of God here at First United Methodist Church, Graham. This has been a year of stress in the whole church as we have struggled with the issues of our time. We have not escaped this struggle. There are strong feelings about the stand the church and the pastor have taken on some of these issues and confrontation is hard to avoid. This has also been a year of crisis for a goodly number of individuals, for counseling opportunities have been on the increase.

“The finances seem to be coming fairly well, but we will be short of our goal in making payment on our parking facilities. Another interest period for our bonds will be up on June 30, 1970. We should pay off seven one thousand dollar bonds in addition to the interest. Money is an increasing problem as our building and property debts keep squeezing the budget that is needed for more adequate staff and salaries and the expansion of progress in mission and ministry. A solution to this dilemma will be hard to find without increasing the giving level of the congregation. Some relief might be obtained by selling a portion of the Okey property and paying off that debt.

“Being in the county seat gives us influence in the political and social aspects of community life. We have responsibilities to help mold this life after mind and spirit of Christ. May this church always be a mission for Christ and continue to serve in such a way to lift the level of righteousness in the total community.”

A summary of these four years by Mrs. Green follows:

Our educational emphasis continued with new programs being added. We formed the Graham Senior Citizens Club. Our Advent emphasis increased with one special phase of it, “The Hanging of the Greens” becoming a tradition for us.

Small growth groups were formed during this time and many people participated. The Sunday Morning Men’s Breakfast Group formed during this period, has continued until the present time.

In 1968 the Methodist Church formed with the Evangelical United Brethren and became The United Methodist Church. The Methodist Church underwent a change of organizational structure and our Administrative Board, Council on Ministries, and work areas became functional. Much emphasis was given to leadership education as our people prepared themselves to do well the tasks in this church.

All work area chairpersons began to function and we developed a program to meet the needs of our people. Christian White helped us to believe that we are the people of God and a church with a mission.

## GRAHAM METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE

After Unification the church continued to have the ministers reside in the former Methodist Episcopal Church parsonage on Main Street.

In April 1961, Mr. I. I. Henderson reported to the Official Board, "...the trustees had been looking over the Mamie Parker House on Albright Avenue and it was available for \$16,000." An added enticement was the property joined the church property. Proceedings moved swiftly and on May 18, 1961, the Mary Eliza Parker house was purchased "for usage by the church." (Recorded Book 292 at page 113) "The



Reverend and Mrs. Christian White

property of Miss Mary E. Parker had been closed out with \$15,700 due and the money was borrowed from the National Bank of Alamance."

Another parsonage renovation project was begun. "The furniture from our old parsonage on North Main Street was moved to the former Miss Mary E. Parker house. Fourteen pieces were left behind to be disposed of with the proceeds to be placed in the parsonage fund. Five hundred and thirty dollars was spent on remodeling."

Hilda Whitehead, wife of the Reverend T. J. Whitehead, gave a detailed account of the renovations:

During May and June of this year many repairs were made on the parsonage, under the supervision of Dr. Goley and the other trustees. Almost all of the inside woodwork and walls were painted, back porch screened and both porch floors painted two new light fixtures were installed, and several outlets. A new sink, cabinets, and exhaust fan were put in the kitchen. The Junior Wesleyan Class gave an automatic washing machine. Painting and other improvements were made possible by a donation from the Men's Bible Class. The Friendly Helpers Class furnished the dining room with a solid Maple dining room suite. Everything was torn out of the bathroom and replaced with new fixtures, glass for windows, wall board and medicine cabinet. The Woman's Society of Christian Service through special projects has presented to the parsonage linoleum for kitchen floor, kitchen curtains, and table and chairs, a clothes hamper and curtains in the bathroom, 2 mattresses and springs, a set of china, a bedspread, and two new bedroom suites. Other things too numerous to mention have been provided to make our home more convenient and comfortable.

Sunday, April 21, 1968 – At 2:00 P. M. the congregation gathered on the parsonage lawn for a Service of Dedication. Reverend Whitehead led the service.

## THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this parsonage to the glory of God, committing loving care to this house and all who will dwell in it.

**People:** Have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, O Lord My God, which thy servant prayeth before thee today; that thine eyes may be opened toward this house night and day.

Minister: We dedicate this parsonage to the deep affections of the family circle, and to all friendly hospitalities.

**People:** Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, make you to increase and abound in love.

Minister: We dedicate this parsonage to the courage, patience, and self-control which make life cheerful and serene.

**People:** Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Minister: We dedicate this parsonage to all beautiful things of heart and mind that lead the soul to wider vision and to higher aims.

**People:** Whene'er a noble deed is wrought, whene'er is spoken a noble thought, Our hearts in glad surprise to higher levels rise.

Minister: We dedicate this parsonage to happiness, to hopefulness, and to health, that it may ever be, to those whose home it is, a dear haven of peace and joy.

**People:** Serene will be our days and bright, and happy will our nature be, when love is an unerring light, and joy its own security.



Mary Eliza (Mamie) Parker house, first parsonage on Albright Avenue

## WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

After Unification the statistical information showed that the Methodist Protestant Church had 75 members and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had 41. The quarterly conference report of 1940 stated "we have two missionary societies, each is well organized and doing good work." The last meeting of the North Carolina Branch of women's work of the Methodist Protestant Church (Graham being a part) was held in Greensboro on July 16, 1940. The branch charter was dissolved and all local auxiliaries were urged to become charter members of the new Woman's Society of Christian Service.

So it happened that on Monday evening, September 16, 1940, members of their respective organizations from each church formed the Woman's Society of Christian Service of Graham Methodist Church. Reverend J. R. Edwards, serving a second tenure, conducted an impressive enrollment ceremony and forty-five women signed the membership charter. Charter membership closed September 23 with sixty-two members.

The following officers were elected:

President	Mrs. C. D. Brittain
Vice President	Mrs. J. H. McPherson
Recording Secretary	Mrs. C. A. Cates
Treasurer	Mrs. W. B. Green
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Ernest Thompson
Secretary of Missionary Education	Mrs. S. S. (Josephine) Holt
Secretary of Christian Social Relations	Mrs. Heenan Hughes
Secretary of Supplies	Mrs. Percy Amick
Secretary Student Work	Miss Gladys Amick
Secretary Young Girls Work	Mrs. Franz Pritchette
Secretary Literature and Publications	Mrs. A. C. Wilkinson

#### Charter Members of The Woman's Society of Christian Service – September 1940

Mrs. C. L. Ezell	Mrs. W. L. Horne	Mrs. A. C. Wilkinson
Mrs. Heenan Hughes	Mrs. C. B. Moore	Mrs. A. R. Henderson
Mrs. E. F. Steele	Mrs. Dwight Brittain	Mrs. Eli Thompson
Mrs. H. M. Rogers	Mrs. J. H. Eason	Mrs. George Stafford
Mrs. T. C. Moon	Mrs. Annie Turner	Mrs. S. S. Holt
Mrs. W. B. Green	Miss Gladys Amick	Miss Louise Buckner
Mrs. J. D. Linens	Rachael Williams	Mrs. Comann D. Isley
Mrs. L. B. Brahshaw	Mrs. W. T. Ezell	Mrs. Zollie Foster
Mrs. W. R. Goley	Mrs. W. L. Andrews	Mrs. Ernest Brummitt
Mrs. S. E. Freeze	Mrs. W. Ernest Thompson	Mrs. Charles A. Cates
Mrs. J. H. McPherson	Mrs. J. M. Hughes	Mrs. W. T. Whittemore
Mrs. L. W. Cheek	Mrs. W. T. Hall	Mrs. P. H. Amick
Mrs. J. R. Edwards	Mrs. R. N. Cook	Mrs. A. P. Williams
Mrs. Aubrey B. Windham	Mrs. J. B. Taylor	Mrs. E. H. Gilliam
Mrs. D. R. Williams	Mrs. P. E. Cheek	Mrs. I. I. Henderson
Mrs. Mary Ward	Mrs. J. L. Amick	Mrs. T. R. Harden
Mrs. Franz Pritchett	Miss Lizabel Foust	Mrs. James S. Bowman
Mrs. C. D. Holt	Mrs. James S. Cook	Mrs. W. W. Evans
Mrs. Foust Thompson	Mrs. Charles Reaves	Mrs. W. T. Martin
Mrs. C. P. Reaves	Mrs. C. C. Burke	Mrs. W. A. Bradshaw
Miss Rachel Youngblood		

The first budget was \$412 including \$175 for missions, \$140 for orphans' clothes, and lunches were provided for needy children at a Graham School.

As time passed, the Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) continued to be very active. As the church membership grew, so did the WSCS. Missions remained the main focus, not just locally, but worldwide, as a part of the greater Methodist Church.

However, at some time, perhaps during the merging of the churches, the work with the young people and children was discontinued throughout the denominational organization and at Graham as well. In looking back, one might say this was unfortunate in that children were not taught as well the importance of Christian service through mission

work and of learning about the people in foreign countries. In previous years, school teachers had said they could tell which children were from Methodist homes, because those children were already familiar with foreign countries and the people there.

During the years of the building program the women continued to be involved in decision-making as well as fund raising in supporting the efforts of the entire church.

A special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet was held on April 26, 1965. There were 216 members in the twelve circles. Listed in the anniversary program were the names of 51 persons who had been honored with a Life Membership pin and monetary gift to missions, a custom that had been started in 1931. We continue this tradition today and names are added yearly.



Circle members (front) Mrs. Talton Johnson, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(back) Mrs. Treva Johnson, Mrs. Mildred Walker, Mrs. Ellen Jones, and Mrs. Eva Graham

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

After Unification in 1939, the two youth groups were combined and became The Methodist Youth Fellowship, commonly called the MYF.

The first written Quarterly Conference report found, was by John L. Amick, President, dated February 16, 1947. He listed membership as ninety-five and included:

23 in Vernon Pickard's class  
13 in Mr. Graham's  
22 in Mr. Artis Hardee's  
23 in Mrs. McCloud's  
14 in Mrs. Gilliam's

Of these 95 on roll in the Sunday School, about 30 attended the Sunday evening service with an average attendance of 15. Activities included a Halloween party, gifts to Mrs. Sarah Bell Williams and Ann Phfisterer, a Christmas program, making a pledge of a penny a day to the MYF Fund, and contributing books to the church library. Appreciation was expressed to Mr. Dan Rader as counselor and Mr. Alton Utley for help with audio visuals.

At the next Quarterly Conference it was reported that the church was giving financial help (\$50 each) to send four delegates to a national conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The four were John L. Amick, W. T. Pugh, Patricia Durham, and Julia Brown (Howard).

On January 10, 1949, the report said "On New Year's Eve a very impressive Watch Night Service was held. Games began at ten and continued until eleven. At this time a communion was held."

September 22, 1953 - "Considering that the Methodist Youth Fellowship is the entire Youth Division of our church, taking in the Sunday School enrollment, evening meetings, and all activities there are 93 members. Working with us are 10 adults who lead us and are faithful to us and to the program. There are 13 young men from this church in service, 17 college students, and Paul Bunn is a ministerial student."

The Church News Letter of July 27, 1956 said:

**ICE CREAM AND CAKE SALE:** Members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship will sell home made ice cream and cake on the new church lot this coming Saturday night. The money will go to the youth department to be used in buying a bulletin board to be placed on our church lawn.

January 21, 1957, the MYF made \$94 on a pancake and sausage supper to help purchase a bulletin board. With \$200 on hand in February they met with the pastor to consider the type of bulletin board and presented a blueprint to the Official Board on April 23, 1957. Bernard McPherson was president. Dickie Johnson reported \$400 proceeds from the ice cream supper.

## DEDICATION OF BULLETIN BOARD

Sunday, August 3, 1958

Diana Foster (Cummings): "As President of the Methodist Youth Fellowship of Graham Methodist Church, I present this outdoor bulletin board to be dedicated to the glory of Almighty God and the service of men."

Minister: And God said, "Let there be light."

**Congregation: "And there was light."**

Minister: "The Gospel which we proclaim is 'Good News.' It is light to the world and a joy to all human hearts. From the earliest days the Christian Church has used many devices to publish this good news. It used the pulpit, religious symbols, song, the printed page, and printed announcements. This bulletin board which we now dedicate follows in the line of the distinguished company. It is doing God's work. Let us pray.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to bless this expression of Thy Gospel. May we write herein that which may be comprehended and lead to an allegiance to Thee and Thy church. Amen"

Minister: To the enlightenment of this community.

**People: We dedicate this bulletin board.**

Minister: To further the efficiency of our church.

**People: We dedicate this bulletin board.**

Minister: That all men who pass this way may have an invitation to worship God and find Jesus Christ.

**People: We dedicate this bulletin board.**

Minister: To the great spirit of truth.

**People: We dedicate this bulletin board.**

Minister: To the truth revealed through the Holy Spirit.

**People: We dedicate this bulletin board.**

We seldom realize what effort went into the building program of our church, such as this project by the youth.

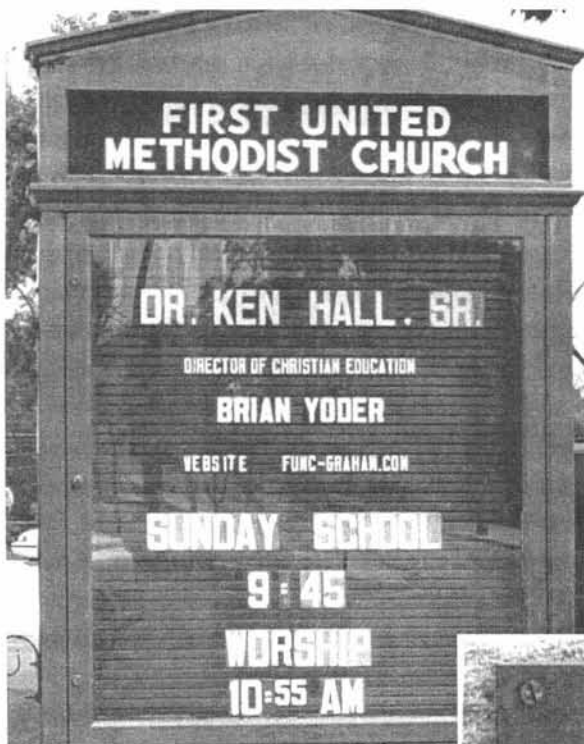
1960 - Anna Bennett (Rainey), Vice President of the MYF, was sent to Louisburg College for a Conference Retreat. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Walters and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rudd became Junior High counselors.



May 7, 1963 - "The MYF places a rose in the Pulpit and after the service carries it to a shut-in. The Junior High raised \$265 for a seriously ill young member. The Seniors are engaged in raising \$1000. They are planning to purchase the front doors for the sanctuary."

May 30, 1966 - "Those seniors graduating from high school are given a Bible during the Sunday morning service prior to their graduation. It is important that the church have such a meaningful and beautiful part in the occasion. We now have \$857.20 to donate towards our goal of \$1000 for the front doors."

April 9, 1967 - "During the past year the MYF has been very busy. After much hard work we finally completed raising the money we are to give to the church for the new sanctuary doors."



## SELECTION OF SITE FOR NEW BUILDING

After the merger of the Methodist Episcopal and the Methodist Protestant Churches in Graham in 1939, it was apparent that neither of the buildings could accommodate the combined congregations – especially the Sunday Schools. Each church continued having their individual 10:00 a.m. Sunday School classes and then joining at the Methodist Episcopal Church for the Worship Service.

Quoting Mrs. W. B. Green's 1955 Church History:

At the Second Quarterly Conference, April 4, 1940, a committee composed of S. S. Holt, Dr. W. C. Goley, W. D. Barrett, C. A. Thompson, and J. A. Webster was appointed to bring a recommendation to the church on the matter. This committee recommended adding a second story to the former Methodist Episcopal Church sanctuary to provide additional needed space. Although the proposal passed, it never materialized. Perhaps the most farsighted statement made at the time was the following made by C. A. Cates: 'The proposed structure is not designed for the future and it would not be good business to put up a temporary unsatisfactory structure.' Time was to vindicate this opinion.

On February 20, 1944, during the pastorate of Reverend J. J. Boone, a building fund for a new church was started. The economic and political situation in the world (the United States recovering from the Great Depression and being engaged in World War II) evidently made it impossible for plans to go forward for building. Fund raising



The home of Captain James A. Graham, son of Governor William A. Graham, for whom the Town of Graham was named. It later became the home of the C. P. Albright family. It stood on the site of the present First United Methodist Church, on North Main Street at its corner with Albright Avenue. Used by permission, City of Graham

efforts continued, however, and on September 4, 1949, with less than \$5400 in the building fund, Reverend O. L. Hathaway appointed a committee to study possible sites for a new church. The site selection committee was composed of Dr. W. C. Goley, Mrs. Myrtle Wilson, and Mr. C. D. Brittain. After consideration of three possible sites, the committee recommended the church purchase property on the east side of the 300 block of North Main Street between Market Street and Albright Avenue.



Ornamental trees in front of church

This property had already played an important role in the religious and civic life of the Graham community for more than one hundred years. Captain James A. Graham, son of the governor for whom the town was named, purchased the beautiful home and grounds of Thomas Ruffin shortly after the end of the Civil War. Though the house burned in 1875, Captain Graham promptly rebuilt and further developed the extensive landscaping with rare plantings until the residence and its lawns were considered a local show place – “an ornament to the town” according to an edition of *The Gleaner*. Perhaps our beautiful large trees in front of the Goley Chapel were planted by the Captain.

The home and grounds were eventually bought by J. A. Long and then by J. N. H. Clendenin. When W. P. Albright purchased the property, he laid out a new street along its north border that later was named for him. Albright’s daughter, Mrs. Frank Moore, inherited the home place and sold it to H. Glenn (Mac) McElroy. Mr. and Mrs. McElroy partnered with Mr. Steve Forest to open a funeral home in the old house. This enterprise was short-lived, however, and by 1949 the McElroys were willing to sell their house and two lots to Graham Methodist Church for \$25,000.

At the committee’s urging, a Church conference on September 14, 1949, approved the purchase and a creative financing strategy. The church leadership “sold” members of the congregation a foot of street frontage at \$100 a foot. Some families “bought” several feet while some could only afford half a foot, but by the end of the meeting, the church had raised \$7,200 towards the purchase price.

## LIST OF "BUYERS"

Dr. W. C. Goley	Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Greene
Dr. & Mrs. C. S. Crissman & family	Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Cates	Mr. C. A. Thompson
Rev. & Mrs. O. L. Hathaway	Mr. C. D. Brittain
Miss Marie Burke	L. H. Gunter
W. J. Hall	D. C. Williams
J. R. Lloyd	Harry Blackwell
Foust Thompson	J. S. Bowman
Mr. & Mrs. A. B. McPherson & Bernard	Walter B. Graham
Mr. & Mrs. George Stafford	Hester Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph James	Holt Henderson
I. I. Henderson	Miss Emma Foushee
L. B. Swanner	Miss Elizabeth Thompson
E. H. Gilliam	Mrs. C. C. Burke
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Buckner & family	T. M. Johnson, Jr.
J. M. Hughes	J. T. Pugh
L. W. Cheek	Zollie Foster
Mr. & Mrs. Eli F. Thompson	Circle # 7
Mr. & Mrs. North Lynch	Mr. & Mrs. C. E. McLeod
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Marshall	C. B. Moore
J. D. Foust	Dan Rader & family
Miss Celeste Bayliff	Mrs. F. A. Lupton
Mrs. W. E. Thompson	Mrs. W. T. Martin & family
Mrs. John Parks, Sr.	C. L. Bradshaw
Vernon Pickard	Robert Y. Whittemore III

The rest of the block to Market Street was owned by The United Church of Christ. First bought for the Christian Church in 1860 by Baker Gragson and P. R. Harden, the land was not used until a small building was erected by the church in the 1890s. This small church lost members over the decades and was finally disbanded after World War II when only seven or eight members were still living. After negotiations gained the consent of each of these remaining church members, Graham Methodist was able to purchase the rest of the desired block for \$6,750. According to Mrs. Myrtle Wilson, a site committee member, this purchase money went to the Elon Home for Children. The old Christian Church and the McElroy residence were sold for \$750 to A. B. Maness who dismantled the buildings. With an investment of \$31,750, Graham Methodist Church owned the land for the new building.

## BUILDING PROGRAM (PHASE I)

At the January, 1952, meeting of the Official Board of the Graham Methodist Church, the following members were appointed to a new Building, Planning and Steering Committee:

Talton Johnson, Chairman	Mrs. A. R. Wilson, Secretary
L. H. Gunter	Dr. C. S. Crissman
Mrs. E. H. Gilliam	Mrs. C. A. Cates
I. I. Henderson	

Ex Officio members were:

Dr. W. C. Goley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Louis Jarmon, Chairman of the Official Board  
Rev. Jesse H. Lanning, Pastor

After months of meetings and intensive investigative work by the Rev. Lanning and the Building Committee, it was decided that a Finance Committee was needed and that fund raising must be given top priority so that building construction could soon begin. This committee was composed of: L. T. Jarmon, Chairman, Holt Henderson, Secretary, Fred Isley, and Mrs. Zollie Foster

Ex Officio members were T. M. Johnson and Rev. Jesse H. Lanning. Building Fund Chairperson was C. A. Thompson.

On February 28, 1953, after two years of diligent work by the committee, an architectural agreement was signed with Harold E. Wagoner of Philadelphia. Mr. Wagoner, a well known church architect, drew plans for a chapel and educational building (including a Fellowship Hall), and bids were let on December 16<sup>th</sup> of that year. H. F. Mitchell Construction Co. of Burlington submitted a low bid of \$246,000. On February 28, 1954, at a Church Conference, a vote of 173 to 2 called for accepting this bid and proceeding with construction. At this time, there was \$84,000 on hand, and \$31,500 in land. The architect had been paid \$6,750. There followed many months of searching and negotiations with banks, insurance companies, and other lenders to obtain necessary financing so the work could begin. All efforts met with disappointment and the plans had to be suspended.

The Reverend T. J. Whitehead was assigned to the pastorate in June, 1954. At a meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Clinton Crissman said the time had come for the congregation to be informed of the state of the building fund. He had a plan worked out for a concentrated effort to raise donations to meet the amount needed to secure a loan. Dr. Crissman asked that the church open an office and hire Mary Helen Linens as secretary to send

out correspondence, keep records, and help with loan forms. His plan was accepted by the committee, and there was agreement that the congregation would be informed of progress each Sunday.

After several more months, a loan still had not been obtained. The Building Committee voted to modify the plans and build less than originally anticipated. The chapel, parlor, and offices were eliminated, and a bid of \$200,000 was received from Mr. Mitchell. It was decided at that time, with Mr. Mitchell in agreement, to recommend to the congregation that construction begin immediately with monies on hand, in hopes of securing a loan before these funds were exhausted. On Sunday, July 24, 1955, following the morning worship service, the new plans were presented to the congregation. On a standing vote, with only two abstaining, this recommendation was accepted. Ground Breaking Service was held on August 7, 1955, with Bishop Paul Garber as guest speaker.

Work progressed rapidly, and at a special called session of the Quarterly Conference on March 14, 1956, the Trustees were authorized to negotiate a loan of \$50,000 with First Federal Savings and Loan of Burlington.

Plans were then undertaken to furnish the new building and equip the kitchen. The fellowship hall was furnished with folding chairs on the main floor and an altar and choir loft on the stage. The first service was held there on Sunday, August 5, 1956, followed by a picnic lunch on the grounds and an Open House all afternoon. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, the building committee met again to finish last minute details. A motion was made and passed that the Official Board would now take over responsibility of the building and that this committee would plan only on new construction at some future date. Mr. L. H. Gunter praised the committee for all the work it had done.

The indebtedness on the new building was paid off in about four years, and it was dedicated by Bishop Paul Garber on January 21, 1962.

## **FIRST GROUND BREAKING SERVICE**

August 7, 1955

We are to meet at the site for our new church this afternoon to break ground for our new educational building and fellowship hall. Our people have looked forward to the day when we could begin the actual construction of our new church. Let's be there to see the removal of the first dirt for the foundation of this building. All who are present this afternoon will remember with pleasure the fact that they saw the beginning of our lovely building.

This announcement was printed in the Sunday, August 7, 1955, church bulletin.

At 5:00 p.m. about three hundred eager and excited people gathered on the church lot for the ground breaking ceremony. The trustees had purchased new shovels and proud Methodists and townspeople watched as ground was broken for the educational building and fellowship hall which would be used as a sanctuary. The leader read: "Now the spades will be put into the ground, and the ground will be broken, and we shall know that a good work is well begun."

The Reverend T. J. Whitehead was in charge of the service assisted by the Reverend Allen P. Brantley, District Superintendent of the Burlington District, T. M. Johnson, chairman of the Building Committee and Layton H. Gunter, Superintendent of the Sunday School.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, a picnic supper was spread on the tables under the beautiful trees and enjoyed by everyone.



Left to Right: Dr. Allen Brantley, District Superintendent; Reverend T. J. Whitehead, Pastor; Talton Johnson, Chairman of Building Committee



First Ground Breaking, August 7, 1955  
(Note left background – old Christian Church, right background – home of a Dr. Moore)





Choir sings at service (front l to r) Ada White, Jackie Farmer, \_\_\_\_, (back) Lenny Miller (Acolyte), Ken Linens, Bill Martin, James Linens, Dan Alexander, \_\_\_\_

## FIRST CORNERSTONE LAYING SERVICE

October 9, 1955

On October 6, 1955, Reverend T. J. Whitehead wrote an invitation to the church members announcing "another significant and sacred ceremony in our church building program. At 3:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon, October 9, Bishop Paul N. Garber, the presiding Bishop of the North Carolina Annual Conference, will be at our new building to lay the cornerstone. He will bring us an inspirational message and lead in the special cornerstone laying service." Excerpts from the Order of Service follow:

Invocation:

*Dearly beloved, we are assembled to lay the cornerstone of a new house for the worship of the God of our fathers. Let us not doubt that he will favorably approve our godly purpose, and let us now devoutly invoke his blessing on this our undertaking.*

Prayer of consecration:

*Almighty God, the Rock of Ages; on thee we build all our hopes for this life and that which is to come. Other foundation we would not seek to lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ; and we are to build upon this cornerstone a holy temple to the living God. Accept the act by which we lay this cornerstone. Bless those whose offerings enable us to build this house of worship. Graciously guard and direct those who labor in erecting it, shielding them from accident and peril. May the walls of this building rise in security and in beauty; and may the hearts of these thy people be fitly joined together into a living temple, builded upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone.*

Amen

Litany for the Laying of a Cornerstone:

To the glory of God our Father, to the service of our dear Master and his Church, and to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

**We lay the cornerstone of this church.**

For a building of which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone, the pillar and the ground of the truth,

**We lay this cornerstone.**

For a building that shall stand as a symbol of the Church Universal, and the cornerstone of which is truth, the creed of which is love, and its towers eternal hope,

**We lay this cornerstone.**

For a church that shall exalt not a religion of creed or of authority, but a religion of saving grace, of personal experience, and of spiritual power,

**We lay this cornerstone.**

For a church that shall exalt the ministry of the open Bible, with its faithful record of human life, its unfolding of the redeeming grace of God through Jesus Christ, its message of warning, inspiration, comfort, and hope, **We lay this cornerstone.**

For a church that shall teach and incarnate the doctrine of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man,

**We lay this cornerstone.**

For a church that shall fulfill a ministry of social service and be a blessing unto men,

**We lay this cornerstone.**

For a church that shall be a renewing and cleansing power in the community, and that loves every other communion that exalts Christ in the service of man,

**We lay this cornerstone.**

For a church with an open door for all people, rich or poor, homeless or desolate, who need the help of God through us,

**We lay this cornerstone.**

For a church that shall gather the children in its arms and hold them close to Christ, that they may grow up in the Church and never be lost from the fold,

**We lay this cornerstone.**

For a church which stands for the sacramental truth: "It is more blessed to give than to receive,"

**We lay this cornerstone.**

For a church which takes hold on two worlds, and stands for the unseen and eternal, and which offers to men the abundant life which now is and which is to come,

**We lay this cornerstone in the name of Almighty God.**

In loving memory of those who have gone from us, whose hearts and hands have served this church; with gratitude for all whose faith and consecrated gifts make this house possible; for all who may share this spiritual adventure; and with hope for all who shall worship in this house in years to come,

**We lay this cornerstone in the name of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages, world without end. Amen.**

The following items were enclosed:

1 copy of the *Bible*

1 copy of the *Methodist Discipline* (1952)

1 copy of the *Methodist Hymnal*

1 copy of the *Book of Worship*

1 copy of the *History of the Methodist Church of Graham* compiled by  
Mrs. W. B. Green

1 copy of a picture of the Ground Breaking Ceremony

1 copy of the original Charter of the Boy Scout Troop # 41

The Laying of the Cornerstone

Hymn 548: "On This Stone Now Laid with Prayer" Pierpont

And so it was that Bishop Garber delivered the address and led in the ceremony, assisted by Reverend T. J. Whitehead, pastor; Dr. A. P. Brantley, Superintendent of the Burlington District; and Reverend J. J. Boone, former pastor.



Bishop Garber cements the cornerstone



## LAST SUNDAY IN THE "OLD" CHURCH

July 29, 1956

Reverend Whitehead announced to the July 16, 1956, Official Board Meeting that "the last service and the closing of the old church, which would be a momentous occasion to the members who have worshipped here so long, would be held on July 29, 1956." The Graham Methodist Church newsletter gave the schedule to be followed for "a memorable closing service for the congregation in the 'old' church at Main and Maple Streets."

The entire Sunday School was to meet in the Sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. for a closing service. The impressive program was led by the following participants: Bernard McPherson read Scripture, a group from the Men's Bible Class was in the choir, and Mrs. Ersell Hensley was the pianist. Mr. J. M. Buckner, the oldest active member, led in prayer. Mr. Gunter, Sunday School Superintendent, gave a talk concerning what the church had meant to him. The Men's Chorus sang "The Church in the Wildwood." Reverend Whitehead commended the congregation for their cooperation and accomplishments. He challenged them to commit to a "richer program of Christian Education."

Mr. Gunter presented Bibles to the following:

Carol Evans	Betty Jo Hardie
Lynda Fay Mansfield	Carolyn Clark
David Shoffner	Donald Nelson Clark
Nancy Whitaker	Roy Johnson
Brenda Joe Hill	Charles Harrington, Jr.
James Franklin Guthrie	Pat Thompson
Steve Hardie	Johnnie Wicker
Ellen Garrett	Jerry Walker
? Whitson	Wayne Mayes
John Edwards	? Pickard
Donnie McPherson	Ricky Troy
Terry McAdams	Jerry Bevin

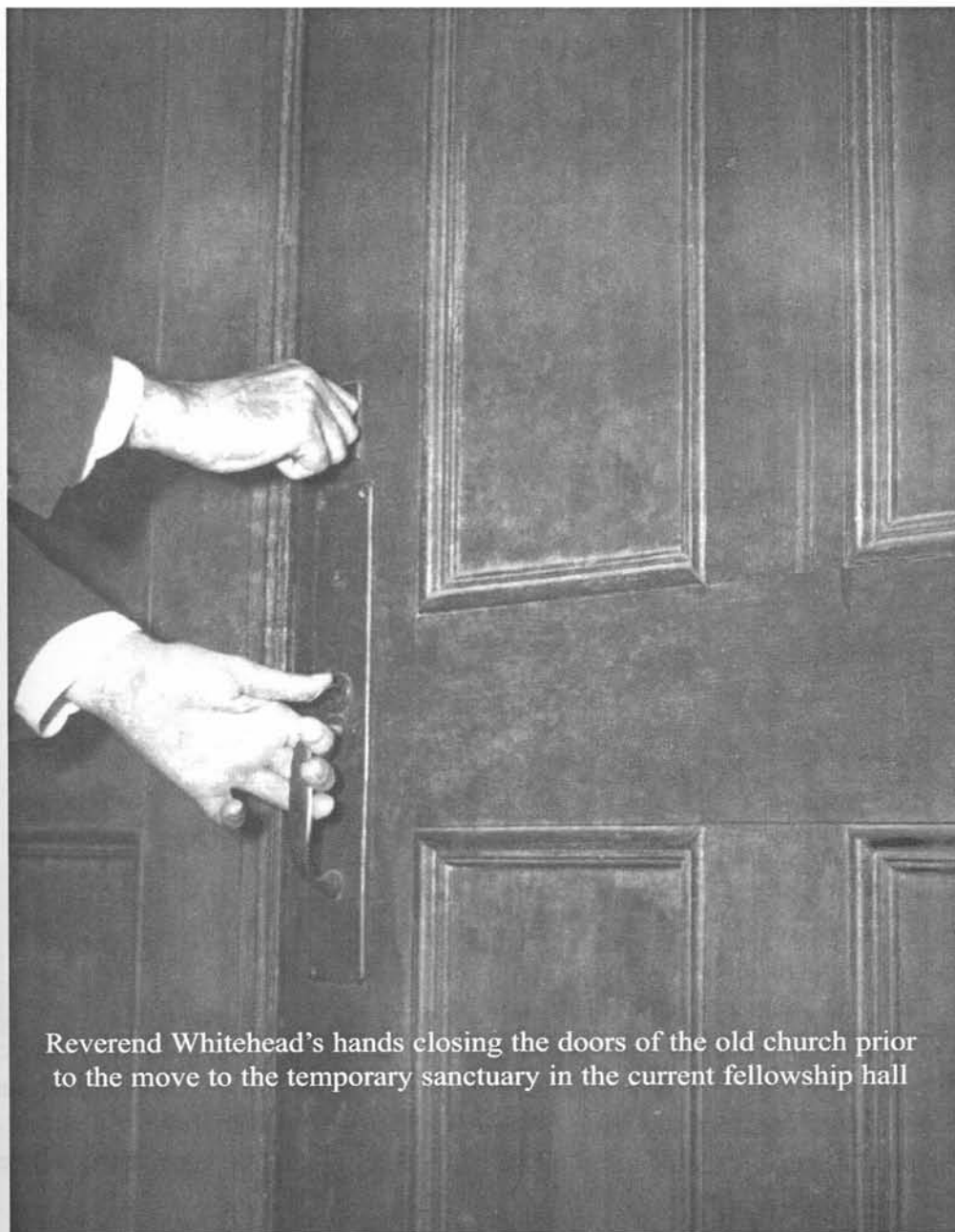
"Blest Be The Tie" was sung as the closing hymn, and the benediction was pronounced.

At the 11:00 o'clock Worship Service the congregation raised their voices to sing "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken" and joined in the Responsive Reading entitled "Church Anniversary." Reverend Whitehead kept the theme for the day with the reading of Psalms 122 and his sermon topic "When the Past Blesses the Future." (A copy of the bulletin and sermon are in the Archives.)

After the benediction, the congregation was instructed to "move through the front door of the sanctuary." The minister closed the doors and offered a prayer for the closing of the church.

This service must truly have been a momentous occasion as promised in the newsletter for members who had worshipped there so long and for those who had already left their church on the other corner to become a part of this congregation. Memories abounded for all. However, there must have been happy anticipation for the following Sunday and the opening of the new building.

An unidentified source related that the last Communion service in the “old” church was also held on that Sunday, which would have been most appropriate and fitting. However, this was not listed in the bulletin.



Reverend Whitehead's hands closing the doors of the old church prior to the move to the temporary sanctuary in the current fellowship hall

## FIRST SERVICE IN NEW BUILDING

August 5, 1956

From one momentous Sunday to another, the services of August 5, 1956, reflected feelings of thanksgiving and the pride of accomplishment. The newsletter outlined the schedule for the Sunday School events as follows:

- 9:30 a.m. Everyone is asked to be at the new church at 9:30 at which time Mr. I. I. Henderson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, will unlock the building and present the key to the pastor. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Talton M. Johnson, Chairman of the Building Committee, will open the doors for the people to enter the building for the first time.
- 9:45 a.m. All members of the Sunday School will go to their departments for the opening of the school.



Reverend Whitehead opens the door of the Education Building

Although this is what the newsletter said, plans were evidently changed. According to some who were present that Sunday, Sunday School was again held in the old church after which everyone got in line and went out the front door. The bell was tolled and the door was closed and locked. Mrs. Myrtle Wilson recalled the mournful sound of the bell as the congregation processed down Main Street to the new building and held the worship service.



First service in the new building, August 5, 1956



GRAHAM METHODIST CHURCH  
GRAHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

First Service in the New Building

Sunday, August 5th, 1956.

