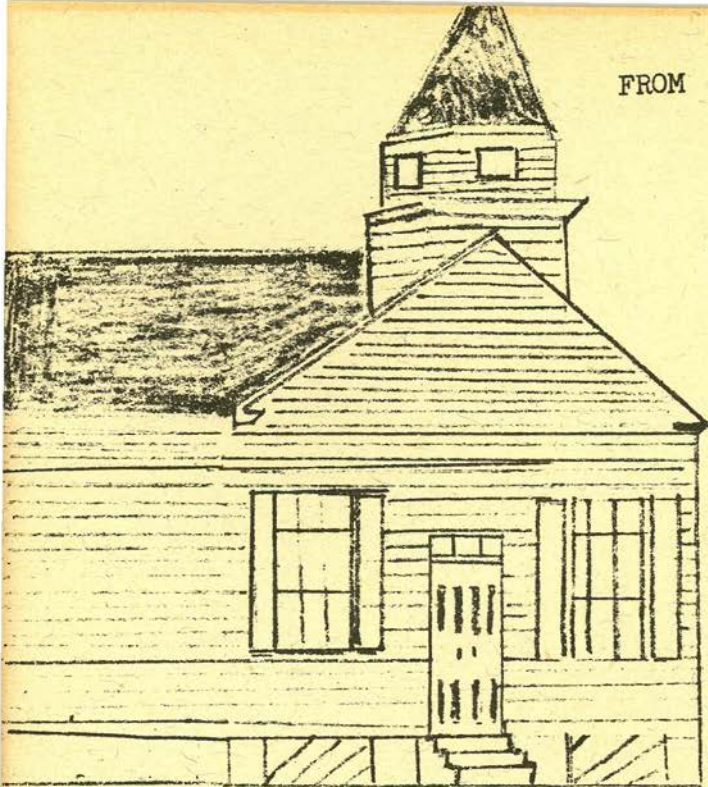
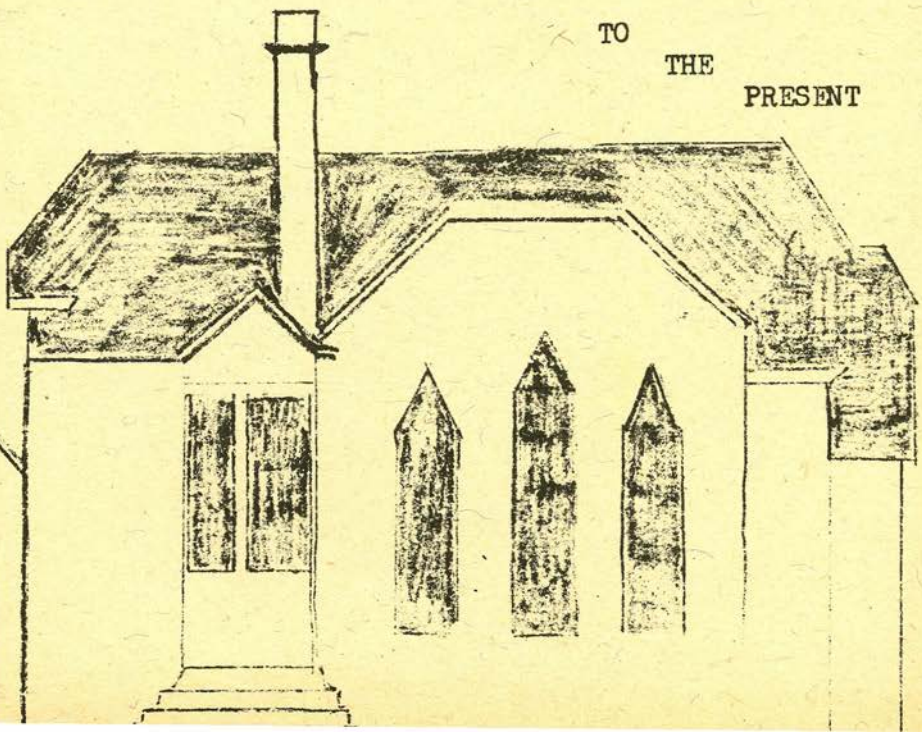


FROM
THE
PAST



TO
THE
PRESENT



This brief history of the Gatesville United Methodist Church is dedicated in memory of Reverend Stewart Brodie. It is only the beginning of finding our church's heritage. Before his death, Reverend Brodie had begun to research the history and put the pieces together.

Reverend Stewart Brodie will remain in our hearts and thoughts, his gentle laugh and soft smile, his words of wisdom, and love as he spoke God's words will be forever engraved in our lives. He is truly missed by all who knew him.