Prelude

Call to Worship

"Jesus, stand among us in Thy risen power:

Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour."

Hymn No. 164 - "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"  
Perronet

Invocation

Baptism of Infants . . . . . Mr. Whitehead

Anthem - "The Heavens are Declaring" - Beethoven

Musical Interlude

Dedication of Memorials . . . . . Mr. Whitehead

Scripture Lesson - Matthew 16: 13-20 -Dr. Brantley

Prayer . . . . . Dr. Brantley

Choral Response

Greetings from the Building Committee, Mr. Talton  
M. Johnson

Recognition of Builders, Dr. C. S. Crissman

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Doxology

Anthem - "Sanctus Et Benedictus" . . . . . Gounod

Sermon - "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH" . . Mr. Whitehead

Hymn No. 381 - "The Church's One Foundation"-Stone

Reception of Members. . . . . Mr. Whitehead

Benediction . . . . . Dr. Brantley

Choral Response . . . . . Choir

Postlude

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All visitors will please place their names in  
our guest register in the foyer..

OPEN HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON FROM 4:00 until tonight  
at 9:00 o'clock. All friends of the church are  
cordially invited.

Rev. T. J. Whitehead . . . . . Pastor  
Dr. Allen P. Brantley . . . . District Superintendent  
Mr. James H. Cole . . . . . Director of Music  
Mrs. W. A. Miller . . . . . Pianist  
Mr. McRae Cook . . . . . Guest Organist  
Mr. Talton M. Johnson, Chairman of the Building  
Committee  
Dr. C. S. Crissman, Chairman of the Construction  
Committee  
Mr. James S. Bowman . . . . . Chief Usher

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Flowers have been donated by the following for  
our opening day's activities:

Ausley Florist  
Mrs. Ruby Cole  
Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Golcy  
Trollinger Florist  
White's Florist

The Conn Organ being used in today's service has  
been placed in the church temporarily courtesy of the  
Harvey West Music Company, Greensboro, N. C.

The beautiful piano in the chancel which is being  
dedicated in the service this morning is given in  
loving memory of Corwin Charles Burke by his wife,  
Mrs. Agnes L. Burke.

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It is a real joy to be able to welcome to our  
service today a host of friends who are rejoicing  
with us in the opening of our new building. Surely,  
this is one of Methodisms greatest days in Graham.  
We are happy you can share in this joy with us.

## DEDICATION OF EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

January 21, 1962

The congregation occupied the educational building on August 5, 1956. The indebtedness was liquidated by Thanksgiving, 1960.

On Sunday, January 21, 1962, a Service of Dedication of the Educational Building was held at the 11 o'clock worship hour. Bishop Paul Garber delivered the sermon entitled "Our Methodist Heritage". He was assisted in the Service of Dedication by Dr. E. L. Hillman, District Superintendent of the Burlington District; Reverend T. J. Whitehead, minister; and former ministers, Reverends J. J. Boone, O. L. Hathaway, and Jessie Lanning.

Kenneth Linens made the presentation and Bishop Garber responded with the Act of Dedication with congregational response:

Dearly beloved, it is right and proper that buildings erected for such service in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, should be formally and devoutly set apart for their special uses. For such a dedication we are now assembled. And, as the dedication for this building is vain without the solemn consecration of those whose gifts and labors it represents, let us now give ourselves anew to the service of God: our souls, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ; our bodies, that they may be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; and our labors and business, that they may be according to God's holy will, and that their fruit may tend to the glory of his name and the advancement of his kingdom....

**We dedicate ourselves anew to that service of our fellow men wherein can best be performed our true service of God, in obedience to the spirit of the Master when he said: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thyself.**



Participants at Dedication of Education Building



Following the completion of the service, the Official Board and the Building Committee hosted a luncheon for invited guests at the Graham Civic Center. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the following members:

Charles A. Thompson  
Talton M. Johnson  
Mrs. Myrtle F. Wilson  
Dr. Clinton S. Crissman  
Layton H. Gunter  
Mrs. Ollie I. Gilliam  
Dr. Williard C. Goley

Louis T. Jarmon  
Isaac I. Henderson  
Mrs. Ruth B. Cates  
Frederick P. Isley  
Mrs. Grace A. Foster  
I. Holt Henderson

Pastors:

Rev. J. Joshua Boone  
Rev. Jesse H. Lanning  
Rev. Offie L. Hathaway  
Rev. Talton J. Whitehead



Gretchen Briggs and daughter, Lynn, fill their plates at the luncheon.



Reverend and Mrs. O. L. Hathaway and Edith Isley enjoy the luncheon.



The fellowship hall served satisfactorily for all occasions, including the Diana Foster – Jerry Cummings wedding.

we have to raise in order to start building?" Many ways of saving money were explored, including leaving the construction of the bell tower until some future date. However, it was decided on February 19, 1965, to present the full plan (including the bell tower) to the congregation on March 24th for approval. The cost for the project would be estimated at \$350,000 to \$400,000. At the congregational meeting, there was some difference of opinion on the seating capacity of the sanctuary. The architect's plan called for 531 and this number was finally decided on by the Building Committee.

Bids were opened on March 14, 1966, and the low bids totaled \$456,143. This did not include approximately \$50,000 owed to Mr. Wagoner. Again, meetings had to be turned to methods of cost-cutting. And again, the bell tower was much discussed. It was learned that it was highly unlikely that the congregation could borrow enough money to begin construction. Plans might have to be delayed for as much as two years.

At following meetings, various approaches to raising money within the church were discussed. All financial institutions that were contacted still refused loans in the necessary amounts. At a committee meeting on May 28, 1966, it was voted to recommend to the Official Board that bonds in the amount of \$1,000 each, at six percent interest, be sold for a total of \$250,000. Of this amount, \$200,000 was to come from within the church and \$50,000 from outside. After this amount was sold, one hundred \$100 bonds would be issued. Also at this meeting, appreciation was expressed to Reverend Watson for all the work he had done. In June, Reverend Watson was appointed to another church and Reverend Christian White became the new pastor.

Response to the sale of bonds being positive, Groundbreaking Ceremonies were held on July 17, 1966, with the following leaders of the various groups in the church participating:

Dr. C. S. Crissman, Chairman of the Building Committee	
Mr. I. I. Henderson	Mrs. E. M. Todd
Mr. James A. Albright	Miss Linda Bayliff
Mr. Robert A. Foust	Miss Leianne Ruth
Mr. Gordon Painter	Mr. D. W. Wolfe

By August 22, more than \$200,000 had been promised by letters of intent to purchase bonds. Construction got underway for a bid of \$389,000, excluding the bell tower. Various items in the plans such as furnishings (windows, pews, cross, lectern, baptismal font, communion table, etc.) were to be financed by memorial donations in the projected amount of \$75,000. The women of the church were to assume responsibility for furnishing the parlor and the men for office furnishings.

## BUILDING PROGRAM (PHASE II)

Before the first unit (fellowship hall, kitchen, classrooms, and offices) was dedicated, a building committee was already at work planning for construction of the new sanctuary and related areas – bell tower, chapel, parlor and offices. The October 5, 1960, minutes of this new committee listed the following members:

Dr. C. S. Crissman, Chairman	Holt Henderson
James Albright, Vice-chairman	Kenneth Linens
Walter Graham, Secretary	Mrs. Alice Hobbs
Mrs. Gretchen Briggs, Treasurer	Larry J. Waggoner
Mrs. Myrtle Wilson	Reverend T. J. Whitehead
Mrs. Ruth Cates	

Holt Henderson and Mrs. Alice Hobbs later resigned and Dr. W. C. Goley, Talton Johnson, and Robert Foust were added.

At a meeting on January 22, 1961, Reverend Whitehead reported that Mr. Harold Waggoner, architect for the entire building program, felt that the fellowship hall could easily be made into a permanent sanctuary at a minimum cost and a future children's building be constructed where the sanctuary now stands. There is no record of another meeting until April 17<sup>th</sup>, when there was general discussion of questions for which to find answers. Among these questions was whether to retain the same architect. No decisions were made at this meeting, but the minutes of this committee never again mention the possibility of adapting the fellowship hall into the permanent sanctuary.

Reverend Langill Watson was assigned as the minister in 1962, replacing the Reverend Whitehead. At a Building Committee meeting on February 4, 1963, it was decided that planning should move forward and necessary funds be raised to begin construction. It was voted to make Mr. Alton Utley treasurer and to retain Mr. Harold Waggoner as architect.

At ensuing meetings over a period of several months, there were many details to work out. Decisions had to be made about seating capacity of the sanctuary; styles of pews; location of choir, lectern, and pulpit; type of altar rail; style of communion table; materials for floors and walls; what kind of glass to use; and, most important of all, financing. In February, 1964, there was more discussion about the architect, but it was again voted to retain Mr. Waggoner.

It seems that at every meeting there was lengthy discussion about everything from location of windows and doors to "What is the cost going to be?" and "How much do

No. ....

\$.....

Graham Methodist Church  
BUILDING BOND

Presented to \_\_\_\_\_

*In appreciation for a contribution in the amount of*

**One Hundred Dollars**

*for the recently completed Fellowship Hall and Educational Building of the new church plant for Graham Methodist Church, Graham, North Carolina.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Pastor*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chairman of Building Committee*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Treasurer of Building Fund*



As with any building project, problems arose as the work progressed. There was a well under the sanctuary and an improperly filled basement. All along the way there were discussions about the use of less expensive materials without compromising the integrity of the building. Some changes were made, such as the use of brick in some areas that had originally been planned with stone.

The furnishings of the sanctuary were a subject of much discussion. Mr. Wagoner had drawn plans for these, however, some thought these could be bought more economically from some other source. Mr. Wagoner convinced the committee that the pews, etc. as he had designed them were necessary for the total architectural design to be esthetically pleasing.

Finally, by the grace of God, the diligent work of the Building Committee, and the combined efforts of the Finance Committee and congregation, the building was occupied on December 24, 1967.

The Finance Committee was composed of:

James Albright, Chairman	Mr. Jack Henderson
Mrs. Gretchen Briggs	Mr. V. F. Steele
Dr. C. S. Crissman	Mr. McIver Todd
Mr. George Crotts	Mr. Alton Utley

This group had supervised the sale of \$250,000 in bonds, and the Memorials Committee, under the guidance of Mrs. C. A. Cates, Chairman, Miss Gladys Amick, George Crotts, Walter Graham, and A. P. Harrington, had received over \$56,000 in gifts. The projected plans for a \$300,000 sanctuary, chapel, and offices had amounted to more than \$450,000.

From the beginning of plans for this beautiful church campus there had been a tremendous spirit of cooperation and unity. What is seen here today is the result of much hard work and sacrifice. The women of the church served numberless suppers, held bake sales, and made quilts. The men roasted and sold peanuts, candy, and ham biscuits. Many families gave sacrificially. Some bonds were never redeemed, but were donated to the church. In 1980, during the ministry of Reverend Dennis Ricks, the debt was retired, and on August 10<sup>th</sup> the building was dedicated to the glory of God by Bishop William R. Cannon.

The question of the bell tower still comes up from time to time, but at this writing there are no plans for this addition.

## SECOND GROUND BREAKING SERVICE

July 17, 1966

They who dream of the sanctuary where, together, the people realize the presence of God; they who envision the eager faces of boys and girls learning in rooms that invite them to larger lives; who see the happy fellowship of the church family in the social rooms; the pastor, the teachers, the church members who plan, pray and sacrifice, together with the architects, craftsmen, mechanics, tradesmen and workmen – all these are builders of the House of God.

A church, however elaborate or however humble, is the house of God. It cannot be built as other structures are erected. It must be built with a spirit of dedication. You must kneel, when you build a church.



July 17, 1966, Mr. I. I. Henderson at Second Groundbreaking

The Lord hath chosen thee to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it.

The “symbolic service” of ground breaking for the sanctuary was held immediately following the Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. on July 17, 1966. Ground was broken at two places; both at the front door and where the altar is now located.

### THE DECLARATION

Rev. Christian White

To the glory of God, in the presence of this congregation, I now direct that ground be broken for the First Methodist Church. Upon you as members of this congregation rests the responsibility and privilege to cause a church to rise here which shall be devoted to the honor and worship of almighty God our Father, and to the glory of his blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

## THE BREAKING OF THE GROUND

Dr. C. S. Crissman, Chairman of the Building Committee

That a church may rise here where multitudes shall be refreshed  
in spirit, relieved from pain, released from bondage, and redeemed  
from sin,

**We break this ground today.**

Mr. I. I. Henderson, President of the Board of Trustees

That a church may rise here where all who bow in sorrow shall  
rise in faith in him in whom to believe is life eternal,

**We break this ground today.**

Mr. James A. Albright, Chairman of the Building Committee on Finance

That a church may rise here where the grace of God may be  
maniest, making our human loves constant, our homes Christlike,  
and our families creative centers of Christian witness,

**We break this ground today.**

Mr. Robert A. Foust, Representing Holt Construction Company

That a church may rise here which will represent the highest  
aspirations of the community and the workmanship will tell of a  
faith that demands the best of which we are capable,

**We break this ground today.**

Mr. Gordon Painter, Church Lay Leader

That a church may rise here where the Word of God shall be so  
read and preached that it shall become the Living Word, and the  
Sacraments so administered that all life shall become a sacrament,

**We break this ground today.**

Mrs. E. M. Todd, Representing the Women of the Church

That a church may rise here where the weary and heavy-laden  
shall find that inner peace which the world can neither give nor  
take away.

**We break this ground today.**

Miss Linda Bayliff, Representing the Youth

That a church may rise here where through the years youth shall  
come to worship, pause to pray, and rise to serve,

**We break this ground today.**

Miss Leianne Ruth, Representing the Children

That a church may rise here where little children shall learn to  
love God and grow in grace and goodness, and in favor with God  
and man,

**We break this ground today.**

Mr. D. W. Wolfe, Representing the Men.

That a church may rise here where men can find fellowship with  
God and man and dedicate their strength and wisdom to being  
God's servants in the world,

**We break this ground today.**

The Lord be with you.

Rev. White

**And with thy spirit.**

Enable us, by thy grace, to dedicate ourselves this day to the  
solemn task which Thou dost lay upon our hearts and consciences.

**In all we do, be thou, O Lord, our strength and help.**

## THE BENEDICTION





Dr. C. S. Crissman wields the shovel as (l-r) Ruth Cates, Gretchen Briggs, Myrtle Wilson, Ken Linens, Reverend Christian White, Larry Waggoner, Talton Johnson, \_\_\_\_\_ Water Graham, and James Albright observe

## SECOND CORNERSTONE LAYING SERVICE

April 9, 1967

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”Psalms 127:(KJV)

On Sunday afternoon, April 9, 1967, at 3:00 p.m. the congregation met for its second cornerstone laying service. One milestone had been reached and with tenacity and perseverance the congregation was eager to proceed with the second phase of building.

The Reverend Langill Watson, former minister under whom this building program was begun, offered the prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, who are ever exalted and yet always near: Grant that we may worthily offer unto thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, this foundation which is laid for the building of a temple and a sanctuary where thy glory shall be manifest among us, and where all people shall come to call upon thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Dr. Thomas Hough, Burlington District Superintendent, offered the Prayer of Intercession:

Almighty God, on whom we build all our hopes for this life and that which is to come: Visit, we beseech thee, with thy loving kindness this place whereon we lay the foundation of a house to the praise and honor of thy holy name. Accept the act by which we lay this Cornerstone. Bless those whose offerings enable us to build this house of worship. Graciously guard and direct those who labor in erecting it, shielding them from accident and peril. May the walls of this building rise in security and in beauty; and may the hearts of these thy people be fitly joined together into a living temple, builded upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. Amen

Reverend Christian White presided over the presentation of articles to be placed in the Cornerstone. He read verses of scripture as the following individuals placed their items in the box.

## ARTICLES PLACED IN THE CORNERSTONE OF THE SANCTUARY

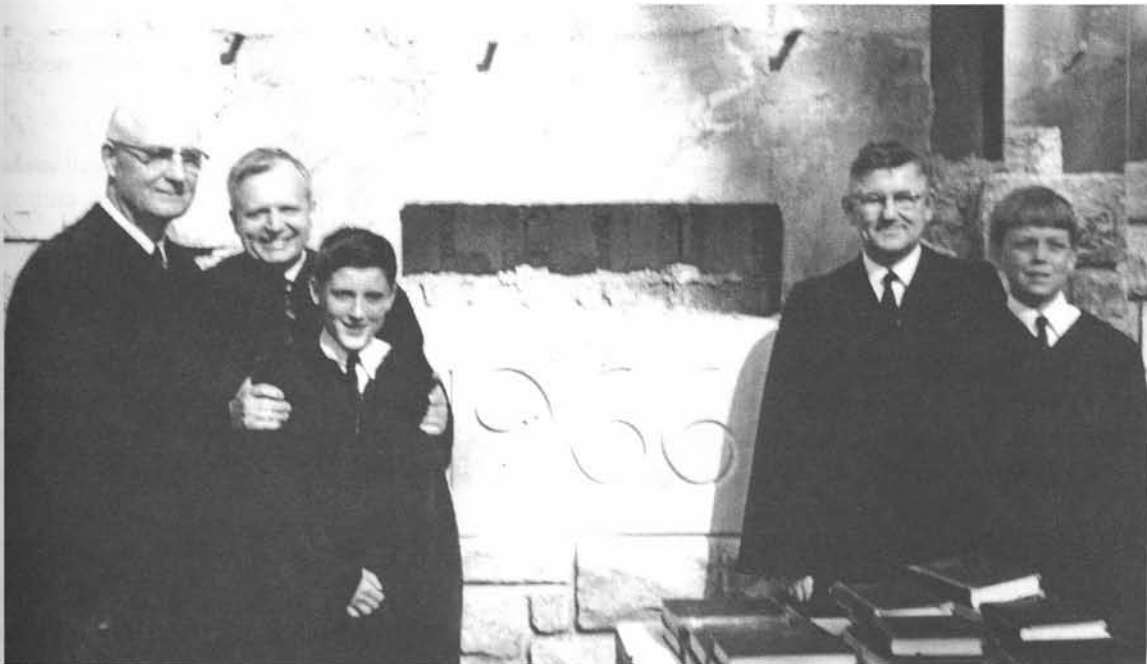
- Dr. C. S. Crissman, Chairman of Building Committee....Roll of Building Committee  
Members and Diagram of Church
- Junius H. Harden, Chairman of Commission on Education....Curriculum Materials
- Kenneth F. Linens, Chairman of Commission on Worship....*Book of Worship*,  
1964 Edition
- Edmond Morrison, Chairman of Commission on Social Concerns....Social Creed
- Gordon M. Painter, Church Lay Leader.....*Methodist Hymnal*, 1966 Edition
- F. V. Steele, Jr., Chairman of Commission on Finance....1966-67 Church Budget  
and Roll of Members of Finance Committee
- A. Ross Williams, Chairman of Commission on Membership and Evangelism....  
*Good News for Modern Man* (the New  
Testament in Today's English Version)
- Mrs. A. R. Wilson, Chairman of Commission on Missions....Mission Study Books
- D. William Wolfe, President of Methodist Men's Club....Roll of Methodist Men
- Miss Pamela Foust, President of MYF.....Pictures of Classes
- Mr. Walter B. Graham, Church School Superintendent....Picture of Cornerstone  
Service
- I. I. Henderson, President of Trustees.....Legal Papers
- Mrs. E. M. Todd, President of W.S.C.S.....W.S.C.S. Roll of Members
- H. McIver Todd, Chairman of Official Board.....*Discipline of the Methodist Church*  
and his personal \$1,000 Church Bond with Coupons

The box was then placed inside the Cornerstone and the lid secured as the Reverend White proclaimed "Praise the Lord because the Cornerstone of the House of the Lord is laid."

And the people responded: PRAISE THE LORD, HALLELUJAH!



Second Cornerstone gathering, April 9, 1967



Dr. Thomas B. Hough, District Superintendent; Reverend Langill Watson, Lenny Miller, Reverend Christian White, and Ricky Bason



**“and the house, while it was being built, was built of stone”...I Kings 6:7**

Following are excerpts and pictures from an article in the Alamance News, entitled “Graham Church - Unique in Design”, June 8, 1967.

“When the Methodist Church members began planning their new church building they wanted something unique and distinct to express the church’s own personality. They are achieving it in a design which is the only one of its type in this section of the country. ...



“Reverend Christian White, pastor of the church, noted that it was mainly the influence of the architect and the desire of the church members for something different that resulted in the use of stone for the building.

“According to George Florence, construction supervisor for the new sanctuary, stone is not a common building material in Alamance County although he noted that stone was widely used at Duke University.

“The stone being used in the church building is quarried in Wake County and is brought to the building site in rough form just as it was blasted and broken at the quarry, he said.

“The rough stones may be viewed at various points around the construction area, but more particularly in a shaded area at the rear of the church where a stone cutter busily shapes the mass into usable pieces for the stone masons.

“A good stone cutter can turn out over 40 square feet of stone a day shaping them into the necessary pieces for walls and corners with only minor shaping to be done by the masons.

“The stone masons, themselves, can lay about 35 square feet of stone a day on straight wall areas but find that such work as columns which is considered as ‘all corners’ requires more time, cutting the square feet down to about fifteen a day.

“Many such columns were called for to connect portions of the building now being constructed.

“The sanctuary itself is unique in design featuring six main walls. ...

“... a recessed area ... is supported by columns which extend to the front of the church where a baptismal fount of white limestone, weighing over one and one half tons will be placed ...

“The pulpit will be placed on an elevated white limestone slab ...

“At the left to the rear of the pulpit ... is a chamber reserved for the future housing of pipes for a pipe organ”...

The article concludes by saying that when the project is completed the “total value of the church property will be in excess of \$800,000.”

## THE OPENING OF THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

December 24, 1967, was a momentous occasion in the history of First Methodist Church of Graham. It was Christmas Eve and everyone was receiving a wonderful Christmas gift - a beautiful new sanctuary for worship. There was much excitement as the 11:00 o'clock service began in the Fellowship Hall where services had been held for more than eleven years. Reverend Christian White writing in the bulletin, had this to say:

This is the long awaited day! ... I am sure that many of you come to this occasion with very mixed feelings. The building we are now using will become the hub of our fellowship activities, but it has been the center of the religious life of this congregation for eleven years now. Many happy and some sad memories crowd around us according to the events in which we have shared. We have worshiped here, taken communion at the altar, baptized our families here, shared in the holy service of marriage and found Christ and the Christian way of life made real in the midst of the fellowship gathered here. These things we do not easily forget, nor should we, for times of devotion and enrichment must be cherished and used to lead us closer to God.

On the other hand, we must remember that our faith is not tied to a certain building, but rather to a person, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The sanctuary is a special and holy place, not because it is the only place where we find God but because here are gathered all of the symbols which help us to center our thoughts and actions on His way and purpose. ...

So it is with joy and anticipation that we enter our memories, our hopes and our dreams and thank God anew on this glorious day that he has brought together the events of our lives to make it possible to share this event on the birthday of His Son.

There was no nursery planned for this Sunday morning as there was the wish that no one would miss the transfer of services and that even the young children could share the joy of the day. The first part of the traditional service included one of the children's choirs singing "A Joyful Thing". After "Moments of Fellowship" the congregation filed out the Main Street doors and up the street to the sanctuary. Emily Heath was playing the piano as the hall was vacated, and as we entered the sanctuary, Murphy Alexander was playing the organ which had previously been moved from the fellowship hall.

The chancel choir anthem for the morning was "Glory to God in the Highest" and Reverend White's sermon was titled "Christmas Means Love". The choir sang "And the Glory" from the "Messiah", thus closing a service which those of us who were there will never forget.





The last stone is laid

## SERVICE OF CONSECRATION AND FORMAL OPENING SANCTUARY, CHAPEL, AND RELATED BUILDINGS

April 21, 1968

The music of the Prelude and Call to Worship, "Trumpet Voluntary" and "Trumpet Fanfare" set the mood for the service. The congregation responded to the prayer by repeating in unison:

**Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that thou hast given to thy servants a holy will and sacred desire, to erect and sanctify to thine own worship this building, which we now open for thine honor and glory. Grant that we, and all who come within these portals, shall ever make right use of it, and that the splendor of thy presence shall be manifest therein, and the hearts of thy people be ever blessed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Mrs. Charles Cates led the Dedication of Memorials and Special Gifts. Reverend White accepted the gifts with a pledge in prayer to "Accept them as a trust and guard them well in the sacred memory and honor of those in whose names they are given." He prayed that "...these memorials which we now dedicate be an enduring witness before all thy people of the faithful service of thy servants." Dr. Edgar Fisher, District Superintendent of the Burlington District, delivered the Eastertide message.

The Act of Consecration followed:

Dr. C. S. Crissman, Chairman, Building Committee

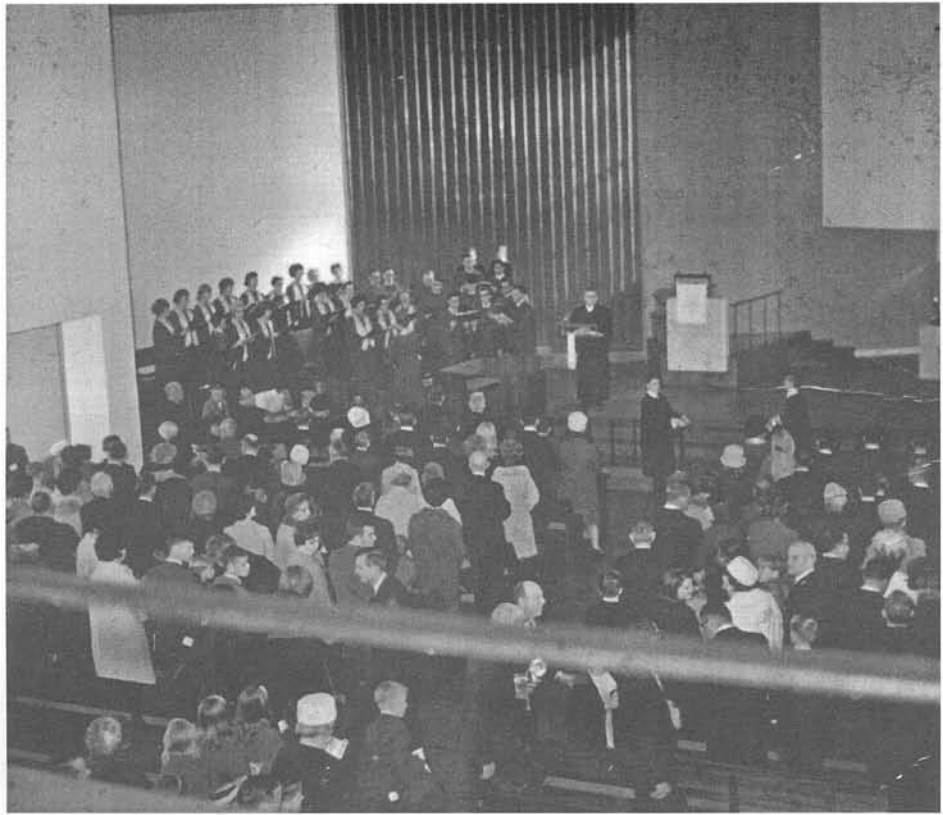
The assignment given to the Building Committee by the Quarterly Conference and the congregation to build a sanctuary, chapel, and related buildings has been completed, and I now, in behalf of the Building Committee, present these buildings to the trustees who for the congregation now bear the responsibility for their care, maintenance, and upkeep.

Dr. W. C. Goley, Chairman, Board of Trustees

With gratitude to you and the entire Building Committee who have labored through these months to erect and furnish these new facilities, I accept these buildings on behalf of the trustees and the members of this church. I now present them to you, Reverend White, for the Service of Consecration.



The congregation processes from fellowship hall to new sanctuary, December 24, 1967



First service in new sanctuary



Reverend White:

Dearly beloved, it is right and proper that buildings erected for service in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ should be formally and devoutly set apart for their special uses. For such a consecration we are now assembled. And, as the consecration of these buildings is vain without the solemn consecration of those whose gifts and labors it represents, let us now give ourselves anew for the service of God: our souls, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ; our bodies that they may be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit: and our labors and business, that they may be according to God's holy will, and that their fruit may tend to the glory of his name and the advancement of his Kingdom. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we consecrate these buildings to the worship of God.

The People:

**God is a spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

Reverend Watson:

For the preaching God's Word; for the due administration of the holy Sacraments; for conversion of sinners, the edification of believers, and the salvation of the world, we reverently set apart and consecrate these buildings, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

The People:

**We, the people of this congregation, compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifices of our fathers, do consecrate ourselves anew to the worthy worship of God and to the continued service of God and man, we do now consecrate these buildings in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Special Honors and Appreciation were acknowledged to:

Building Committee

Dr. C. S. Crissman, Chairman  
Walter Graham, Secretary  
Alton J. Utley, Treasurer  
James A. Albright  
Mrs. Hulon Briggs  
Mrs. C. A. Cates

Dr. W. C. Goley  
Mrs. A. R. Wilson  
T. M. Johnson  
Kenneth F. Linens  
Larry Waggoner  
Robert A. Foust



#### Finance Committee

James A. Albright, Chairman  
Mrs. Hulon Briggs  
Dr. C. S. Crissman  
George Crotts

Jack Y. Henderson  
F. V. Steele, Jr.  
E. M. Todd  
Alton J. Utley

#### Memorials Committee

Mrs. C. A. Cates, Chairman  
Miss Gladys Amick  
George Crotts

Walter Graham  
A. P. Harrington

#### Committee on Interior Furnishings

Mrs. Hulon Briggs, Chairman  
Mrs. A. R. Wilson  
Mrs. Holt Henderson  
Mrs. George Crotts

Mrs. Robert Foust  
Mrs. Kenneth F. Linens  
Mrs. C. D. Lsley  
Mrs. Larry Waggoner

A fellowship dinner was enjoyed following the service.

At 2:00 p.m. the parsonage at 109 Albright Avenue was dedicated. Activities for the day culminated with Open House at the church from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Nearly all church members had assigned tasks for the “grand tour” which they carried out with pleasure.

### **GIFTS, MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS**

At the Service of Consecration and Formal Opening of the Sanctuary, Chapel and Related Buildings on April 21, 1968, Mrs. Charles A. Cates, Memorial Committee Chairman made this presentation:

We present the following memorials, honorary, and special gifts to be dedicated to the glory of almighty God, and the service of this church.

Reverend Christian White responded:

In behalf of this congregation, I accept these gifts as a sacred trust, and we reverently pledge that we shall guard them well in the sacred memory and honor of those in whose names they are given. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate these gifts to the glory of God and to the sacred lives in whose names they were given. Let us pray.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, without whom no words or works of ours have meaning, but who dost accept the gifts of our hands as the token of our devotion: Grant thy blessing upon us as we dedicate these gifts to thy glory.

May these memorials which we now dedicate be an enduring witness before all thy people of the faithful service of thy servants. May our lives, being consecrated unto thy service, be joined with thy faithful ones into that building which groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord. Amen.

- Goley Memorial Chapel - In memory of Dr. and Mrs. William R. Goley, given by Dr. and Mrs. Willard C. Goley
- Covered Cloister - In memory of William T. Hall, given by Mrs. W. T. Hall.
- Round Faceted Glass Window - In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Buckner and Pfc. J. M. Buckner, Jr., given by their Family.
- Cross and Wall Section - In memory of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Bain and Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Cates, given by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Cates.
- Communion Table and Baptismal Font - In memory of Dan M. Rader, given by Mrs. Dan M. Rader, Dr. Dan W. Rader, Mr. and Mrs. Allen E. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Loren W. Grubbs, Dr. and Mrs. Fred R. Pfisterer.
- The Organ Grill - In memory of Robert N. Cook, given by Mrs. R. N. Cook, Robert N. Cook, Jr., McRae Cook
- The Pulpit - In memory of W. Ernest Thompson, given by Mrs. W. Ernest Thompson.
- The Lectern - In memory of Mr. and Mrs. David B. Davis and Mr. and Mrs. James M. Zachary, given by Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Davis.
- Pew Screens - In memory of Josephine S. Holt, given by Friendly Helpers Class.
- Window Unit - In memory of Frances Shoffner May, given by Craig and Jo Ellen May.
- Memorial Plaque - In memory of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Amick, given by their Family.
- The Candle Holders - In memory of John F. and Nora L. Parks, given by Dona P. Clark and Ethel P. Martin.
- Paraments - In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Foust, given by Robert A. and J. D. Foust, Jr.
- The Communion Rail - In memory of W. B. Green and William N. Green, given by their Families.
- Faceted Glass Windows - Given by Dr. and Mrs. C. S. Crissman and Family.
- Front Doors - Given by Senior High M.Y.F.
- Pulpit Bible - 1962-63 Fourth Grade Class.
- Brick Sidewalks - Given by Men of the Church.
- The Secretary in the Parlor - In memory of Mrs. J. M. Buckner, by her Family.
- Coffee Table in the Parlor - In memory of Iola Bryan, T. A. Williams, Jr., Audrey Williams, Hazel Wheeler, given by Mrs. J. H. Rich.
- Pews - In memory of:  
J. H. Rich, by Mrs. Ola Rich  
Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Whittemore, by Elizabeth Whittemore  
Naomi Russell, by the Russell Family  
Henry Lee Bayliff and Cynthia Lynn Bayliff, by Mr. and Mrs. James A. Bayliff  
Blonzie Inez Linens, by L. Harvey Linens and children

T. C. Moon, by Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Isley and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Moon  
Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Foushee and Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Wilson, by Mr. and Mrs.  
Alvis R. Wilson and Emma Foushee  
Sgt. Jimmy Whitfield, by Mrs. J. C. Whitfield  
Russell A. Garvin, by Mrs. Russell A. Garvin



Baptismal  
Font: Except  
a man be  
born again he  
cannot enter  
the kingdom  
of God

W. T. Hall, by Mrs. W. T. Hall  
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Simmons, by Addie Simmons and Mrs. Anna B. May  
Harry D. Wannamaker, by Mrs. H. D. Wannamaker  
W. A. Bain, by Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Hutcheson  
Walter L. Lashley, by Woman's Society of Christian Service  
Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Blackmon and R. D. Walters, by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Walters  
Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hensley, by Mr. and Mrs. S. Fitch Hensley  
D. F. Rudd and Roy L. Tingen, by Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Rudd, Jr.  
Louis T. Jarmon, by Mrs. L. T. Jarmon  
Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Jeffries and Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Smith, by Mr. and Mrs.  
Calvin Smith  
Reverend W. C. McFarland, Sr., by his Family  
W. A. Gilbert and Glenda G. York, by Mrs. W. A. Gilbert  
Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bradshaw, by Helen Bradshaw, Mrs. Ralph L. York, and  
Mrs. Ben F. Wilson  
J. S. Cook, by Col. and Mrs. James S. Cook, Jr. and Beth Cook  
Zollie Foster, by Mrs. Grace A. Foster  
Mrs. Carra Mae Vaughn, by Mr. and Mrs. George Crotts and Family  
W. A. Morrison and Fred Morrison by Mrs. W. A. Morrison

Pews - In honor of:

Mrs. W. A. Bain, by Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Hutcheson  
Bernard A. McPherson, by Mr. and Mrs. A. B. McPherson  
Winfrey T., Irene, and Stephen Martin, by Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Martin  
Gene, Ivey, and Edwin Gilliam, by Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Gilliam  
Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Whittimore, by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Saunders  
Sarah T. Williams, by Mrs. W. Ernest Thompson  
Mrs. W. Ernest Thompson, by Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Williams  
Gail, Jerry, and David Cox, by Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Cox  
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Harris, by Woman's Society of Christian Service  
Cynthia Rae and James R. Pike, Jr., by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pike  
B. T. Morrison and N. L. Morrison by Mrs. W. A. Morrison

Pews - To the Glory of God:

Mr. and Mrs. Warren W. Walker  
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Williams

### Other Memorials

No complete record of all gifts, memorials, and honorariums is available, but the following have been gleaned from various bulletins, undated and unlabeled scraps of paper, and word of mouth. Hymnals donated through the years have been too numerous to include here. Please accept apologies for any other omissions.

Prayer Bench in Goley Chapel - in memory of Helen Ivey Foust by Mrs. Betty Crotts

Kneeling Pad in Goley Chapel - in memory of Helen Ivey Foust and in honor of  
Mrs. Betty Crotts by Mrs. Pat Dixon (June 24, 1979)

Silver Urn for Flowers - in memory of Josephine Thomas Holt by her sisters and  
brothers: Janie Thomas Dries, Myra Thomas Allen, Adelaide Thomas Collopy,  
Earl Thomas, Ethel Thomas Abernethy, Kent Thomas (July 3, 1955)

Piano in the Choir Room - in memory of Corwin Charles Burke by Mrs. Agnes L.  
Burke (August 5, 1956)

Boxwoods Around Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall - in memory of  
W. Ernest Thompson by Mrs. W. Ernest Thompson

Tinted Glass Windows in the Chapel - given by Dr. and Mrs. Willard Goley

Bible Stand in Goley Chapel - in memory of Joe James by the Morris Burke Family

Courtyard Fountain - in memory of Comann Isley by Mrs. Edith Isley

Candle Sticks - in memory of Mrs. Emma Roberson Ezell by her daughters, Mrs. J.  
A. Thompson and Mrs. T. C. Hoyle, Jr.

Picture of Christ in Doris Crissman Class Room (copy of Sallman) - painted by Mrs. W.  
B. Green, presented to the Junior Wesleyan Class in memory of her son, William  
Nathaniel Green, who lost his life piloting a B-29 weather reconnaissance plane  
off the coast of Alaska, December 31, 1957.

Picture in Library - in memory of Ellen Leach, by her family  
 Lectern in Chapel - in memory of Billy Longest, by MYF  
 Fountain Courtyard Maintenance - in memory of Calvin and Cora Smith  
 Table in Narthex - in memory of Edwin Holt Gilliam  
 Plant Stands - in memory of Edwin Holt Gilliam  
 Music Stands - in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Comann Isley on their fiftieth anniversary  
 End Tables in the Parlor - in memory of Mrs. Foust Thompson, by Mr. and Mrs.  
     Morris Burke  
 Antique Table belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth Foust, given by her family  
 Chapel Parament - in memory of W. T. Martin, by Mrs. W. T. Martin  
 Clergy Pulpit Pew - in memory of Dr. Dan W. Rader, by Mr. and Mrs. Allen  
     Phillips  
 Flags - in memory of Joe James, by Men's Breakfast Club  
 Church Name Monument - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Thompson, by  
     Anne and Elizabeth Thompson  
 Sound System - in memory of Mildred Auman, by family and friends  
 Stereo - in memory of W. T. Martin, by Mrs. W. T. Martin  
 Painting: "Offer Them Christ" - in honor of Caswell Shaw and family, by  
     Gordon Painter Class  
 Computer System - in memory of James A. Albright, by family and friends  
 Memorial Conference Room - to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
     Charles R. Harden (1955)  
 Needle Point Picture in the Parlor - by Mrs. Louise Henderson

### **Goley Memorial Chapel**



When the sanctuary and related buildings were being built in the mid 1960s, exhaustive studies were made about ways to cut costs. Leaving the chapel to be built later was seriously considered. A generous contribution by Dr. and Mrs. Willard C. Goley for this purpose, made it possible to include the chapel construction in the plan. It was designated a memorial to his parents, Dr. and Mrs. William R. Goley, who had been instrumental in the founding of the Methodist Protestant Church in 1903, and had remained actively involved in the life of the church until their deaths.

Dr. Willard Goley had joined the Graham Methodist Protestant Church on July 21, 1912, on Profession of Faith. Quoting from a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Goley from the Official Board, dated November 22, 1962:



Dr. Willard Goley

He was elected a Trustee of his church in 1930 and served in that capacity until the time of Union in 1939. At that time he became a Trustee of the Graham Methodist Church and continued to hold that office (until) today. In the intervening years he has served his church as class leader, as Delegate to Annual Conference, and has held membership on various functioning committees...

In the Graham Methodist Church he has given unfaltering support and effort to the building of a church adequate to the needs of our time. It was largely through his efforts that we acquired the property on which our church now stands...and the present parsonage on Albright Avenue.

In 1975, Official Board records show Mrs. Myrtle Wilson moved a Letter of Appreciation be sent to Dr. and Mrs. Goley for their gift of the tinted glass windows in the Chapel.



Dr. William R. Goley



Mrs. William R. Goley



Dr. and Mrs. Willard Goley

November 25, 1979:

In appreciation to Dr. Willard C. Goley who has served this Church as a Trustee for forty years (1939 – 1979) we honor him and include in the minutes of this Charge Conference the distinction of his being made a life time Trustee (Honorary) of (The) First United Methodist Church of Graham.

Dr. Willard Goley died June 1, 1986. His will established a Memorial Fund for the church.



The Goley family

THE WILLARD COE GOLEY MEMORIAL FUND  
FOUNDED BY  
WILLARD COE GOLEY, M. D.  
MARCH 13, 1898 – JUNE 1, 1986  
TO PROVIDE FOR THE PERPETUAL CARE AND IMPROVEMENT OF  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY LOVED ONES

**THE GOSPEL IN GLASS**  
**The Story Told by Our Faceted Glass Windows**  
**(Copied from the Church bulletin of April 21, 1968)**

“These windows were created by the Willet Studios of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They are an expression in art form of the ways in which the people of God are called upon to respond to their God in daily life.

“The medium known as faceted glass is a relatively new technique consisting of brilliantly colored glass, usually an inch in thickness, but ranging up to two or more inches for special effects. The glass is cut to desired size and then chipped or faceted conchoidly to give a jewel-like quality. The matrix is of epoxy which is carefully poured around the glass to give a structural unit of great strength.

“The story begins behind the altar table in the Chancel end of the church. The colors here are bright and happy, indicating the joy and excitement of meeting God and getting to know his purpose through the sacraments of communion and baptism and through the teaching of the Word and other forms of worship. As one continues along the ribbon window he will notice that the colors change to blue, greens and browns. These are the common colors one finds in the world about him and these indicate that man is to find God’s presence in the common life and serve him there. The flowing lines running the entire length of this work of art indicate that the Spirit of God is flowing out into the world to work through the people of God.

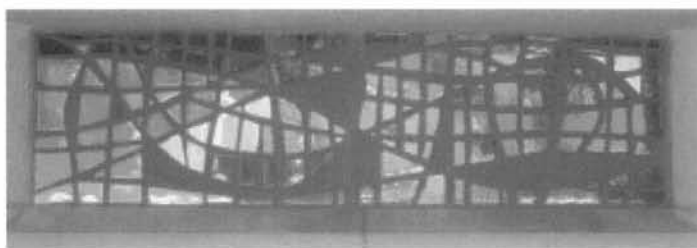
“In almost every panel you see some form of a fish. This is the oldest Christian symbol. It stands for the Christian congregation, the church, and reminds us that if we are going to remain faithful to our calling, we must constantly be returning to the church for fellowship, support, training, inspiration and worship.

“Beginning at the panel close to the pulpit, we will trace the main theme in each section as we display the panel.



“The first section speaks of the Holy Communion as one of the ways we come to know God and his purpose. The main elements are a bowl, for the cup and a round circle for the wafer or bread.





“Panel two is the symbol for baptism. At the top center we see a small figure pointed at both ends. These are the extended wings of a dove. There is a large pair of wings in the center, which cover the width of the panel. When Jesus was baptized the Scripture says, ‘He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove.’ (Mark 1:10b) Each wing also becomes a fish form if a little imagination is applied.



“The next section is made up of two small panels. The first has a large circle speaking of God the Father. Circles usually stand for God, who, like a circle, has no beginning or ending. In the second section we see three circles which stand for the Trinity; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In the corner is the figure of a man. Here God meets man and calls him to sonship and servanthood. As man responds to God he is sent out into the world on mission. The remaining panels tell of this mission.



“The fourth section is a large panel. The first part is an abstract form of a ship speaking of commerce and trade. The second part has symbols for city and urban life where we see the smoke stacks of factories and the pointed roofs of houses. This tells us that we must live in the midst of these factors of life and influence them for God. The form of a fish comes again in this section showing that the Church is in the world and part of its life.



“Section five is again a large one. The first element appears to be an aircraft with a circle at one end. Again, this symbolizes modern travel and commerce. Space is also God’s domain. Then a gear and circle appear, speaking of manufacturing and God, and finally, a mother and child in a circle showing the importance of the Christian family in God’s plan.



“The sixth panel has an atomic symbol for the scientific world and the thinker for education. These, too, need to be guided in morality and righteousness less they become monsters that devour us. The fish is seen encircling these elements, showing that the Church has a message which speaks to science and education and they at the same time have truth to which the Church must listen.



“Panel seven is abstract and is dominated by the colors of nature. The symbolism points to the world of nature over which man is a trustee or steward. In Genesis 1: 28, God gives man dominion over his creation. Man is responsible to God for the use he makes of the world. This too must honor God.



“The eighth panel speaks of the world of art and culture. The music staff says that music is part of God’s gift to man. The eye symbolizes the world of visual arts such as painting, sculpturing and even these windows. The eye may also stand for the all-seeing eye of God who beholds his creatures in their need and sin.



“The ninth panel is the symbol of the fish. It says that if the people of God are going to fulfill their mission they must have the support and help of others in the Christian congregation. We go out into the world to serve and return to the Church for guidance and strength.”

Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Clinton S. Crissman & Family



Dr. and Mrs. Clinton S. Crissman & Family

“... the round rose window over the front doors is a circle which again speaks of God. There is a cross in the center showing that the love and sacrifice of the cross has been eternally in the heart of God. The glass work is in the form of a sunburst. As one returns from communion, he should be reminded of the good news of the gospel that God loves us and as Paul said, ‘He was in Christ reconciling the world to himself.’”



Gift in memory of Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Buckner  
and Pfc. J. M. Buckner, Jr., by their family



James and Ruth Buckner  
Albright



Louise Buckner



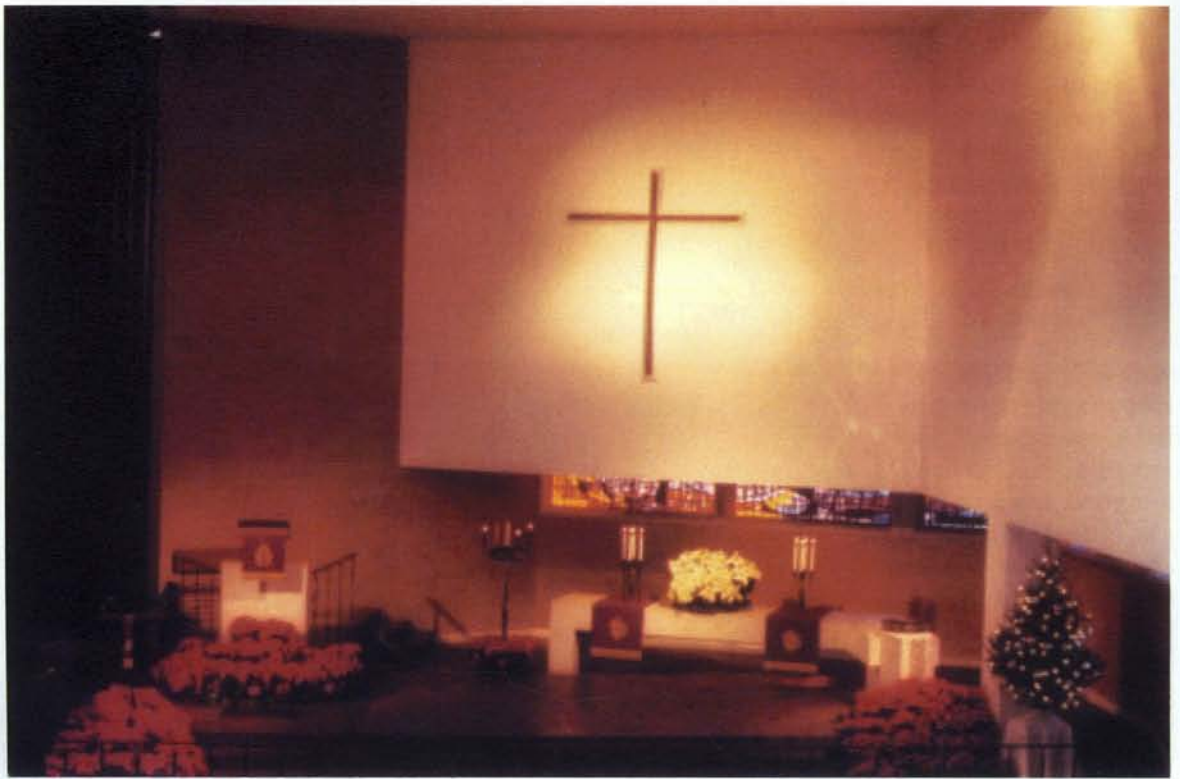
Earl Buckner



Amy Buckner

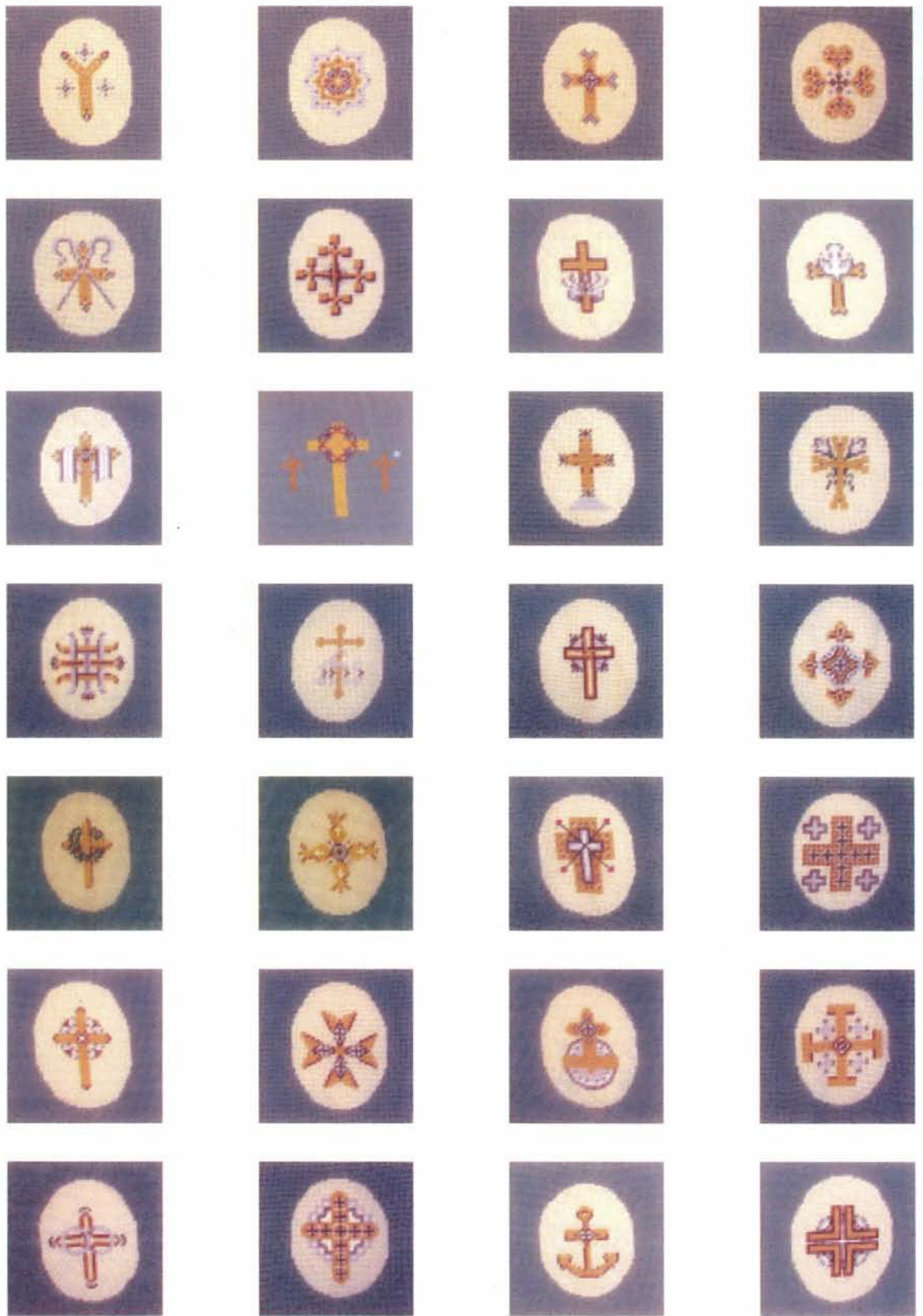


George and Emma Buckner Allen



*These liturgical banners were purchased from a Parament Fund started by Jane Albright, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Albright.*





## KNEELERS ON THE ALTAR

On December 3, 2000, after several months of work by women of the church, the kneeling pads of the altar were dedicated. These descriptions of the variety of crosses were printed at that time:

First Cushion (Starting at the piano, facing the altar)

1. Pall Cross - represents prayer rising.
2. Reconciliation Cross - symbol for the beatitude virtue of reconciliation that cultivates mercy and a capacity for forgiveness that is at the heart of Jesus's message. Symbol for one of the major works of the Lenten season.
3. Latin Cross - represents the kind of cross upon which Jesus was crucified.
4. Agape Cross - represents the love of God.
5. Cross and Shepherd Staff - symbol of the Good Shepherd (Jesus) and the symbol for the shepherds who visited the manger in Bethlehem.
6. Ancient Cross - represents the four corners of the earth and the spread of Christianity.
7. Cross with Crown - reminding us that if we would have the crown of eternal life, we must take up the cross of Christ. It also symbolizes that Jesus is King of Kings.
8. Descending Dove Cross - symbol of the Holy Spirit.
9. Draped Passion Cross - represents the empty cross draped with the robe of Jesus and the pointed ends remind us of the points of the thorns, the nails and the spear.

Second Cushion ( the one that is removable)

10. The three crosses of the Crucifixion



### Third Cushion

11. Calvary Cross - empty cross represents the risen Christ with the base having three steps representing faith, hope and love.
12. Lily Cross - represents the resurrection of Jesus.
13. Cross Tripartated - represents Trinity.
14. IHS Cross - IHS (Iota, Eta, Sigma) are the first three letters in the Greek Word for Jesus. Reminds us Jesus died on the cross for us.
15. Interlocking Cross - represents unity.
16. Fleur De Lys - represents the Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Also a symbol of the Virgin Mary.
17. Cross with Wreath - represents eternity.
18. Fish Cross – the fish is an ancient symbol for Christ, a secret sign during early Christian persecution.
19. Fimbriated Cross - no description given.
20. Cantonese Cross - no description given.

### Fourth Cushion

21. Celtic Cross - orb in the center represents the Rising Sun, representative of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who rose from the dead. Arms of the cross are rays of light shining forth from the sun. Reminds us that Christ is the Light of the world.
22. Maltese Cross - represents cross of the crusaders.
23. Cross and Orb - The world with the cross on top, reminds us that Christ is triumphant over the challenges presented by living in the world that needs Christ.
24. Jerusalem Cross - the crusader's cross, worn by the crusaders going to Jerusalem. A symbol of the unity of all Christians and the carrying of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth.

25. Wedding Cross - symbol of Christian marriage between the Church (the bride) and Jesus Christ ( the bridegroom).
26. Laconian Cross - no description given.
27. Anchor Cross - used by early Christians as a symbol of their faith when they had to avoid recognition as Christians to avoid persecution.
28. Gamma Cross - the spiritual power or energy that holy persons emanate, associated with the original meaning as a sign of power.

Those who stitched and /or helped in other ways to complete this project were:

Judy Barnes	Hazeline Longest	Nettie Ruth Bason
Grace Lynch	Brian Baumburger	Diane Baumburger
Irene Martin	Nova Mitchell	Doug Bayliff
Jandy Mooney	Reverend Bob Mooney	Nell Mooney
Lenora Bennett	Ursal Boswell	Gretchen Briggs
Mary Briggs	Amy Buckner	Louise Buckner
Don Bullis	Mabel Cheek	Louise Collins
Dianna Cummings	Jerry Cummings	Janie Edwards
Nancy Gant	Eva Graham	Rev. Bob Eldredge
Louise Henderson	Lucille James	Greta Johnson
Patsy Lanier	Carolyn Lapham	Dot Lee
Bill Longest	George Owen	Rev. Marshall Old
Geneva Pickard	Cynthia Phillips	Rev. Paul Phillips
Grace Pike	Sarah Rich	Mary Evelyn Rich
Lydia Ricks	Ray Rogers	Ellen Self-Farrar
Marie Ward	Betty Watson	Mary Weaver
Judith Way	Max Way	Frances Webster
Helen Williams	Myrtle Wilson	Sarah Bell Williams

A special note: The altar kneelers were blocked by Don Bullis as a memorial to Gene Moon. Sarah Rich of Knit-A-While was very helpful with the planning and also donated supplies.

**SERVICE OF DEDICATION  
SANCTUARY – CHAPEL – PARLOR - OFFICES  
September 28, 1980**

September 28, 1980, was another high moment in the life of The First United Methodist Church of Graham. It was not only a Homecoming Service but a Service of Dedication, signifying that the church was now free of debt from all phases of the building program.

The buildings could now be dedicated to the glory of God. The thoughts of the entire congregation must have been in unison with the musical prelude as Mr. Rayle played "Now Thank We All Our God".

The Invocation led by the Reverend R. Dennis Ricks was as follows:

Almighty and everlasting God, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, yet who are willing to have a house fashioned by man, wherein thine honor dwelleth and where men may worship thee: Of thy love and mercy we beseech thee, vouchsafe thy presence here, that this building which we have reared to the glory of thy name, and do now wholly devote and dedicate to thee, by thee accepted and hallowed, to the end that souls may here be gathered, nourished in thy love, and made fruitful in thy service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And the people answered:

**O God by whose providence we celebrate the dedication of this church: Send down upon us, we beseech thee, thy heavenly blessing; and because holiness becometh thine house forever, make us living temples, holy and acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Reverend R. C. Mooney, Jr. read the scripture lesson and Reverend T. J. Whitehead led in prayer. The District Superintendent, Reverend Barney Davidson, then introduced Bishop William R. Cannon who delivered the morning sermon.

After the sermon, Dr. Willard Goley and Mr. Walter Graham presented the building "to be dedicated to the glory of God and the service of men."

Bishop Cannon responded:

Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of his people to build this house to the glory of His name. I now accept this building, that we may dedicate it, and so set it apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of men. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

There followed several petitions by each of those ministers present and Bishop Cannon concluded:

Now, therefore, O Lord, let thine eyes be open toward this house day and night, and let thine ears be ready toward the prayers of thy children which they

shall make unto thee in this place. And whensoever the servants shall make to thee their petitions, do thou hear them, and when thou hearest, forgive. Amen

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that thy ministers may be clothed with righteousness and thy saints rejoice in thy salvation. And may we all, with thy people everywhere, grow up into a holy temple in thee, O Lord, and be at last received into the glorious temple above, the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. To the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be glory and praise, world without end. Amen

The bulletin included a welcome to all who were present for the "Celebration and Homecoming". In addition: clergy members from this church and **"the members and friends who have labored in the building of these buildings and paying for them, we remember today those who are no longer with us who dreamed great dreams and made sacrifices to make today a reality. We wish they could know our joy."**

Indeed, this was a joyous day! This was not only a Homecoming with many friends and families coming from out of town, and from other churches in town as well, but this was a dedication that marked a milestone in the life of the church. This building program had been planned from soon after merger in 1939. Money had been raised over a period of forty years for this dream to come true. Numbers of people had been members of the congregation for a time but had moved away, and now, it seemed that all wanted to be here for this culmination of a dream. Beautiful weather and old friends made for a wonderful period of food and fellowship on the church lawn. Many children had grown into adulthood with raising money for the building program uppermost in their church. Now, at last, this was over, and the church could begin to extend its mission farther into the world.

## ONCE IN A LIFETIME

Once in a lifetime to have part  
in the one task which will produce in the  
world a building not wholly "made with hands"!

After the architect, the contractor, the stone mason,  
the carpenters, the glaziers have gone, the church building  
begins to take on a character which artisans could not give it.

When good paint is skillfully applied, the brush marks disappear  
as it dries and, in time, the finish seems to be a part of the wood.

So with a church, the "brush marks" of human hands seem to be lost forever, leaving only a structure which God has made of the love and generosity and work and faith of all who gave themselves to its beginning and completion.

—Glenn H. Asquith



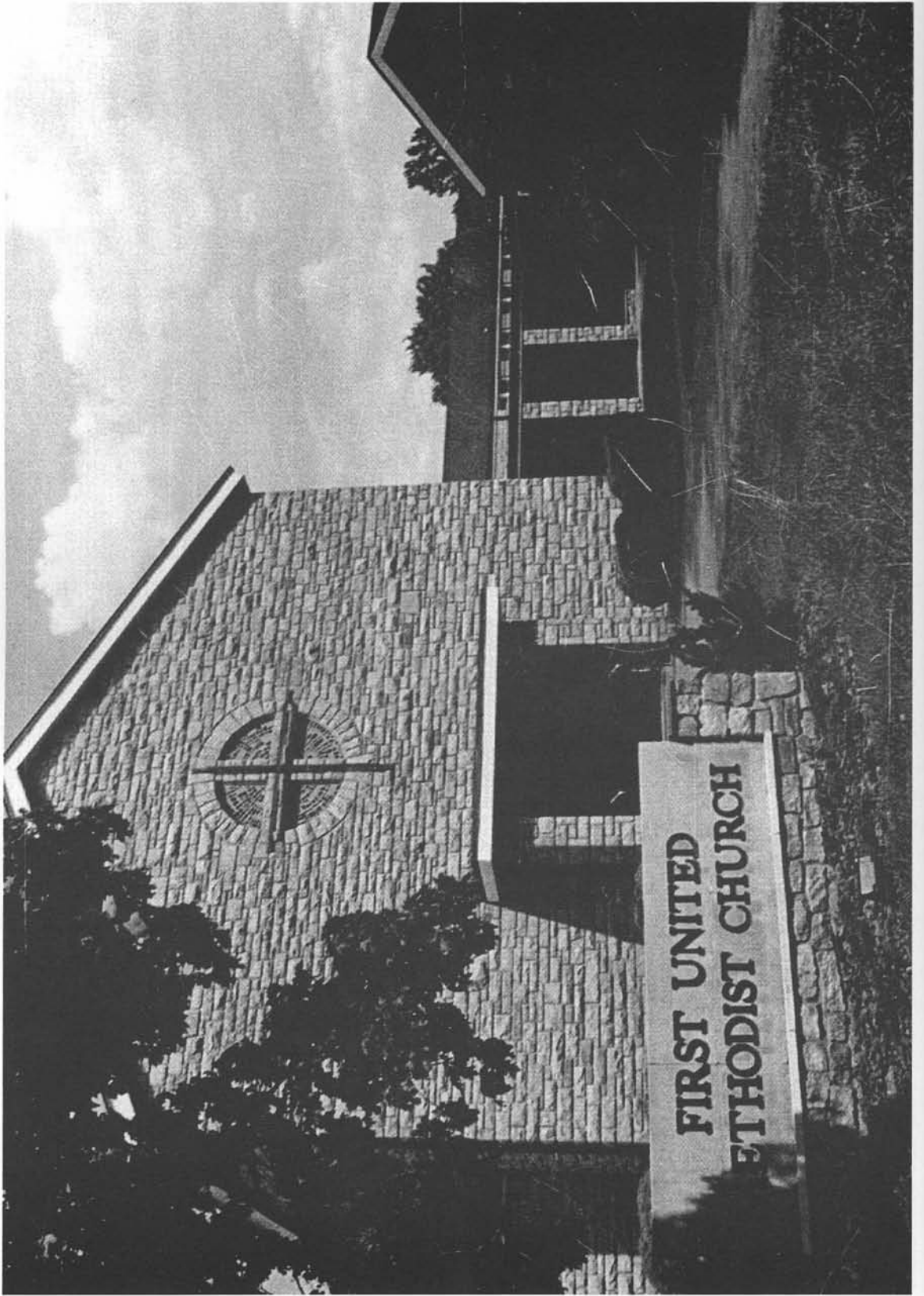
Fellowship and food were enjoyed after the Dedication Service.

LEARNING



ENJOYING





## THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GRAHAM

The most recent church merger occurred at the General Conference meeting in Dallas, Texas, April, 1968. The Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church signed a merger agreement to become The United Methodist Church.



Ten thousand persons packed Dallas Memorial Auditorium as Bishop Wicke and Bishop Mueller lifted their right hands and extended them to the other with the words, "Lord of the church, we are united in thee, in thy church and now in The United Methodist Church." Delegates from fifty-two countries surged to the platform, joined hands, and repeated those words. In taking this vow of unity, they spoke for 10,300,000 members of the Methodist Church and 745,000 members of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Both churches shared a Wesleyan heritage, having been strongly influenced by the ideas and practices of John Wesley. Their formal statements of belief were similar. Each was under the supervision of bishops with the responsibility for overseeing local congregations. Planning for a union took years of hard work: work that was designed to produce a denomination that would be "a new church for a new age."

At our church's Centennial Homecoming on September 22, 1996, the following litany was used in remembrance of the founders of The Methodist and United Brethren Churches.

### A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

- Leader: Almighty God, you have raised up servants to proclaim the gift of redemption and a life of holiness.
- People: **For our spiritual forebears, Susanna, John and Charles Wesley, Francis Asbury, Barbara Heck, Philip William Otterbein, Martin Boehm, Jacob Albright and Thomas Coke – each inspired by your spirit. For them we give you thanks.**
- Leader: In their ministry, through their difficulties, and in spite of their weaknesses, you were their hope and salvation.



**People:** You led them and their followers to create the heritage that is ours.

**Leader:** We praise you for the women and men, young and old, who followed them, who gave themselves unselfishly for the welfare of our Church, whose commitment and vision encouraged and supported the Church. Their talents, enthusiasm, idealism, and dedication infused the Church with energy.

**People:** Their outstanding gifts and witness shaped our thought and life. We praise you for these countless members of your Church whose names we have remembered and whom we remember now in silent prayer ....

(let us keep silence to remember the names of the saints)

**Leader:** And we give you thanks for the place of our rich tradition among the churches which comprise the Body of Christ.

**People:** With all your people throughout creation, give us a new vision, new love, new wisdom and a fresh understanding, that we may serve you more fully; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



SUSANNA WESLEY



ROBERT STRAWBRIDGE



BARBARA HECK



Philip William Otterbein



This official portrait of Martin Boehm was painted more than fifty years after his death.



Jacob Ahrens

## THE METHODIST EMBLEM



See how great a flame aspires,  
Kindled by a spark of grace,  
Jesus's love the nation fires,  
Set the kingdoms on a blaze.  
To bring fire on earth He came;  
Kindled in some hearts it is;  
O that all might catch the flame,  
All partake the glorious bliss.

-copied

The flame and cross is the official insignia of The United Methodist Church not only in America, but in other countries where United Methodism is found. The cross with its red flame symbolizes the Holy Spirit. The emblem suggests the presence of God's spirit in the United Church. It was adopted in 1968 when the Methodist and United Evangelical Brethren Churches united.

## STATE OF THE CHURCH 1970 - 1975

Reverend Robert C. Mooney was assigned as pastor to serve The First United Methodist Church in Graham in 1970. He wrote in his first Charge Conference report: "It has been a joy for me to serve as the Pastor during this Conference Year. The people have received Mrs. Mooney ( a native of Alamance County ) and I most cordially and have supported us in our ministry whole-heartedly. The concern for the parsonage family's comfort and happiness is indicative of the spirit of this congregation.

"When I came as Pastor to this congregation I knew that I would be following in the footsteps of ministers who had good and fruitful ministries among this people. Now that I have been here almost a year I can appreciate just how well they have wrought. Each day I am aware that I build on the foundation that they laid and I thank God for their labors. T. J. Whitehead, H. L. Watson, and Christian White are due special thanks for the leadership that they gave in the erection of the very fine buildings and the purchase of the facilities that the church has today. But they and their predecessors did more than build material things - they also provided spiritual leadership that has re-

sulted in many lives building upon the rock that is Jesus Christ. So, they have left monuments in brick and stone and in lives that are builded upon Christ.

“So, during these months I have sought to build upon the foundation that has been laid by others. I have sought to preach Christ and to make known his will and way to those who are committed to my spiritual care. I have been pleased to see many grow in spiritual stature during these months. Our attendance at the morning worship services has been most gratifying. We have had an average attendance of 351, which is an increase over the previous year.

“During these months I have been pleased with the way that the leadership of this Church has assumed its responsibilities. Ross Williams has been an able and supportive Church Lay Leader, and he has had an able associate in Dr. C. S. Crissman. The Administrative Board, under the leadership of J. A. Albright, has become aware of its responsibilities and has provided the leadership for the Church that it should. The Council on Ministries, under the leadership of Frank Rudd, has come to better understanding of its function and role and has provided some real leadership in more clearly defining our role and program as a Church.

“In the area of Education, Mrs. J. H. Walters, with the help of others, has provided excellent leadership. Our average attendance at Sunday School has been 261. . . .

“During the Christmas season we had many activities planned and undertaken under the direction of the Commission on Education, Mrs. Diana Cummings, with the assistance of many people, planned and directed these activities. Three children’s choirs have been provided during the year under the leadership of Mrs. Roy Salter, Mrs. R. C. Mooney, Jr., and Miss Pam Holt.

“In the Work Area on Evangelism, under the leadership of J. H. Walters, a church-wide visitation was undertaken in the fall as well as a visitation to new people and prospective church members.

“In the Work Area of Missions, we have been ably led and directed by Mrs. C. A. Cates. She directed an adult mission study and helped to develop and promote children’s mission studies. Miss Gladys Amick, President of the WSCS, and her circle leaders have led in the promotion of the cause of missions among the women of the Church.

“In the Work area of Stewardship, we have been led by Hulon Briggs. His efforts have helped members to re-think their stewardship as Christians and church members. The Committee on Finance has done an excellent job under the leadership of Eugene Moon. Our finances are in good order and we expect to meet all our obligations for the year. During the year, \$25,333 has been paid on the building indebtedness. Another payment will be made by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

"In the Work Area of Social Concerns, we have been led by Raymond Heath. Raymond has kept us aware of the social issues confronting us as Christians and as a Church. During the year we have remitted \$125 for the Fund for Reconciliation and \$71 for the Race Relations Sunday Offering. During the month of May a copy of the Social Creed of the Methodist Church will be sent to every family in the Church to inform them of the position of our Church on the many social issues that confront us today. The Pastor preached on the subject of 'The Church and Race' on Race Relations Sunday and the sermon was well received. In this area we have not accomplished as much as we should have but this is an area in which there is a great difference of opinion among church people and we must move slowly. We hope to accomplish more in this area in the new year.

"In the Work Area of Worship, we have been led by Dr. J. D. Bulla. Under his leadership and the leadership of Mrs. Roy Salter and the Music Committee our music ministry has been enlarged and improved, innovations have been made in the worship service, a new communion set has been secured for the church and one for the Pastor's use in ministering to the shut-ins. An Altar Guild and Memorials Committee have been suggested and will become a reality with the coming of the new church year. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor robes have been purchased for use by our acolytes.

"In the Work Area on Ecumenical Affairs, we have done little this year. We joined with the other churches of the community in a Thanksgiving Day Service at the Wayman Chapel AME Church and will join with these same churches in an Easter Sunrise Service."

Through his years of service Reverend Mooney continued to give inspiring reports of accomplishments from "this fine congregation" and "There is a fine spirit among the members of the congregation and it has been a joy to work with them. We look forward to the years ahead." He concluded his ministry here by saying "Successes have come because the members of the congregation have given of themselves to achieve them..."

Mrs. Green summarized the work of the church during these years by writing these lines:

Our church continued its growth in many areas during the ministry of Reverend R. C. Mooney, Jr. Through a planned program of visitation, many members became involved in seeking new members and in also showing our interest and love for those who were not so active. The organizational structure of the church was strengthened, giving a stronger foundation for the work of the church.

Our young people became more active and had an opportunity each year to plan and conduct a morning worship service on their own. Money was budgeted for youth work.

... Much more emphasis was given to missions, making us more aware of the needs and what is expected in this area of work.

Children's Worship Services were started with a thirty minute period on Sunday mornings in the chapel.

Many of our members enjoyed Neighborhood Bible Study Groups, held on Sunday evenings.

A special Bible Study conducted by the minister was held each week.

The church set aside a special day for Homecoming.

Our church began to participate in the Meals on Wheels Program and started a Church Pantry so that we might distribute foods to those in need of this service.



Reverend and Mrs. Mooney, Edith Isley, Ethel Bradshaw



Bill Bulla and Ken Linens chat with Reverend Mooney.