"HE SHALL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY GHOST AND WITH FIRE." Matthews 3:11

This verse from Matthews is believed to have been the first Methodist sermon preached in the Carolina colony. Joseph Pilmoor, a missionary sent to the area by John Wesley preached this sermon in 1772 at the Currituck Courthouse. Although Methodism had an early start, it was not the first religion in the Carolina colony. Until the 1700's the majority of colonists were Episcopalians. This simply means that the individual was baptized at childhood and was of English descent. During this period several chapels with built in the Albermarle by the Church of England. They were called Chapels of Eaves. However, the area fell into neglect regarding the Church. Around 1652 a Quaker preacher named William Edmundson came to the area and began the Quaker religion which remained strong for approximately 50 years. Reverend Edmundson is credited with preaching the first Christian sermon almost 220 years before Methodism came to the Carolina colony.

Joseph Pilmoor considered the Methodist Society a branch of the Angelican Church. There was still much guidance and structure from the Mother Church of England. The first Methodist preachers to be sent to the Albermarle Region were Jesse Lee and Edward Dromgool. Both

were sent by the Reverend Caleb Pedicord an elder in Virginia to set up and begin a circuit within the Albermarle Region.

Although Pilmoor, Boardman, Lee and Dromgool actually brought the Methodist belief into the Albermarle Region, Bishop Francis Asbury is credited with the "implanting of Methodism" in the Carolina colony. From 1799 to 1816, his diligent visits to the Carolina colony to set up societies, establish churches, and preach the Gospel were the mainstay of Methodism in the area.

Francis Asbury was born in 1745 in Handsworth, Staffordshire, England. In 1769, he was admitted to the Wesleyan Connection in London. John Wesley, in 1778, gave Asbury permission to come to the Carolina colony to establish the Methodist faith. And in 1784, Asbury was ordained a Bishop of the Methodist Church. Becoming a bishop gave Asbury the right to give sacrament, ordain elders and preach the Gospel. A conference was called by Asbury and Cokes of all the preachers of the Carolina colony. At the conference, Asbury and Cokes ordained all the preachers who had attended. The Methodist Episcopal Church was born from this conference.

Asbury's first visit to Gates County is recorded in 1791 and his main purpose was to develop the Methodist religion and establish churches. At this time he made several entries regarding Gates County in his journal.

He described it as "most awful and hideous swamps." The first recorded visit to Gatesville was in 1801. He had preached several times at Knotty Pine Chapel which was located near Buckland and at several friends' homes. His first sermon at Gatesville was in 1803, probably the original Gates County Courthouse. In 1803, Gatesville was known as Gates Court House and it was not until 1831 that it became known as Gatesville. In 1801, the Methodist Society was developed. The first member of the Gates Court House was Sarah Harrell in 1801. It is believed that Gates Court House Methodist Church originally grew out of the Knotty Pine Chapel.

In 1828, a major division in the Methodist Church occurred due to the lay representation and thus emerged the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church. At the same time this division was occurring, the first deed was recorded for the Gates Court House Church. Jesse Brown, Reuben Harrell, and Thomas Wright Hayes were the founders of the Gates Court House Church. The membership at that time was recorded at 158.

The property was bought from John D. Pipkins for forty dollars for the stated purpose:

"shall erect and build or cause to be erected and built thereon a House or place of worship for use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. . ." *

The original church was a simple frame structure which began to deteriorate over the years and was destroyed. Another church was built on the same site, but was later rebuilt after a fire nearly destroyed the building. Fortunately, the altar and memorial windows were saved. The present day has been remodeled twice since the rebuilding.

The first church services were not formal and were held by a circuit preacher. The church was evangelistic, stressed the lost condition of mankind, sinful nature of man, the importance of salvation and the acceptance of Christ. Sunday school services were not establish until 1790. These services were more than just religious services. Sunday School also taught reading and writing. A protracted meeting was held once a year for several days. There was a meeting ground located near Gatesville. The site was located where the present Routes 158 and 37 fork, just outside of Gatesville. Meetings were held during the day because of lighting and were large social gatherings that lasted all day. These meetings were opened to both the whites and blacks.

To become a member of the Methodist Church one had to dedicate his life to the profession of faith and was placed on a probation period of one year. Rules of the church held for both the newcomers on probation and older members. Anyone who broke the rules were expelled for such offenses as "Drunkness", "unseemingly conduct", and non-comittment. Such offenses were recorded in the church records as "sufficient causes." **

In some churches, there were separate doors for men and women. Men and women were separated during church services. A few churches in the area even had a separate door and area for blacks. In some churches the black membership outnumbered the white members.

There arose a conflict over the membership of blacks and slavery. In 1844, the Methodist Episcopal Church separated in to the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South as can be noted on a large Bible which the church has in its archives.