## STATE OF THE CHURCH 1975 - 1981

Appointments for ministers are made at the North Carolina Annual Conference held in June. However, in November 1975, an unexpected series of pastoral changes created a domino effect. The congregation reluctantly gave up Bob and Nell Mooney to another church. Wholeheartedly they welcomed Reverend R. Dennis Ricks and Lydia as their new parsonage family.

In his first Quarterly Conference report on December 31, 1975, Reverend Ricks gave the following financial stewardship report. ... "The building indebtedness has been reduced to \$129,400, and the parking lot indebtedness is \$12,400. All obligations have been paid in full. A Season of Stewardship was observed with over \$100,000 pledged. World Hunger received \$1,312 and Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount was paid \$1,472 on our pledge.

"The United Methodist Women and Men and the Senior Citizens have been active and report a good year.

"We pray and will work that 1976 will be even better."

The 1976 report showed a decline in membership due in part to transfers of company employees such as Western Electric Company. The church continued to reach out as well as take care of its immediate needs. "We have paid off Conference obligations with \$300 extra to Advance Specials. We have caught up with debt reduction for the first time since the bonds were sold. Last December we were \$4,500 behind; now we are \$3,000 ahead of schedule. We have been faithful to our financial obligations."

A new organ had been purchased and paid in full along with repair work and renovation in parts of the Educational Building.

February 11, 1977 – Reverend R. Dennis Ricks reported to the Administrative Board that the North Carolina Conference was stressing evangelism in all the churches. Love loaves would be distributed for the Lenten Season and the proceeds used for World Hunger. (\$1223 was collected). The Board signed a card to support the Wheat Covenant for World Hunger. Reverend Ricks reminded the Board that "visitation and evangelism is a responsibility of every member of the Church and not to be left entirely to the minister."

In June of 1977, the United Methodist Women hosted a reception after the Morning Worship Service to honor Dennis and Lydia on their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Reverend Ricks stated that "he knew of no other place he would rather celebrate his anniversary than in Graham." He expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the support he had been given."

October 10, 1977 – Statistical information showed the First United Methodist Church of Graham was thirty-second in membership and fortieth in salary as compared to other churches in the conference.

February, 1979 – The Administrative Board accepted \$19,347 as the church's share for the conference Pension Crusade (a fund to supplement retired ministers' income). The congregation pledged \$22,066. This was another indication of their benevolent generosity.

At the end of 1979, the indebtedness was \$24,300 and "the people are beginning to feel joy about reducing this debt. By next August (twenty-five years after it all began) it appears we shall be out of debt (two years early). Already new ideas for improvements in program and buildings are being discussed."

Susan Harsh, a first year student at Duke Divinity School was employed as Assistant to the Minister in Education and Youth Work.

Reverend Ricks ended his yearly report by saying, "It was a year of growth, new programs, commitment, renewed interest, sharing joys and sorrows. It was a good year, but we believe that 1980 will be even better."

Indeed, 1980 was "even better". September 28, 1980, was the **GREAT DAY** of Homecoming and the Dedication of the Sanctuary, Chapel, and related buildings.

Mrs. Green's summary follows:

In November of 1975, Reverend R. Dennis Ricks became our minister. We have continued with our regular church program.

In addition to this, we have added a Love and Concerns Committee to minister to the needs of our people who are not involved in any small groups within the church.

Our children are involved in Sunday School, Scouts, Choirs, Vacation Church School, C.A.R.E. (Craft and Recreational Experiences for Elementary Children), Mission Studies, and other short term experiences.

Our youth are involved in many areas. Their programs included three point emphasis, Study and Worship, Fun and Fellowship, and Service.

Individual adult classes are involved in their own studies and projects and there are special opportunities for adults to share in fun and fellowship.

Special Family Night and Intergenerational activities are planned throughout the year.

Leadership education is emphasized with many opportunities being made on the local, district, and conference levels.

There is an awareness of the great need and challenge to reach persons on our church rolls and those in the community who are not churched with our proclamation of the gospel from the pulpit and through outreaching and caring ministry.

The preaching ministry continues to remain the most important part of our church program.



Reverend and Mrs. Ricks cut their anniversary cake



Reverend Ricks talks to Doris Loy and Rala Hardie

## FAITH PROMISE

First United Methodist Church has a long heritage of partnership in mission. Our mission's emphasis known as Faith Promise came into being in 1979, during the tenure of Reverend Dennis Ricks.

Alice Jean Roddy was work area chairperson. She and her husband, Donald Roddy, introduced this program and our church readily endorsed it.

Each year we have a missions emphasis week, bringing in various missionaries and speakers. Pledge cards are passed out and at the end of the worship service on Sunday, members of the congregation are given the opportunity to pledge their support for missions for the year. No cards are signed and it is truly a "faith promise", strictly between God and ourselves. This is giving beyond our conference obligations.



The Gene Ropers, Myrtle Turner, The Roddys and Gladys Amick chat with Dr. Kamaleson during Faith Promise Week.

In the first year of this program, \$7,200 was pledged. Through the years, the amounts pledged have grown much larger. First Church has remained faithful in its effort to make a difference in the life of others through our missions.

Here at home we have supported such causes as Allied Churches, Good Shepherd Kitchen, Loaves and Fishes, Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, Christian Counseling, and many more. We have supported Hinton Rural Life, Curamericas, UMCOR, etc. We contribute to three missionary salaries each year. Our work has extended far beyond our own walls, into many parts of our world. We have supported efforts in such far away places as Brazil, Argentina, Armenia, Russia, and Africa.

Don and Alice Jean Roddy had a vision for our church and worked diligently in this program for many years.

Later Nancy Gant served as chairperson and now Peggy Jenks leads the committee.



## STATE OF THE CHURCH 1981 - 1984



Reverend Caswell Shaw, Pat and David

Reverend Caswell Shaw succeeded Reverend Ricks in 1981. Success continued to crown the congregation's efforts. At his first quarterly conference on December 14, 1981, he reported that "the church will exceed its budget. It's really good to stand up here and make this financial report. It shows that our church members are proud of their programs and are willing to pay the bill." The Circuit Rider financial program which had been started in previous years continued to be a successful means of obtaining the church budget.

The next year, 1982, the church stayed the course with several new accomplishments. Reverend Susan Harsh became the associate minister. A bus fund was established. The church contributed financially to help send Beth McPherson (daughter of John and Betsy McPherson) on a work team to Costa Rica. Crop Walk, led by Reverend Harsh, became an annual event and netted \$3700 that year. Church membership as well as average attendance increased.

The following year's activities included different kinds of worship experiences including seasonal dramas, and a Watch Night and John Wesley Covenant Service to bring in the new year. Reverend Shaw was musically talented and this was expressed from the pulpit. An instrumental ensemble was organized and a hand-bell choir participated in worship services. A grief-sharing support group became active to help with specific needs. The church sanctuary received a coat of paint. Crop Walk netted \$9300. Reverend Whitehead celebrated his second retirement and the church honored him with Pastor Emeritus status and presentation of a new car. Last but not least, the church softball team won a championship!



Kenneth and Mary Helen Linens greet the Shaws.



Reverend Shaw and Dr. Crissman share Reverend Whitehead's Memory Album.

Reverends Shaw and Harsh ended their written reports by declaring: "It is a heart-warming experience to serve these people for truly they love the Lord and His church." Reverend Shaw was assigned to a District Superintendency position and Reverend Harsh remained to serve as associate minister.

## STATE OF THE CHURCH 1984 - 1988

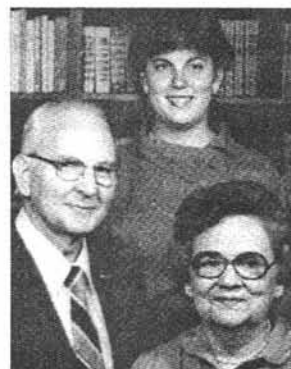
The pastorate of Reverend James Auman began in June, 1985. On January 17, 1986, he wrote: "The summer months after my arrival were spent in getting acquainted with the people and visitation in the homes, hospitals, and places of business.

"The Council on Ministries adopted 'A Church Involved' theme for 1985. We are truly involved with many activities offered on a regular basis: Boy and Girl Scouts, Graded Choir Programs, Step-by-Step for younger children, hand bells, Wednesday Night Out, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Mother's Support Group, Play School, Senior Citizens, Youth Fellowship for Junior High and Seniors.

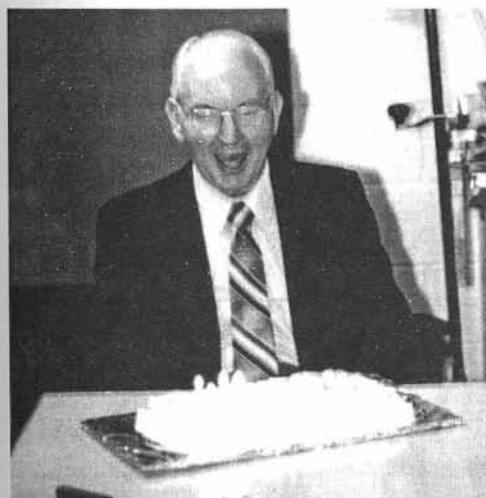
"The church has a tremendous Outreach Ministry. Acceptance of Conference obligations, \$18,000 to other causes such as \$12,000, Crop Walk, donations to Good Shepherd Soup Kitchen, Emergency Food Boxes, Meals on Wheels, \$1500 for Ethiopian Relief.

"I commend the very fine staff on their faithful and efficient service, and am specifically grateful for the loyalty of our chancel choir, which is a group of volunteer musicians whose attendance and performance are most reliable.

"The death of my wife, Mildred, and the love and support I have received from the staff and members make this the most eventful year of my thirty-eight years in the ministry.



Reverend James Auman,  
Mildred and Becky



Jim enjoys his birthday cake

"Susan Harsh worked hard and kept things together. I thank God for her labors. Finances are in good condition, a new \$37,000 bus has been ordered. And we have a net gain of twenty-seven new members.

"The spirit of the congregation is excellent.

"1986 has been a good year... attendance has been good and the church has tried to 'be the people of God' in today's world. We carry on a multitude of ministries. Chief among them is our Missionary work. We accept and pay all our 'askings' from the Conference plus an additional \$12,000 to \$15,000 through our Faith Promise Program.

We give about \$12,000 through the CROP WALK. All of these amount to nearly \$75,000 to Missions.”

On January 10, 1988, Reverend Auman wrote: “All areas of the Church are working well and this continues to be the most exciting and most effective Church that I have ever served. The people are loyal and faithful in their task, and there is a good program for all ages in the Church.

“Christian growth is being realized and inter-generational activities are constantly going on.”

In 1987 Greg Jenks and Bob Eldridge became candidates for the ministry.

### **STATE OF THE CHURCH 1988 – 1997**

Reverend Marshall Old bears the distinction of serving First United Methodist Church for the longest tenure of any minister. He served the congregation for nine years, beginning in 1989 and ending in 1998.

One of his first reports enumerated the components of the church. “First United Methodist Church is made up of many components: The Education Committee provides opportunities for growth through the Sunday School, UMYF, Bible Studies, prayer groups, United Methodist Men, and United Methodist Women. The Missions Committee supports three work teams; Adult Work Team goes to Frakes, Kentucky, Senior High goes to Robeson County, and the Young Adults go to Jacksonville to help build Habitat for Humanity homes. Evangelism supports our spiritual emphasis. The Music Committee upholds the Junior Choir, Youth Choir, Chancel Choir, XYZ Choir, and the Praise Ringers.”

The church continued to grow in spirit and numbers. Average attendance during 1989 was 206 in Sunday School and the worship services averaged 290. The laity continued to be active in Christian education and missions. The Council on Ministries worked out a program of education for children, youth and adults. Cynthia Powell, Director of Christian Education, was instrumental in all of these endeavors. The Faith-Promise ministries supported local and foreign missions. They helped support five missionaries from Africa to India.

Reverend Bill Crowder, a retired minister who had been serving as Minister of Visitation, was replaced by Reverend Joe Hauser, another retired Methodist minister.

On April 9, 1989, authorization was given by the Charge Conference to borrow \$150,000 from the Conference Board of Missions of the North Carolina Annual Conference "for the purpose of renovation of the Fellowship Hall and Educational Building". The Building Committee was composed of:

Charles Barnwell, Chairman	Dot Lee	Marie Moon
Gretchen Briggs	Eric Crissman	Walter Graham
Charles Harden	Calvin Howard	Ed Lapham

This group was also referred to in later recordings as the "Committee on remodeling and reconditioning".

The reports of the Official Board and Quarterly Conference the next several months gave updates on this renovation project. On November 30, 1991, the committee gave the following up-date:

Bathroom Projects	\$ 13,375.00
Heating and Air Conditioning	82,651.00
Roofing Project	26,651.00
Insulation	1,515.00
Parking Lot	38,361.00
Flooring Project	14,175.33
Bus Shelter	4,172.72
Stafford Memorial Hall	45,849.76
Total Expenditure	\$226,281.59

On May 31, 1991 Reverend Old reported: "the sale of the property for \$3,000 to the Graham Housing Authority (measuring more or less, 98 feet by 130 feet by 75 feet, at the rear of the Albright Street parking lot) should be closed out by the end of the month."

In June, Treasurer Charles Barnwell, stated that "the financial picture was not a result of over spending but rather a result of low financial income. People were giving less due to their own financial situations." The church finances, as always, were either in a crunch or on the upswing and going great. Despite the difficulties, the congregation always "dug deeper" and paid their conference and local obligations during these years.

Reverend Old "...spoke in favor of the effort First Church makes in meeting the conference obligations." This speaks highly of the church and he affirmed his feelings of great pride in the fact.

The church membership had reached 1035. Reverend Old commented about the many new members coming into the church and the "one thing he hears more than any other is about the friendliness of our church".

Again he expressed his "delight to be in God's service with you at First United Methodist Church." A note was made in the minutes that Reverend Old was "a very fine administrator in church work".

A Permanent Endowment Committee with Gene Moon as chairperson was established:

1991	1992	1993
Jim Albright	Jimmy Linens	Ricky Moorefield
Gene Moon	Lynn Lloyd	Charles Barnwell
Linda Fogleman	Bill Griffith	Diana Cummings

A Long Range Planning Committee with Ray Dorsett as Chairperson was also established:

Hulon Briggs	Dobby May	Camille Staton
Jane Ferrell	Marsha Jones	Ray Dorsett

A Child Care Ministries Committee was composed of:

Ray Dorsett	Gretchen Briggs	Doug Rayle
Kay Ferguson	Karen James	Pam McDonald
Cynthia Powell	Frances Heath	Reverend Old

This was a study committee and their efforts resulted in the present program.

"Mr. Barnwell made mention of the new bell tower fund due to a substantial gift to that fund."

In 1994, Reverend Joe Hauser re-retired after sharing five years and hundreds of visits as the Minister of Visitation. His report always averaged more than 200 visits. He and Velma remain active in our congregation. Reverend Linda Dunn and her family came and she served the position until taking an appointment in South Carolina in 1996. Reverend Bob Eldridge assumed Minister of Visitation responsibilities.



Reverend Marshall Old and Carol  
with Donnie and Eric

In the mid-nineties, the nominations committee selected David Foushee, Judy Hayes, Nelson Young, Charles Barnwell and Reverend Old to study office computerization. As a result of their efforts along with Gene Caudill, Ed Barnes and others, our offices are now completely computerized.

On June 16, 1997, Reverend Old stated: "It would be extremely difficult for me to begin to summarize the

ministry of which we have been a part for the past nine years, nor have I the ability to share my deepest feelings of love and appreciation for the leadership of First United Methodist Church.

“Since 1988 we have worked together to win souls for Jesus Christ, to serve the Lord in Christian missions, to educate children, youth, and adults in the life of faith, and to provide a beautiful facility in which we worship, study, plan and pray.

“You can and should take great pride in the work our church does. In nine years we



Marshall and Carol Old enjoy a fellowship meal

have completely renovated our facility, purchased a new parsonage, and expanded our land, upgraded our child-care ministries program, paid our apportionments 100% every year – and many other great and wonderful things.

“Most importantly, we have done these things and made these decisions in a spirit of harmony and co-operation. Never have I had the opportunity to work with people who have done so much with so little squabbling. It makes my heart glad.”

## STATE OF THE CHURCH 1997 – 2002

Paul Phillips was in the active ministry for forty years, the last five of which were spent serving this church. His sermon of June 20, 2002, just prior to retirement, recalled events of his ministry among us.

His scripture was Isaiah 61: 1-2 and Luke 4: 16 - 22.

New Testament lesson -

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.  
He has appointed me to preach the Good News to the poor,  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set free the oppressed,  
To announce the year when the Lord will save his people.”

He referred to his first meeting with the Staff-Parish Committee and thanked them for their support and encouragement through the years. His first sermon here was June 29,

1997, entitled "Sharing our Legacy" after which the congregation greeted him and his new bride of eleven months, Cynthia, at the altar. They were introduced to many more members at one of the many Adult Work Team golf tournaments that afternoon. His first memorial service was a few days later for Gene Moon, on July 7<sup>th</sup>. He conducted sixty-seven more such services during his tenure. Various forms of communion were introduced and practiced. Twelve marriages were performed; the last for Traci Weeks and Brian Gant. He received into the membership of the church thirty-seven transfers from other Methodist churches, sixteen from other denominations, twelve adults on profession of faith, and seventeen youth through confirmation classes. He wrote of heart-warming experiences he and Cynthia Powell had with all the confirmation classes. They shared an annual Confirmand Retreat at Lake Junaluska with other confirmands across the Jurisdiction.



Reverend Paul Phillips and Cynthia

The "Twenty-dollar Bill Creative Ministry Project" is remembered for its success. Members received twenty-dollar bills and were to work to multiply these talents in whatever way possible. Some cooked, sewed, built, canned, and created other ways to increase their talents. One of the most successful projects was the flock of pink flamingos that appeared in yards and were only removed when the home owners paid to have them picked up. If one bought "Pink Flamingo Insurance" they were saved from the invasion.

During Reverend Phillips's ministry a Youth Ministry Design Team was created to help build a stronger youth program.

Other highlights of his ministry included:

Once a month 8:30 a.m. Communion Services

Saturday night Praise and Worship Services

Wonderful Wednesday Nights with food and fellowship

Rebirth of both Cub and Boy Scout Troops

A new inclusiveness with the beginning of the Van Ministry under the direction of Doug Bayliff

The opening of an Oxford House in the house next to the church

Acquiring the rest of the houses in our block of Market Street

Reverend Phillips concluded the sermon on his last Sunday with his "deepest, heart-felt gratitude for the hospitality received from the congregation and the collegial relation-

ship enjoyed with the retired ministers, Reverends Bob Mooney, Joe Hauser, Dennis Ricks, and Otto Hardt. I close this sermon with gratitude by God's grace for who we are and whose we are with all our warts, foibles, love, and unlovableness as sinners, and saints before God and each other."



Paul speaks at Young In Heart Christmas Banquet.

## STATE OF THE CHURCH 2002 –

Dr. Kenneth Hall received the Graham appointment in June of 2002. He, his wife Pat, and daughter, Kimberly, immediately won the hearts of the members with their genteel ways and boundless efforts. Dr. Hall was soon noted and praised for his visitation program. He reported at the first Charge Conference held November 13, 2002, he had made 127 home visits and 44 hospital calls since his arrival five months previously. His state of the church message reflected a keen observation and astute assessment of the status of the church. He began: "First Church, abounding with potential and possibilities, finds itself at a critical juncture. The church is struggling with the demographics of its service area and of its membership. Membership has declined sixteen percent the past ten years.... There has been a ... transition in staffing as the result of decline in contributions.... Dr. Hall affirmed that "God is still in the miracle working business and able to make us blossom in our corner of Graham."

Average worship attendance is 250. Dr. Steve Compton with the North Carolina Conference came in January, 2003, to offer his expertise in regard to revitalization.

Technology improved communication among church members with the development of a web site designed by Carolyn Seay and John McDonald during Reverend Phillips's tenure. Dr. Hall established a communication network by e-mail. Pertinent information regarding church activities, functions, and news of good tidings such as births, recoveries from illnesses, as well as news of hospitalizations and deaths keeps our church families connected and informed daily.



By this time conference records and reports were in concurrence with the conference based computer system NCCUMC – On-line Data Collections System. The Pastor's Report only asked two questions: How do you define success? How are you measuring it? Dr. Hall's answers were: "Success is an increase in membership by profession of faith ... measured by computer database of additions.

...an increase in numbers participating in events...measured by attendance.

...an increase in laymen serving in the church's ministry measured by number of participants.

...our ministry to the community such as our bus ministry, UMYF, Young in Heart, Tuesday night basketball, Vacation Bible School, and support of community-wide efforts such as Loaves and Fishes, Allied Churches, Hospice, Meals on Wheels, Hospital Volunteers, Crop Walk, etc.

...an increase in Sunday School and worship attendance measured by reports and counts.

...paying our apportionments measured by Treasurer's report.

The people called Methodist established a ministry to the Graham Community in 1896. Through the years faithful persons in this church have tried to reach out to others in Christ's name and to allow God's love to flow through them to the world.

Our church is an exciting place because of the people who become part of it and, therefore, give it shape and texture. It is not static. It is always changing and adapting to the personalities, the energies, the makeup of the people who are its very heart and soul.

Here there is ample opportunity for involvement. There are many niches to fill. Some are as traditional and long standing as the church itself. Other niches are filled by people who come along and create them! Our ministries are malleable; that is, they are made to be unmade and to fit the ever-changing needs of our church and community.

Ours is a church that flings wide its doors like welcoming arms and invites all to come in. We offer the quiet of the presence of God, the blessed warmth of a real fellowship and the abiding truth of the sacred Scriptures. Join us in learning and worship this Sunday.



Dr. Hall and Pat



Dr. Hall speaks with Myrtle Wilson



Graham Call, Dr. Hall, Raymond Heath and Don Bulla

The following Bishops served:

Bishop Clare Purcell	1938	Bishop Robert Blackburn	1972-1980
Bishop W. W. Peele	1939-1940	Bishop William R. Cannon	1980-1984
Bishop Clare Purcell	1940-1944	Bishop C. P. Minnick	1984-1996
Bishop W. W. Peele	1944-1950	Bishop Marion Edwards	1996-2004
Bishop Paul N. Garber	1950-1968	Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn	2004-
Bishop William R. Cannon	1968-1972		

District Superintendents were as follows:

Reverend A. J. Hobbs	1938-1942	Reverend E. B. Fisher	1967-1973
Reverend F. S. Love	1942-1943	Reverend N. W. Grant	1973-1977
Reverend H. C. Smith	1944-1947	Reverend B. L. Davidson	1978-1984
Reverend E. C. Hillman	1948-1952	Reverend F. Owen Fitzgerald, Jr.	1984-1990
Reverend W. L. Clegg	1953-1954	Reverend George W. Johnson	990-1996
Reverend A. P. Brantley	1954-1960	Reverend Rodney G. Hamm	1996-2004
Reverend W. L. Clegg	1960-1962	Reverend William Gattis	2004-
Reverend T. B. Hough	1962-1967		



REV. J.R. EDWARDS  
1918 - 1919  
1939 - 1941



REV. J.J. BOONE  
1941-1946



REV. O.L. HATHAWAY  
1946-1951



REV. J.H. LANNING  
1951-1954



REV. T.J. WHITEHEAD  
1964-1965  
PRESENTER DURING CONSTRUCTION OF AND FIRST SERVICE  
IN THE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING.



REV. H.L. WATSON  
1962-1966



REV. CHRISTIAN WHITE  
1966-1970



REV. R. C. MOONEY, JR.  
1970-1975



REV. R. DENNIS RICKS  
1975-1981



REV. CASWELL E. SHAW, JR.  
1981-1984



REV. JAMES A. AUMAN  
1984-1988



REV. MARSHALL ROY OLD  
1988-1997



REV. G. PAUL PHILLIPS  
1997-2002

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

### Men's Bible Class



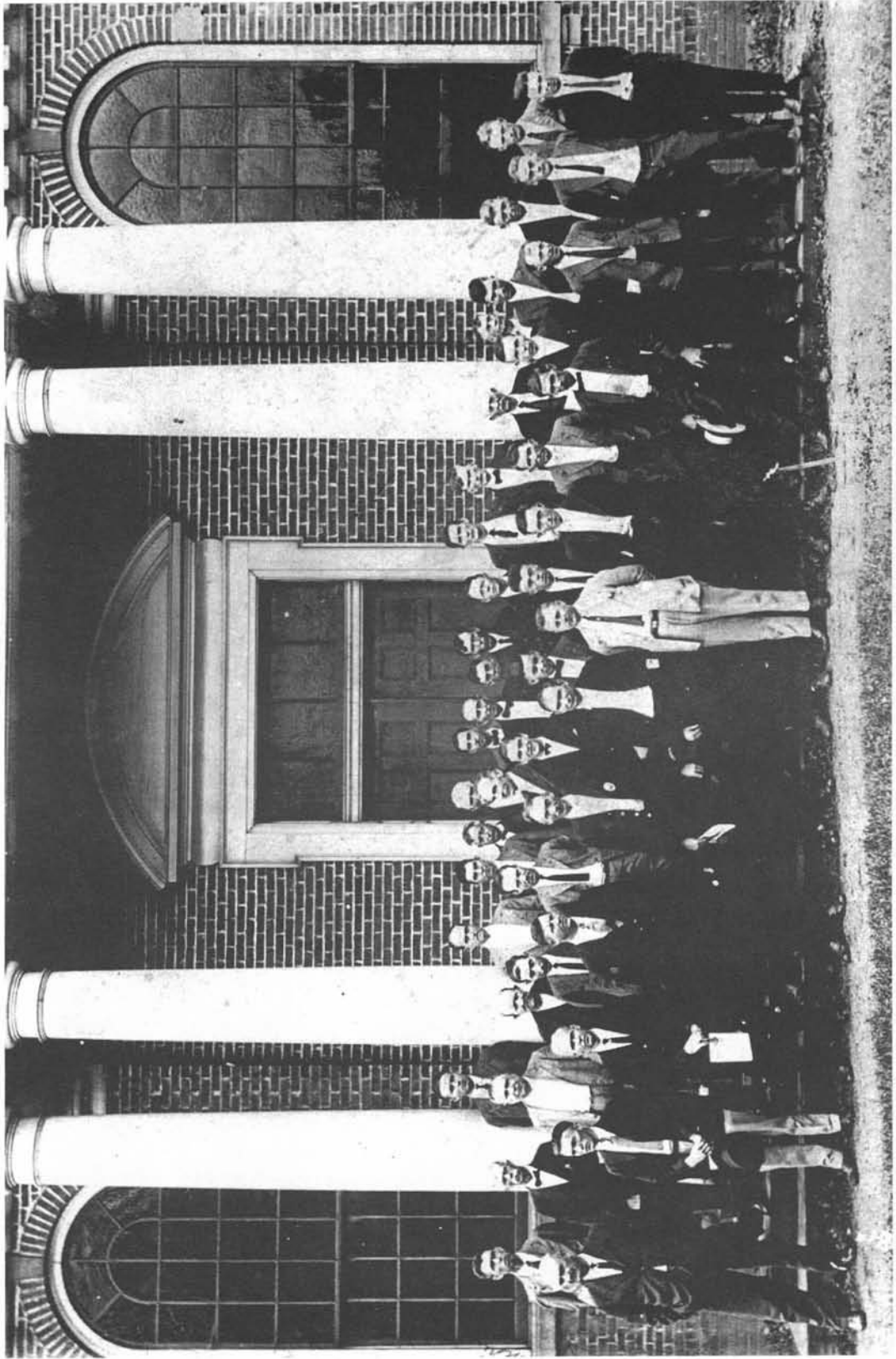
Men's Bible Class, 1946

In the Methodist Episcopal Church, a Men's Bible Class was organized on the first Sunday in April, 1908. There is no record of when the men organized a class at the Methodist Protestant Church. After Unification and the merger of the two Sunday Schools, the class membership exceeded one hundred. It was the only class for adult men and probably the largest class in the church. Gordon Painter recalled: **"They met in the sanctuary as that was the only room large enough to accommodate the class"**. Pictures show as many as ninety-three present at a time. Now age has reduced the active membership to less than 20. A large part of our history lay on the shoulders of these men of the church.

Mr. Dan Rader taught this class for many years, followed by attorney Tom Carter, and Judge J. S. Cook. In recent years, other teachers included:

Ken Linens  
Hulon Briggs  
Lewis Brackett  
Gordon Painter  
Horace Brannon  
Charles Cates  
Doug Bayliff  
Bill Mitchell  
Jim Folks

Reverend Bob Mooney  
Reverend Joe Hauser  
Reverend Dennis Ricks  
Reverend Otto Hardt  
Jimmy Linens  
Dr. Delmar Olson  
Judy Way  
Ben Barnhill



Earliest available picture of the Men's Bible Class



Friendly Helpers Class



Later Friendly Helpers Class

## Doris Crissman Class



Mrs. Rader

In 1945, Mrs. Martha Rader organized a Sunday School class for young ladies. This was while the classes were still meeting in the "hut" on Maple Street. It started with only five or six members, with Mrs. Rader teaching. The group decided to call themselves the Junior Wesleyan Class. By 1970, there were one hundred eighteen members. This made it one of the largest in the church, probably exceeded only by the Men's Bible Class. In 1979, class members decided to rename their class in memory of member, Doris Crissman. The class is much smaller now. Through the years there has been a great bond between these women and a sharing of love and faith.

Class presidents who have served are as follows:

Hazel Amick Thompson	Hattie Bayliff
Ruth Albright	Gretchen Briggs
Elizabeth Burke	Gladys Amick
Ruth Gunter	Dorothy Lee
Joy Belle Stafford	Rala Hardie
Vivian Williamson	Doris Crissman
Mildred Walker	Mickey Stanfield
Ercell Hensley	Loby Phillips
Cleo Pickard	Margaret Carmen
Treva Johnson	Edith Roper
Elizabeth Isley	Christine Strickland
Frances Webster	Jeanne Smith
Clara Cox	Esther Painter
Lillian Thompson	Jewell Brackett
Edith Isley	Amy Buckner
Ethel Bradshaw	Ethyln Evans
Mabel Lloyd	Inez McPherson
Ruth Ayd	Elizabeth Hardie
Mildred Hester	Jeanne Owen
Myrtle Wilson	Betty Watson
Betsy Gilmore	Mabel Cheek
Geneva Pickard	Lenora Bennett



Junior Wesleyan Class



Junior Wesleyan Class



Doris Crissman Class



## **T. J. Whitehead Class**

The Reverend O. L. Hathaway approached Junius Harden and Kenneth Linens in 1949 about organizing a class for young adults. It would be planned for young singles over college age and for couples who were not yet parents. Mr. Harden and Mr. Linens would share teaching responsibilities, and the class was named the “Young Adult Class”.

The passing of time eventually made the original guidelines of “post-college” and “without children” inappropriate for the group. Mary Helen Linens suggested changing the name to honor the Reverend Whitehead who had been pastor of the church for many years. Everyone was happy to adopt this suggestion, and the class always tried to honor Reverend Whitehead in more than just the name. Today there are between 35 and 40 active members sharing a variety of studies, social activities, and service.

Mary Helen Linens and Julia Howard remember these charter members:

Julia Brown Howard	Barbara Moore Lowe
Charles and Betty Clapp	Tom and Alice Hobbs
Faye Pugh	Junius and Mary Alice Harden
Walter Gaddy	Wade Clapp
John L. and Betty Amick	Ken and Mary Helen Linens



T. J. Whitehead Class

## **Gordon Painter Class**

The Gordon Painter Class is named in honor of its first teacher, Mr. Gordon Painter. During the 1950s, Mr. Painter began teaching a Sunday School Class of fifth graders. Some of his young students were Jane Flythe Ferrell, Diana Foster Cummings, and

Dick Johnson, all names familiar to most of us. As these youngsters advanced through the grades, Mr. Painter moved into teaching junior high and then the senior high youth. After many of the teenagers he taught graduated from high school, Mr. Painter quit teaching for a while until he was asked to teach a “young adult class”. This new “Young Methodist Class” had as charter members several of the people he had taught as youth, but now many were married and they were bringing their spouses to his class.



Gordon Painter Class

In 1970, the name of the class was changed to the Gordon Painter Class in honor of his many years of dedicated service as a teacher. In the early 1970s, Mr. Painter retired from teaching the class. Over the next two or three years there were several different teachers for a short time. Among them were Susan Dale Bulla Parks and Joe James.

In the mid 1970s, Mrs. Alice Jean Roddy was asked to teach the class, which she did until her death in 1989. During her time with the class it grew not only in numbers but also in its outreach to the community and the world.

After Mrs. Roddy’s death, Carol Old taught the class until June, 1997. Several of the class members taught until 1998, when Eric Crissman began teaching regularly.

Today, there are approximately 60 members enrolled.

### **New Horizons Class**

In 1987 Susan Harsh saw the need for a new Sunday School class for singles and young adults. Jeanne Neal and Carol Nash Steele accepted the challenge to organize this class and became the original teachers. From a beginning of ten, this group has grown to fifty-two members on roll today.

## Charles and Camille Staton Class



Charles and Camille Staton

In the spring of 1990, it was decided that once again a class for young people who were out of high school would be organized. This had been done before, but due to many of this age group being in various schools and colleges and only in town on random weekends, attendance was low and the classes were eventually disbanded. This time, under the direction of Cynthia Powell and Rodney Shotwell, there was more success than before. In 1991, Rodney suggested they name their group in honor of the Statons. Charles and Camille had worked with many of the class members when they went on work teams to Robeson County. Because

of the many years they did this, Rodney felt they should have some special recognition. This was enthusiastically accepted by the class members.

Having been brought up with mission projects each summer, this group decided to continue this tradition, and in 1995, they went to Onslow County and helped with the building of a house for Habitat for Humanity. From 1996 through 2001, they went to Carteret County for the same purpose.

At present, this class is very small but it is hoped that they will increase in numbers and resume their mission projects.



Alice Jean Roddy Class

Susan  
Harsh  
Class



Two, three  
and four  
year olds



Kindergarten  
and  
first grade



Third grade





Fourth and fifth grade



Junior Highs



Senior Highs

## LAY LEADERS

Paragraph 250 of the 2000 *Book of Discipline* states: "there shall be elected by the charge conference a lay leader who shall function as the primary lay representative of the laity in that local church . . . Responsibilities shall include fostering awareness of the role of laity . . . regularly meeting with the pastor to discuss the state of the church . . ." Lay leaders are elected by the charge conference and "shall function as the primary lay representation."

The Methodist Protestant Church did not have lay leaders. Quarterly Conference records of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, question #5 asked: "Has a church Lay Leader . . . been elected for each charge?" The January 19, 1919, answer was "No". In the October 3, 1920, report, W. B. Green was named as Lay Leader. He held this position until 1928, when W. E. Thompson was named. In 1929, W. D. Barrett was named.

Pastors of the church gave written reports of the Lay Leader's activities and leadership roles. Written reports from Lay Leaders started appearing in the 1950s.

Reverend J. W. Boone wrote in March 22, 1942, "Our Lay Leader, Zollie Foster, with the help of other laymen is working on a plan to see what we can do about saving to the church the large number of church members that are dead to the program of the church."

March 26, 1944 – Charge Lay Leader, Dan Rader's, report was as follows: "Finance, attendance and general spirit are very good. Additions to the Church are consistently steady. The new plan to raise money for a church in four years is under way and will do much to bring our people together. Our weakest spot is Sunday School attendance in certain age groups."

April 14, 1956 – Dan Rader – "Our Pastor has encouraged the Lay-Speaking program to the extent that our laymen held 10 services in connection with the No-Silent Pulpit program. The experience has been rich for the men who took part in the program. At least 10 more men wish to join this next year. Several of our teachers have joined the Toastmaster's Club to improve their speaking and teaching."

February 14, 2000 - Lay Leader – Jimmy Linens reported on Burlington District Lay Rally. "Our church has had largest number of attendees for the last two years, therefore, winning the attendance award."

## Church Lay Leaders

J. H. Eason  
 J. L. Amick  
 Zollie Foster  
 T. M. Johnson, Jr.  
 C. D. Brittain

Dan Rader  
 Hulon Briggs  
 Gordon Painter  
 Craig May  
 Ross Williams

Eugene Moon  
 Walter Graham  
 Roger Jones  
 Jerry Cummings  
 Jimmy Linens  
 Diana Cummings



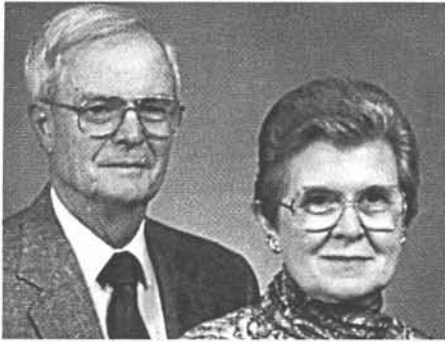
Gene Moon



Gordon Painter



Walter Graham



Hulon Briggs



Jimmy Linens



Roger Jones



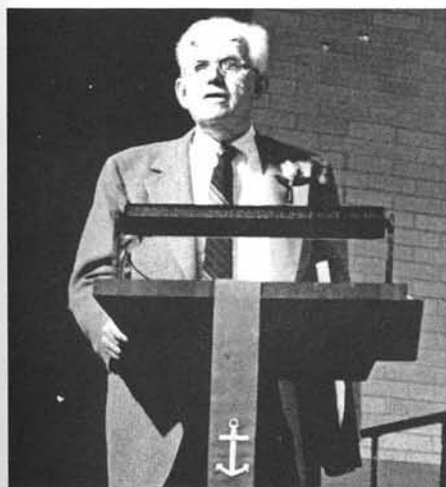
Craig May



Jerry and Diana Cummings

## PASTORS EMERITUS

Sunday, May 30, 1982, was designated as T. J. Whitehead Day, marking his retirement from active service as Minister of Visitation since 1977. He had also served as pastor from 1954 – 1962. In recognition of his great love for the Church and his many years of service, he was named Pastor Emeritus of First United Methodist Church.



Reverend Whitehead



In 2001, Reverends Bob Mooney and R. Dennis Ricks were honored with the title.



Reverend Mooney



Reverend Ricks



## OTHER HONORARY TITLES

In regards to honoring members, the *Discipline* states: The Charge Conference may make provision for recognition of the faithful service of those members of the Administrative Council or Administrative Board who have reached the age of seventy-two, or who have become physically incapacitated, by electing them honorary members. An honorary member shall be entitled to all the privileges of a member, except the right to vote.”

Members so honored have included:

A.R. Henderson, Jr.  
Allen Wilkerson  
J. S. Bowman  
Mrs. Ruth Cates  
Mr. Charles Cates  
Mrs. Myrtle Wilson  
Gordon Painter

S. Foust Thompson  
J. M. Buckner  
Mrs. R. N. Cook  
Mrs. Martha Rader  
Dr. Willard Goley  
Bill Aydt  
Walter Graham

## METHODIST MEN



The first written report of the Methodist Men to the Quarterly Conference was on January 15, 1950. President C. T. Edwards wrote: “This is the second year of organizational life. Meetings are held twice a month for fellowship, study, prayer and activity in the interest of church work. There is a membership of 34. Our Anniversary Charter Night, November 19, 1949, was celebrated. A meeting is held each Sunday evening to pray for the minister and the Evening Worship Service.”

On October 18, 1953, L. H. Gunter brought a report to the Official Board from the Committee on Education asking that action be taken in regard to organizing a Methodist Men’s Club. Mr. Gunter was appointed to bring the matter before the Men’s Bible Class. At the November 22, 1953, Board meeting he reported the organization for a men’s club would be taken up at a dinner meeting of the Men’s Bible Class.

In mid 1955, Reverend Whitehead announced: “Our men have held several meetings during the winter and summer months. An application has been made for a charter for a Methodist Men’s organization, and plans are being made to observe Charter Night on

Saturday evening, June 25<sup>th</sup>. We believe this organization will have a real opportunity for service in our church. They are working on a project of securing a wheel chair for Mrs. Sadie Allred.”

April 14, 1956, Mr. Dan Rader reported: “The Methodist Men’s Club has established a \$300 fund for some deserving student of Louisburg College. This fund is repayable without interest unless the student goes into full time Christian work, when it is a gift. The men will also undertake to prepare and seed the lawn at the new church.”

April 10, 1961, Mr. Rader reported as Lay Leader, “The Men’s Club is now holding organizational meetings and will be active soon.”

The May 8, 1964, report reads: “The Methodist Men’s Club was reactivated during the month of November, 1963. Officers were elected as follows:

President - Gordon Painter  
Vice President - Don Mikell  
Secretary - Russell Allen  
Treasurer - James Linens

Meetings have been held on the third Monday of each month. Attendance has been fairly good, averaging around 46 per meeting. Programs consisted of group singing, devotional period, quartet singing and a speaker. Meals have been served by the WSCS and the MYF.”

Joe James was president in 1969 when the “club” had taken the landscaping of the small courtyard as a project.



Methodist Men

No other records can be found until February 13, 1978, when President Bill Aydt announced another charter renewal had been received and meetings would be held every two months.

In the late seventies the nation was suffering an energy crisis and President Don Roddy cancelled a February meeting "because of the energy crisis". It was "considered to discontinue roasting peanuts in order to conserve energy."



Methodist Men prepare for pancake supper.

The project of roasting peanuts referred to here was an activity that had continued for many years. Several nights a week men could be found in the church kitchen deep-



Methodist Men on an outing

frying and canning peanuts. The product was in great demand around town and the men raised hundreds of dollars over the years from this activity. In recent years other projects have been used for fund-raisers. Among these are pancake suppers; and selling sausage and ham biscuits, doughnuts, coffee and other drinks at the Graham Christmas parade. Once a year they sponsor a church-wide picnic at the park; they serve breakfast to graduating seniors and their parents on the Sunday morning before graduation; and they give a campership to summer camp at Chestnut Ridge.

When food is served, all leftovers are taken to the Good Shepherd Kitchen. Also, donations are made to Wesley Wares, Christian Counseling Service, and help to needy families.

Considering their numbers and the years of service they have rendered, the Methodist Men's accomplishments defy their statistics.

An incomplete list of Presidents of Methodist Men:

C. T. Edwards  
Craig May  
Royl Crutchfield  
William Martin  
Dr. J. D. Bulla  
Dan Alexander  
Dr. C. S. Crissman  
Bill Bradshaw  
Ben Barnhill  
Bill Bryant  
Van Powell  
Jimmy Linens

Louis Jarmon  
William A. Aydt  
Calvin Smith  
Eugene Moon  
F. V. Steele, Jr.  
Charles Harden  
Stanley Ray  
David Steele  
Andy Jones  
Charles Collins  
R. T. Hobbs  
Ray Dorsett

E. F. Goldston  
Gordon Painter  
D. W. Wolfe  
Joe James  
Lewis Brackett  
James A. Albright  
Mike Rogers  
Doug Bayliff  
Randy Vanderburg  
Richard Neal  
Eric Crissman  
Gary Morris

**Cates Given UMM Life Membership**

The United Methodist Men of First Church here, presented its prestigious life membership award to Charles A. Cates.

Cates has served the church for nearly 60 years as a member of the UMM, Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, The Administrative Board, of which he is now an honorary



Charles and Ruth Cates

member, and as a Sunday School teacher. He has been a Scout leader of local Troop 41 for at least 35 years and a representative on the Cherokee Council for nearly 50 years.

In the community, Cates has held various offices in Scottish and York Rites, Red Men, Thomas M. Holt Lodge 492 and Masons. He holds a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree in the Masons and has served as their secretary for nearly 35 years. (Copied from an undated newspaper clipping)



Later the Methodist Men honored Nell Mooney.



## Methodist Men's Breakfast

The history of this prayer breakfast goes back to August, 1966. About twenty-five men of the church attended the Conference Laymen's Retreat in Rocky Mount. During the following week Reverend Christian White suggested that these men get together in the kitchen the following Sunday morning for breakfast. This led to beginning a weekly meeting for all men who cared to participate.



Methodist Men prayer breakfast

Two volunteers would come early and prepare the food, and after the meal there would be Bible study and prayer. Gordon Painter said, "Eating together, studying the Bible together, and praying together over the years has taught these men to share their lives with each other; both the joys and sorrows."

Now this group meets only on the first Sunday of each month and all men of the church are welcome.

## WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS Women's Society of Christian Service

In 1968, after the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, there was yet another charter meeting. This time it was the charter meeting of

# Charter Certificate

## WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This certifies that the Charter Meeting  
of the Women's Society of Christian Service of the

First United Methodist Church

Address 303 North Main Street

City Graham State North Carolina Zip 27253

Was held on October 28 1968. The following Officers were elected:

President Mrs. James A. Albright

Vice-President Miss Gladys Amick

Secretary Mrs. Gerald Guthrie

Treasurer Mrs. Lillian Thompson

Chairman of Committee on Nominations

Mrs. K. B. Jenks

Program Area Chairmen

Christian Social Relations Mrs. R. N. Cook

Missionary Education Mrs. C. A. Cates

Spiritual Growth Mrs. J. D. Bulla

175 Number of Charter Members were enrolled in the Society.

Mrs. Harold Mann  
Conference President

Christian White  
Pastor

the Women's Society of Christian Service of First United Methodist Church. There were 175 women who signed the charter. The officers were:

President	Mrs. James Albright
Vice President	Miss Gladys Amick
Secretary	Mrs. Gerald Guthrie
Treasurer	Mrs. Lillian Thompson
Chairman of Committee Nominations	Mrs. K. B. Jenks
Christian Social Relations	Mrs. R. M. Cook
Missionary Education	Mrs. C. A. Cates
Spiritual Growth	Mrs. J. D. Bulla

Once again the name changed. In 1972 the organization became the United Methodist Women; a name in use today. A new mission statement reads:

***Purpose of United Methodist Women***

***To know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.***

A service of celebration was held January 25, 1973. A charter membership list was signed and the women were challenged to continue in mission. There were twelve interest groups with a large attendance at unit meetings. Four years later there were 175 members, total budget of \$1,545 with \$850 of this amount pledged to missions. The women continued to work on projects to help retire bonds for the church debt reduction.



United Methodist Women officers, 1976

L-R, Ruth Albright, Dorothy Lee, president; Louise Buckner, Margaret Carmon, Betty Ruth, Gladys Amick, Vivian Williamson, Jewel Brackett, Sarah Bell Williams

As members become unable to attend meetings they are transferred to a list of "home members" which receive visits, cards, calls, and other remembrances. By 1985 membership totaled 143 with seven interest groups, total budget of \$1,920 and \$1,000 to missions.

Some of the activities in the last few years have included:

Attendance at local, district, and conference meetings

School of Missions

Caring for nursery and kindergarten children during the worship hour

Presentation of Mission Recognition Pins with \$35.00 given in honor of recipient

"Call to Prayer and Self Denial" observance

World Thank Offering

Mission studies (Biblical, geographic, and general issue)

Penny and Prayer Offering

Candle Burning Service in memory or honor of members

Attendance at mother/child retreats

Reading Program

Annual yard sale with a tithe (10%) for missions



Presentation of Baby Memberships



Jewell Brackett presents a Life Membership Pin to Micki Stanfield as Betty Ruth looks on.



Peggy Jenks receives a pin.

Circle number three, 1997



For many years a Gift to Missions has been given to honor the birth of babies born to church members, or grandchildren and great grandchildren of church members. A popular mission for many years has been providing health kits and school kits for mission outreach. Bed linens were given to a newly organized home for young unwed mothers. The women provide "care" boxes (home baked cookies and other snacks) for college students. Their letters of appreciation make this a most worthwhile cause.

In 1997 a Silver Anniversary celebration was observed to recognize the women who had been members since the chartering of the United Methodist Women in 1972.

At the end of 2002 the membership was 102 with 9 home members and the Pledge to Missions was \$1,215 with a total budget of \$3,340. "We have a rich heritage, combining faith, love, and service into a worthy investment, and are challenged to meet the needs of new developments of this day." The conference theme for 2001-2004 is "Ordinary People with an Extraordinary Mission." The United Methodist Women continue to do all local and mission work for and to the glory of God.

The following have served as presidents since Unification:

Mrs. C. D. Brittain	1940-41	Mrs. E. M. Todd	1965-67
Mrs. W. B. Green	1941-42	Mrs. Ken Linens	1967-68
(later Mrs. A.B. Harrington)		Mrs. James Albright	1968-70
Mrs. J. H. McPherson	1942-43	Miss Gladys Amick	1970-72
Mrs. S. S. Holt	1943-44	Mrs. J. D. Bulla	1972-74
Mrs. A. B. McPherson	1944-45	Mrs. L. A. Brackett	1975-77
Mrs. Comann Isley	1945-46	Mrs. Don Lee	1977-80
Mrs. Charles Cates	1946-49	Mrs. Dennis Bell	1980-82
Mrs. Zollie Foster	1949-51	Mrs. Bill Bryant	1982-84
(later Mrs. Grace Pike)		Mrs. Mary Malinski	1984-86
Mrs. Dan Alexander	1951-53	Mrs. Charles Staton	1986-88
Mrs. Morris Burke	1953-56	Mrs. Jewel Brackett	1988-90
Mrs. George Stafford	1956-58	Mrs. Donna Adamski	1991-93
Mrs. Alvis Wilson	1958-60	Mrs. Peggy Bradshaw	1993-94
Mrs. Talton Johnson	1960-61	Mrs. Barbara Crissman	1994-96
Mrs. J. R. Lloyd	1961-63	Mrs. Reba Bulla	1996-98
Mrs. D. C. Williams	1963-65	Mrs. Judith Way	1998-00
Mrs. Betty Hardt	2001-02	Mrs. Dot Hale	2003
		Mrs. Linda Fogleman	2003-04

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS AND SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Dan Alexander  
 Miss Gladys Amick  
 Mrs. J. J. Boone  
 Mrs. J. S. Bowman  
 Mrs. W. A. Bradshaw  
 Mrs. E. D. Brittain  
 Mrs. J. M. Buckner  
 Mrs. C. C. Burke  
 Mrs. C. A. Cates  
 Mrs. J. S. Cook  
 Mrs. R. N. Cook  
 Mrs. R. A. Davis  
 Mrs. C. L. Ezell  
 Miss Emma Foushee  
 Mrs. Zollie Foster  
 Mrs. J. D. Foust  
 Mrs. Sam Freeze  
 Mrs. E. H. Gilliam  
 Mrs. W. R. Goley  
 Miss Alice Green  
 Mrs. O. L. Hathaway  
 Mrs. A. P. Harrington  
 Mrs. I. I. Henderson  
 Mrs. Mildred Hester  
 Mrs. Josephine Holt  
 Mrs. Heenan Hughes  
 Mrs. C. D. Isley  
 Mrs. Joe James  
 Mrs. T. M. Johnson  
 Mrs. Brower McPherson  
 Mrs. W. T. Martin, Sr.  
 Mrs. T. C. Moon  
 Mrs. George Stafford  
 Mrs. Clara Steele  
 Mrs. Foust Thompson  
 Mrs. W. Ernest Thompson  
 Mrs. Ben Waddell  
 Mrs. H. D. Wannamaker  
 Mrs. D. R. Williams  
 Mrs. Myrtle Wilson  
 Mrs. Imogene McPherson  
 Mrs. Lillian Thompson

Mrs. Ernest Brummitt  
 Mrs. J. R. Lloyd  
 Mrs. Rupert Williams  
 Mrs. Vivian Williamson  
 Mrs. James A. Albright  
 Mrs. Sarah Bell Williams  
 Mrs. Percy Amick  
 Mrs. L. G. Vaughn  
 Mrs. Langill Watson  
 Mrs. Ernest Harris  
 Mrs. McIver Todd  
 Mrs. Westmore  
 Mrs. Kenneth Linens  
 Mrs. W. T. Hall  
 Mrs. Christian White  
 Mrs. Ruby Bason  
 Mrs. C. F. Clapp  
 Mrs. Holt Henderson  
 Mrs. Robert Loy  
 Mrs. C. S. Crissman  
 Miss Lizabell Foust  
 Mrs. Fitch Hensley  
 Mrs. Nell Mooney  
 Mrs. Geneva Pickard  
 Mrs. Mildred Walker  
 Mrs. Alice Jean Roddy  
 Mrs. Treva Johnson  
 Mrs. Susan Dail Bulla  
 Mrs. Betty Ruth  
 Mrs. Mickey Stanfield  
 Dr. Willard Goley  
 Mrs. Peggy Jenks  
 Mrs. Camille Staton  
 Mrs. Helen Euliss  
 Mrs. Jewell Brackett  
 Mrs. Margaret Carmen  
 Mrs. Lenore Bennett  
 Mrs. Dorothy Lee  
 Mrs. Marion Whittemore  
 Rev. T. J. Whitehead  
 Mr. Ernest Brummitt  
 Mrs. Margaret Bayliff

Miss Ursal Boswell  
 Mrs. Kay Ferguson  
 Mrs. Charles Harrington  
 Mrs. Velma Hauser  
 Mrs. Doris Loy  
 Mrs. Doris Steele  
 Mr. Brice Turner  
 Mrs. Leota Wilson  
 Mrs. Irene Martin  
 Mrs. Ruth Rudd  
 Mrs. Vickie Eubanks  
 Mrs. Jeanne Owen  
 Mrs. Polly Clark  
 Mrs. Mary Jane Salter  
 Mrs. Grace Lynch  
 Mr. Doug Bayliff  
 Mr. Hulon Briggs  
 Mrs. Cynthia Phillips  
 Mrs. Betty Watson  
 Mr. Ed Barnes (in memory of  
 Judy Barnes)  
 Mrs. Ethel Bradshaw  
 Mrs. Nova Mitchell  
 Mrs. Brenda Loy  
 Mrs. Ann Fenton  
 Mrs. Christine Quigley  
 Rev. Paul Phillips  
 Mrs. Sandra McDonald  
 Mrs. Carolyn Seay  
 Mrs. Rose Folks  
 Mr. David Steele  
 Mrs. Pam Hurt  
 Mrs. Lydia Ricks  
 Mrs. Mary Evelyn Rich  
 Mrs. Mary Young  
 Mrs. Judy Hayes  
 Mrs. Jeanne Owen  
 Mrs. Anita Sherer  
 Mr. Tommy Hayes  
 Mr. Ed Barnes  
 Mr. Ed Lapham  
 Mr. Gene Caudill  
 Mrs. Frances Heath

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

During the years 1970 through 1975, the youth continued to play a vital part in the life of the church. They began planning and conducting a yearly worship service, a tradition that continues today. They held a "Bike Hike" that raised over \$4000 for the Red Cross Disaster Fund.

In 1974 they were given a challenge to raise \$1000 toward the purchase of a bus, with an anonymous donor pledging to give matching funds. They served suppers, held a yard sale, raked leaves, and other projects, and were able to meet their goal.

Also, in 1974 Charles and Camille Staton joined our church and volunteered to work with the youth. Reverend Dennis Ricks saw the need for the young people to get a vision of needs beyond the local church. He encouraged the formation of a Youth Work Team to go to Robeson County to repair and improve homes of some of the residents living in poverty there. The Statons immediately accepted the responsibility for this project, and in the summer of 1977 they took a group to begin a mission that continues each summer. Mike Walters, MYF President in 1977, reported to the Quarterly Conference on February 11, "Youth had a pancake supper to help raise \$500 for paint and building supplies . . ." Throughout the year various fund-raisers were held. The work team's efforts were coordinated by the Robeson County Church and Community Center. An undated article cut from a Red Springs newspaper and written by Margaret Everson had this to say:

I found the occupants of 'The Happy Wanderer' from Graham engaged in an unusual occupation at the Trinity United Methodist Church on last Thursday afternoon. They were in the process of constructing a 'one holer' or to the unenlightened or those too young to remember, an outdoor bathroom. They had no blueprints to follow, but there was a need and to the best of their ability and knowledge they were fulfilling that need....

For the past week this group of young MYF members and their counselors and chaperones from the First United Methodist Church of Graham had been participating, some of them for the fourth time, in a mission project . . . and just in case anyone is wondering, 'The Happy Wanderer' is the name of their white bus that they used for transportation as well as for hauling supplies.

They spent a year raising the money to finance the project by holding yard sales, pancake suppers, Mother and Father's Day projects and other activities. With this money, they paid for the gas for their bus, for their food for a week, as well as the lumber, shingles, nails, tin, and all the other items that were needed for the repair work that they did on several residences ...

They got out of their sleeping bags early in order to be on the job scheduled for the day by 7:15 a.m. and usually put in an eight hour day unless the weather was uncooperative ...

The jobs that were done were varied and some in the group said they learned a lot of new skills and it made them 'feel good to help other people'. The roof of a house was re-shingled, a porch was re-floored and painted, storm windows were installed, a pump house was built, the outhouse was constructed and installed, and a tin roof was patched and repaired during the week spent in Red Springs.

Home for the fifteen workers during the week was the Fellowship Hall of the Trinity United Methodist Church, where they slept in sleeping bags and used the kitchen for cooking. Several said that the things they missed most were 'a soft bed and a good hot shower'. They were also running out of clean clothes. ... Devotions were held each night and an evaluation was made of each day's work.

After the first trip, the following was printed in the church bulletin:

The Senior High UMYF and their Counselors wish to thank the entire congregation for the moral and financial support of their money-making projects throughout the year. Because of your support, happiness came to three dear old ladies last week in Robeson County. With our funds and hard work, we were able to accomplish more than was asked of us. There is no way to describe the appreciation and love they felt toward us. Our love for them and the impressions they made on our lives shall long be remembered. We are truly grateful for having had the opportunity to represent this church on a mission work team in Robeson County.

In 1984, the *Alamance News* wrote about the work team and quoted Mona Moon, who was there for her third year:

"All my life I've had stuff, everything has come easy to me, I wanted to see what it (poverty) was like and see if I could help them."

A letter dated July 31, 1985, from Shirley Jones, Director of the Robeson County Church and Community Center, had this to say:

It was really great to have you all return to Robeson County, ... I personally appreciate your hard work, skills, talents and love shared during the week. All of the jobs were done well and appreciated by all.

Also, thanks for the contribution of \$930 for building materials.

May God continue to bless all of you with good health and good resources so that those less fortunate may also be blessed.



First Workteam to Robeson County



No report of this work team could be complete without saying that Charles and Camille were the counselors for this project for many years. Among other adults who have participated were:

Jackie Sharpe	Roger Jones
Jerry Priska	Ed Lapham
Enos McDonald	Ray Dorsett
Cynthia Powell	Mary Young
Suzanne Brown	Faye Barnwell
Christine Quigley	Rodney Shotwell

At the writing of this book, the trip to Robeson County is still one of the highlights of their year for the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

In recent years, the youth have not had to have so many different ways of raising money for the trip to Robeson County. They have been able to sell hot dogs at Carolina football games. In 1991, Louise Collins, one of the youth counselors, learned of the opportunity to work concession stands at home games and keep part of the proceeds. This has given them a chance to make money and have fun at the same time. It has proved to be a success in fund raising as well as a great way to get more youth involved, according to their counselors. Although there are no complete records, some of the parents and counselors who have helped with this activity have been Steve Van Pelt, Reverend Marshall Old, Richard and Toni Ennis, James Fogleman, Louise and Charles Collins, Mike and Tara Beaver, and Enos McDonald.

Through the years there have been many other projects undertaken by the MYF. Some of these have been collecting money for UNICEF; participating in Crop Walks and cancer drives; helping elderly members with raking, painting, washing windows, etc.; and sponsoring children with World Vision International. This has always been one of the most active groups in the church and represents our hopes for the future.



Enos and Pam  
McDonald

Records show the following as presidents of the MYF, but this may not be complete.

James Fuller	Amy Buckner	Iris Ruth Sledge
John L. Amick	W. T. Pugh	Patricia Durham
Clara Faye Pugh	Ivey Gilliam	Betsy Kirkman
Betty Lou Pugh	Layton Gunter, Jr.	Jeanette Bradshaw
H. C. Callahan, Jr.	Bernard McPherson	Richard Johnson
Diana Foster	Keith Bulla	Joe Johnson
Mary Pat Evans	Joyce Painter	Ann Albright
Carol Evans	Linda Bayliff	Pamela Foust
Charles Crissman	Jack Deason	Mark Crissman
Clay Foushee	June Gayle Turner	Russell Guthrie
Jan Beagle	Laura Ruth	Susan Staton
Cathy Williams	Edward Heath	Andrieane Barnwell
Chris Shambley	Lori Johnson	Jeannie Lapham
Stephanie Young	Donnie Dutton	Linda Holmes
Emily Rayle	Kathryn Van Pelt	Casey Perry
Megan Linens	Nathan Weaver	Lindley Hardie
Greg Staton	Bill Heath	Mike Moon
Tara Lapham	Kelly Cummings	Josh McDonald
Greg Jenks	Ellen McPherson	

In 2003, Junior High Counselors were Martin and Marilyn Perkey, and officers were:

President – Tripp Sharpe  
Vice President – Megan O’Neal  
Secretary – Ashley Fulkerson  
Treasurer – Kathryn Snotherly  
Youth Council Representatives – Dylan Bowes and Jonathan Sherer

In 2003, Senior High Counselors were Suzanne Brown and Howard James, and officers were:

President – Josh McDonald  
Vice President – Joseph Walker  
Secretary/Treasurer – Somer Hall  
Youth Council Representatives – Amber White, Courtney Hurt,  
Jonathan Tate, Austin Wood, and Drew Perkey

Junior High Officers for the year 2004-2005 are as follows:

President – Amy Vass  
Vice-President – Jared Hurt  
Secretary-Treasurer – Emily Walker  
Youth Council Representatives – Sixth grade – Jacob Fulkerson, Seventh Grade  
Dylan Bowes, Eighth Grade – Jonathan Sherer



The church now has a Youth Design Team whose function is to look at the needs of our Youth Ministries and adapt programs to meet their needs.

Senior High Officers for 2004-2005 are as follows:

President – Drew Perkey

Programs Committee Co-Chairs: William Vanderburg & Austin Wood

This group will help make decisions about the materials used for MYF programs.

Service and Missions Committee Co-Chairs: Courtney Hurt and Amber White

This group will brainstorm ideas for our monthly service projects.

Church Outreach Committee Co-Chairs: Ashley Fulkerson and Lauren Perkey

This group will be responsible for making sure the church knows what is going on in the Senior High MYF.

Budget and Fund Raising Committee Co-Chairs: Summer Hall and Jonathan Tate. This group will oversee MYF fund raising projects.

In August, 2004, special tribute was paid to Enos McDonald for nineteen years of unwavering dedication to the youth of the church.

## THE YOUNG IN HEART SENIORS

The Graham Senior Citizens Club, sponsored by the church, was organized March 5, 1968. This organization was comprised of thirty-two members representing eleven denominations. Meetings were held in the Friendly Helpers classroom. Arts, crafts, instructional classes and trips were among the activities. Eva Graham taught an exercise class, Ercelle Hensley taught knitting, Nell Mooney instructed quilting and making broom handle caps. Other classes such as oil painting and wood carving were offered. The men gained a reputation for playing checkers while the ladies quilted.

“The Happy Wanderer” became a part of this group in the 70s as it provided transportation for those “wonderful, educational, inspirational, and recreational trips.” The bus was named by Mrs. Ruth Cates and painted by Mrs. Betty Ruth. (It ceased to wander in 1986 and was replaced by another bus.) Bus drivers included Bill Ayt, Charles Harden, Chalmers Bennett, Gene Moon, Bill Bradshaw and others.

The Young In Heart group evolved from the Graham Senior Citizens Club. By 1982, the different churches had started their own senior groups. Membership naturally dropped, but Mrs. Nell Mooney became president and built the numbers up to a record 76. A scholarship fund was established and this required money-making projects. The

first one was a "Memory Quilt". Names were sold and then embroidered on the quilt. Mrs. Elizabeth Burke was the high bidder at \$500. The project raised a total of \$1500. Participation in the annual Charity Bazaar at the mall began in 1983. Fund raising activities continue and various charities become recipients of the proceeds. Also, there is a \$500 scholarship awarded each year.

In 1984, the name was changed from Senior Citizens to "The Graham Methodist Young In Heart", and the By-Laws were amended. This active segment of our church continues to fulfill the original purposes of "providing rich and varied opportunities for service to others, learning and socializing, providing wholesome recreation, promoting good fellowship for the aging citizens of the church and to strive to encourage these people to use and further develop their talents and continue to be useful citizens."

#### Presidents of The Young In Heart Club:

Mrs. Winnie Harrington  
Mrs. Ethel Martin  
Rev. T. J. Whitehead  
Mrs. Nell Mooney  
Mr. Harvey Shoffner  
Mrs. Vivian Williamson  
Mrs. Mary Helen Linens

Mrs. Dora Cook  
Miss Emma Foushee  
Mrs. Nell Mooney  
Miss Amy Bucker  
Mrs. Betty Watson  
Mrs. Frances Heath  
Mrs. Dorothy Lee



Senior Citizen Bazaar, Nicks Store, 1968



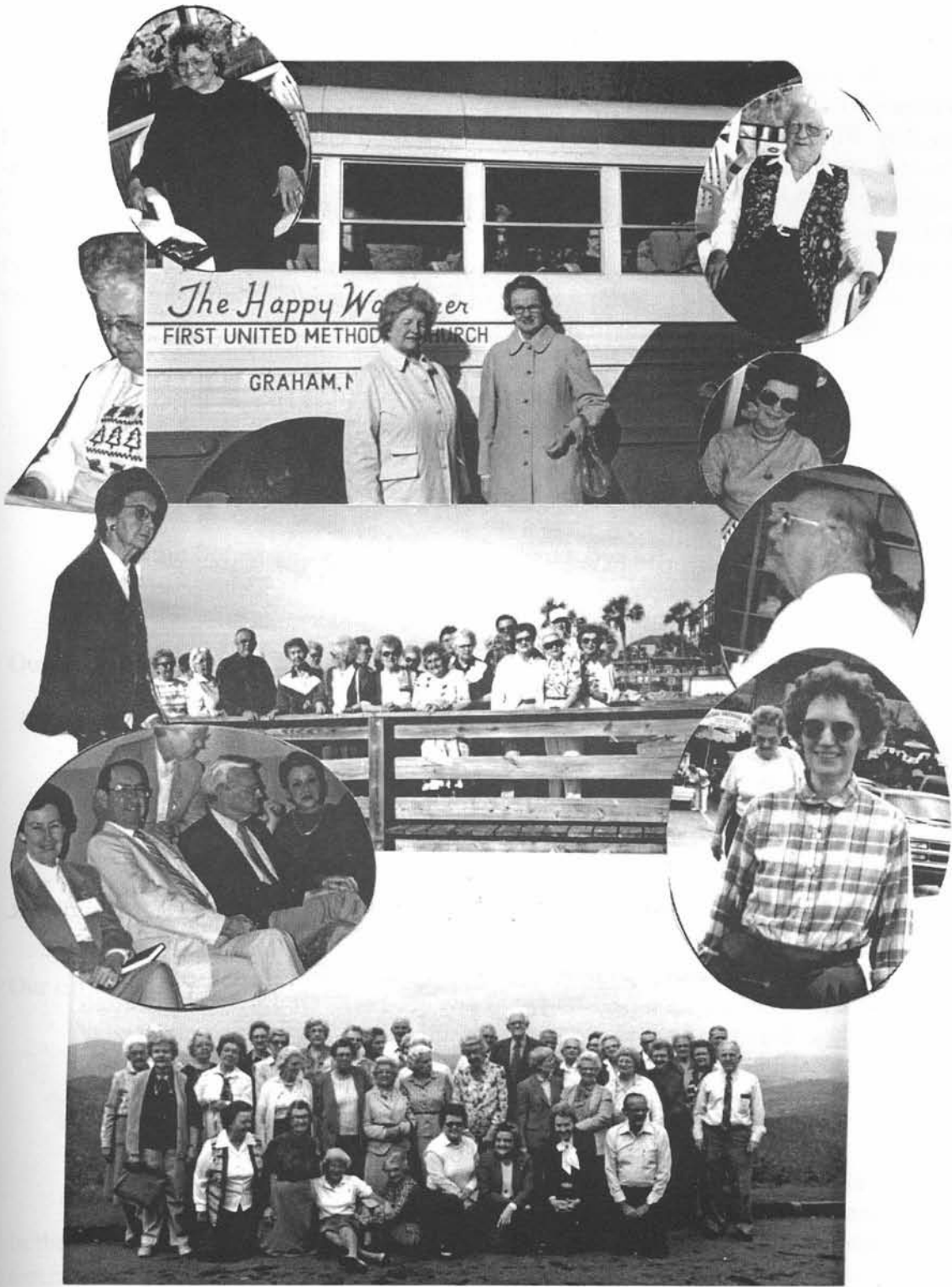
Nell Mooney and Louise Hardy quilting



Young in Heart Mountain Trip



More fun for the Seniors



Those traveling Senior Citizens

## BOY SCOUTS

Troop # 41 was registered as a part of the Cherokee Council of Boy Scouts of America, on July 30, 1937, under the sponsorship of the Men's Bible Class of the Methodist Protestant Church. At the 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly conference, the Reverend Surratt proudly announced: "The church through a Sunday School class sponsors a Boy Scout troop. This is a most worthy project. The parents and leaders of our church should give the Scout Master their hearty support. The information secured in such an organization will be of great value toward future leadership. We commend it and hope that a similar organization among the girls will be formed."

The first scout master was Charles Cates and the first troop committee was:

J. S. Cook, Chairman	J. H. McPherson
John Webster	Lawrence Cheek
W. T. Medlin	

There have been a number of scout masters through the years including:

Frank Fricks	W. W. Cathey
Jerry Cummings	Dan Alexander
Ted Hogan	Alvis Wilson
John Lee McPherson	Gerald Donaldson

Assistants have included:

Clyde Kirkman	Frank Rudd
Howard Walters	Walter Graham
	and others.

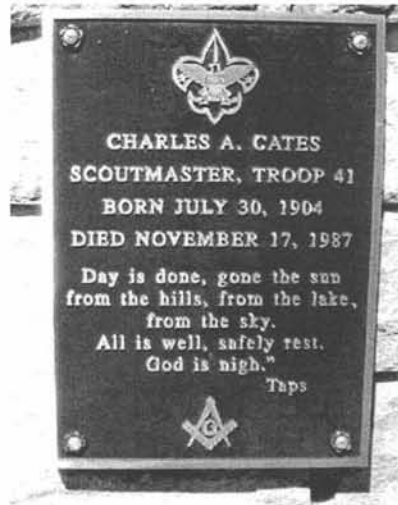
Report of Troop #41 to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly conference in 1941 by Charles Cates and A. R. Wilson read:

Troop #41 sponsored by the Men's Class of the Methodist Church has completed its fourth year of scouting as of July 31, 1941. Of the eight boys originally in this troop there are three of them still active. The troop is composed of 24 boys; 14 of which are tenderfeet, 3 second class, 1 first class, 1 star and 1 life scout. Fourteen of these boys have uniforms. The enrollment this year increased by 10 and only 1 boy dropped from membership.

The troop has had so far this year 9 overnight camping trips and 3 swimming trips. The senior patrol has had 1 overnight trip and 3 specialized trips since it was organized in June.

The troop was awarded the highest grade given at our annual district camporee and we are very proud of it since it will enable us to take part in the big camporee at Chapel Hill from September 18<sup>th</sup> through September 21 inclusive.

The troop had 10 boys at Camp Cherokee for an aggregate of 16 Boy weeks. During this period one of the boys passed his Junior Life Saving test and others passed tests that will help them to receive awards.



Our troop committee is now composed of:

J. S. Cook, chairman and secretary  
D. Brittain, transportation  
J. H. McPherson, activities  
Martin, Camping  
Henderson, merit badges  
John R. Edwards, counselor  
Webster, court of honor

Our officers are:

C. A. Cates, Scoutmaster  
A. R. Wilson, Assistant Scoutmaster  
John Lee McPherson, Senior Patrol Leader  
Richard Parks and Kester Lee Jones, Patrol Leaders  
Harvey Foushee, Scribe

In the early forties, Mr. Cates appeared before the Board and presented for their "consideration and approval" the organizing of a Cub Scout Troop. He stated that our church had a well organized scout troop for older boys and two Brownie Troops for the girls. The need had come for a cub scout troop. A motion was made and carried. The church

## Scouts Leave For New Mexico Trip



**READY FOR TRIP** - Three of the four Boy Scouts from Graham who left Saturday for Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron,

New Mexico are pictured above. Left to right are Tommy Walters, Paul and Eric Crissman talking with their Scoutmaster

C. A. Cates. Not pictured is Steve Harden who also made the New Mexico trip.

Four Graham boys left on Saturday from Camp Wenasa near Brown's Summit with a group of 66 scouts and 7 counselors to attend the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico.