In 1879, a missionary organization was begun in Gatesville by Reverend Thomas H. Campbell. The organization was named for his daughter Rosebud Campbell. Virgie Campbell wrote a letter to Reverend John B. Lauren (Known as Uncle Larry):

Dear Uncle Larry; - You asked "little folks" to write to you. I write now to tell you of a plan we (the little ones of our family) are thinking about, and ask your advice. We wish to form a "Child's Missionary Society," beginning in our own family, and have chosen our little sister, Rosebud a bright, loving girl of seven summers, for President. I am to be Secretary and do the writing. Our three brothers are going to join and we all are contributing members. Now, won't you tell the little folks of the "Advocate" about it, and ask them to join our Society? I think it would be so nice for all the Methodist preachers' little

children to join in sending the Gospel to others, while our fathers are preaching it here. Don't you, Uncle Larry? I must tell you we are going to work for our money. Sister and I are to commence bed-quilts this week and when they are finished, will sell them and put our money in the "missionary box."

I must close by asking Uncle Larry not to laugh at our idea of making a seven-year-old child President of a Missionary Society. Don't put this in the "Advocate" I just write it for you. If you have time write to me, and tell me how we had best begin.

Your little friend, ***

The Rosebuds raised several thousand dollars and grew in size with many other youth organizations developing from the Rosebuds. Dues were 2¢ per month and the funds were sent to a missionary in Monterey, Mexico. The first house that was built by the Rosebuds was at Monterey, Mexico and was called Instituto Laurens after Reverend Laurens.

Until 1894, Gatesville Methodist Episcopal Church was a member of the Virginia Conference. The North Carolina Conference was formed in 1837, but did not include the Albermarle Region. Gatesville joined the North Carolina Conference in 1894.

There were two major mergers of the Methodist Church. In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Protestant Church formed the Methodist Church. Another merger took place in 1968 when the Methodist Church

joined the Evangelical United Brethren to become the United Methodist Church. Finally, the thoughts, concerns, and beliefs of John Wesley, Francis Asbury who both were of the Methodist belief and Philip Otterbein, Jacob Albright and Martin Boehm of the United Brethren were brought together to form one major religion.

This is just a brief history of the Methodist Church in Gatesville and in the Carolina colony. It is a brief description of the growth of the religion in the Carolina colony. An entire book could be written regarding the history, and hopefully it will be in the future. In order for the history of the Gatesville Methodist Church to be complete, we need much more information regarding the church and the members. Any copies of information on the church or member would be appreciated. Also needed are copies of photographs of the church past and present, activities of the church and members. Any information or photographs which you would like to donate to the church, please send to the Church Historian, Virginia Bustle.

"Know ye that God is present in all things, hears all, sees all, and most of all loves all. He is the foundation of the church, and the reason for life. Let us spread this happiness among all of our fellow men that we meet so that they can also have fulfillment."

- 1652 William Edmundson, Quaker preacher, preached first Christian sermon in the Carolina colony
- 1708 William Gordon and James Adams, Episcopal clergymen, arrived from England
- 1769 Joseph Pilmoor and Richard Boardman, missionaries were sent by John Wesley to the New World
- 1772 First Methodist sermon preached by Joseph Pilmoor in the Carolina colony
- 1778 Bishop Francis Asbury came to the Carolina colony (Edenton)
- 1782 Jesse Lee and Edward Dromgool, Methodist preachers, arrived in Albermarle Region.

Beginning of Methodism in the Albermarle Region

- 1784 Conference held in Baltimore by Bishop Asbury and Dr. Thomas Coke Methodist Episcopal Church was born
- 1785 Methodist Episcopal Church - First annual conference in Louisburg, North Carolina
- 1790 Sunday School became part of the Methodist Episcopal Church services
- 1795 Asbury preached in Gates County area

- 1801 Asbury first mentioned Gatesville in Journal
- Asbury visited Gates Court House
- Gates Court House Methodist Society was formed
- Sarah Harrell listed as the first member of the Gates Court House Methodist Society
- 1803 First deacon of Gates Court House was ordained - B. Harrell
- 1807 Gatesville was organized and founded, but known as Gates Court House
- 1810 Asbury's last visit to Gates County (Recorded in journal)
- 1828 Church separates into two religious groups - Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Protestant Church
- First recorded deed for Gates Court House Methodist Episcopal Church
- First Gates Court House Methodist Episcopal Church was built
- 1837 North Carolina Conference organized
- 1844 Another division - Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Episcopal Church, South
- 1879 Rosebud Missionary Society organized in Gatesville

- 1894 Gates County and the Albermarle Area
Methodist Churches become part of the
North Carolina Conference
- 1939 Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist
Episcopal, South and the Methodist
Protestant Church united to form the
Methodist Church
- 1968 The Methodist Church and the Evangelical
United Brethren united to form the
United Methodist Church