The boys are Steve Harden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Junius Harden; Tommy Walters, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Walters; and Paul and Eric Crissman, sons of Dr. and Mrs. C. S. Crissman.

While at the ranch the boys will spend nine days on the trail, hiking and riding on horseback through the mountains and desert.

They will dine on dehydrated food supplies which will be left for them at various caches along the trail. Each boy is permitted three pieces of luggage, a small airplane bag, a knapsack, and a bedroll and he must take all of his equipment with on the trail.

Following their stay at the ranch for the national camporee, the boys will visit the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, and Painted Desert while enroute to visit Disneyland. In addition to this they will visit Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks and

spend a day in San Francisco and in Salt Lake City. On their return trip home, the boys will visit Jackson Lake, the Grand Tetons, and Yellowstone National Park, with their last visit being Mt. Rushmore in the Black Hills.

While the scouts are enroute they will spend the nights at army, air force, and naval installations along the way.

### Scout Activities



formed a cub pack under the direction of Talton Johnson who proved to be an outstanding leader. The pack was divided into dens and each den had a Den Mother, assistant Den Mother and a Den Chief. A church bulletin of the 1960s listed some of these Den Mothers:

Mrs. Dan Alexander	Mrs. Paul Bason
Mrs. Betty Holt	Mrs. Joe James
Mrs. Edmund Morrison	Mrs. Garland Marshall
Mrs. Robert Devoe	Mrs. Sam Gooden
Mrs. Jerry Penley	Mrs. Junior Fayne
Mrs. Buncie Bunting	Mrs. Graham Call
Mrs. Pat Steele	Mrs. Helen Davis
Mrs. Doris Lynch	Mrs. Kathryn Tapper

Later, Dan Alexander and William Edwards were in charge of the Cub Pack and had a successful tenure.

Ben Burke was Troop Chairman during the 1950s. Mr. Charles Cates remained scout master and Walter Graham was assistant. The statistical report for September 22, 1953, was:

Active scouts	16
Life Scouts	2
Star Scouts	2
First Class Scouts	3
Second Class Scouts	6
Tender Foot Scouts	3
Merit Badges awarded	34

The 1954 Scout Committee was:

Ben Burke, Chairman	L. H. Gunter
L. T. Jarmon	Walter Gibson
Gordon Painter	H. T. Hogan
Wade Swanner	T. M. Johnson
Reverend T. J. Whitehead	

When the Explorer Post was organized, its leaders were Mr. and Mrs. John Lee McPherson.

By the middle 1960s, nineteen boys were awarded the Eagle Scout Award; an outstanding accomplishment for such a small group.





The Howard Walters and Dr. Crissmans with their Eagle Scouts



The Lenis Miller family with four sons who were all Eagle Scouts

Later the organization was composed of:

Charles Cates as Institutional Representative  
Dr. C. S. Crissman, Chairman of the Troop Committee  
Walter Graham  
Frank Rudd  
O. Hulon Briggs  
Howard Walters

Jack Burnette was the scout master and Eric Crissman and Thomas Segal were the assistant scout masters.

Regrettably, the Scout Program declined during the eighties and nineties. However, interest and enthusiasm were revived in 1998. In early April a detailed report was given at an Official Board meeting that indicated there was enough interest to have 1-5 groups of Cub Scouts and 2 Boy Scout groups. The biggest need was for leaders. Undaunted, Jerry Cummings made a motion to re-charter Troop #41. The motion carried unanimously.

June 8, 1998 – “The Scout Program is moving along and Jerry Cummings has agreed to co-ordinate.” The Methodist Men agreed to be the sponsor for a Cub Scout Pack with about 15 boys.

In the year 2000 the Scouts were re-chartered as the old Troop #41. Jerry Cummings, Mark McIntyre, Reverend Otto Hardt, Doug Bayliff, Eric Crissman, and Bobby Loy are to receive credit for jump-starting this program again.

Mr. Charles Cates was elected scout master in 1937, a position he held for twenty-eight years. In the year 2003 a plaque was placed in The Nell Mooney Garden in his memory.

## GIRL SCOUTS

Information is scarce or unobtainable for most years of the Girl Scouts. Church bulletins gave us the following pieces of information:

March 10, 1963 – “...a most happy welcome to the Brownies and Girl Scouts who worship with us today. The Methodist Church has been proud to co-operate with the GSA through the years, is pledged to continuing co-operation as the Girl Scouts move forward in their service to God and country.”

The church sponsored Troop #40 under the leadership of Mrs. Junius Harden and Mrs. Jack Henderson. Troop #43 was led by Mrs. Royle Crutchfield and Mrs. Pete Foster. Troop #22 had Mrs. D. C. Williams and Mrs. Jack Williams for leaders. Their twelve



Girl Scouts

members received the Curved Bar Award.

In 1964 Troop #40 with 19 girls was sponsored by the T. J. Whitehead Class, Troop #98 with 24 girls was sponsored by the Junior Wesleyan Class, and the 24 girls in Troop #668 was sponsored by the Men's Bible Class. Mrs. Lewis Ruth and Mrs. Richard Parks joined with Mrs. D. C. Williams as leaders. Mrs. Williams was also the Piedmont Council Board member and Travel Consultant.

Mary Young provided the following information for the years 1980-1984 for Brownies Troop #668: She and Carolyn Lapham were scout leaders. Among the many activities they led the girls in were:

- Observation of Girl Scout Sundays
- An Investment Ceremony, October 6, 1981
- Planting flower bulbs at the church
- Birthday party in memory of Juliette Lowe (National founder)
- Awards Ceremonies
- Participation in the Graham Christmas Parade

Also, during this period Mary Young received an "Outstanding Leader" award and certificates of Recognition for Outstanding service.

Known members of the Brownie Troop were:

Carey Crissman	Ashley Epps
Megan Edwards	Leslie Moser
Stephanie Young	Dena Edens
Lori Johnson	Jeannie Lapham
Lori Moser	Melanie Moser

## CHILD CARE PROGRAM

In the summer of 1984, First United Methodist Church voted to start a morning playschool program for children ages two, three and four. After hiring a teacher for the two year olds, and a director/teacher for the three and four year olds, the program began in September with an enrollment of fourteen children. As the year progressed, enrollment increased to thirty-six. In 1985 the playschool offered two classes each for children ages two, three, and four. A Mother's Morning Out program for babies and toddlers was started and another teacher was hired. Enrollment then stood at fifty. Also in 1985, the church voted to start a separate after school program for school-aged



Faye Waddell, Director of  
Child Care Ministries

children in grades kindergarten through fifth grade from South Graham Elementary, North Graham Elementary, and Haw River Elementary Schools. There were twenty-six children enrolled and two teachers on staff. In the summer of 2000, a Sunbeams summer program began for preschool children.

Nearly two thousand children in this community know this church as their first school or summer camp. Today there is an enrollment of one hundred twenty-four children and a staff of eleven.

The staff is composed of:

Faye Waddell, Childcare Ministries Director

Renee Babb  
Christine Morazes  
Wendy Brown  
Penny Hardie  
Robin Moore  
Vickie Workman

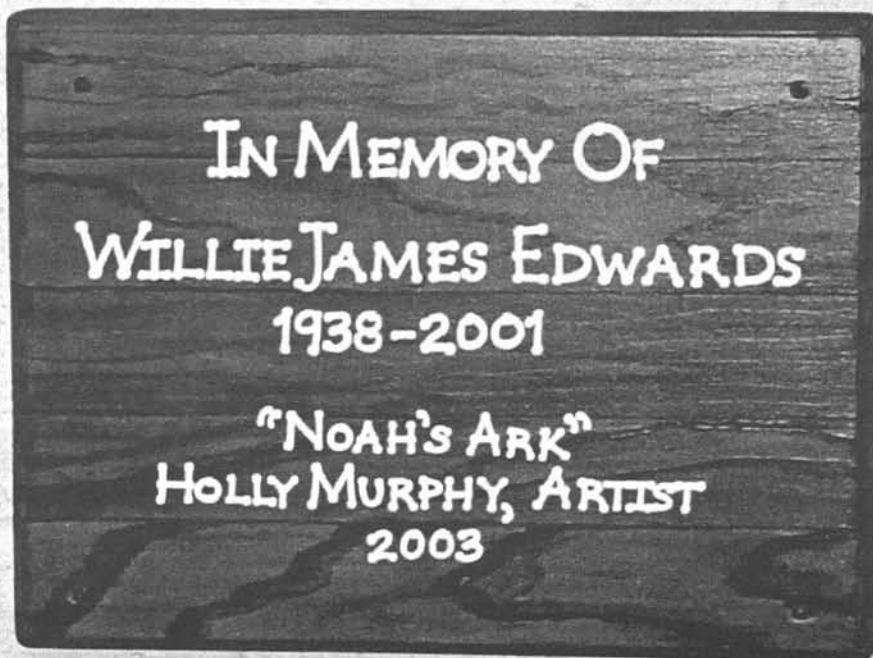
Michele Boydston  
Donna Snotherly  
Kim Staton  
Greta Thomas  
Jackie Younts  
Wendy Lane

**Dedication of Noah's Ark Mural in memory of  
Willie James Edwards  
November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003.**

(Excerpts from the Dedication Speech by Faye Waddell, Director of Child Care Ministries.)

... Mr. Edwards was a special man in this community during his lifetime and touched many lives through his kindness, his generosity, and his friendship. In January, 2001, when Mr. Edwards went to his eternal home many monetary gifts were made to the Play School in his memory. Artist Holly Murphy was

commissioned to create a Noah's Ark wall sculpture to be placed in the child care hallway as a memorial to the life of Mr. Edwards. ...Our Play School is honored to have friends like the Edwards family and we are thrilled to honor the memory of Willie James Edwards with the Noah's Ark mural....



## ADULT WORKTEAMS

For more than a dozen years, a small group of senior adults has spent a week repairing and upgrading the homes of needy and elderly people in a poverty stricken area called Frakes, Kentucky.

Charles and Camille Staton are the co-founders and coordinators for this project. Team members have to supply the \$5000 needed for building materials and supplies. The church cooperates with fund-raising events annually such as a pancake supper, yard sales, and golf tournaments.

The team works in conjunction with personnel in the United Methodist Church's Red Bird Conference, which operates the Henderson Settlement Ministry at Frakes. Conference representatives select the projects for the workteam based on need. Our team then selects from the list those which they feel capable of accomplishing within the week. After morning devotions in the Frakes Methodist Church the group works an eight-hour day. Team members have been: Ed and Judy Barnes, Nancy Gant, Cynthia Powell, Gene, Marie and Mona Moon, Frank Rudd, Roy Salter, Ed and Carolyn Lapham, Jim and Rose Folks, Gwen and Mark McIntyre, Emma Lou Bird, Ray Warren, Jeff and Reba Bulla, Jeanne Neal, and Doug Bayliff.

Making a difference in  
Frakes, Kentucky



Another year at Frakes

In 1995 the first young adult workteam led by Rodney Shotwell went to Onslow County to work for Habitat for Humanity. From 1996 – 2001 their work was centered in the Carteret County area. Participants were:

Leigh Hayes  
Ben Young  
Mandy Folks

Jeff Rayle  
Chad Fogleman  
Josh Herrin

Chuck VanPelt  
Linda Holmes

## THE VAN MINISTRY

Doug Bayliff recalled that his ministry with neighborhood children began by a “direct command from God.” About five years ago he loaded up as many neighborhood children from diverse circumstances as his car would accommodate and brought them to church. Word spread rapidly and the numbers increased. This ministry not only serves as a “Sunday Ministry” but meets an educational and enrichment segment with field trips throughout the week. Our church responded by use of the church van for transportation and individual monetary contributions. Doug stated the greatest reward was as these children pile into the van to attend church “no one makes them get dressed to go to church; it is their choice. They choose to attend.”

The Van Ministry also serves adults living within a five mile radius by providing transportation to church on Sunday.

## THE LAMPLIGHTERS

The Lamplighters are individuals, led by Doug Bayliff, who put into practice Matthew 25:40 “...Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Menial tasks such as repair work are provided for those unable to take care of such needs. The church endorses this help through the budget, and donations from recipients, though not required, are used to purchase materials and supplies.

Doug Bayliff initiated the program and has received help from numerous individuals including Tommy Hayes, Roy Salter, Charles Staton, Ed Barnes, Dot Lee, and Dobby May.

## THURSDAY PRAYER BREAKFAST

*Prayer of Protection*  
*The light of God surrounds me;*  
*The love of God enfolds me;*  
*The power of God protects me;*  
*The presence of God watches over me.*  
*Wherever I am, God is.*  
*-Anon*

Praying this prayer in unison establishes the mindset for the Thursday Morning Prayer Breakfast. In February, 2002, several church members felt the need for such a group.





Thursday prayer breakfast

About fourteen people now participate. After devotions and breakfast, prayer lists are distributed and more names added as the need is felt. Notes are mailed to those new names letting them know they are being remembered in prayer.

This group of committed people surely makes a difference in the life of The First United Methodist Church.

## ACOLYTES

During the pastorate of Reverend Langill Watson, a program was started to have acolytes to assist in the worship services. At first this was only for young boys but in more recent years extended to girls as well. Quoting from a bulletin of the time:

The office of Acolyte is an ancient one in the Christian Church. The word "acolyte" comes from Greek meaning "to follow, to accompany, to escort". Timothy, the helper of Paul, was the first acolyte.

The purpose of our Chapter of Acolytes is to allow boys a positive way to serve our Lord in His Church. It is hoped that such service will contribute to their whole development as Christians.

The chapter is sponsored by the Commission on Worship. The pastor of the church serves as counselor of the group.

To be an acolyte a boy must be under sixteen years of age, be a confirmed member of the church, promise to study a given body of information about the history, practices, and worship of the Church. The chapter meets monthly and all acolytes are expected to attend. These meetings are devoted to study, service, and the business of the Chapter.

At the time of installation each boy was given the following charge:

Before you are installed into the Office of Acolyte, consider what it is that you accept. The duty of the acolyte is to light the lights of the Church, to receive the offerings of the people, to assist the Pastor wherever needed in the services of the Church, and to see that the sacred vessels of the Church are kept in good order. In fulfilling these duties it is important that you lead a personal life in keeping with this high Office and that at all times you set a high example of reverence and devotion in the worship and services of the Church.

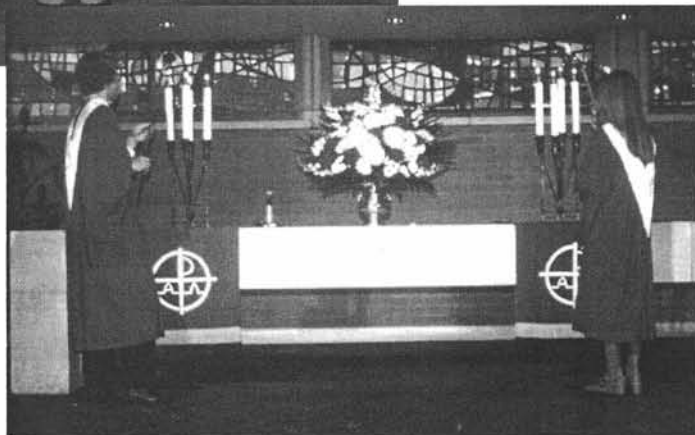
According to this undated copy and Eric Crissman's remembrances, Paul and Eric Crissman and Tommy Walters were the first acolytes, having already served more than three years.

Senior Acolytes (three or more years of service) were:

Eric Crissman	Charles Crissman
David Bason	Steve Crofts

Junior Acolytes (one year or more) were:

Don Albright	Mark Crissman	Lynn Lloyd
Doug Cheek	Steve Graham	Steve Martin
Jeff Cheek	Bobby James	Chip Turner



The current acolytes for 2004-2005 are:

Dylan Bowes	Chad Ferrell	Heather Ferrell
Ashley Fulkerson	Jacob Fulkerson	Courtney Hurt
Jared Hurt	Arena Jackson	Kelly Linens
Allison Loy	Dodson McPherson	Megan O'Neal
Drew Perkey	Lauren Perkey	Tripp Sharpe
Jonathan Sherer	Kathryn Snotherly	Tyler Staton
Angel Taylor	Amy Vass	Emily Walker
Joseph Walker	Amber White	Austin Wood

Leigh Hayes has been the acolyte coordinator for the past several years.

## CHURCH MUSIC

“O for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer’s praise,” is taken as the “key-note of the whole of Methodism.” It was Charles Wesley, John’s brother, who wrote the hymns which so faithfully recorded their experiences as their spiritual states advanced. Charles Wesley gave the Methodist movement “life, warmth, and heart in the hymns which provided the necessary emotional outlet of the people.” He is credited with putting into the simple words of his songs those thoughts about the truth of Christianity which we have been repeating for years. His tunes were dignified with an emphasis on theology.

John Wesley adapted and combined features of the Moravian bands and choirs. Following is a list of rules or directions for congregational singing taken from his *Select Hymns, 1761*.

## DIRECTIONS FOR SINGING

- I. Learn these tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.
- II. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.
- III. Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing.
- IV. Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep, but lift up your voice with strength. Be

no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

- V. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.
- VI. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.
- VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.



Lacking the music of Charles, the preaching of John Wesley would have been far less effective. Charles Wesley ranks among the half dozen greatest hymn writers in the English-speaking world.

*Early hymnal published by John and Charles Wesley*

*The music of Charles Wesley as he wrote it*



At the General Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, December 27, 1784, when the church was given the name the Methodist Episcopal Church, a set of rules and regulations were formed to be practiced. The question was asked, "How shall we reform our singing?" The answer: "Let all the preachers who have any knowledge of singing by note improve it and sing by rule, and keep close to Mr. Wesley's tunes and hymns."

Directions were also given to avoid "formality in singing."

1. By choosing such hymns as are proper for the people
2. By not singing too much at once; seldom more than 5 or 6 verses
3. By suiting the tune to the words
4. By often stopping short and asking the people: "Now do you know what you said last? Did you speak no more than you felt?"
5. Introduce no new tune until the people are perfect in the old.
6. Exhort every person in the congregation to sing, not one in ten only.

Between 1805 – 1843 Methodists printed seventeen different hymn books for use. Some of these hymns were familiar and sung by memory. Others had to be "lined out" by the preacher or a song leader using a tuning fork. That meant singing a line which would then be repeated by the congregation. Another method used to encourage total congregational participation was the chorus, where lines might be repeated for easy memorization. Therefore, "shouting Methodists" ensued. Eventually little reed or pump organs appeared in churches near the end of the nineteenth century. In the Eulogy for Reverend Milloway (1861-1939), it was revealed that he had given his old organ to be traded in on one for the newly organized Methodist Protestant Church.

Reverend Surratt reported at the Methodist Protestant Church Quarterly Conference on October 27, 1936:

The music of the church has been good. It is to be regretted that the Men's Chorus was of such a short life. The regular choir is to be commended for their faithfulness. The young people are meeting weekly and show promise. We earnestly caution that the light and jazzy type of music will not find fetching ears and take the place of a finer type.

On November 23, 1937, he reported:

Another matter of importance to the effectiveness and interest of the church is church music. We have some faithful persons who attend rehearsals and are willing to learn music. Many people enjoy good music, but it seems a very few are willing to participate and provide attractive selections for church purposes. Your influence for better music is eagerly awaited and solicited.

For many years the leaders of the music ministry for each church volunteered their services. Board minutes for September 22, 1952, reported that Mr. James Cole was to be employed as choir director at a salary of \$540 for the year and \$100 allocated to choir music. At the February 16, 1959, board meeting, Mr. Cole stated "...in the past seven weeks they have had five different organists at \$5.00 each." Mr. James Albright made a motion that Mr. Cole secure an organist at \$25.00 a month. The motion carried.

# NORTH CAROLINA *Christian* ADVOCATE

Volume 109

Greensboro, N. C., February 20, 1964

Number 8



PICTURED ABOVE ARE THE COMBINED CHOIRS OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, GRAHAM

First Methodist Church, Graham, has an outstanding choir program, with 140 members participating in five choirs. The Cherub Choir which is composed of five- and six-year olds has an enrollment of 26. Mrs. Howard Walters is their director and Mrs. C. A. Catas is their pianist. Mrs. H. L. Watson, the minister's wife, directs the Primary Choir which is composed of 34 second and third graders. The Junior Choir, composed of 32 fourth, fifth and sixth graders, is directed by Mrs. C. S. Crissman. The 21 junior highs who sing in the Youth Choir are directed by Miss Jane Sidbury and accompanied by Mrs. Dewey Hall.

Each of these choirs, with the exception of the Cherub Choir, participate in the Sunday morning worship services once a month. The rehearsals for the choirs are informative and interesting and emphasis

is placed on participation rather than performance. Throughout the year outings and other special activities are planned for them. In the summer special emphasis is placed on extra activities for them.

Choir Mothers are organized to work with each of the children's choirs. These organizations consist of a general chairman and committees on transportation, refreshments, telephoning, and making and repairing robes.

The Chancel Choir Director is Bill Kirkpatrick, who is an outstanding radio and television soloist and choir director in this area. Mr. Kirkpatrick is a dedicated Christian who is devoted to his work and is an inspiration to our people. There are 27 adults in the Chancel Choir. Mrs. James M. Ward is the organist.

The church is very proud of the choirs for they make a fine contribution to the worship services.



On May 16, 1955, Reverend Whitehead reported: "One of our most active groups is the choir which meets each week for rehearsals. Anthems and other special selections have been a real inspiration in morning worship services. The Men's Chorus sings at the evening service and the group has a vital place in the work of the church." In his 1958-59 report he stated, "Tower chimes had been installed and each Sunday morning the call to worship from these goes out over the whole community."

At the September 16, 1957, board meeting, Mr. W. A. Miller announced that an Allen Organ had been purchased at the cost of \$3,945. A special program was given by the choir at the first Sunday night service. This program was composed of special hymns and anthems. A free-will offering was taken to be applied on the Organ Fund. Just a few months later, February 16, 1958, the organ debt was paid.

In 1964, the Chancel Choir included four members who had been members of the Methodist Protestant or the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, choirs prior to unification. They were:

Mrs. J. D. Linens  
Mrs. C. E. McLeod  
Mrs. Comann Isley  
Mrs. Dan Rader

During the next decades, many volunteers helped with the children's choirs. Among them were:

Pam Phfisterer	Jane Sidbury
Mary Jane Salter	Mrs. C. A. Cates
Sybil Walters	Mrs. Dewey Hall
Lucy Green	Mrs. Elizabeth Watson
Doris Crissman	Lib Martin
Barbara Lowe	Frances Heath.

For many, many years there was an active men's quartet composed of:

Dan Alexander  
James Linens  
Kenneth Linens  
James Ward

Currently the men's quartet, known as **J.E.S.S.**, includes:

Jerry Cummings  
Ed Barnes  
Steve Hamrick  
Steve Van Pelt  
Accompanist - Mary Anne Van Pelt



In 1988, under the leadership of Paula Boswell, a choir for senior citizens was organized. They named themselves the XYZ Choir (Extra Years of Zeal). The choir remains active and sings for the Sunday Morning Worship Service quarterly along with the Chancel Choir. This ministry of music is enjoyable and rewarding to both the congregation and the choir. In 2003, it was calculated that the combined ages of the XYZ Choir was 1,787 years with an average age of 77.5 years.

The Adult Hand Bell Choir was formed in 1982 under the direction of Choir Director, Paula Boswell. Three octaves of hand bells were purchased from designated memorials and donations. A few years later chimes were added, a gift from Gordon and Cindy Oliver. This group performs at designated worship services and attends an annual Hand Bell Conference. The current members are:

Susan Rayle	Karla Priska
Christy Priska	Steve Van Pelt
Tim Priska	Mary Ann Van Pelt
Pam Hurt	Kathy Althouse
Camille Staton	Doug Rayle, Director
Ed Barnes	

“*The United Methodist Hymnal*, approved by the 1988 General Conference is the latest entry of our distinguished line of hymnals and worship resources. It embodies our former Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren traditions.” A supplement, *The Faith We Sing*, has been produced to include newer music as well as some old favorites. These two songbooks are currently being used in our services.

Through the years there have been many directors and accompanists for the choirs. Among those who served:

Mr. H. M. Rogers	Mrs. Parker Green
Mrs. C. C. (Agnes) Burke	Mr. James E. Thigpen
Mr. Bemis Core	Miss Linda Durham
Miss Elizabeth Byrd	Mr. Terry Woodings
Mrs. C. A. (Ruth) Cates	Ms. Ann Gordon
Mrs. William (Dot) Miller	Ms. Linda Coyne
Mr. James Cole	Mr. Don Harris
Ms. Frances Ward	Mr. Larry Tubbs
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Miss Paula Boswell
Mrs. Chester Alexander	Mr. Doug Rayle

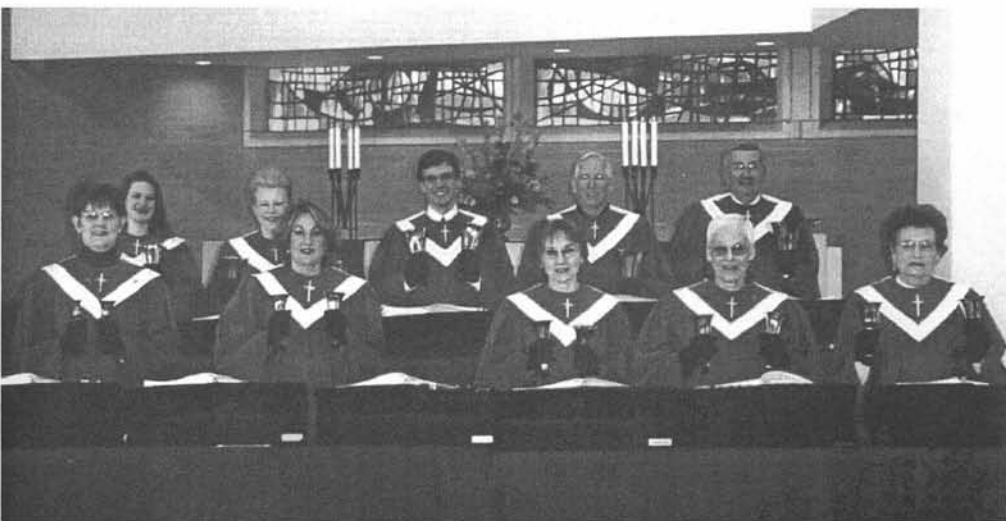
Our current organist and choir director, Doug Rayle, has led our music ministry for twenty-five years. In January, 1980, he became the organist, and in September, 1992, he began to serve as both organist and choir director. His wife, Susan; daughter, Emily; and son, Jeff, have supported him by belonging to the choir. Emily oftentimes enhances musical selections with a flute accompaniment. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee



Youth  
Choir



XYZ  
Choir



Praise  
Ringers

and the congregation honored Doug with a twenty-fifth anniversary celebration on Sunday, January 30, 2005. He was presented a plaque and the choir room was named The Martin D. Rayle Christian Music Center in his honor.

As of this writing, work is under way to install a pipe organ in the sanctuary, a long held dream of many members. This pipe organ is being modified and rebuilt by John Dower and Company of Lincolnton, North Carolina. The organ will be designed using parts of the Moller for which we paid for removal from Front Street United Methodist church, the console of a Hook and Hasting organ belonging to Mr. Dower (refinished by our members) and a new rank of pipes manufactured in Germany. The console will have 2 manuals (keyboards) of 61 keys and a pedal board of 32 keys. The stops will be controlled by tilting tablets of ivory-color composite, engraved and filled in black. These "tabs" will signal sounds from 28 ranks of pipes.

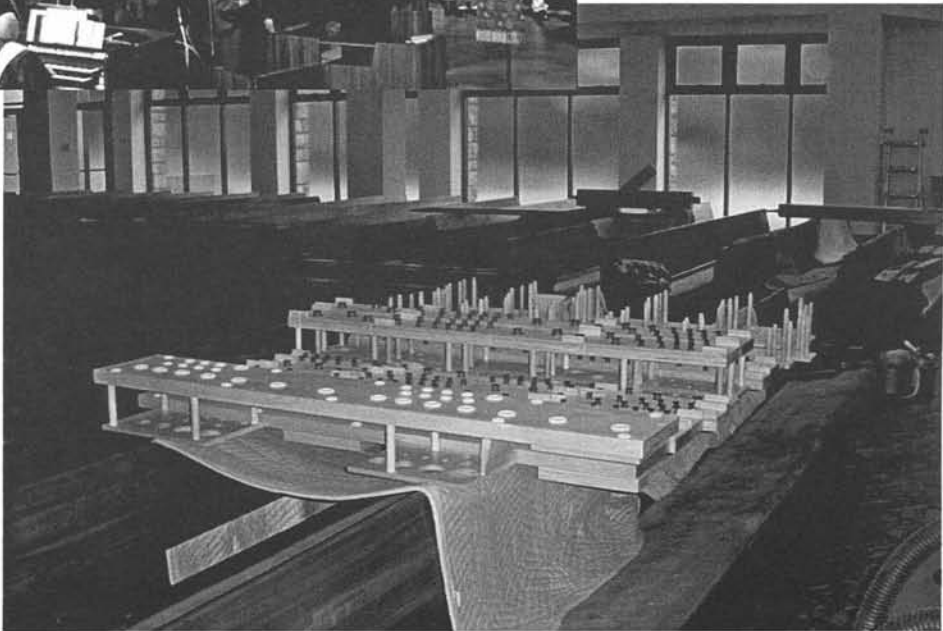
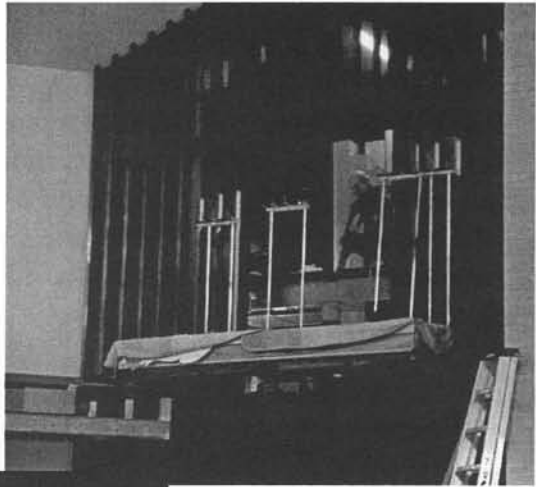


The Rayle Family – Susan, Doug, Jeff and Emily

Casework for the organ will be built by members of our church according to designs and construction drawings by Mr. Dower.

The fund for this organ has been in existence for many years and has increased sufficiently to pay for the instrument when installation is complete.





## THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE

In 1993, a Negotiating Committee for the church made an offer to purchase the McAdams property located at 115 Albright Avenue for \$149,500. The Charge Conference gave approval along with the authorization for the "Board of Trustees to borrow up to \$115,000 for the purpose of purchasing and improving the Hal McAdams property." A portion of the down payment was a Certificate of Deposit from the George and Joybelle Stafford Endowment.

Following is a description of the parsonage written by Reverend Marshall Old in his annual report to the Charge Conference for 1993.

"The home was built in 1949, but was updated at the time of purchase and is in excellent condition. The brick house is 1 ½ stories with a living room, dining room, kitchen, den, guest bedroom, and bathroom downstairs. Upstairs are three bedrooms, a bathroom, and storage space. There is a recreation room in the basement. There are 3 fireplaces and a detached garage. House had all appliances listed in parsonage standards and meets standards in all areas."

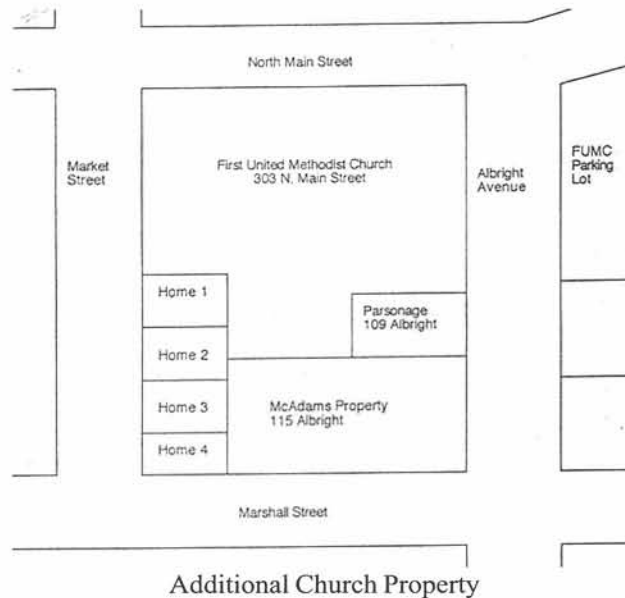
This commodious dwelling serves our pastoral family adequately and is an indication of the interest and welfare of the comfort of the parsonage family that has been exhibited over the years. In their reports, the ministers have expressed their gratitude and deep appreciation for the comforts provided on their behalf.

Throughout all the years, the church has appointed a Parsonage Committee whose responsibilities along with the Trustees were to keep advised of the parsonage conditions and maintain livable, comfortable and adequate housing for the pastor and his family. The first recorded committee was October 28, 1945, when Mrs. Lee Andrews, Mrs. C. D. Isley, and Mrs. Charles Cates were listed. Over the years countless men and women have served this position conscientiously.



First United Methodist  
Church Parsonage

## ADDITIONAL CHURCH PROPERTIES



By the 1970s it was evident that acquiring additional parking space was crucial. The property across Albright Avenue came on the market and the church decided to purchase it. There was a large two story house which had to be demolished and the lot graded for parking. In October, 1977, a back corner (30'x75'), too small in area to be used for parking, was purchased by the Graham Housing Authority in exchange for 300 tons of gravel for our parking lot. At the December, 1978, Administrative Board meeting it was announced "...through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cates, the indebtedness in the amount of \$7,240.16 on the parking lot, known as the Okey property, has been paid in full". At the meeting of the Official Board on November 14, 1991, Reverend Marshall Old's report spoke of "... paving Albright Avenue parking lot" being one of the year's accomplishments.

In 1993, the home of Hal and Mary Ruth McAdams, on the corner of Albright Avenue and Marshall Street, was purchased for use as a parsonage.

In the late 1990s, as houses on Market Street became rental properties, it was deemed desirable for the church to gain ownership of this area to allow for future expansion. Records show the following acquisitions in September, 1998:

- 108 East Market Street from Thomas and Jeanette Cole
- 112 East Market Street from Clifton and Ann Underwood
- 114 East Market Street from Virginia B. Barnes

March 2000, with the purchase of 110 East Market Street from Carolyn and Joseph Scott, saw the completion of the plan to buy all these houses. This consolidated all the area of the 300 block of North Main Street under church ownership.

## STAFFORD HALL



George and Joybell Stafford

Mr. and Mrs. George Stafford loved their Lord and First United Methodist Church. They were faithful disciples, seeking to minister as Jesus has asked each of His faithful ones to do. George and Joybelle supported First United Methodist with their prayers, presence, gifts, and service – a promise each of us makes as we become members of the church.

These words were taken from the report of the Stafford Memorial Committee after the death of Mrs. Stafford in 1989.

Mr. Roger Wilson, her nephew and administrator, presented the church with a check for \$165,323.35 to be used to “glorify God”. No other direction, provision, or stipulation was made.

A task force called the JoyBelle Stafford Estate Committee was elected. The following served:

Lynn Lloyd, Finance Chairperson  
James Fogleman, Trustee  
Ed Lapham, Administrative Board  
Charles Barnwell, Treasurer  
Reverend Marshall Old, Pastor  
Peggy Jenks, Jimmy Albright, Bill Griffith, members at large

This committee labored over six months in discussing possibilities with church members on how to best serve the church and fulfill the guideline to “glorify God”. Three principal ideas emerged.

1. The Stafford Gift should be permanent and on-going. Renovation of the fellowship hall resulted.

2. The Stafford Gift must glorify God. A tithing of the gift was presented to the Building Fund of Allied Churches of Alamance County and Habitat for Humanity for Alamance County in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Stafford.

3. The Stafford Gift should be visible. The Stafford Endowment of First United Methodist Church of Graham was created.

The Fellowship Hall was re-named in memory of George and JoyBelle Stafford.

By 1992, the proposals had been accepted and dutifully executed with satisfaction. Lynn Lloyd announced at the June 8, 1992, Quarterly Conference that "The plaque has come to commemorate the gift of the Staffords to the church and will be put in the narthex with the other memorial plaques. With the completion of the plaque, that officially completes the task of the committee."

STAFFORD ENDOWMENT FUND  
A GIFT OF  
GEORGE S. AND JOYBELLE ROGERS STAFFORD  
1990

THIS GIFT PROVIDED FOR THE RENOVATION OF OUR FELLOWSHIP HALL,  
NAMED "STAFFORD HALL" IN THEIR MEMORY  
AND CONTINUES TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS  
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, MISSION, AND EVANGELISM

This is to Certify that

Joybell Rogers Stafford

was received by

Rev. C. L. Spencer

\_\_\_\_\_ into full membership in the

M. R. Church

of Graham, N.C.

on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1992

W. Leo Surratt  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

*This is not to be used as a letter of transfer or dismissal*

## WHITEHEAD LIBRARY

In 1749, Mr. Wesley began to compile the Christian Library and completed it in fifty volumes. He published it under the title, "A Christian Library, consisting of extracts from, and abridgements of the choicest pieces of Practical Divinity, which have been published in the English tongue."

Likewise, the Graham Methodists began a library program on June 19, 1961, by registering with Cokesbury Publishing Company in Richmond, Virginia, and purchasing



forty-five books. In April of the next year, Kenneth Linens, Chairman of Education, reported on shelving selection and installation at a cost of \$185. The T. J. Whitehead Sunday School Class had given \$85.00 of this amount.

May 17, 1981, Heritage Sunday, was celebrated by a special service of Dedication of the Hilda Amick and Talton Johnson Whitehead Library. A display of historical documents, memorabilia, and nostalgia were displayed. Reverend Whitehead had served as pastor for several years and presented his personal library in loving memory of his wife. He also offered to award a certificate to any child who read twenty-five books from the library and Sherri Caudill (Lewis) was the recipient of the first certificate.



The Whitehead Library

**THE DEDICATION  
OF  
THE HILDA AMICK AND TALTON JOHNSON  
WHITEHEAD LIBRARY  
MAY 17, 1981  
(Excerpts from the Dedication Bulletin)**

Hilda Amick Whitehead, daughter of the late Thomas Adolphus Amick and the late Maude Lednum Amick, was born January 22, 1909, in Burlington. She graduated from High Point College in 1930 and married the Reverend Talton J. Whitehead in 1934. For thirty-nine years she served with her husband in the Methodist ministry. She died on July 27, 1973. Dr. N. W. Grant wrote this about her:

Though Hilda knew no bounds as she reached out in her thoughtfulness of others, those who were near and dear to her were always the recipients of her deepest concern. Her companion, her son, her father, all of her home looked forward to her daily ministry in which she cared for the spiritual as well as the physical. She was a good witness for her Christ in her home, her church and her community. She loved people and they loved her.

The Reverend Talton Johnson Whitehead was born in Alamance County on July 14, 1906. He was admitted into The Methodist Protestant Church in 1927. Although retiring in 1970 as a United Methodist Minister, he is still active. Since coming to the First Methodist Church in 1954, he has provided leadership and built friendships. Since retirement, he has continued to minister in a special way, as Minister of Visitation. It is our privilege to honor him.

Following is the Pastoral Prayer of Dedication the Reverend Dennis Ricks used to close the Dedication Service.

O Lord, our God, the source of all knowledge and all truth, we thank you for the lives of your servants, Hilda Amick Whitehead, who now is with Thee, and Talton Johnson Whitehead who labors still. Bless with your heavenly grace this library which we dedicate to her memory and his honor and all who study here. May we, by the inspiration of your wisdom, love you with all our minds, and find in all created things the revelation of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Through the years, the library has continued to grow by volumes contributed in honor or in memory of persons. It also houses the Reading Program for the United Methodist Women, concordance, different versions of the Bible, and a wide selection of children's books.



Ellen and Hal Leach

Ellen Leach served as librarian for many years. Her family placed a beautiful picture on the library wall in her memory. Beverly Arico served a short term and at present Amy Buckner and Nettie Ruth Bason serve as church librarians.

Due to space limitations, in recent years the library is also designated as the Charles Harden Conference Room and serves dual purposes.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

The people called Methodist can very well be proud of their heritage in the field of education. John Wesley was born into a home that emphasized not only Godliness, but sound learning. Samuel and Susannah Wesley believed that a prepared mind was the best channel through which God could work his way in the lives of men, and they set about early in the lives of their children to see that they had the best in the way of education.

Brothers John and Charles were educated at Oxford University and this stamp of genuine sophistication was to have a pronounced effect upon the entire Methodist movement. The early preachers carried literature in their saddlebags. The General Conference of American Methodism on January 1, 1785, had as its first order of business the establishment of an educational institution.

Bishops Coke and Asbury discussed the propriety of building a school or college and began to solicit donations. The Christmas Conference agreed and "steps were taken in order to go on with the work." The college was built in Abingdon, Maryland, and opened its doors to students December 8, 1787. It was called Cokesbury. On December 4, 1795, the "college took fire and was all burnt down."

Question #17 of the Methodist Episcopal Quarterly Conference reports asked: "What is doing for the cause of Education?" There were no public schools in Graham in 1898. Reverend Dailey responded that "... no students were attending a church-related school."

Reverend Lance in 1907 – "We have preached on the subject of Christian education, emphasizing the importance of education, especially what our church schools and colleges offer. There are some on this charge attending our denominational schools. We have good graded schools at Burlington and Graham."

May 20, 1928 – Students attending school are as follows:

Elizabeth Montgomery at Duke University

Ruth Henderson at Flora MacDonald

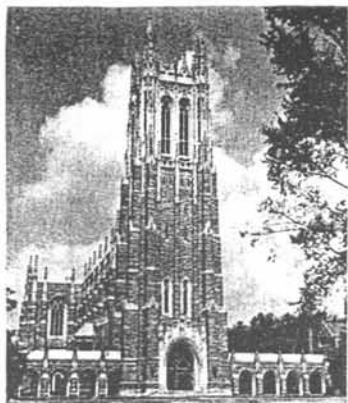
Emily Lee, John Lee, Ruth Wicker and Louise Buckner at Elon

Sam Vest, Jr. at Johns Hopkins University

During the life of the Graham Methodist Protestant Church, the subject of raising money for the church's portion to benefit High Point College (now High Point University) was always on the agenda. Their apportionment in 1923 was \$300. Reverend Millaway, first pastor, gave \$500 to the college "when the money left lean times at home." His name appears on a plaque, near the auditorium entrance, with others who sacrificed to start the college.

In 1937, Reverend Surratt asked the church to respond to a request from Westminster Theological Seminary's library fund for 10 volumes or \$25. "Remember that we have a member of our church preparing for his life's work there. It is a most worthy cause." (Reference made to Junius Neese)

He continued his plea for High Point College portion of the budget by urging the members to accept the challenge of the General Board of Education "...to match \$ for \$ up to a certain amount." To make his plea more emphatic he quoted from Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* "Why not make it two ears of corn (silver dollars) or two blades of



*The chapel of Duke University,  
one of the universities of The  
United Methodist Church*



*High Point College*



*Westminster Theological Seminary*



**Methodist College**



**NORTH CAROLINA  
WESLEYAN**



Methodist Colleges and Universities



Joe C. Shore



James Waggoner



David Foushee



Gary & Marcia Morris



Edwards, Lee



Joseph J. Hauser



Otto Hardt



William Crowder



Retired ministers but still working!

Ministers who have connections to our church

grass (greenbacks) for High Point College instead of one, so that it and we may deserve better of mankind, and render a more essential service for our children?"

By 1956 the question asked: "How many youth from this charge are attending college away from the local community?" Seventeen names were listed.

In the 1960s the North Carolina Conference built Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount and Methodist College in Fayetteville, North Carolina. A College Crusade Campaign raised the monies and the Graham Methodist Church pledged \$19,690 as the Fair Share Quota. They exceeded that goal! The representatives for Wesleyan College were Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Junius Harden for Methodist College, and Mr. and Mrs. Holt Henderson for Louisburg College. The church committee for High Education was: John Albright, Chairman, Dr. C. S. Crissman, Merritt Wilson, and Junius Harden.

Since 1966 reports have required names of junior and senior high school students, as well as college students. In 1999 thirty-two college students were listed.

We remember our college students in various ways; keeping in touch lets them know we value them and their endeavors to seek knowledge. Scholarships are available on a yearly basis. "Care packages" are sent near exam time. Letters of appreciation let us know how meaningful our gestures become to them. We try to provide a Sunday School class for them when they are home for semester breaks or holidays.

The Higher Education and Campus Ministry work area has been chaired by several officers. In recent years Barbara Lowe and Carolyn Lapham have served.

Our Methodist institutions in the state are a credit and rank among the finest anywhere. In addition to Duke University, we have High Point and Pfeiffer Universities and Greensboro, Brevard, Bennett, Methodist, Louisburg, and Wesleyan Colleges.

## CHRISTIAN VOCATIONS

Saint Paul asked a vital question when he said, "*How are they to believe in Him whom they have never heard and how are they to hear without a preacher?*" *Romans 10:14*

*"The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few: Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest..." Matthew 9: 37-38 (KJV)*

Records show that in 1924, C. P. Holt was recommended by the Board of the Graham Methodist Protestant Church to be licensed as a local preacher in the North Carolina Methodist Protestant Church Conference.

The following ministers were affiliated with either the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Methodist Protestant Church, Graham Methodist Church, or The First United Methodist Church, Graham.

Reverend C. A. Jones	Dr. John D. Lee, Jr.
Reverend William Hoyt Cheek	Reverend Junius Neese
Reverend Paul Bunn	Reverend W. E. Howard
Reverend Joe Cephas Shore	Reverend William Denver Stone
Reverend James Milan Waggoner	Reverend Stephen Crotts
Reverend Kelly Crissman	Reverend Beth McPerson Crissman
Reverend Gregory Jenks	Reverend Lee Edwards
Reverend David Foushee	Reverend Jeanne Neal
Reverend Gary Morris	Reverend Robert Eldredge

The following ministers came to our church and served in some capacity:

Reverend Tom Fulcher (assistant to the minister)  
Reverend C. B. King (Duke Student 1965 – 1966)  
Reverend Denny Wise (Duke Student 1967)  
Reverend Susan Harsh Cafferty (began as Director of Christian Education and became the Associate Minister)  
Reverend Cynthia Powell (began as Director of Christian Education and became a Deacon in full connection)

Ministers of Visitation as follows:

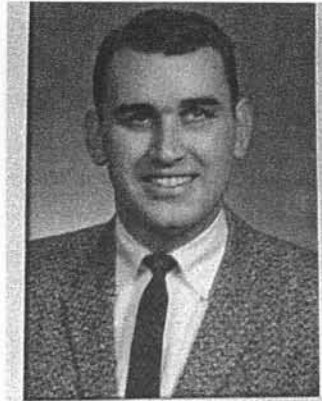
Reverend T. J. Whitehead  
Reverend Bill Crowder  
Reverend Joe Hauser  
Reverend Linda Dunn  
Reverend Bob Eldredge  
Reverend Otto Hardt



REV. WILLIAM CHEEK



REV. PAUL BUNN



REV. TOM FULCHER  
1957 -  
ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER



REV. C.B. KING  
DUKE STUDENT  
1965-1966



REV. W. JUNIUS NEESE



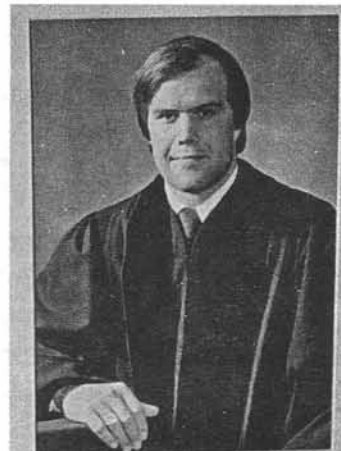
REV. JOHN D. LEE



REV. DENNY WISE  
DUKE STUDENT  
1967



REV. W.E. HOWARD



REV. STEPHEN CROTTS





*GREGORY K. JENKS*



*ROBERT K. ELDREDGE*



*REV. KELLY CRISSMAN*



*REV. BETH CRISSMAN*



*REV. JEANNE NEAL*



*REV. SUSAN HARSH CAFFERTY  
1980-1988*

## **EDUCATIONAL LOANS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Christian congregations try to minister in many ways. One way the members of First United Methodist Church, Graham, have selected is the development of a program of academic loans and scholarships. Over the years, five scholarships and one educational loan fund have been created.

### **The Doris O. Crissman Educational Loan Fund**



The Crissman family

In 1981, Dr. Clinton Crissman and his family established this endowment as a living memorial to his late wife, Doris Crissman. Its purpose is to help students further their Christian education and develop tools that will enable them to serve Jesus Christ in whatever vocation they choose.

Any member of the church may apply for a loan. A student may borrow up to \$1,000 per semester. This loan fund is available to students in church affiliated colleges or universities.

### **The Alice Jean Roddy Scholarship**



Mrs. Roddy

The Alice Jean Roddy Scholarship was created in 1989 by members of the Gordon Painter Class as a living memorial to their beloved teacher, Mrs. Alice Jean Roddy. The class works together on projects such as cooking and selling Brunswick stew to fund this \$500 scholarship. Memorial gifts have also been helpful. Any member of the church or descendant of Mrs. Roddy is eligible to receive this award.

### **The Ada White Memorial Scholarship**



Mrs. White

In 1993, Rev. Christian White, family members, and friends of Mrs. Ada White contributed funds to begin a scholarship in Mrs. White's memory. Since 1995, awards have been made to members desiring to continue their education. The award is made solely on the basis of financial need.

### **The Myrtle Wilson Educational Scholarship**



Mrs. Wilson

The Myrtle Wilson Educational Scholarship was established in 1998 by Mrs. Wilson to help give every student that graduates from high school an opportunity to go to college. Mrs. Wilson's career was with the school system as a teacher and a supervisor, and she understood the importance of education.

### **The T. J. and Hilda Whitehead Scholarship**

The Reverend T. J. Whitehead was the minister of this church from 1954 until 1962, and later served several years as the Minister of Visitation. In 1981, Mr. Whitehead established a scholarship in memory of his wife, Hilda Amick Whitehead, who served in ministry with him for thirty-nine years. At the death of Mr. Whitehead, it was decided to rename the scholarship to include both names. Many contributions have been made to build this permanent fund. The amount of the award is \$500 and is available to members of the church.

### **The Young in Heart Scholarship**

The Young In Heart is First United Methodist Church's fellowship group for older adults. In 1991, it was decided to create a scholarship as a part of their outreach ministry. The members work together with projects such as bazaars to fund its support. Additionally, members often honor or memorialize friends with contributions to the fund. This award is available to members of the church or to those whose family is affiliated with the church. It is based on character, scholastic ability and need.

## **DIRECTORS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **Mrs. Alice Hobbs**



Mrs. Alice Hobbs

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hobbs joined the church in the middle 1950s and soon after Mrs. Hobbs took the position of Educational Assistant. She had an undergraduate degree in Christian Education from High Point College and a graduate degree from the University of North Carolina in Early Childhood Education. She brought experience to the

position and worked with Reverend Whitehead to develop new programs. Although she was hired for part-time work, she did much more as she also did secretarial work. She served on several committees, including the Building Committee, until she and her family moved to Burlington.

### Mrs. Betty Coble Williams



Mrs. Betty Williams

When the congregation moved into the new building (Fellowship Hall and Education Building), there was at last space to develop a more comprehensive program of Christian Education. In 1958 Mrs. Betty Williams began work on a part time basis as Educational Assistant to Reverend Whitehead in developing a program to meet the needs of the people of the church. Betty had a degree in Christian Education from Pfeiffer College and came highly recommended.

At the Official Board meeting on September 21, 1959, Mr. Gunter, Sunday School Superintendent, made a motion to employ Betty on a full time basis beginning January 1, 1960. This had come as a unanimous request from the Commission on Education. Thus began an association with the church that lasted for twenty years.

Betty had a wonderful relationship with the children and young people. One of her strong points was camping programs in the summers. Her directing Vacation Church Schools was another success with large numbers of students as well as adult helpers. She is fondly remembered by many in the church.

### Cynthia Powell



Reverend Cynthia Powell

Cynthia Powell came to our church in June, 1988. Her role was that of Director of Christian Education. In 1990, she became a Diaconal Minister, which is "one who is called to ministries of service, justice, and love, making visible the presence of Christ in personal relationships and systems within society." (1992 *Discipline*)

In her Charge Conference report of November 6, 1997, she quoted from a song: "The times they are a changing." People, situa-

tions, and lives change. The previous year, 1996, she was in an automobile accident. Two months later her mother died. Beginning her tenth year with us she was faced with another change; the decision to go from a Diaconal Minister to a full time Deacon.

On November 26, 2001, Cynthia began her report to the charge conference: "I am called to be a Deacon to lead our church and guide them in the ministry of the world. I am called to a lifetime of servant leadership connecting the church with the most needy and neglected and lead the people in the life of servanthood both inside and outside the church."

Cynthia was always an active participant as well as a leader of local, district, conference, and national continuing educational opportunities, training sessions, enrichment opportunities, and retreats. Her duties included teaching, preaching, administration of the Sacraments, and teaching the Confirmation Classes.

She laughingly relates how she awoke with a sore throat one Sunday morning when she had to preach. So she went into the pulpit with an extremely sore throat. At the close of her message she inadvertently extended this invitation to the congregation: "During the singing of the last hymn, please know that the altar is open for prayer and medication."

Reverend Paul Phillips commended Cynthia "for her years of leadership which blesses this congregation daily."

At her last report November 12, 2002, she used the words of another song: "This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone." She continued, "First United Methodist Church stands in the middle of a transition. Because of financial difficulty we are having to rethink our ideas, our visions, and, yes, maybe even our dreams, but we must never lose sight of who we are and whose we are."

January 1, 2003, Cynthia moved into her "day of new beginnings" at Front Street United Methodist Church in Burlington, North Carolina.

### **Brian Yoder**



Brian Yoder – "Mr. Brian"

Brian Yoder came to us from Hebron United Methodist Church, Mebane, in April 2003, where he served as the Lay Leader, Sunday School Superintendent, and Senior High Sunday School teacher.

Brian was born and reared in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and came to our area in 1993

after being honorably discharged from the United States Air Force. He is married to Wendy Williams and they have two sons, Matthew and William. Brian graduated from Alamance Community College in May 2002, and is a junior at Elon University, majoring in Psychology.

I first felt God calling me to serve Him in a full-time capacity after taking a Disciple 1 class at Hebron. Although I felt the call, I made excuses as to why I could not do it: 'Why would He want me? There are so many other people that are more qualified to do this work.' It took over ten years and two job lay-offs from General Electric for me to realize that God wanted me for who I was and that the Holy Spirit would empower me to do His work. It is such a blessing for me to be able to serve our Lord at First United Methodist Church.

His organization and leadership for our youth provides blessings for the entire congregation. The youth are having fun, developing sustaining friendships, learning scripture through Bible Bowls, and learning ways to serve Christ through their talents and skills.

Linda Fogleman summed up his greatest assets: "But what we all really appreciate about Brian is his loving and giving heart. He has a ready smile, sincere greetings, generous praise, and a willingness to serve his church and his God."

The congregation readily admits that Brian is a blessing for the church.

## CHURCH SECRETARIES

Alice Hobbs

Mrs. Kenneth Linens – half-time

Mrs. John Lee McPherson

Faye Holt

Gail Cox

Mrs. Edith Isley – half-time

Mrs. Agnes Burke – financial secretary and Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Sidney Harmon

Mrs. Kenneth Linens – set up financial secretary's books for building program

Janet Harris

Jane Beckom

Sylvia Gault

Anita Black

Lucinda Harmon

Mary Evelyn Rich

Frances Holland



Ken & Mary Helen Linens



Jane Beckom



Edith Isley



Cindy Harmon



MRS. AGNES BURKE



THE JOHN LEE McPHERSON FAMILY



MRS. CLAY A. RICH



Debbie Cheek  
Financial Secretary



Lou Vincent  
Administrative Assistant



Frances Holland  
Church Secretary

Secretaries

## FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Debbie Cheek  
Linda Hurdle  
Mary Bowdon  
Aline Tate (Martha Bell filled in at times for her)

In 2003 the Staff Parish Committee formed the position of Administrative Assistant and Lu Vincent currently holds this position.

## MILITARY SERVICE

“Dark days hovered over our country as well as the whole world as we entered World War I.

Young men from every walk of life were called into service. Among them went these members from Graham Methodist Episcopal Church, South, ...” (a quote from Mrs. Greene’s Church History)

Lacy Black Bradshaw

Dr. J. J. Barefoot

Walter Boone

Winfrey Thomas Martin - wounded in action

Reverend D. E. Earnhardt - chaplin

Oscar Wrenn

C. H. Phillips

From the Graham Methodist Protestant Church:

Dr. W. C. Goley - wounded in action

Charles Floyd Clapp

Lola Lide Ezell

Lonnie Bryan Ezell

Lawrence G. Clapp

John F. Black





## IN MEMORY OF THE DEAD

World War II Veterans whose lives were lost in service:

Staff Sergeant James J. Whitfield (Infantry)  
Sept. 22, 1944, Palau, Auguar Islands, Pacific

Corporal Leighton Howard Evans (Medical Corps)  
March 16, 1945, Germany

Pfc. James Meyers Buckner, Jr. (Infantry)  
February 3, 1945, France

Pfc. James Henry Crawford  
March 24, 1945, Germany

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant William Nathaniel Green B29 Pilot  
December 31, 1947, Weather Reconnaissance, Anchorage, Alaska

## THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR II

James Alexander Albright  
Daniel McCollum Alexander  
Warren Murray Amick  
Howard Foster Avent  
William Clayton Avent  
William Albert Aydt  
Charles H. Barnwell  
Walter David Barrett  
Grover B. Bason  
Robert Beagle  
John Millard Boswell  
Jack Lewis Bowman  
James Scarboro Bowman, Jr.  
Thomas Samuel Bradshaw  
Horace Brannon  
Hulon Briggs  
Edwin Earl Buckner  
James Meyers Buckner, Jr.  
Jefferson D. Bulla II  
William O. Bulla  
Ernest Burton  
Lorena Burton  
Graham Call

Gene L. Caudill  
Horace Cheek  
Lawrence Cheek  
Douglas Cheek  
Don Clark  
Joe Clark  
John Clark  
Charles A. Clapp  
Thomas Worthy Coble  
James Sion Cook, Jr.  
Robert Nichols Cook, Jr.  
Lyman Doyle Core  
James Henry Crawford  
Andrew C. Crissman  
Dr. Clinton S. Crissman  
Eric J. Crissman  
Jerry A. Cummings  
Kelly F. Cummings  
Kyle A. Cummings  
Williams Russell Dean  
Jerry DeBruler  
James Merle Dixon  
Phil Price Dixon

Robert Grover Drumwright  
Harvey Lee Edwards  
Paul Jennings Edwards  
Reverend Robert K. Eldridge  
John Fowler Euliss  
Lawrence E. Evans  
Leighton Howard Evans  
Lonnie Bryan Ezell  
Carl Fitch  
Harvey Clayton Foushee  
Halbert Howard Foust  
Max Alan Foust  
Robert Arrington Foust  
Robert Long Foust  
Samuel Edward Freeze, Jr.  
James Thomas Fuller, Jr.  
William Lee Fuller  
John George Gaddy, Jr.  
John Thomas Garner  
Walter Thomas (Hoot) Gibson  
Dr. Willard Coe Goley  
Walter Graham  
William Nathaniel Green  
Charles Reynolds Harden  
Junius Harden  
Donald Hardie  
Joseph Abbott Hardie  
Richard Dabney Hardie  
Reverend Otto Hardt  
Charles Norton Harrington  
John Joseph Harris  
Andrew C. Harrison  
Raymond Edward Heath, Sr.  
Raymond Edward Heath, Jr.  
Alger Ross Henderson, Jr.  
Jack York Henderson  
Ted Hogan  
Donnell Shaw Holt  
Hanley Holt  
Harvey Loy Holt  
Robert Vance Holt  
Wayne Holt  
Clarence William Hunter  
Thomas Burley Hunter  
Frederick P. Isley  
Joseph M. James  
Calvin Dudley Jarrett  
K. B. Jenks  
Brenda Marshall Johnson  
William F. Johnson  
William P. Jones

Jack Wesley King  
Clyde Wesley Kirkman  
Ernest Newton Kirkman  
Wayne Kirkman  
Terrell Lamb  
Bob Lawrence  
Fentress Layton  
Hal Leach  
Emily Markham Lee  
Reverend John David Lee, Jr.  
Hal Barker Lewis  
Jerry Linens  
James Gilbert Linens  
Kenneth Franklin Linens  
Lewis Carse Linens  
J. C. Lockamy  
Michael E. Lockridge  
Jack William Love  
Elwyn H. Lowe  
Major & Mrs. Fred Lupton  
Dondrue Lupton  
Lemuel Howard Mansfield  
Winfrey Thomas Martin, Jr.  
Craig D. May  
John Lee McPherson  
Eugene Calvin Moon  
Joseph Richard Moon  
Ned Lee Morrison  
Gordon Painter  
Thomas Garvin Petty  
James M. Perry, Jr.  
Allen E. Phillips  
Floyd Eugene Pickard  
Thomas Max Pickard  
Walter Vernon Pickard  
Wilbert Ray Pickard  
Gerald J. Priska  
G. L. Pritchard  
Ernest Coleman Rhewark  
Andy Rich  
Roy Eugene Robertson  
Eugene Roper, Sr.  
Eugene Roper, Jr.  
D. Frank Rudd, Jr.  
Banks Milton Russell  
Charles Edward Russell  
Charles Edward Russell III  
Lewis H. Ruth, Jr.  
Roy Salter  
John Schweitzer  
Bruce Wayne Seay

Wayne Shambley  
 John W. Sharpe  
 Arthur Flake Shoffner  
 Arthur Harvey Shoffner  
 Rodney H. Shotwell  
 Eugene D. Smith  
 Howard Alan Stacey  
 Preston Baker Stackhouse  
 Charles Staton  
 Fletcher Vernon (Pat) Steele, Jr.  
 John Harvey Steele  
 Wilbur Thornton Steele  
 Roger Spencer Stout  
 Donald A. Strickland  
 Allen Wade Swanner  
 Thomas Vickers Tinnin  
 Elliot McIver Todd  
 Marvin Bright Utley  
 Albert Jackson Vaughn  
 Thomas Winfred Vincent  
 Marvin Hester Walker

Warren Willis Walker  
 J. Howard Walters  
 Tommy D. Walters  
 Theodore N. Watson  
 Lloyd Way  
 Maxwell M. Way  
 John Weaver  
 James Calvin Whitfield  
 Brian Yoder  
 Staehle P. Whitson  
 Charlie E. Whittemore  
 Clyde A. Whittemore  
 James Minor Whittemore, Jr.  
 J. W. Whittemore  
 Alton Frederick Williams  
 D. C. Williams  
 Jerry C. Williams  
 Alvis Wilson  
 Connie Amos Wilson  
 Travis S. Woody  
 Nelson D. Young



Jerry Linens



\*DAVID SHOFFNER



\*JOHN SHOFFNER

Following are excerpts from the Woman's Society of Christian Service quarterly reports regarding some of the ways the church supported our military personnel in World War II.

November 17, 1941, the Woman's Society of Christian Service reported in their annual report that "they were sending magazines to the Service Center at Fort Bragg for the servicemen."

September 13, 1942, "We are sending literature, gifts, and weekly letters to our boys in service."

1943 -1944 Report – "The Student work has resolved itself into a Service Men's Department for the duration."

October 17, 1943 – Reverend J. J. Boone – "We have over 100 men and boys in service on our mailing list. All of these are not members of the church but are connected with it in some way."

January 5, 1944 – Camp and Defense Areas Special \$110.

March 16, 1944, The WSCS reports: "We cooperate with the pastor in sending letters and copies of the Upper Room to service men. We have sent 500 pounds of clothes to Europe. We sponsor the USO once each quarter and 150 volunteer hours. We have given 900 hours to Red Cross work."

September 24, 1946 – WSCS sent clothing and Christmas cheer overseas.



Travis Woody (currently in Iraq)  
and Jerry Cummings

The Korean War, the Vietnam War and now the current Iraq conflict have heightened the church awareness of our members engaged in military service. The entire congregation responds to their needs by our prayers, letters, care packages and e-mails.

Veterans Day is an annual observance at the worship service nearest November 11<sup>th</sup>. In 2002, Lt. Col. Jerry A. Cummings, USMCR (Ret.) and Sgt. Travis Woody led the memorial and recognition service. This year Lt. Col. Cummings conducted the service alone as Sgt. Woody was engaged in Iraq.

## FLAG DEDICATION

The Graham Methodist Church had a special service of Dedication of Flags on Sunday morning, July 13, 1942. The service opened with the singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers" and Reverend J. J. Boone's sermon topic was "Christian Service." Miss Gladys Amick made the presentation of the flags and they were received and mounted by the Boy Scouts of the Graham Emergency Service Patrol under the direction of C. A. Cates.

Miss Amick: "We offer the American Flag for sacred dedication in this church."

Congregation .....Pledge to the American Flag:

*"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." \**

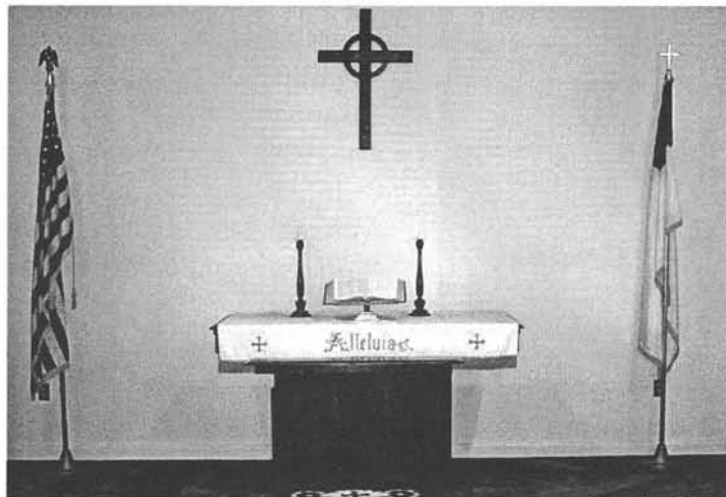
Miss Amick: "We offer the Christian Flag for sacred dedication in this church."

Congregation .....Pledge to the Christian Flag

*"I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag, and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands, one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love."*

This was followed by the congregation singing "Fling Out the Banner" from the *Methodist Hymnal*.

\*(Notice that the words "under God" had not been added to the pledge at that time.)



Chapel with Flags

## REMINISCENCES

Tangible elements of a church's history are its people, pastors, and physical property. Included here are some intangible elements - memories of some of the members.

Helen Harrington recalled:



Helen and Charles  
Harrington

Some of my fondest memories of our church go back to when I was a child and attended Sunday School and Church at the Methodist (Episcopal) Church. The Easter Egg hunts, the Christmas parties and stories of Baby Jesus. My favorite teacher was Mrs. Thompson, mother of Ann and Elizabeth Thompson. How proud I was to sit beside Daddy each Sunday, drop my money in the collection plate and put my head in his lap when I got tired and sleepy. As the years passed and moving into our new church was both happy and sad. I continued to teach Sunday School and will always remember teaching with Dot Lee. When I see the lovely and talented lady today, Pam McDonald, I still remember the beautiful blond little girl, Pam Holt, with her curly hair and frilly little dresses. These are just a few of my fond memories.

Her husband, Charles, wrote:

I moved my membership here around 1938. I served on various committees and was on the Finance Committee for about fifteen years. I also held different offices in Sunday School. Enjoyed working with Charles Harden doing odd jobs and making repairs. One special job we did was putting a partition between two of the Sunday School rooms because we were running out of space for classrooms. Built and donated audio cabinet in fellowship hall. Built cross in fellowship hall and Reverend Marshall Old donated that to the church. We worked on the old parsonage. Reworked and framed stained glass window in the minister's office. Hanging the cross in the fellowship hall was the hardest job Charles and I did. Carol Old was a big help with that.

Czarina Murray Amick told the *Times News*, February 13, 1997:



Mrs. Czarina Amick

I can remember walking to the Methodist Episcopal Church every Sunday Morning. It was only about a block away. We would always go to Sunday School, preaching, then choir practice that evening. They had some real good programs. We always seemed to have a good time. (Interview on her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday)

Imogene McPherson wrote:



Mrs. Imogene  
McPherson

The Methodist Protestant Church, located on the corner of North Main and Water Streets had a membership made up mostly of low-salaried people, but their caliber was outstanding. Lack of money made all of us work hard on fund-raising projects such as church suppers and yard sales by the women. Grandma Goley was the chairperson and usually was looked to for organizing these projects as long as her health permitted. By then we had discovered great talent and good cooks who could wield a rolling pin to make pastry for chicken pies, hot biscuits, and keep the pots filled with delicious down-home cooking. Do not get the idea that all was work and no play there. Sunday School picnics at Spoon's Lake were always enjoyable, and trips to the Children's Home in High Point were not only interesting but also educational. We also had our moments of good humor. For instance, the sweet, faithful lady who knew every word of every hymn but never-no-never found the tune. She did, however, get great joy out of singing, and sing she did! There was also the couple who was faithful in attendance but always came late. Their entrance was especially noticeable however, because the husband's shoes squeaked loudly as he walked. As they strode to the front of the sanctuary, smiles crossed our faces as we listened and nodded to each other as if to say, 'It's time to begin the service now.'

She later wrote:

Seventy-two years of Methodist Church membership has been a time of learning and spiritual growth. I would not have you believe it has all been a bed of rose petals. The thorns have often given their sharp pricks, but when the dark valleys came there were those loving, saintly persons who came along with the ministers, who manifested such a wealth of agape love and words of wisdom that gave strength to cope with the darkest hours. . . . Along with the excellent caliber of our church staff is a source of great joy to me and is evidence that God has been and is leading us all the way.

Mrs. A. P. Harrington, [formerly Mrs. W. B. Greene] an early church historian recalled in her foreword to the 1976 History:



Mrs. Winnie  
Harrington

In the month of October 1918, I married W. B. Greene, a very devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He was the Sunday School Superintendent at that time. Reverend W. G. McFarland, a Duke University student, was pastor. For a number of years we had Duke students because we were not financially able to support a full time preacher. This was the time the terrible influenza epidemic began. Whole families were sick, one not able to wait on another. Many were dying,

especially pregnant women. This severe disease spread so fast that all public gatherings were closed, schools and churches as well. The Presbyterian Church was set up as an emergency hospital. All who were able would prepare soup, carry it to the sick, and help wait on them. . . . We were aware of our need for better facilities for our church so when conditions improved we began making plans to raise money. We had bazaars and many other projects, but the one that helped us most financially was feeding the Kiwanis Club once a week. Our stoves were oil cookstoves and ice refrigerators. Though our equipment was crude, we all worked together very hard looking forward with faith and determination to the time when we could have something to be proud of.

Mrs. Myrtle Wilson related the following:



Mrs. Myrtle Wilson

We all have a story and all of you have had a part in building this house of worship. In 1939, we had come through a depression during the thirties. Banks had closed and a lot of people had lost their life savings. There was not a lot of wealth in either of the churches, and times were hard. On December 7, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and we were at war. The National Guard had been called and a lot of the young men had gone away to camps. We saw no possibility of beginning a new church. We didn't have money and we had other things we had to take care of before we decided we could build a church. But by 1944, we began a building fund. The ladies served the Graham Kiwanians and they paid us for the meals. We had bake sales and we sold cakes and pies. We were encouraged to make a quilt. Each family was asked to make one square of the quilt and if you wanted to you could embroider the names of your family members. Everything we could do to make money, and it did come in slowly, we did. The men worked to raise funds also. They sold roasted peanuts, fried ham and sausage to sell in biscuits. The women kept having dinners, sold flavoring, greeting cards, while the buildings were constructed. We have had a building fund since 1944, and people would only be able to give sometimes fifty cents a week. We gave what we could.

Mary Lena Green Bacon remembers:

As I grew up I was a member of a children's organization named the 'Bright Jewels' which met in the hut behind the church. We had 'mite' boxes. Mr. And Mrs. Garfield Evans



did a lot for the young people. She led the Hi League and had a musical chorus - met at the church. Mr. Evans met with the older group at the parsonage. Young people from other denominations attended.