METHODISM IN GATES COUNTY - CHRONCLOGICALLY

- 1781 Kittrell (Gates) founded and organized
in 1827
- 1798 Savages (Gates) founded
- 1801 Gates Court House founded
First member listed Sarah Harrell
Asbury visited Gates Court House
- 1803 First deacon ordained at Gates Court
House - B. Harrell
- 1811 Zion (Hobbsville) Brush Arbor Services
organized in 1819
- 1813 Hickory Cross Church founded
- 1813 Parkers (Corapeake) founded
- 1815 Philadelphia founded from Constants
Chapel
- 1828 Gates Court House became member of
Methodist Episcopal Church
First deed of Gates Court House recorded
First Gates Court House Church built
- 1834 Gatesville Methodist Episcopal Church
became member of the Methodist Episcopal
Church, South
- 1879 Rosebud Missionary Organization founded
in Gatesville
- 1968 Gatesville became a member of the United
Methodist Church

MINISTERS

1811	H. Hardy & William Elliott
1812	C. Rountree & Will Dance
1813	William Whitehead & William Jones
1814	C. Mosely & Allen Ellictt
1815	Thomas Kimmer & J. Reid
1816	Hugh McLane & W. J. Paxton
1817	C. Day & Stephen Rowe
1818	Sol Day & Gil Anderson
1819	Allen R. Bernard
1820	A.R. Bernard & J. Lawrence
1821	Joakim Lane
1822	Henry Holmes
1823	Christerfer Holmes
1824	C. Hooks & J. D. Lover
1825	Weddell Johnson
1826	B. Devavany & J. D. Halstead
1828	Thomas Gerranna
1829	B. Devany & H. Bucktrout
1830	Dr. James Morrison
1831	Vernon Eskridge & T. Jones
1832	I. Atkinson & W. E. Pell
1833	J.D. Halstead & Will Read
1834	George Nolley
1835	V. Eskridge
1836	Alfred Norman
1837	Jas. P. Owens
1838	William Reed
1839	I.M. Arnold
1840	John White
1841	John White & J. Williams
1842	David Wood
1843	W.T. Norfleet
1844	D. Wood
1845	Jas P. Owens
1846	Jas. P. Owens
1847	H. Billups & I. Bailey
1848	W.J. Norfleet
1849	W.J. Norfleet
1850	J. V. Saunders

1851	J. V. Saunders
1852- 1853	William M. Ward
1854	J.D. Lumsden
1855	L.S. Reade
1856	T.I. Bayton & W. J. Honeycott
1857	J.W. White
1858-1859	J.W. Howard
1860-1861	R.T. Nixon
1862	J. Lear
1863-1865	J.C. Martin
1865-1866	I.W. Wannycott
1867-1868	W.E. Allen
1869-1870	M.S. Colonna
1871-1872	W.P. Wright
1873-1874	T.L. Williams
1875-1876	T.L. Williams
1877	T.H. Campbell & S.H. Johnson
1878	T.H. Campbell & J.O. Moss
1879	T.H. Campbell & T.O. Edwards
1880	J.J. Edwards & H.A. Crowder
1881-1884	J.H. Amiss
1885-1888	T.L. Williams
1889-1892	J.W. Tucker
1893-1895	C.R. Taylor
1896-1898	F.B. McCall
1899-1902	C.P. Jerome
1902-1905	T.J. Dailey
1905-1909	Rufus Bradley
1909-1913	W.H. Brown
1913-1917	G.W. Fisher
1917-1920	B.T. Hurley
1920-1922	W.T. Watson
1922-1923	E.R. Clegg
1923-1925	R.F. Munns
1925-1928	B.H. Black
1928-1931	H.E. Ewing
1931-1935	J.R. Edwards
1935-1944	J.M. Jolliff

1944-1949	Tom Collins
1950-1952	Herbert Jamison
1952	J.M. Jolliff
1953-1956	H.A. Bizzell, Jr.
1956-1961	R.N. Knight
1961-1965	Earl B. Edwards
1965-1967	Arthur W. Winstead
1967	Haywood L. Harrell
1967-1971	Haywood L. Harrell
1971-1973	Herbert Charles Davis
1973-1975	Argel Payne
1975-1977	Everett Bryan
1977-1981	Berry Barbour
1981-1983	Stewart Brodie
1984-	Daniel Bowman

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The Rosebud Souvenir Book, Number 1

Gates County House Deed 1828

FOOTNOTES

*Gates Court House Deed, 1828.

** Bicentennial Celebration 1782-1982, United
Methodist Women of First Church.

*** Rosebud Souvenir Book, Number 1.