Lori Johnson Hubbard remembers her grandmother:



Mrs. Treva Johnson

When we think back on church members who have enhanced and guided our Christian faith, many of us remember a favorite Sunday School teacher. A teacher who provided a guiding light in my spiritual growth was Mrs. Treva Johnson.

In the years before I was promoted to her class, and for years afterward, I would rest on her living room couch and watch her as she lovingly created one of her numerous craft projects. Most memorable were the hand-knitted Easter baskets. There was one for each student on the roll, whether they attended her class once, or were present every Sunday. No student ever left Sunday School empty handed. What a treat it was when I was invited to assist her in handing out a holiday surprise, a weekly coloring page, or a take-home lesson!

The hand-crafted treats were symbolic of the bountiful gifts Treva held within her heart. A plaque honoring her over twenty-five years of service was presented as a witness to her faithful service. In a Young In Heart tribute to Treva Johnson, the Reverend R. C. Mooney, Jr. said, 'They knew Christ was alive and real for they saw Him living in her ... Christ loved the children and Treva, being one of His, loved them too.' A child in her arms was a joy to her heart as she welcomed generation after generation into the fellowship of Christ at First United Methodist Church.

In 1997 Lenora Linens Bennett wrote:



Mrs. Lenora Bennett

We were members of the Methodist Protestant Church which was a white frame church located about a block from where The First United Methodist Church is located.

My father, Harvey Linens, took us there every Sunday for as long as I can remember. The family was quite large with nine children, six girls and three boys. As the family grew, my Dad would place an older child with a younger child for which the older child was responsible to keep quiet. He gave each of us a token to be placed in the offering plate. He taught us at an early age the lesson of giving

to the church.

When the girls were old enough, they joined the choir along with two brothers, James and Kenneth. The girls, Blanche, Martha, Leta, Betty, and Joan, married and moved away; but James and Kenneth remained in the choir for forty-five years. ...

Our Mother who had been a member of the Graham Presbyterian Church before marrying our Dad, firmly believed one should be twelve years of age and know the Catechism before joining the church. Mother did not become an active member of the Methodist Church until the youngest child was old enough to bring to church. At that time there was no nursery provided for the children. She joined a circle when the children were older and I sometimes attended the meetings with her. The first circle leaders I remember were Mrs. S. S. Holt and Mrs. Ruth Cates.

My Mother died at the age of fifty-six and at that time Mrs. Margaret Bayliff was her circle leader. Mother was to have the meeting at her home the day she was buried.

The Linens Family has always been active in the Methodist Church in Graham ... and now their families are following them.

Mimi Whittermore Saunders paid tribute to Mrs. Gilliam:



Mrs. Ollie Gilliam

Ollie Olivia Ivey Gilliam was born the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 1905 in Snow Camp. Married to Edwin Holt Gilliam, they had three sons, Gene, Ivey, and Eddie. After Mr. Gilliam's sudden death, she continued with her work and services she gave to family, friends, and church. Mothering did not just include her own as she had a home away from home and served as a second Mom to Elwyn Lowe, Allen Phillips, and Herb Pierce.

Her loyalty to the Methodist Church knew no bounds; always a member of the Methodist Women's Society, Sunday School Classes, and Interest Groups.

In the 1940's when the suppers were being cooked for the Rotary Club members, it was Mrs. Gilliam that knew the type food the various men required for this or that diet. At Easter time and other holidays when bake sales were being held we could always count on Mrs. Gilliam to come with her cakes and pies. It was during these times we were making money to be able to start the Fellowship Hall, and later the church we now occupy.

When sorrow came into our homes, you would see Ollie Gilliam coming with her basket of warm bread and custard and kind words of comfort to help soothe the aching hearts.

We all have our special memories of this gracious lady. Vivian Williamson remembers her chicken and dumplings. My Mother spoke often of Mrs. Gilliam's delicious Russian tea she made for the church meetings during the 1940s. When Reverend Watson came to hold night services in 1985, as Mrs. Gilliam walked down to shake his hand, he said: 'Ollie Gilliam and chicken pie.'

May her service inspire us to rededicate ourselves to this church and its work which she held so dear.

Ann Pfisterer wrote of her parents:



Mrs. Martha Rader

Martha and Dan Rader selected Graham Methodist Church for themselves and their young family soon after they built their home on Harden Street.

The couple's teenage years were devoted to both the World War I Patriotic fund-raising efforts of Martha's father, and witnessing to their Christian faith through the ministries of Dan's father.

Bible teaching began before their membership in the Graham Church. Martha taught a young women's Sunday School class at Front Street Methodist Church in Burlington, and Dan, a men's class at Webb Avenue Methodist, (now Trinity), also in Burlington.

Even though Martha had four children at home at the time and worked with her husband in his several jobs during those lean financial years of the late twenties and early thirties, when the opportunity presented itself, Martha organized and was the first teacher of the Junior Wesleyan Sunday School Class. She had a deep love for the class members and was delighted with each contact she had with the members until her death May 25, 1996, at the age of 94. It meant a great deal to her family for the class members to sit together at her funeral.

Martha's keen mind never left her. She was president and treasurer of Alley and Rader Company, a member of the Alamance Executive Club, former President of the Auxiliary of Gideons, member of Toastmistress and various other business organizations.

At her funeral, her granddaughter, Dr. Kathe Pfisterer Darr

said: 'She had a mind like a steel trap. She was one of the best conversation partners I have ever known. Her life blessed many lives. She dies full of years, full of faith and full of love. She knew the Lord!'

Mary Helen Linens was asked to relate the history of the Graham Methodist Men's Quartet as well as she could. Much of it would be what her husband, Kenneth, had told her about the group before she was a member of the church. She also asked others for their memories and has submitted the following:



The Quartet – Ken Linens, James Linens, Dan Alexander, \_\_\_\_\_

“Bliff” Core started to organize a singing group in the late 1930s. His daughter, Bemis Core Cheek, played the piano for them to practice for singing engagements. Those who started singing together were Uriel Robertson (so little he had to stand on a box to be as tall as the others), James Linens, Kenneth Linens (a young teenager still in high school), Hoyt Cheek, and Vernon Pickard. They each loved to sing and practiced in the homes.

Mr. Core would teach each one his separate part, and would prompt each if he was having difficulty as they joined together.

They sang at their own Methodist Protestant Church for many services and for all special occasions. Often they sang at other churches, and sometimes even on street corners. For several years they sang for Harold Loman's noted revivals and had followers who went wherever they were singing.

World War II disrupted their lives, and they disbanded for a few years. Uriel Robertson lost his life in service, and when Hoyt Cheek went into the ministry, Dan Alexander took his place. Vernon Pickard (the only survivor of the original group) moved his membership to another church, and Carl Oakley replaced him.

During their years of singing at the First United Methodist Church, there were several ministers who loved to sing and who would join with them from time to time. Among these were Reverend Caswell Shaw and Reverend Jim Auman.

Due to the death of the “Linens Boys” and Dan Alexander, the original quartet ceased to exist. However, it has been reformed several times with others taking their places and today we have the very popular J.E.S.S., composed of Jerry Cummings, Ed Barnes, Steve VanPelt, and Steve Hamrick.

Marsha Jones remembers:

You don't have to go outside the walls of this church! Yes, right here, close at hand miracles happen everyday. One miracle to speak of happened in 1981.

The miracle referred to here is the one of birth. Healthy babies are born every day and most people take this for granted. To this family, it took the whole church to pray together and stand behind them to see this baby come home from the hospital. When a child is born weighing 1 lb. and 13 oz.; the first thing you think of is, ‘What kind of life will this little person have?’ Several magazine articles have been written about whether it is the “right” thing to do to save these tiny babies. This writer believes that saving these babies is certainly the right thing to do, especially if 1,000 people are willing to pray for them every day for 90 plus days (that equates to 100,000 prayers – wow!!!), send food to the home in support of the family, help with the 3 year old brother, call to extend a helping hand in any way, and send cards with messages of love.

Monetary support from these same people also came twice to this family. Around Thanksgiving of 1981, Rev. Susan Harsh (Cafferty) and the Rev. Caswell Shaw came to visit. They presented a check to us to help with medical expenses. Only a month later another check was given by the church. It was almost like this church wanted to share in all the problems that a family of four could have with one being in the hospital through Christmas and no relatives that lived any closer than 600 miles! Our burden again was made lighter by a church family that cared and loved one another.

As I look back to October 7, 1981, what is clearly visible is a modern day miracle. A miracle made possible by the caring church members of First United Methodist Church of Graham, through their power of prayer and the love of God. The parents in this story are Roger and Marsha Jones, the brother is Ryan, and the tiny baby is Jessica Gail (“JJ”) Jones. We are truly grateful for the support given by the

church and the miracle of having a daughter grow up healthy and knowing how much she is loved by all. (This story is dedicated in honor of Reverend Susan Cafferty who spent many hours with this family, loving, laughing, crying, and praying to witness this miracle as it unfolded.)



Jessica Jones is Christened with the Roddys, Reverends Shaw and Harsh, and her proud parents and brother Ryan.

## Current Membership Roll

Kelly Grey Adams	Tara Kristine Beaver	William Jennings Bryant
Mark Joseph Adamski	Laura Elizabeth Bennett	Frances L. Bryant
C. Ryan Adamski	Jennifer Burke Billings	John Jennings Bryant
Barbara Ann Albright	Emma Bird	Amy S. Buckner
Ruth B. Albright	Betty Ann Blanchard	Martha Louise Buckner
Donald A. Albright	Sam Blanchard III	Jeff Bulla III
Tracie Albright	Debbie Boger	Lessie Mae Bulla
Daniel Alexander	Briane Damon Boger	Robert Don Bulla
Joni Michele Alexander	Alicia Nicole Boger	Marcella Bulla
Nancy Allred	Roger D. Boley	William O. Bulla, Jr.
Eric Allshouse	Cynthia Boley	Elizabeth Burke
Melodie Allshouse	Debbie Huey Boone	Carolyn Lorena Burton
Paul Andrews	Ursal Boswell	Shelby Jean Bush
Tammy Andrews	Virgileen Boyle	Todd Bush
Richard Andrews	Lewis A. Brackett	Graham W. Call
Carole Jeanne Andrews	Jewell Brackett	Rebecca H. Call
Laura Andrews	Ethel S. Bradshaw	Michael Call
Monteze Anglin	William Bradshaw	Teresa Call
Dorothy Apple	Peggy O. Bradshaw	James Cameron, Jr.
Lisa Moser Arble	Horace O. Brannon	Carol Cameron
Ruth C. Ayd	Craig E. Brantley	Tammy J. Campbell
Eric Bacigalupo	Jo Brantley	Craig Capps
Thomas J. Balchin	Jason Scott Brantley	Nikki Capps
Mrs. Oria Ann Balchin	Alfred F. Braxton, Jr.	Jeffrey Kevin Carter
Sylvia Christa Balchin	Layden M. Brazington	Amy Lynn Carter
Ross Barbee	Jason Brazington	Gene W. Cathey
Julie Barbee	Mrs. Toni Brazington	Michael Gene Cathey
Roger Barnack	Christa Brazington	Elaine Frye Caudill
George Edward Barnes	Evelyn Denise Briggs	Gene Lester Caudill
Charles Edward Barnes	Howard Briggs	Jack Chapin
Ben Barnhill	Hulon Briggs	Violet Chapin
David Andrew Barnhill	Gretchen W. Briggs	Mabel W. Cheek
Erin Barnhill	Gayla McGee Briggs	Lina Chester
Linda Barnhill	J. Elvin Briggs	Richard Chester
Adrienne Barnwell	Anne S. Briggs	Betty Clapp
Grover B. Bason	Lynn Briggs	Jerry C. Clapp
Nettie Ruth Bason	Mary Briggs	Carmon Victoria Clapp
Paul Morgan Bason	Stan Briggs	Charles A. Clapp
Cory Baumberger	James Briles	Earl Clapp
Camilla Baxley	Alex Brink	Edith Ellen Clapp
Jodi Borders Baxter	Susan Brink	Ella Jean Clapp
Foy Bayliff	Dewey A. Brown	Glenda Clapp
James Douglas Bayliff	Michael Lawrence Brown	Mildred B. Clapp
Clara Tucker Bayliff	Suzanne Jeannette Brown	Milton F. Clapp
Margaret G. Bayliff	Mike Craig Brown	Rodney Clapp
Katherine Bayliff	Vicki M. Brown	Bruce Clark
Ivan Kenneth Beagle	Christopher Brown	Eleanor Clark

John William Clark  
Nancy C. Clark  
Pauline B. Clark  
Valerie Elizabeth Clark  
Arnold Glenn Clary  
James Cline  
Charles Wayne Collins  
Christopher L. Collins  
Louise L. Collins  
Edward Cook  
McRae Cook  
Robert Cook  
Ruth Sexton Cook  
Carol Briggs Cowan  
Hazel R. Craig  
Andrew Crissman  
Barbara W. Crissman  
Carey E. Crissman  
Charles C. Crissman  
Eric James Crissman  
Diana F. Cummings  
Jerry Alden Cummings  
Kelly Cummings  
Cindy Rae Dalton  
Jerry F. Debruler  
Linda Debruler  
Candice M. Dixon  
Donna M. Dixon  
Pat Dixon  
Rodney Daryl Dixon  
Terry M. Dixon  
Robert Drumwright, Jr.  
Sallie Drumwright  
Thomas W. Drumwright, Jr.  
Francis Eason  
John Eason  
Melanie Crissman Eaton  
Amy Edwards  
Betty Edwards  
Harvey Lee Edwards  
Jane Norris Edwards  
John Edwards  
Judy Leach Edwards  
Katherine E. Edwards  
Peggy W. Edwards  
Pam Leach Ellis  
Jon Christian Ennis  
Ashley Epps  
Donna Epps  
Alma Euliss  
Cathy Teer Evans

Lawrence E. Evans  
Billy Ezzell, III  
Karen Ezzell  
Linda Faye Ezzell  
Billy Ezzell, Jr.  
Jackie Farmer  
Seth Allen Farrior  
Elizabeth Ann Fenton  
Steve Fenton  
Suzanne Fenton  
Amanda L. Ferguson  
Jerry W. Ferguson  
Jodie Lee Ferguson  
Scott W. Ferguson  
Thelma Kay Ferguson  
Heather Ferrell  
James Ferrell  
James Chadwick Ferrell  
James M. Ferrell, Jr.  
Katherine Jane Ferrell  
Leslie Ann Ferrell  
Nancy Ferrell  
Wendy M. Ferrell  
Chris Fine  
Daniel Scott Fine  
Paul D. Fine  
Joe Burke Fisher  
Andy Fitch, Jr.  
Carl Fitch  
Wendy S. Fitch  
Ann Flythe  
Coley Flythe  
J. Colon Flythe  
James Willard Flythe  
Jeff Flythe  
Lucille Flythe  
Rebecca F. Flythe  
Ethan Robert Fogleman  
James Robert Fogleman  
James Chadwick Fogleman  
Linda Carroll Fogleman  
Maurice S. Fogleman  
Doug J. Foley  
Gay E. Foley  
Karen Foley  
James G. Folks  
Sarah Elizabeth Folks  
Harvey Clayton Foushee  
Kimberly Elaine Fulkerson  
Chris Fulkerson  
Ashley B. Fulkerson

Dana Fuller  
Glenda Fuller  
Robert Fuller  
Nancy L. Gant  
Richard Brian Gant  
Donna Lou Garrison  
Jack R. Gebe  
Patricia Gebe  
Carrie H. Gibson  
William Edwin Gilliam  
Barbara Gordon  
Edward Gordon  
Lori Short Grafton  
Michael Warren Grafton  
Eva G. Graham  
Stephen T. Graham  
Walter B. Graham  
Cheryl Greeson  
Jackie Greeson  
Margaret Bradshaw Griffin  
Frank Griffith  
William Mark Griffith  
Jean Groseclose  
Russell G. Guthrie  
Marie Hagerman  
Dorothy Hayes Hale  
Stacy Hale  
Kimberly Ann Hall  
Pat Hall  
Susan R. Hall  
Dr. W. Kenneth Hall  
Heather Hamlett  
Junius Holt Harden  
Mary Alice Harden  
Mignon Saunders Harden  
Amanda Paulette Hardie  
Ben Hardie  
Donald Lee Hardie  
Elizabeth L. Hardie  
Janet Hardie  
Lindley Gilliam Hardie  
Louise Hardie  
Penny G. Hardie  
Rala May Hardie  
Ricky Lynn Hardie  
Betty Hardt  
F. W. Harris  
Joe J. Harris  
Allison Harrison  
Andrew Harrison  
Carla Harrison



Gladys Harrison	Steven Lee Huffines	Wallace Lane
Janet Harrison	Sarah Catherine Hughes	Carolyn Ruth Lapham
Richard Harrison	Shelia Hughes	Charles Edmund Lapham
Velma Pauline Hauser	Thomas Randy Hunter	Edmund F. Lapham
James Edwin Hayes, Jr.	Courtney Jean Hurt	Jeannie Rae Lapham
Judith V. Hayes	Mark Edward Hurt	Carol Bayliff Laurie
Leigh Ann Hayes	Pamella B. Hurt	John Thomas Leach
Tommy W. Hayes	Michael Edward Ingelheim	Donald Ray Lee
Susan Pore Healy	Floyd Lee Ingold, Jr.	Donald Keith Lee
Frances S. Heath	Kevin Lee Ingold	Dorothy Mae Lee
Raymond E. Heath, Sr.	Linda Murray Ingold	Rhonda Lee
Cornelia Henderson	Edith M. Isley	Ashley Elizabeth Lewis
Elsie Mae Henderson	Elizabeth Isley	Frances Lewis
Jack Y. Henderson	Howard James	Sherri Caudill Lewis
Jackie Sue Henderson	Karen V. James	Stefanie Ley
James Alton Henderson	Kristy Heather James	Todd Ley
Louise Henderson	Lucille James	Cheryl Marie Linde
Robert Stephen Henderson	Dr. Robert M. James	David Allen Linde
Betty King Hensley	Tammy James	Adam Patrick Linens
Ercelle Hensley	Donna Clapp Jeans	Billie Ione Linens
Lydia Maude Herman	Deborah S. Jenkins	Jamie Linens
Cameron Brant Hight	Weldon L. Jenkins	Jerry Linens
Craig F. Hill	Peggy Ramona Jenks	Jimmy G. Linens
Teresa Seay Hill	Aldine Jobe	Kelly Ryan Linens
Jeff Hinshaw	Bobby Ray Johnson	Kenny Linens
Jennifer Hinshaw	Bonnie Johnson	Lydia H. Linens
Margaret R. Hinshaw	Greta Johnson	Mary Helen Linens
Terri Hobson	Hazel Johnson	Matthew Justin Linens
Jack A. Elwood	Patricia K. Johnson	Meagan N. Linens
Gerald Hollan	Ray Stokes Johnson	Millicent B. Linens
Patricia C. Hollan	Reggie Johnson	John Clinton Lloyd
Alan Holland	William F. Johnson	Lynn Sidney Lloyd
Frances Holland	Andrew Jones, Jr.	Maycie W. Lloyd
Jamie Lynette Holmes	Jessica Gail Jones	Wilson Cameron Lloyd
Jimmy Ross Holmes	Kathryn Jones	James C. Lockamy
Justin Ross Holmes	Kinza Jean Jones	Nina Kathryn Lockamy
Wendi Holmes	Marsha Ann Jones	Mike Lockridge
Greg Hook	Roger I. Jones	Angela Harris Long
Sherry Hook	Ryan Christopher Jones	Cheryl Guthrie Long
Michelle Lynn Hooks	William Paul Jones	William Dolph Longest
Judy Horning	Jill Jordon	Alison Lopez
Daniel Franklin Howard	Julia H. Kaczvinski	Nick Lopez
Franklin Howard	Jorjanna Lee Kelley	Perry Lopez
Julia B. Howard	Katie Kelly	Jo Love
Yvonne C. Howard	Kay Harden Kelly	Ted Love
Mary C. Howell	Lynn Seay Kernodle	Barbara M. Lowe
Leianne Hudgins	Allene Kimball	Elwyn Hardin Lowe
Mildred Huey	Frank Kimball (Buzz)	Allison Gray Loy
David Holt Huffines	Ellen Knox	Brenda Loy
Ellen M. Huffines	Stacy Koon	Doris H. Loy
Grover C. Huffines	Terrell Leo Lamb	Iris Loy

Robert Daniel Loy  
Dondrue Lupton  
Fredrick A. Lupton  
Maurine Lupton  
Grace Martha Lynch  
Jeff Lynch  
Deanna Malinski  
Howard M. Malinski  
Howard M. Malinski, Jr.  
Mary Lee Malinski  
Christopher Martin  
Irene Martin  
Joncy Martin  
Rafe R. Martin  
David Masters  
Betty May  
Craig D. (Dobby) May  
Jason K. May  
Velsie Guthrie McAdams  
Nancy Call McBride  
Don McCall  
Sandy McCall  
Sharon Lee McCurdy  
Enos Carl McDonald  
John McDonald  
Joshua Holt McDonald  
Pamela H. McDonald  
Sandra McDonald  
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Tammy McGonagle  
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Mark D. McIntyre  
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Dodson McPherson  
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Worth McPherson  
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William F. Miles  
Alice Miller  
Barry Miller  
James Lenis Miller  
Jeff Miller  
Randy Miller  
Perry Mintz  
Rowan Mintz  
Suzanne Lynn Mintz  
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William W. Mitchell  
Linda Faye Money

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Mona Moon  
Nell Mooney  
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Brian Moore  
Erin Elizabeth Moore  
Kathy Moore  
Ray B. Moore  
Raymond B. Moore, III  
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Rickey L. Moorefield  
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Marcia Green Morris  
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Linda Correll Moser  
Rex Moser  
Ryan Fitch Moser  
Suzanne Moser  
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Opal M. Narron  
Tres Nash  
Carole Stevens Nelson  
Danny Newman  
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Rex Daniel O'Neal  
Megan O'Neal  
Cindy Oliver  
Gordon Oliver  
Dr. Delmar W. Olson  
Jeanne Owen  
Susan Baxley Page  
Charles Painter  
Barbara M. Pattishall  
Boyd Payne  
Brenda Payne  
Rebecca Jane Payne  
Andrew Douglas Perkey  
Lauren Frances Perkey  
Marilyn Ruth Perkey  
Martin Douglas Perkey  
Betty Lou Perry  
Casey Miranda Perry  
Cheryl Sykes Perry  
James Monroe Perry  
Kristin Nicole Perry  
Rodney Blane Perry

Timothy Holt Perry  
Allen Eugene Phillips  
Blair Phillips  
Cynthia Phillips  
G. Van Phillips  
Gerald V. Phillips, Jr.  
Jean Rader Phillips  
Lorraine Phillips  
Dennis Pickard  
Ester Pike  
Fern L. Pike  
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Ralph Pike, Sr.  
Brenda Porter  
Steven Jay Porter  
Barbara Porterfield  
Hazel Tinnin Poulin  
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John Brian Powell  
Mrs. John B. Powell  
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Gregory Aaron Priska  
Karla Sue Priska  
Timothy Andrew Priska  
G. L. Pritchard, Jr.  
Joann Pritchard  
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Helen Rhew  
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Lucille Rich  
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Cindy Roberts  
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Chadwick Royal  
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Karen Lynn Rubright  
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Frank Rudd, Jr.  
Ruth T. Rudd  
Melvin Russell  
Priscilla Russell  
Sammy Russell  
Lewis Hubert Ruth, Jr.  
Lewis H. Ruth, III  
Ardith Salisbury  
Donald Salter  
Mary Jane Salter  
Roy Lester Salter  
William G. Salter  
Linda H. Samartia  
Edith P. Satterfield  
Thomas Satterfield  
Mildred Saunders  
John Schweitzer  
Karen Schweitzer  
Robin M. Sealey  
Carolyn P. Seay  
Ellen Marie Self-Farrar  
C. Wayne Shambley  
G. Wayne Shambley  
Judy B. Shambley  
Allen Sharpe  
Allen Lee Sharpe  
Amy French Sharpe  
Carolyn Sharpe  
Cindy R. Sharpe  
Houston P. Sharpe, Jr.  
Houston P. Sharpe III  
Jackie Sharpe  
John Sharpe  
Tommy Sharpe  
Anita Sherer  
Jonathan Sherer  
Ruth Shoemaker

Addie Belle Shoffner  
Cherri Shoffner  
Elizabeth W. Shoffner  
Harvey Shoffner  
Steve Shoffner  
David R. Shotwell  
Rodney Shotwell  
Jerry Shouse  
Bobbiree D. Simpson  
Marion Ree Simpson  
Jeanne U. Sinclair  
Cliff Smith  
Peggy Gore Smith  
Sara Smith  
Donna P. Snotherly  
Russell Alan Snotherly  
Kathryn M. Snotherly  
Beth Snow  
Betsy Snow  
Robert E. Snow  
Shelby Ann Snyder  
Alan Stacey  
Kimberly Nicole Stacey  
Teresa A. Stacey  
Ed Stadler  
Sandra Stadler  
Mickey Stanfield  
Ralph Stanfield  
John Stanford, Jr.  
Camille J. Staton  
Gregory C. Staton  
John Charles Staton  
Kimberly Bush Staton  
Tyler Staton  
Carol Jean Steele  
Cheryl Steele  
David Vernon Steele  
Doris T. Steele  
Jennifer L. Steele  
John Harvey Steele  
Mary Steele  
Michael Richard Steele  
Ricky A. Steele  
Lisa E. Strader  
Christine E. Strickland  
Charles Mervin Stutts  
Janice B. Stutts  
Artelia R. Sykes  
David Sykes  
Wendy Sykes  
Elizabeth Taylor

Margaret Ann Taylor  
Nicholas Bradley Taylor  
Niles Benjamin Taylor  
Sanders Wade Taylor  
Tim Taylor  
Marvin Terrell  
Susan Terrell  
Sabrina Thomas  
Sylvia Thomas  
Meredith Jo Thornton  
Sarah Job Thornton  
Jerry Shaw Tinnin  
James Tippens  
Marie Tippens  
Chip Turner  
Elizabeth Jones Turner  
Jack Boyd Turner  
James Edward Turner  
June Gayle Turner  
Myrtle R. Turner  
Charles Allen Van Pelt  
Jeffrey Scott Van Pelt  
Kathryn Lynn Van Pelt  
Steve Allen Van Pelt  
Mary Ann Van Pelt  
John Vanbenschoten  
Mary Lou Vanbenschoten  
Reed Nathan Vanbenschoten  
Rhian E. Vanderburg  
Susan H. Vanderburg  
W. Randall Vanderburg  
William C. Vanderburg  
Denis Michael Vass  
Jan Beagle Vass  
Jennifer Lindsay Vass  
Jonathan Wayne Vincent  
Kristin Perry Vincent  
David C. Waggoner  
Dawn Kimrey Walker  
Jerry Mitchell Walker  
Jordan Oliver Walker  
Joseph Lee Walker  
Leuvenia E. Walker  
Mildred Walker  
Patricia Dianne Walker  
Tyler Grant Walker  
Warren Walker  
Mike Walters  
Sybil Walters  
Clyde Ward  
Marie Ward

Geraldeen Rudd Warren  
Helen Warren  
James R. Warren  
Betty Watson  
Theodore Watson  
Doris Way  
Ferris Monroe Way  
Judith R. Way  
Maxwell Monroe Way  
Maxwell English Way  
Benjamin Wood Weaver  
John W. Weaver  
Mary W. Weaver  
Nathan W. Weaver  
David Weavil  
Frances S. Webster  
George Webster  
Emma Carol Wheeler  
Amber White  
Leslie Moser Whitford  
Linda B. Whitson  
Staehle Whitson  
Linda B. Whitson  
Betsy Whitmore  
Charles E. Whittemore

Marion P. Whittemore  
Mildred C. Whittemore  
Ruth Whittemore  
Stephen A. Whittemore  
Bill Lee Williams  
Fannie Eva Williams  
Helen Clark Williams  
Johnny Earl Williams  
Pamela Williams  
Sarah Bell Williams  
Vivian B. Williamson  
Brian D. Wilson  
Dorothy Wilson  
Leota Wilson  
Melanie D. Wilson  
Michelle Ennis Wilson  
Myrtle Lee Wilson  
Robin Anne Wilson  
Scott Wilson  
Sherri P. Wilson  
Steve D. Wilson  
W. H. Wilson, Jr.  
Bob Wisse  
Harriett Wisse  
Larry L. Wolfe, Jr.

Austin Wood  
Jeff Wood  
Kim Foley Wood  
Terri Wood  
Jerry Woodside  
Pat Woodside  
Tracy Leigh Woodside  
Janet P. Woody  
Nathan Merritt Woody  
Nicole Woody  
Travis Steven Woody  
Charles L. Worley  
Marilyn M. Worley  
Miranda M. Worley  
Ben Worrell  
Forrest Wrenn  
Virginia Wrenn  
Kathy Wright  
David Lee Wyatt  
Deanna Linens Wyatt  
Sharon Elizabeth Wyatt  
Benjamin Nelson Young  
Mary L. Young  
Nelson D. Young

## Membership Pictures 2002



ADAMSKI, Mark  
Ryan



ALBRIGHT, Ruth



ALTHOUSE, Kathy



JAMICK, Cazarina



AYDT, Ruth



BARBEE, Ross & Julie  
Caleb



BARNES, Ed



BASON, G.B. & Nettie Ruth



BAYLIFF, Doug & Clara  
Nichole DURHAM; Arena JACKSON



BAYLIFF, Margaret



BEAVER, Mike & Tara  
Kirsten, Alex, Katelyn



BRACKETT, Lewis & Jewell



BRADSHAW, Bill & Peggy



BRANTLEY, Craig & Jo



BRIGGS, Hulon & Gretchen



BRIGGS, Mary J.



BROWN, Michael & Suzanne  
Jacob, Phillip



BUCKNER, Amy



BUCKNER, Louise



BURKE, Elizabeth



BURTON, Carolyn



CAMPBELL, Donald & Tammy  
Jennifer



CAUDILL, Gene & Elaine



CHEEK, Mabel W.



CLARK, John & Nancy  
Valerie



CLARK, Polly



CRAIG, Hazel



CRISSMAN, Eric & Barbara



CUMMINGS, Jerry & Diana



DIXON, Donna



YOUNG, Nelson & Mary



EDWARDS, Harvey & Jane



EDWARDS, Peggy



EVANS, Lawrence



EZZELL, Linda



FENTON, Elizabeth Ann



FENTON, Steve & Sue  
Eric, Matthew, Emily



FERGUSON, Jerry & Kay  
Amanda



FERRELL, Jane



FERRELL, Wendy  
Leslie, Chad, Heather



FISHER, Joseph B.



FITCH, Carl



FOGLEMAN, James & Linda



FOGLEMAN, Maurice



FOLKS, Jim & Rose



FULKERSON, Chris & Kim  
Ashley, Jacob



FULLER, Bill



†GANT, Brian & Traci  
Johnathan



GANT, Nancy



GIBSON, Carrie H.



GRAHAM, Walter & Eva



GRIFFIN, Margaret



HALE, Stacey & Dot



HALL, William & Pat



HARDEN, Junius & Mary



HARDIE, Donald & Penny  
Lindley



HARDIE, Elizabeth



HARDIE, Janet



HARDIE, Louise



HARDT, Otto & Betty



HARRISON, Andrew & Gladys



HAYES, Tommy & Judy  
Leigh



HEATH, Raymond & Frances



HENDERSON, Louise





HOLLAND, Al & Frances



HOOK, Greg & Sherry  
Katie, Taylor, Michael



HOWARD, Julia



HURT, Mark & Pam  
Courtney, Jared



JAMES, Howard & Tammy  
Dylan BOWES



JAMES, Lucile



JENKS, Peggy



JOHNSON, Greta



JONES, Roger & Marsha



KELLY, Mike & "JJ."  
Charlie, Timothy



KIMBALL, Buzz & Allene



KNOX, Ellen



KOON, Jeremy & Stacy  
Trevor



LAMB, Terrell L.



LAPHAM, Ed & Carolyn



LEE, Donald & Dorothy



LEWIS, James A. & Frances  
Christopher, Mirinda BARNACK



LEWIS, Sherri  
Ashley



LINENS, Billie



LINENS, Jerry & Phyllis  
Jamie, Kelly



LINENS, Jimmy & Millicent  
Meagan



LINENS, Mary Helen  
Kenny



LLOYD, Lynn & Maycie  
Will, Clint



LOCKAMY, James & Kathryn



LONGEST, Bill



LOWE, Elwyn & Barbara



LOY, Doris



LOY, Robert & Brenda  
Allison



LYNCH, Grace



McDONALD, Eos & Pam  
Joshua



McDONALD, John & Sandra



McGONAGLE, George & Tammy  
Tyler, Kaitlyn



McINTYRE, Mark & Gwen



MITCHELL, William & Nova



MOON, Marie



†MOONEY, Rev. Robert & Nell



MOORE, Brian & Brenda  
J.T.



MURPHY, Marie (Micki)



NASH, Tres & Ellen  
Lindsey, Parker, Carson



O'NEAL, Dawn  
Megan Elizabeth, Cameron Daniel, Hannah  
Danielle



OWEN, Jeanne  
Timothy McFARLAND Jr.



PAINTER, Gordon & Ester



PAYNE, Gene & Becky



PERKEY, Martin & Marilyn  
Drew, Lauren



PERRY, Jim & Betty Lou



PHILLIPS, Lorraine "Loby"



PIKE, Grace



PIKE, Ralph & Fern



PRISKA, Gerald & Karla



PRISKA, Tim & Christie



QUIGLEY, David & Christine  
Erin, Kasey



RAYLE, Doug & Susan  
Emily



RICH, Andy & Mary Evelyn  
Elizabeth



RICH, Lucille



RICKS, R. Dennis Jr. & Lydia



RILEY, Doris



RILEY, Sharon  
Brianna



ROPER, Edith



ROYAL, Chad & Amy



RUDD, Frank & Ruth



RUTH, Lewis III  
Savannah Jean



RUTH, Lewis Jr. & Betty



SAUNDERS, Mimi



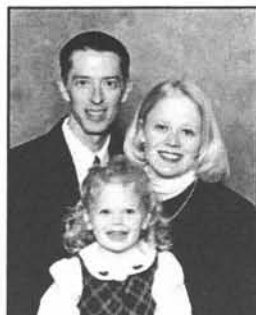
SCHWEITZER, John & Karen



SEAY, Carolyn



SHAMBLEY, Wayne & Judy



SHARPE, Allen & Amy  
Elizabeth



SHARPE, Hugh & Cindy  
Houston



SHOFFNER, Harvey & Elizabeth



SNOTHERLY, Russell & Donna  
Kathryn, Brandon



SNYDER, Shelby



STATON, Charles & Camille



STATON, Greg & Kim  
Tyler, Connor, Garrett



STEELE, David & Carol



STEELE, Doris



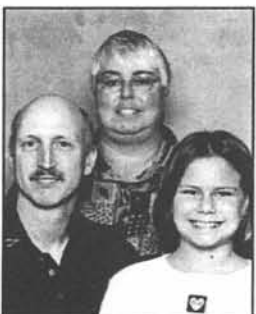
THORNTON, Chuck & Meredith  
Hannah



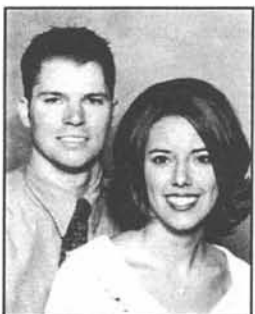
TURNER, Brice & Myrtle



VAN PELT, Steve & Mary Ann



VASS, Denis & Jan  
Amy



VINCENT, Jonathan & Kristin



WALKER, Leuvenia



WALKER, Pat  
Joseph, Emily



WALKER, Warren & Mildred



WALTERS, Sybil



WATSON, Theodore & Betty



WAY, Max & Judy



WEAVER, Mary



WEBSTER, Frances



WILLIAMS, Fannie



WILLIAMS, Sarah



WILLIAMSON, Vivian



†WILSON, Leota



WILSON, Myrtle F.



WOOD, Jeff & Terri  
Austin, Kaitlyn, Cassidy



WOODY, Janet P.



WYATT, Gary & Deanna  
Anderson, Nolan

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Greensboro News & Record

